WNDC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

YOUTH VOTER
PROJECT REPORT

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INVESTIGATING THE YOUTH VOTE: RATIONALE

There are 29 million youth (18-29) in the United States, representing 21% of the entire voting age population. In the 2018 midterm election, youth voter turnout increased by 15.7 million, an increase of 79%. According to CIRCLE’s estimates, youth turnout in the 2018 midterms increased to 28.2% nationally with increases in every state analyzed.

Despite this increase, only 13 million eligible young voters are registered and consistently turn out to vote at lower rates than any other demographic group.

Analyses of youth voting patterns have sought to understand this low rate of participation and analyze the impact of various policy initiatives aimed at increasing turnout. For example, Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Director of CIRCLE, the youth civic participation, cites “…a significant lack of knowledge about how exactly the government works, and, therefore, how their vote actually matters.”

Some of the drivers of the 2018 increase may reflect greater political engagement of all age groups, as well as greater visibility of young people’s areas of concern—such as the environment, gun control, reproductive rights, and education. In addition, increases in alternative voting methods—such as same day registration and vote by mail—may also have had an impact.

This report’s purpose is to showcase some of the many state and local initiatives that were particularly focused on young voters and increasing youth voter turnout during recent election cycles, in particular, initiatives based in schools, community colleges, colleges, and universities.

This report intends to bring attention to creative and committed efforts across the country with a view to stimulating broader adoption of effective measures. The authors hope that this paper will spark conversations about what is working in each state and encourage interest in exploring and adopting practices from others. The states, Washington, D.C. included, are arranged in order of turnout (according to the only available estimates that cover all states).

Note: The authors are issuing this paper in draft form with an invitation to interested parties to recommend additional activities and strategies that have been successful in their states and communities and that should be shared with others. Please send comments and suggestions to: wndcefVOTE@gmail.com

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3 www.brookings.edu/research/2018-voter-turnout-rose-dramatically-for-groups-favoring-democrats-census-confirms/
YOUTH VOTER TURNOUT
(AGE 18 - 29)
PERCENTAGE BY STATE
2018 MIDTERM ELECTION

FIGURE 4.
REPORTED VOTING RATES BY AGE: YEARS 1980 - 2016

FIGURE 1.

REPORTED VOTING TURNOUT (IN MILLIONS) BY AGE: 2014, 2018 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

FIGURE 2.
TOP FIVE TURNOUT RATES FOR STATES AND YOUTH (AGE 18 - 29)

RANKED BY 2014 AND 2018 MIDTERM ELECTION TURNOUT

The top five states, Washington, D.C. included, with the highest turnout rates for the 2018 midterm election is comprised of Washington, D.C., Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oregon, and North Dakota.

In addition to their top turnout rates, these states have also increased their voter turnout rate between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections.

![Figure 2](image)

BOTTOM FIVE TURNOUT RATES FOR STATES AND YOUTH (AGE 18 - 29)

RANKED BY 2014 AND 2018 MIDTERM ELECTION TURNOUT

The bottom five states with the lowest turnout rates for the 2018 midterm election include Hawaii, Arkansas, Idaho, Wyoming, and West Virginia.

Although West Virginia increased its voter turnout rate between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections, the state continues to have the lowest voter turnout rate for the youth vote in America.

![Figure 3](image)
TOP STRATEGIES TO INCREASE YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

1. **Competition and rewards**
   - "Big Ten" voting challenge
   - Governors Challenge
   - Poster Contest

2. **Campus-wide initiatives by college students**
   - Hand out voting information on first day
   - Peer outreach
   - Students "pledge" to vote
   - Distribution of voting information
   - Dorm competition to register students

3. **Civics education for high school students**
   - Volunteer
   - Work in polls
   - Use voting machines in mock elections and school elections

4. **Target locations with high populations of young eligible voters**
   - Concerts
   - Games
   - Registration week

5. **Election Day engagement**
   - Volunteer
   - Encouragement at the polls

6. **Social Media**
   - Reaches more prospective young voters

7. **Online registration and election reminders**
   - TurboVote
   - Rock the Vote
   - Vote.org

8. **National Voter Registration Day**
TOP CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS

1. **Strict voter ID laws**
   - Alabama
   - Arizona
   - Georgia
   - Indiana
   - Iowa
   - Kansas
   - Kentucky
   - Michigan
   - Mississippi
   - North Carolina
   - North Dakota
   - Ohio
   - Texas
   - Utah
   - Virginia
   - Wisconsin

2. **Transportation challenges to reach polling place**
   - Alabama
   - Connecticut
   - Kansas
   - Mississippi
   - North Carolina

3. **Name removal from the rolls**
   - Alabama
   - Arizona
   - Georgia
   - Maine
   - Ohio
   - Virginia

4. **Incorrect voting information sent to voters**
   - Massachusetts
   - New Jersey
   - Washington

5. **Difficulties with absentee ballots**
   - Delaware
   - Idaho
   - Louisiana
   - Pennsylvania

6. **Long wait period at polling locations**
   - Connecticut
   - Kentucky

7. **Failure to provide translated voting information on ballots**
   - Alaska
   - Arizona
   - Florida
   - New Mexico
Strategies Implemented to Increase Voting

State-Level Analysis—Ranked by Youth Voter Turnout

Washington, D.C. Youth Vote

Initiatives to Increase Registration & Turnout

Civic education at local schools

Tour by Parkland Shooting survivors

Teacher and school-led registration drives at local charter and public schools

Howard University passed out information about the voting process on students' first day

Many campus initiatives at Howard, GW, American, Georgetown, Catholic, and more

Challenges Faced by Young Voters

No representation as a state

Other Influences

March For Our Lives movement

Politically engaged population

Sources

www.vote16usa.org/project/washington-dc/
www.serve.gwu.edu/gw-votes
www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2018/10/22/civics-education-youth-turnout
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
"Big Ten" voting challenge between universities

League of Women Voters host voting drives at high schools

Peer outreach at University of Wisconsin-Madison to increase student voters

NextGen America events in youth-concentrated areas

Wisconsin Vote: platform for election information

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
Strict voter ID laws may discourage turnout

OTHER INFLUENCES
Parkland Shooting event

#2
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

47.7%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

18.7%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.abts10.org/voting-challenge
www.wisconsinwatch.org/2019/03/civic-education-makes-a-powerful-difference-in-creating-young-voters/
MINNESOTA YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Secretary of State organized mock election for high schools

University of Minnesota students go door-knocking & ask others to "pledge" to vote

Minnesota College Ballot Bowl: statewide collegiate voter registration competition at public, private, two-year and four-year colleges and university campuses

"Big Ten" voting challenge between universities

#3 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

47.5% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

20.0% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
Strict voter ID laws may discourage turnout

OTHER INFLUENCES
High level of engagement across the state
No-excuse absentee ballots
Long early voting period

"Issues like gun control, immigration, abortion or reproductive health" increase turnout among young voters

SOURCES
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www.startribune.com/signs-point-to-increased-voter-interest-turnout-in-minnesota/490177501/
www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/get-involved/minnesota-college-ballot-bowl/
www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/get-involved/students-vote/
OREGON YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
The Bus Project: organization working to expand voting rights, simplify the voting process, and increase registration and turnout

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
None found.

OTHER INFLUENCES
High level of engagement across the state because of the ease of voting

- Automatic Voter Registration
- All absentee ballots
- Pre-registration for persons under 18 years old

Voters allowed two weeks to resolve a signature mismatch after election day

98% of voters vote by mail

#4 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

44.5%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

12.6%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.thenation.com/article/how-oregon-increased-voter-turnout-more-than-any-other-state/
https://busproject.org/accomplishments/
**NORTH DAKOTA YOUTH VOTE**

**INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT**
Voting advocacy groups and tribal leaders worked to get native voters the tribal IDs needed to successfully cast a ballot.

Standing Rock residents expressed willingness to have their voices heard and their right to vote protected.

Volunteers went door-to-door to educate Native Americans.

Tribes waived fees for reservation residents who wanted to update their ID cards.

Statewide Native Vote effort.

**CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS**
North Dakota legislature passed a law requiring voters to present IDs with a residential mailing address when voting—suppressed Native American voters.

Significant travel required of Native Americans to reach polling places.

Polling location on or near reservations were relocated and/or eliminated.

**OTHER INFLUENCES**
Turnout increase after fears of suppression.

People do not need to register to vote.

State of direct democracy.

#5
National ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds.

43.3%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds.

13.3%
Increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between 2014 and 2018 midterms.

**SOURCES**
Nova Women’s Summit for Political Engagement

WNDC Educational Foundation | Youth Voting Project Report | wndceducationalfoundation.org
MISSOURI YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
"Missouri Youth Election Participants" volunteer to work at the polls before turning 18

"Kids Voting Missouri": participating students learn about government, democracy, voting, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship

Statewide poster contest to promote youth voter registration—winning poster sent by League of Women Voters to every high school in the state

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
Lawmakers working to undo voter initiatives (ex. redistricting)

Issues of long ballots, broken machines, address mix-ups, and confusing ID laws

Instances of election clerks falsely telling voters that photo ID is required to cast ballot

Entity sent 10,000 voters false absentee voting information

OTHER INFLUENCES
Question of legalizing marijuana on ballot may have increased turnout

#6 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

43.3% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

13.3% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.onestl.org/indicators/educated/metric/voter-participation
www.sos.mo.gov/pollworker/students.asp
www.kidsvotingmissouri.org/
www.lwvstl.org/
www.apnews.com/c30841ebbf0c4cb6bd7f57c8d666575d
www.kcur.org/post/missouri-voters-report-long-lines-broken-machines-and-confusion-over-photo-id-law#stream/0
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

Youth Leadership Initiative with UVA completes mock elections

Student-led voter registration drives in high schools

High School Student Voter Education Week

League of Women Voters and Fairfax County Public Schools High School Challenge to register 50%+ of eligible students

NextGen Virginia working to increase registered voters

"Governors Challenge": schools received certificate from governor if register 65%+ of eligible students

Stamps given to students at college outside of VA to register for absentee ballot

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS

Photo ID necessary to vote

State requires groups submitting 25+ voter registration forms to register with the state & reduced amount of time allowed to submit forms

In 2013, state used a crosscheck database to try to identify voters who they believe had moved out of state and no longer needed to be on the rolls

From 2012 to 2016, the state illegally removed names from the rolls

Barrs felons to vote even after completing sentences

OTHER INFLUENCES

State allows relationships between campaigns and outside organizations: "avoid duplication and maximize resources"

Elects its governors in odd years, separate from national-elections

DMV allows voter registration when applying for license

Long in-person registration, long in-person absentee voting period, and online registration available
VIRGINIA YOUTH VOTE

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- www.states.aarp.org/virginia/elect-commissioner-announces-high-school-voter-registration-challenge-winners
- www.lwv-fairfax.org/hscchallenge
- www.fredericksburg.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-more-young-people-registered-but-they-need-to-vote/article_3b2e01d0-b9d7-563c-b019-4038f88ba845.html
- www.whsv.com/content/news/Gov-McAuliffe-announces-challenge-to-increase-high-school-voter-registration-394453691.html
- www.vaperforms.virginia.gov/GovCitizens_voterRegistration.cfm
- www.centerforpolitics.org/yli.html
- www.newrepublic.com/article/145820/virginia-taught-democrats-winning-back-states
- www.thedailybeast.com/republicans-have-a-secret-weapon-in-the-midterms-voter-suppression
COLORADO YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
New Era Colorado: organization to increase youth voters and source of reporting
State engagement by Inspire US organization
University of Colorado Boulder student initiative to increase turnout

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
61,000 Adams County ballots placed in storage instead of getting mailed to voters
Worries among voters whose drop-off sites blur county lines that their ballots might not be counted
Problem of defective barcodes in past election

OTHER INFLUENCES
All-mail ballot system
93.5% voters vote by mail

#8 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds
41.8% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds
10.4% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
https://www.inspire-usa.org/about
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Many polling locations in high schools

University of Montana's publication releases a voter guide for students; other websites like votesmart.com are suggested to provide a wider selection of topics with information.

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
Polling stations have turned away Native American voters

OTHER INFLUENCES
Frequent "hot button issues" and "close races"

Allows young voters to register if they will be 18 years old in next election

Late voter registration available

No-excuse absentee ballots available

#9
National ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

41.3%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

18.5%
Increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.ravalli.us/155/Where-to-Vote
www.campusvoteproject.org/montana/
www.sosmt.gov/elections/vote/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Targeted by NextGen America: $32,000 spent in NH to target 38,000 voters

New Hampshire Youth Movement: state-specific organization to increase youth voters

High school and college students join Get Out The Vote efforts across the state

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
Recent initiatives emerged that would make college students' access to voting more difficult

OTHER INFLUENCES
Automatic Voter Registration

#10 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

41.3% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

18.5% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.nhyouthmovement.org/our-story
www.nhpr.org/post/nh-high-school-and-college-students-join-get-out-vote-efforts#stream/0
www.nhpr.org/post/report-voter-rolls-are-growing-due-automatic-voter-registration#stream/0
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

A competition was introduced where winners determined by the greatest increase in voter turnout between the 2016 and 2016 general election; $10000 first place prize and $5000 second place.

Youth Voter Ambassador program exists to help voter turnout rates by having students' work at polling locations and learn about the democratic system.

League of Women Voters volunteers visit hard-to-reach high schools in Juneau.

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS

Failure to provide translated voting information on ballots and at polling places.

Supplies voter registration forms in high schools, yet not passed out in classes or assemblies and not mandatory.

OTHER INFLUENCES

Automatic Voter Registration

Anchorage has a vote-at-home program.

#11
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds.

39.7%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds.

9.4%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections.

SOURCES

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www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/alaska/
www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/workers_youthambassadors.php
www.funderscommittee.org/files/high_school_voter_registration_programs.pdf
www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/VoterInfo.aspx
www.lwv.org/blog/lwv-launches-youth-voter-registration-program-15-states
WASHINGTON YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Student Mock Election open to all kids (grades K - 12)

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
False mailing told voters to write in candidates on their ballots who were not running for office

OTHER INFLUENCES
Automatic Voter Registration
Prepaid postage
State Voting Rights Act that seeks to abolish at-large voting
Pre-registration available
98.6% voters vote by mail

#12
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

39.6%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

17.5%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.seattletimes.com/opinion/editorials/bold-changes-needed-to-improve-voter-turnout/
www.medium.com/@WADemocrats/stay-sharp-voter-suppression-in-washington-state-75eafca8d33
GEORGIA YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Georgia Youth Agenda sought to register more 18 and 19 year olds by asking communities (such as sororities, fraternities, high schools, and others) to throw voter registration parties

Georgia State University had 2 days with early polling stations and threw a carnival and breakfast to increase turnout to the polling locations

"All public schools in the state of Georgia are required to offer voter registration to students, teachers, and school employees" because of an initiative started by the Secretary of State

Student-oriented website about voter registration

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
Removed 1 million+ names from the state’s voter rolls between 2012 and 2016

State law requiring voter registration information to match DMV or Social Security Administration data exactly

100,000 votes not recorded for the state’s Lieutenant Governor election

Had not approved 53,000 voter registrations, most filed by African Americans

OTHER INFLUENCES
Close races lead to higher turnout

#13 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

39.0% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

12.1% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.newgeorgiaproject.org/advocacy/youth/
www.newgeorgiaproject.org/news/optimism_for_student_voter_turnout/
www.campusvoteproject.org/georgia/
www.sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/students_corner
www.funderscommittee.org/files/high_school_voter_registration_programs.pdf
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INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Incorporated Kids Voting USA civics education model into public school curriculum
League of Women Voters provided ballot guides

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
Polling places handed out incorrect ballots
In 2016, Kansas discarded provisional ballots at a very high rate
Strict voter ID requirements
Ford County relocated its only polling place from a central location to location outside city limits

OTHER INFLUENCES
Able to register if 18 years old by next election
Allows vote-at-home
Previous law requiring proof of citizenship ruled unconstitutional

#14
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

38.8%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

20.4%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Polling locations accept student IDs
State provides IDs free of cost to anyone who does not have one already
Pre-voting age participants at polling locations is funded by government

OTHER INFLUENCES
Online and early voting options proven helpful to expand youth voting
Automatic Voter Registration
Pre-registration available at 16 years old
Right to vote restored after incarceration
Completes "risk-limiting audit" to confirm correct election results

#15
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

38.5%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

22.0%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.campusvoteproject.org/rhode-island/
www.time.com/5510100/risk-limiting-audit-election-security/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
College Ballot Bowl: competition between state colleges to see which one can register the most voters

UC Santa Cruz and Merced students lead workshops to help young people connect issues they are passionate about to the candidates who are fighting for them

Power California: organization that seeks to increase young, minority voters

Election officials launching new effort to fight disinformation campaigns

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
Threw out 45,000+ ballots in the 2016 Presidential election because of handwriting mismatches

OTHER INFLUENCES
Close races lead to higher turnout

Early voting available 29 days before the election

16-17 year olds can pre-register to vote

SOURCES
www.powercalifornia.org/
www.campusvoteproject.org/california/
www.sos.ca.gov/elections/castudentsvote/
www.ppic.org/publication/voter-participation-in-california/
www.my.lwv.org/california/article/voting-rights-groups-sue-california-dmv-voter-suppression
www.aclu.org/blog/voting-rights/fighting-voter-suppression/were-suing-california-because-it-threw-out-more-45000
UTAH YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Hinckley Institute of Politics reaches out to high schools to educate, inform, and encourage young voters

Since 2012, Lt. Governor has awarded the “Campus Cup” to the university or college that registers the most voters

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
Many voters must travel long distances to reach polling places
Limited early voting
Requires photo ID

OTHER INFLUENCES
Youngest state in the US by median age
Ballot initiatives effect turnout
Only some counties vote by mail
Same-day registration
Passed ballot initiative that will create independent redistricting commissions to determine congressional districts

#17
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

38.0%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

21.0%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.democracychronicles.org/utah-voter-turnout-jumps/
www.acluutah.org/resources/articles-position-papers/item/1486-fighting-back-for-the-ballot
aclu.org/blog/voting-rights/fighting-voter-suppression/amid-pervasive-voter-suppression-big-winner-2018
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Shuttles at UConn take students to nearest voting place

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH VOTERS
No polling locations on University of Connecticut campus
Voters spent hours in line at some polling locations

OTHER INFLUENCES
Online voter registration available
Excuse necessary for absentee ballot
Election day voter registration

#18 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

37.8% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

14.5% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.conncoll.edu/campus-life/political-engagement--awareness/voting-information/
NEW JERSEY YOUTH VOTERS

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

RUVOTING by Rutgers University is a campus-wide initiative to register and educate students on upcoming elections

New Jersey Ballot Bowl: non-partisan, statewide collegiate voter registration competition

Senator Murphy working to give people fewer reasons not to vote

"Big Ten" voting challenge between universities

#19
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS

Misleading mail-in ballot information sent to voters

37.8%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

OTHER INFLUENCES

Automatic Voter Registration

Mail-in ballots

Increased political interest

Competitive races increase turnout

23.1%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES

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www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/06/05/the-big-bump-accounting-for-higher-voter-turnout-in-new-jerseys-primary-election/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Massvote: organization to increase awareness and fairness in MA elections

Efforts are being made to instate a civics curriculum in schools and universities

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Some voters received text messages that included incorrect information about polling locations; led people to go to wrong polling places

OTHER INFLUENCES
Pre-registration
Automatic Voter Registration will begin in 2020

#20 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

37.7% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

15.5% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleivf/howreg.htm
www.massvote.org/special-projects
www.now.tufts.edu/news-releases/exclusive-polling-young-voters-energized-midterms
MARYLAND YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

Information provided to voters by Rock the Vote

Fair Vote seeks to protect youth voting rights

New Voters Project: organization that registers and encourages turnout

Greater Baltimore Urban League pledges free rides to the polls for hundreds of voters

University of Maryland coalition registers voters

All In Campus Democracy Challenge: competition among colleges and universities in the state to register voters and encourage turnout

"Big Ten" voting challenge between universities

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS

The state Motor Vehicle Administration failed to transmit updated voter information to the state Board of Elections; hindered some voters’ ability to cast ballot

OTHER INFLUENCES

Lowered voting age to 16 in city of Tacoma Park for local elections

SOURCES

www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/maryland/
www.archive.fairvote.org/md17/
www.marylandpirg.org/blogs/mdp/maryland-pirg-new-voters-project-hits-streets
www.loyola.edu/join-us/vote
www.naacp.org/latest/maryland-naacp-calls-solutions-mva-voter-registration-disaster/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

"Turn up Turnout": organization at Michigan University that works sign students up to register on TurboVote, reminds students of upcoming elections, and assists students in acquiring absentee ballots

University participated in the "Big Ten" voting challenge

Secretary of State is working to make out-of-state college students able to vote more easily

Detroit Branch of the NAACP conducts "Take Your Soles to the Polls" initiative

Detroit Branch of the NAACP knocks on doors and make personal visits to residents in areas with high voter registration, but low voter turnout

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS

Exact-match voting law suspended 53,000 voter-registration applications

University of Michigan and Michigan State University have filed a federal lawsuit against the Secretary of State over a state election law that requires voters to register at the address on their driver’s license

OTHER INFLUENCES

Online and same-day voter registration

Marijuana topic on ballot increased youth voter turnout

SOURCES

www.sites.lsa.umich.edu/tut/
www.sites.lsa.umich.edu/tut/initiatives/
www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127--499139--,00.html
www.apnews.com/03953e66f74141509c4ac5ea7597d7fc
www.michiganchronicle.com/2018/10/24/detroit-naacp-fights-back-against-voter-suppression/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
NexGen is spending $2M to increase youth voter turnouts.

ASU is beginning voting on campus.

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Photo ID required
Proof of citizenship required
Some AZ representatives are working to make it more difficult to offer early voting
Violated the National Voter Registration Act through failure to update addresses
Initiative that wants counties to purge people from that list if they don’t vote using an early ballot in two consecutive election cycles
Inspire US focused on high school voting

OTHER INFLUENCES
Online and same-day voter registration
Marijuana topic on ballot increased youth voter turnout
No-excuse absentee ballots available

#23 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnouts among 18 - 29 year olds
36.3% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds
19.9% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.aclu.org/blog/voting-rights/fighting-voter-suppression/arizona-could-illegally-disenfranchise-500000-or-more
www.npr.org/2019/04/08/711169880/arizona-gop-lawmakers-propose-new-laws-to-remove-some-people-from-early-voting-
VERMONT YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
High schools are diligent about reminding students to register to vote through online methods

In high schools, voter registration cards are passed out at graduation or at student’s 18th birthdays

OTHER INFLUENCES
Voter pre-registration

VT found that 96% of students who participated in at least one mock election reported planning to vote in other elections

No ID required

#24
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

36.0%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

24.0%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.funderscommittee.org/files/high_school_voter_registration_programs.pdf
www.demos.org/policy-briefs/millions-polls-pre-registration-16-and-17-year-olds
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/vermont/
IOWA YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

NexGen Iowa working to increase youth voting

Voter Ready outreach initiative seeks to inform Iowans about election law changes

AccessPlus: app to prove that voters live there if it is not on current ID

Information available to students on University of Iowa website about registering and polling locations

"Big Ten" voting challenge between universities

#25 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

36.0% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

12.0% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS

Iowa State University IDs not accepted because it does not have an expiration date

Bill proposed to block students from voting early on campus

Out-of-state drivers licenses and student IDs not accepted at polling locations

OTHER INFLUENCES

According to a study completed by Tufts University, Iowa's first congressional district races is most influenced by the youth vote

Pre-registration available

People without IDs are allowed to submit provisional ballots and follow up later

No-excuse absentee ballots available

SOURCES

www.voteriders.org/ufaqs/iowa-voter-id-information/
www.sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/collegestudents.html
www.inside.iastate.edu/article/2018/07/12/voterregistration
www.dos.uiowa.edu/policies/voter-registration/
www.iowastatedaily.com/news/advocacy-groups-fear-iowa-voter-id-laws-disenfranchise-students/article_57f9a934-d0b6-11e8-8196-2b98c3dd6fca.html
MAINE YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Voter Activation Network: organization that encourages young people to vote

Allows prisoners to vote

State Department of Education incorporates civics and voting into Social Studies curriculum

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Issues of purging

OTHER INFLUENCES
No voter ID or address required
Automatic Voter Registration
Marijuana on ballot increased turnout
Pre-registration
Ranked Choice Elections seem to be more popular with young voters
Same-day registration

#26
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

35.9%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

4.4%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.nonprofitvote.org/documents/2017/03/america-goes-polls-2016.pdf/
www.brookings.edu/blog/fxgov/2016/10/28/cannabis-coattails/
www.civicyouth.org/2018-youth-turnout-increased-in-every-state-for-which-we-have-data/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

NextGen Pennsylvania hosted fundraisers and events to increase youth involvement in the elections

Penn Leads the Vote: organization at Penn State that focuses on increasing student engagement by hosting dorm competitions

High schools provide voter registration opportunities

Election Protection: organization that works to ensure all eligible voters are able to cast a ballot that gets counted

"Big Ten" voting challenge between universities

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS

Legislatures have claimed that cheating at the ballot box is a routine occurrence

Thousands of registered Pennsylvania voters who live outside the US were blocked from accessing absentee ballots on the state's website

OTHER INFLUENCES

Intense feelings about the Parkland Shooting increased youth voter turnout

Automatic Voter Registration unavailable

No pre-registration

#27
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

35.8%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

18.2%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES

www.thephiladelphiacitizen.org/ideas-we-should-steal-more-young-voters/
www.funderscommittee.org/files/high_school_voter_registration_programs.pdf
www.keystonevotes.org/youth-preregistration
www.aclupa.org/issues/votingissues
TENNESSEE YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Celebrity visits and social media encouraged voter registration among youth

"Tennessee Black Voter Project" registered 90,000 people to vote

OTHER INFLUENCES
Pre-registration and Automatic Voter Registration unavailable

Recently passed a bill that would "fine community groups that submit incomplete voter-registration applications"

#28
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

35.6%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

23.0%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.rockthepvote.org/voting-information/tennessee/
https://civicyouth.org/2018-youth-turnout-increased-in-every-state-for-which-we-have-data/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Civic Nebraska’s Election Protection Hotline is a number to be called by citizens confused by any part of voting

Civic Nebraska: organization advocating for online voter registration, uniform election guides, and easier access to the polls

University of Nebraska-Lincoln has created a plan to increase the voter percentage by sending campus wide emails, signing up new students, and incorporating greek life

Every Vote Counts initiatives planned on campus at various colleges

College of Saint Mary invited the League of Women Voters to their campus to speak about the importance of voting

"Big Ten" voting challenge between universities

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Outdated voting machines

OTHER INFLUENCES
Medicaid issue increased turnout

Online registration

Pre-registration

#29
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

35.6%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

23.0%
Increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.otoc.org/2018/05/
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/nebraska/
NEW YORK YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
NY public schools have begun to increase civics education in schools

SUNY colleges are providing the opportunity to vote on campus

Student Voter Registration Day was organized by the NYC mayor and traveled to 70 schools to register students

De Blasio organized a civics week where 18,000 students signed up to vote

#30 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Low number of polling places

Reports of long waiting times at polls

Two page ballot

Reports of broken voting machines

Thousands of names purged from voter rolls

35.2% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

OTHER INFLUENCES
Initiatives to lower voting age

Automatic Voter Registration unavailable

Limited pre-registration

Limited absentee and mail-in ballot opportunities

19.7% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
NY public schools have begun to increase civics education in schools

SUNY colleges are providing the opportunity to vote on campus

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#30 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
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Reports of long waiting times at polls

Two page ballot

Reports of broken voting machines

Thousands of names purged from voter rolls

35.2% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

OTHER INFLUENCES
Initiatives to lower voting age

Automatic Voter Registration unavailable

Limited pre-registration

Limited absentee and mail-in ballot opportunities

19.7% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/government/vote/project-vote.html
www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/democracy.page
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/new-york/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Let Bama Vote: Alabama Initiative and referendum

Black women's organization led voter registration and mobilization movement

Grassroots advocacy programs had great success

ACLU of Alabama set up hotline to report voting difficulties on Election Day

Voter registration drives held on high school and college campuses

Alabama Secretary of State recognizes National Voter Registration Day

BlackPAC: independent organization dedicated to fostering ties between candidates and black communities and increased engagement among black voters

Auburn University's Southern Poverty Law Center is recruiting and training students to register students at local high schools

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Restrictive voting laws

Insufficient transportation to the polls

Strict photo ID laws

Drivers license offices are closing much faster in minority neighborhoods

66+ polling locations have closed

Purging of inactive voters on voting roll

Post-incarceration voter reenfranchizement is not shared publicly by the government
SOURCES
www.letbamavote.org/
www.voteriders.org/big-surprise-alabama/
www.ncrp.org/2017/12/grassroots-organizations-alabama-saved-day-despite-lack-foundation-support.html
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www.al.com/news/2018/06/young_voters_are_registering_i.html
www.sos.alabama.gov/newsroom/alabama-secretary-state-recognizes-national-voter-registration-day
www.lwv.org/blog/league-volunteers-track-register-voters-200-schools-spring
Indiana Youth Vote

Initiatives to Increase Registration & Turnout
University of Indiana participates in the "Big Ten" Voting Challenge

Challenges Faced by Young Voters
Strict voter ID laws known to suppress minorities

Other Influences
Limited pre-registration
No Automatic Voter Registration
No vote-by-mail
No Election Day registration
Transportation barriers for college and university students

The voter ID controversy was very close to being solved by abolishing the necessity to have a photo ID; later voted against and deemed a partisan issue

Sources
www.prospect.org/article/good-news-voting-wars
www.rockthetevote.org/voting-information/indiana/
https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/young-voters-146590/
ILLINOIS
YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Forefront: organization attempting to ensure the census data is correct to allocate money toward increasing voter turnout

Forefront also distributes grants to nonprofits to register young voters

Civics classes will be required by the state beginning in 2020

Northwestern University has worked with other colleges in Illinois to boost their registration numbers

"Big Ten" voting challenge between universities

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Some voters were missing a ballot page

Some polling locations delayed opening time

Reports of broken ballot machines

Long wait periods

OTHER INFLUENCES
Automatic Voter Registration passed but not implemented

Marijuana on ballot increased youth turnout

Absentee, vote-by-mail, same day registration, and early voting available

#33
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

34.6%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

15.9%
Increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/illinois/
www.chalkbeat.org/posts/chicago/2019/03/05/first-time-voters-offer-window-into-why-students-vote-and-how-to-tackle-low-youth-turnout/

WNDC Educational Foundation | Youth Voting Project Report | wndceducationalfoundation.org
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
EducationNC’s award winning First Vote program puts on mock elections, which 65 schools participated in

Online simulation teaches high schoolers about civics

NAACP initiative uses data to reach more "infrequent" voters

Inspire US hosts program in NC

All 30 Wake County high schools participate in a two-week, non-partisan registration drive

NC Campus Compact state office fosters connections between campuses and shares information about elections to new voters

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
College students experience difficulty voting in state

Lawmakers openly admit to suppressing black voters

Reduction in number of polling locations open for early voting

OTHER INFLUENCES
Voter pre-registration restored for 16 and 17 year olds

Parkland Shooting increased awareness of political issues and youth voter turnout

SOURCES
www.publicschoolsfirstnc.org/engage/voter-information/
www.inspire-usa.org/about
https://www.nccihd.org/voter-preregistration-restored/
www.nccampuscompact.org/our-work/
www.pulse.nccpolicywatch.org/2018/07/19/analysis-youth-voter-registration-up-since-parkland-school-shooting/
Initiatives to Increase Registration & Turnout

Efforts by state to increase more young voters after Parkland Shooting

Governor’s office organized youth voter registration drive

Activists from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School have sought to inspire more young people to register to vote

Civics education mandated for middle schoolers

All major public colleges have early voting areas

UCF encourages democratic involvement on campus

Public Interest Research Groups’ New Voters Project sent representatives to over 50 schools

Other Influences

Highly anticipated senate race drove many people to the polls who would not have otherwise voted

Pre-registration available

Election Day registration unavailable

Absentee ballots available

Gun Reform initiatives and candidates are seen to be the reason for the major increase in youth voter turnout

March For Our Lives has an intense presence in FL and supports youth voting issues

Sources

www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/florida/
www.apnews.com/70b1152db6944730a68b79279a4d68ea
NEW MEXICO YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Potential plans to increase voter access on Indian Reservations

League of Women Voters completes outreach in Santa Fe

New Mexico State University hosts an early voting site

Doña Ana County working to create a strong voting culture by engaging more people and partnering with schools to register students

Common Cause New Mexico: leading force in protecting the right to vote and making voting more accessible

Voter Participation Center sends voter registration forms

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Native Americans disproportionately challenged when voting

Language barriers on ballot

DMV not complying with Native American Voting Rights Coalition requirements

OTHER INFLUENCES
Increased political interest from young voters

Highest percentage of Latinx residents

Offers same-day voter registration

Consolidates local elections

#36 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

30.6% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

14.3% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.nmpoliticalreport.com/2019/06/24/group-sending-voter-registration-forms-to-increase-nm-voters/
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www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/editorials/voting-reforms-to-change-the-system/article_6d19a76b-d437-5563-adbb-5c7a488c4059.html
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
University of Texas at Austin students educate community about voting & upcoming elections

Voto Latino: organization that seeks to increase civic engagement among Latino youth

Strong voter registration efforts in high schools

University of Texas at Austin volunteers table at 250+ classrooms to register voters

League of Women Voters advocates to students

Texas Rising activists conduct intensive campaign to boost turnout among young Texans

Texas Southern University hosts registration drive

Texas Votes initiatives at Austin Community College, Baylor University, Northwest Vista College, Schreiner University, Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas at San Antonio

At many colleges, students are required to register at beginning of academic year

UT Austin hosts Get Out The Vote competitions

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Texas Election Code 13.046: school principals register students twice per year; fined if noncompliance (not being fulfilled)

Strict voter ID laws

Does not accept student IDs to vote

A number of barriers prevent people from becoming Volunteer Deputy Registrars

OTHER INFLUENCES
Large population of young people and immigrants

Cannot register to vote online

Early voting available

Young voters have lost hope in a political change via elections

#37 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

30.4% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

15.2% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections
SOURCES

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www.keranews.org/post/texas-has-nations-worst-voter-turnout-and-young-texans-lead-way
www.moody.utexas.edu/centers/strauss/news/texas-votes-registering-voters-universities
www.moody.utexas.edu/centers/strauss/tx-votes
MISSISSIPPI
YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Mississippi State University considers itself a "voter-friendly campus"

University of Mississippi has a website dedicated to making voting and registering more accessible to students

My Vote Everywhere: database seeking to simplify voting for youth voters

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Hundreds of polling places have closed since 2016

No polling location at the University of Mississippi

Out-of-state drivers licenses not accepted

OTHER INFLUENCES
No Automatic Voter Registration

Limited pre-registration

No same-day registration

No absentee or mail-in ballots

No voting rights restoration

SOURCES
www.campusvoteproject.org/mississippi/
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/mississippi/
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http://vote.olemiss.edu/
www.andrewgoodman.org/myvoteeverywhere/university-of-mississippi/
OKLAHOMA YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Oklahoma Campus Compact voter registration competition

Oklahoma College hosts voter registration drive

Vocal Oklahomans in Civic Engagement (VOICE) hosts voter registration competition between colleges and universities to win a concert

#39 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Ballot box malfunctions

OTHER INFLUENCES
Early voting available

Medical marijuana topic and close races lifted voter turnout in all demographics

Urban vs Rural divide grows more intense

29.9% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

14.7% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.okpolicy.org/oklahomas-2018-elections-were-different-in-many-ways/
Many initiatives to mobilize latinx groups and help them get to the polls

**NextGen Nevada** seeking to increase youth and latinx voter turnout

**NexGen Nevada** attracting young voters with events like lipsync battles

University of Nevada at Reno is recognized as a "voter friendly university"

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### Other Influences

Automatic Voter Registration has not been implemented

Early voting available

Absentee ballots and vote-by-mail available

No online registration

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**Sources**


www.thenevadaindependent.com/article/automatic-voter-registration-implementation-date-initially-unclear-elections-officials-say


www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/nevada/


INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
#WeVote is engaging 50,000 African American millennials through voter registration and voter mobilization activities

Secretary of State advertises voting to all public and private high school students

High schools hold assemblies to discuss voting and demonstrate how to use a digital voting machine

Louisiana State University ID cards accepted at polling locations

Five years after release, formerly incarcerated people are re-enfranchised

The "Wake up Geaux Vote" organization held a registration drive where they educated many members of their communities on the voting process and registered many people

OTHER INFLUENCES
No Automatic Voter Registration

No same-day registration

No absentee ballots or vote-by mail available

Pre-registration available for 16 year olds

Very young population in New Orleans

Young voters turnout increased to take away the statue that emulated Jim Crow era injustices

SOURCES
www.facingsouth.org/2016/11/mobilizing-critical-black-youth-vote-south
funderscommittee.org/files/high_school_voter_registration_programs.pdf
blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2019/02/mounting_evidence_points_to_surge_in_young_voters.html
www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/politics/elections/article_91e9bed8-a11d-11e6-a559-8fbe354d7ea0.html
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/louisiana/
www.urbanleaguea.org/wake-up-geaux-vote/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Inspire US initiatives across the state

Western Kentucky University hosts voter registration drive

University of Kentucky students increase votes and voter turnout

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Many are uninformed of their own party affiliation

Polls open for only 12 hours on Election Day

Oppressive political leaders have been found to target specific communities

Poor civic education in public schools

Many polls have very long wait periods

OTHER INFLUENCES
Photo ID required

Excuse required to obtain absentee ballot

Pre-registration for 17 year olds if 18 by next election

Completely closed primary

High incarceration rates—fewer voters

#42 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

29.1% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

-1.6% decrease in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
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www.whas11.com/article/news/local/whas-up/why-is-voter-turnout-so-low-for-the-kentucky-primary/417b44aadd1-2d0f-4b01-b342-4d7aab84787b0
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Government is hiring and paying young people to manage polling locations to increase their involvement in the civic system

Palmetto Project: organization seeking to make voting more accessible and easier

To attract young people, the government is trying to increase “Emotional value, nostalgia, consistent stances, tangible goals, and presenting the candidate as the best option”

South Carolina Equality, Black Voters Matter South Carolina Initiative, and League of Women Voters of South Carolina are all conducting initiatives to increase the amount of registered young voters

Live voter registration demonstrations conducted in schools

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Change in voter ID laws suppress minorities

OTHER INFLUENCES
Photo ID required
Limited pre-registration
Limited early voting
17 year olds who will be 18 by the election can vote in the primary

SOURCES
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www.millennialpolitics.co/south-carolina-new-majority/
www.funderscommittee.org/files/high_school_voter_registration_programs.pdf
www.rockthecvote.org/voting-information/south-carolina/
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

"Portable voter registration": even if a voter moves before election day, they are not required to re-register

Ohio State University participates in the "Big Ten" voting challenge

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS

De-registers infrequent voters

Does not accept student IDs as proper identification

State efforts to make voting more difficult for students

Poll workers verify signatures on absentee ballots—disproportionately affects voters who are not native English speakers

OTHER INFLUENCES

Early voting

Absentee voting

No same-day registration

The pro-marijuana legalization mascot visited campuses all over Ohio to gain young people's support for the issue

#44

national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

28.4%

2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

10.6%

increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES

www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/ohio/
www.nonprofitvote.org/documents/2017/03/america-goes-polls-2016.pdf/
wwwactivities.osu.edu/involvement/osuvotes/big_ten_voting_challenge/
www.propublica.org/article/handwriting-disputes-cause-headaches-for-some-absentee-voters
SOUTH DAKOTA
YOUTH VOTE

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Only midwestern state that does not allow online registration

Most Native Americans eligible to vote did not register because of the confusing process

OTHER INFLUENCES
Limited Preregistration and restoration
Absentee ballot available
Mail-in ballot available
Early voting available

#45
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

27.7%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

12.4%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/south-dakota/
DELAWARE YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Make it Count: organization started by Joe Biden to increase voter registration and civic knowledge at the University of Delaware

All In: organization that hosts events and dispenses information about the voting and democracy

CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG VOTERS
Absentee ballots have notary requirement

OTHER INFLUENCES
Planning to implement early voting soon

Pre-registration available

Absentee ballots available

In-state ID required

#46
national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

27.1%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

5.0%
increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.delawarestatenews.net/government/democrats-push-same-day-voter-registration-2/
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/delaware/
HAWAII YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Pre-registration drives in schools
Election officials speak in classrooms
Young Progressives Demanding Action and Common Cause Hawaii: nonprofit organizations with initiatives to increase voter turnout

OTHER INFLUENCES
Limited same-day registration
Absentee and vote-by-mail available
Restoration registration legal
Pre-registration

#47 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

27.0% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

10.8% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.civilbeat.org/2018/08/cranking-up-the-youth-vote-register-when-youre-16/
www.commoncause.org/hawaii/our-work/voting-elections/
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/hawaii/
Arkansas Youth Vote

Initiatives to Increase Registration & Turnout
Voter registration has become mandatory for everyone eligible in public schools

Other Influences
Pre-registration
Marijuana on ballot increased turnout
Photo ID required
Early voting

#48
National ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

26.7%
2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

9.2%
Increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

Sources
www.funderscommittee.org/files/high_school_voter_registration_programs.pdf
www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2016/10/28/cannabis-coattails/
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/arkansas/
Idaho Youth Vote

Initiatives to Increase Registration & Turnout
Brigham Young University encourages students to vote & provides information on how

University of Idaho promotes civic engagement and hosts voter registration drives/events

Challenges Faced by Young Voters
Absentee ballot law requires people to request one annually

Other Influences
Select counties offer early voting

Sources
www.uidaho.edu/current-students/student-involvement/volunteer/social-action/vandals-vote
www.byui.edu/dean-of-students/voter-registration
www.svrep.org/about_svrep.php
WYOMING YOUTH VOTE

INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT

Wyoming Votes: organization dedicated to increasing youth voters in state

Secretary of State’s Office is working with Wyoming Youth to get more young people motivated to vote

Youth Voter initiative hosted workshops

University of Wyoming encourages students to vote

Demand the Vote: organization in WY to educate and mobilize voters

OTHER INFLUENCES

Voters are uninterested because Dem vs Rep races are not close

25.2% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

5.9% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

#50 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

SOURCES

www.wyovotes.com/
www.jhnewsandguide.com/the_hole_scroll/article_f9aeae0d-af75-5312-99ee-b70bf0982cfa.html
www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/post/wyoming-voter-turnout-much-lower-average#stream/0
www.uwyo.edu/asuw/elections/
www.demandthevote.com/voting-in-wyoming
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE REGISTRATION & TURNOUT
Student IDs are accepted when registering to vote

OTHER INFLUENCES
Strong anti-abortion push by conservatives
Automatic Voter Registration not implemented yet
No same-day voter registration
No non-excuse absentee ballots available
Strict voter ID laws

#51 national ranking of 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

24.5% 2018 midterm election turnout among 18 - 29 year olds

7.5% increase in turnout among 18 - 29 year olds between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections

SOURCES
www.campusvoteproject.org/west-virginia/
www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/west-virginia/