

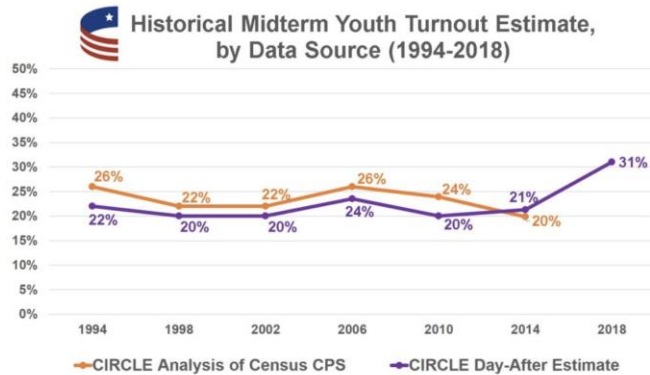
Issue: VA-Youth Voter Turnout

Voters Under 30 - Virginia vs National

Voter Turnout Nationally (2012 - 2018)

Millennial voter turnout is seemingly on the rise. In the 2014 midterm election youth (18-29) voter turnout was 21 percent and in 2018 it reached 31 percent (CIRCLE). This ten-point increase is demonstrative of the trend towards increased youth engagement in midterm elections.

The percentage of youth engagement in the 2018 midterms is lower than the 50 percent of youth who voted in the 2016 presidential election. However, this pattern follows the trend for other groups. Age groups by and large all had higher voter turnout for the presidential election than for the midterms (CIRCLE).



In 2016 Tufts University’s “very preliminary” youth voter turnout estimate suggests that 23.7 million young people, aged 18-29, voted in Tuesday’s election, for an estimated youth turnout rate of 50 percent. Young people made up almost one-fifth of all votes cast in the election” (CIRCLE).

This is an increase of about 1 million young people from 2012, but a similar 50 percent of the 18-29 population. “The

youth vote’s share of the electorate actually increased slightly from 18 percent (2008) to 19 percent (2012). In total, 22 million-23 million young people voted, according to the analysis” (Robillard Politico).

The midterm election years show a steep increase in youth voter turnout from 2014 to 2018, whereas the presidential election year shows no strong change in youth voter turnout from 2012 to 2016.

Voter Turnout Virginia (2013 - 2018)

Midterm election voter turnout for millennials (age 18-29) has also increased in Virginia from 2013 to 2017 to 2018. In 2013, 26 percent of eligible youth voters came out while in 2017, 34 percent of eligible youth voted, an eight-point increase. In 2018, that percentage was up to 47.4 percent, a 13.4 percent increase from 2017. This increase is even higher than the national increase between primaries (2014-18), demonstrating that young voters in Virginia are becoming even more politically engaged in state elections than the national average. 2013 and 2017 elections are comparable, and 2018 was the most recent midterm election.

In 2016, 50.6% of Virginia youth voted in the presidential election. Despite the trend of higher percentages of people voting in presidential elections than midterms, the Virginia 2018 midterm

youth turnout was 47.7 percent, much closer to the 50 percent of youth who voted in 2016. The fact that almost the same proportion of youth voted in the midterms as in the presidential is significant, as this is different than the disparity between midterm and presidential youth voter turnout on a national level.

Virginia youth have turned out in increased proportions in the most recent midterm election in 2018. This follows and exceeds the national trend of increased youth voter turnout.

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