



# CIRCLE

The Center for Information & Research  
on Civic Learning & Engagement

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## Census Data Shows Youth Voter Turnout Surged More Than Any Other Age Group

The increase in turnout by the youngest voters, age 18-24, was higher than any other age group, making it a significant and disproportionate factor in the overall jump in the number of Americans going to the polls last fall, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE). New Census Bureau data released today, shows that the voter turnout rate among voters under age 25 jumped 11 points, from 36 to 47 percent, from 2000 to 2004. The overall voter turnout rate grew by about four points, from 60 to 64 percent.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>Percentage Point Increase</b>
18-24	36%	47%	+11 % points
25-34	51%	56%	+5 % points
35-44	60%	64%	+4 % points
45-54	66%	69%	+3 % points
55-64	70%	73%	+3 % points
65-74	72%	73%	+1 % points
75+	67%	69%	+2 % points
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>+4 % points</b>

According to earlier CIRCLE analysis of the youth vote, the large increase in youth voter turnout was largely due to a surge in the turnout rates among African-Americans and Latinos, who accounted for more than half of the 4.3 million additional under-30 voters who went to the polls in 2004 compared to 2000. These two groups caused the overall youth vote to go for Senator Kerry over President Bush, by 54-45%, as white 18-29 year olds favored President Bush.

Analyzing state exit polls, CIRCLE reported that the overall turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds grew by approximately 10 percentage points between 2000 and 2004. The turnout rate among Latinos grew by 21 points and by 15 points among African Americans, reaching 53 percent for both groups.

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Funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and Carnegie Corporation of New York, and housed at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy, **CIRCLE** ([www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org)) is a premier source of impartial, nonpartisan, and comprehensive data, research, and analysis on the civic engagement of young people.