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Contact Gabriel Hillel for further information at gabrielhillel@gmail.com
CHARLES M. BLOW

High school seniors prepare to vote for first time

Inbox

2022 midterms see more young women registering to vote

<https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/2022-midterms-see-more-young-women-registering-vote-n1300528>

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/south-texas-el-paso/news/2022/10/31/high-school-seniors-prepare-to-vote-for-first-time>

FGCU students plan to protest on-campus campaign rally Sunday for Gov. Ron DeSantis | WGCU PBS & NPR for Southwest Florida

<https://news.wgcu.org/2022-11-04/fgcu-students-plan-to-protest-on-campus-campaign-rally-sunday-for-gov-ron-desantis>

**Opinion | Bernie Sanders believes young voters can
turn the tide for Mandela Barnes | John Nichols |
captimes.com**

https://captimes.com/opinion/john-nichols/opinion-bernie-sanders-believes-young-voters-can-turn-the-tide-for-mandela-barnes/article_72e2006a-2973-5296-bb68-10ec337ae339.html

**Bernie Sanders stumps for Democrats in Wisconsin as
both sides make final get-out-the-vote push |
Wisconsin Public Radio**

<https://www.wpr.org/bernie-sanders-stumps-democrats-wisconsin-both-sides-make-final-get-out-vote-push>

**Val Demings endorses Maxwell Alejandro Frost in CD
10**

<https://floridapolitics.com/archives/569050-val-demings-endorses-maxwell-alejandro-frost-in-cd-10/>

**Elections 2022: Democrat Frost runs against
Republican Wimbish in U.S. House District 10 race | > |
NSM.today**

http://www.nicholsonstudentmedia.com/news/elections-2022-democrat-frost-runs-against-republican-wimbish-in-u-s-house-district-10-race/article_e8355116-55f4-11ed-8706-0fd78a2583fe.html

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10**

<https://floridapolitics.com/archives/569050-val-demings-endorses-maxwell-alejandro-frost-in-cd-10/>

Early Vote Totals Point Toward Record-Breaking Turnout for Midterm Elections

Midterm turnout reached a 40-year high in 2018 at 49% of the total voting-age population. Early voting totals suggest that number could be even higher in 2022.

By Chris Gilligan

Nov. 4, 2022, at 4:17 p.m.

Strong Early Vote Drives Midterm Turnout

First Look: Early Voting Turnout in the 2022 Midterms Compared to Prior Years

An estimated [35.5 million](#) Americans have already cast their votes in the 2022 midterms, and recent trends suggest turnout by

Contentious elections in Georgia have seen [over 1.8 million votes](#) – around 400,000 more than at this time in 2018. During the primary season, many states also saw increased participation, including [North Carolina](#) (up 50%), [Arizona](#) (21%) and [Maryland](#) (19%), all hinting that constituents want their voices heard now more than ever.

It's a continuation of record-breaking turnout in recent years. The nonpartisan data center USAFacts [reports](#) that midterm turnout reached a 40-year high in 2018 at 49% of the total voting-age population, a dramatic uptick of over 10 percentage points from 2014.

Two years later, the presidential elections experienced a [30-year turnout high](#), with 61.3% of Americans of eligible age making it to the polls.

In both the 2018 midterms and 2020 presidential elections, it was the age 18-24 demographic that made the largest jump in turnout. According to the USAFacts analysis, youth voter turnout increased by 10 percentage points from the 2016 to 2020 presidential elections, and, while midterm voter demographics tend to skew older, the youth vote nearly doubled in 2018, increasing from 15.9% to 30.1%. In Georgia, that same age group now makes up the highest share of [registered voters](#) in this year's election, and the state's data hub shows they're also expected to be the most active.

The [United States Elections Project](#) reveals that around 43% of votes cast so far were made in person, while around 57% have come in the mail. In 2020, ultimately, 43% of final votes were by mail, and 26% were cast in person before Election Day. Several states [expanded access to these methods](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to any "new normal," the majority of voters in the 2018 midterms did so in person, on Election Day.

Based on the state level figures the project has collected so far, Montana (31.1%), Georgia (30.6%) and Oregon (26.8%) are seeing the highest early voter turnout, relative to their total number of voting-age citizens as estimated by the U.S. Census. In prior cycles, Montana and Oregon have been pretty consistent higher-turnout states, whereas Georgia had previously been about average or a little above.

In past elections, the country's most populous states, California and Texas, had turnout below the national level. But as of Nov. 4, Texas has turned out over 25% of its voting age citizen population, while nearly 15% of Californians have voted.

Despite the increased civic engagement, there will always be some amount of roadblocks to contend with, including apathy. According to USAFacts, the most common reason cited for not

voting in the 2020 election was a lack of interest, a reason given by about 18% of nonvoters. Illness, disability and concerns about COVID-19 ranked second at 17%.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2022-11-04/early-vote-totals-point-toward-record-breaking-turnout-for-midterm-elections>

Nov 2, 2022 6:45 PM EST

Here's what voters said in our last poll before Election Day

With less than a week to go until Election Day, our latest PBS NewsHour/NPR/Marist poll is giving us a look at the landscape and key issues playing out in the midterm elections. It reveals the political mood and how turnout among young voters could sway the outcome. Lisa Desjardins breaks down the results.

Read the Full Transcript

-
-
- **Judy Woodruff:**
Election Day is less than a week away and, already, 30 million Americans have cast a ballot.

Our latest "PBS NewsHour"/NPR/Marist poll is giving us a look at the landscape and the key issues that are playing out in the midterm elections.

Lisa Desjardins is here to walk through the results.

Lisa, hello.
- **Lisa Desjardins:**

Hello. I got the results right here.

- **Judy Woodruff:**

You do. And there's a lot to talk about, a lot to report on.

So, here we are, six days out. What are the polls telling us?

- **Lisa Desjardins:**

Who's going to win? That's the question everyone wants to know, right?

We asked, of course, in this election, do you prefer Republicans or Democrats? Let's look at where the country is right now in this poll. It does not get closer than that, 46 percent of Americans in our survey saying Democrats, 46 percent Republican. That little tiny gray space in the middle, that's the 8 percent who didn't have a preference either way.

Now, I will say, Judy, this looks like a dead heat. When you ask voters who say, I will definitely vote, Republicans have a slight advantage, just a little one. But it's really just as close as it could be in this election.

So we wanted to know, of course, what's on voters' mind, what's going to affect whether — who they vote for. And we look at the issues, and here's what we know right now voters are thinking about. If you look by party, Republicans say inflation is their top concern, 54 percent, independents, also 40 percent

Democrats, look at that number there; 42 percent of Democrats now say that the issue that gets the most attention from them, preserving democracy. Judy, that is a significant change from just a few months ago, when the top issue for Democrats was abortion.

Now, there are still a number of Democrats, I think about a third of Democrats, top of mind is abortion. But that issue was really driving some enthusiasm for Democrats that we just don't see in the poll anymore.

- **Judy Woodruff:**

And it's kind of a negative motivation under that heading.

So, Lisa, in a close election, it is often turnout. It's who turns out to vote. What are the polls telling us about that?

- **Lisa Desjardins:**

Well, first of all, I should say something that we also noticed in this poll was that President Biden's approval rating, President Trump's approval rating are the same. So that's a mark of enthusiasm that we usually look at.

But they're dead tied right now, both the current and former presidents. When we asked, who is actually going to come I'm out to vote by party, here's what we see right now at this moment. Democrats, 82 percent of them say they will definitely vote, Republicans, more, 88 percent.

Independents seem the least enthusiastic right now at 73 percent. Now, those numbers don't look all that different between Democrats and Republicans. But, overall, we asked Lee Miringoff, who is the director of the poll at the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, what kind of picture is emerging from this, and this is what he told us.

Lee Miringoff, Director, Marist Institute for Public Opinion: The current winds are blowing more Republican in this poll than Democratic. The Republican electorate is more, showing greater interest at this point than the Democratic electorate is.

And the Republican interest has grown. And we're also seeing that when, we look at definite voters, as opposed to the registered electorate as a whole, that has a slightly more Republican flavor to it.

- **Lisa Desjardins:**

So let's drill down on those definite voters.

Those are really your most guaranteed voters. Everyone else, it could be a bad day, they might not show up. Here's what we're talking about that is a problem for Democrats right now.

Let's look at some of their key groups that we see vote in highest numbers Democratic. Black voters, 67 percent only say they will definitely vote, Latino, 69 percent. Of course, we talked about that when we were in Nevada last week.

Generation Z, millennials, younger voters, only 65 percent saying that they will definitely vote. Those are key high number voter — high proportion voters for Democrats. Let's look at some other groups. On the other hand, white evangelicals, 89 percent of those who generally do vote more Republican are planning to definitely vote.

And then the group I'm watching the most, white college graduates. Look at that figure, 95 percent planning to vote definitely. And, Judy, in this poll, we saw a shift in their opinion. College graduates in general are moving away from Democrats, now just 55 percent saying they're voting Democrat vs. 65 Last month. So that also is a problem for the Democratic Party this election.

- **Judy Woodruff:**

And that changed just in the last month?

- **Lisa Desjardins:**

I'm sorry, in the last two months, since the end of August.

- **Judy Woodruff:**

In the last two months.

So, finally, overlaying this, Lisa, is something you alluded to earlier, it's the critical question of, how do people feel about the fairness of the election system? What do you see?

- **Lisa Desjardins:**

Well, we will be watching this in real time on Election Day, of course, as will the whole country.

We asked people in this poll, how confident are you that this election will be fair and accurate? Here's what we got by party. Look at that difference; 62 percent of Democrats say they are very confident, only 30 percent of Republicans.

Now, when you ask, are you somewhat confident, those numbers get closer. And a majority of Republicans have some level of confidence. But, by and large, Democrats are more confident.

Here's the question I want to look at. Look at this. Should your candidate, if they lose, concede? Now, look at that. Democrats, 64 percent say, definitely, my candidate should concede if they lose. Republicans, just 39 percent say definitely; 42 percent aren't so sure.

And I have to say, even that number from Democrats saying — only two-thirds of Democrats say my candidate should definitely concede, I mean, that's very different than, let's say, 10, 20 years ago. And it's something that's happening right now.

So we will be watching these candidates and voters are going to be watching them closely too.

- **Judy Woodruff:**

That's an essential tenet of this democracy.

- **Lisa Desjardins:**

That's right.

- **Judy Woodruff:**

People concede when they have lost an election.

-

- **Lisa Desjardins:**

You see that loss of confidence, based on who wins or loses.

- **Judy Woodruff:**

Yes, very worrying, very worrying.

- **Lisa Desjardins:**

Yes.

- **Judy Woodruff:**

Lisa Desjardins, thank you.

- **Lisa Desjardins:**

You're welcome.

[THE FUTURE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW](#)

Why Are Young Voters More Likely to Skip Midterm Elections?

If younger people are underrepresented in midterm elections, then their policy views will also be underrepresented when winning midterm candidates vote on important issues.

Oct. 30, 2022 •

Jan Leighley, American University School of Public Affairs

Midterm elections typically have lower voter turnout than presidential elections, but there is another crucial difference beyond just how many people vote: how old they are.

If past turnout patterns hold in 2022's midterm election, most demographic groups will be represented as much as they are in presidential elections, with one major exception. People [ages 18 to 29 represent 16](#) percent of the total U.S. population.

But they will be a smaller proportion of voters in November.

That's a key finding of [my](#) research with political science collaborators [Brian Hamel](#) and [Jonathan Nagler](#).

We wondered whether midterm elections are, because of their lower voter turnouts, less representative than presidential elections. For our initial findings, we compared the share of votes cast by different demographic groups in every midterm from 1974 to 2018 and those groups' vote shares in presidential elections from 1972 through 2016.

During that period, people ages 18 to 29 cast 17 percent of the ballots in presidential races but just 12.8 percent of the votes in midterm elections, a drop of 4.2 percentage points. By contrast, the share of voters over the age of 45 rises almost 6 percentage points in midterm election years over their level in presidential elections.

When we analyzed differences in the share of voters by race, income and education levels, we found nearly equal levels of vote shares for these groups in both midterm and presidential elections. Yes, turnout is lower in all these midterms compared with presidential elections. But the representation of different voter groups is about the same – except for age.

Most demographic groups turn out evenly for elections

When examined by income, education level, and race or ethnicity, voter turnout isn't substantially different between **midterm** and **presidential** elections. But when it comes to age, younger people turn out significantly less often in midterms.

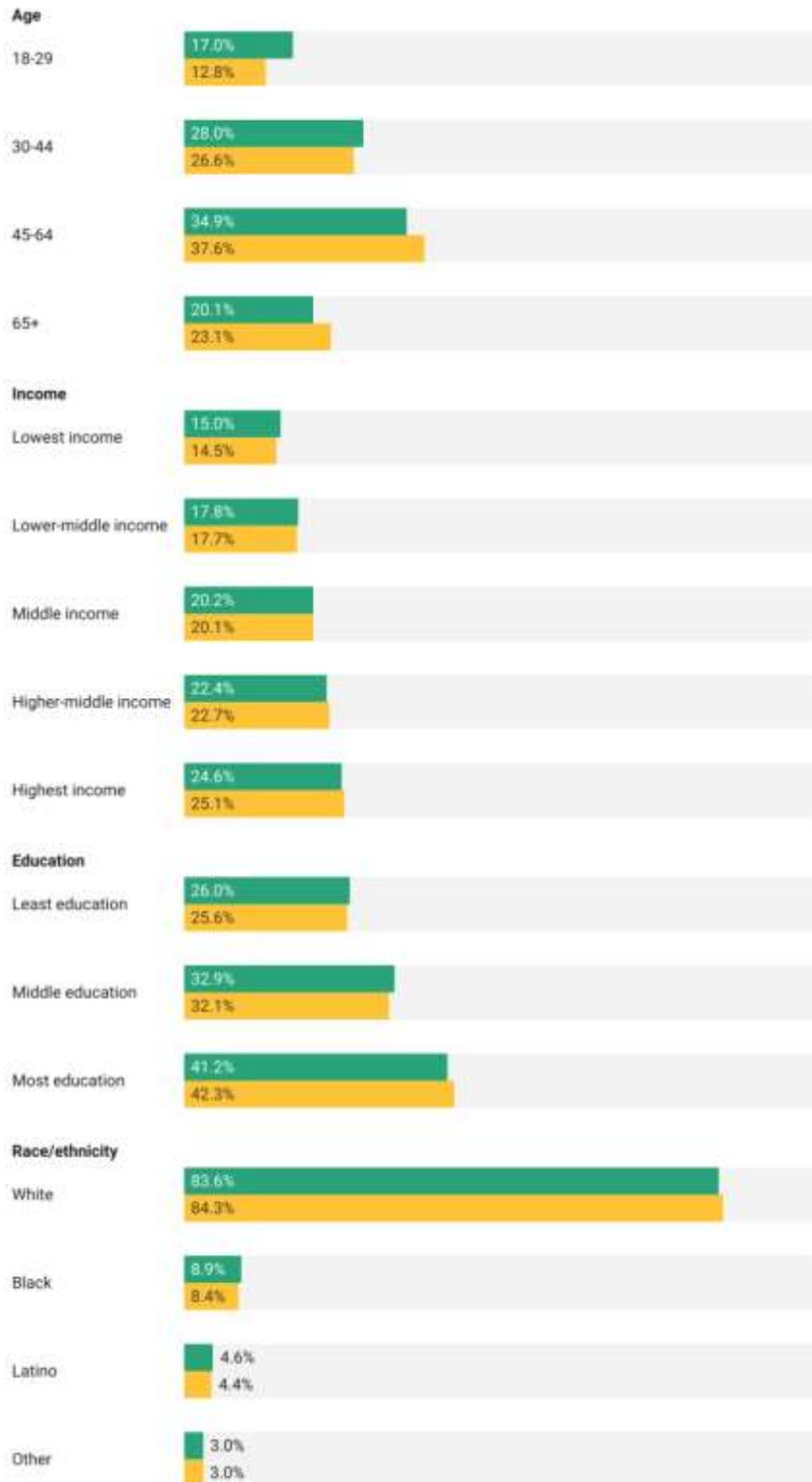


Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Winners Matter, But So Do Voters

This representation difference is important. The winners of a nonpresidential election are determined by who gets the most votes. But research shows that the [policies that winning elected officials pursue](#) are determined in part by who voted for them. If younger people are underrepresented in midterm elections, then their policy views will also be underrepresented when winning midterm candidates vote on important issues.

If younger and older citizens supported the same policies, then underrepresentation of younger voters in the vote share wouldn't matter. But people of [different ages often have different views](#) on key issues.

Young Americans are more likely to support Medicare for all

Older Americans are less likely to say they **support expanding Medicare to everyone**. Almost half of people 65 and over, who have Medicare, **oppose Medicare expansion**. This is one example of how Americans of different ages hold very different political views.



Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Cooperative Election Study

These age-based differences are also evident in policy views. Older Americans tend to report [greater opposition to abortion rights](#) and less support for universal government-run health care. At the most basic level, the age differences involve party affiliation. The [Cooperative Election Study](#) is a scholarly national public opinion survey conducted regularly since 2006. In its survey about the 2018 midterm election, younger voters were found to identify [significantly more often as Democratic](#) than

Republican, while older voters are much more likely to identify with the Republican Party.

So if younger voters are underrepresented in the November 2022 elections, more Republicans may be elected, as well as candidates less likely to reflect younger citizens' views on key issues.

Young people are more likely to be Democrats

Older Americans are more likely to be **Republicans** than they are to identify themselves as **Democrats** or **independents**.

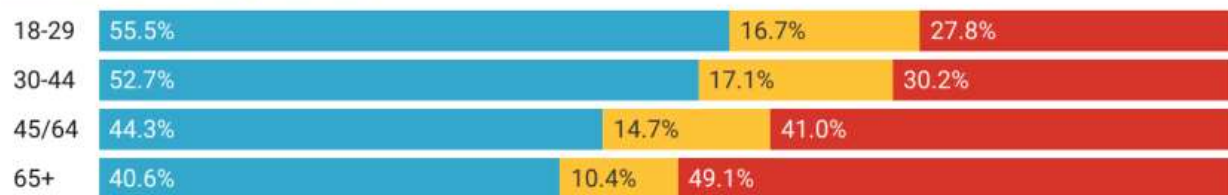


Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Cooperative Election Study

Overall Turnout Can Mask Differences

With crucial issues like inflation, racial and economic equity, climate change and abortion rights all factors in the campaign, and a large number of competitive districts, some pundits are projecting that overall turnout [may even surpass 2018's record of 50.1](#) percent of eligible voters.

But even if that happens, record high turnout does not guarantee that younger voters will be better represented. In 2018, for instance, younger voters turned out in larger numbers but [were still underrepresented](#) because other age groups also turned out in larger numbers.

<https://www.governing.com/now/why-are-young-voters-more-likely-to-skip-midterm-elections>

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/empowered-by-their-role-as-americas-future-59-of-young-voters-plan-to-vote-in-the-midterm-elections-to-protect-their-rights--while-21-are-unsure-whether-or-not-they-will-vote-301640386.html>

Empowered by their role as "America's Future," 59% of young voters plan to vote in the midterm elections to protect their rights - while 21% are unsure whether or not they will vote

Oct 04, 2022, 10:12 ET

The new national study from Paramount Media Networks & MTV Entertainment Studios and the Ad Council Research Institute provides organizations with tools to motivate voter turnout

Abortion rights is the top issue among young people, followed by women's rights, healthcare and the economy

NEW YORK, Oct. 4, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Empowerment is the driving message leading young voters ages 17-29 to the polls this midterm season, with **59% confirming they are planning on voting**, motivated by their perception as being "America's Future," according to the second and final phase of the **Messaging Young Voters in the 2022 Midterms Report** by the Ad Council Research Institute (ACRI) and Paramount Media Networks (PMN) & MTV Entertainment (

With 21% of young voters ages 17-29 still undecided about whether or not they will vote this election season, the collaborative research project between ACRI and PMN & MTVE

reveals voting behaviors, attitudes and perceptions among younger Millennials and voting-age Gen Z, with **55% of young voters reporting that they feel a civic duty to vote in this year's midterm elections in order to support the issues that are important to them.** The report also provides actionable and research-driven message frames and approaches for organizations to utilize in their strategies to successfully motivate voter turnout of these age groups.

Abortion and women's rights are the top two issues of interest to young voters, with 51% and 50% respectively. Other top of mind issues for young voters include healthcare, the economy, mental health, gun rights and education.

"This report confirms crucial findings for us, proving that young voters are feeling empowered and motivated more than ever to get out and vote during this year's midterm elections due to key issues such as abortion and women's rights," said Brianna Cayo Cotter, SVP of Social Impact for Paramount Media Networks & MTV Entertainment Studios.

"What is so special about this report, is that it not only unveils what kind of messaging will mobilize young voters, but also maps out how and where this key voting population is most likely to engage with it," said Derrick Feldmann, lead researcher and managing director of ACRI and Ad Council Edge. "We're hopeful that organizations working to motivate young voters take these findings and model their efforts to educate and strategically encourage voter engagement, meeting the needs of the young people they are inspiring to cast ballots."

Although 80% of young people are planning to vote in the 2022 midterm elections, or they haven't yet decided, there is an

opportunity for issue-driven brands and causes to enact efforts now to encourage those who are undecided and reinvigorate planned voters to head to the polls in November. A large number of young people believe elections have too much corruption (62%) while less than half believe their vote makes a difference (47%) and trust in the election process security (45%), illustrating the impacts of negative election discourse on civic engagement. The specific recommendations in the report – focusing on messaging that's educational and empowering, delivered by trusted messengers and accessible through often-used sources – will help brands and causes to reach and motivate this age group for the 2022 midterm elections and elections of the future.

The findings being released today can be found [HERE](#).

About the Ad Council and ACRI

The Ad Council is where creativity and causes converge. The non-profit organization brings together the most creative minds in advertising, media, technology and marketing to address many of the nation's most important causes. The Ad Council has created many of the most iconic campaigns in advertising history. Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk. Smokey Bear. Love Has No Labels.

The Ad Council's innovative social good campaigns raise awareness, inspire action and save lives. To learn more, visit AdCouncil.org, follow the Ad Council's communities on Facebook and Twitter, and view the creative on YouTube.

The Ad Council Research Institute (ACRI) leverages the Ad Council's insight-driven approach to examine some of the most important social issues of our time. Building upon years of

research expertise, ACRI works with brand, corporate and nonprofit partners and clients in four ways— We conduct research to gain a deeper understanding of the public's perceptions, attitudes and willingness to act on social issues. We develop and test messaging and narratives for social good campaigns. We help build knowledge on the role influencers or trusted messengers can play to move the public to act and we identify key performance indicators for communications initiatives, and the tools through which to measure, assess and optimize them over time. Learn more about ACRI and our 2022 research agenda [here](#).

Paramount Media Networks & MTV Entertainment Studios

Paramount Media Networks & MTV Entertainment Studios is one of the preeminent media entities in the world that connects with global audiences through its nine iconic brands – MTV, Comedy Central, VH1, CMT, Pop, Logo, The Smithsonian Channel, Paramount Network and TV Land – and its Studios arm which produces acclaimed series and movies as well as award-winning documentaries through MTV Documentary Films.

SOURCE The Ad Council Where the Youth Vote Can Be Decisive in the 2022 Elections

August 11, 2022

CIRCLE's updated, exclusive data-based rankings of the races where youth can influence results seek to expand conversations about young people's role in elections.

Lead Author: [Alberto Medina](#), *Communications Team Lead*

Contributor: Kelly Siegel-Stechler

Young people are vital participants in our democracy. In recent elections, tens of thousands of young people have acted as poll workers and volunteered for campaigns, millions have registered and convinced others to vote, and many more have advocated for issues that affect their daily lives. Youth are also a rising force at the ballot box and had historic voter turnout in 2018 and 2020. Yet too often they remain ignored by political campaigns and organizations who neglect or underinvest in youth outreach, or target only a fraction of youth. When that happens, a wide diversity of young people's voices are excluded from conversations about issues that affect them, and their massive potential to shape election results may not be fully realized.

CIRCLE's 2022 Youth Electoral Significance Index (YESI) seeks to quantify young people's likely electoral impact, and to serve as a tool for stakeholders to direct their efforts and resources to reach diverse communities of youth across the country. The YESI includes three data-based rankings that incorporate more than a dozen indicators to highlight the top 10 U.S. Senate, House, and Governor races where youth have an especially high likelihood to play a decisive role in 2022—especially if they are encouraged and supported to vote.

Our YESI rankings, which are updated as of August 1, using more recent electoral competitiveness data and following the completion of several states' redistricting processes are:

2022 Youth Electoral Significance Index

Find the updated full rankings and read more about the factors that contribute to high potential for youth electoral impact in each race. You can also access our social media toolkit to post about the YESI rankings and the power of young voters.

[Explore the Rankings](#)

[Share on Social Media](#)

Youth of Color May Be Decisive in Key Races

Our rankings highlight the power and potential of young people of color in the 2022 midterms. For example, Arizona and Nevada (which rank in both the Senate and Governor top 10s) feature a large proportion of Latino youth whose participation in 2022 may be decisive, [as it already was in the 2020 election](#).

While Arizona has above average-rates of college enrollment and youth voter registration, Nevada ranks among the lowest in the nation on both indicators, which suggests that reaching and mobilizing young voters may require different strategies in each state. Some of those strategies were successful in 2020; Nevada had above-average youth voter turnout, especially among young people ages 18-19.

The 2022 YESI rankings also include states, like North Carolina (#7 - Senate) and Georgia (#1 - Senate, #5 - Governor) where Black youth may have a decisive influence on elections. In Kansas (#3 - Governor), New Hampshire (#6 - Senate) and Maine (#8 - Governor), engaging rural youth will be especially critical—and an ongoing challenge, as [we have chronicled that many rural youth report living in civic deserts](#).

The diversity of the youth electorate could also shape U.S. House races. In more than half the districts in our top 10, more than 1 in 4 residents are people of color. That includes districts with heavily Latino populations like the Colorado 8th and California 27th, and the substantial Black population in the Virginia 2nd. Campaigns, organizers, and other stakeholders must be thoughtful about strategies and tactics—especially to support

those from historically marginalized communities who may disproportionately face barriers to electoral participation.

YESI House Top 25

If we broaden our view to the top 25 YESI House districts, there is even more geographic variety and diversity. There are 17 different states represented in the top 25, which includes four districts in New York, three in Michigan, and two each in Ohio, California, and Pennsylvania.

Some notable districts in the top 25 include the New Mexico 2nd and California 22nd (#19 and #23, respectively, in our ranking), where more than half of the population is Latino; and the New Jersey 7th (#17) which had one of the highest youth voter turnout rates of any district in the country in 2020.

It's key to understand the vastly different communities of youth and conditions for engagement that exist in different states and districts. Outreach to young people must necessarily be different in an urban, ethnically diverse district with a major college campus than in a district like the Maine 2nd in one of the most rural parts of the country. Likewise, facilitating youth participation requires different strategies in a state with automatic registration and easy mail-in voting like Colorado than in a state like Pennsylvania which lacks same-day registration or no-excuse absentee voting.

Electoral Laws and Voter Registration

At both the statewide and district level, many of the midterm races in our top 10 rankings are in states like Washington, California, Colorado, Oregon, and Virginia that have facilitative election laws like automatic, same-day, and/or pre-registration.

Our [research has consistently found that these policies](#) can lead to higher youth voter participation.

CIRCLE's analysis of state-by-state youth voter registration this year compared to the last midterm cycle provides a snapshot of whether some of these electoral battlegrounds are reaching youth and expanding the electorate.

In YESI-ranked states like Michigan, Nevada, Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Georgia, and others, there were more young people (ages 18-24) registered to vote as of June 2022 compared to June 2018. However, states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida have fewer youth registered now than at this point in the previous midterm cycle. These three states rank relatively low in facilitative election laws, one of the data indicators that goes into our YESI rankings.

Among newly eligible voters (ages 18-19), only a handful of states like Michigan, Nevada, California, North Carolina, and Colorado have more youth registered now than in 2018. Most states are lagging behind their 2018 pace, including highly ranked YESI states like Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. Campaigns and organizations must redouble their efforts to register the youngest potential voters in these states where just a few thousand votes may decide key races.

About the Rankings

CIRCLE has produced the YESI rankings since 2016, and they have been regularly used by campaigns and organizations to target and mobilize young voters in key states. In 2020, half of our top-ranked House races, Senate races, and presidential race states flipped parties. In nine of our top-10 2020 Senate races, the number of votes cast by youth far outpaced the race's margin of

victory—underscoring that youth can and did play a major role in close races.

Projected competitiveness is a major factor in our YESI rankings because the youth vote can be most decisive in races that may be decided by a few percentage points. But the rankings also incorporate data about the demographic makeup of communities, its recent history of voter participation, and existing resources and assets that may help engage youth—or present challenges to overcome. [Read more about the YESI Methodology.](#)

We encourage campaigns, organizations, and institutions who aim to reach and activate young voters in 2022 to explore these rankings. And while our Youth Electoral Significance Index focuses on short-term impact this cycle, the work to grow voters and shape a more diverse and equitable electorate is a long-term project that must be undertaken in every state across the country.

<https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/where-youth-vote-can-be-decisive-2022-elections>



Meet the future of American politics

By [Tiara Chiaramonte](#), [Madeleine Stix](#) and [Samantha Guff](#), CNN

Updated 1:08 PM ET, Tue October 30, 2018

(CNN) There's a massive age gap between US government representatives and those they represent. Adults under 30 make up nearly 22% of voting-aged citizens in the United States, yet they are sorely underrepresented at all levels of government.

Take, for example, the current Congress, where the [average age](#) in both chambers is over 55. (You can't serve legally in the House until 25 or in the Senate until 30.)

CNN reached out to young candidates across the country who are hoping to change that demographic in the 2018 midterm election. We asked them to submit videos or photos that represent their campaigns, and talk about how their age has helped or hindered them. While their parties and platforms varied, every candidate believes their generation needs to be heard. Their answers have been lightly edited for time and clarity.

MORGAN ZEGERS



She's 21, Republican and a woodworking pro 00:43

Age: 21

Occupation: Owner of a woodworking business

Party: Republican

What she's running for: New York Assembly, District 113

Platforms: Ethical leadership. Economic development. Tax reform.

Instagram handle: [@morgan.zegers](https://www.instagram.com/morgan.zegers)

Why she's running: "New York state has one of the most corrupt governments in the country. Being a young candidate means I can bring energy, a fresh perspective and a positive outlook to combat the corruption. I am not running to bring a 21-year-old's perspective. Instead, I am running for state assembly to bring my perspective as a hardworking, blue collar, frustrated, upstate taxpayer that is dedicated to building a New York where everybody feels confident building their future."

WILL HASKELL



Protesting inspired this candidate to run 00:52

Age: 22

Occupation: Just graduated from Georgetown

Party: Democrat

What he's running for: Connecticut State Senate, 26th District

Platforms: Reducing gun violence. Revitalizing Connecticut's economy. Equal rights for women and the LGBTQIA community.

Instagram handle: [@willhaskellforct](https://www.instagram.com/willhaskellforct)

Why he's running: "Representative democracy should be representative. My generation has so much at stake in the upcoming election, yet too many of my peers sit on the sidelines each Election Day. As a result, we don't have a voice in the state Senate.

We need to attract the next generation ... That can only begin when young people have a seat at the table.

WILL HASKELL

In order to rebuild Connecticut, we need to attract the next generation of workers to start their families, small businesses and careers here. That can only begin when young people have a seat at the table."

JERAMEY ANDERSON



Age: 26

Occupation: Mississippi State Representative, District 110 and House Minority Secretary

Party: Democrat

What he's running for: U.S. House of Representatives, MS-04

Platforms: Raising the minimum wage. Improving public education. Implementing criminal justice reform.

Instagram handle: [@jerameyforms](https://www.instagram.com/jerameyforms)

Why he's running: "I already have five years of experience serving as a state legislator. I think my age is one of my greatest advantages and having more young people in Congress is the change we need now. Being young in this current political climate means you have more to lose or gain with policies that are put into action in Washington.

Nothing that is done without us can be for us.

JERAMEY ANDERSON

I believe millennials are less likely to be politically biased than previous generations. We are focused on solutions instead of blindly following a partisan agenda. People say we are the future leaders of tomorrow, but I say we need to be the leaders of today because it is our tomorrow at stake. As I always tell my constituents, 'Nothing that is done without us can be for us.' "

SELENA TORRES



She says reading books will make her a great politician 00:30

Age: 23

Occupation: High school teacher

Party: Democrat

What she's running for: Nevada Assembly, District 3

Platforms: Reducing classroom size and raising teacher pay.
Paid family leave policies. Access to health care.

On Facebook: [@selenatorresnv](https://www.facebook.com/selenatorresnv)

Why she's running: "Nevada is ready for the next generation of young, energetic and diverse leaders who will bring 21st century ideas and hard work to the state legislature. As a young candidate and soon-to-be young legislator, I am committed to finding long-term solutions to the issues that face our community."

ALYSSA DAWSON



Meet New Jersey's youngest politician 00:30

Age: 25

Occupation: Public Relations & Councilwoman in Westwood, NJ

Party: Republican

What she's running for: Westwood City Council, re-election

Platforms: Opposes marijuana legalization. Fiscal responsibility. Reducing stigmas surrounding the LGBT community and those with mental health disorders.

On Facebook: [@AlyssaDawsonforWestwood](https://www.facebook.com/AlyssaDawsonforWestwood)

Why she's running: "As a gay Republican, I have gotten quite a bit of backlash. My response to these people is that I am a 'different' kind of Republican -- fiscally conservative and socially liberal. Political affiliation is not cookie-cutter, but rather a letter next to my name. That 'R' does not inhibit me from thinking independently and making decisions that might not always be in line with 'my party.'

Until they're ready to speak out, I will listen and make sure they are heard.

ALYSSA DAWSON

I've had people tell me I should switch parties because it's impossible to be gay and be a Republican. Well, I am proof that it is possible and I know others who are in the same boat. I am optimistic that my generation can continue moving toward middle ground. The future starts now, and I want to ensure that the future is as bright as possible."

JA'MAL GREEN



Age: 23

Occupation: Activist and entrepreneur

Party: Independent

What he's running for: Mayor of Chicago

Platforms: Creating inclusive communities. Ending government corruption. Re-imagining Chicago's future.

Instagram handle: [@jaymalgreen](https://www.instagram.com/jaymalgreen)

Why he's running: "I am, first and foremost, an activist in the city of Chicago, where I've worked as a motivational speaker, youth mentor and community organizer for years. One of the issues that I focus on is gun violence; I've actively implemented programs in Chicago specifically designed to help reduce the threat of gun-related danger in the city. I also focus on race relations, economics, and the current state of political justice in the United States."

BRETT RIES



He wants to fill his state's 'generational gap' 00:30

Age: 21

Occupation: Student at the University of South Dakota

Party: Democrat

What he's running for: South Dakota House of Representatives, District 5

Platforms: Education and government reform

On Facebook: [@RiesForSDHouse](https://www.facebook.com/RiesForSDHouse)

Why he's running: "Our legislature has acknowledged the brain drain in South Dakota; we are having a hard time keeping youth in our state. Who better to help solve this issue than youth themselves? I have recent experience in our state's education system, so I can provide valuable insight as to what makes youth want to stay in South Dakota for college and beyond.

Traditional experience doesn't always help when dealing with a generational divide. I want to help fill the generational gap that exists in our legislature."

HADIYA AFZAL



She's 18 and ready to change her city 00:44

Age: 19

Occupation: Student at DePaul University in Chicago

Party: Democrat

What she's running for: DuPage County Board, District 4

Platforms: Better public transportation. Preserving the environment. Fixing the opioid crisis.

Instagram handle: [@hadiyafordupage](https://www.instagram.com/hadiyafordupage)

Why she's running: "I believe my youth allows me to pursue ambitious policy goals without the cynicism that comes from political fatigue. I'm not willing to give up on important issues because I understand exactly how important the long-term consequences of every decision are. After all, my peers and I will be the ones who have to deal with them.

I'm not willing to give up on important issues because I understand the long-term consequences.

HAYIDA AFZAL

As a recent high school graduate, I know exactly what the public school system is like in our district, and what issues students face. I know community college students who bemoan traffic jams on the way to class. I know classmates who have died of drug overdoses or have had to go to rehab for opioid addictions.

I've been passionately committed to building a better DuPage County for my neighbors and community, and I think that comes from being a young person who still wants to make a difference."

KENNETH MEJIA



It's not easy to run, he says, but it's worth it 00:52

Age: 27

Occupation: Certified public accountant

Party: Green

What he's running for: U.S. House of Representatives, CA-34

Platforms: Humane immigration reform. Ending homelessness. Criminal justice reform. Civil rights

Instagram handle: [@kennethmejiaforcongress](https://www.instagram.com/kennethmejiaforcongress)

Why he's running: "Youth are the most underrepresented demographic in our political system, yet they are the ones who are struggling from the decisions and policies created by older politicians who have lost touch with the realities new generations face. I see my friends drowning in tens of thousands of dollars of debt, who can't find jobs, who can't afford to live on their own or make rent and who still live with their parents. Seeing this struggle -- and living with it personally -- I can see which areas our elected officials need to focus on more.

My mom inspired me to run. Her ability to raise four kids as a single mom, to care for others as a registered nurse, and her dedication to helping others is what pushes me to help others as well so that people can live with a life of dignity and respect. She is bold, that is why I too am bold in fighting for a better future."

KATHERINE KERWIN



She's learned how to stand up for herself 00:53

Age: 21

Occupation: Director of Communications, R.I. Coalition Against Gun Violence

Party: Democrat

Running unopposed for: Providence City Council, Ward 12

Platforms: Affordable housing. Education. Supporting small businesses.

Twitter handle: [@KatKerwinPVD](https://twitter.com/KatKerwinPVD)

Why she's running: "My age serves as a strength of the job. I am at a point in my life where I do not have a family of my own. And in many ways, I think having fewer familial obligations has allowed me to focus whole-heartedly on community work. City Council is a 24-hour-a-day job and when a constituent calls, I answer.

City Council is a 24-hours-a-day job and when a constituent calls, I answer.

KATHERINE KERWIN

Many politicians who are older or 'more established' are in a different place in their lives. They may own homes, and be in a comfortable place financially. I am currently renting, and frankly, have no idea when or how I will get to a place in my life where I can independently own my own home. I am constantly thinking about how we can make my city affordable. My age is allowing me to advocate for both young folks and neighbors of mine that are trying to make ends meet and don't see a future staying in this city with the current lack of affordable housing."

CNN's John Albinson contributed to this story.

Democrats Should Be Worried About the Youth Vote

Analysis by Julianna Goldman | Bloomberg

November 6, 2022 at 12:14 a.m. EDT

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA - JUNE 21: A voter casts her ballot with her child at a polling station at Rose Hill Elementary School during the midterm primary election on June 21, 2022 in Alexandria, Virginia. In two of the most competitive districts in the U.S., Virginians will be choosing Republican nominees to take on Democratic incumbents Rep. Elaine Luria (D-VA) and Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA). (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images) (Photographer: Alex Wong/Getty Images North America)

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T-minus-4 days to Election Day, and it's all about turnout. And in a Democratic Party that's already anxious, fickle younger voters are causing stress levels to climb even higher.

The numbers that worry Democrats are those for early voting, which is down among younger voters. And since young people — those between the ages of 18 and 29 — favor Democratic control of Congress by 57% to 31%, getting them to the polls next Tuesday will be crucial for Democrats.

Campaigns will win or lose based on how much time and effort they can devote to this effort. The last two elections have set records for youth engagement, and indications were that the trend would continue this year. Two years ago, 54% of younger voters cast ballots, up from 45% in previous presidential years. In 2018, 36% of younger voters participated, up from 25% percent in previous midterms. A poll from Harvard's Institute of Politics found that 40% of young people said they would "definitely" vote this year.

TargetSmart, a Democratic political data firm, maintains a dashboard tracking national trends in early in-person and absentee voting. As of this writing, it's a muddled picture. About 5.6% of early ballots cast thus far were from younger voters. At

this point in 2018, that figure was 7%; in 2020 it was 11.2%. The firm also tracks Senate battleground states — defined as Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wisconsin — and the figure in those races is 5.6%. That compares to 7.1% at this point in 2018 and 11.1% in 2020.

Past performance is not indicative of future results, as they say on Wall Street. Over the last several elections, a lot has changed about how people vote, including rules about early and absentee ballots. Turnout is always higher in presidential years, and in 2020 early and mail-in voting was especially popular because of Covid. When turnout is lower, as in a midterm, so is youth turnout — especially relative to older voters.

North Carolina, is one state that provides a good comparison with past elections. Its early voting laws are similar to what they were four years ago, and it also has a competitive Senate race, so robust turnout is expected. In 2018, North Carolina’s younger voters made up 6.2% of all early voters, and they tended to vote in larger numbers as Election Day approached, according to Michael MacDonald, a political science professor at the University of Florida who runs the United States Election Project.

Still, MacDonald found that the younger voters are running 1 percentage point behind their totals in 2018. If North Carolina’s young people aren’t voting in the same numbers as they did in 2018, he writes, “that may suggest turnout could be lower compared to 2018 in other places too.”

On the one hand, even a one-point decline would still represent a high turnout. On the other, that single percentage point could prove decisive in a close election. A CBS News model shows the only way for Democrats to retain control of the House is for younger voters to match their 2018 turnout.

Tom Bonier, the CEO of TargetSmart, points out that this year’s early-voting electorate is older, more White and a little bit more

rural than it was in 2020 — and more Democratic. Those numbers are encouraging, he says, but Democrats will still need to rely on “a belief that younger voters and voters of color will come out in bigger numbers on Election Day.”

Democrats may find it unsettling that, at this stage of the campaign, their strategy to turn out the youth vote rests on faith. Part of the reason may be that they have not focused enough on the issues that younger voters, like older ones, are most concerned about.

The Harvard poll asked young voters to rank the two most important of eight issues. The top concern by far was inflation, cited by 45% of likely voters. Next were [abortion](#) (33%), protecting democracy (30%), climate change (28%) and gun control (22%). The least important, cited by a mere 9%? Student loan debt.

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