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Search

Menu

-
- [Research Topics](#)
 - [Race, Gender, and Immigrant Status](#)
 - [Community Participation](#)
 - [Youth Demographics](#)
 - [Non-College Youth](#)
 - [Youth Voting/Political Participation](#)
 - [K-12 Civic Education](#)
 - [Civic Knowledge](#)
 - [Concepts of Citizenship](#)
 - [Group Membership and Social Networks](#)
 - [Higher Education](#)
 - [News & Entertainment Media](#)
 - [Service Learning](#)
 - [Youth Attitudes and Beliefs](#)
- [Quick Facts](#)
 - [Trends by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender](#)
 - [Volunteering/Community Service](#)
 - [Youth Demographics](#)
 - [Non-College Youth](#)
 - [Youth Voting](#)
 - [Civic Education](#)
 - [2016 Election Center](#)
- [Research Products](#)
 - [RAYSE Index](#)
 - [Youth Electoral Significance Index](#)
 - [CIRCLE Newsletter Archives](#)
 - [Commission on Youth Voting and Civic Knowledge](#)
 - [Data Maps](#)
 - [Data Sets](#)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Special Reports and Books](#)
 - [Working Papers](#)
- [Tools for Practice](#)
 - [Youth-Led Research Resource Page](#)
 - [Survey Measures of Civic Engagement](#)
 - [Uses of CIRCLE Research](#)
 - [Evaluation Partnerships](#)
 - [Learning Community](#)
- [About CIRCLE](#)
 - [Contact Staff](#)
 - [Advisory Board](#)
 - [Commission on Youth Voting and Civic Knowledge](#)
 - [In The News](#)

- [Press](#)
 - [Press Releases](#)
 - [Quick Facts](#)
 - [In The News](#)
- [NSLVE](#)

 → [Research Products](#) → [Fact Sheet](#) → Support for President Obama Varied Greatly by Gender and Race

[Support for President Obama Varied Greatly by Gender and Race](#)

November 14th, 2012

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Although young people favored President Obama, their level of support for him varied greatly by gender and race, ranging from 98% among Black women to 41% among White men. This [CIRCLE fact sheet](#) (PDF) takes a deeper look at how young men and women voters of different racial backgrounds voted, why they chose to vote the way they did, and how they differed from other groups.

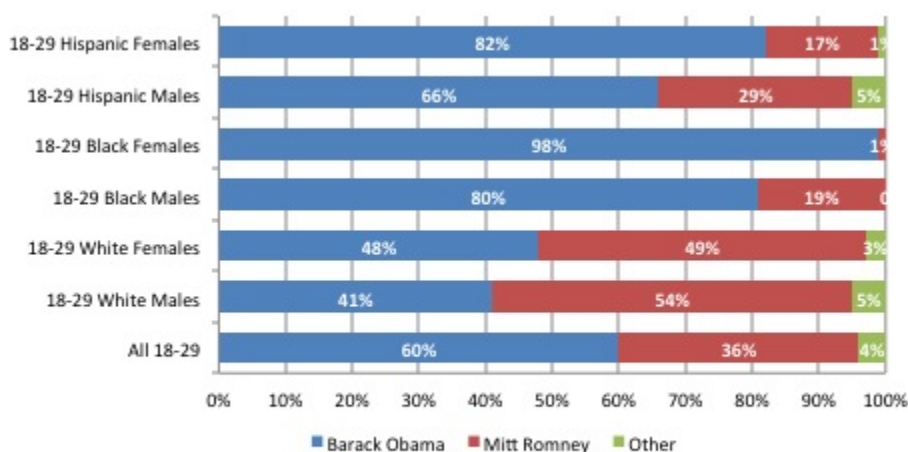
This [fact sheet](#) is the second in a series CIRCLE is doing on the youth who voted in 2012. The first, an overview of young voters compared to older voters, can be found [here](#).

Some findings from this analysis include:

★ **Young White women's** influence in the youth electorate has decreased since 2008, while Hispanic influence has increased: 42% of young voters were persons of color, and for the first time, the Hispanic youth vote share surpassed the Black youth vote share. In 2008, the Hispanic youth vote represented 14% of the youth electorate. This year, it increased to 18%. Asian-American voters represented five percent of the youth vote in 2012.

★ **Young Black and Hispanic women** provided the strongest support for President Obama. A majority admired him, much as they did in 2008.

Youth Vote Choice in the 2012 Presidential Election by Race and Gender



CIRCLE analysis of the National Election Day Exit Poll data (2012) collected by Edison Research

★ **Young women voters** were more liberal and supportive of President Obama than their male counterparts of the same race. **Young Hispanic women** voters were the most likely to identify as ideologically liberal of all groups. Compared to older Hispanic voters, they were more liberal and less likely to be religious.

★ **Young White women**, the most influential youth constituency because of their size and turnout, were split in half on many issues that challenge our nation, including their choice for president, their view of the government, and abortion.

★ **Young White men**, as a group, held a quite different view of the President, the role of the government, and how to move forward with immigration reform than all the other groups. They were unhappy with the economy and wanted Governor Romney to improve the economy.

★ **Young Hispanic men** cast 9% of youth votes, up from 6% in 2008. Among the minority groups, they were most likely to affiliate with the Republican party or consider themselves independents, but two-thirds of them voted for President Obama.

★ Although a majority of **young Black male voters** supported President Obama again, a larger portion of them voted for the Republican candidate this year than the same group did in 2008. Young Black men voters were somewhat more conservative, younger and more likely to identify as Republicans or Independents in 2012 than in 2008. They were less likely to vote for Obama than young Black women this year, but Black men voters were already less excited about Obama than Black women voters back in 2008, implying a lasting gender gap in enthusiasm among young Black voters.

Download the fact sheet [here](#) (PDF). Look for more analysis from CIRCLE this week.

This entry was posted on Wednesday, November 14th, 2012 at 8:32 am and is filed under [Fact Sheet](#), [Race, Gender, and Immigrant Status](#), [Research Topics](#), [Youth Attitudes and Beliefs](#), [Youth Voting/Political Participation](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. Both comments and pings are currently closed.

7 Responses to “Support for President Obama Varied Greatly by Gender and Race”

1. [Young Latino voters turned out in greater numbers in 2012 than four years ago | Latina Lista](#) Says:
[November 14th, 2012 at 5:37 pm](#)

[...] “Diverse Electorate: A Deeper Look into the Millennial Vote,” by The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement looked at the nation’s 23 million young voters and found that, in some areas, they mirrored closely what was found among adult voters. [...]

2. [Data Show Youth Voting Patterns Varied Widely by Race & Gender | Metrolatino USA](#) Says:
[November 14th, 2012 at 9:47 pm](#)

[...] “Diverse Electorate: A Deeper Look into the Millennial Vote” [...]

3. [Election 2012: The Youth Vote | The WINsight](#) Says:
[November 15th, 2012 at 11:33 am](#)

[...] Here are some takeaways, courtesy of CIRCLE. [...]

4. [Post-election overload « Campaign for Stronger Democracy](#) Says:
[November 19th, 2012 at 4:58 pm](#)

[...] is coming out in the form of post-election reports and memos) with regard to money in politics, youth engagement, voting rights, and so on. It’s great research and worth checking out (we’ll be [...])

5. [The year gendered violence got on everyone’s radar « northup news](#) Says:
[December 31st, 2012 at 4:30 pm](#)

[...] 2012 was the year in which sexual assault, and particularly its gendered dimensions, became something everyone had to acknowledge. And I mean everyone. There’s a lot of different issues that could be said to have defined the Republican Party during the US’s elections this year. From the racism to the classism, a constant refrain was that those with little deserved even less. Beyond those steps taken by the party, women, particularly if affected by sexual assault or other violence related to their gender, were subject to similarly stupid policies. Jezebel’s Erin Gloria Ryan wrote excellently in August about the fatigue of beginning to lose track of how many horrifying statements about rape and sexual violence had floated around the Republican Party, at times translating into actually disgusting policy proposals. The dangers were quite clear: electoral victories by the GOP would legitimize policies that reflected these admitted

beliefs. Women voters (especially when young or of color) by and large got that message and sent their own response back. [...]

6. [*The Commission on Youth Voting and Civic Knowledge \(update\)*](#) « [Peter Levine](#) Says:
[January 24th, 2013 at 9:23 am](#)

[...] Youth vote by gender and race [...]

7. [*On Black Women x Hip Hop x Feminism in 2014*](#) Says:
[March 29th, 2014 at 4:10 pm](#)

[...] part of his base. However his most recently policy chooses to focus on our brothers and our sons, but we street teamed for him in ways like no one else did. The data shows this. One of the central jobs [...]

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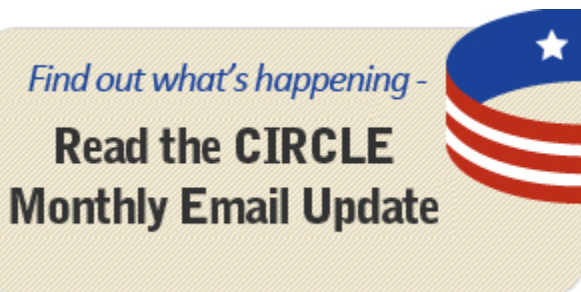
Race, Gender, and Immigrant Status

[gender](#) [Midterm Elections](#) [race](#) [Youth Policy positions](#) [youth voter turnout](#)

Research Products

Race, Gender, and Immigrant Status

- 0[Data Sets](#)
- 25[Fact Sheets](#)
- 8[Around the Circle](#)
- 1[Special Reports](#)
- 14[Working Papers](#)



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[Home](#) | [Research Topics](#) | [Quick Facts](#) | [Research Products & Publications](#)
[Tools for Practice](#) | [About CIRCLE](#) | [Press](#)