Youth Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections

Between 1972 and 2012, there was a steady decrease in youth voting in U.S. Presidential Elections. However, there was an increase of youth voter turnout in the 1992 election followed by another increase in 2008. Although youth voting was on the rise, it again declined in the 2012 election. Before this falloff and drop of six points in 2012, young people were the age group that showed the most increase in voter turnout between the years of 2000 and 2008.

As the data above show, the overall trend of youth voter turnout in U.S. Presidential Elections from 1972-2012 on the national level and in New Jersey are very similar.


Through research, public service, and education, the Youth Political Participation Program (YPPP) celebrates and supports the political learning and engagement of young people. For more information, visit our website, yppp.rutgers.edu.