

Young Voter Turnout 2008 - Primaries and Caucuses

The 2008 elections are shaping up to be the year of the young voter. After big increases in young voter turnout in 2004 and 2006, many skeptics wondered if the momentum would continue into 2008.

The answer is a resounding yes. Where comparable exit poll data was available **the number of 18-29 year old voters increased in every state's primary or caucus, even doubling and tripling in many.** Overall, the number of 18-29 year olds voting in primaries and caucuses in 2008 is 103% more than in the previous set of primary elections.¹

In addition, while turnout has been high across all age groups, **young voters have increased their turnout by much more than any other age cohort.** Turnout has been up, but so has the percent of the electorate young people make up (known as "share"). Not only are young adults voting in larger numbers, they are also increasing their presence at the polls more than are older voters. The results below demonstrate the incredible participation of young voters in 2008:

Turnout of 18-29 Year Olds in the Presidential Primaries								
State	Youth Vote Increase	% Increase	Dem 2004	Dem 2008	Dem Increase	GOP 2000	GOP 2008	GOP Increase
Combined	2,412,329	103%	1,110,806	4,963,587	2,191,237	1,236,293	1,769,213	221,092
Iowa	38,788	133%	20,756	55,001	34,245	8,514	13,057	4,543
New Hampshire	28,703	50%	30,770	51,931	21,160	26,203	33,745	7,543
Michigan	-24,277	-18%	-	100,952	-	137,269	112,992	-24,277
South Carolina	35,295	42%	26,446	74,501	48,055	57,310	44,550	-12,760
Florida	209,217	247%	42,771	157,493	114,722	41,970	136,465	94,495
Alabama	-	-	-	69,159	-	-	67,415	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	27,659	-	-	22,458	-
Arizona	21,460	47%	16,726	36,530	19,804	29,040	30,696	1,656
California	335,421	58%	319,028	671,422	352,394	256,313	239,341	-16,972
Connecticut	31,785	167%	6,501	34,719	28,218	12,529	16,097	3,568
Delaware	6,641	222%	2,996	9,637	6,641	-	-	-
Georgia	159,498	126%	68,949	180,345	111,395	57,887	105,990	48,103
Illinois	-	-	-	300,570	-	-	88,501	-
Massachusetts	139,683	139%	55,367	175,635	120,268	45,264	64,679	19,415
Missouri	106,649	125%	37,651	115,275	77,625	47,536	76,560	29,024
New Mexico	-	-	-	11,872	-	-	-	-
New Jersey	-	-	-	144,218	-	-	44,548	-
New York	194,860	160%	57,251	262,325	205,074	64,846	54,631	-10,215
Oklahoma	55,080	188%	18,143	37,549	19,406	11,233	46,908	35,675
Tennessee	95,942	209%	25,857	81,027	55,170	20,063	60,835	40,772
Utah	-	-	-	20,845	-	-	45,401	-
Louisiana	30,886	131%	11,316	38,435	27,119	12,349	16,117	3,767
Maryland	57,138	65%	38,518	108,875	70,356	48,884	35,666	-13,218
Virginia	93,455	95%	31,698	137,939	106,241	66,409	53,623	-12,787
Wisconsin	86,686	95%	91,120	177,806	86,686	-	43,503	-
Ohio	191,809	66%	109,891	349,893	240,002	178,763	130,571	-48,192
Rhode Island	21,384	806%	2,653	24,038	21,384	-	-	-
Texas	431,665	229%	83,923	449,173	365,250	104,796	171,211	66,415
Vermont	7,502	102%	7,385	14,887	7,502	-	-	-
Mississippi	57,058	402%	5,090	57,609	52,519	9,114	13,653	4,539
Pennsylvania	-	-	-	276,800	-	-	-	-
Indiana	-	-	-	216,749	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	217,217	-	-	-	-
Kentucky	-	-	-	89,305	-	-	-	-
Oregon	-	-	-	98,080	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	49,995	-	-	-	-
Montana	-	-	-	25,396	-	-	-	-
South Dakota	-	-	-	12,728	-	-	-	-

Vote Share of 18-29 Year Olds in the Presidential Primaries

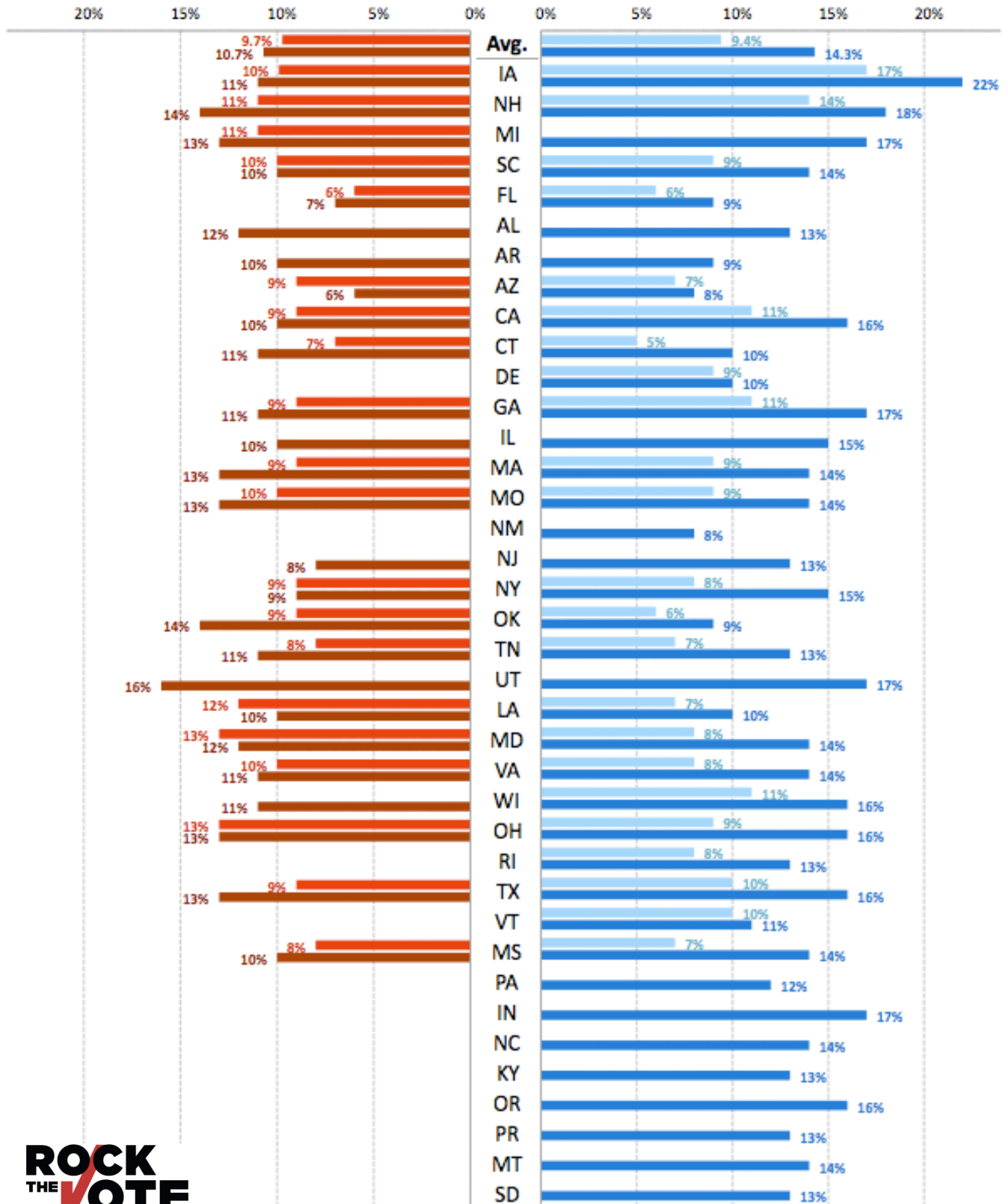
Even as turnout has grown for all age groups, young voters are expanding their vote share within both parties.

■ Youth % of 2000 Republican Primary

■ Youth % of 2008 Republican Primary

■ Youth % of 2004 Democratic Primary

■ Youth % of 2008 Democratic Primary



¹ Turnout and share figures in this document are compared to the turnout and share figures for each party's most recent competitive primary cycle based on exit polls. For Democrats, numbers are compared to 2004; for Republicans, they are compared to 2000. Vote shares are from CNN exit polls and CIRCLE; vote totals are from CNN and the United States Elections Project.