



2005 Youth Vote Results

In 2005, youth voter participation continued to climb. Building on the nine percentage point increase in turnout amongst 18 to 29 year old voters in the last presidential election, the elections of 2005 saw a sustained commitment to political involvement by youth. Rather than a blip in the radar, it seems that 2004 and 2005 may signal an end to the decline of youth voting.

In the gubernatorial elections in both New Jersey and Virginia, as well as local races and ballot provisions, the youth demographic showed continued electoral engagement across the country.

- ✓ In New Jersey, young people in dense student precincts voted at **rates that averaged of 19.9 percent above the 2001 election.**
- ✓ Independent pollsters Steve Mitchell and Ed Sarpolus both said the youth vote was the key to Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick’s win. The newly re-elected Mayor said, **young people “understood that that we needed something revolutionary to happen in the city. The young people and seniors are the reason that I’m sitting here now.”**
- ✓ In Virginia, youth voter turnout in dense student precincts **increased by an average of 15.1 percent** over the 2001 election. *(see chart below)*

Table 1: Analysis of Targeted Virginia Precincts

<i>College or University</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>City or Town</i>	<i>Precinct Code</i>	<i>Percentage Increase over 2001 Gubernatorial Election</i>
Virginia Tech	Montgomery	Blacksburg	0601	14.6%
			0102	5.3%
			0501	7.6%
Virginia Commonwealth	Richmond City	Richmond	0211	36.4%
			0206	19.7%
			0204	21.5%
			0207	11.3%
			0505	61.9%
			0208	15.8%
University of Virginia	Charlottesville City	Charlottesville	0302	-3.8%
			0401	14.7%
			0402	7.7%
College of William & Mary	Williamsburg City	Williamsburg	0001	13.7%
				Average: 15.1%

**New Jersey and Virginia turnout data provided by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement’s tabulations and analysis of raw precinct data, November 2005.*