

## California's 2014 Youth Vote Fact Sheet

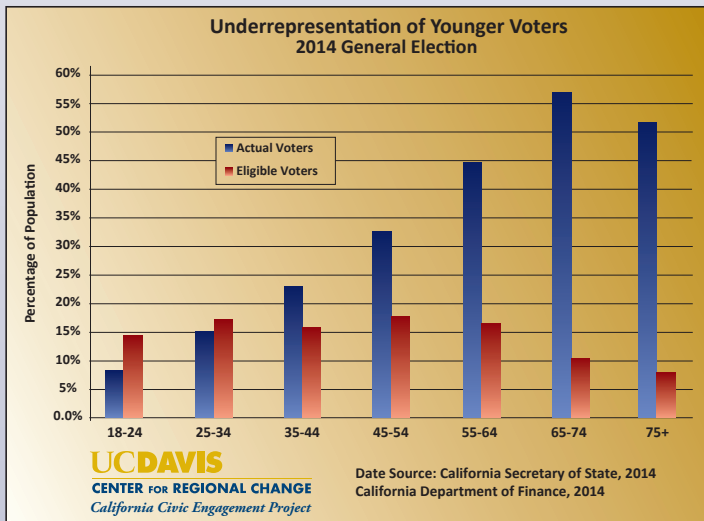
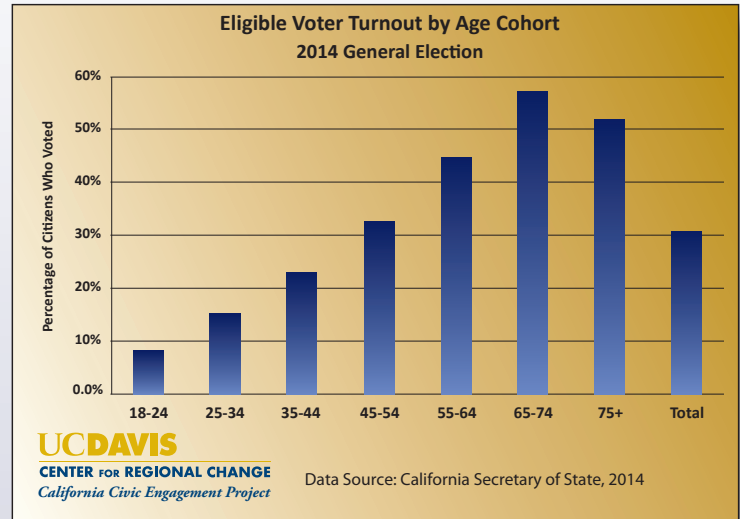
Voting is a key way that youth can affect policy-making that impacts their lives and their communities. Below are some facts about the California youth vote in the 2014 general election.

### Youth turned out to vote in the 2014 general election in very low numbers

**Facts:**

- Only 30.9% of California eligible voters (citizens 18 and over) turned out to vote.
- Eligible youth (citizens age 18-24) turnout was the lowest for all age groups.
- Eligible youth voter turnout varied significantly by county - from a low of 5.5% in Lassen County to a high of 23% Sierra County. The San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles and North State regions had the lowest regional youth eligible turnout.
- Only 8.2% of California's eligible youth voted in 2014's general election. This translates into only 285,000 of 3.5 million eligible youth who cast a ballot.

For study details, see full policy brief: [California's New Political Realities: The Impact of the Youth Vote on Our Electoral Landscape](#)



### Youth were underrepresented among general election voters in 2014

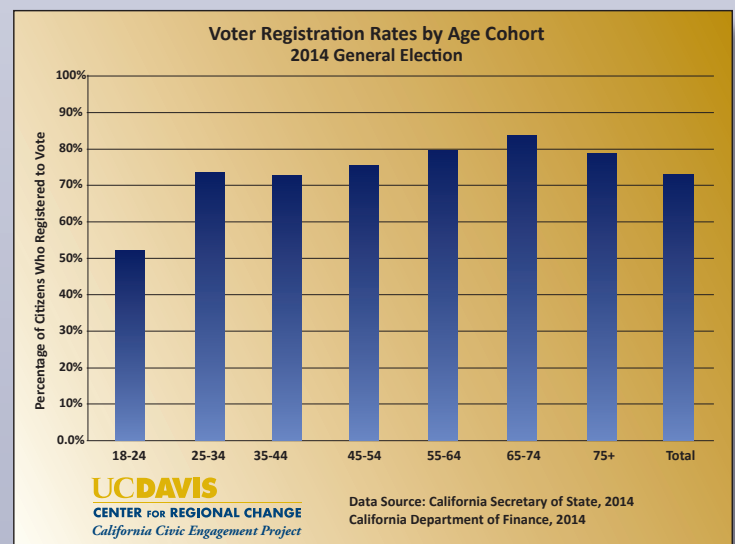
**Facts:**

- Youth made up only 3.9% of those who voted in the general election, compared to their 14.5% of the eligible voting population.
- Voters age 65 to 74 were overrepresented to their proportion of eligible voters, 19.4% out of 10.4% of those eligible to vote.
- If youth turned out to vote at the same rate as voters age 65 to 74 they would comprise a greater share of all voters than 65 to 74 year olds.
- The youth proportion of the eligible voter population is projected to decline through year 2032.
- See CCEP Policy Brief 9 for a discussion of California youth population projections.

### Youth were registered to vote at the lowest rate of any age group

**Facts:**

- Only 52% of youth were registered to vote, compared to 70% or above for other age groups.
- The absolute number of youth who actually voted dropped 50% in four years.
- Youth registered voter turnout was 15.8% compared to 34.1% in the 2010 general election, a decline of 18 percentage points.
- Registered voter turnout for all ages was 42%, a record low for registered voter turnout in a statewide California general election.



## Declining youth political party registration

### Facts:

- For the 2014 general election, 43.1% of all registered voters registered Democratic, 28% as Republican and 23.6% as No Party Preference (NPP).
- In the 2014 general election 36.7% of youth registered as Democratic, closely followed by 35.6% who registered NPP and 19.4% registered Republican.
- Youth registrants are driving the overall decline in the state's identification with the two major parties, and growth of NPP registration.

## Lower turnout rates of voters registered as NPP

### Facts:

- Turnout by party affiliation in the 2014 general election:
  - 51.2% Republican turnout
  - 42.8% Democrat turnout
  - 30.8% No Party Preference (NPP)
  - 34.7% as Other (all other party affiliations combined)
- Voters registered Republican had the highest turnout in every age group.

## Lower turnout rates of youth voters registered as NPP

- Turnout by party for youth in the 2014 general election:
  - 20.4% Youth Republican turnout
  - 17.1% Youth Democratic turnout
  - 11.9% Youth NPP turnout
  - 15.3% Youth Other turnout
- This lower turnout for youth NPP registrants is of concern considering the high percentage of youth (35.6%) who registered as NPP in the 2014 general election.

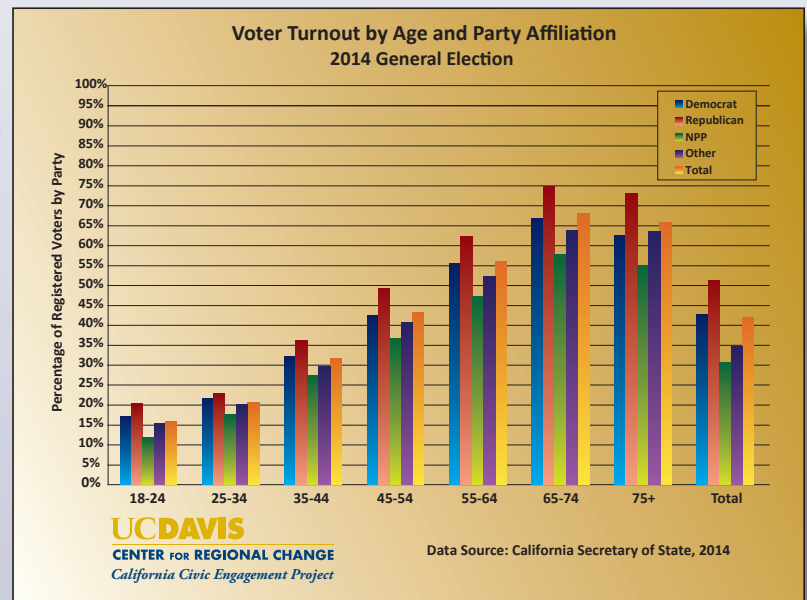
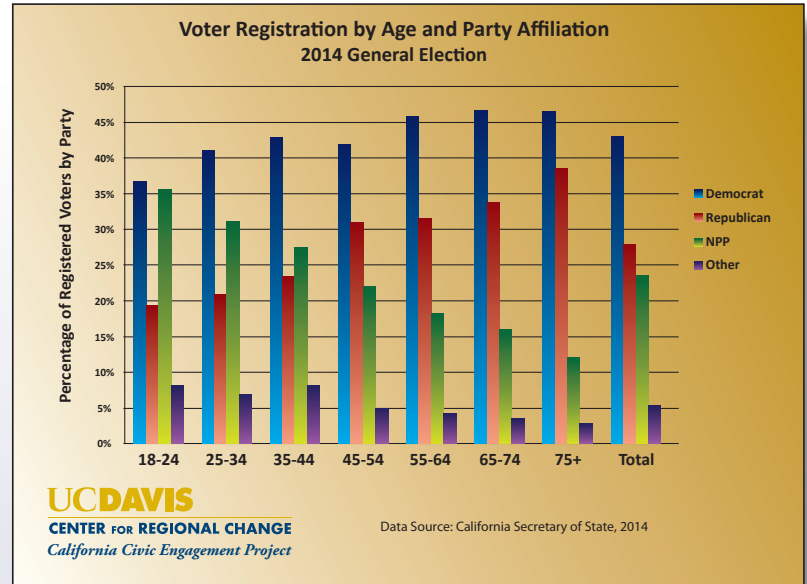
Interact with CCEP youth voting data available on Putting Youth on the Map, a powerful online information data and mapping resource for youth and adults.

<http://interact.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/youth/webmap/webmap.html>

### About the California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP):

In 2011, the UC Davis Center for Regional Change established the California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP) to inform the public dialogue on representative governance in California. The CCEP is engaging in pioneering research to identify disparities in civic participation across place and population. It is well positioned to inform and empower a wide range of policy and organizing efforts in California to reduce disparities in state and regional patterns of well-being and opportunity. Key audiences include public officials, advocacy groups, political researchers and communities themselves. To learn about the CCEP's national and state advisory committee, or review the extensive coverage of the CCEP's work in California's media, visit our website at: <http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/ccep>

For more information about this research study and the California Civic Engagement Project, contact Mindy Romero, CCEP Director, at 530-665-3010 or [msromero@ucdavis.edu](mailto:msromero@ucdavis.edu).  
Visit our website at: <http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/ccep>



### About the Center for Regional Change

The CRC is a catalyst for innovative, collaborative, and action-oriented research. It brings together faculty and students from different disciplines, and builds bridges between university, policy, advocacy, business, philanthropy and other sectors. The CRC's goal is to support the building of healthy, equitable, prosperous, and sustainable regions in California and beyond. Learn more! Visit the CRC website at: <http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu>