

CIRCLE Growing Voters: Policymakers

Policymakers and government officials play two major roles in supporting young voters. First, they can put policies into place—such as education standards, pre-registration, or poll worker programs—that help youth learn about and participate in elections. Second, they can take actions that welcome young people into the electorate by treating them as valued constituents.

THE FACTS

+9

PERCENTAGE POINTS

In counties that allow teens (ages 16-17) to pre-register to vote, youth registration rates were 9 percentage points higher on average than in counties without pre-registration.

+15

PERCENTAGE POINTS

In 2020, states that made it easiest to vote by mail by automatically sending ballots to registered voters, had 15-point higher youth turnout on average than states that made it hardest by requiring an excuse to vote absentee.

+20

PERCENTAGE POINTS

Teens living in an urban area were 20 percentage points more likely than teens in suburban or rural communities to have taken a course in U.S. government.

The CIRCLE Growing Voters is a paradigm shift to transform how policymakers and many other stakeholders can strengthen young people's equitable engagement in democracy. Learn more, engage in this work, and share it with others at:

circle.tufts.edu/circlegrowingvoters

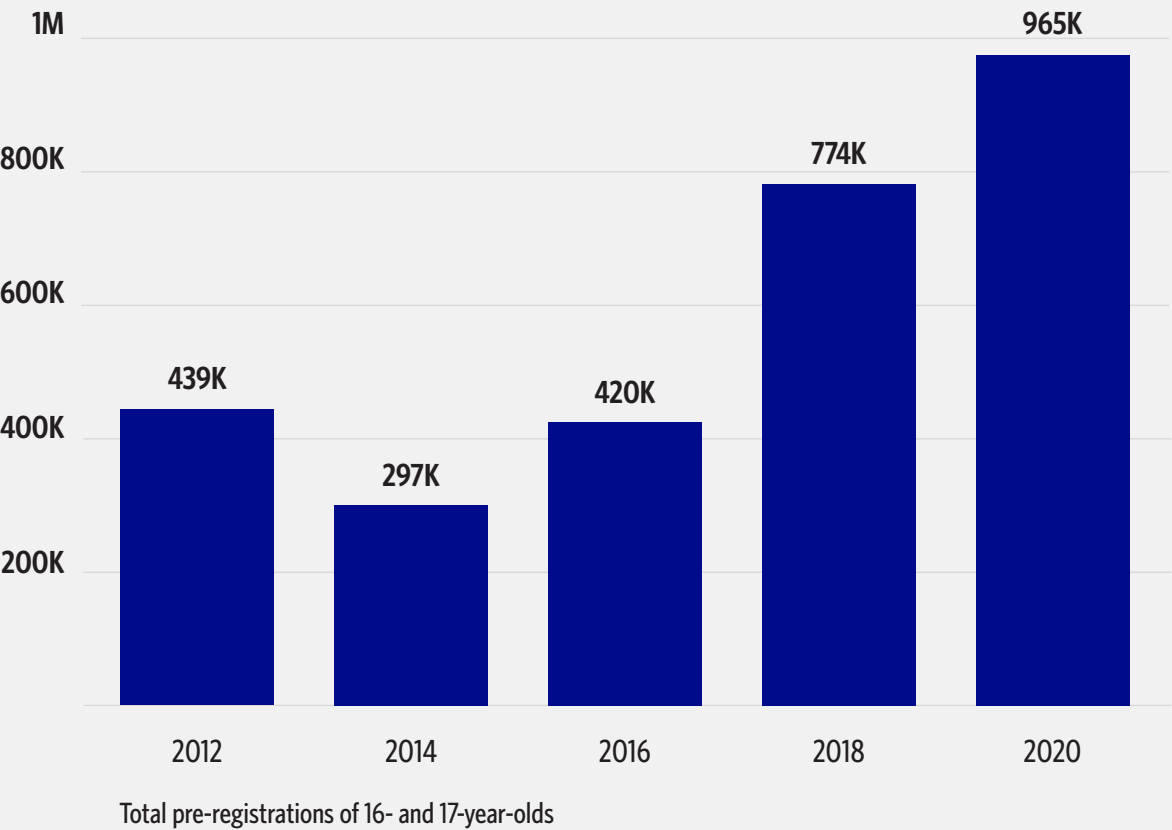


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Untapped Potential in Pre-Registration:

Allowing teens to pre-register to vote has proven benefits, but it’s still massively underutilized even in the 24 states where it’s available. The 965,000 youth pre-registered in 2020 represent only about 12% of all 16- and 17-year-olds in the country.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS ON THE RISE, BUT STILL MASSIVE POTENTIAL TO ENGAGE TEENS



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION: HOW POLICYMAKERS CAN GROW VOTERS





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