



# From Non-Voters to New Voters:

## How Libraries Can Engage Their Communities in the 2020 Elections and Beyond

#LibrariesEngageVoters  
#alaMW2020  
@ALALibrary



ALA Midwinter Meeting  
January 25, 2020





**Nancy Kranich**  
Rutgers University  
School of  
Communication  
and Information  
  
**@RutgersCommInfo**





POWER



News Publications

City Council at-large  
candidates hear from the  
people at a People's  
Forum

## About POWER

POWER represents over 50 congregations in Southeastern and Central Pennsylvania. We are people of faith committed to the work of bringing about justice here and now.

Kendra Cochran

POWER:  
Philadelphians  
Organized to  
Witness, Empower  
and Rebuild

@PowerInterfaith



CIRCLE



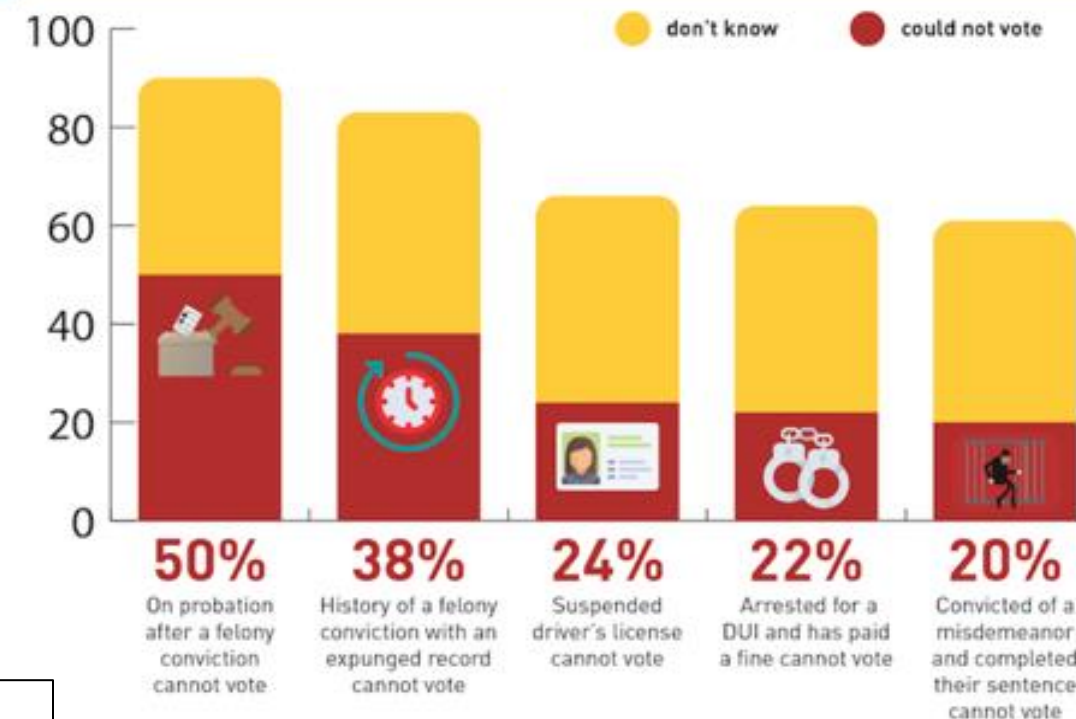
@TischCollege @civicyouth

CIRCLE

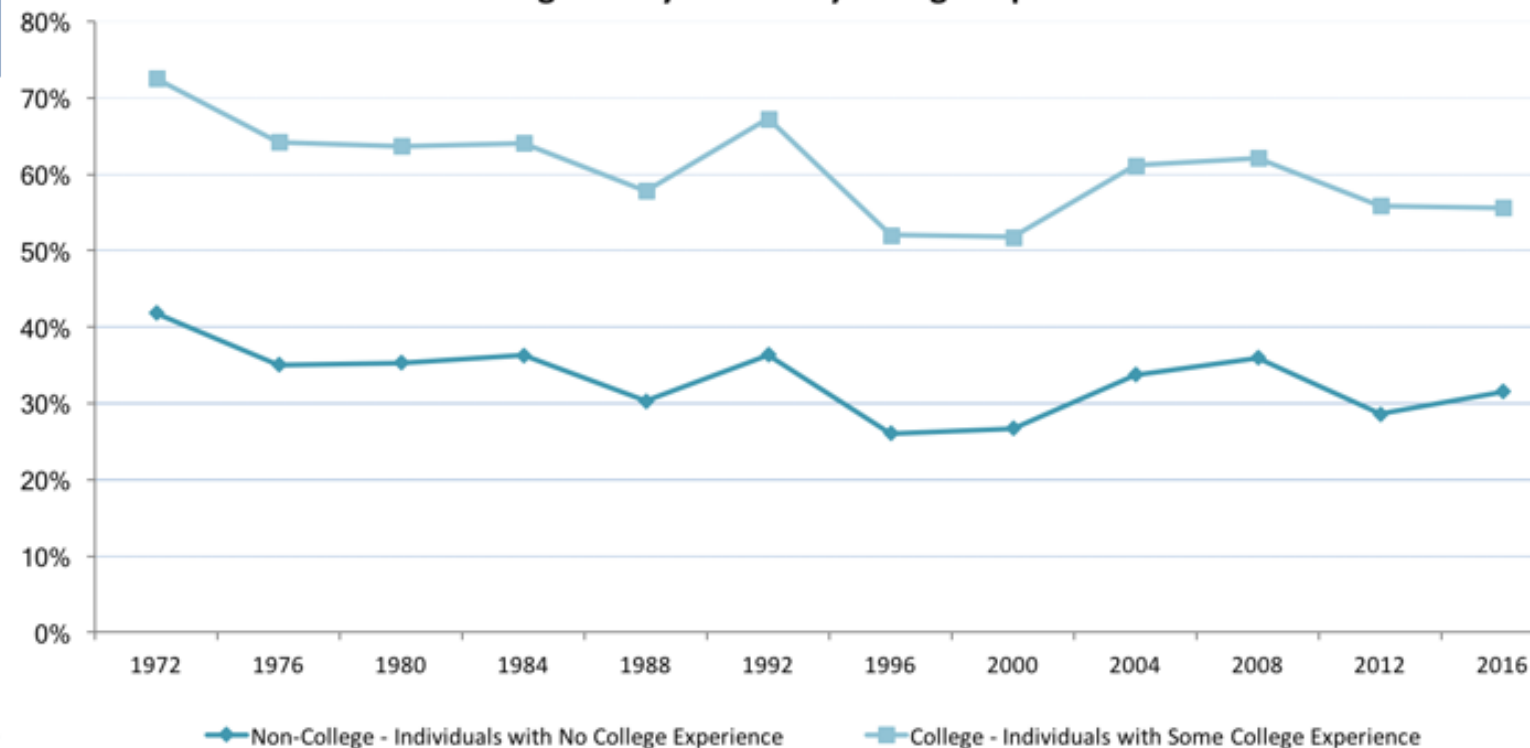
Tufts

Jonathan M. Tisch  
College of Civic Life

Among youth in low-income communities...



Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections  
Among 18-29 year olds by College Experience



CIRCLE

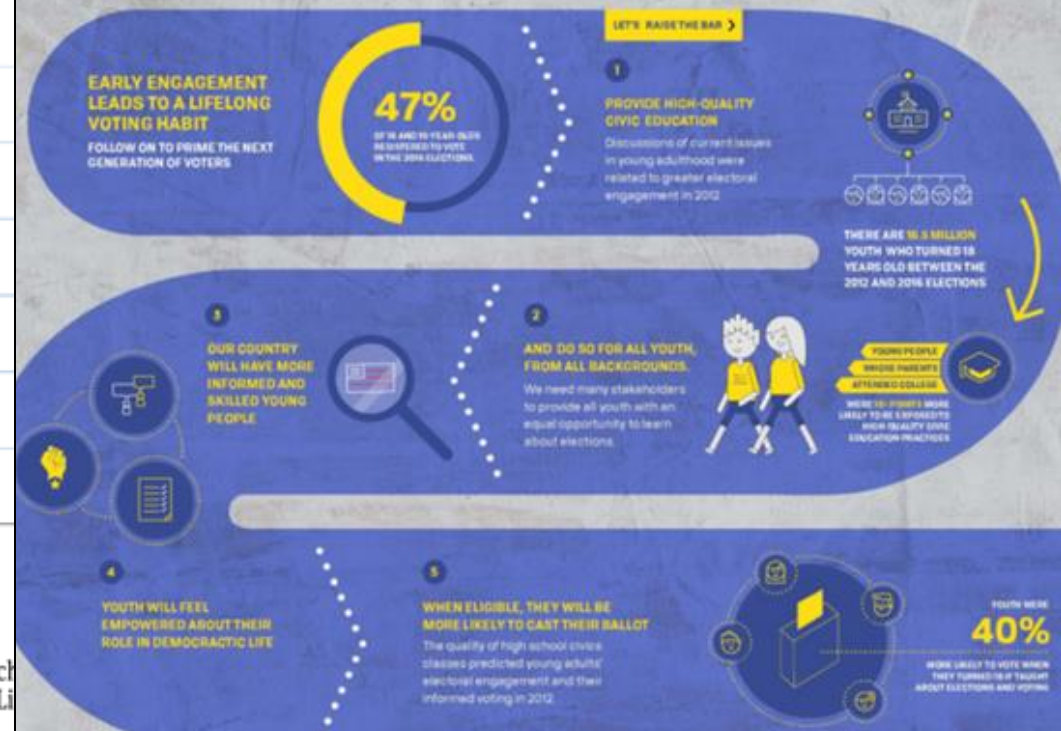
Source: CIRCLE analysis of Census CPS Voting Supplement, 1972-2016.

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OUR YOUTH > PATH TO A STRONGER DEMOCRACY



Abby Kiesa  
CIRCLE: the  
Center for  
Information and  
Research on Civic  
Learning &  
Engagement

[www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org)  
[@CivicYouth](https://twitter.com/CivicYouth)





Maggie Bush  
League of  
Women Voters of  
the US

@LWV

[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)  
[www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org)





## Learn about the Ballot Questions

Learn about what "yes" and "no" votes mean on each ballot question. Hear from speakers on both sides of the issues, then ask questions to the representatives. Register to vote, check your registration status, and verify your polling place. **The election is on Tuesday, November 8.**

This event is sponsored by the Library's Civic & Community Engagement Team, the League of Women Voters/Springfield, The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, and the Springfield Board of Elections. Read about the ballot questions here: <http://bit.ly/18wVcto>

**Wednesday, October 12th, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Central Library Community Room**



**Jean Canosa Albano**  
Springfield City  
Library (MA)

**@Canosa**  
**@SpfldMassLib**

**[www.iimc.com](http://www.iimc.com)**



OLC  
OHIO  
LIBRARY  
COUNCIL  
Ohio Library Council  
@OhioLibraryCncl

Great candidate forum this morning @OberlinPL. Special thanks to House and Senate candidates in 13th Ohio Senate District for joining us to discuss Public Library Funding and sharing their views. Event was organized by libraries in Lorain & Huron counties #LibrariesTransform



Michelle Francis  
Ohio Library  
Council

@OhioLibraryCncl

<http://olc.org/blog/2018/07/30/voter-webinar>





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# Libraries *and* Voter Engagement



**Voting is one of the greatest privileges** and responsibilities of citizenship in the United States. Yet, turnout in national elections is consistently lower than two-thirds of eligible voters. Participation rates among certain demographic groups and in state or local elections are often lower still. There is frequent talk about the critical role of libraries in our democracy. What does that look like in practice?

Libraries are nonpartisan, but they are not indifferent. As institutions that provide access to information, resources, programs, and public spaces for all members of a community, libraries are a cornerstone for civic engagement.

Across the country, many libraries:

- provide information about voting and voter registration.
- offer services for voters and registrants, such as hosting polling places.
- convene candidate forums and debates.
- deliver resources and educational programs that increase civic and information literacy.

community. As best practice before undertaking activities related to voting, we recommend that you:

- check your local voting laws. A good place to start is Nonprofit Vote's state-by-state resource:



[ala.org/advocacy/voter-engagement](https://ala.org/advocacy/voter-engagement)