



To: NextGen Arizona Allies and Supporters
From: Arizona State Youth Director Jalakoi Solomon
Date: November 13th, 2018
Re: **UPDATE** - NextGen Arizona's Efforts in the 2018 Midterm Elections

"The polling place at Arizona State University's Tempe campus had a large line nearly all day...The line came after months of targeted campaigns to get more young people to vote. Although official voter demographic data isn't yet available, those campaigns appear to have worked. Election officials said the lengthy wait stemmed from high voter turnout and a higher-than-normal number of voters who had to cast provisional ballots." -- [Arizona Central](#), November 7, 2018

NEXTGEN ARIZONA 2018: BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL SPEND: \$3.4 million
TOTAL STAFF ON THE GROUND: 65
TOTAL DOORS KNOCKED: 88,009
TOTAL TEXTS SENT: 649,125
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS: 2,507
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: 21,707
TOTAL COMMIT TO VOTE CARDS COLLECTED: 15,726
TOTAL CAMPUSES WITH PROGRAM: 23
TOTAL YOUNG VOTERS REACHED WITH DIGITAL ADS: 637,759
TOTAL PIECES OF DIRECT MAIL SENT: 1,234,603

After a painstaking, thorough effort to make sure every vote was counted, the impact of the youth vote in Arizona is more evident than ever. After months of organizing and mobilizing students in their communities, online, and on 23 college campuses, Election Day vividly illustrated the significance of NextGen Arizona's hard work. As youth turnout surged across the state and students in high spirits [stood in strikingly long lines](#) to cast their ballots at Arizona State University, one thing became overwhelmingly clear: politically engaging young people is key to an Arizona blue wave.

During the early vote period, Arizona "Data Guru" Garrett Archer estimated that about 12.5% of voters in this election were millennials. He [explained the implications](#) of that number to *AZ Family*: "'That's a fairly sizable increase from what we normally see in midterm elections, where it's closer to 8 percent,' Archer said. 'So 18- to 34-years-olds did absolutely come out in this election.' He says the trends show these voters preferred mail-in ballots, and young people typically lean left."

Not only did young Arizonans show up in historic numbers, but they demonstrated their progressive political power by electing Greg Stanton (AZ-09), Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-02), and Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01), helping to flip the U.S. House to Democratic control. In a state that has not elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate in thirty years, the historic victory of Kyrsten Sinema was powered by the young people of Arizona who showed up to elect the first woman to represent the Grand Canyon State in the Senate. These results are proof that when we invest in expanding the electorate to include young people and people of color, Democrats can transform deep-red states into purple, even blue, ones.

This [remarkable increase in turnout](#) is proof that, as the largest eligible voting bloc in the United States, young people have and will continue to take power into their own hands and push our nation in a more equitable, just, and progressive direction. NextGen Arizona played a pivotal role in the 2018 midterm

elections, and while there is still a great deal of important and challenging work ahead of us, the strides we made on Tuesday are the first steps towards building a country that values equality, justice, and opportunity for all.

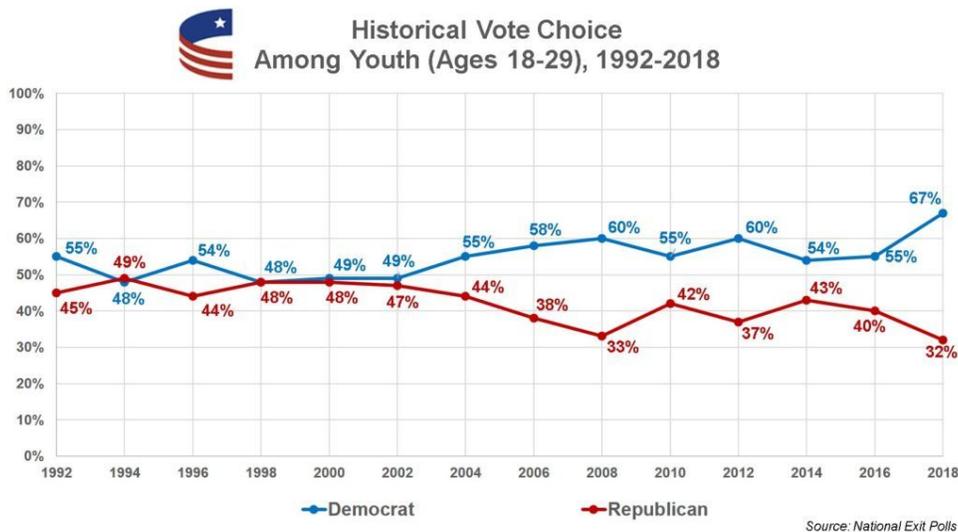
Turnout By Young Arizonans Breaks Records

Based on analysis by CIRCLE of the national exit polls, young voters (18-29) turnout reached new heights of 31%, higher than any midterm numbers on record. Arizona was no exception to the national trend: over the course of Election Day, we [tracked the number of votes](#) cast in 3 Youth Vote Indicator Precincts, where more than 50% of registered voters are between 18 and 35 years old, and watched as turnout quickly surpassed 2014 levels.

At one polling place near Northern Arizona University, where incumbent Democratic Rep. Tom O’Halloran defeated Republican challenger Wendy Rogers, 1,228 more votes were cast this year than in 2014. Overall turnout leapt to 42.33% -- more than doubling over 2014 levels. At one University of Arizona precinct, where over 79% of registered voters are between 18-35 years old, turnout leapt by more than seven points. One polling location near ASU Tempe saw nearly twice as many votes cast this year as in 2014, helping to propel Democrat Greg Stanton to his landslide victory over Republican Steve Ferrara.

Young People Showed Up for Progressives

Young people are overwhelmingly progressive, and they show up for candidates who inspire them and share their values. Between the [exit polls](#) and the [AP-NORC Votecast](#), the latest estimates show that 18-29 year olds broke for Democrats by [a margin of at least 30 points](#), likely surpassing even Barack Obama’s performance in both 2008 and 2012.



The young Arizonans that NextGen organizers talked to in the field consistently put access to health care, affordable education, and immigration reform at the top of their list of political priorities. They showed up for Kyrsten Sinema because she vowed to protect pre-existing conditions, while Martha McSally repeatedly [voted to repeal](#) the Affordable Care Act and then misrepresented her record on the issue to her constituents.



Steps Toward Common-Sense Gun Reform

Young people across the country stood up for common-sense gun reform last Tuesday. In Arizona, the Our Lives, Our Vote program empowered high school students to make their voices heard this November, and vote out politicians beholden to the NRA. In Arizona, Our Lives, Our Vote partnered with March For Our Lives-Arizona to register 4,188 high school students to vote in person, online, and through mail ahead of the registration deadlines.

Fighting For Our Planet

Through GiveGreen, a partnership between NextGen America, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) Victory Fund, and NRDC Action Fund PAC, \$528,829.11 was raised for progressive climate champions up and down the ballot in Arizona. GiveGreen was crucial in electing Greg Stanton and Tom O'Halleran, who will fight for clean air and water, push Arizona to transition to renewable energy, and stand up against Trump's reckless agenda.

“But one day last month, on the Arizona State University campus in Glendale, a small portion of Steyer’s fortune went to pay for the rental of an alpaca named Spot, a piglet named Jack Skellington...Students crowded around the animals, taking selfies. Their stop at the makeshift petting zoo gave NextGen organizers and volunteers time to approach them, hand them a voter guide and help them make a plan to vote. By the end of the Votes and Goats event, more than 75 students had filled out a mail-in ballot.” --
[Huffington Post](#), November 5, 2018