



To: NextGen California Allies and Supporters
From: Sara Ehsani-Nia, NextGen California State Youth Director
Date: November 13th, 2018
Re: **UPDATE** - NextGen California's Efforts in the 2018 Midterm Elections

"Tom Steyer isn't on the ballot... but the high-rolling Democratic powerbroker has spent millions to juice youth turnout — some \$3.8 million in California alone, which his staff said has led to nearly 30,000 new registrations." — [POLITICO California Playbook](#) November 5, 2018

NEXTGEN CALIFORNIA 2018: BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL SPEND: **\$3.8 million**
TOTAL STAFF ON THE GROUND: **68**
TOTAL DOORS KNOCKED: **106,272**
TOTAL TEXTS SENT: **1,115,913**
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS: **1,212**
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: **28,766**
TOTAL COMMIT TO VOTE CARDS COLLECTED: **31,465**
TOTAL CAMPUSES WITH PROGRAM: **20**
TOTAL YOUNG VOTERS REACHED WITH DIGITAL ADS: **490,065**
TOTAL PIECES OF DIRECT MAIL SENT: **1,673,680**

While ballots are still being counted in California, the early results point to an unprecedented wave of progressive victories powered by youth engagement and turnout in this year's midterm elections. From the Central Valley to Orange County, Democrats Josh Harder, Katie Hill, Harley Rouda, and Mike Levin have already won Congressional Districts in historically conservative parts of California. Following the 2018 election, a majority of Orange County districts — the home of Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan — will be represented by Democrats. Democrats in California won by making clear that addressing gun violence, protecting our environment, standing with immigrants against the Trump Administration were clear priorities — and while the races in CA-39 and CA-45 are still close, Democrats are gaining ground day by day.

[As Inside Higher Ed wrote](#), "Leading into the pivotal midterm elections this week, political activists were confident that turnout among college students would far outpace previous years. Their predictions were apparently correct; exit poll data revealed a surge among college-age voters that also seemed to contribute to Democrats taking back control of the U.S. House of Representatives."

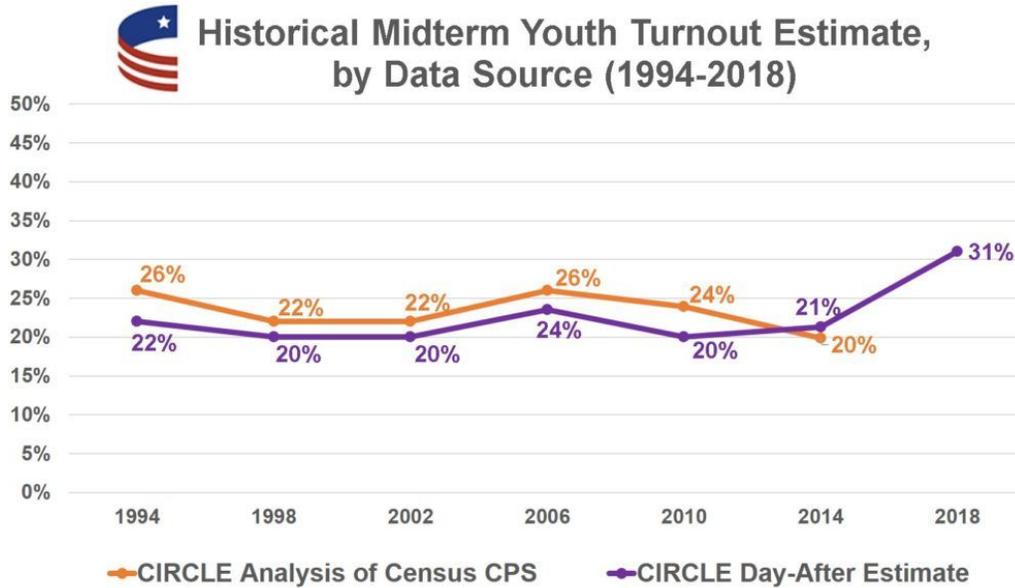
NextGen California played a pivotal role in the 2018 midterm elections, and while there is still a great deal of important and challenging work ahead of us, the strides we made on Tuesday are the first steps towards building a country that values equality, justice, and opportunity for all.

Turnout By Young Californians Breaks Records

Based on exit polls, young voters (18 - 29) [turnout reached 31%](#) — the highest level for a midterm election since the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1971. Not only did young voters turn out at a record level, but they supported Democrats by a two-to-one margin according to [CNN exit polls](#).

Over the course of Election Day, NextGen tracked turnout in four Youth Vote Indicator Precincts in California, where more than 50% of registered voters are between 18 and 35 years old. At all four

precincts, we saw young Californians turn out in huge numbers. This surge in youth turnout was not limited to one region either — in Turlock near CSU Stanislaus, turnout quadrupled, and on UC Irvine’s campus, raw turnout increased 13x compared to 2014.



Young People Showed Up for Progressives

Exit polls and early precinct-level data in California show that young people are overwhelmingly progressive, and they showed up this year for candidates who inspire them and share their values. A nationwide exit poll [conducted by CNN](#) shows that 18 - 29 year olds voted for Democrats by a whopping 35-point margin.

The [Orange County Registrar of Voters also shows](#) that on major campuses where NextGen organized, voters overwhelmingly supported the Democrats. At six UC Irvine precincts, Katie Porter received more than 85% of the vote, and at precincts around CSU Fullerton’s campus, Gil Cisneros received over 60% of the vote. If Porter and Cisneros pull off victories, young voters will be a major reason why.



Jordan Graham ✓
@JordanSGraham

Following

Porter wouldn't be close in #CA48 right now if she hadn't dominated UC Irvine votes. In some UCI precincts, Porter won 95% of ballots. And that's with youth GOTV efforts. NextGen reports one UCI precinct went from 36 youth votes in 2014 to 503 this election -- a 1300% increase.

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Steps Toward Common-Sense Gun Reform

Young people across the country stood up for common-sense gun reform on Tuesday. In California, 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, such as Steve Knight and Dana Rohrabacher. In California, Our Lives, Our Vote partnered with League of Women Voters and Inspire U.S. to register and pre-register 8,042 high school students to vote in person, online, and through mail ahead of the registration deadlines.

Victories For Working Families

Last October, NextGen America, the California Labor Federation, and grassroots organizations [launched a joint effort](#) to engage California voters across seven key Congressional districts and build progressive organizing infrastructure in traditionally conservative parts of the state. Through local partners, Uniting California recruited over 5,000 volunteers and had over 425,000 conversations with California voters on the issues they care about — like health care, taxes, education, and clean air and water — to increase turnout and elect progressives across the state. While votes are still being counted, Uniting California has helped flip at least four seats — CA-10, CA-25, CA-48, and CA-49 — so far.

Fighting For Our Planet

Through GiveGreen, a partnership between NextGen America, the League of Conservation Voters Fund, and the National Resources Defense Council, \$1,367,910 was raised for progressive climate champions up and down the ballot in California. GiveGreen was crucial in electing Josh Harder, Katie Hill, Harley Rouda, and Mike Levin who will fight for clean air and water, push California to transition to renewable energy, and stand up against Trump's reckless agenda.

“The path to a Democrat-controlled Congress most likely runs through California. Liberal philanthropist Tom Steyer believes that path hinges on the state’s nearly 10 million millennials.” —

*“[Liberal plan to win back Congress hinges on California’s millennials](#),” *Sacramento Bee*, March 7, 2018*