



**To:** NextGen Florida Allies and Supporters  
**From:** Carly Cass  
**Date:** November 20th, 2018  
**Re:** NextGen Florida's Efforts in the 2018 Midterm Elections

*"One thing is certain according to the group working the hardest to mobilize young voters around the state – the young people voted." - [The national group that worked to turn out youth vote in Florida says young voters showed up](#), Florida Phoenix, November 14, 2018*

## **NEXTGEN FLORIDA 2018: BY THE NUMBERS**

**TOTAL SPEND: \$9.7 million**  
**TOTAL STAFF ON THE GROUND: 130**  
**TOTAL DOORS KNOCKED: 172,987**  
**TOTAL TEXTS SENT: 1,574,299**  
**TOTAL VOLUNTEERS: 2,262**  
**TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: 52,220**  
**TOTAL COMMIT TO VOTE CARDS COLLECTED: 40,974**  
**TOTAL CAMPUSES WITH PROGRAM: 45**  
**TOTAL YOUNG VOTERS REACHED WITH DIGITAL ADS: 2,494,668**  
**TOTAL PIECES OF DIRECT MAIL SENT: 3,817,007**

On the heels of historic recounts in both the Senate and Governor's races, it is clear that young people had a direct and substantial impact on the Florida midterm elections. Young Floridians turned out in record numbers this year, and have forever changed Florida's political landscape and electorate.

Buoyed by turnout from young voters, progressive leaders Debbie Mucarsel-Powell and Donna Shalala won two of Florida's most pivotal races and helped the Democratic Party take back control of the House of Representatives. Young voters repudiated the agenda of Republicans Carlos Curbelo and Maria Elvira Salazar, choosing instead to elect the leaders who will fight for progressive values and advocate for the rights of all Floridians. Knowing the stakes were high, they helped carry Representative Stephanie Murphy to reelection and voted to restore voting rights to over 1 million disenfranchised citizens.

Young people also fought tirelessly to power Andrew Gillum and Bill Nelson to victory. Throughout both tight races, young voters stepped up to uphold Florida's democratic process and ensure that every single vote was counted. Moving forward, it's evident that young Floridians will continue to fight against Trump and his GOP sycophants and demand an inclusive vision of the future. In 2020, the youth vote will be a more progressive, diverse, and powerful voting bloc than ever before.

NextGen Florida played a pivotal role in the 2018 midterm election outcome. While there is still a great deal of important and challenging work ahead of us, the strides we made in this election are the first steps towards building a country that values equality, justice, and opportunity for all.

## **Turnout By Young Floridians Breaks Records**

Based on exit poll analysis completed by [CIRCLE](#), 31% of young Americans (age 18-29) turned out to vote in the 2018 midterm elections, the highest level of participation among youth in 25 years. In the



group of states with highly competitive gubernatorial contests, including Florida, youth turnout was a whopping 35%.

Over the course of Election Day, NextGen America tracked turnout in [5 Youth Vote Indicator Precincts](#), where more than 50% of registered voters are between 18 and 35 years old. Young Floridians flocked to the polls and helped carry progressive candidates to victory.

At the University of Central Florida, [turnout almost quadrupled](#) in this election over 2014, and University of Florida’s precinct in Gainesville racked up 2,450 votes, nearly three times the amount of votes in 2014. Voters at Bethune Cookman University went to the polls in unprecedented numbers to cast 1,975 votes, almost two times the number of votes in 2014, and Tallahassee voters blew previous turnout levels out of the water. At Florida State University, turnout went up 20%, while 800 more Florida A&M voters cast their ballot this year than in 2014.

### Young People Showed Up for Progressives

The results of exit polls in Florida exemplify that young people are progressive, and they show up for candidates who inspire them and share their values. [According to the Harvard Institute of Politics](#), 62% of 18-29 year old voters supported Andrew Gillum, while only 36% preferred Ron DeSantis (+26). Additionally, 61% of 30-44 year olds supported Gillum while 33% supported DeSantis (+28). According to CNN exit polls, young Floridians also support Bill Nelson by a large margin over Rick Scott -- two thirds of voters between the ages of 18 and 29 supported Bill Nelson at the polls.

Age	Nelson	Scott	No Answer
18-29 <b>10%</b>	66%	32%	2%
30-44 <b>15%</b>	60%	38%	2%
45-64 <b>38%</b>	47%	52%	1%
65 and older <b>37%</b>	43%	57%	N/A
3109 Respondents			

Age	Gillum	DeSantis	No Answer
18-29 <b>10%</b>	61%	37%	2%
30-44 <b>15%</b>	62%	35%	3%
45-64 <b>39%</b>	46%	52%	2%
65 and older <b>36%</b>	43%	56%	1%
3106 Respondents			

SOURCE: [CNN](#)

Boosted by young voters in Central Florida, Stephanie Murphy triumphed over Mike Miller by more than 15 points. Young Floridians pushed Debbie Mucarsel-Powell to vanquish Carlos Curbelo and they sent the message that leaders who suppress rather than support marginalized communities aren’t welcome in Florida. NextGen is proud to have helped build a movement of young people that refuses to stand by as basic human rights, equality, and justice for all are deprioritized.

Young Floridians are stepping up to the plate to build the future that they can be proud of, one in which their leadership fights for affordable healthcare, gun safety, and climate change. They know that voting is their power, and they seized the opportunity to channel it into change.



### Steps Toward Common-Sense Gun Reform

Young people across the country stood up for common-sense gun reform on Tuesday. In Florida, the Our Lives, Our Vote program empowered high school students to make their voices heard this November, and vote out politicians who were beholden to the NRA, such as Carlos Curbelo. In Florida, Our Lives, Our Vote partnered with HeadCount to register 13,863 high school students to vote in person, online, and through mail ahead of the registration deadlines.

### Victories For Working Families

For Our Future (FOF), a partnership between NextGen America and national labor unions, was the largest independent field operation for the progressive movement in the 2018 cycle. This year, For Our Future Florida organizers knocked on 2,228,337 doors by Election Day to turnout voters for candidates who support working Floridians and restore voting rights to over 1 million disenfranchised citizens.

### Fighting For Our Planet

Through GiveGreen, a partnership between NextGen America, the League of Conservation Voters Fund, and the National Resources Defense Council, \$3,694,285 was raised for progressive climate champions up and down the ballot in Florida. GiveGreen was crucial in electing Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, Donna Shalala, and Stephanie Murphy, who will fight for clean air and water, push Florida to transition to renewable energy, and stand up against Trump's reckless agenda.

*“At the University of Florida, students cast more than 1,000 additional votes than they did in 2014... NextGen estimated a 20 percent turnout jump from 2014.” [Youth turnout this year is surpassing 2014 levels on several college campuses](#), November 6, 2018*