

## Quick Facts about Young Voters in Florida: The Presidential Election Year 2008

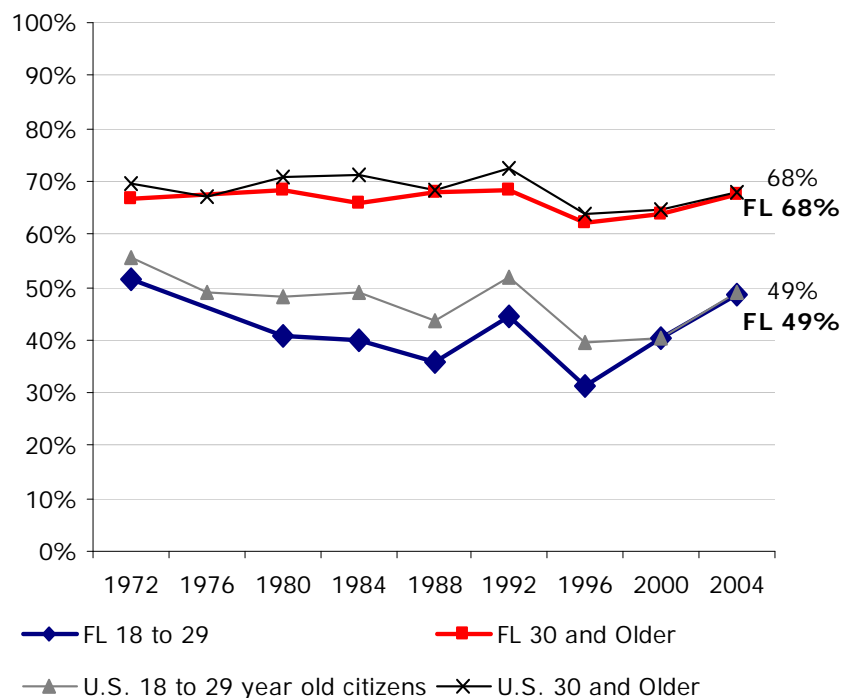
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This year's general election follows a primary season in which more than 6.5 million young people under the age of 30 participated. Moreover, in the 2008 Florida primary youth voter turnout tripled compared to the 2000 primary.<sup>2</sup>

In 2004, turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds in Florida ranked 28<sup>th</sup> among all states and the District of Columbia in 2004, and was up nine percentage points over 2000. Youth voter turnout for Florida primary election tripled from four percent in 2000 to 13 percent in 2008. Whether the voter mobilization momentum of 2008 primary season continues into the general election remains unpredictable.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Florida, including estimates of the number of young voters and voter turnout rates in 2004 and 2000 for various sub-groups of young people.

**Figure 1: Florida Voter Turnout in Presidential Years Among Citizens, by Age**



Source: Author's tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November (Voting) Supplements, 1972-2004.

**Table 1: Summary of Young Voters in the Florida Primary, 2008 and 2000<sup>3</sup>**

**Youth Turnout, Vote Count, and Vote Share**

	<u>Turnout Rate</u>	<u>Number of youth who voted</u>	<u>Youth as Share of All Voters</u>
2008	13 percent	285,970	8 percent
2000	4 percent	80,610	6 percent

**Young Voters by Party**

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2000</u>
Democratic	Number of Primary Participants	151,599	***
	Share of Primary Participants	9 percent	***
Republican	Number of Primary Participants	134,412	***
	Share of Primary Participants	7 percent	***

**Youth Vote Choice by Party**

	<u>Democratic Choice</u>		<u>Republican Choice</u>
Clinton	44 percent	Huckabee	18 percent
Edwards	11 percent	McCain	30 percent
Obama	43 percent	Paul	5 percent
		Romney	23 percent

**Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2008**

In 2008, a Presidential election year, there are an estimated 2.2 million young people in Florida who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 2 shows voting statistics for the years 2004 and 2000.<sup>4</sup> Florida's youth voter turnout rate was in the middle of all states in 2004, but it had the 29<sup>th</sup> highest turnout rate among youth in 2000 among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 2 – Florida Voter Turnout Statistics, 2008, 2004, and 2000**

	<u>Young People 18 to 29</u>	<u>Adults 30 and Older</u>
<b>2008</b>		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2008	2.2 million	10.1 million
<b>2004</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	992 thousand	6.3 million
Voter Turnout Rate	49 percent	68 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent
<b>2000</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	737 thousand	5.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	40 percent	64 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, March Supplement 2008 and November Supplement 2004 and 2000.

**Voter Turnout Rates in 2004 and 2000 Among Eligible Young Citizens**

Table 3 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2004 and 2000 in Florida. 2004 was a year of high voter turnout for all youth groups in Florida relative to 2000. Overall, Florida youth electoral engagement has increased at a consistent rate as the national average.

**Table 3 – Florida Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2004 and 2000**

<b>Voter Turnout Rate Among:</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2000</b>
National Youth Rate	49 percent	40 percent
FL Youth Rate	49 percent	40 percent
FL Registered Voter	83 percent	73 percent
<b><i>Race/Ethnicity<sup>6</sup></i></b>		
White non-Hispanic	52 percent	43 percent
Black non-Hispanic	48 percent	38 percent
Hispanics	38 percent	31 percent
Asian non-Hispanic	***	***
Native American non-Hispanic	***	***
<b><i>Gender</i></b>		
Women	54 percent	44 percent
Men	44 percent	36 percent
<b><i>Educational Attainment</i></b>		
Less than High School	18 percent	20 percent
High School	42 percent	30 percent
Some College	59 percent	48 percent
BA or more	65 percent	68 percent
<b><i>College Experience</i></b>		
No experience	34 percent	26 percent
At least some experience	59 percent	54 percent
<b><i>Marital Status</i></b>		
Single Men	44 percent	31 percent
Single Women	50 percent	40 percent
Married Men	48 percent	52 percent
Married Women	66 percent	59 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2004 and 2000 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey. '\*\*\*' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> We thank Mark Hugo Lopez for his 2006 fact sheet series on which this fact sheet is based. We also thank Peter Levine, Abby Kiesa, and Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

<sup>2</sup> Comparisons to other caucuses and primaries must be made with caution, because turnout is affected by the date of the primaries and by the nature of the Democratic and Republican Presidential campaigns, which are different in every state. In the case of Florida, the Democratic primary was not formally contested, and that fact may have lowered turnout.

<sup>3</sup> The estimate of votes cast in the primaries/caucuses is calculated by multiplying the youth share of all voters (source: exit polls) by the actual number of votes cast (source: media tallies). The turnout rate estimate for each state is calculated by dividing the estimated number of votes cast by young people in the state's primary by the estimated number of young citizens (source: 2008 March Demographic File, US Census).

<sup>4</sup> For a full discussion of the different ways voter turnout can be calculated please see "CIRCLE Working Paper 35: The Youth Voter 2004: With a Historical Look at Youth Voting Patterns 1972-2004." All voter turnout estimates presented in this fact sheet are calculated for U.S. citizens only, and according to the "Census Citizen Method" described in CIRCLE Working Paper 35.

<sup>5</sup> For state-by-state comparisons of voter turnout rates, see the CIRCLE fact sheet "Youth Voter Turnout in the States during the 2004 Presidential and the 2002 Midterm Elections."

<sup>6</sup> We have defined racial/ethnic groups in the CPS November Supplements by defining anyone with Hispanic background as Latino; individuals who cite a single non-Hispanic race or ethnicity are identified as non-Hispanic white, African American, Asian American or Native American.