

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

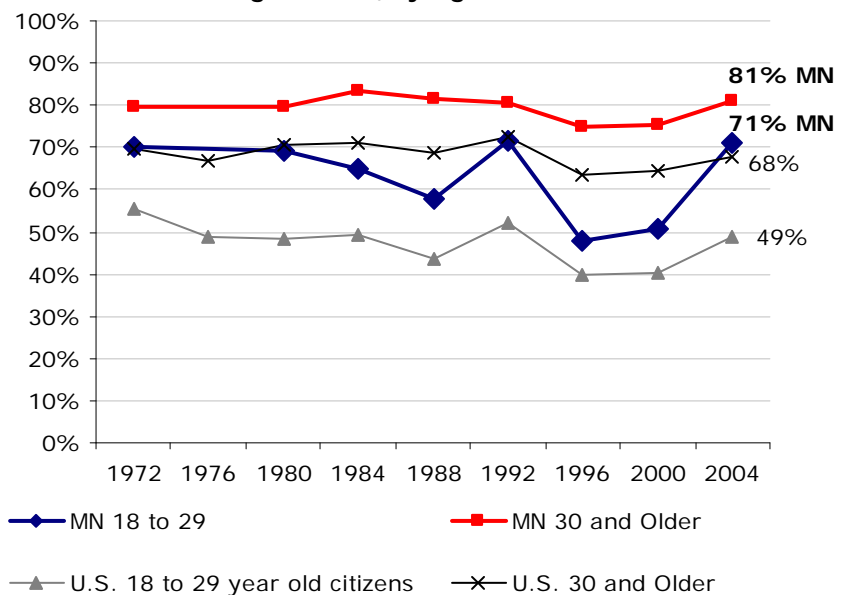
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This year's general election follows a primary season in which more than 6.5 million young people under the age of 30 participated.

In 2004, turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds in Minnesota ranked 1st among all states and the District of Columbia in 2004, and was up twenty percentage points from 2000. Whether the voter mobilization momentum of 2008 primary season—which nationally witnessed an eight percentage point increase in youth voter turnout from nine percent in 2000 to 17 percent in 2008—continues into the general election remains unpredictable.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Minnesota, 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: Minnesota Voter Turnout in Presidential Years Among Citizens, by Age



Source: Author's tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November (Voting) Supplements, 1972-2004. No 1976 data for MN.

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2008

In 2008, a Presidential election year, there are an estimated 889 thousand young people in Minnesota who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2004 and 2000.² In 2004, Minnesota had the highest youth voter turnout rate among all states and the District of Columbia.³

Table 1 – State Voter Turnout Statistics, 2008, 2004, and 2000

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2008		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2008	889 thousand	2.9 million
2004		
Number of Votes Cast	570 thousand	2.3 million
Voter Turnout Rate	71 percent	82 percent
Share of all Voters	20 percent	80 percent
2000		
Number of Votes Cast	388 thousand	2.0 million
Voter Turnout Rate	51 percent	75 percent
Share of all Voters	16 percent	84 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 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2004 and 2000 in Minnesota. 2004 was a year of high voter turnout for all youth groups in Minnesota relative to 2000. Compared to the nation as a whole in 2004, youth in Minnesota were more electorally engaged.

Table 2 – State Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2004 and 2000

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2004	2000
National Youth Rate	49 percent	40 percent
MN Youth Rate	71 percent	51 percent
MN Registered Voter	92 percent	83 percent
Race/Ethnicity⁴		
White non-Hispanic	72 percent	51 percent
Black non-Hispanic	***	***
Hispanics	***	***
Asian non-Hispanic	***	***
Native American non-Hispanic	***	***
Gender		
Women	77 percent	55 percent
Men	66 percent	46 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	51 percent	42 percent
Some College	80 percent	55 percent
BA or more	90 percent	70 percent
College Experience		
No experience	53 percent	37 percent
At least some experience	82 percent	61 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	64 percent	42 percent
Single Women	76 percent	50 percent
Married Men	***	***
Married Women	***	***

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

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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."

⁴ 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.