

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

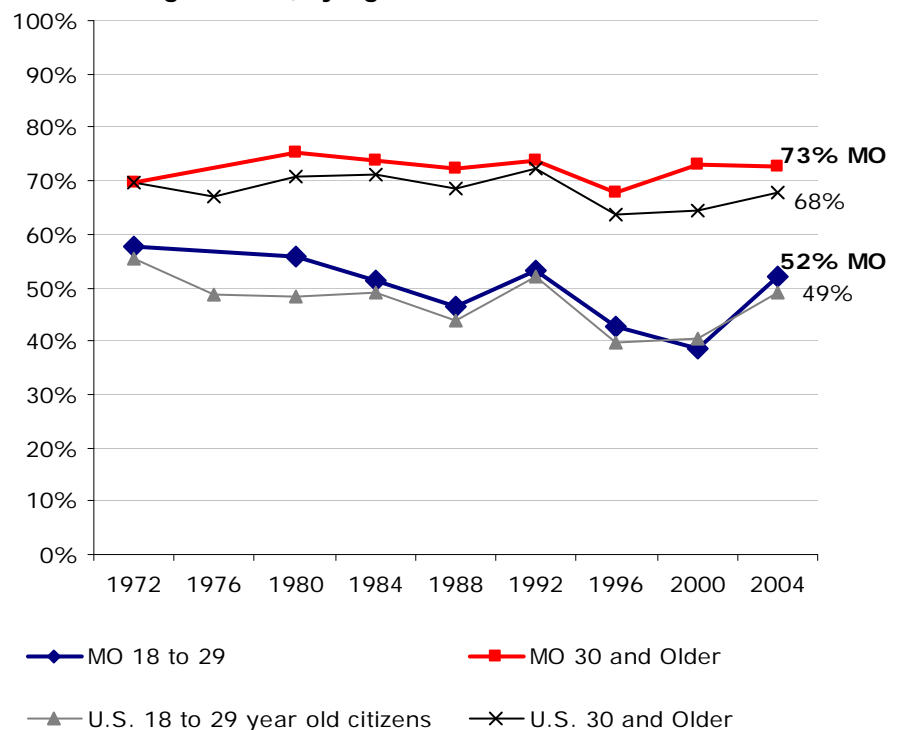
By Karlo Barrios Marcelo and Emily Hoban Kirby<sup>1</sup>  
October 2008

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 Missouri primary youth voter turnout tripled compared to the 2000 primary.<sup>2</sup>

In 2004, turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds in Missouri ranked 16<sup>th</sup> among all states and the District of Columbia in 2004, and was up 13 percentage points over 2000. The Missouri young voter turnout rose by 14 percentage points, from seven percent in 2000 to 21 percent in 2008. However, 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 Missouri, 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: Missouri 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 MO.

**Table 1: Summary of Young Voters in the Missouri Primary, 2008 and 2000  
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	21 percent	190,863	14 percent
2000	7 percent	71,430	10 percent

**Young Voters by Party**

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2000</u>
Democratic	Number of Primary Participants	114,863	23,894
	Share of Primary Participants	14 percent	9 percent
Republican	Number of Primary Participants	75,870	47,536
	Share of Primary Participants	13 percent	10 percent

**Youth Vote Choice by Party**

	<u>Democratic Choice</u>		<u>Republican Choice</u>
Clinton	30 percent	Huckabee	43 percent
Edwards	3 percent	McCain	27 percent
Obama	65 percent	Paul	9 percent
		Romney	18 percent

**Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2008**

In 2008, a Presidential election year, there are an estimated 860 thousand young people in Missouri who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 2 shows voting statistics for the years 2004 and 2000.<sup>3</sup> Missouri's youth voter turnout rate was in the top third of all states in 2004, but it had the 38<sup>th</sup> highest turnout rate among youth in 2000 among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 2 – Missouri 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	860 thousand	3.4 million
<b>2004</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	419 thousand	2.4 million
Voter Turnout Rate	51 percent	73 percent
Share of all Voters	15 percent	85 percent
<b>2000</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	289 thousand	2.4 million
Voter Turnout Rate	39 percent	73 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 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 Missouri. 2004 was a year of high voter turnout for all youth groups in Missouri relative to 2000. Relative to the nation as a whole in 2004, youth in Missouri were slightly more electorally engaged.

**Table 3 – Missouri 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
MO Youth Rate	51 percent	39 percent
MO Registered Voter	76 percent	74 percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>5</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanic	49 percent	36 percent
Black non-Hispanic	***	***
Hispanics	***	***
Asian non-Hispanic	***	***
Native American non-Hispanic	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	54 percent	42 percent
Men	48 percent	35 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	31 percent	***
High School	41 percent	29 percent
Some College	62 percent	46 percent
BA or more	***	***
<b>College Experience</b>		
No experience	38 percent	25 percent
At least some experience	66 percent	53 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	49 percent	28 percent
Single Women	52 percent	34 percent
Married Men	***	***
Married Women	***	***

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

## NOTES

---

<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.

<sup>3</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>4</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>5</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.