

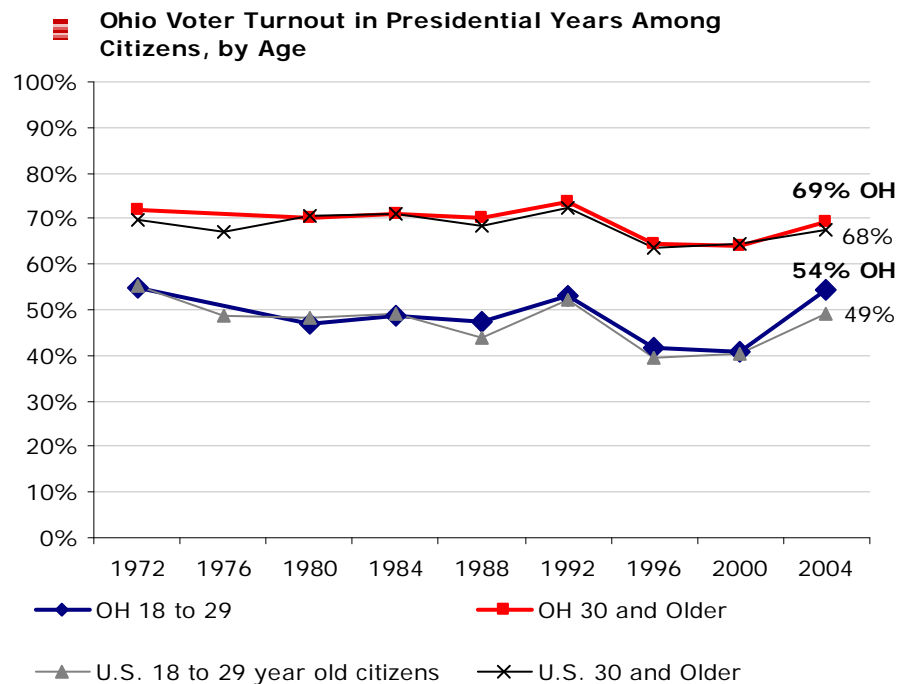
Quick Facts about Young Voters in Ohio: The Presidential Election Year 2008

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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 Ohio primary youth voter turnout rose by 10 percentage points compared to the 2000 primary.²

In 2004, turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds in Ohio ranked 13th among all states and the District of Columbia in 2004, and was up thirteen percentage points over 2000. Whether the voter mobilization momentum of 2008 primary season in Ohio—which witnessed a ten percentage point increase in youth voter turnout from fifteen percent in 2000 to 25 percent in 2008—continues into the general election remains unpredictable.

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



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

Table 1: Summary of Young Voters in the Ohio 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	25 percent	479,418	15 percent
2000	15 percent	259,960	11 percent

Young Voters by Party

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2000</u>
Democratic	Number of Primary Participants	348,847	78,281
	Share of Primary Participants	16 percent	8 percent
Republican	Number of Primary Participants	130,571	181,679
	Share of Primary Participants	13 percent	13 percent

Youth Vote Choice by Party

	<u>Democratic Choice</u>	<u>Republican Choice</u>
Clinton	35 percent	Huckabee NA
Obama	61 percent	McCain Paul NA

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2008

In 2008, a Presidential election year, there are an estimated 1.8 million young people in Ohio who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 2 shows voting statistics for the years 2004 and 2000.³ Ohio's youth voter turnout rate was near the top of all states in 2004, but it had the 27th highest turnout rate among youth in 2000 among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.⁴

Table 2 – Ohio Voter Turnout Statistics, 2008, 2004, and 2000

	<u>Young People 18 to 29</u>	<u>Adults 30 and Older</u>
2008		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2008	1.8 million	6.5 million
2004		
Number of Votes Cast	911 thousand	4.6 million
Voter Turnout Rate	54 percent	69 percent
Share of all Voters	17 percent	83 percent
2000		
Number of Votes Cast	672 thousand	4.1 million
Voter Turnout Rate	41 percent	64 percent
Share of all Voters	14 percent	86 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 Ohio. 2004 was a year of high voter turnout for all youth groups in Ohio relative to 2000. Relative to the nation as a whole in 2004, youth in Ohio were more politically engaged.

Table 3 – Ohio 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
OH Youth Rate	54 percent	41 percent
OH Registered Voter	85 percent	76 percent
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>⁵		
White NH	54 percent	40 percent
Black NH	52 percent	45 percent
Hispanics	***	***
Asian NH	***	***
Native American NH	***	***
<i>Gender</i>		
Women	57 percent	43 percent
Men	51 percent	38 percent
<i>Educational Attainment</i>		
Less than High School	32 percent	25 percent
High School	46 percent	31 percent
Some College	62 percent	45 percent
BA or more	76 percent	66 percent
<i>College Experience</i>		
No experience	42 percent	29 percent
At least some experience	66 percent	52 percent
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single Men	51 percent	35 percent
Single Women	58 percent	42 percent
Married Men	49 percent	48 percent
Married Women	55 percent	49 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

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 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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 2002 Midterm Elections."

⁵ 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.