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### Quick Facts about Young Voters in Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA<sup>1</sup>: The Midterm Election Year 2006

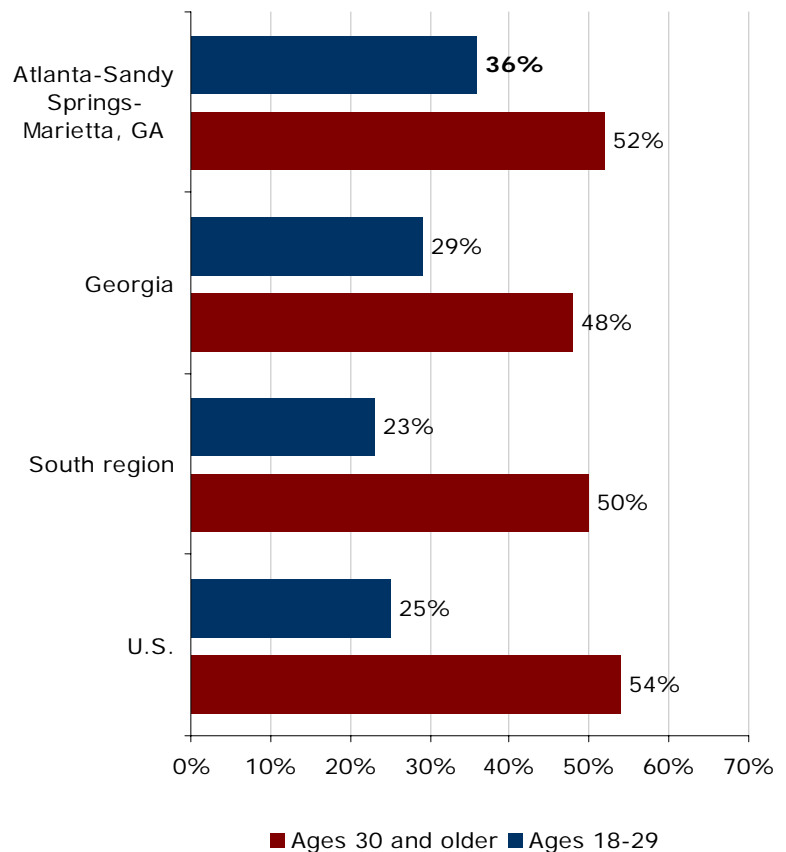
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points to 25 percent, the single largest increase among all age groups nationally.<sup>3</sup>

In Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA, the voter turnout rate among young people was 36 percent, seven percentage points above Georgia's state average and eleven points above the national average. An estimated 264,000 young people from Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA, voted in the 2006 elections.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., and this gap was significantly smaller (16 percentage points) at the more local level of Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



Source: Author's tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplement, 2006

## Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA

Women and college graduates had turnout rates higher than 40 percent. Almost all subgroups of young people voted at lower rates than did their adult counterparts—the exception being among single people (39 percent for young people versus 37 percent for adults). See Table 1.

**Table 1 –Voter Turnout Rates Among Citizens in Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA, 2006**

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>4</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanics	35 percent	55 percent
Black non-Hispanics	37 percent	48 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	45 percent	52 percent
Men	27 percent	51 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	***	22 percent
High School	27 percent	37 percent
Some College	39 percent	56 percent
BA or more	45 percent	67 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	28 percent	56 percent
Single	39 percent	37 percent
Registered Voter	63 percent	73 percent
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta	36 percent	52 percent
Georgia	29 percent	48 percent
National	25 percent	54 percent

Source: Author's Tabulations from the 2006 November Supplement of the Current Population Survey. '\*\*\*' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA, includes the counties of Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriweather, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton, as well as the principal cities of Atlanta, Sandy Springs, and Marietta.

<sup>2</sup> I thank Mark Hugo Lopez and Peter Levine for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet. All errors in fact or interpretation are my own.

<sup>3</sup> See "Youth Voter Turnout Increases in 2006" by Mark Hugo Lopez, Karlo Barrios Marcelo, and Emily Hoban Kirby for a longer discussion of youth voter turnout trends in 2006. [www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org)

<sup>4</sup> I have defined racial/ethnic groups in the Current Population Survey 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.