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### Quick Facts about Young Voters in Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI<sup>1</sup>: The Midterm Election Year 2006

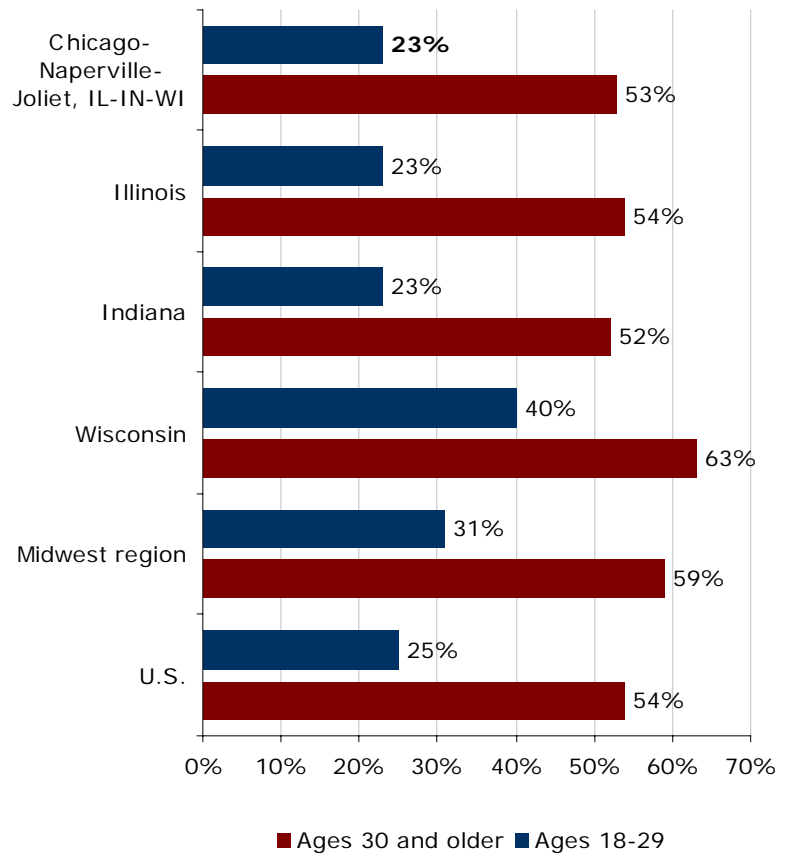
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI, the voter turnout rate among young people was 23 percent, on par with Illinois' state average, but two points below the national average. An estimated 282,000 young people from Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI, 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 slightly bigger (30 percentage points) at the more local level of Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

## Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI

Only men, high school and college graduates, and married people were the only subgroups of young people to vote at lower rates than the metropolitan average. All subgroups of young people voted at lower rates than did their adult counterparts. See Table 1.

**Table 1 –Voter Turnout Rates Among Citizens in Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI, 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	24 percent	54 percent
Black non-Hispanics	24 percent	58 percent
Latinos	26 percent	35 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	40 percent
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	28 percent	55 percent
Men	18 percent	50 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	***	33 percent
High School	22 percent	45 percent
Some College	26 percent	55 percent
BA or more	22 percent	63 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	19 percent	58 percent
Single	24 percent	40 percent
Registered Voter	44 percent	73 percent
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	23 percent	53 percent
Illinois	23 percent	54 percent
Indiana	23 percent	52 percent
Wisconsin	40 percent	63 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> Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI, includes the counties of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, McHenry, Will, Lake, Jasper (IN), Lake (IN), Newton (IN), Porter (IN), and Kenosha (WI), as well as the principal cities of Chicago, Naperville, Joliet, Gary (IN), Elgin, Arlington Heights, Evanston, Schaumburg, Skokie, Des Plaines, and Hoffman Estates.

<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.