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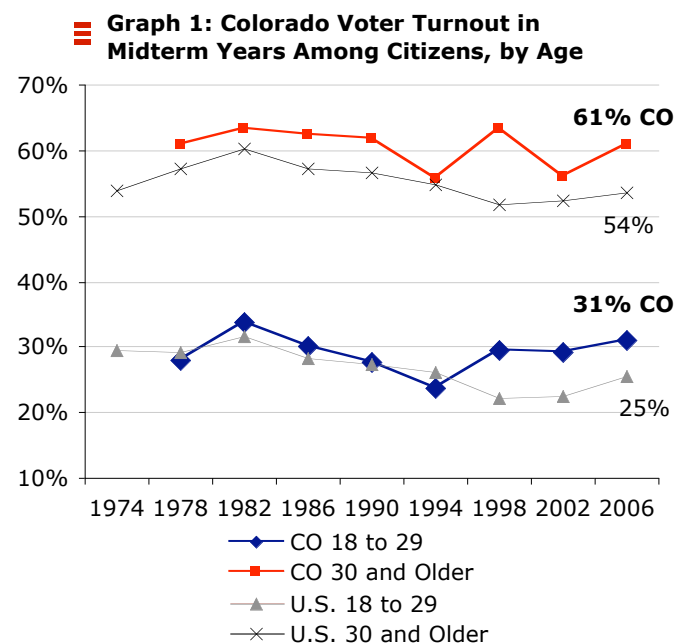
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Colorado: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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.² Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Colorado, the youth voter turnout rate rose 2 percentage points from 29 percent in 2002 to 31 percent in 2006. Overall, Colorado ranked 13th (tied with OH) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 11th in 2002, yet was six percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Colorado, including estimates of the number of young voters, and voter turnout rates in 2006 and 2002 for various sub-groups of young people.



Source: Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2006.

Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, young people in Colorado who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections cast 221 thousand votes. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006, 2002.

Table 1 – Colorado Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	221 thousand	1.5 million
Voter Turnout Rate	31 percent	61 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	185 thousand	1.3 million
Voter Turnout Rate	29 percent	56 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, November Supplement 2006 and 2002.

Voter Turnout Rates in 2006 and 2002 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2006 and 2002 Colorado. While Colorado's youth voter turnout was higher than the national average in 2006, voter turnout among some youth groups in Colorado was very low. Latinos and those young people with a high school education or less had turnout rates below 20 percent.

Table 2 – Colorado Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2006 and 2002

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	34 percent	29 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	***
Latinos	16 percent	27 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	34 percent	31 percent
Men	28 percent	27 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	8 percent	11 percent
High School	16 percent	21 percent
Some College	35 percent	29 percent
BA or more	57 percent	47 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	27 percent	23 percent
Single Women	32 percent	28 percent
Married Men	38 percent	37 percent
Married Women	56 percent	36 percent
Registered Voter	56 percent	55 percent
All Youth, Colorado	31 percent	29 percent
All Youth, National	25 percent	22 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2006 and 2002 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey. '***' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

Notes

¹ Research Director, Research Associate, and Research Assistant, respectively. We also thank Peter Levine, Emily Kirby, Abby Kiesa, and Deborah Both for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

² 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.

³ We 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.