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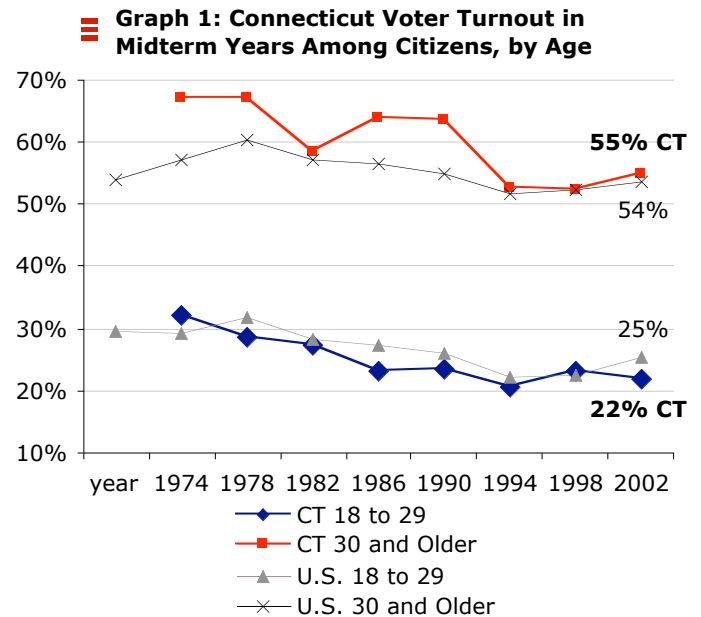
The Center for Information & Research on  
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## Quick Facts about Young Voters in Connecticut: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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>2</sup> However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Connecticut, the youth voter turnout rate fell 1 percentage point from 23 percent in 2002 to 22 percent in 2006. Overall, Connecticut ranked 38<sup>th</sup> (tied with NJ) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2002, and was three percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Connecticut, 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 Connecticut who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections cast 90 thousand votes. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006, 2002.

**Table 1 – Connecticut Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002**

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	90 thousand	1.1 million
Voter Turnout Rate	22 percent	55 percent
Share of all Voters	7 percent	93 percent
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	85 thousand	994 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 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 in Connecticut. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Connecticut was very low, but some groups showed an increase in voter turnout. For example, young whites, individuals with less than a high school education, and married women increased their voter turnout rates. In contrast, some of the largest declines in voter turnout rates occurred among Latinos (down 9 points) and high school graduates (down 6 points).

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>3</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanics	25 percent	23 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	22 percent
Latinos	10 percent	19 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	22 percent	22 percent
Men	22 percent	25 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	12 percent	7 percent
High School	17 percent	23 percent
Some College	22 percent	21 percent
BA or more	33 percent	34 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	21 percent	25 percent
Single Women	18 percent	23 percent
Married Men	***	25 percent
Married Women	28 percent	20 percent
Registered Voter	49 percent	48 percent
All Youth, Connecticut	22 percent	23 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.

### Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

The plurality of young voters identified as Democrat in the 2006 elections.

**Table 3 – Partisanship Among 18 to 29 year old Voters in 2006**

	Connecticut
Democrat	43 percent
Independent	28 percent
Republican	***
Something Else	***

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the National Election Pool, Exit Poll Survey, 2006. (\*\*\*) – Sample size was too small to produce reliable estimates.

## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.