



CIRCLE

The Center for Information & Research on
Civic Learning & Engagement

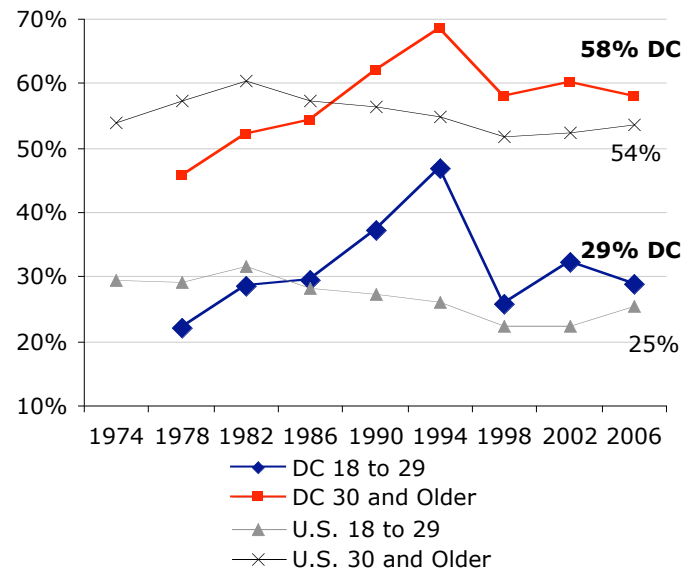
Quick Facts about Young Voters in the District of Columbia: The Midterm Election Year 2006

By Mark Hugo Lopez, Karlo Barrios Marcelo, and Jared Sagoff¹
Updated June 2007

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 However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Washington, D.C., the youth voter turnout rate fell 3 percentage points from 32 percent in 2002 to 29 percent in 2006. Overall, Washington, D.C. ranked 19th (tied with GA) among all states and the Washington, D.C. in 2006, down from 5th in 2002, yet was 4 percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

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

Graph 1: D.C. Voter Turnout in Midterm Years Among Citizens, by Age



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

Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 99,000 young people in Washington, D.C. were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2002 and 2006.

Voter Turnout Rates in 2006 and 2002 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2002 and 2006 in Washington, D.C. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Washington, D.C. was significantly lower than in 2002, but generally high compared to young people nationally. Only college graduates increased their voter turnout rates over 2002.

Table 1 – Washington, D.C. Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	30 thousand	157 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	29 percent	58 percent
Share of all Voters	16 percent	84 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	28 thousand	164 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	32 percent	60 percent
Share of all Voters	15 percent	85 percent

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

Table 2 – Washington, D.C. Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2006 and 2002

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	31 percent	34 percent
Black non-Hispanics	29 percent	33 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	30 percent	31 percent
Men	28 percent	34 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	21 percent	35 percent
Some College	29 percent	39 percent
BA or more	35 percent	34 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	28 percent	39 percent
Single Women	30 percent	51 percent
Married Men	***	34 percent
Married Women	***	29 percent
Registered Voter	49 percent	49 percent
All Youth, DC	29 percent	32 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.