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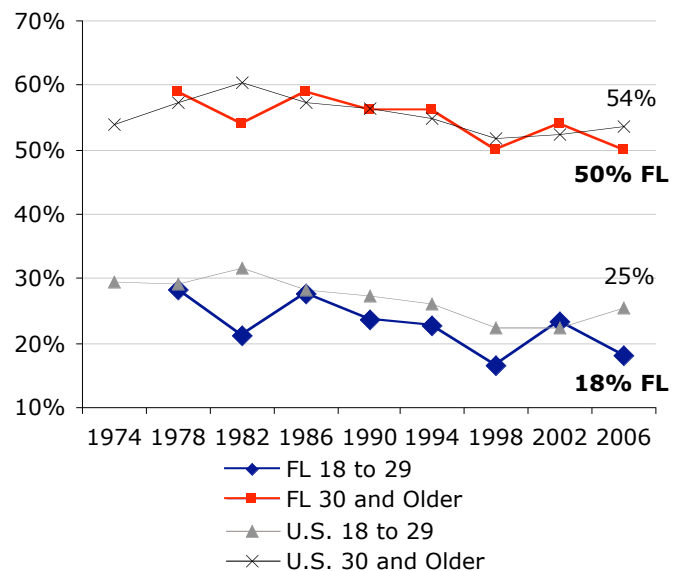
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Florida: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Florida, the youth voter turnout rate fell 5 percentage points from 23 percent in 2002 to 18 percent in 2006. Overall, Florida ranked 47th (tied with LA) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 23rd in 2002, and was seven percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Florida Voter Turnout in Midterm Years Among Citizens, by Age



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

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

Estimates of Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 2.2 million young people in Florida were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 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 2002 and 2006 in Florida. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Florida was low, and declined for most groups from 2002 levels. Declines were particularly evident for college graduates (17 points), single women (6 points), and Latinos (12 points).

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

	Florida
Democrat	38 percent
Independent	21 percent
Republican	35 percent
Something Else	***

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

Table 1 – Florida Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	401 thousand	4.9 million
Voter Turnout Rate	18 percent	50 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	441 thousand	4.7 million
Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	54 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	19 percent	23 percent
Black non-Hispanics	23 percent	26 percent
Latinos	11 percent	23 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	20 percent	24 percent
Men	17 percent	23 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	6 percent	12 percent
High School	13 percent	21 percent
Some College	27 percent	25 percent
BA or more	21 percent	38 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	17 percent	21 percent
Single Women	19 percent	25 percent
Married Men	14 percent	31 percent
Married Women	22 percent	25 percent
Registered Voter	41 percent	48 percent
All Youth, Florida	18 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.

Notes

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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.