FACT SHEET

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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX[1]: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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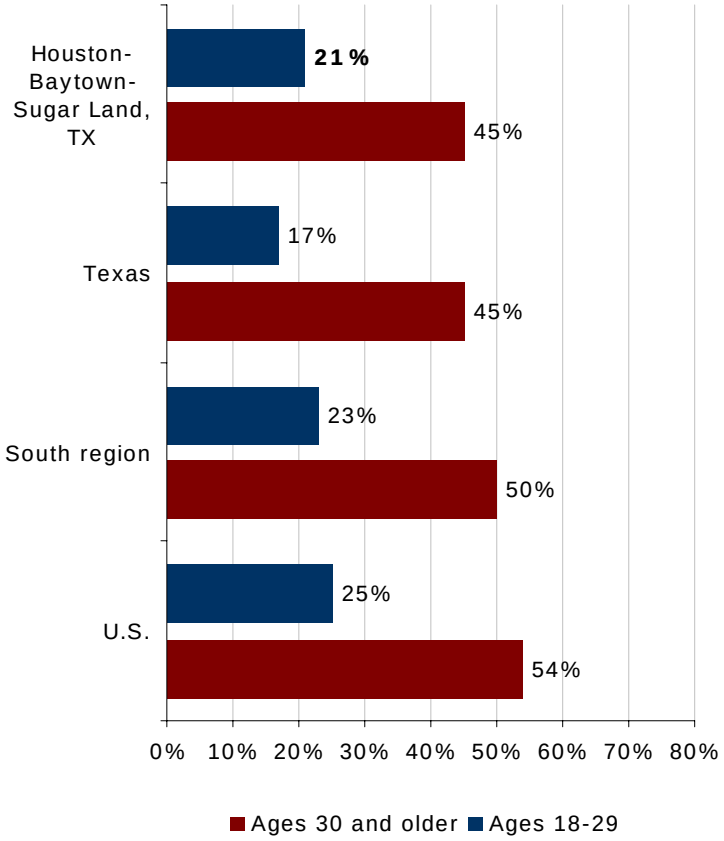
The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points to 25 percent, the single largest increase among all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

In Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX, the voter turnout rate among young people was 21 percent, four percentage points above Texas' state average, but four points below the national average.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., and this gap was smaller (22 percentage points) at the more local level of Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

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Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX

No subgroups of young people had a turnout rate higher than 40 percent. Young Latinos had higher a voter turnout than did their white counterparts (25 percent versus 19 percent). Young Latinos also voted at a higher rate than did their adult Latino counterparts. Overall, youth turnout among all subgroups was very low. See Table 1.

Table 1 –Voter Turnout Rates Among Citizens in Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Race/Ethnicity[4]		
White non-Hispanics	19 percent	49 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	43 percent
Latinos	25 percent	21 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	20 percent	45 percent
Men	23 percent	44 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	29 percent
High School	32 percent	39 percent
Some College	11 percent	52 percent
BA or more	***	52 percent
Marital Status		
Married	27 percent	48 percent
Single	19 percent	41 percent
Registered Voter	42 percent	65 percent
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX	21 percent	45 percent
Texas	17 percent	45 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

[1] Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX, includes the counties of Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller, as well as the principal cities of Houston, Sugar Land, Baytown, and Galveston.

[2] 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.

[3] 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

[4] 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.