



FACT SHEET



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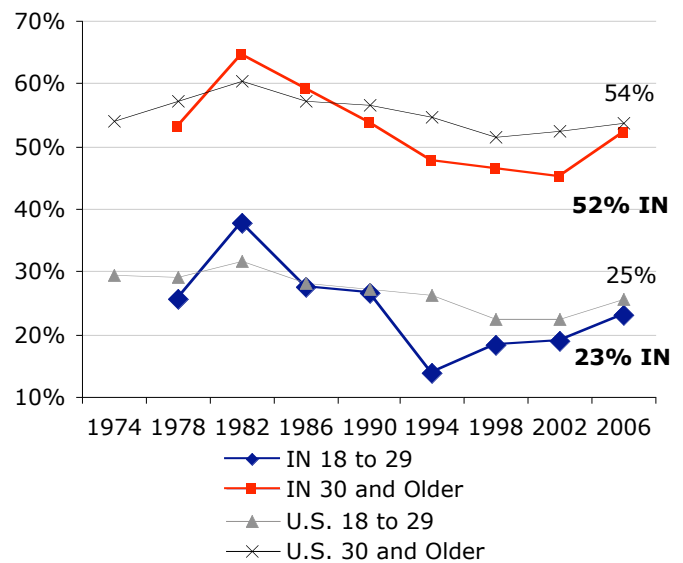
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Indiana: The Midterm Election Year 2006

By Mark Hugo Lopez, Karlo Barrios Marcelo, and Jared Sagoff¹
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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 Indiana, the youth voter turnout rate rose 4 percentage points from 19 percent in 2002 to 23 percent in 2006. Overall, Indiana ranked 34th (tied with AZ, IL, and TN) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 43rd in 2002, yet was two percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Indiana 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 Indiana, including estimates of the number of young voters, and voter turnout rates in 2006 and 2002 for various sub-groups of young people.

Youth Turnout Estimates, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 915,000 young people in Indiana 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, Ages 18 to 29

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2006 and 2002 in Indiana. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Indiana was very low. Only among young people with a BA or more was the voter turnout rate at 40 percent or more.

Table 1 – Indiana Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

| | Young People 18 to 29 | Adults 30 and Older |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 2006 | | |
| Number of Votes Cast | 229 thousand | 1.8 million |
| Voter Turnout Rate | 23 percent | 52 percent |
| Share of all Voters | 11 percent | 89 percent |
| 2002 | | |
| Number of Votes Cast | 151 thousand | 1.6 million |
| Voter Turnout Rate | 19 percent | 45 percent |
| Share of all Voters | 8 percent | 92 percent |

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

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

| Voter Turnout Rate Among: | 2006 | 2002 |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Gender | | |
| Women | 23 percent | 19 percent |
| Men | 23 percent | 18 percent |
| Educational Attainment | | |
| Less than High School | 15 percent | 6 percent |
| High School | 13 percent | 16 percent |
| Some College | 26 percent | 20 percent |
| BA or more | 41 percent | 42 percent |
| Marital Status | | |
| Single Men | 20 percent | 15 percent |
| Single Women | 14 percent | 18 percent |
| Married Men | *** | 24 percent |
| Married Women | 35 percent | 18 percent |
| Registered Voter | 47 percent | 47 percent |
| All Youth, Indiana | 23 percent | 19 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.