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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Kansas City, MO-KS¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

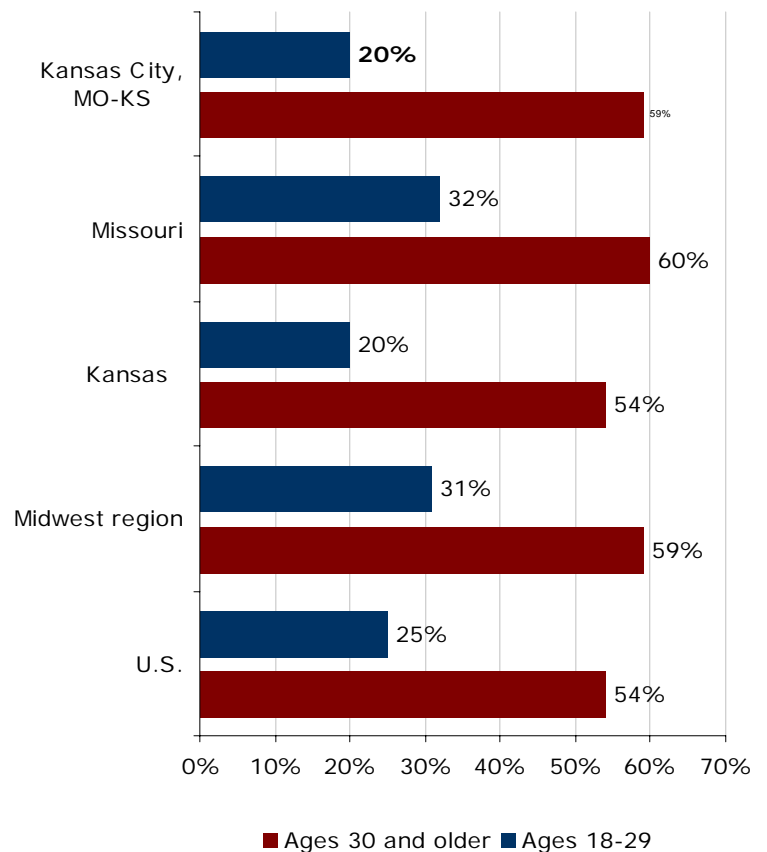
By Karlo Barrios Marcelo, Research Associate²
July 2007

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.³

In Kansas City, MO-KS, the voter turnout rate among young people was 20 percent, twelve points below Missouri's state average, and five 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 significantly bigger (39 percentage points) at the more local level of Kansas City, MO-KS.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Kansas City, MO-KS

Among subgroups of young people, no subgroups had a turnout rate of 40 percent or higher. All subgroups of young people voted at lower rates than did their adult counterparts. Overall, voter turnout among young people in the Kansas City area was very low. See Table 1.

Table 1 –Voter Turnout Rates Among Citizens in Kansas City, MO-KS, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Gender		
Women	26 percent	58 percent
Men	14 percent	60 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	14 percent	54 percent
Some College	22 percent	58 percent
BA or more	***	73 percent
Marital Status		
Married	17 percent	66 percent
Single	22 percent	46 percent
Registered Voter	40 percent	76 percent
Kansas City, MO-KS	20 percent	59 percent
Missouri	32 percent	60 percent
Kansas	20 percent	54 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 Kansas City, MO-KS, includes the counties of Franklin (KS), Johnson (KS), Leavenworth (KS), Linn (KS), Miami (KS), Wyandotte (KS), Bates (MO), Caldwell (MO), Cass (MO), Clinton (MO), Jackson (MO), Lafayette (MO), Platte (MO), and Ray (MO), as well as the principal cities of Kansas City (MO), Overland Park (KS), and Kansas City (KS).

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