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## Quick Facts about Young Voters in The Los Angeles Metropolitan Area<sup>1</sup>: The Midterm Election Year 2006

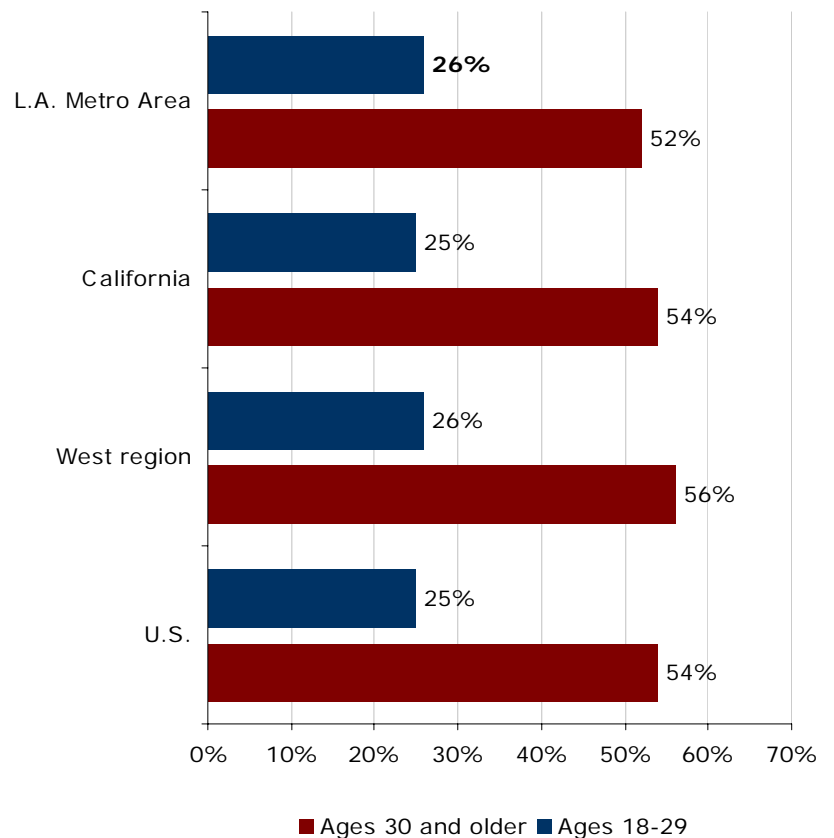
By Karlo Barrios Marcelo, Research Associate<sup>2</sup>  
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points to 25 percent, the single largest increase among all age groups nationally.<sup>3</sup>

In the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the voter turnout rate among young people was 26 percent, one percentage point above California's state average and the national average. An estimated 467,000 young people from the L.A. metropolitan area voted in the 2006 elections.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., but this gap was smaller (26 percentage points) at the more local level of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Overall, youth in the Los Angeles metropolitan area were slightly more engaged electorally than their counterparts in the rest of California and the nation.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

## Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Los Angeles Metropolitan Area

College graduates turned out to vote at a rate of 40 percent or higher. White non-Hispanics, women, individuals with at least some college experience, and married people were the only subgroups of young people to vote at higher rates than the metropolitan average. Overall, youth voter turnout in the Los Angeles metropolitan area was low. All subgroups of young people voted at lower rates than did their adult counterparts. See Table 1.

**Table 1 –Voter Turnout Rates Among Citizens in Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, 2006**

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>4</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanics	33 percent	59 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	48 percent
Latinos	22 percent	44 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	13 percent	48 percent
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	27 percent	53 percent
Men	24 percent	51 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	10 percent	36 percent
High School	15 percent	45 percent
Some College	32 percent	54 percent
BA or more	40 percent	65 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	29 percent	57 percent
Single	25 percent	45 percent
Registered Voter	54 percent	77 percent
Los Angeles Metropolitan Area	26 percent	52 percent
California	25 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

<sup>1</sup> I define the Los Angeles metropolitan area as the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, Riverside, and San Bernardino, as well as the principal cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Glendale, Pomona, Torrance, Pasadena, Burbank, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ontario. Orange County is not included in this fact; it is its own fact sheet.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.civicyouth.org)

<sup>4</sup> 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.