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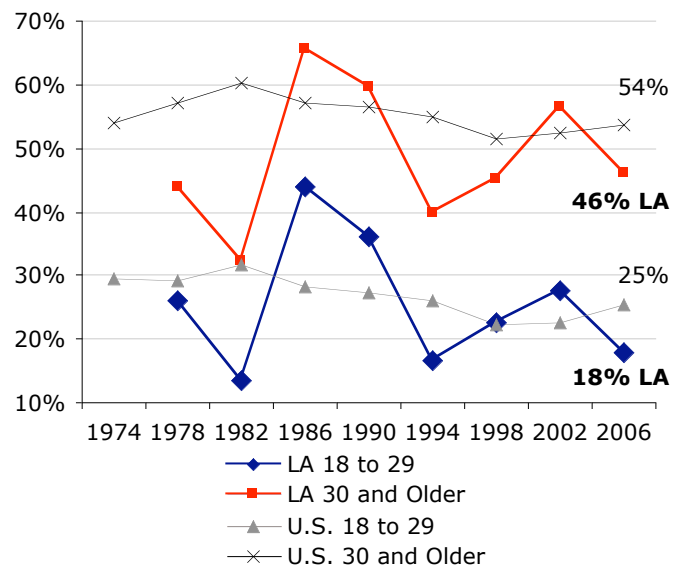
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Louisiana: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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 However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Louisiana, the youth voter turnout rate fell 10 percentage points from 28 percent in 2002 to 18 percent in 2006. Overall, Louisiana ranked 47th (tied with FL) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 12th in 2002, and was seven percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Louisiana 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 Louisiana, 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, there were an estimated 746,000 young people in Louisiana who 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 2006 and 2002 in Louisiana. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Louisiana was very low. Only single men increased their voter turnout rate from 2002 levels (up 3 points).

Table 1 – Louisiana Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	***	1.0 million
Voter Turnout Rate	18 percent	46 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	183 thousand	1.4 million
Voter Turnout Rate	28 percent	56 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

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

Table 2 – Louisiana 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	31 percent
Black non-Hispanics	14 percent	26 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	17 percent	33 percent
Men	19 percent	23 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	8 percent
High School	11 percent	21 percent
Some College	32 percent	33 percent
BA or more	***	54 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	19 percent	16 percent
Single Women	15 percent	28 percent
Married Men	***	44 percent
Married Women	***	41 percent
Registered Voter	38 percent	49 percent
All Youth, Louisiana	18 percent	28 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

¹ Research Director, Research Associate, and Research Assistant, respectively. We also thank Peter Levine, Emily Kirby, Abby Kiesa, and Deborah Both for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

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.