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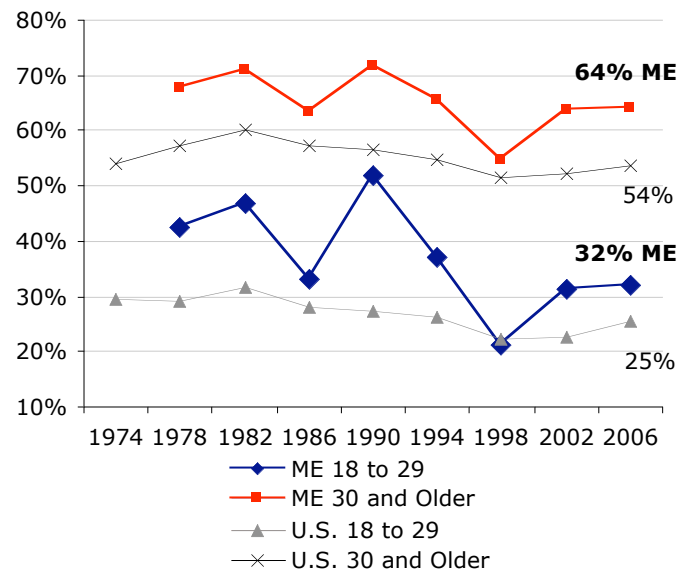
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Maine: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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.² Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Maine, the youth voter turnout rate rose 1 percentage point from 31 percent in 2002 to 22 percent in 2006. Overall, Maine ranked 9th (tied with MO, OR, and VA) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 6th in 2002, yet was seven percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Maine 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 Maine, 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 208,000 young people in Maine who were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.

Table 1 – Maine Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	60 thousand	535 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	32 percent	64 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	58 thousand	505 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	31 percent	64 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, November Supplement 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 Maine. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Maine was low. Only among young people with a BA or more was the voter turnout rate at 40 percent or more. Relative to 2002, youth voter turnout rates in 2006 were generally higher, though not for all groups.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	32 percent	35 percent
Men	31 percent	28 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	21 percent
High School	18 percent	20 percent
Some College	34 percent	28 percent
BA or more	69 percent	64 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	31 percent	20 percent
Single Women	31 percent	30 percent
Married Men	***	54 percent
Married Women	***	49 percent
Registered Voter	52 percent	54 percent
All Youth	32 percent	31 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.