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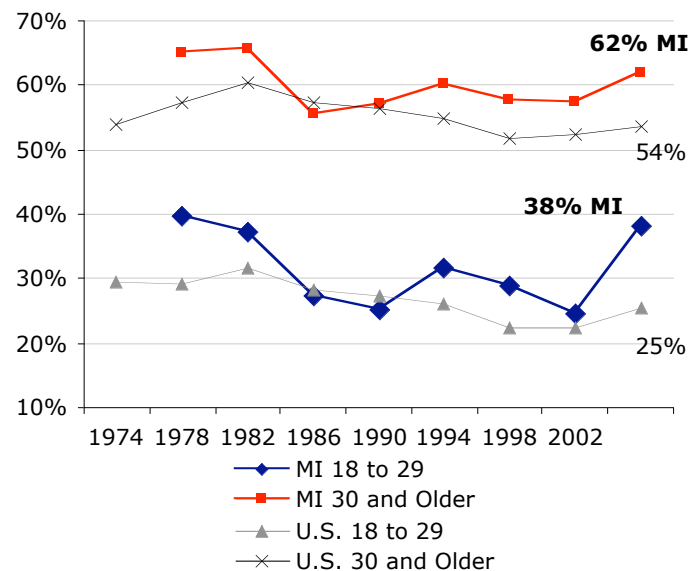
The Center for Information & Research on
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Michigan: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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 Michigan, the youth voter turnout rate rose 13 percentage points from 25 percent in 2002 to 38 percent in 2006. Overall, Michigan ranked 5th among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 16th in 2002, and was thirteen percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Michigan 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 Michigan, 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 1.4 million young people in Michigan 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, Ages 18-29

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people ages 18 to 29 in 2006 and 2002 in Michigan. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Michigan was up from 2002. Several groups had a voter turnout rate of 40 percent or higher in 2006: Black non-Hispanics, women, individuals with some college experience, college graduates, and married women.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

The plurality of young voters identified as Democrat, regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections.

Table 3 – Partisanship Among 18 to 29 year old Voters in 2006

	Michigan
Democrat	40 percent
Independent	21 percent
Republican	28 percent
Something Else	***

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the National Election Pool, Exit Poll Survey, 2006. (***) – Sample size was too small to produce reliable estimates.

Table 1 – Michigan Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	520 thousand	3.6 million
Voter Turnout Rate	38 percent	62 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	383 thousand	3.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	25 percent	57 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	38 percent	24 percent
Black non-Hispanics	42 percent	27 percent
Hispanics	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	40 percent	27 percent
Men	37 percent	22 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	9 percent	13 percent
High School	31 percent	15 percent
Some College	42 percent	27 percent
BA or more	60 percent	54 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	35 percent	23 percent
Single Women	38 percent	26 percent
Married Men	***	23 percent
Married Women	45 percent	29 percent
Registered Voter	60 percent	45 percent
All Youth, Michigan	38 percent	25 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.

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.