



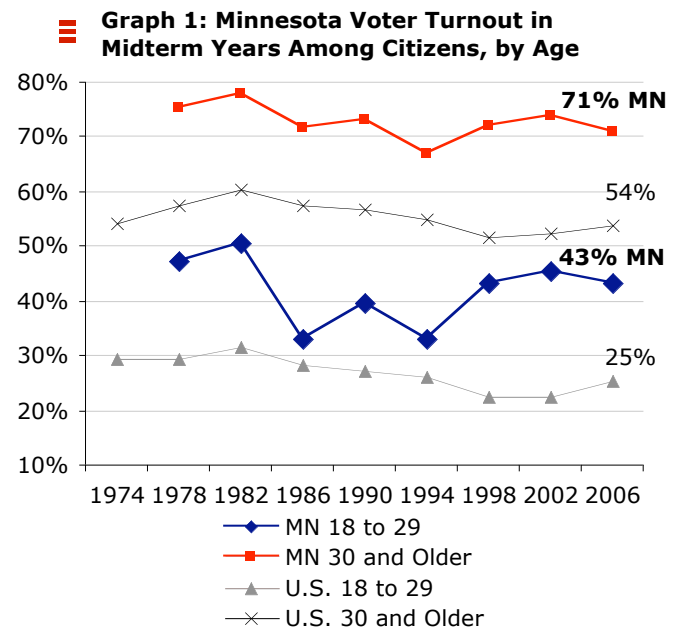
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Minnesota: The Midterm Election Year 2006

By Mark Hugo Lopez and Karlo Barrios Marcelo¹
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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 Minnesota, the youth voter turnout rate fell 2 percentage points from 45 percent in 2002 to 43 percent in 2006. Overall, Minnesota ranked 1st (unchanged from 2002) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, and was eighteen percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.



Source: Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2006.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Minnesota, 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 779 thousand young people in Minnesota 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 Minnesota. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Minnesota was high compared to other states and all youth nationwide. Many groups of young people reported voter turnout rates of 40 percent or more.

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

	Minnesota
Democrat	43 percent
Independent	14 percent
Republican	34 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 – Minnesota Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	324 thousand	2.0 million
Voter Turnout Rate	43 percent	71 percent
Share of all Voters	14 percent	86 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	356 thousand	1.9 million
Voter Turnout Rate	45 percent	74 percent
Share of all Voters	15 percent	85 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, November Supplement 2006 and 2002. All the above statistics are estimates, and may differ from numbers reported from other sources.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	42 percent	46 percent
Men	45 percent	44 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	34 percent	25 percent
High School	25 percent	35 percent
Some College	45 percent	45 percent
BA or more	63 percent	73 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	40 percent	43 percent
Single Women	38 percent	42 percent
Married Men	***	52 percent
Married Women	53 percent	59 percent
Registered Voters	71 percent	71 percent
All Youth	43 percent	45 percent
All Youth, National	25 percent	22 percent

Source: Author's 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.