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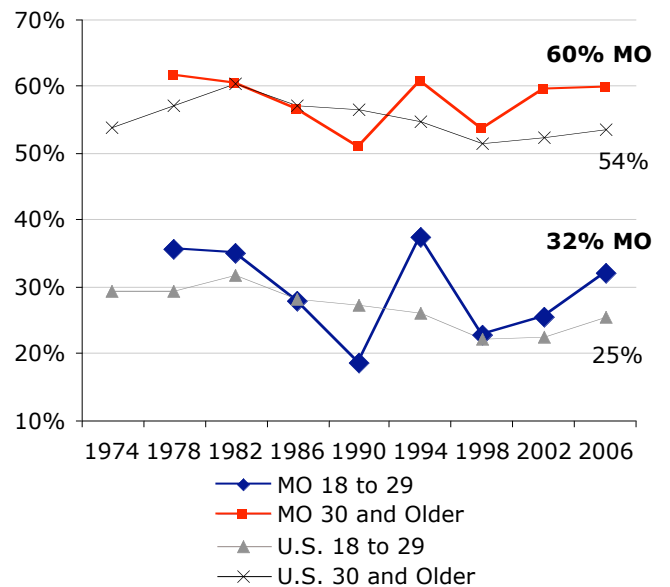
The Center for Information & Research on
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Missouri: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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 Missouri, the youth voter turnout rate rose 6 percentage points from 26 percent in 2002 to 32 percent in 2006. Overall, Missouri ranked 9th (tied with ME, OR, and VA) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 14th in 2002, and was seven percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Missouri 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 Missouri, 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 921,000 young people in Missouri 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 Missouri. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Missouri was up from 2002. College graduates had a voter turnout rate of 56 percent, higher than any other group in the table.

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

	Missouri
Democrat	37 percent
Independent	16 percent
Republican	36 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 – Missouri Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	316 thousand	2.0 million
Voter Turnout Rate	32 percent	60 percent
Share of all Voters	14 percent	86 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	211 thousand	1.9 million
Voter Turnout Rate	26 percent	59 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	32 percent	***
Black non-Hispanics	36 percent	***
Hispanics	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	37 percent	30 percent
Men	27 percent	21 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	19 percent	2 percent
High School	22 percent	18 percent
Some College	36 percent	31 percent
BA or more	56 percent	47 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	25 percent	18 percent
Single Women	40 percent	31 percent
Married Men	***	33 percent
Married Women	35 percent	25 percent
Registered Voter	55 percent	46 percent

All Youth, Missouri	32 percent	26 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.