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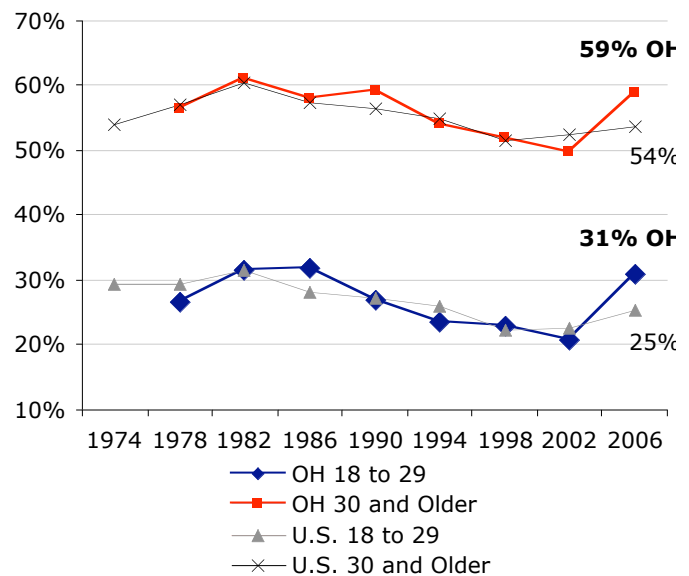
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Ohio: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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 Ohio, the youth voter turnout rate rose 10 percentage points from 21 percent in 2002 to 31 percent in 2006. Overall, Ohio ranked 13th (CO) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 33rd in 2002, and was six percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Ohio 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 Ohio, 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, ages 18 to 29 in Ohio an estimated 1.9 million young people 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 Ohio. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Ohio was up from 2006. College graduates increased their voter turnout rate more than any other group—up 15 percentage points.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

According to Election Pool, Exit Poll data, the plurality of young voters identified as Democrat, regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections. See Table 3.

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

	Ohio
Democrat	38 percent
Independent	23 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 – Ohio Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	576 thousand	3.8 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	31 percent	59 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	358 thousand	3.2 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	50 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	33 percent	22 percent
Black non-Hispanics	23 percent	20 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***

Gender		
Women	34 percent	23 percent
Men	29 percent	19 percent

Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	12 percent	9 percent
High School	25 percent	15 percent
Some College	37 percent	24 percent
BA or more	53 percent	38 percent

Marital Status		
Single Men	28 percent	18 percent
Single Women	32 percent	23 percent
Married Men	32 percent	24 percent
Married Women	40 percent	27 percent

Registered Voter	53 percent	43 percent
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All Youth, Ohio	31 percent	21 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.