



FACT SHEET



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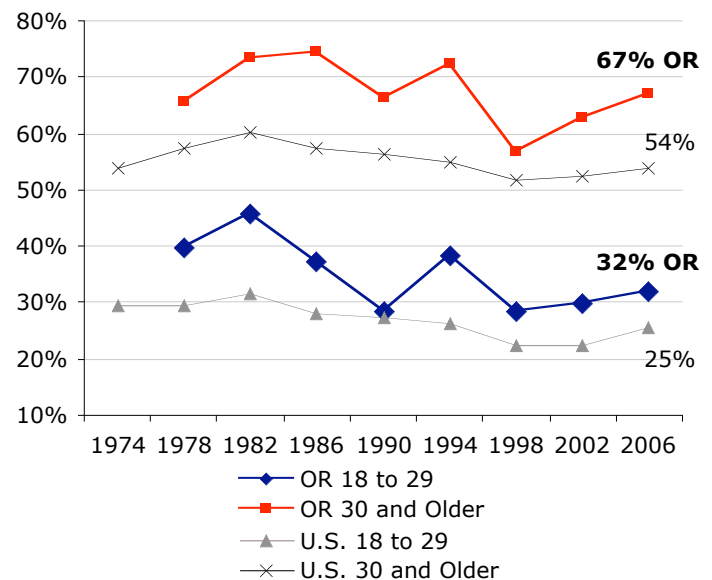
The Center for Information & Research on
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Oregon: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 Oregon, the youth voter turnout rate rose 2 percentage points from 30 percent in 2002 to 32 percent in 2006. Overall, Oregon ranked 9th (tied with ME, MO, and VA) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 8th in 2002, yet was seven percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Oregon 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 Oregon, 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, an estimated 517,000 young people in Oregon 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 Oregon. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Oregon was up from 2002. However, college graduates (down 12 points), single men (down 4 points), and single women (down 4 points) had lower voter turnout rates.

Table 1 – Oregon Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	174 thousand	1.4 million
Voter Turnout Rate	32 percent	67 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	160 thousand	1.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	30 percent	63 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	35 percent	33 percent
Men	28 percent	27 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	8 percent
High School	20 percent	20 percent
Some College	46 percent	36 percent
BA or more	40 percent	52 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	25 percent	29 percent
Single Women	31 percent	35 percent
Married Men	***	21 percent
Married Women	***	31 percent
Registered Voter	59 percent	54 percent
All Youth, Oregon	32 percent	30 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.