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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

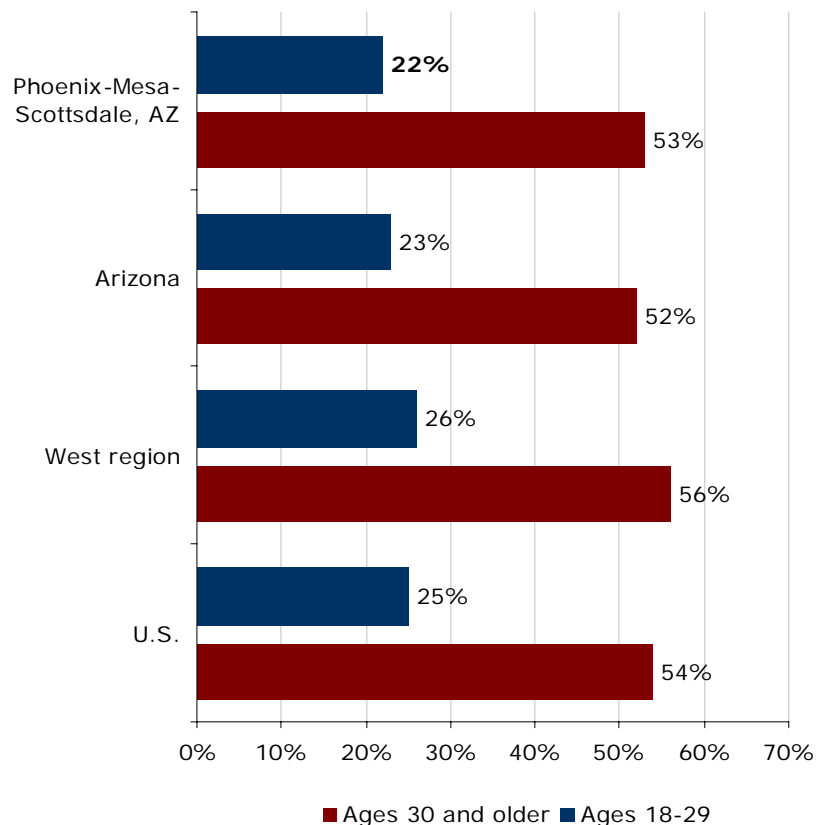
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points to 25 percent, the single largest increase among all age groups nationally.³

In the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale area, the voter turnout rate among young people was 22 percent, one percentage point below Arizona's state average and three points below the national average.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., and this gap was bigger (31 percentage points) at the more local level of Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



Source: Author's tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplement, 2006

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale area

White non-Hispanics, women, and individuals with some college experience were the only subgroups of young people to vote at higher rates than the metropolitan average. Overall, youth voter turnout in the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale area was very low. All subgroups of young people voted at lower rates than did their adult counterparts. See Table 1.

Table 1 –Voter Turnout Rates Among Citizens in Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale area, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Race/Ethnicity⁴		
White non-Hispanics	26 percent	58 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	28 percent
Latinos	18 percent	46 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	25 percent	52 percent
Men	19 percent	54 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	27 percent
High School	16 percent	42 percent
Some College	28 percent	57 percent
BA or more	***	67 percent
Marital Status		
Married	***	60 percent
Single	20 percent	38 percent
Registered Voter	50 percent	79 percent
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale	22 percent	53 percent
Arizona	23 percent	52 percent
National	25 percent	54 percent

Source: Author's Tabulations from the 2006 November Supplement of the Current Population Survey. '***' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

Notes

¹ Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ includes the counties of Maricopa and Pinal, as well as the principal cities of Phoenix, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe.

² I thank Mark Hugo Lopez for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet. All errors in fact or interpretation are my own.

³ 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. www.civicyouth.org

⁴ I 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.