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### Quick Facts about Young Voters in San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA<sup>1</sup>: The Midterm Election Year 2006

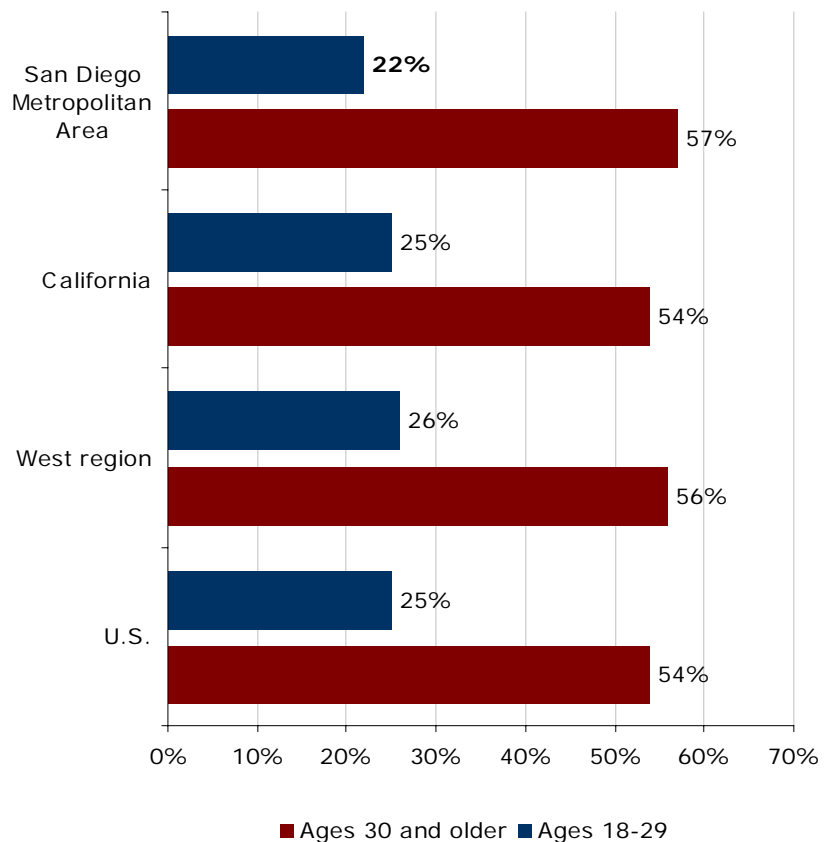
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA, the voter turnout rate among young people was 22 percent, three percentage points below California's state average and the national average.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., but this gap was larger (35 percentage points) at the more local level of San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

## Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA

No subgroups of young people turned out to vote at a rate of 40 percent or higher. Furthermore, white non-Hispanics and men were the only subgroups of young people to vote at lower rates than the metropolitan average. Young Latinos were 4 percentage points higher than their white non-Hispanic counterparts. Overall, youth voter turnout in San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA, 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 San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA, 2006**

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>4</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanics	21 percent	65 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	***
Latinos	25 percent	47 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	38 percent
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	22 percent	58 percent
Men	21 percent	56 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	***	44 percent
Some College	24 percent	61 percent
BA or more	***	66 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	***	59 percent
Single	24 percent	50 percent
Registered Voter	46 percent	83 percent
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	22 percent	57 percent
California	25 percent	54 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

<sup>1</sup> San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA, includes the county of San Diego, as well as the principal cities of San Diego, Carlsbad, San Marcos, and National City.

<sup>2</sup> I thank Mark Hugo Lopez and Peter Levine for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet. All errors in fact or interpretation are my own.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.civicyouth.org)

<sup>4</sup> 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.