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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

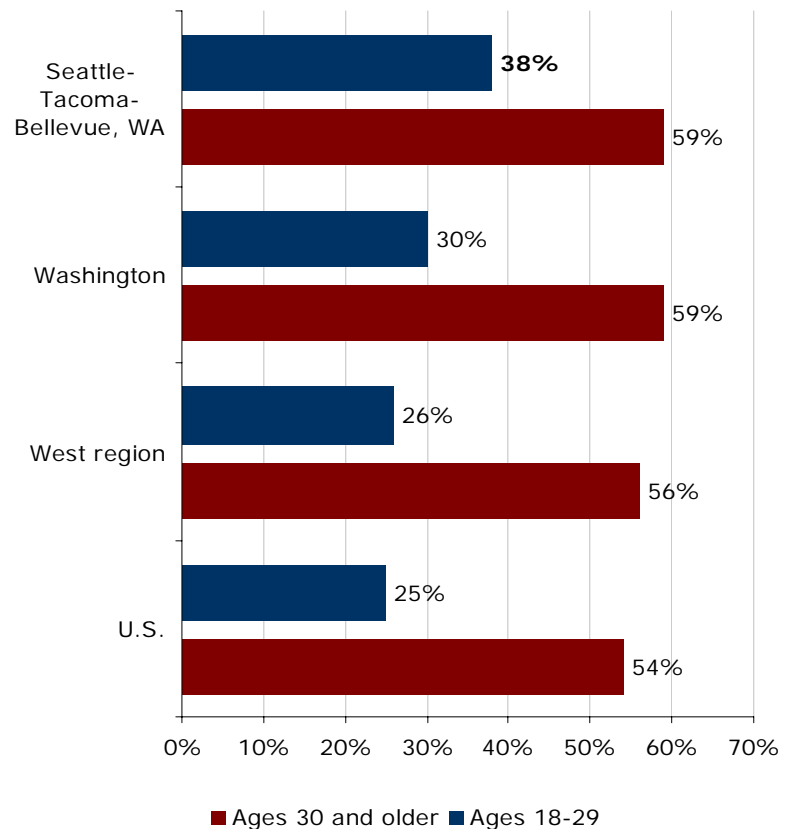
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA, the voter turnout rate among young people was 38 percent, eight percentage points above Washington's state average, and thirteen points above the national average. An estimated 183,000 young people in Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA, voted in the 2006 elections.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., and this gap was smaller (21 percentage points) at the more local level of Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA

Young college graduates (63 percent) voted at a rate of 60 percent or higher. 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 Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Gender		
Women	44 percent	58 percent
Men	31 percent	60 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	26 percent
High School	11 percent	50 percent
Some College	37 percent	53 percent
BA or more	63 percent	75 percent
Marital Status		
Married	***	64 percent
Single	39 percent	51 percent
Registered Voter	65 percent	80 percent
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	38 percent	59 percent
Washington	30 percent	59 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 Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA, includes the counties of King, Snohomish, and Pierce, as well as the principal cities of Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue, Everett, Kent, and Renton.

² 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.

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