



# FACT SHEET



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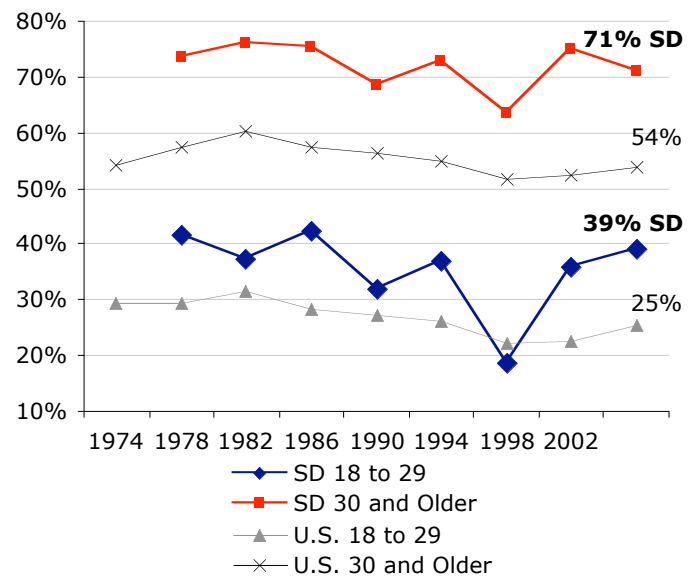
The Center for Information & Research on  
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## Quick Facts about Young Voters in South Dakota: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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>2</sup> Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in South Dakota, the youth voter turnout rate rose 3 percentage points from 36 percent in 2002 to 39 percent in 2006. Overall, South Dakota ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2002, yet was 14 percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

**Graph 1: South Dakota 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 South Dakota, 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, there were an estimated 127,000 young people in South Dakota who are 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 South Dakota. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in South Dakota was up slightly from 2002. College graduates boasted a 69 percent voter turnout rate—the highest in the table.

**Table 1 – South Dakota Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002**

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	53 thousand	305 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	39 percent	71 percent
Share of all Voters	15 percent	85 percent
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	45 thousand	308 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	36 percent	75 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	41 percent	40 percent
Men	37 percent	31 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	***	26 percent
High School	22 percent	33 percent
Some College	43 percent	41 percent
BA or more	69 percent	42 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	32 percent	28 percent
Single Women	32 percent	36 percent
Married Men	***	54 percent
Married Women	58 percent	56 percent
Registered Voter	61 percent	67 percent
All Youth, South Dakota	39 percent	36 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</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.