



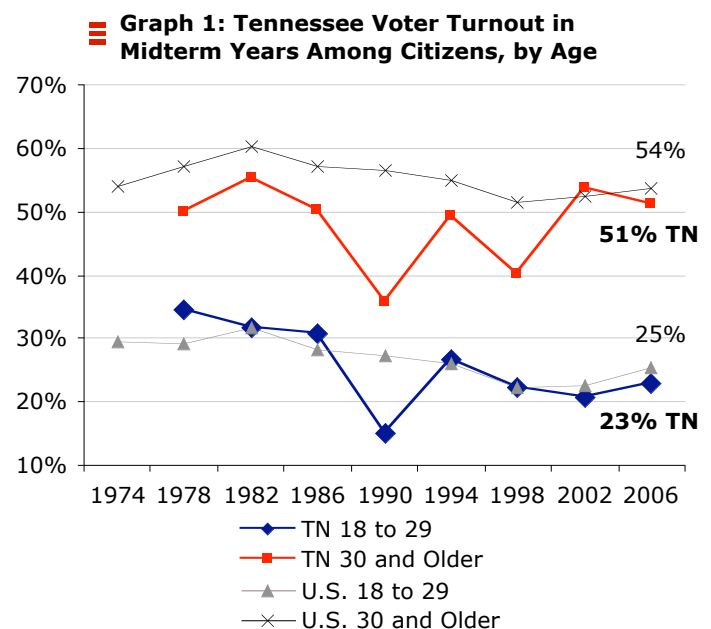
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Tennessee: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 Tennessee, the youth voter turnout rate rose 2 percentage points from 21 percent in 2002 to 23 percent in 2006. Overall, Tennessee ranked 34th (tied with AZ, IL, and IN) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 33rd in 2002, and was two percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.



Source: Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2006.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Tennessee, 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 692,000 young people in Tennessee 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 Tennessee. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Tennessee was up from 2002.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

According to Election Pool, Exit Poll data, the plurality of young voters identified as Republican, regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections.

Table 3 – Partisanship Among 18 to 29 year old Voters in 2006

	Tennessee
Democrat	34 percent
Independent	21 percent
Republican	37 percent
Something Else	***

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the National Election Pool, Exit Poll Survey, 2006. (***) – Sample size was too small to produce reliable estimates.

Table 1 – Tennessee Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	206 thousand	1.8 million
Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	51 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	186 thousand	1.7 million
Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	54 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	22 percent	20 percent
Black non-Hispanics	29 percent	27 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***

Gender		
Women	29 percent	24 percent
Men	17 percent	17 percent

Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	7 percent
High School	16 percent	13 percent
Some College	25 percent	21 percent
BA or more	***	61 percent

Marital Status		
Single Men	19 percent	16 percent
Single Women	33 percent	24 percent
Married Men	***	21 percent
Married Women	28 percent	25 percent

Registered Voter	49 percent	50 percent
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All Youth, Tennessee	23 percent	21 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.

³ We 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.