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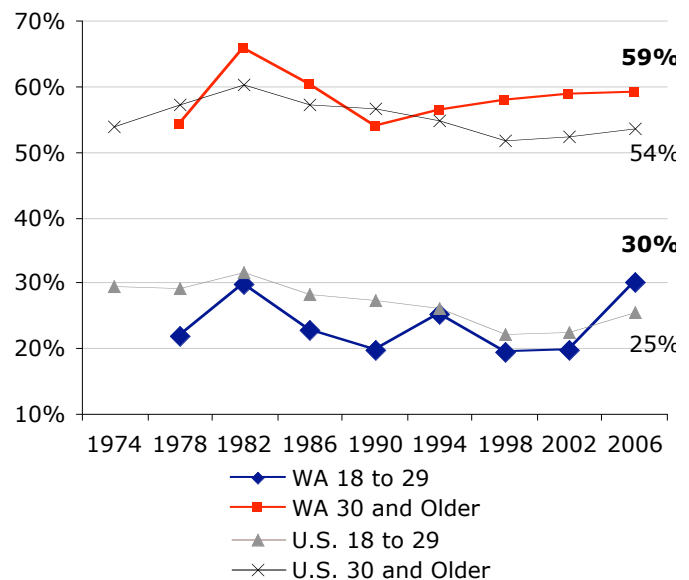
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Washington: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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, and impressively, youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 in Washington, increasing 10 percentage points from 20 percent in 2002 to 30 percent in 2006. Overall, Washington ranked 15th (tied with AK, ID, and ND) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 39th in 2002. Much of this surge in participation was likely due to high profile races.

Graph 1: Washington 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 Washington, 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 are an estimated 915,000 young people in Washington who were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.³

Table 1 – Washington Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 & 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	267 thousand	2.1 million
Voter Turnout Rate	30 percent	59 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	168 thousand	1.9 million
Voter Turnout Rate	20 percent	59 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, November Supplement 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 Washington. In 2006, voter turnout among all groups shown was up, or unchanged, over 2002. Impressively, 63 percent of all young people with a college degree, and 58 percent of all registered young people, voted in Washington's 2006 elections.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	35 percent	22 percent
Men	25 percent	18 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	12 percent
High School	11 percent	9 percent
Some College	27 percent	27 percent
BA or more	63 percent	36 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	26 percent	19 percent
Single Women	38 percent	19 percent
Married Men	***	16 percent
Married Women	30 percent	23 percent
Registered Voter	58 percent	42 percent
All Youth, Washington	30 percent	20 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

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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 For a full discussion of the different ways voter turnout can be calculated please see "CIRCLE Working Paper 35: The Youth Voter 2004: With a Historical Look at Youth Voting Patterns 1972-2004." All voter turnout estimates presented in this fact sheet are calculated for U.S. citizens only, and according to the "Census Citizen Method" described in CIRCLE Working Paper 35.