



FACT SHEET



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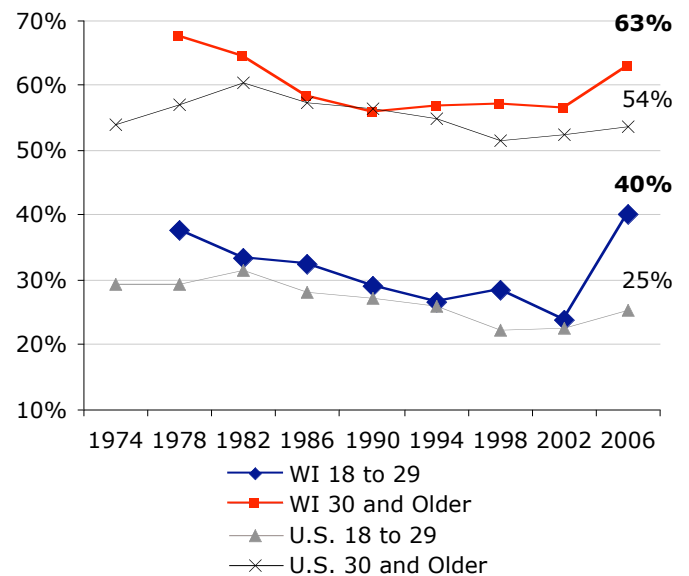
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Wisconsin: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 Wisconsin, increasing 16 percentage points from 24 percent in 2002 to 40 percent in 2006—the largest increase of any state. Overall, Wisconsin ranked 2nd among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 18th in 2002. Much of this surge in participation was likely due to high profile races.

Graph 1: Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin, 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 758,000 young people in Wisconsin who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.³

Table 1 – Wisconsin Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 & 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	370 thousand	2.0 million
Voter Turnout Rate	40 percent	63 percent
Share of all Voters	16 percent	84 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	176 thousand	1.8 million
Voter Turnout Rate	24 percent	56 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 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 Wisconsin. In 2006, voter turnout among all groups shown was up over 2002. Impressively, 74 percent of all registered young people voted in Wisconsin's 2006 elections.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	39 percent	24 percent
Men	41 percent	24 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	13 percent
High School	25 percent	18 percent
Some College	48 percent	25 percent
BA or more	61 percent	44 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	40 percent	21 percent
Single Women	38 percent	20 percent
Married Men	47 percent	30 percent
Married Women	44 percent	39 percent
Registered Voter	74 percent	52 percent
All Youth, Wisconsin	40 percent	24 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.