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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

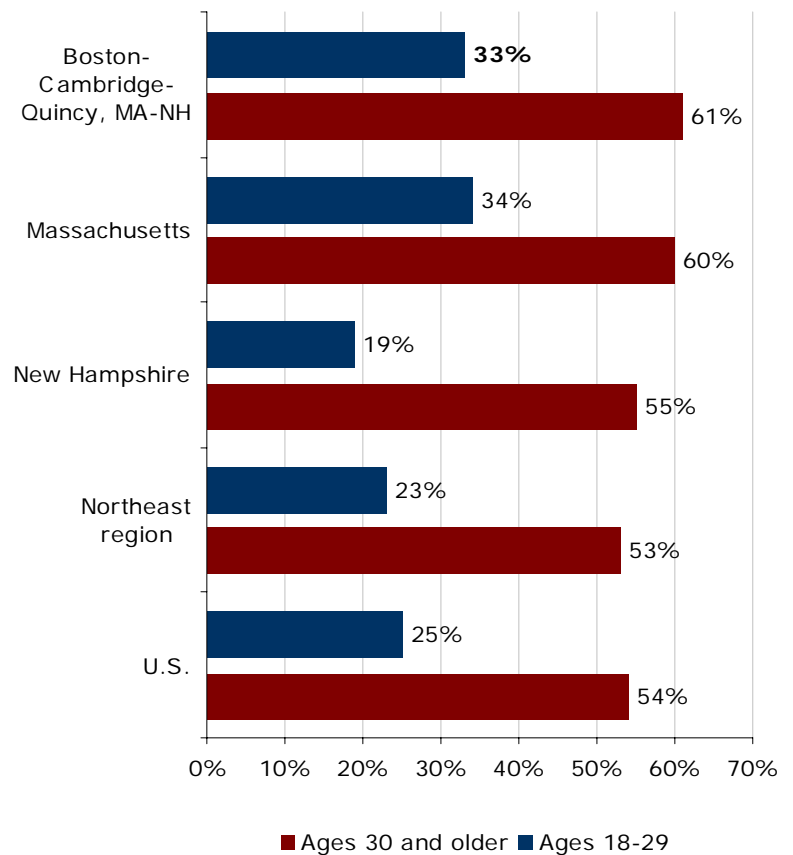
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH, the voter turnout rate among young people was 33 percent, one percentage point below Massachusetts' state average, but eight points above the national average. An estimated 189,000 young people from Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH, 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 slightly smaller (28 percentage points) at the more local level of Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH

Women, high school graduates, and single people were the only subgroups of young people to vote at lower rates than the metropolitan average. Young men voted at a higher rate than did young women (2 percentage points). 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 Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Gender		
Women	32 percent	62 percent
Men	34 percent	59 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	53 percent
High School	8 percent	48 percent
Some College	41 percent	57 percent
BA or more	43 percent	70 percent
Marital Status		
Married	***	63 percent
Single	31 percent	50 percent
Registered Voter	64 percent	78 percent
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	33 percent	61 percent
Massachusetts	34 percent	60 percent
New Hampshire	19 percent	55 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 Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH, includes the counties of Bristol (part), Essex (part), Middlesex (part), Norfolk (part), Plymouth (part), Suffolk (part), and Worcester (part), as well as the principal cities of Boston, Cambridge, Quincy, Nashua (NH), Newton, Framingham, Waltham, and Peabody.

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