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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

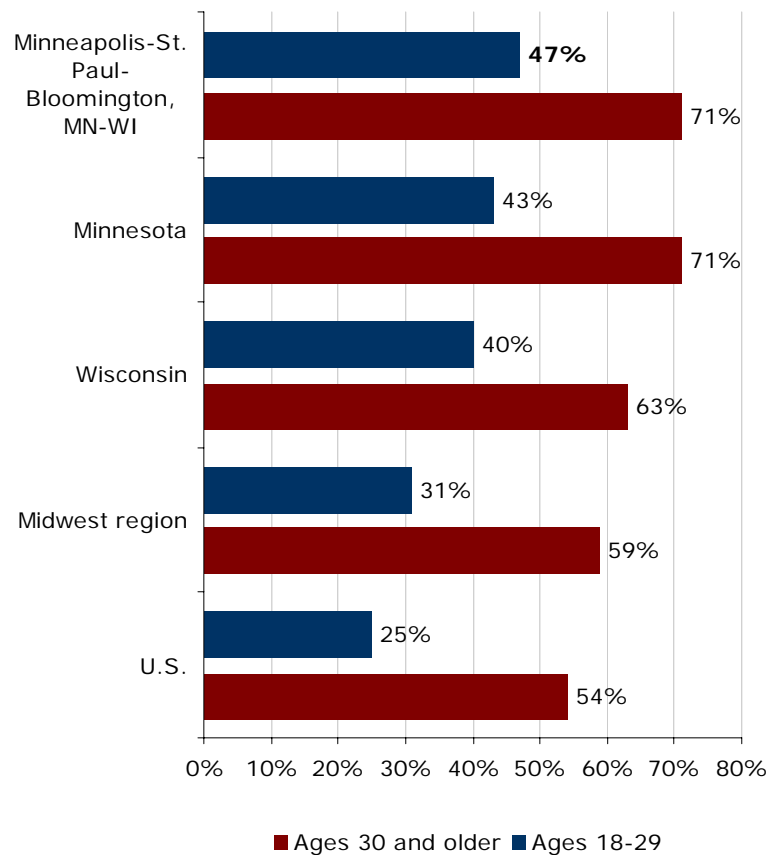
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, the voter turnout rate among young people was 47 percent, four percentage points above Minnesota's state average, and twenty-two points above the national average. An estimated 201,000 young people from Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, 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 smaller (24 percentage points) at the more local level of Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI

Overall, youth turnout in Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, was very high. Young college graduates voted at an extraordinary rate of 68 percent. 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 Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Gender		
Women	42 percent	69 percent
Men	54 percent	72 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	30 percent
High School	21 percent	60 percent
Some College	47 percent	70 percent
BA or more	68 percent	82 percent
Marital Status		
Married	56 percent	76 percent
Single	45 percent	57 percent
Registered Voter	72 percent	86 percent
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	47 percent	71 percent
Minnesota	43 percent	71 percent
Wisconsin	40 percent	63 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 Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, include the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, Wright, Pierce (WI), and St Croix (WI), as well as the principal cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bloomington, Plymouth, Eagan, Eden Prairie, and Minnetonka.

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