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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

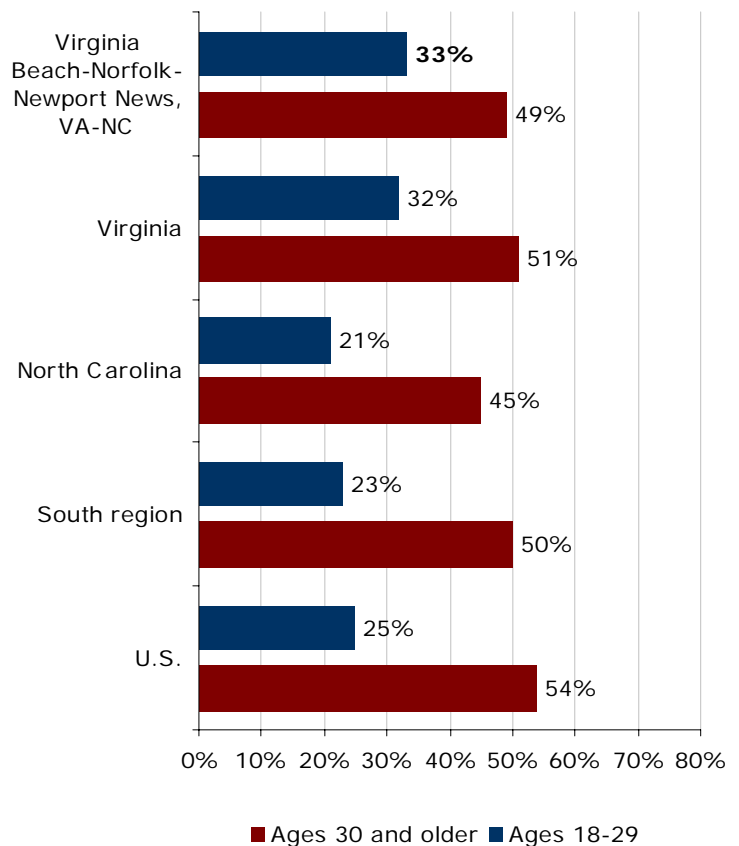
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC, the voter turnout rate among young people was 33 percent, one percentage point above Virginia's state average and eight points above the national average.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., but this gap was significantly smaller (16 percentage points) at the more local level of Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Notes

¹ Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC, includes the counties of Currituck (NC), Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Mathews, Surry, and York, as well as the principal cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Newport News, Hampton, and Portsmouth.

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