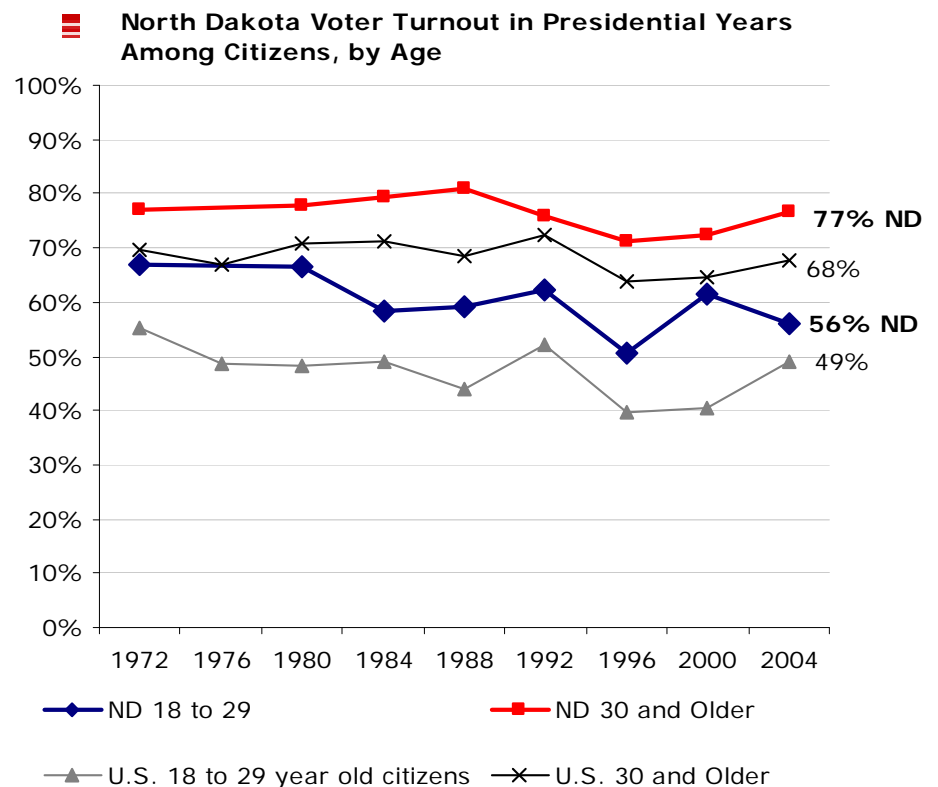


Quick Facts about Young Voters in North Dakota: The Presidential Election Year 2008

By Karlo Barrios Marcelo and Emily Hoban Kirby¹
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This year's general election follows a primary season in which more than 6.5 million young people under the age of 30 participated. In the 2004 Presidential election, turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds in North Dakota ranked 10th among all states and the District of Columbia in 2004, and was down five percentage points over 2000.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of North Dakota, including estimates of the number of young voters and the voter turnout rates in 2004 and 2000 for various sub-groups of young people.



Source: Author's tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November (Voting) Supplements, 1972-2004. No 1976 data for ND.

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2008

In 2008, a Presidential election year, there are an estimated 106 thousand young people in North Dakota who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2004 and 2000.² North Dakota's youth voter turnout rate was in the top fifth of all states in 2004, but it had the highest turnout rate among youth in 2000 among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.³

Table 1 – State Voter Turnout Statistics, 2008, 2004, and 2000

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2008		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2008	106 thousand	354 thousand
2004		
Number of Votes Cast	59 thousand	271 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	56 percent	76 percent
Share of all Voters	18 percent	82 percent
2000		
Number of Votes Cast	52 thousand	261 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	61 percent	73 percent
Share of all Voters	17 percent	83 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, March Supplement 2008 and November Supplement 2004 and 2000.

Voter Turnout Rates in 2004 and 2000 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2004 and 2000 in North Dakota. 2004 was a year of high voter turnout for all youth groups in North Dakota relative to 2000. Relative to the nation as a whole in 2004, youth in North Dakota were more electorally engaged.

Table 2 – State Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2004 and 2000

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2004	2000
National Youth Rate	49 percent	40 percent
ND Youth Rate	56 percent	61 percent
ND Registered Voter	65 percent	69 percent
Race/Ethnicity⁴		
White non-Hispanic	57 percent	63 percent
Black non-Hispanic	***	***
Hispanics	***	***
Asian non-Hispanic	***	***
Native American non-Hispanic	***	***
Gender		
Women	54 percent	63 percent
Men	57 percent	60 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	43 percent	40 percent
Some College	60 percent	66 percent
BA or more	***	***
College Experience		
No experience	40 percent	43 percent
At least some experience	64 percent	72 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	56 percent	55 percent
Single Women	45 percent	59 percent
Married Men	***	***
Married Women	***	***

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2004 and 2000 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey. '***' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

Notes

¹ We thank Mark Hugo Lopez for his 2006 fact sheet series on which this fact sheet is based. We also thank Peter Levine, Abby Kiesa, and Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

² 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.

³ For state-by-state comparisons of voter turnout rates, see the CIRCLE fact sheet "Youth Voter Turnout in the States during the 2004 Presidential and the 2002 Midterm Elections."

⁴ We have defined racial/ethnic groups in the CPS November Supplements by defining anyone with Hispanic background as Latino; individuals who cite a single non-Hispanic race or ethnicity are identified as non-Hispanic white, African American, Asian American or Native American.