

## Quick Facts about Young Voters in New York: The Presidential Election Year 2008

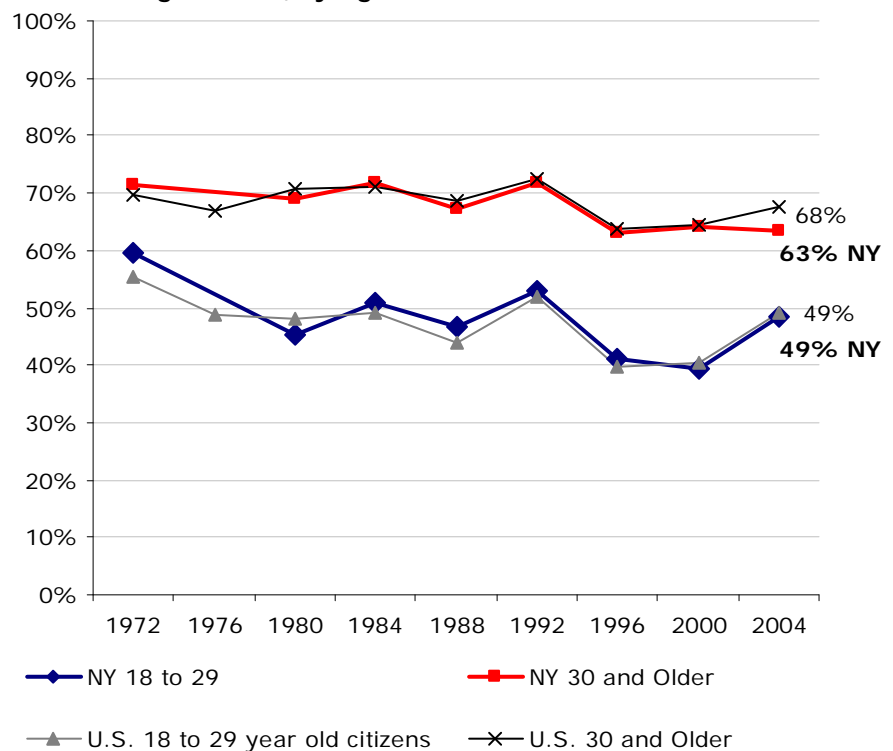
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October 2008

This year's general election follows a primary season in which more than 6.5 million young people under the age of 30 participated. At least 12 percent of New York citizens under the age of 30 participated in the state's primaries.

In 2004, turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds in New York ranked 31<sup>st</sup> among all states and the District of Columbia in 2004, and was up nine percentage points over 2000. Whether the voter mobilization momentum of 2008 primary season—which nationally witnessed an eight percentage point increase in youth voter turnout from nine percent in 2000 to 17 percent in 2008—continues into the general election remains unpredictable.

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

**Figure 1: New York Voter Turnout in Presidential Years Among Citizens, by Age**



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

**Table 1: Summary of Young Voters in the New York Primary, 2008 and 2000  
Youth Turnout, Vote Count, and Vote Share**

	<u>Turnout Rate</u>	<u>Number of youth who voted</u>	<u>Youth as Share of All Voters</u>
2008	12 percent	311,833	13 percent
2000	12 percent	282,238	9 percent

**Young Voters by Party**

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2000</u>
Democratic	Number of Primary Participants	257,719	87,702
	Share of Primary Participants	15 percent	9 percent
Republican	Number of Primary Participants	54,114	194,537
	Share of Primary Participants	9 percent	9 percent

**Youth Vote Choice by Party**

	<u>Democratic Choice</u>		<u>Republican Choice</u>
Clinton	43 percent	Huckabee	15 percent
Edwards	1 percent	McCain	43 percent
Obama	56 percent	Paul	11 percent
		Romeny	21 percent

**Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2008**

In 2008, a Presidential election year, there are an estimated 2.8 million young people in New York who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 2 shows voting statistics for the years 2004 and 2000.<sup>2</sup> New York's youth voter turnout rate was near the middle of all states in 2004, but it had the 36<sup>th</sup> highest turnout rate among youth in 2000 among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 2 – New York Voter Turnout Statistics, 2008, 2004, and 2000**

	<u>Young People 18 to 29</u>	<u>Adults 30 and Older</u>
<b>2008</b>		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2008	2.8 million	9.9 million
<b>2004</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	1.3 million	6.4 million
Voter Turnout Rate	49 percent	63 percent
Share of all Voters	17 percent	83 percent
<b>2000</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	944 thousand	6.0 million
Voter Turnout Rate	39 percent	64 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent

Source: Author's 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 3 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2004 and 2000 in New York. 2004 was a year of high voter turnout for most youth groups in New York relative to 2000.

**Table 3 – New York Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2004 and 2000**

<b>Voter Turnout Rate Among:</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2000</b>
National Youth Rate	49 percent	40 percent
NY Youth Rate	49 percent	39 percent
NY Registered Voter	86 percent	74 percent
<b><i>Race/Ethnicity<sup>4</sup></i></b>		
White non-Hispanic	54 percent	41 percent
Black non-Hispanic	42 percent	41 percent
Hispanics	35 percent	34 percent
Asian non-Hispanic	***	***
Native American non-Hispanic	***	***
<b><i>Gender</i></b>		
Women	52 percent	41 percent
Men	45 percent	37 percent
<b><i>Educational Attainment</i></b>		
Less than High School	20 percent	23 percent
High School	37 percent	29 percent
Some College	57 percent	42 percent
BA or more	62 percent	57 percent
<b><i>College Experience</i></b>		
No experience	31 percent	27 percent
At least some experience	59 percent	47 percent
<b><i>Marital Status</i></b>		
Single Men	46 percent	34 percent
Single Women	53 percent	40 percent
Married Men	42 percent	58 percent
Married Women	49 percent	45 percent

Source: Author's 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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."

<sup>4</sup> 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.