

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

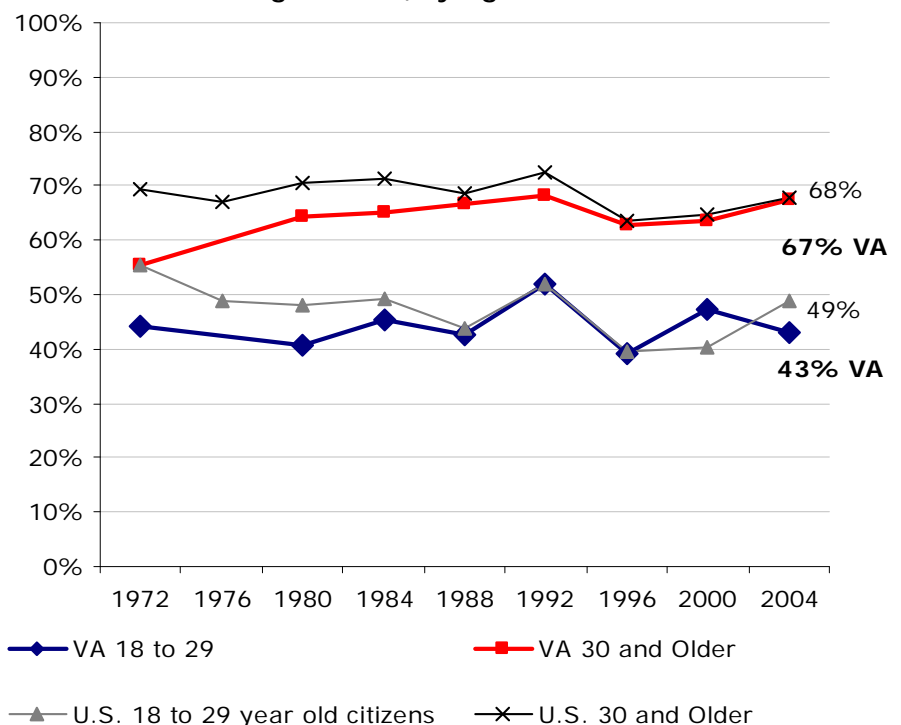
By Karlo Barrios Marcelo and Emily Hoban Kirby¹
October 2008

This year's general election follows a primary season in which more than 6.5 million young people under the age of 30 participated.

In 2004, turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds in Virginia ranked 44th among all states and the District of Columbia in 2004, and was down four percentage points from 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 Virginia, 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: Virginia 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 VA.

**Table 1: Summary of Young Voters in the Virginia 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	16 percent	187,682	13 percent
2000	***	***	***

Young Voters by Party

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2000</u>
Democratic	Number of Primary Participants	134,968	***
	Share of Primary Participants	14 percent	***
Republican	Number of Primary Participants	52,714	66,409
	Share of Primary Participants	11 percent	10 percent

Youth Vote Choice by Party

	<u>Democratic Choice</u>	<u>Republican Choice</u>
Clinton	24 percent	Huckabee 45 percent
Obama	76 percent	McCain 39 percent
		Paul 14 percent
		Romney 2 percent

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2008

In 2008, a Presidential election year, there are an estimated 1.1 million young people in Virginia who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 2 shows voting statistics for the years 2004 and 2000.² Virginia's youth voter turnout rate was in bottom of all states in 2004, but it had the tenth highest turnout rate among youth in 2000 among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.³

Table 2 – Virginia Voter Turnout Statistics, 2008, 2004, and 2000

	<u>Young People 18 to 29</u>	<u>Adults 30 and Older</u>
2008		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2008	1.1 million	4.2 million
2004		
Number of Votes Cast	385 thousand	2.7 million
Voter Turnout Rate	43 percent	68 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent
2000		
Number of Votes Cast	450 thousand	2.5 million
Voter Turnout Rate	47 percent	63 percent
Share of all Voters	15 percent	85 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 3 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2004 and 2000 in Virginia. Virginia is one of the few states that saw a decline in youth voting between 2000 and 2004.

Table 3 – Virginia 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
VA Youth Rate	43 percent	47 percent
VA Registered Voter	82 percent	79 percent
<i>Race/Ethnicity⁴</i>		
White NH	47 percent	48 percent
Black NH	30 percent	***
Hispanics	***	***
Asian NH	***	***
Native American NH	***	***
<i>Gender</i>		
Women	49 percent	52 percent
Men	36 percent	42 percent
<i>Educational Attainment</i>		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	23 percent	33 percent
Some College	57 percent	48 percent
BA or more	69 percent	75 percent
<i>College Experience</i>		
No experience	19 percent	28 percent
At least some experience	61 percent	60 percent
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single Men	36 percent	37 percent
Single Women	45 percent	52 percent
Married Men	***	***
Married Women	58 percent	***

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 Election and 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.