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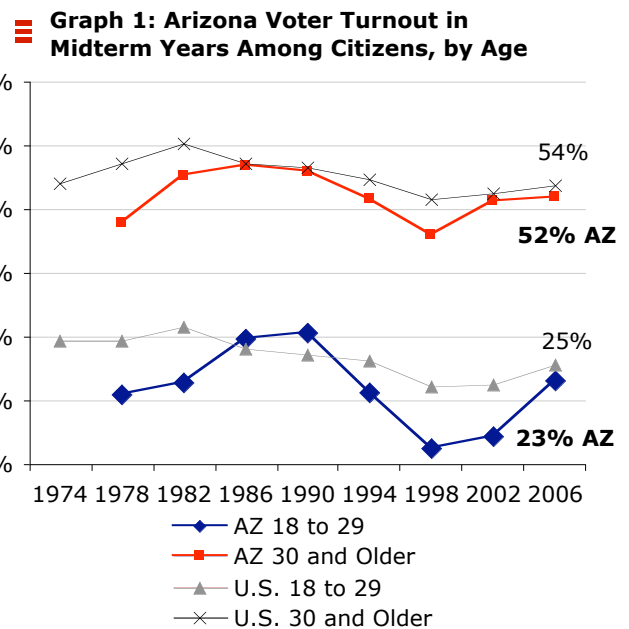
The Center for Information & Research on
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Arizona: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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.² Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Arizona, the youth voter turnout rate increased 9 percentage points from 14 percent in 2002 to 23 percent in 2006. Overall, Arizona ranked 34th (tied with IL, IN, and TN) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 51st in 2002, yet was two percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Arizona, including estimates of the number of young voters, and voter turnout rates in 2006 and 2002 for various sub-groups of young people.



Source: Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2006.

Estimates of Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, young people in Arizona cast 175,000 votes. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.

Voter Turnout Rates in 2006 and 2002 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2006 and 2002 in Arizona. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Arizona was very low, with turnout rates among young Latinos of 13 percent in 2006 for example. However, Latinos did increase their voter turnout, up 4 percentage points from 2002.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

The plurality of young voters identified as Democrat in the midterm 2006 elections. See Table 3.

Table 3 – Partisanship Among 18 to 29 year old Voters in 2006

	Arizona
Democrat	38 percent
Independent	27 percent
Republican	30 percent
Something Else	***

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the National Election Pool, Exit Poll Survey, 2006. (***) – Sample size was too small to produce reliable estimates.

Table 1 – Arizona Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	175 thousand	1.6 million
Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	104 thousand	1.3 million
Voter Turnout Rate	14 percent	51 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, November Supplement 2006 and 2002

Table 2 – Arizona Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2006 and 2002

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	29 percent	16 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	***
Latinos	13 percent	9 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***

Gender		
Women	27 percent	13 percent
Men	18 percent	15 percent

Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	5 percent	***
High School	14 percent	13 percent
Some College	30 percent	17 percent
BA or more	***	30 percent

Marital Status		
Single Men	16 percent	15 percent
Single Women	19 percent	11 percent
Married Men	***	17 percent
Married Women	***	18 percent

Registered Voter	51 percent	44 percent
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All Youth, Arizona	23 percent	14 percent
All Youth, National	25 percent	22 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2006 and 2002 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey. '***' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

Notes

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² 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.

³ We have defined racial/ethnic groups in the Current Population Survey 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.