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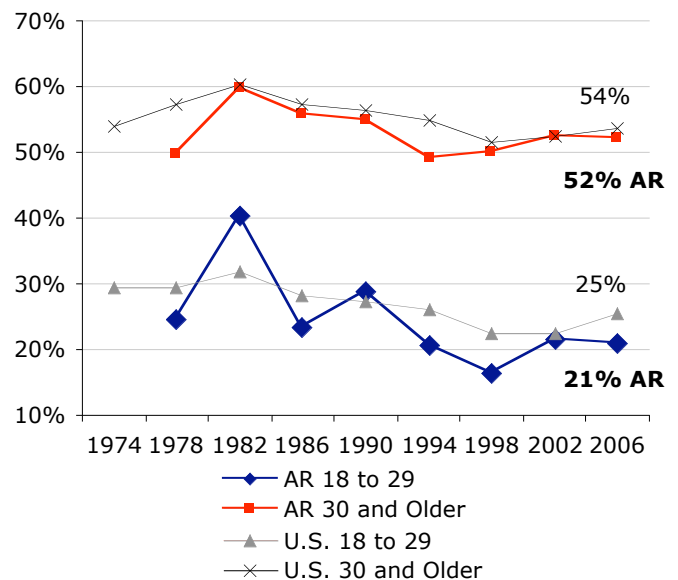
Quick Facts about Young Voters in Arkansas: The Midterm Election Year 2006

By Mark Hugo Lopez, Karlo Barrios Marcelo, and Jared Sagoff¹
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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 However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Arkansas, the youth voter turnout rate remained unchanged from 2002 to 2006 (21 percent). Overall, Arkansas ranked 40th (tied with HI and NC) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 33rd in 2002, and was four percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

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

Graph 1: Arkansas Voter Turnout in Midterm Years Among Citizens, by Age



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

Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, young people in Arkansas who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections cast 88 thousand 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 Arkansas. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Arkansas was very low. Only among young people with a BA or more was the voter turnout rate at 40 percent or more. Also, young men saw an increase in voter participation between 2002 and 2006, while young women saw a decline in their voter turnout rate over the same period.

Table 1 – Arkansas Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	88 thousand	823 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	83 thousand	803 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	25 percent	24 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	17 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	24 percent	28 percent
Men	19 percent	15 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	9 percent	10 percent
Some College	28 percent	35 percent
BA or more	49 percent	51 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	17 percent	18 percent
Single Women	18 percent	23 percent
Married Men	***	13 percent
Married Women	***	37 percent
Registered Voter	44 percent	48 percent
All Youth, Arkansas	21 percent	21 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.