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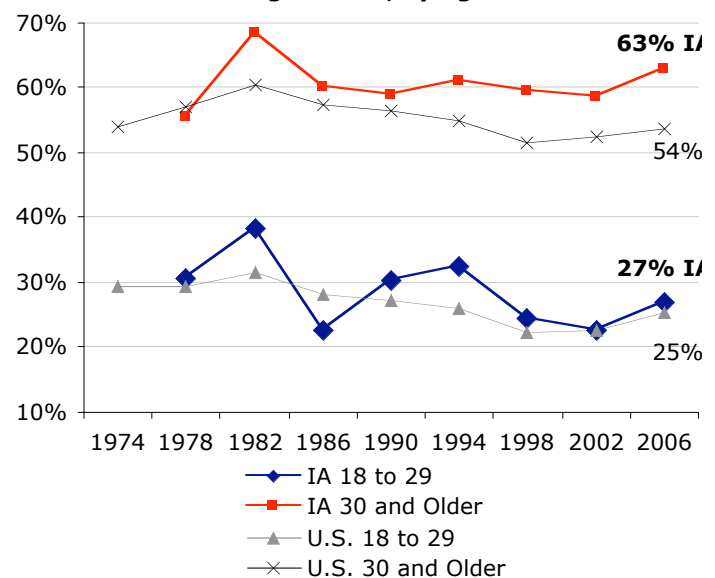
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Iowa: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 Iowa, the youth voter turnout rate rose 4 percentage points from 23 percent in 2002 to 27 percent in 2006. Overall, Iowa ranked 22nd (tied with NE) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 23rd in 2002, and was two percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

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



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

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

Youth Turnout Statistics, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 480,000 young people in Iowa were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. 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 Iowa. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Iowa was low. Yet, some groups increased their voter turnout rates from 2002 to 2006: young women (8 points) and those with some college experience (4 points).

Table 1 – Iowa Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	129 thousand	1.0 million
Voter Turnout Rate	27 percent	63 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	104 thousand	934 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	59 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	30 percent	22 percent
Men	24 percent	23 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	12 percent
High School	17 percent	16 percent
Some College	29 percent	25 percent
BA or more	39 percent	45 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	22 percent	21 percent
Single Women	30 percent	22 percent
Married Men	30 percent	31 percent
Married Women	35 percent	27 percent
Registered Voter	44 percent	45 percent
All Youth	27 percent	23 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.