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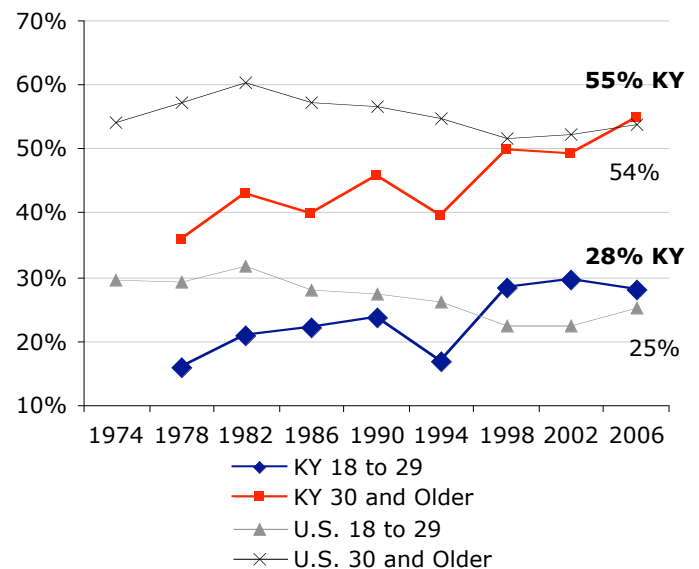
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Kentucky: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Kentucky, the youth voter turnout rate fell 2 percentage points from 30 percent in 2002 to 28 percent in 2006. Overall, Kentucky ranked 21st among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 8th in 2002, yet was three percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Kentucky 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 Kentucky, 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 Estimates, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 635,000 young people in Kentucky 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 Kentucky. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Kentucky was low, and down from 2002. Both young men and women voted at lower rates than in 2002.

Table 1 – Kentucky Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	181 thousand	1.3 million
Voter Turnout Rate	28 percent	55 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	164 thousand	1.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	30 percent	49 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	25 percent	27 percent
Men	31 percent	32 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	18 percent
High School	20 percent	21 percent
Some College	32 percent	38 percent
BA or more	***	47 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	27 percent	24 percent
Single Women	27 percent	23 percent
Married Men	***	69 percent
Married Women	26 percent	43 percent
Registered Voter	47 percent	55 percent
All Youth	28 percent	30 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

¹ We thank Peter Levine, Emily Kirby, Abby Kiesa, and Deborah Both for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

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.