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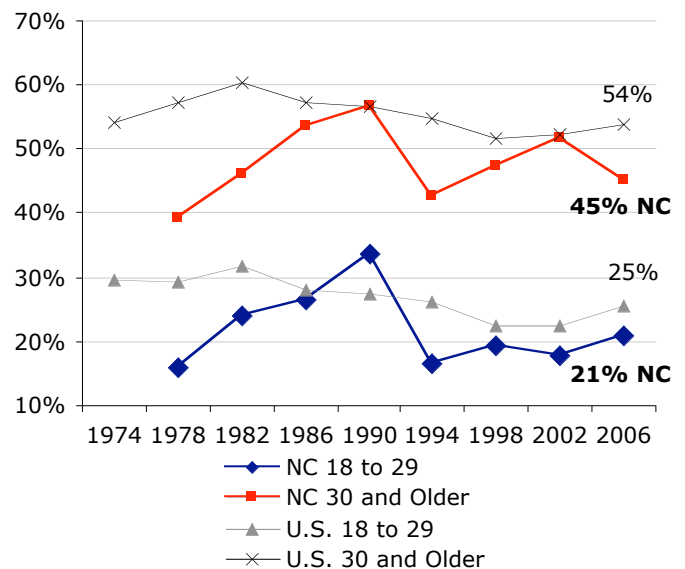
The Center for Information & Research on
Civic Learning & Engagement

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

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Updated June 2007

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 North Carolina, the youth voter turnout rate rose 3 percentage points from 18 percent in 2002 to 21 percent in 2006. Overall, North Carolina ranked 40th (tied with AR and HI) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 44th in 2002, yet was four percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: North Carolina 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 North Carolina, 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 1.2 million young people in North Carolina 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, Ages 18-29

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people ages 18 to 29 in 2006 and 2002 in North Carolina. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in North Carolina was up slightly over 2002. White non-Hispanics (up 7 points), individuals with some college experience (up 6 points), and single men (6 points) were some of the groups to make gains over their 2002 levels.

Table 1 – North Carolina Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	260 thousand	2.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	45 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	198 thousand	2.3 million
Voter Turnout Rate	18 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	24 percent	17 percent
Black non-Hispanics	18 percent	22 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	21 percent	18 percent
Men	21 percent	17 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	13 percent	1 percent
High School	16 percent	16 percent
Some College	25 percent	19 percent
BA or more	29 percent	32 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	22 percent	16 percent
Single Women	19 percent	20 percent
Married Men	***	20 percent
Married Women	***	17 percent
Registered Voter	41 percent	42 percent
All Youth, North Carolina	21 percent	18 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 Research Director, Research Associate, and Research Assistant, respectively. We also 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.

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.