



FACT SHEET

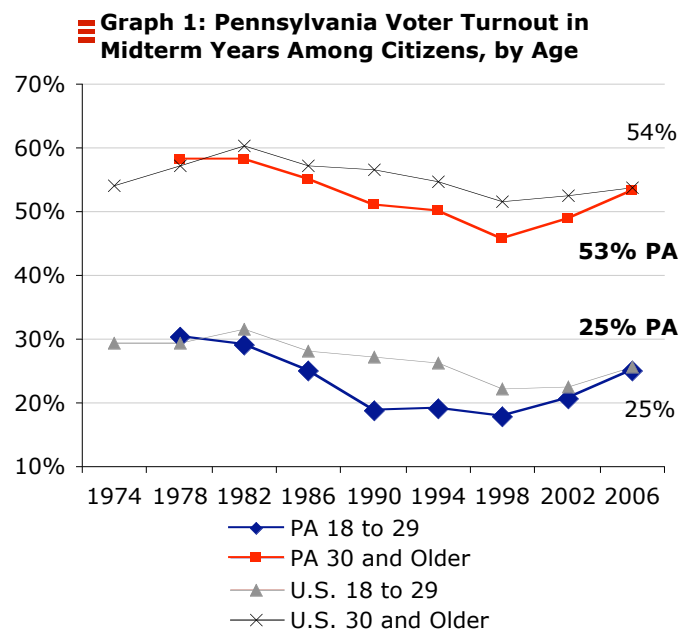
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Pennsylvania: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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 Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Pennsylvania, the youth voter turnout rate rose 4 percentage points from 21 percent in 2002 to 25 percent in 2006. Overall, Pennsylvania ranked 30th (tied with NM and OK) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 33rd in 2002.



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

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Pennsylvania, 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 1.9 million young people in Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Pennsylvania was up over 2002.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

According to Election Pool, Exit Poll data, the plurality of young voters identified as Democrat, regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections.

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

| | Pennsylvania |
|----------------|--------------|
| Democrat | 47 percent |
| Independent | 23 percent |
| Republican | 25 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 – Pennsylvania Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

| | Young People 18 to 29 | Adults 30 and Older |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 2006 | | |
| Number of Votes Cast | 455 thousand | 3.9 million |
| Voter Turnout Rate | 25 percent | 53 percent |
| Share of all Voters | 10 percent | 90 percent |
| 2002 | | |
| Number of Votes Cast | 364 thousand | 3.4 million |
| Voter Turnout Rate | 21 percent | 49 percent |
| Share of all Voters | 10 percent | 90 percent |

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

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

| Voter Turnout Rate Among: | 2006 | 2002 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Race/Ethnicity³ | | |
| White non-Hispanics | 26 percent | 20 percent |
| Black non-Hispanics | 18 percent | 26 percent |
| Latinos | *** | 22 percent |
| Asian non-Hispanics | *** | *** |
| Native American non-Hispanics | *** | *** |
| Gender | | |
| Women | 25 percent | 19 percent |
| Men | 25 percent | 22 percent |
| Educational Attainment | | |
| Less than High School | 11 percent | 9 percent |
| High School | 15 percent | 15 percent |
| Some College | 22 percent | 21 percent |
| BA or more | 49 percent | 45 percent |
| Marital Status | | |
| Single Men | 21 percent | 22 percent |
| Single Women | 21 percent | 16 percent |
| Married Men | 38 percent | 27 percent |
| Married Women | 41 percent | 33 percent |
| Registered Voter | 50 percent | 46 percent |
| All Youth, Pennsylvania | 25 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

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.