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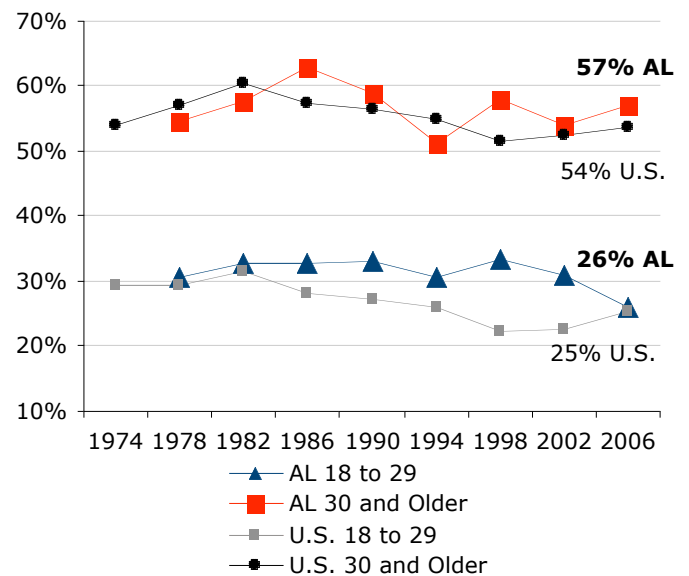
Quick Facts about Young Voters in Alabama: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 Alabama, the youth voter turnout rate fell 5 percentage points from 31 percent in 2002 to 26 percent in 2006. Overall, Alabama ranked 24th among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 6th in 2002, yet was one percentage point higher than the nation as a whole.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Alabama, 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: Alabama Voter Turnout in Midterm Years Among Citizens, by Age



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

Voter Turnout Statistics of Young Voters, 2006

Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002. In 2006, a midterm election year, there were an estimated 200,000 votes cast by young people ages 18 to 29. This was down slightly from 2002.

Voter Turnout Rates in 2006 and 2002 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people ages 18 to 29 in 2006 and 2002 in Alabama. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Alabama was down slightly from 2002. African-Americans turned out to vote at a higher rate than their white counterparts (34 percent versus 23 percent). Thirty percent of young men voted, compared to only 22 percent of women. Overall, youth voter turnout in Alabama was lower in 2006 than in 2002, but relative to the nation as a whole, youth in Alabama were slightly more engaged electorally.

Table 1 – Alabama Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	200 thousand	1.5 million
Voter Turnout Rate	26 percent	57 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	214 thousand	1.4 million
Voter Turnout Rate	31 percent	54 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	23 percent	35 percent
Black non-Hispanics	34 percent	25 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	22 percent	33 percent
Men	30 percent	29 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	12 percent
High School	24 percent	27 percent
Some College	27 percent	37 percent
BA or more	***	46 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	31 percent	24 percent
Single Women	24 percent	32 percent
Married Men	***	38 percent
Married Women	***	39 percent
Registered Voter	42 percent	52 percent
All Youth, Alabama	26 percent	31 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.