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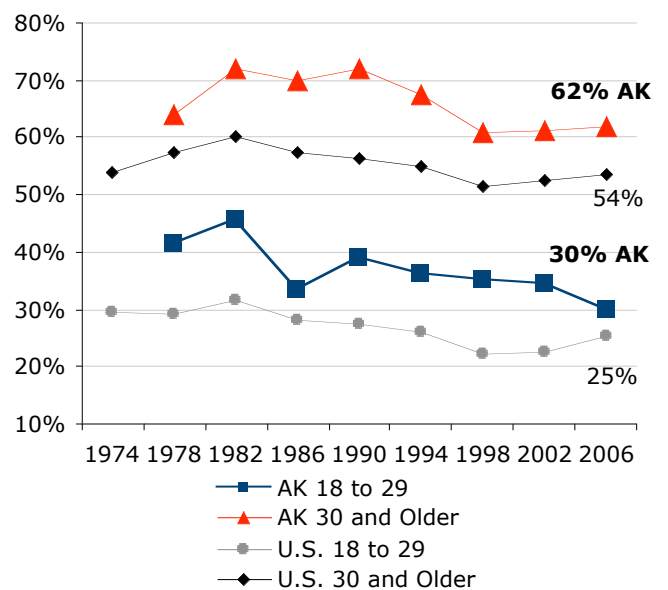
Quick Facts about Young Voters in Alaska: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Alaska, the youth voter turnout rate fell 4 percentage points from 34 percent in 2002 to 30 percent in 2006. Overall, Alaska ranked 15th (tied with ID, ND, and WA) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 3rd in 2002, yet was five percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

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



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

Alaska Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 107,000 young people in Alaska were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002, the last midterm election year.

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 Alaska. In 2006, compared to 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Alaska was low, though compared to national voter turnout rates among the same groups, Alaskan youth are more likely to vote. Also in 2006 and 2002, relative to the nation as a whole, youth in Alaska were among the most engaged electorally.

Table 1 – Alaska Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	29 thousand	218 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	30 percent	62 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	32 thousand	195 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	34 percent	61 percent
Share of all Voters	14 percent	86 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	34 percent	36 percent
Men	26 percent	34 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	18 percent
High School	27 percent	30 percent
Some College	22 percent	42 percent
BA or more	***	47 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	24 percent	25 percent
Single Women	37 percent	28 percent
Married Men	***	52 percent
Married Women	34 percent	43 percent
Registered Voter	51 percent	61 percent
All Youth, Alaska	30 percent	34 percent
All Youth, National	25 percent	22 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2006 and 2002 November Supplements to Current Population Survey. '***' indicates a sample size is too small to produce reliable estimate.

Notes

¹ Research Director, Research Associate, and Research Assistant, respectively. We thank Peter Levine, Emily Kirby, Abby Kiesa, and Deborah Both for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet. We also thank Rafael Nieto for research assistance.

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.