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Quick Facts about Young Voters in The San Francisco Bay Area, CA¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

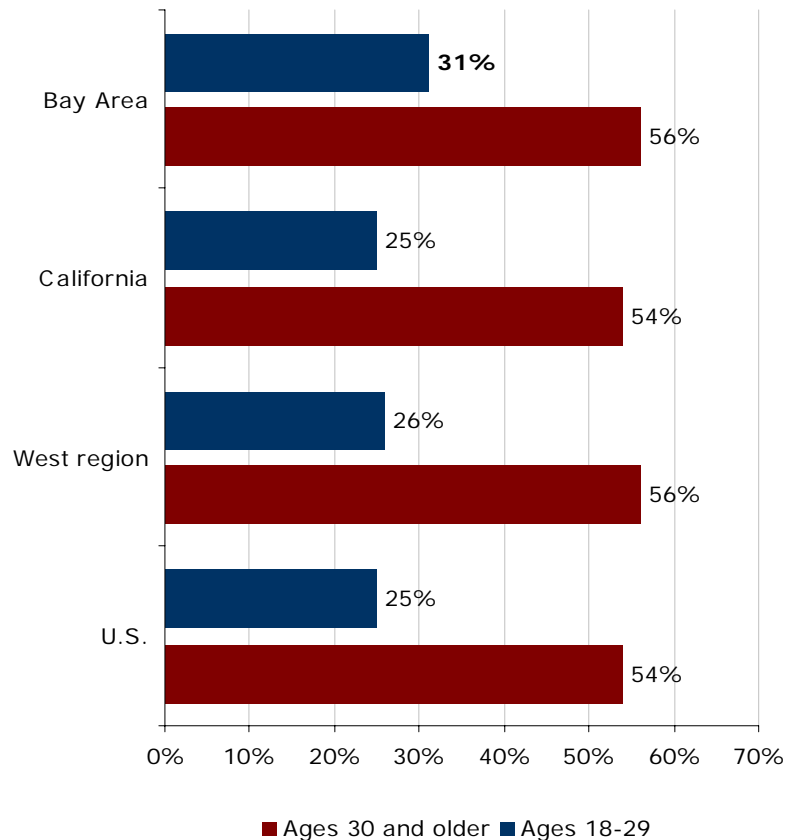
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points to 25 percent, the single largest increase among all age groups nationally.³

In San Francisco Bay Area, CA, the voter turnout rate among young people was 31 percent, six percentage points above California's state average and the national average. An estimated 230,000 young people in the San Francisco Bay Area, CA, voted in the 2006 elections.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., but this gap was smaller (25 percentage points) at the more local level of San Francisco Bay Area, CA.

■ Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



Source: Author's tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplement, 2006

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in San Francisco Bay Area, CA

No subgroups of young people turned out to vote at a rate of 40 percent or higher. Yet, all subgroups of young people voted at a higher rate than the state average. All subgroups of young people voted at lower rates than did their adult counterparts. See Table 1.

Table 1 –Voter Turnout Rates Among Citizens in San Francisco Bay Area, CA, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Race/Ethnicity⁴		
White non-Hispanics	39 percent	65 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	50 percent
Latinos	27 percent	48 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	34 percent	40 percent
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	35 percent	54 percent
Men	27 percent	57 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	39 percent
High School	***	46 percent
Some College	36 percent	54 percent
BA or more	38 percent	65 percent
Marital Status		
Married	***	58 percent
Single	32 percent	49 percent
Registered Voter	69 percent	84 percent
San Francisco Bay Area, CA	31 percent	56 percent
California	25 percent	54 percent
National	25 percent	54 percent

Source: Author's Tabulations from the 2006 November Supplement of the Current Population Survey. *** indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

Notes

¹ I define the San Francisco Bay Area, CA as the counties of San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, San Benito, and Santa Clara, as well as the principal cities of San Francisco, Oakland, Fremont, Hayward, Berkeley, San Mateo, San Leandro, Redwood City, Pleasanton, Walnut Creek, South San Francisco, San Rafael, San Jose, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Mountain View, Milpitas, Palo Alto, and Cupertino.

² I thank Mark Hugo Lopez and Peter Levine for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet. All errors in fact or interpretation are my own.

³ 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. www.civicyouth.org

⁴ I 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.