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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

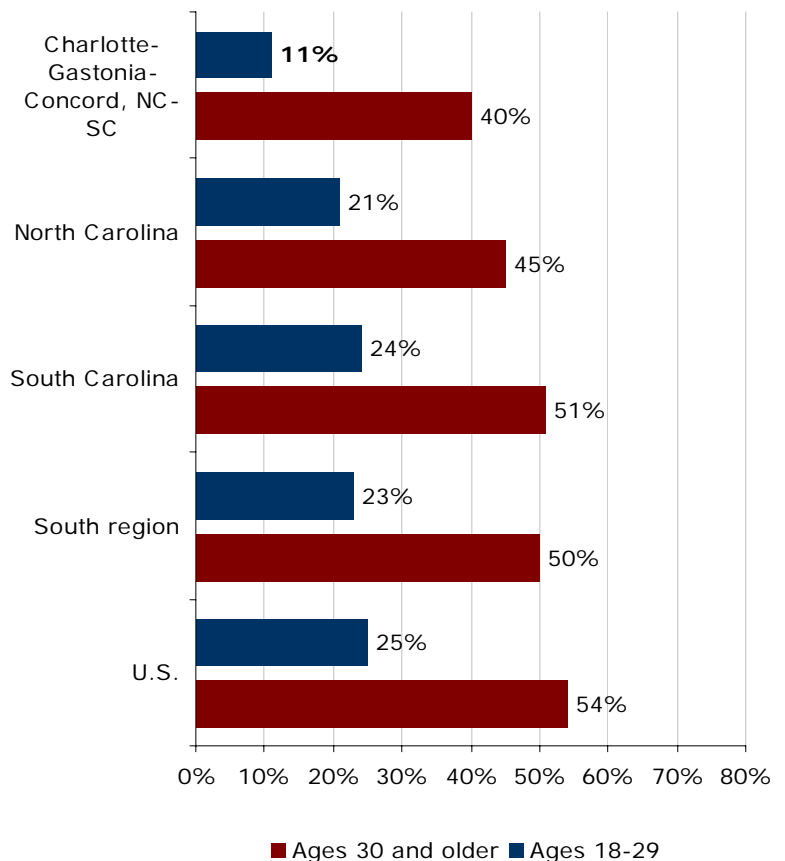
By Karlo Barrios Marcelo, Research Associate²
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points to 25 percent, the single largest increase among all age groups nationally.³

In Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC, the voter turnout rate among young people was 11 percent, ten percentage points below North Carolina's state average and fourteen points below the national average.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., and this gap was the same (29 percentage points) at the more local level of Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Notes

¹ Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC, includes the counties of Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Union, and York (SC), as well as the principal cities of Charlotte, Gastonia, Concord, and Rock Hill (SC).

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