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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

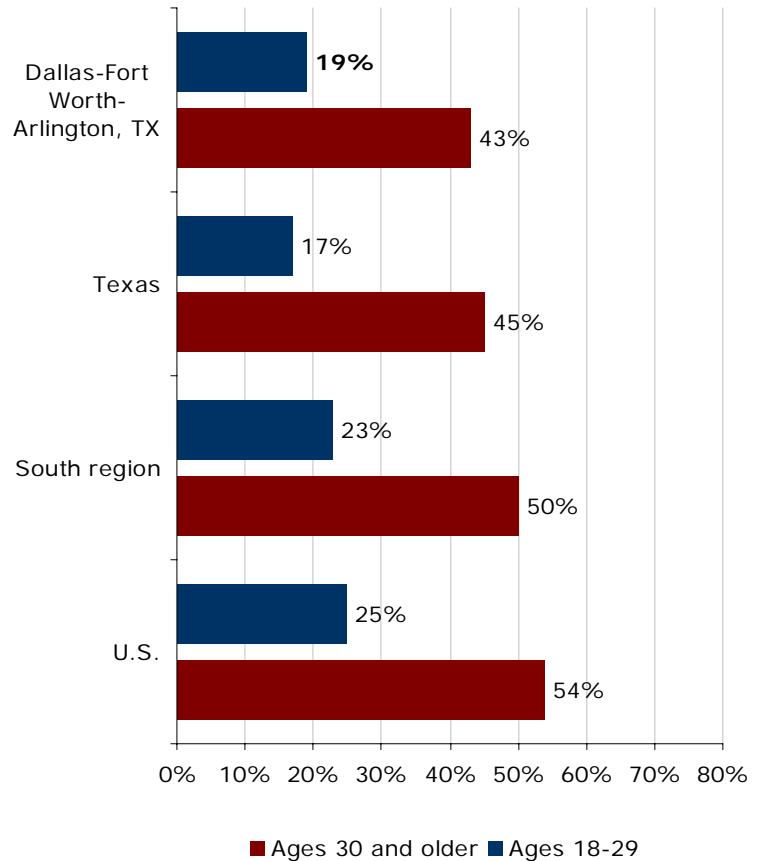
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington, TX, the voter turnout rate among young people was 19 percent, two percentage points above Texas' state average, but six 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 smaller (24 percentage points) at the more local level of Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington, TX.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington, TX

No subgroups of young people had a turnout rate higher than 40 percent. Overall, youth turnout among all subgroups was very low. 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 Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington, TX, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>⁴		
White non-Hispanics	20 percent	48 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	39 percent
Latinos	19 percent	23 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***†	***
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
<i>Gender</i>		
Women	22 percent	44 percent
Men	16 percent	42 percent
<i>Educational Attainment</i>		
Less than High School	***	20 percent
High School	10 percent	37 percent
Some College	28 percent	42 percent
BA or more	26 percent	56 percent
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Married	23 percent	46 percent
Single	15 percent	29 percent
Registered Voter	37 percent	64 percent
Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington, TX	19 percent	43 percent
Texas	17 percent	45 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 Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington, TX, includes the counties of Collin, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Eillis, Hunt, Kaufman, Rockwall, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise, as well as the principal cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Plano, Irving, Carrollton, Denton, Richardson, and McKinney.

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.