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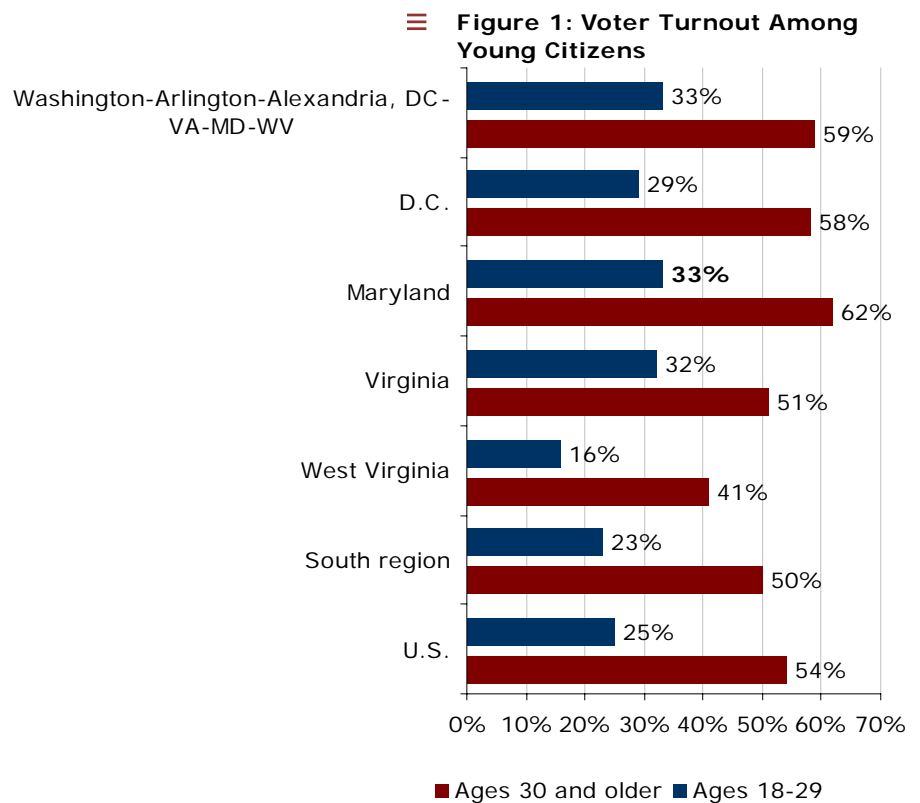
Quick Facts about Young Voters in Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV, the voter turnout rate among young people was 33 percent, four percentage points above D.C.'s average, and eight points below the national average. An estimated 206,000 young people from Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV, voted in the 2006 elections.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., and this gap was smaller (26 percentage points) at the more local level of Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV.



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV

White non-Hispanics, college graduates, and married people were the only subgroups of young people that had a turnout rate of 40 percent or higher. 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 Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>⁴		
White non-Hispanics	40 percent	63 percent
Black non-Hispanics	20 percent	58 percent
Latinos	***	53 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	32 percent
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
<i>Gender</i>		
Women	32 percent	59 percent
Men	33 percent	59 percent
<i>Educational Attainment</i>		
Less than High School	15 percent	27 percent
High School	24 percent	45 percent
Some College	36 percent	60 percent
BA or more	41 percent	71 percent
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Married	50 percent	63 percent
Single	29 percent	49 percent
Registered Voter	57 percent	80 percent
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	33 percent	59 percent
District of Columbia	29 percent	58 percent
Maryland	33 percent	62 percent
Virginia	32 percent	51 percent
West Virginia	16 percent	41 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 Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV, includes the counties of Frederick (MD), Montgomery (MD), Calvert (MD), Charles (MD), Prince George's (MD), Arlington (VA), Clarke (VA), Fairfax (VA), Fauquier (VA), Loudoun (VA), Prince William (VA), Spotsylvania (VA), Stafford (VA), Warren (VA), and Jefferson (WV), as well as the principal cities of Washington, DC, Arlington (VA), Alexandria (VA), Reston (VA), Bethesda (MD), Gaithersburg (MD), Frederick, MD, and Rockville (MD).

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.