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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Denver-Aurora, CO¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

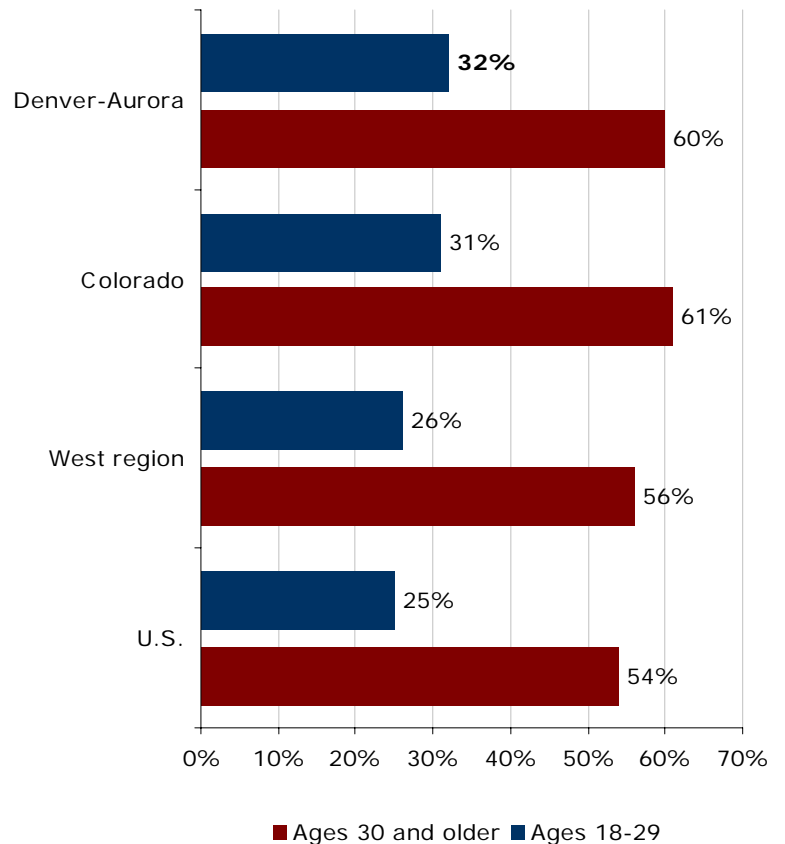
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Denver-Aurora, CO, the voter turnout rate among young people was 32 percent, one percentage point above Colorado's state average, and seven percentage points above the national average. An estimated 108,000 young people from Denver-Aurora, CO, 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 (28 percentage points) at the more local level of Denver-Aurora, CO.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Denver-Aurora, CO

College graduates (49 percent) was the only subgroups among young people that voted at a 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 Denver-Aurora, CO, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Gender		
Women	35 percent	62 percent
Men	28 percent	58 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	28 percent
High School	17 percent	51 percent
Some College	34 percent	58 percent
BA or more	49 percent	70 percent
Marital Status		
Married	38 percent	64 percent
Single	31 percent	56 percent
Registered Voter	53 percent	79 percent
Denver-Aurora	32 percent	60 percent
Colorado	31 percent	61 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 Denver-Aurora, CO, includes the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park, as well as the principal cities of Denver and Aurora.

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