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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

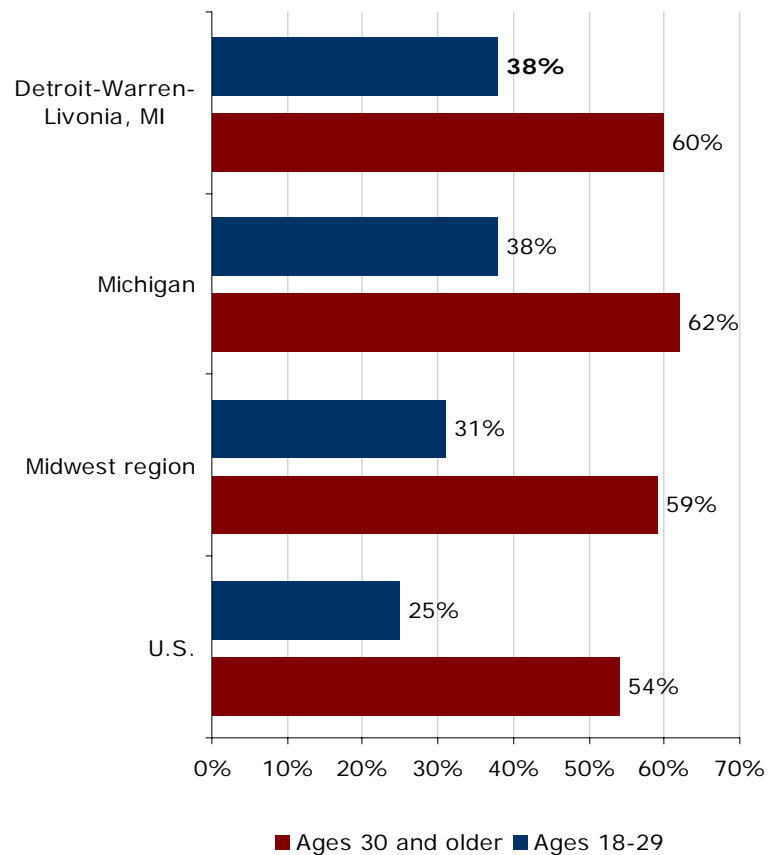
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI, the voter turnout rate among young people was 38 percent, on par with Michigan's state average, but thirteen points above the national average. An estimated 222,000 young people from Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI, 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 (22 percentage points) at the more local level of Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI

Men, high school graduates, and single people were the only subgroups of young people to vote at lower rates than the metropolitan average. A few subgroups of young people voted at a rate of 40 percent or higher (women and individuals with at least some college experience). 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 Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Gender		
Women	40 percent	60 percent
Men	36 percent	59 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	45 percent
High School	25 percent	53 percent
Some College	44 percent	61 percent
BA or more	64 percent	71 percent
Marital Status		
Married	***	64 percent
Single	36 percent	54 percent
Registered Voter	64 percent	81 percent
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	38 percent	60 percent
Michigan	38 percent	62 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 Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI, includes the counties of Wayne, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair, as well as the principal cities of Detroit, Warren, Livonia, Dearborn, Troy, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Pontiac, Taylor, and Novi.

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