



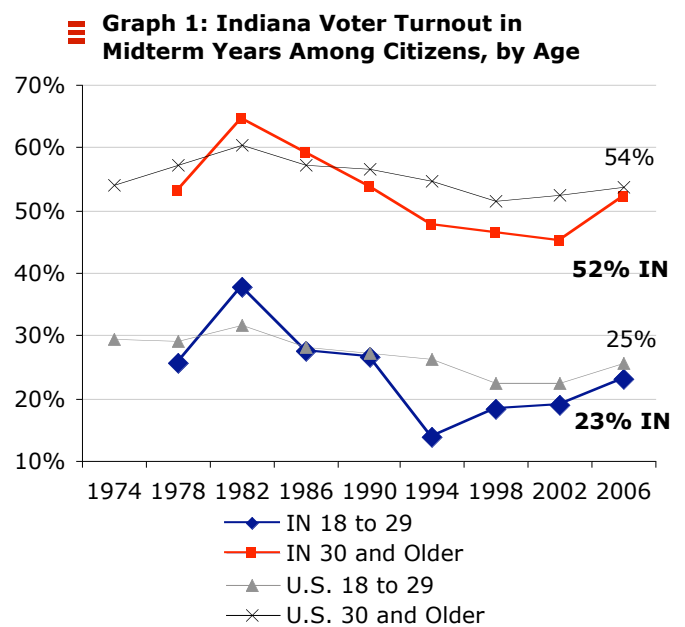
CIRCLE

The Center for Information & Research on
Civic Learning & Engagement

Quick Facts about Young Voters in Indiana: The Midterm Election Year 2006

By Mark Hugo Lopez, Karlo Barrios Marcelo, and Jared Sagoff¹
Updated June 2007

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.² Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Indiana, the youth voter turnout rate rose 4 percentage points from 19 percent in 2002 to 23 percent in 2006. Overall, Indiana ranked 34th (tied with AZ, IL, and TN) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 43rd in 2002, yet was two percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.



Source: Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2006.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Indiana, including estimates of the number of young voters, and voter turnout rates in 2006 and 2002 for various sub-groups of young people.

Youth Turnout Estimates, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 915,000 young people in Indiana were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.

Voter Turnout Rates in 2006 and 2002 Among Eligible Young Citizens, Ages 18 to 29

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2006 and 2002 in Indiana. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Indiana was very low. Only among young people with a BA or more was the voter turnout rate at 40 percent or more.

Table 1 – Indiana Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	229 thousand	1.8 million
Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	151 thousand	1.6 million
Voter Turnout Rate	19 percent	45 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, November Supplement 2006 and 2002.

Table 2 – Indiana Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2006 and 2002

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	23 percent	19 percent
Men	23 percent	18 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	15 percent	6 percent
High School	13 percent	16 percent
Some College	26 percent	20 percent
BA or more	41 percent	42 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	20 percent	15 percent
Single Women	14 percent	18 percent
Married Men	***	24 percent
Married Women	35 percent	18 percent
Registered Voter	47 percent	47 percent
All Youth, Indiana	23 percent	19 percent
All Youth, National	25 percent	22 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2006 and 2002 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey. '***' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

Notes

¹ Research Director, Research Associate, and Research Assistant, respectively. We also thank Peter Levine, Emily Kirby, Abby Kiesa, and Deborah Both for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

² 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.