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

By Mark Hugo Lopez, Karlo Barrios Marcelo, and Jared Sagoff
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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. However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Kentucky, the youth voter turnout rate fell 2 percentage points from 30 percent in 2002 to 28 percent in 2006. Overall, Kentucky ranked 21st among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 8th in 2002, yet was three percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Kentucky, 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 635,000 young people in Kentucky 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

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2006 and 2002 in Kentucky. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Kentucky was low, and down from 2002. Both young men and women voted at lower rates than in 2002.

Notes

1 We 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.