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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

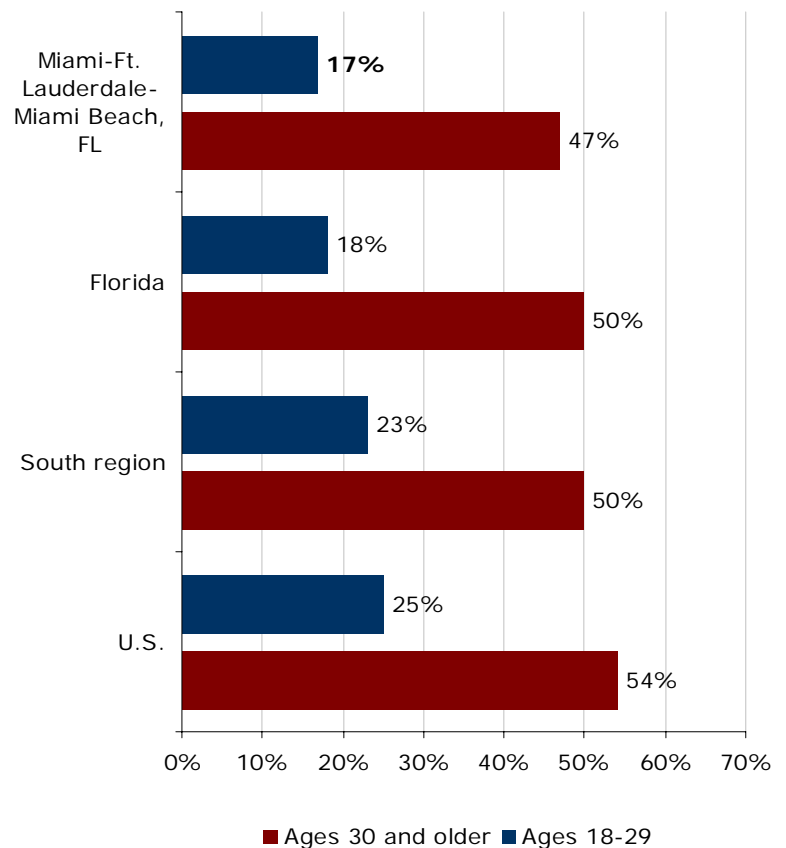
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Miami metropolitan area, the voter turnout rate among young people was 17 percent, one percentage point below Florida's state average and eight percentage points below the national average.

There was a 29 percentage point gap between young people and adults in the U.S., but this gap was bigger (30 percentage points) at the more local level of Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL

Overall, voter turnout in the Miami metropolitan area was very low. Latinos, men, and high school and college graduates were the only subgroups of young people to vote at lower rates than the metropolitan average. 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 Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL, 2006

| Voter Turnout Rate Among: | Young People (Ages 18-29) | Adults (Ages 30 and older) |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Race/Ethnicity</i>⁴ | | |
| White non-Hispanics | 19 percent | 53 percent |
| Black non-Hispanics | 22 percent | 49 percent |
| Latinos | 11 percent | 37 percent |
| Asian non-Hispanics | *** | *** |
| Native Americans non-Hispanics | *** | *** |
| <i>Gender</i> | | |
| Women | 22 percent | 45 percent |
| Men | 13 percent | 49 percent |
| <i>Educational Attainment</i> | | |
| Less than High School | *** | 28 percent |
| High School | 14 percent | 40 percent |
| Some College | 25 percent | 51 percent |
| BA or more | 16 percent | 56 percent |
| <i>Marital Status</i> | | |
| Married | *** | 50 percent |
| Single | 17 percent | 42 percent |
| Registered Voter | 43 percent | 69 percent |
| Miami Metropolitan Area | 17 percent | 47 percent |
| Florida | 18 percent | 50 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 Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL, includes the counties of Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach, as well as the principal cities of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, West Palm Beach, Miami Beach, Kendall, Boca Raton, Deerfield Beach, Boynton Beach, and Delray Beach.

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.