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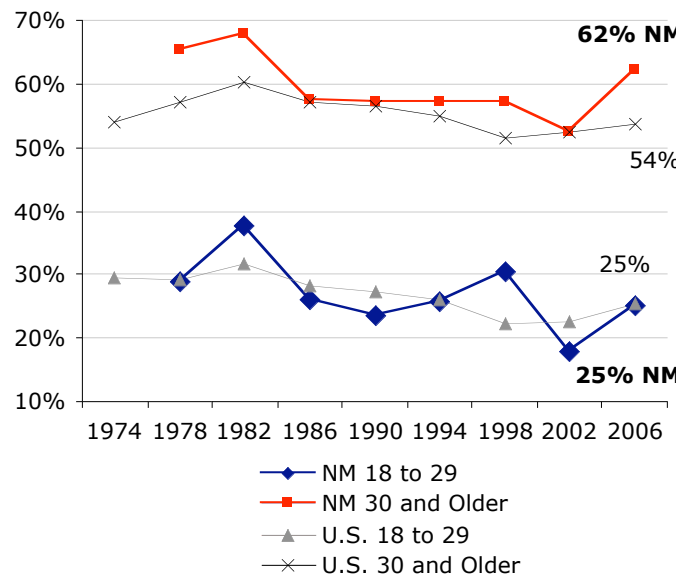
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in New Mexico: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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.² Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in New Mexico, the youth voter turnout rate rose 7 percentage points from 18 percent in 2002 to 25 percent in 2006. Overall, New Mexico ranked 30th (tied with OK and PA) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 44th in 2002.

Graph 1: New Mexico Voter Turnout in Midterm Years Among Citizens, by Age



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

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of New Mexico, 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 277,000 young people in New Mexico were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.

Table 1 – New Mexico Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	70 thousand	660 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	25 percent	62 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	48 thousand	496 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	18 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent

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

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

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people ages 18 to 29 in 2006 and 2002 in New Mexico. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in New Mexico was up from 2002. Women and Latinos increased their voter turnout rates by substantial amounts, 14 and 9 points, respectively.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	26 percent	22 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	***
Latinos	25 percent	16 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	12 percent
Gender		
Women	29 percent	15 percent
Men	22 percent	21 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	9 percent
High School	24 percent	15 percent
Some College	27 percent	23 percent
BA or more	***	32 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	20 percent	19 percent
Single Women	30 percent	15 percent
Married Men	***	29 percent
Married Women	***	14 percent
Registered Voter	51 percent	49 percent

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

The plurality of young voters identified as Democrat, regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections.

Table 3 – Partisanship Among 18 to 29 year old Voters in 2006

	New Mexico
Democrat	42 percent
Independent	***
Republican	33 percent
Something Else	***

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the National Election Pool, Exit Poll Survey, 2006. (***) – Sample size was too small to produce reliable estimates.

All Youth, New Mexico	25 percent	18 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.

³ We 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.