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## Quick Facts about Young Voters in New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA<sup>1</sup>: The Midterm Election Year 2006

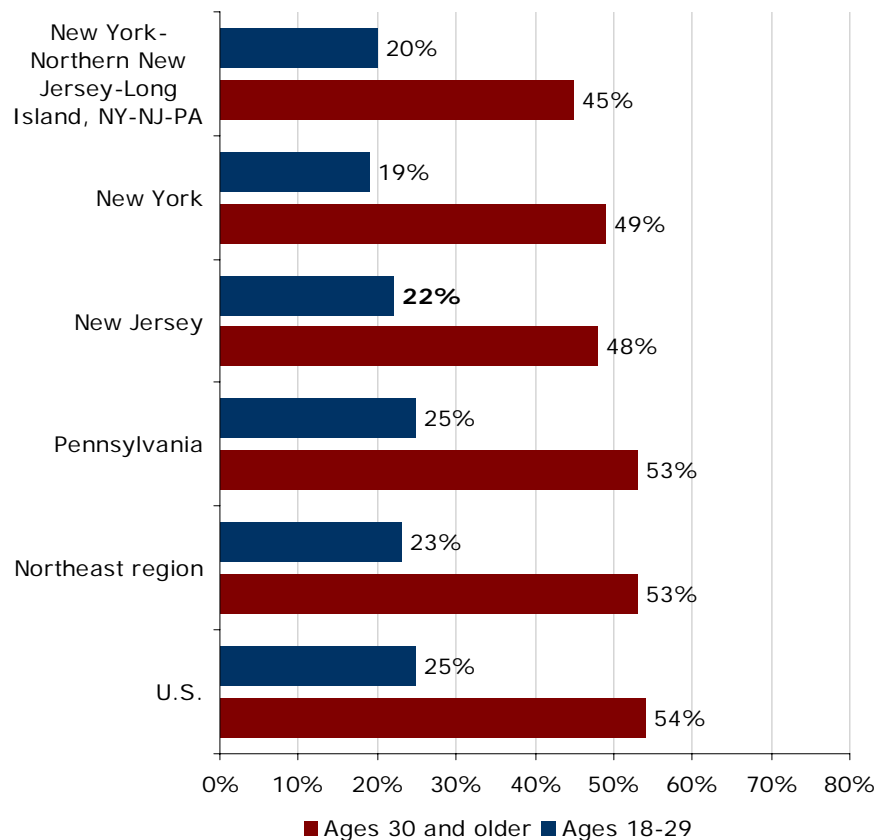
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, the voter turnout rate among young people was 20 percent, one percentage point above New York's state average, but five points below the national average. An estimated 486,000 young people from New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, 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 (25 percentage points) at the more local level of New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

## Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA

No subgroups of young people had a turnout rate higher than 40 percent. Overall, youth turnout among all subgroups was very low. 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 New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, 2006**

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>4</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanics	23 percent	50 percent
Black non-Hispanics	13 percent	42 percent
Latinos	19 percent	33 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	22 percent	31 percent
Native Americans non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	22 percent	46 percent
Men	19 percent	43 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	8 percent	28 percent
High School	15 percent	39 percent
Some College	21 percent	47 percent
BA or more	28 percent	54 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	26 percent	46 percent
Single	19 percent	42 percent
Registered Voter	47 percent	69 percent
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	20 percent	45 percent
New York	19 percent	49 percent
New Jersey	22 percent	48 percent
Pennsylvania	25 percent	53 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

<sup>1</sup> New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, includes the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Kings, New York, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Westchester, Middlesex (NJ), Monmouth (NJ), Ocean (NJ), Somerset (NJ), Essex (NJ), Hunterdon (NJ), Morris (NJ), Sussex (NJ), Union (NJ), and Pike (PA), as well as the principal cities of New York, Newark (NJ), Edison (NJ), White Plains, Union (NJ), and Wayne (NJ).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.civicyouth.org)

<sup>4</sup> 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.