Quick Facts about Young Voters in Oklahoma: 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. However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Oklahoma, the youth voter turnout rate remained unchanged at 25 percent from 2002 to 2006. Overall, Oklahoma ranked 30th (tied with NM and PA) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 16th in 2002.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Oklahoma, 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 557,000 young people in Oklahoma 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 18–29

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people ages 18 to 29 in 2006 and 2002 in Oklahoma. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Oklahoma was down from 2002, though overall there has been little change in voter turnout among young Oklahoma voters.

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.