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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA¹: The Midterm Election Year 2006

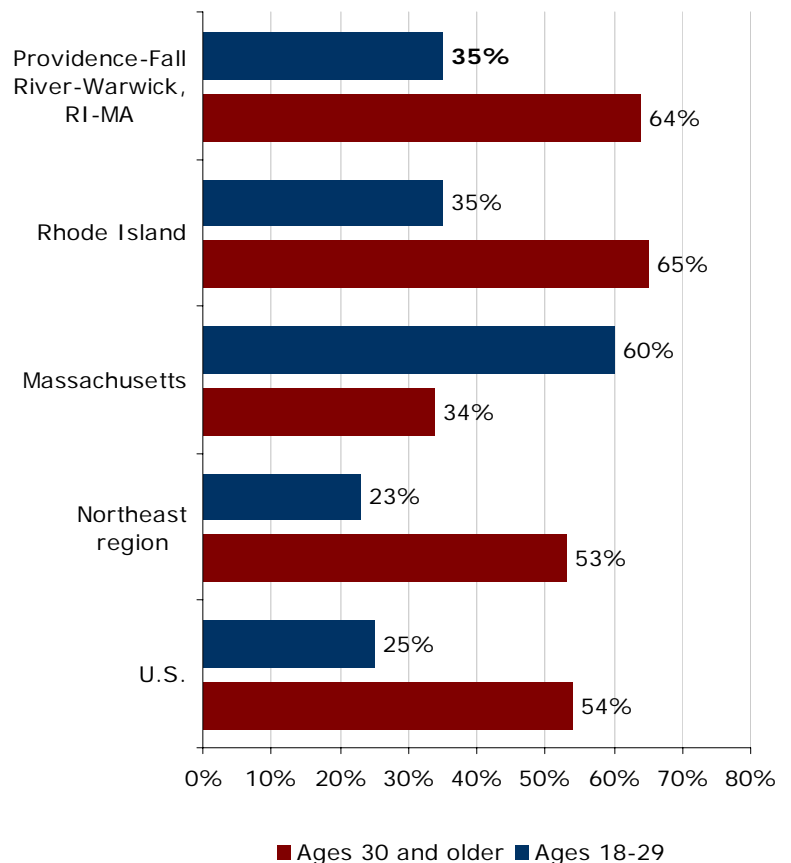
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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points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

In Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA, the voter turnout rate among young people was 35 percent, on par with Rhode Island's state average, and ten points above the national average. An estimated 63,000 young people in Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA, 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 the same (29 percentage points) at the more local level of Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among Young Citizens



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

Voter Turnout Among Subgroups in Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA

Among all subgroups of young people, only women and high school graduates voted at lower rates than the metropolitan average. College graduates voted at a rate of 60 percent. 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 Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA, 2006

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	Young People (Ages 18-29)	Adults (Ages 30 and older)
Gender		
Women	31 percent	65 percent
Men	40 percent	63 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	48 percent
High School	20 percent	60 percent
Some College	38 percent	66 percent
BA or more	60 percent	76 percent
Marital Status		
Married	39 percent	69 percent
Single	35 percent	50 percent
Registered Voter	59 percent	84 percent
Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA	35 percent	64 percent
Rhode Island	35 percent	65 percent
Massachusetts	34 percent	60 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 Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA, includes the counties of Worcester (MA, part), Bristol (part), Kent (part), Newport, Providence, and Washington (part), as well as the principal cities of Providence, Fall River (MA), Warwick, and Cranston.

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