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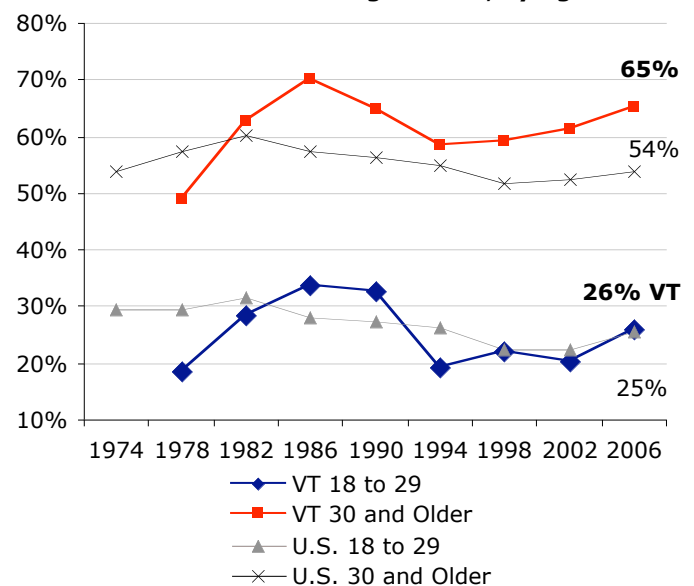
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Vermont: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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, youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 in Vermont, increasing 6 percentage points from 20 percent in 2002 to 26 percent in 2006. Overall, Vermont ranked 25th (tied with WY) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 39th in 2002, and was one percentage point higher than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Vermont 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 Vermont, 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, there were an estimated 97,000 young people in Vermont who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.³

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 Vermont. In 2006, voter turnout among many groups shown was up over 2002.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

According to analysis of Election Pool, Exit Poll data, the plurality of young voters identified as Independent (48 percent), regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections.

Table 1 – Vermont Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 & 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	26 thousand	247 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	26 percent	65 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	20 thousand	222 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	20 percent	61 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	27 percent	25 percent
Men	26 percent	16 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	4 percent
High School	13 percent	15 percent
Some College	35 percent	18 percent
BA or more	39 percent	47 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	26 percent	13 percent
Single Women	24 percent	21 percent
Married Men	***	31 percent
Married Women	***	37 percent
Registered Voter	54 percent	46 percent
All Youth, Vermont	26 percent	20 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 For a full discussion of the different ways voter turnout can be calculated please see "CIRCLE Working Paper 35: The Youth Voter 2004: With a Historical Look at Youth Voting Patterns 1972-2004." All voter turnout estimates presented in this fact sheet are calculated for U.S. citizens only, and according to the "Census Citizen Method" described in CIRCLE Working Paper 35.