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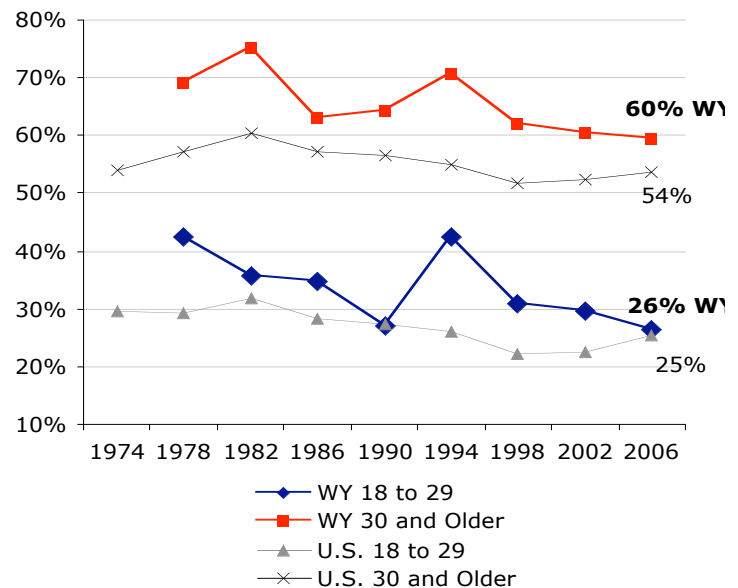
The Center for Information & Research on
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Wyoming: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Wyoming, the youth voter turnout rate fell 4 percentage points from 30 percent in 2002 to 26 percent in 2006. Overall, Wyoming ranked 25th (tied with VT) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 8th in 2002, yet was one percentage point higher than the nation as a whole.

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



Source: Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Wyoming, including estimates of the number of young voters, and voter turnout rates in 2006 and 2002 for various sub-groups of young people.

Voter Turnout Statistics in 2006 and 2002

In 2006, a midterm election year, there were an estimated 86,000 young people in Wyoming eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.³

Table 1 – Wyoming Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 & 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	23 thousand	177 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	26 percent	60 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	23 thousand	172 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	30 percent	61 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

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

Voter Turnout Rates in 2006 and 2002 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2006 and 2002 in Wyoming. While Wyoming's youth voter turnout was slightly higher than the national average in 2006, voter turnout among some youth groups in Wyoming was very low. For example, young people with a high school education or less, and married men had turnout rates below 20 percent.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	28 percent	34 percent
Men	25 percent	25 percent
Educational Attainment		
HS diploma or less	13 percent	24 percent
Some College	27 percent	31 percent
BA or more	***	60 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	29 percent	19 percent
Single Women	30 percent	35 percent
Married Men	17 percent	37 percent
Married Women	24 percent	36 percent
Registered Voter	56 percent	65 percent

All Youth, Wyoming	26 percent	30 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

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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.