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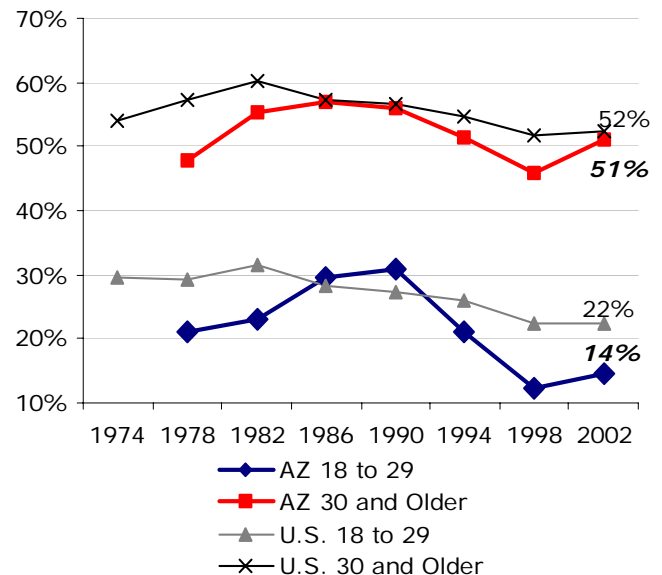
Quick Facts about Young Voters in Arizona: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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This year's elections follow a presidential election that witnessed the highest level of national youth voter participation in over a decade, and a youth voter turnout rate of 46 percent in Arizona, up an exceptional 17 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Arizona ranked 37th overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Arizona in 2004, whether this voter mobilization momentum continues into 2006 remains unpredictable. Furthermore, it would be a mistake to compare either state-level or national youth voter turnout in 2006 to 2004 since presidential elections generally draw more voters to the polls, and hence have higher voter turnout rates. Instead, the two appropriate comparisons are 2002, the last time midterm elections occurred, and 1994, the last time midterm elections followed a surge in youth voting in a presidential election (1992).

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Arizona, including estimates of the number of young voters, voter turnout in 2002 and 1994 for various sub-groups of young people, and a listing of voter registration and election day laws that may affect young voters. While the general trend in national voter turnout among young people during midterm elections was down between 1982 and 2002, youth voter participation in Arizona has declined at a greater rate between 1990 and 2002, dropping by 17 percentage points. However, given the high level of youth voter turnout in 2004, and high profile Senate and House (8th District) races, Arizona could see a higher level of voter participation among all voters in 2006 relative to 2002.

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



Source: Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2002.

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 832,000 young people in Arizona who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1A shows voting statistics for the years 2002, the last midterm election year, and 1994, the last midterm election year that followed a surge in youth voting in a presidential election year (1992).²

Table 1B shows racial/.ethnic characteristics of Arizonans, by age. As is the case nationally, young Arizonans are more likely to be non-White than their adult counterparts. Approximately one-third of all young citizens in Arizona are Latino; in contrast, among adults ages 30 and older, only 18 percent of U.S. citizens are Latino.

Table 1A – Arizona Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006, 2002, and 1994

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2006	832 thousand	3.0 million
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	104 thousand	1.3 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	14 percent	51 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 percent
1994		
Number of Votes Cast	109 thousand	1.1 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	51 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, March Supplement 2006 and November Supplement 2002 and 1994

Table 1B – 2006 Population Proportion of Young People and Adults by Citizenship and Race/Ethnicity

	White, non-Hispanics	Latino
Young people, 18 to 29		
Residents	45.4%	39.5%
Citizens	55.1%	29.2%
Adults, 30 and older		
Residents	67.3%	24.5%
Citizens	73.5%	18.4%

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, March Supplement 2006. Note that rows do not sum to 100 percent since percentages for all racial/ethnic groups are not reported (due to small sample sizes and imprecise estimates).

Voter Turnout Rates in 2002 and 1994 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2002 and 1994 in Arizona. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Arizona was very low, with turnout rates among young Latinos of 9 percent in 2002 for example. In contrast, the midterm election year 1994 was a year of relatively higher voter turnout for most youth groups in Arizona relative to 2002.

Table 2 – Arizona Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2002 and 1994

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2002	1994
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>³		
White non-Hispanics	16 percent	24 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	***
Latinos	9 percent	15 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
<i>Gender</i>		
Women	13 percent	23 percent
Men	15 percent	19 percent
<i>Educational Attainment</i>		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	12 percent	13 percent
Some College	17 percent	25 percent
BA or more	30 percent	39 percent
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single Men	15 percent	12 percent
Single Women	11 percent	23 percent
Married Men	17 percent	***
Married Women	18 percent	29 percent
Registered Voter	44 percent	56 percent
All Youth, Arizona	14 percent	21 percent
All Youth, National	22 percent	26 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2002 and 1994 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey. *** indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

Voter Registration and Election Day Laws in Arizona

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Arizona. For more information on elections in Arizona, contact the Elections Services of Arizona at 602-542-8683 or www.sosaz.com.

Table 3 – Arizona Voter Registration and Election Day Laws, 2006

Registration Day Laws	
Registration Deadline for all Elections	29 days before an election
Unrestricted Absentee Voting	Yes
In Person Early Voting	Yes
Election Day Registration	No
Allows 17 Year Olds to Vote in Primaries	Yes
Election Day Laws	
Polls Open	6am to 7pm
Time off to Vote (Private Sector)	Yes
Mail Information on Poll Location	Yes
Mail Sample Ballots	Yes

Source: CIRCLE Fact Sheet "State Voter Registration and Election Day Laws", June 2004 and NAACP Voter Empowerment Guide "Value Our Vote" July 2006

Notes

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² 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.

³ We 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.