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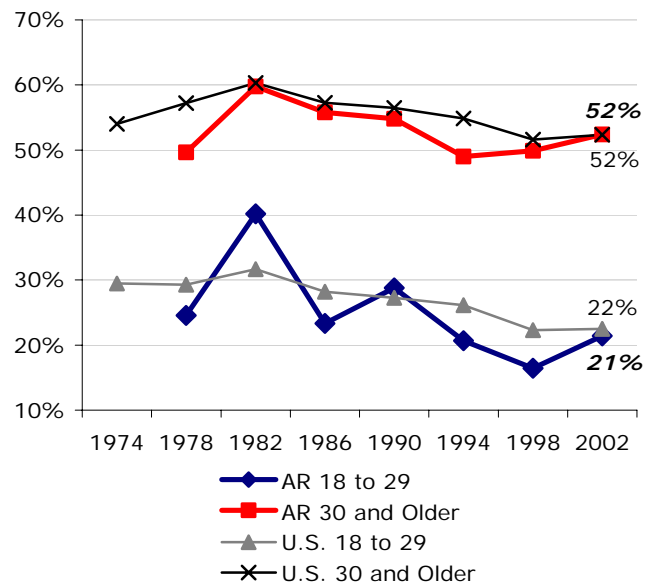
The Center for Information & Research on  
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### Quick Facts about Young Voters in Arkansas: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 40 percent in Arkansas, which was unchanged over 2000 despite a sharp increase in youth voter participation nationwide. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Arkansas ranked 48<sup>th</sup> overall. However, 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).

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



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

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Arkansas, 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. In midterm election years, the youth voter turnout rates nationally and in Arkansas have mirrored each other in the rate of decline and the level of the voter turnout rate between 1986 and 2002. However, Arkansas could see a higher level of voter participation among all voters in 2006 relative to 2002 because of a high profile open-seat gubernatorial race.

## Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 419,000 young people in Arkansas who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 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).<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1 – Arkansas Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006, 2002, and 1994**

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Citizens	419 thousand	1.6 million
Eligible to Vote in 2006		
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	83 thousand	803 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent
<b>1994</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	89 thousand	662 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	49 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

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

## 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 Arkansas. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Arkansas was very low. Only among young people with a BA or more was the voter turnout rate at 40 percent or higher. Also young women saw an increase in voter participation between 1994 and 2002, while young men saw a decline in their voter turnout rate over the same period.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2002	1994
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>3</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanics	24 percent	20 percent
Black non-Hispanics	17 percent	18 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	28 percent	19 percent
Men	15 percent	22 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	***	3 percent
High School	10 percent	18 percent
Some College	35 percent	25 percent
BA or more	51 percent	42 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	18 percent	19 percent
Single Women	23 percent	14 percent
Married Men	13 percent	26 percent
Married Women	37 percent	24 percent
Registered Voter	48 percent	51 percent
All Youth, Arkansas	21 percent	20 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 Arkansas

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Arkansas. For more information on elections in Arkansas, contact the Elections Department of Arkansas at 501-682-3419 or [www.sosweb.state.ar.us](http://www.sosweb.state.ar.us).

**Table 3 – Arkansas Voter Registration and Election Day Laws, 2006**

<b>Registration Day Laws</b>	
Registration Deadline for all Elections	30 days before an election
Unrestricted Absentee Voting	No
In Person Early Voting	Yes
Election Day Registration	No
Allows 17 Year Olds to Vote in Primaries	No
<b>Election Day Laws</b>	
Polls Open	7am to 8pm
Time off to Vote (Private Sector)	Yes
Mail Information on Poll Location	No
Mail Sample Ballots	No

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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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.