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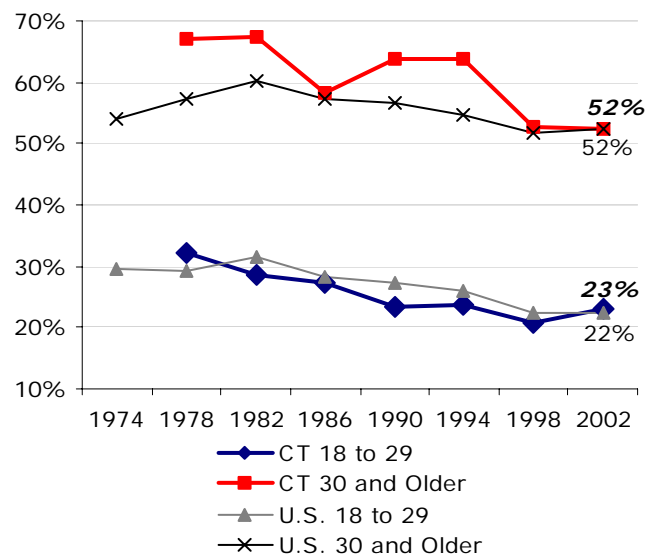
Quick Facts about Young Voters in Connecticut: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 44 percent in Connecticut, *down 1 percentage point* from 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Connecticut ranked 43rd 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).

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Connecticut, 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. Since 1978, voter turnout among young people in Connecticut has tracked the general downward trend in national voter turnout among young people. However, voter turnout rates may increase in 2006 over 2002 because of high profile Senate and (multiple) House races.

Graph 1: Connecticut 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 417,000 young people in Connecticut 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 the racial/ethnic characteristics of Connecticut's adult population. As is the case nationally, young people in Connecticut are more likely to be Black non-Hispanic or Latino compared to their adult counterparts over the age of 30.

Table 1A – Connecticut 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	417 thousand	2.0 million
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	85 thousand	994 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 percent
1994		
Number of Votes Cast	111 thousand	1.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	24 percent	64 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	Black non-Hispanics	Latinos
Young People, 18 to 29			
Residents	71.9%	10.1%	14.7%
Citizens	75.9%	9.6%	12.7%
Adults, 30 and older			
Residents	79.8%	8.2%	7.8%
Citizens	84.0%	7.4%	5.9%

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, March Supplement 2006

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 Connecticut. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Connecticut was very low, though a decline in voter turnout was not evident for all groups. For example, between 1994 and 2002, young Latinos, Black non-Hispanics, and men increased their voter turnout rates. In contrast, some of the largest declines in voter turnout rates occurred among women (down 5 points) and college graduates (down 8 points).

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

Voter Turnout Rate	2002	1994
Among:		
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>³		
White non-Hispanics	23 percent	26 percent
Black non-Hispanics	22 percent	20 percent
Latinos	19 percent	12 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
<i>Gender</i>		
Women	22 percent	27 percent
Men	25 percent	20 percent
<i>Educational Attainment</i>		
Less than High School	7 percent	7 percent
High School	23 percent	19 percent
Some College	21 percent	22 percent
BA or more	34 percent	42 percent
Registered Voter	48 percent	45 percent
All Youth, Connecticut	23 percent	24 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 Connecticut

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Connecticut. For more information on elections in Connecticut, contact the Elections Office of Connecticut at 860-509-6100 or www.sots.state.ct.us.

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

Registration Day Laws	
Registration Deadline for all Elections	14 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
Election Day Laws	
Polls Open	6am to 8pm
Time off to Vote (Private Sector)	No
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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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.