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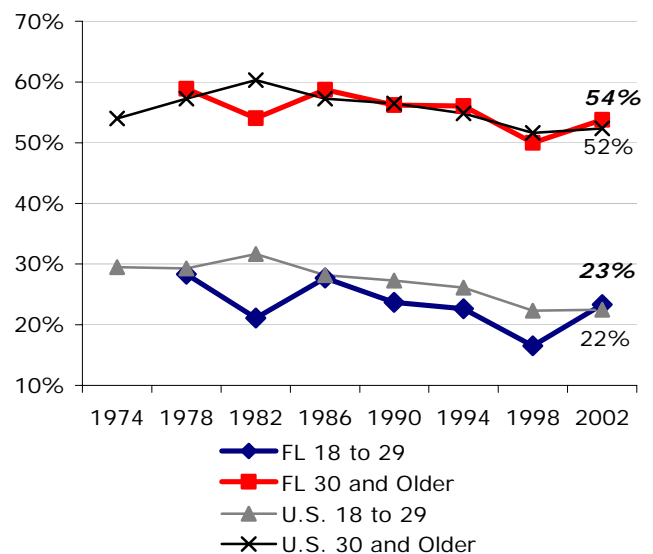
The Center for Information & Research on  
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### Quick Facts about Young Voters in Florida: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 49 percent in Florida, up 9 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Florida ranked 28<sup>th</sup> overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Florida 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).

Graph 1: Florida 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 Florida, 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. Youth voter turnout rates in Florida have mirrored those nationally from 1986 to 1998, while breaking with the national trend in 2002. However, Florida could see a higher level of voter participation among all voters in 2006 relative to 2002 because of an open-seat gubernatorial race a high profile House (22<sup>nd</sup> District) race.

## Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 2.2 million young people in Florida 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).<sup>2</sup>

Table 1B shows the racial/ethnic population characteristics in 2006 for Florida adults. As is the case in other large diverse states, young Floridians are more likely to be Latino or Black non-Hispanic than their adult counterparts.

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

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2006	2.2 million	9.8 million
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	441 thousand	4.7 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	54 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent
<b>1994</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	445 thousand	4.2 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	56 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 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
<b>Young People, 18 to 29</b>			
Residents	51 percent	19 percent	27 percent
Citizens	60 percent	20 percent	18 percent
<b>Adults, 30 and older</b>			
Residents	67 percent	11 percent	18 percent
Citizens	73 percent	11 percent	13 percent

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 Florida. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Florida was low, and had declined for some groups since 1994. Declines were particularly evident for college graduates (6 points), married women (4 points), and registered voters (7 points).

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

<b>Voter Turnout Rate Among:</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b><i>Race/Ethnicity</i><sup>3</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanics	23 percent	25 percent
Black non-Hispanics	26 percent	18 percent
Latinos	23 percent	19 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
<b><i>Gender</i></b>		
Women	24 percent	25 percent
Men	23 percent	21 percent
<b><i>Educational Attainment</i></b>		
Less than High School	12 percent	6 percent
High School	21 percent	19 percent
Some College	25 percent	25 percent
BA or more	38 percent	44 percent
<b><i>Marital Status</i></b>		
Single Men	21 percent	18 percent
Single Women	25 percent	24 percent
Married Men	31 percent	28 percent
Married Women	25 percent	29 percent
Registered Voter	48 percent	55 percent
All Youth, Florida	23 percent	23 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 Florida

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Florida. For more information on elections in Florida, contact the Divisions of Elections of Florida at 850-245-6200 or [www.dos.state.fl.us](http://www.dos.state.fl.us).

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

<b>Registration Day Laws</b>	
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	No
<b>Election Day Laws</b>	
Polls Open	7am to 7pm
Time off to Vote (Private Sector)	No
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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<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.