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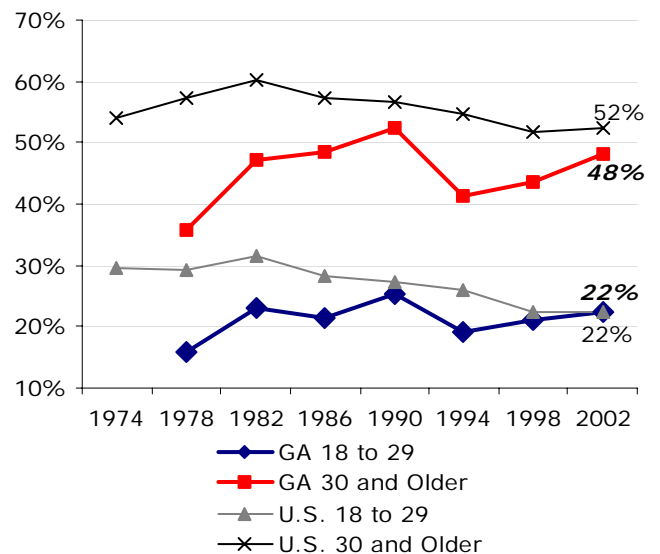
The Center for Information & Research on  
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### Quick Facts about Young Voters in Georgia: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 Georgia, up 9 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Georgia ranked 29<sup>th</sup> overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Georgia 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: Georgia 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 Georgia, 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, for youth in Georgia, the trend has been slightly upward, and in 2002, the youth voter turnout rate for young Georgians matched the national youth voter turnout rate. Georgia might not see a higher level of voter participation among all voters in 2006 relative to 2002 because of a lack of high profile races. There is no Senate race this year and the gubernatorial race is strongly leaning in favor of the incumbent.

## Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 1.4 million young people in Georgia 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 – Georgia Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006, 2002, and 1994**

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Citizens	1.4 million	4.7 million
Eligible to Vote in 2006		
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	293 thousand	2.1 million
Voter Turnout Rate	22 percent	48 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent
<b>1994</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	211 thousand	1.6 million
Voter Turnout Rate	19 percent	41 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 Georgia. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Georgia was very low. Only among young people with a college degree was the voter turnout rate at 40 percent or more. Between 1994 and 2002 voter turnout rates were higher for young men (up 11 points), young white non-Hispanics (up 9 points), and young people with no college experience.

**Table 2 – Georgia 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	28 percent	19 percent
Black non-Hispanics	14 percent	20 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	19 percent	23 percent
Men	27 percent	16 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	13 percent	5 percent
High School	18 percent	12 percent
Some College	22 percent	29 percent
BA or more	45 percent	46 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	26 percent	12 percent
Single Women	16 percent	22 percent
Married Men	33 percent	24 percent
Married Women	28 percent	23 percent
Registered Voter	44 percent	46 percent
All Youth, Georgia	22 percent	19 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 Georgia

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Georgia. For more information on elections in Georgia, contact the Elections Division of Georgia at 404-656-2871 or [www.sos.state.ga.us](http://www.sos.state.ga.us).

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

<b>Registration Day Laws</b>	
Registration Deadline for all Elections	Fifth Monday 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 7pm
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.