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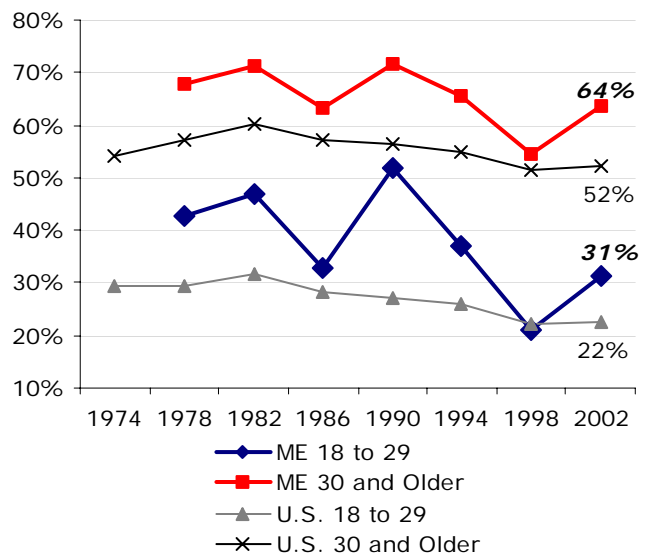
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Maine: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 59 percent in Maine, up 8 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Maine ranked 5th overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Maine 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: Maine 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 Maine, 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, Maine's youth voter turnout rate in midterm elections has recently been on an upward swing. In 2002, voter turnout among young people in Maine was higher than national youth voter turnout by 9 percentage points. This year, Maine could see a higher level of voter participation among all voters relative to 2002 because of high profile gubernatorial and Senate races.

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 208,000 young people in Maine 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).²

Table 1 – Maine 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	208 thousand	815 thousand
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	58 thousand	505 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	31 percent	64 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
1994		
Number of Votes Cast	68 thousand	461 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	37 percent	66 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 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 Maine. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Maine was low. Only among young people with a BA or more and married young people was the voter turnout rate at 40 percent or higher. Relative to 2002, youth voter turnout rates in 1994 were generally lower, though not for all groups.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2002	1994
Gender		
Women	35 percent	37 percent
Men	28 percent	37 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	21 percent	***
High School	20 percent	36 percent
Some College	28 percent	37 percent
BA or more	64 percent	66 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	20 percent	30 percent
Single Women	30 percent	29 percent
Married Men	54 percent	***
Married Women	49 percent	45 percent
Registered Voter	54 percent	54 percent
All Youth	31 percent	37 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 Maine

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Maine. For more information on elections in Maine, contact the Maine Division of Elections at 207-624-7650 or www.state.me.us/sos.

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

Registration Day Laws	
Registration Deadline for all Elections	Election Day
Unrestricted Absentee Voting	Yes
In Person Early Voting	Yes
Election Day Registration	Yes
Allows 17 Year Olds to Vote in Primaries	Yes
Election Day Laws	
Polls Open	6/10am 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.