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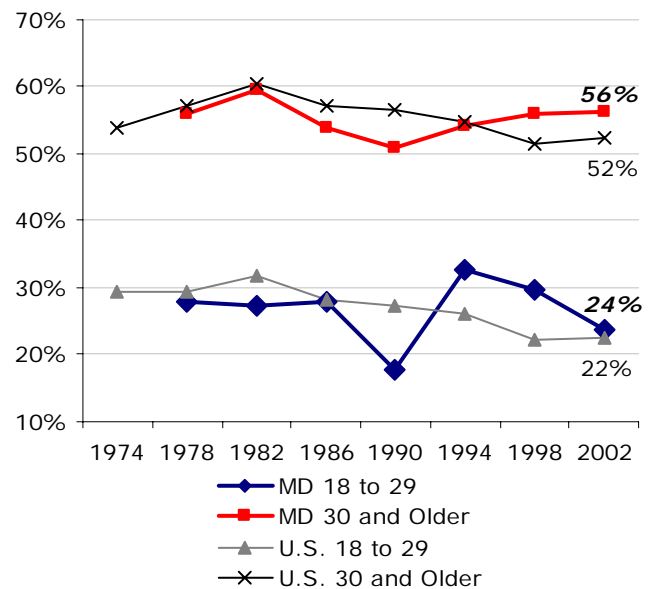
The Center for Information & Research on  
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### Quick Facts about Young Voters in Maryland: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 50 percent in Maryland, up 10 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Maryland ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Maryland 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: Maryland 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 Maryland, 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 (see Graph 1), Maryland's youth voter turnout rate in midterm election years has been relatively steady except for the abrupt jumps in 1990 and 1994. This year, Maryland could see a higher level of voter participation among all voters relative to 2002 because of high profile, and contested, gubernatorial, House, and Senate races.

## Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 725,000 young people in Maryland 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 – Maryland Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006, 2002, and 1994**

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Citizens	725 thousand	3.0 million
Eligible to Vote in 2006		
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	144 thousand	1.7 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	24 percent	56 percent
Share of all Voters	8 percent	92 percent
<b>1994</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	267 thousand	1.5 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	33 percent	54 percent
Share of all Voters	15 percent	85 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, Ages 18-29

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people ages 18 to 29 in 2002 and 1994 in Maryland. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Maryland was down from 1994. Only among young people with a BA or more was the voter turnout rate at 40 percent or higher. Also in 1994 and 2002, relative to the nation as a whole, youth in Maryland were more engaged electorally.

**Table 2 – Maryland 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	20 percent	37 percent
Black non-Hispanics	35 percent	22 percent
Hispanics	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	32 percent	31 percent
Men	15 percent	35 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	14 percent	22 percent
Some College	28 percent	31 percent
BA or more	40 percent	49 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	15 percent	34 percent
Single Women	33 percent	32 percent
Married Men	***	39 percent
Married Women	***	29 percent
Registered Voter	47 percent	62 percent
All Youth, Maryland	24 percent	33 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 Maryland

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Maryland. For more information on elections in Maryland, contact the Maryland State Board of Elections at 410-269-2840 or [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us).

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

<b>Registration Day Laws</b>	
Registration Deadline for all Elections	21 days before an election
Unrestricted Absentee Voting	No
In Person Early Voting	No
Election Day Registration	No
Allows 17 Year Olds to Vote in Primaries	Yes
<b>Election Day Laws</b>	
Polls Open	7am to 8pm
Time off to Vote (Private Sector)	Yes
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>1</sup> Research Director, Research Associate, and Research Assistant, respectively. We thank Peter Levine, Emily Kirby, Abby Kiesa, and Deborah Both for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

<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.