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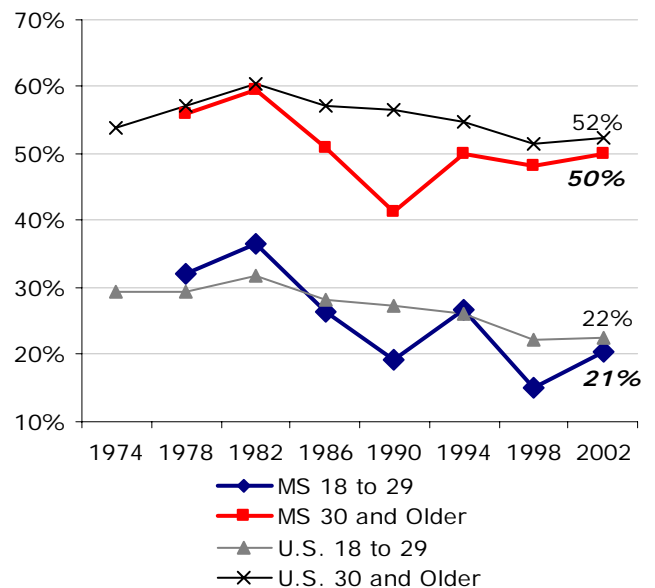
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Mississippi: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 52 percent in Mississippi, up 7 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Mississippi ranked 17th overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Mississippi 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: Mississippi 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 Mississippi, 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. The trend in the youth voter turnout rate in Mississippi has tracked the general downward trend in the national youth turnout rate closely, since 1978 (see Graph 1). However, the decline in the youth voter turnout in Mississippi in midterm election years has been more pronounced than the decline in the national youth voter turnout rate, falling from 37 percent in 1982 to 21 percent in 2002. This year, Mississippi's voter participation might stay stagnant or decline among all voters relative to 2002 because of a lack of highly contested races. The incumbent Senator is likely to be reelected.

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 440,000 young people in Mississippi 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 – Mississippi Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006, 2002, and 1994

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Citizens	440 thousand	1.6 million
Eligible to Vote in 2006		
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	100 thousand	758 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	50 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent
1994		
Number of Votes Cast	118 thousand	708 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	27 percent	50 percent
Share of all Voters	14 percent	86 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 Mississippi. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Mississippi was down from 1994.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2002	1994
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	19 percent	27 percent
Black non-Hispanics	23 percent	27 percent
Hispanics	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	26 percent	24 percent
Men	14 percent	30 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	10 percent	15 percent
High School	20 percent	27 percent
Some College	26 percent	29 percent
BA or more	24 percent	36 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	16 percent	28 percent
Single Women	27 percent	21 percent
Married Men	11 percent	35 percent
Married Women	30 percent	38 percent
Registered Voter	43 percent	48 percent
All Youth, Mississippi	21 percent	27 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 Mississippi

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Mississippi. For more information on elections in Mississippi, contact the Elections Division of Mississippi at 601-359-6353 or www.sos.state.ms.us.

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

Registration Day Laws	
Registration Deadline for all Elections	30 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
Election Day Laws	
Polls Open	7am to 7pm
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.