



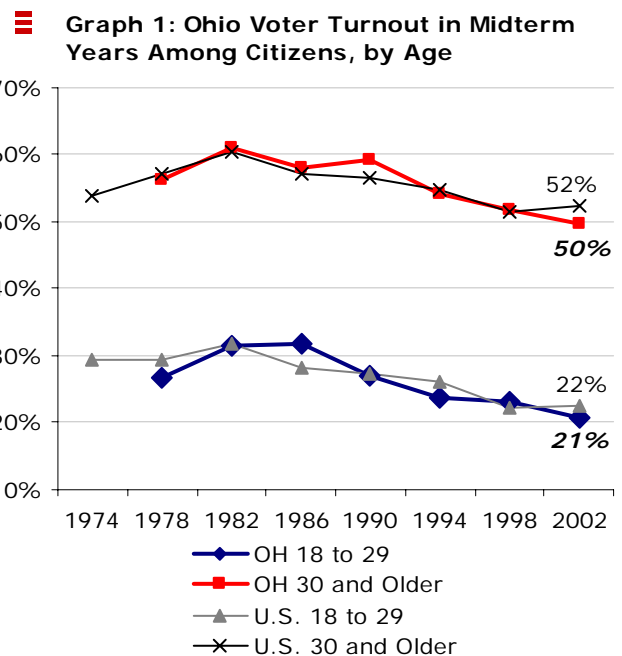
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Ohio: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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September 2006

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 54 percent in Ohio, up an impressive 14 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Ohio ranked 13th overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Ohio 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).



Source: Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2002.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Ohio, 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 general trend in the youth voter turnout rate for Ohio and the U.S. as a whole have tracked each other very closely, and are both down 10 percentage points since 1982 (see Graph 1). However, despite this decline, it is likely that Ohio could see a higher level of voter participation among all voters in 2006 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 1.9 million young people ages 18 to 29 in Ohio 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 – Ohio 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	1.9 million	6.5 million
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	358 thousand	3.2 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	50 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
1994		
Number of Votes Cast	449 thousand	3.4 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	24 percent	54 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

Source: Author's 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 Ohio. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Ohio was down from 1994, though there has been little overall change in voter turnout among young Ohio voters.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2002	1994
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	22 percent	23 percent
Black non-Hispanics	20 percent	27 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	23 percent	26 percent
Men	19 percent	20 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	9 percent	6 percent
High School	15 percent	15 percent
Some College	24 percent	31 percent
BA or more	38 percent	43 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	18 percent	18 percent
Single Women	23 percent	27 percent
Married Men	24 percent	26 percent
Married Women	27 percent	27 percent
Registered Voter	43 percent	48 percent
All Youth, Ohio	21 percent	24 percent
All Youth, National	23 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 Ohio

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Ohio. For more information on elections in Ohio, contact the Ohio Secretary of State at 614-466-2585 or www.state.oh.us/sos.

Table 3 – Ohio 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	6:30am to 7:30pm
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

¹ Research Director, Research Associate, and Research Assistant, respectively. We also thank Peter Levine, Emily Kirby, Abby Kiesa, and Deborah Both for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

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.