



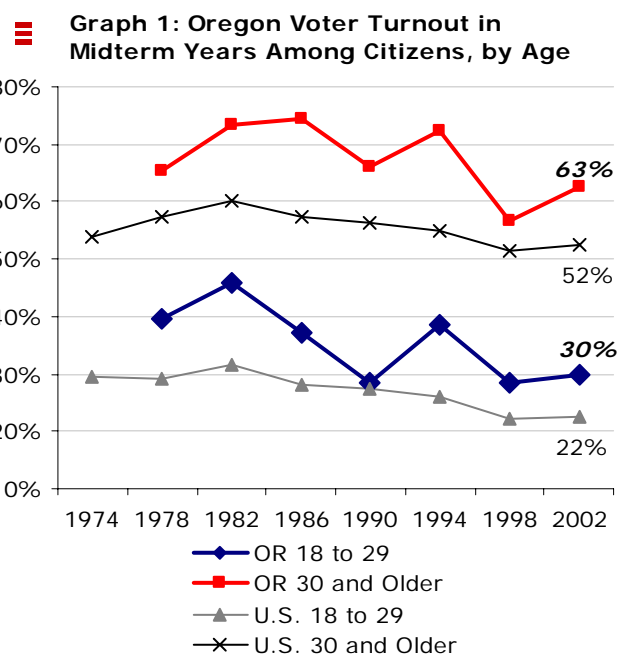
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Oregon: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 55 percent in Oregon, up 7 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Oregon ranked 11th overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Oregon 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 Oregon, 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), Oregon's youth voter turnout rate in midterm election years has been declining since 1982, save for a spike in 1994 and a small increase 2002. Yet, Oregon's youth voter turnout rate has been higher than the national average since 1978. Oregon could see a higher level of voter participation among all voters in 2006 relative to 2002 because of a high profile gubernatorial race.

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 517,000 young people in Oregon 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 – Oregon Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006, 2002, and 1994

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Citizens	517 thousand	2.1 million
Eligible to Vote in 2006		
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	160 thousand	1.2 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	30 percent	63 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent
1994		
Number of Votes Cast	177 thousand	1.2 million
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	38 percent	72 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, Ages 18-29

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people ages 18 to 29 in 2002 and 1994 in Oregon. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Oregon was down from 1994. Also in 1994 and 2002, relative to the nation as a whole, youth in Oregon were more engaged electorally.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2002	1994
Gender		
Women	33 percent	43 percent
Men	27 percent	34 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	8 percent	***
High School	20 percent	32 percent
Some College	36 percent	50 percent
BA or more	52 percent	64 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	29 percent	37 percent
Single Women	35 percent	47 percent
Married Men	21 percent	31 percent
Married Women	31 percent	48 percent
Registered Voter	54 percent	64 percent
All Youth, Oregon	30 percent	38 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 Oregon

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Oregon. For more information on elections in Oregon, contact the Elections Division of Oregon at 503-986-1518 or www.sos.state.or.us.

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

Registration Day Laws	
Registration Deadline for all Elections	21 days before an election
Unrestricted Absentee Voting	Yes
In Person Early Voting	No
Election Day Registration	No
Allows 17 Year Olds to Vote in Primaries	No
Election Day Laws	
Polls Open	7am 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

¹ 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.

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.