



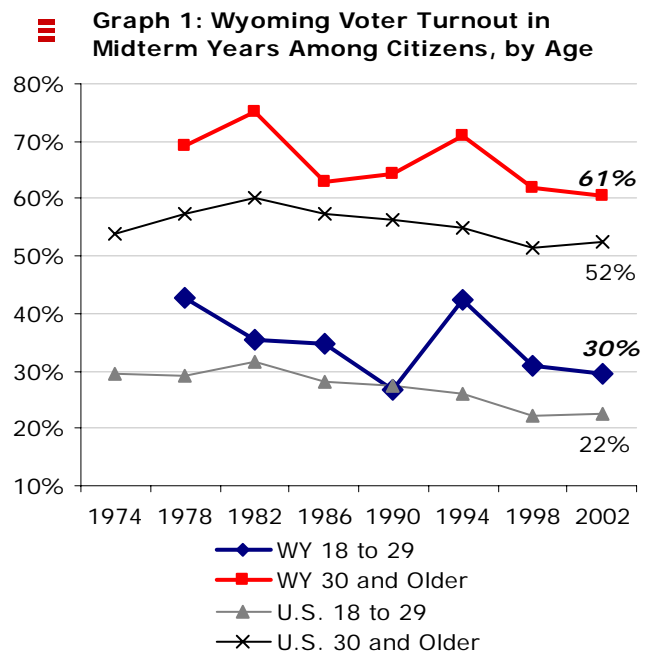
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Wyoming: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 53 percent in Wyoming, up an impressive 6 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Wyoming ranked 14th overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Wyoming 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 Wyoming, 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. Just as the general trend in national voter turnout among young people during midterm elections was down between 1982 and 2002 (see Graph 1), Wyoming's youth voter turnout rate in midterm election years has been declining, save for the sharp rise in 1994. This year Wyoming may not see a higher level of voter participation among all voters relative to 2002 because of the lack of highly contested gubernatorial and Senate races.

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 85,000 young people in Wyoming 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 – Wyoming Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006, 2002, and 1994

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Citizens	85 thousand	292 thousand
Eligible to Vote in 2006		
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	23 thousand	172 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	30 percent	61 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent
1994		
Number of Votes Cast	34 thousand	178 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	42 percent	71 percent
Share of all Voters	16 percent	84 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 Wyoming. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Wyoming was down from 1994. Also in 1994 and 2002, relative to the nation as a whole, youth in Wyoming were more engaged electorally.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2002	1994
Gender		
Women	34 percent	43 percent
Men	25 percent	41 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	29 percent	***
High School	22 percent	32 percent
Some College	31 percent	46 percent
BA or more	60 percent	77 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	19 percent	31 percent
Single Women	35 percent	43 percent
Married Men	37 percent	56 percent
Married Women	36 percent	50 percent
Registered Voter	65 percent	86 percent
All Youth, Wyoming	30 percent	42 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 Wyoming

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Wyoming. For more information on elections in Wyoming, contact the Wyoming Election Administration at 307-777-7640 or soswy.state.wy.us.

Table 3 – Wyoming 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	No
Election Day Registration	Yes
Allows 17 Year Olds to Vote in Primaries	No
Election Day Laws	
Polls Open	7am to 7pm
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

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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.