



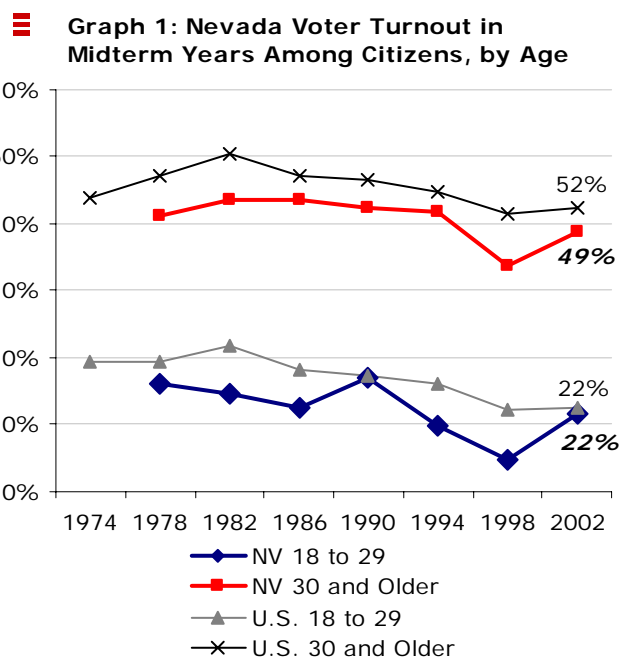
## CIRCLE

The Center for Information & Research on  
Civic Learning & Engagement

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

By Mark Hugo Lopez, Karlo Barrios Marcelo, and Jared Sagoff<sup>1</sup>  
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 43 percent in Nevada, up 10 percentage points over 2000. Compared to other states in 2004, the turnout rate among 18 to 29 year olds in Nevada ranked 45<sup>th</sup> overall. However, despite high youth voter participation in Nevada 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 Nevada, 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), Nevada's youth voter turnout rate in midterm election years has declined since 1978 and has been below the national average, save for two years—1990 and 2002. This year, Nevada could see a higher level of voter participation among all voters relative to 2002 because of an open-seat gubernatorial race.

## Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there are an estimated 327,000 young people in Nevada 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 – Nevada Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006, 2002, and 1994**

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Citizens	327 thousand	1.2 million
Eligible to Vote in 2006		
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	60 thousand	493 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	22 percent	49 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent
<b>1994</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	45 thousand	392 thousand
Citizen Voter Turnout Rate	20 percent	52 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 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 Nevada. In 2002, voter turnout among many youth groups in Nevada was up slightly over 1994, but still below the national average.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2002	1994
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	19 percent	18 percent
Men	24 percent	21 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	11 percent	3 percent
High School	16 percent	18 percent
Some College	27 percent	30 percent
BA or more	35 percent	23 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	23 percent	18 percent
Single Women	23 percent	15 percent
Married Men	28 percent	***
Married Women	15 percent	26 percent
Registered Voter	58 percent	58 percent
All Youth, Nevada	22 percent	20 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 Nevada

Table 3 displays important Voter Registration and Election Day Laws for the state of Nevada. For more information on elections in Nevada, contact the Elections Division of Nevada at 775-684-5705 or [sos.state.nv.us](http://sos.state.nv.us).

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

<b>Registration Day Laws</b>	
Registration Deadline for all Elections	Fifth Saturday before an election
Unrestricted Absentee Voting	Yes
In Person Early Voting	Yes
Election Day Registration	No
Allows 17 Year Olds to Vote in Primaries	No
<b>Election Day Laws</b>	
Polls Open	7am to 7pm
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

---

<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.