



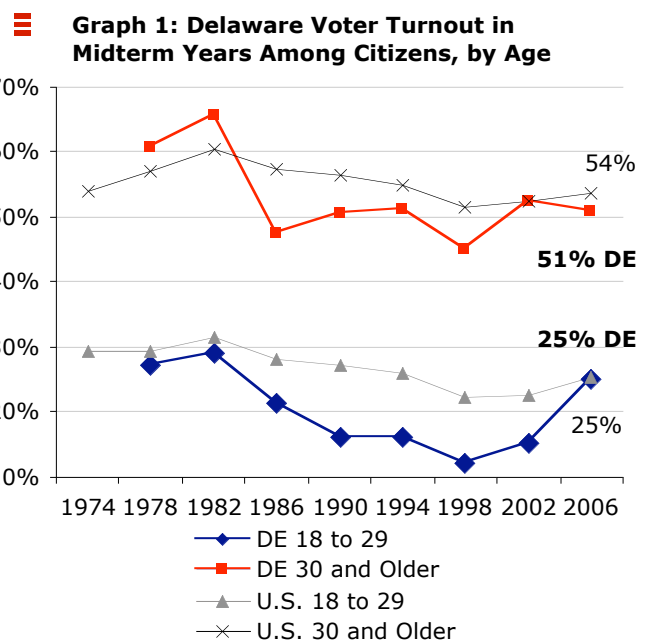
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## Quick Facts about Young Voters in Delaware: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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The 2006 midterm election was the second major election in a row that saw an increase in the electoral participation of young people ages 18-29. Between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people who voted increased by 3 percentage points to 25 percent, the single largest increase among all age groups nationally.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Delaware, the youth voter turnout rate rose 10 percentage points from 15 percent in 2002 to 25 percent in 2006. Overall, Delaware ranked 27<sup>th</sup> (tied with CA and MS) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 49<sup>th</sup> in 2002.



Source: Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2006.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Delaware, including estimates of the number of young voters, and voter turnout rates in 2006 and 2002 for various sub-groups of young people.

### Estimates of Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 120,000 young people in Delaware were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.

### Voter Turnout Rates in 2006 and 2002 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2002 and 2006 in Delaware. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Delaware was very low, but increased from 2002. Every subgroup of young people increased their voter turnout rate from 2002 to 2006. Black non-Hispanics turned out at a significantly higher rate of 28 percent in 2006, up 20 percentage points over 2002 levels.

**Table 1 – Delaware Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002**

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	30 thousand	245 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	25 percent	51 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	17 thousand	233 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	15 percent	53 percent
Share of all Voters	7 percent	93 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, November Supplement 2006 and 2002.

**Table 2 – Delaware Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2006 and 2002**

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>3</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanics	25 percent	18 percent
Black non-Hispanics	28 percent	8 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	24 percent	18 percent
Men	26 percent	12 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	14 percent	12 percent
High School	13 percent	11 percent
Some College	31 percent	17 percent
BA or more	50 percent	24 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	26 percent	19 percent
Single Women	26 percent	12 percent
Married Men	***	11 percent
Married Women	***	20 percent
Registered Voter	51 percent	31 percent
All Youth, Delaware	25 percent	15 percent
All Youth, National	25 percent	22 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2006 and 2002 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey. '\*\*\*' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> See “Youth Voter Turnout Increases in 2006” by Mark Hugo Lopez, Karlo Barrios Marcelo, and Emily Hoban Kirby for a longer discussion of youth voter turnout trends in 2006.

<sup>3</sup> 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.