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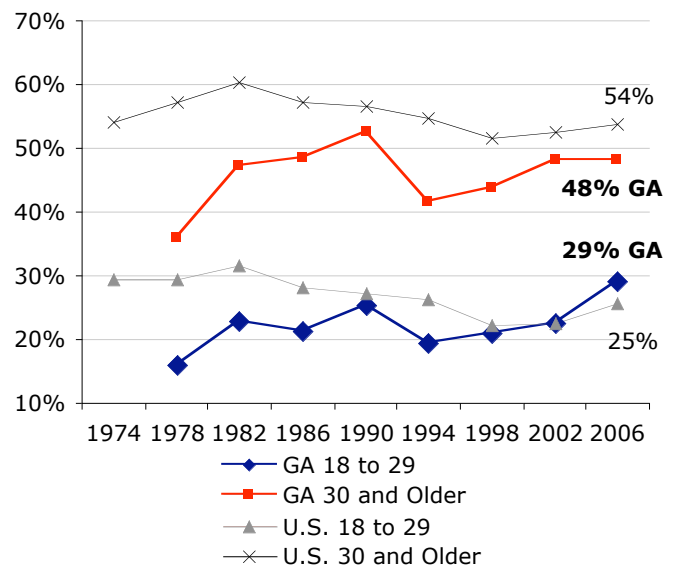
The Center for Information & Research on
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Georgia: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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.² Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Georgia, the youth voter turnout rate rose 7 percentage points from 22 percent in 2002 to 29 percent in 2006. Overall, Georgia ranked 19th (tied with DC) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006 (rank remained unchanged from 2002), and was four percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Georgia Voter Turnout in Midterm Years Among Citizens, by Age



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

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Georgia, 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 Eligible Young Voters, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 1.4 million young people in Georgia were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2002 and 2006.

Table 1 – Georgia Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	424 thousand	2.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	29 percent	48 percent
Share of all Voters	16 percent	84 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	293 thousand	2.1 million
Voter Turnout Rate	22 percent	48 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, November Supplement 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 Georgia. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Georgia was higher than in 2002. Only men (single and married) voted at a lower rate in 2006 than in 2002.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	31 percent	28 percent
Black non-Hispanics	27 percent	14 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	36 percent	19 percent
Men	22 percent	27 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	17 percent	13 percent
High School	22 percent	18 percent
Some College	32 percent	22 percent
BA or more	47 percent	45 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	21 percent	26 percent
Single Women	39 percent	16 percent
Married Men	25 percent	33 percent
Married Women	34 percent	28 percent
Registered Voter	57 percent	44 percent
All Youth, Georgia	29 percent	22 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.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

The plurality of voters identified as Republican in the 2006 elections.

Table 3 – Partisanship Among 18 to 29 year old Voters in 2006

	Georgia
Democrat	33 percent
Independent	***
Republican	43 percent
Something Else	***

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the National Election Pool, Exit Poll Survey, 2006. (***) – Sample size was too small to produce reliable estimates.

Notes

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² 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.

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.