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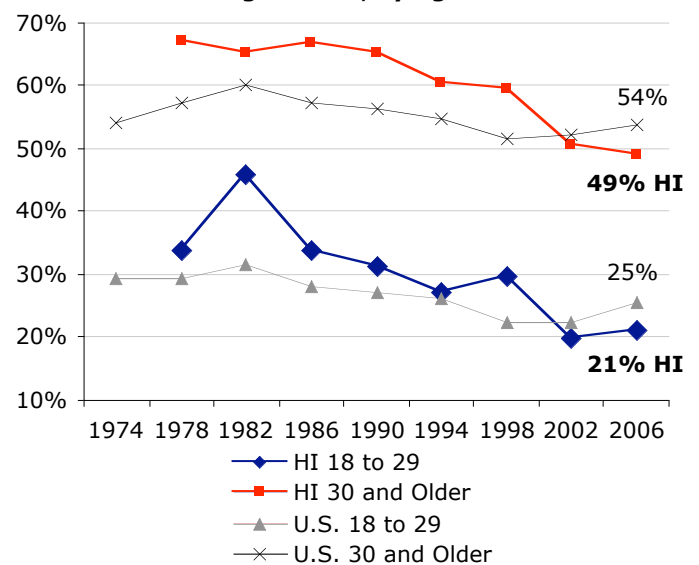
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Hawaii: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 Hawaii, the youth voter turnout rate rose 1 percentage point from 20 percent in 2002 to 21 percent in 2006. Overall, Hawaii ranked 40th (tied with AR and NC) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 39th in 2002, and was four percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Hawaii 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 Hawaii, including estimates of the number of young voters, and voter turnout rates in 2006 and 2002 for various sub-groups of young people.

Youth Vote Estimates, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 146,000 young people in Hawaii were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002, the last midterm election year.

Table 1 – Hawaii Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	34 thousand	353 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	49 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	26 thousand	334 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	20 percent	51 percent
Share of all Voters	7 percent	93 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 2006 and 2002 in Hawaii. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Hawaii was very low. No group of young people had a voter turnout rate at 40 percent or more in 2006. Young whites voted at a much lower rate (14 percent) in 2006 than in 2002, a difference of 13 percentage points.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	14 percent	27 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	***
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	20 percent	18 percent
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	21 percent	17 percent
Men	20 percent	23 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	5 percent	11 percent
Some College	25 percent	21 percent
BA or more	39 percent	48 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	20 percent	26 percent
Single Women	24 percent	11 percent
Married Men	***	11 percent
Married Women	***	29 percent
Registered Voter	60 percent	69 percent
All Youth, Hawaii	21 percent	20 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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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.