



# FACT SHEET

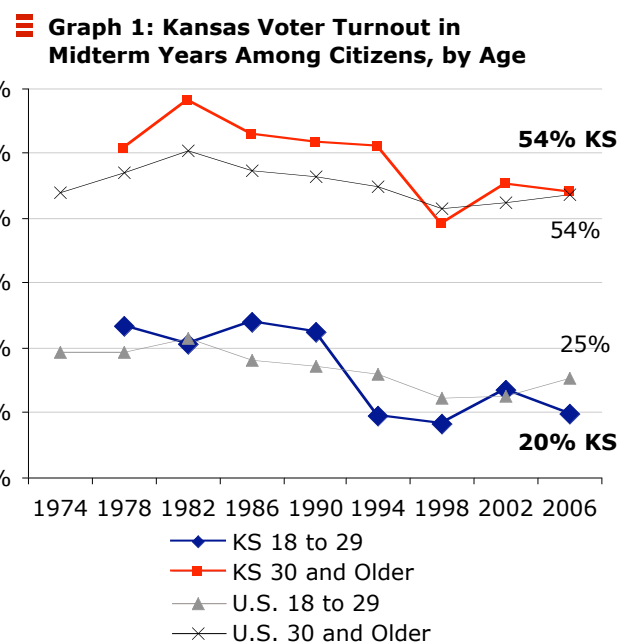
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The Center for Information & Research on  
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### Quick Facts about Young Voters in Kansas: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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> However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Kansas, the youth voter turnout rate fell 3 percentage points from 23 percent in 2002 to 20 percent in 2006. Overall, Kansas ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> (tied with NV) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2002, and was five percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.



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

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

## Youth Turnout Statistics, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, an estimated 459,000 young people in Kansas 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 2006 and 2002 in Kansas. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Kansas was very low, with some changes relative to 2002. Young men exhibited a five percentage point decrease from 2002 levels. Those with some college experience (down 6 points) and college graduates (down 9 points) were also lower than 2002 levels.

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

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	84 thousand	816 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	20 percent	54 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	91 thousand	817 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	23 percent	55 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	23 percent	24 percent
Men	18 percent	23 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	12 percent	***
High School	7 percent	9 percent
Some College	26 percent	32 percent
BA or more	36 percent	45 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	18 percent	23 percent
Single Women	21 percent	22 percent
Married Men	***	26 percent
Married Women	28 percent	29 percent
Registered Voter	49 percent	49 percent
All Youth, Kansas	20 percent	23 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

<sup>1</sup> We 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.