



FACT SHEET



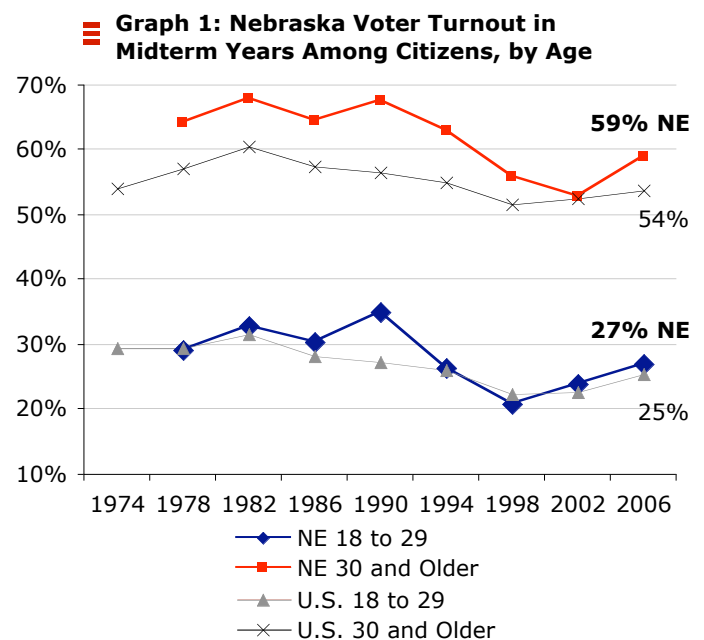
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Nebraska: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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Updated June 2007

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 Nebraska, the youth voter turnout rate rose 3 percentage points from 24 percent in 2002 to 27 percent in 2006. Overall, Nebraska ranked 22nd (tied with IA) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 18th in 2002, yet was two percentage points higher 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 Nebraska, 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 Estimates, 2006

In 2006, a midterm election year, there were an estimated 281,000 young people in Nebraska who 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, Ages 18-29

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2006 and 2002 in Nebraska. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Nebraska was low, but up from 2002 levels.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

According to analysis of the Election Pool, Exit Poll data, the plurality of young voters identified as Republican (47 percent), regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections.

Table 1 – Nebraska Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	82 thousand	552 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	27 percent	59 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	63 thousand	471 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	24 percent	53 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	29 percent	22 percent
Men	25 percent	25 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	11 percent
High School	13 percent	14 percent
Some College	29 percent	24 percent
BA or more	47 percent	47 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	23 percent	22 percent
Single Women	27 percent	20 percent
Married Men	***	36 percent
Married Women	35 percent	26 percent
Registered Voter	53 percent	44 percent
All Youth, Nebraska	27 percent	24 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

¹ 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.

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.