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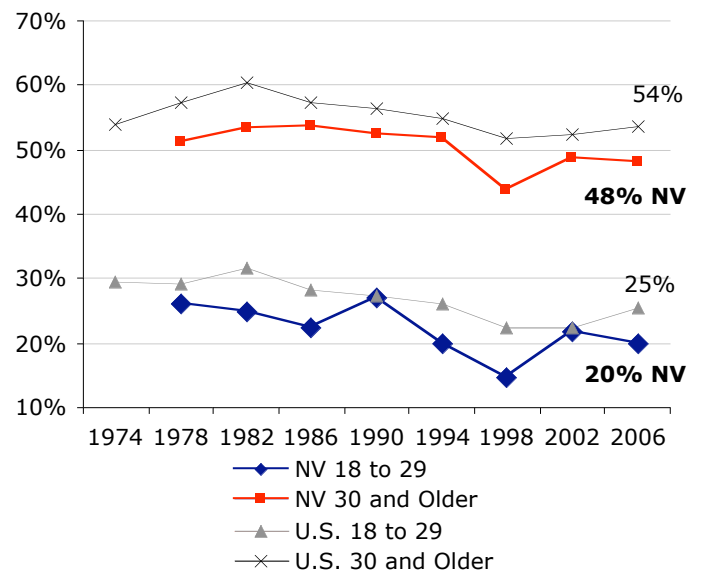
The Center for Information & Research on
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Nevada: The Midterm Election Year 2006

By Mark Hugo Lopez, Karlo Barrios Marcelo, and Jared Sagoff¹
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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 However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in Nevada, the youth voter turnout rate fell 2 percentage points from 22 percent in 2002 to 20 percent in 2006. Overall, Nevada ranked 43rd (tied with KS) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 29th in 2002, and was five percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: Nevada 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 Nevada, 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 was an estimated 327,000 young people in Nevada 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 ages 18 to 29 in 2006 and 2002 in Nevada. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Nevada was down slightly from 2002, and still below the national average.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

The plurality of young voters identified as Democrat, regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections. See Table 3.

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

	Nevada
Democrat	37 percent
Independent	24 percent
Republican	34 percent
Something Else	***

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

Table 1 – Nevada Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	63 thousand	623 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	20 percent	48 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	60 thousand	493 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	22 percent	49 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	26 percent	***
Black non-Hispanics	***	***
Hispanics	14 percent	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	24 percent	19 percent
Men	16 percent	24 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	11 percent
High School	14 percent	16 percent
Some College	26 percent	27 percent
BA or more	***	35 percent

Marital Status		
Single Men	13 percent	23 percent
Single Women	13 percent	23 percent
Married Men	***	28 percent
Married Women	***	15 percent
Registered Voter	60 percent	58 percent

All Youth, Nevada	20 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.

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.

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.