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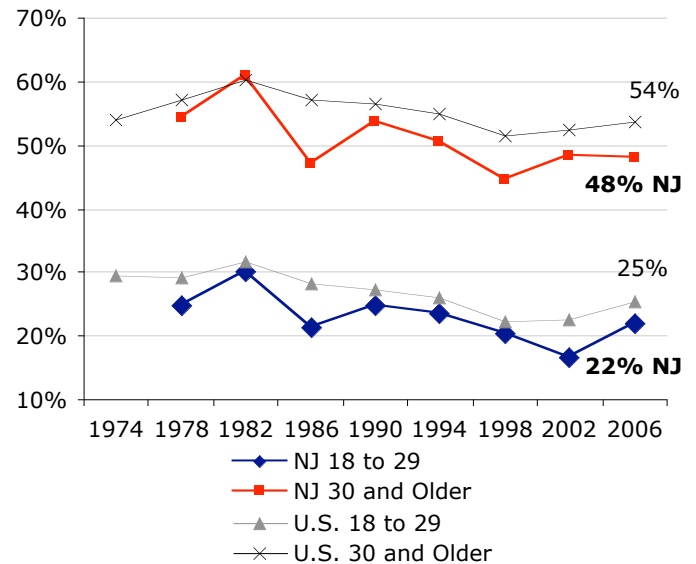
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in New Jersey: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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 Similarly, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in New Jersey, the youth voter turnout rate rose 5 percentage points from 17 percent in 2002 to 22 percent in 2006. Overall, New Jersey ranked 38th (tied with CT) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 47th in 2002, yet was three percentage points lower than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: New Jersey 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 New Jersey, 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, an estimated 1.1 million young people in New Jersey were eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.

Table 1 – New Jersey Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	218 thousand	2.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	22 percent	48 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	156 thousand	2.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	17 percent	48 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, Ages 18-29

Table 2 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people ages 18 to 29 in 2006 and 2002 in New Jersey. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in New Jersey was up from 2002, but were still very low.

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	22 percent	16 percent
Black non-Hispanics	***	20 percent
Latinos	24 percent	13 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	21 percent	19 percent
Men	23 percent	14 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	11 percent
High School	19 percent	10 percent
Some College	20 percent	18 percent
BA or more	27 percent	27 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	22 percent	12 percent
Single Women	20 percent	16 percent
Married Men	***	24 percent
Married Women	***	29 percent
Registered Voter	51 percent	38 percent
All Youth, New Jersey	22 percent	17 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

According to analysis of Election Pool, Exit Poll data, the majority of young voters identified as Democrat (54 percent), regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections.

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.