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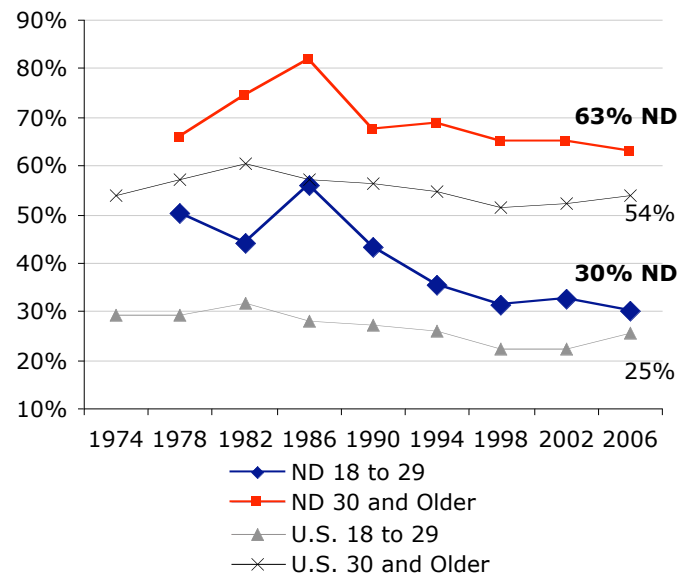
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in North Dakota: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 However, while youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 nationally, in North Dakota, the youth voter turnout rate fell 3 percentage points from 33 percent in 2002 to 30 percent in 2006. Overall, North Dakota ranked 15th (tied with AK, ID, and WA) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 4th in 2002, yet was five percentage points higher than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: North Dakota 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 North Dakota, 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 104,000 young people in North Dakota 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 North Dakota. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in North Dakota was down from 2002.

Table 1 – North Dakota Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	35 thousand	224 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	30 percent	63 percent
Share of all Voters	13 percent	87 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	35 thousand	224 thousand
Voter Turnout Rate	33 percent	65 percent
Share of all Voters	14 percent	86 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2006	2002
Gender		
Women	30 percent	35 percent
Men	30 percent	30 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	15 percent
High School	21 percent	25 percent
Some College	30 percent	37 percent
BA or more	42 percent	44 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	25 percent	29 percent
Single Women	27 percent	31 percent
Married Men	***	39 percent
Married Women	37 percent	43 percent
Registered Voter	40 percent	45 percent
All Youth, North Dakota	30 percent	33 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.