



FACT SHEET



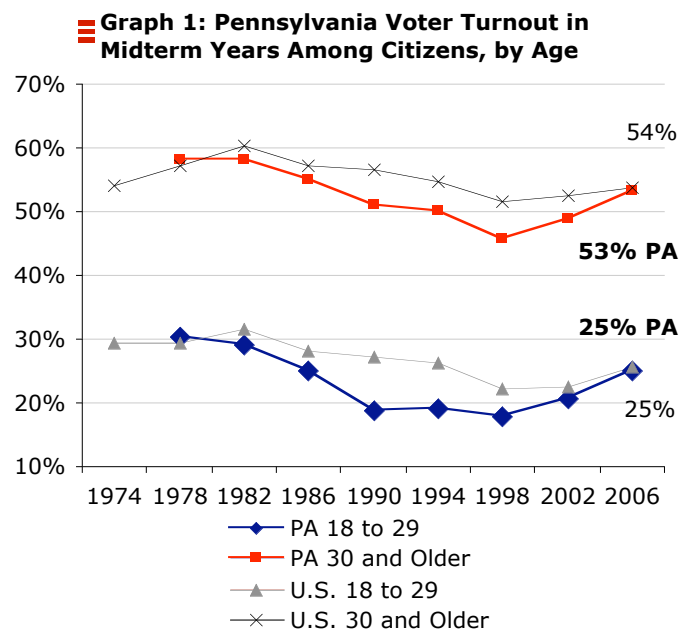
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in Pennsylvania: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 Pennsylvania, the youth voter turnout rate rose 4 percentage points from 21 percent in 2002 to 25 percent in 2006. Overall, Pennsylvania ranked 30th (tied with NM and OK) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 33rd in 2002.



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

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Pennsylvania, 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 1.9 million young people in Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in Pennsylvania was up over 2002.

Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

According to Election Pool, Exit Poll data, the plurality of young voters identified as Democrat, regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections.

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

	Pennsylvania
Democrat	47 percent
Independent	23 percent
Republican	25 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 – Pennsylvania Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	455 thousand	3.9 million
Voter Turnout Rate	25 percent	53 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	364 thousand	3.4 million
Voter Turnout Rate	21 percent	49 percent
Share of all Voters	10 percent	90 percent

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

Table 2 – Pennsylvania 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	20 percent
Black non-Hispanics	18 percent	26 percent
Latinos	***	22 percent
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	25 percent	19 percent
Men	25 percent	22 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	11 percent	9 percent
High School	15 percent	15 percent
Some College	22 percent	21 percent
BA or more	49 percent	45 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	21 percent	22 percent
Single Women	21 percent	16 percent
Married Men	38 percent	27 percent
Married Women	41 percent	33 percent
Registered Voter	50 percent	46 percent
All Youth, Pennsylvania	25 percent	21 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.