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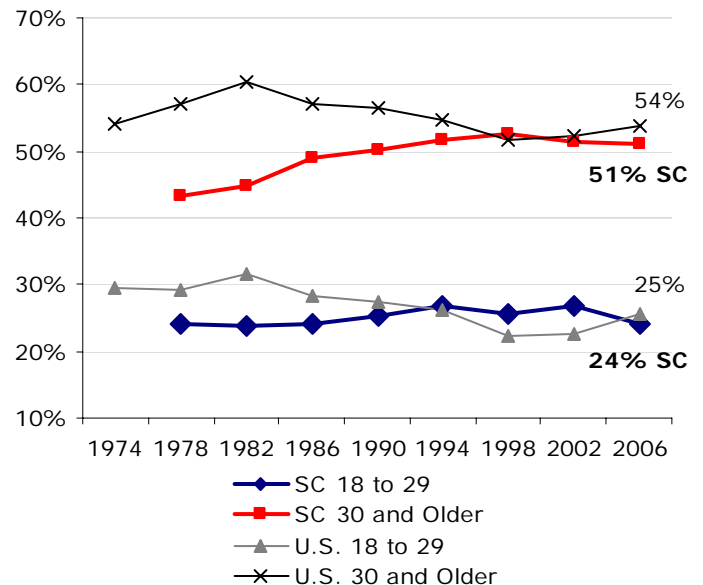
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Quick Facts about Young Voters in South Carolina: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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 South Carolina, the youth voter turnout rate fell 3 percentage points from 27 percent in 2002 to 24 percent in 2006. Overall, South Carolina ranked 33rd among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, down from 13th in 2002, and was one percentage point lower than the nation as a whole.

Graph 1: South Carolina 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 South Carolina, 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 653,000 young people in South Carolina 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 South Carolina. In 2006, voter turnout among many youth groups in South Carolina went down slightly. College graduates had the largest decline—19 percentage points.

Table 1 – South Carolina Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 and 2002

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2006		
Number of Votes Cast	152 thousand	1.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	24 percent	51 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent
2002		
Number of Votes Cast	154 thousand	1.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	27 percent	51 percent
Share of all Voters	11 percent	89 percent

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

Table 2 – South Carolina Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2006 & 2002

Voter Turnout Rate	2006	2002
Among:		
Race/Ethnicity³		
White non-Hispanics	22 percent	27 percent
Black non-Hispanics	30 percent	28 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
Gender		
Women	27 percent	29 percent
Men	21 percent	25 percent
Educational Attainment		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	15 percent	19 percent
Some College	29 percent	26 percent
BA or more	34 percent	55 percent
Marital Status		
Single Men	19 percent	27 percent
Single Women	21 percent	26 percent
Married Men	***	19 percent
Married Women	***	37 percent
Registered Voter	51 percent	50 percent
All Youth, South Carolina	24 percent	27 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

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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.