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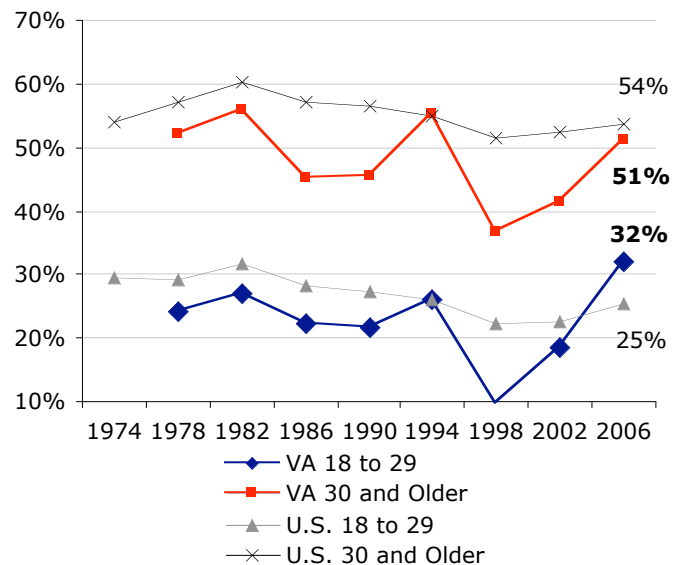
The Center for Information & Research on  
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### Quick Facts about Young Voters in Virginia: The Midterm Election Year 2006

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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.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, and impressively, youth electoral participation improved between 2002 and 2006 in Virginia, increasing 14 percentage points from 18 percent in 2002 to 32 percent in 2006. Overall, Virginia ranked 9th (tied with ME, MO, and OR) among all states and the District of Columbia in 2006, up from 44<sup>th</sup> in 2002. Much of this surge in participation was likely due to high profile races.

Graph 1: Virginia 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 Virginia, 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 were an estimated 1.1 million young people in Virginia who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 1 shows voting statistics for the years 2006 and 2002.<sup>3</sup>

### 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 Virginia. In 2006, voter turnout among all groups shown was up over 2002.

### Partisanship Among Young Voters in 2006

The plurality of young voters identified as Republican, regardless of how they voted, in the 2006 elections.

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

	Virginia
Democrat	34 percent
Independent	***
Republican	41 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 – Virginia Voter Turnout Statistics, 2006 & 2002**

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
<b>2006</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	302 thousand	2.1 million
Voter Turnout Rate	32 percent	51 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent
<b>2002</b>		
Number of Votes Cast	174 thousand	1.7 million
Voter Turnout Rate	18 percent	41 percent
Share of all Voters	9 percent	91 percent

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

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

Voter Turnout Rate	2006	2002
<b>Among:</b>		
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>4</sup></b>		
White non-Hispanics	38 percent	20 percent
Black non-Hispanics	21 percent	13 percent
Latinos	***	***
Asian non-Hispanics	***	***
Native American non-Hispanics	***	***
<b>Gender</b>		
Women	31 percent	14 percent
Men	32 percent	23 percent
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Less than High School	***	***
High School	23 percent	19 percent
Some College	36 percent	14 percent
BA or more	50 percent	33 percent
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single Men	30 percent	24 percent
Single Women	28 percent	15 percent
Married Men	***	17 percent
Married Women	42 percent	12 percent
Registered Voter	55 percent	36 percent
All Youth, Virginia	32 percent	18 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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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> For a full discussion of the different ways voter turnout can be calculated please see "CIRCLE Working Paper 35: The Youth Voter 2004: With a Historical Look at Youth Voting Patterns 1972-2004." All voter turnout estimates presented in this fact sheet are calculated for U.S. citizens only, and according to the "Census Citizen Method" described in CIRCLE Working Paper 35.

<sup>4</sup> 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.