

THE PORTUGUESE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP PROJECT
A NON-PARTISAN INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE CITIZENSHIP AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT



FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CA



EVALUATION
OF
THE 2008 ELECTIONS

SUPPORTED BY THE

LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

March 25, 2010

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KEY STATISTICS

- ☒ **Number of Members: 2,043**
- ☒ **Heads of Household registered to vote: 550 (27% of all parishioners)**
- ☒ **All Household Members registered to vote: 1,635**
- ☒ **Heads of Household voter turnout¹ in February 2008 – 79% (county-wide turnout 90%)**
- ☒ **Heads of Household voter turnout in June 2008 – 67% (county-wide turnout 62%)**
- ☒ **Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2008 – 93% (county-wide turnout 67%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

Five Wounds Parish, in collaboration with the Portuguese Organization for Social Services and Opportunities (POSSO), has been an active participant in the Portuguese American Citizenship Project since late 2002.

For the 2008 February, June, and November elections, postcards in Portuguese and English were sent to every registered voter in the parish reminding them of the date and polling hours for each election.

¹ Voter turnout is the number of citizens voting in an election divided by the total number of citizens registered to vote. Voter turnout for each election is based on Santa Clara county residents only.

RESULTS

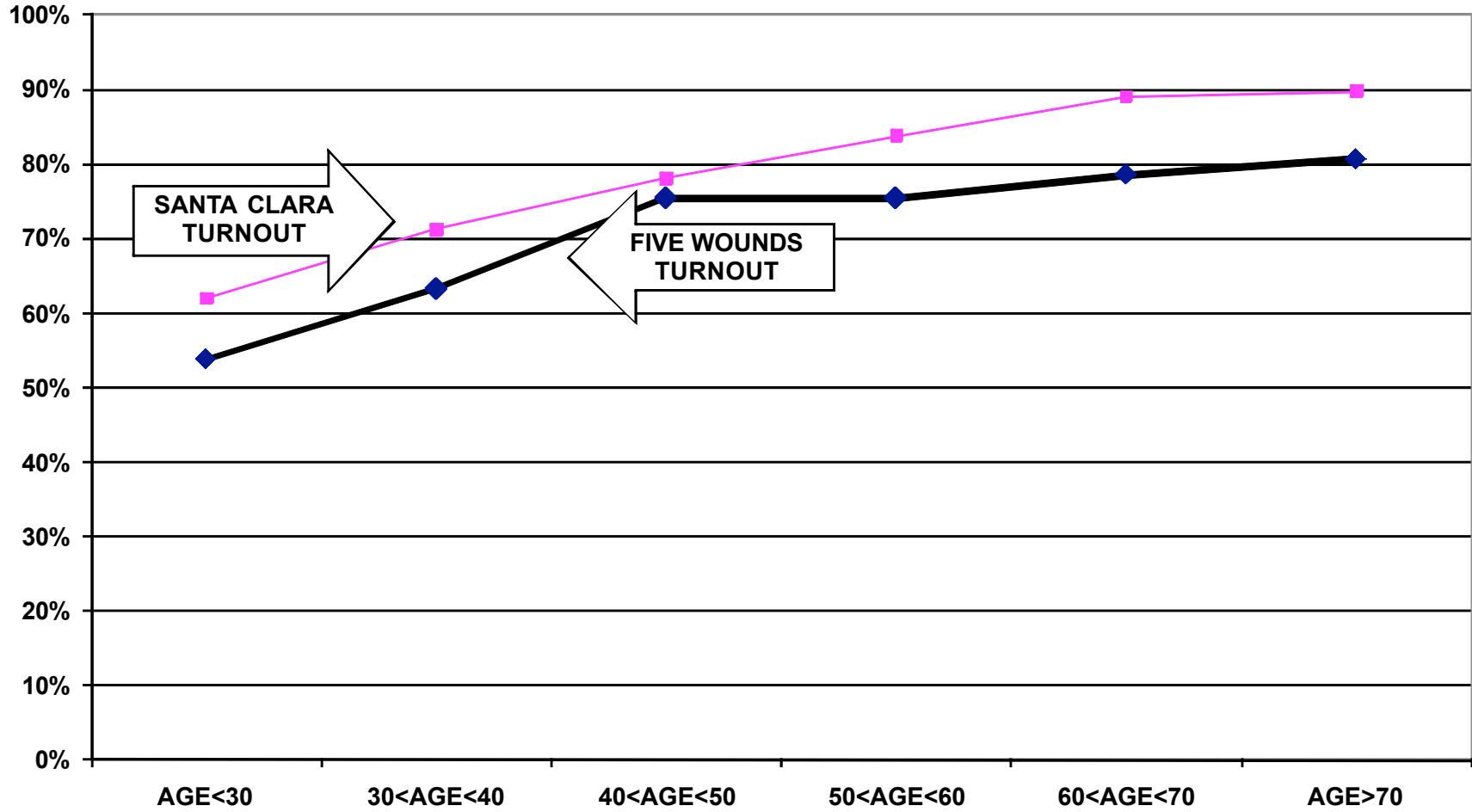
Five Wounds Parish's heads of household voter turnout for the 2008 elections was on average higher than the countywide turnout. Heads of household turnout for the February Presidential Primary elections was 79%, as compared to the countywide turnout of 90%. For the June Primary elections heads of household turnout was 67%, as compared to the countywide turnout of 62%. Five Wounds heads of household turnout for the November Presidential election was 93%, as compared to the countywide turnout of 67%.

Voter turnout for all family members is not uniform across age groups. Voters under 30 years of age and even those between 30 and 40 years old had lower turnout rates than the older voters. This is true for the parish's registered voters and true for the registered voters in the community at large.

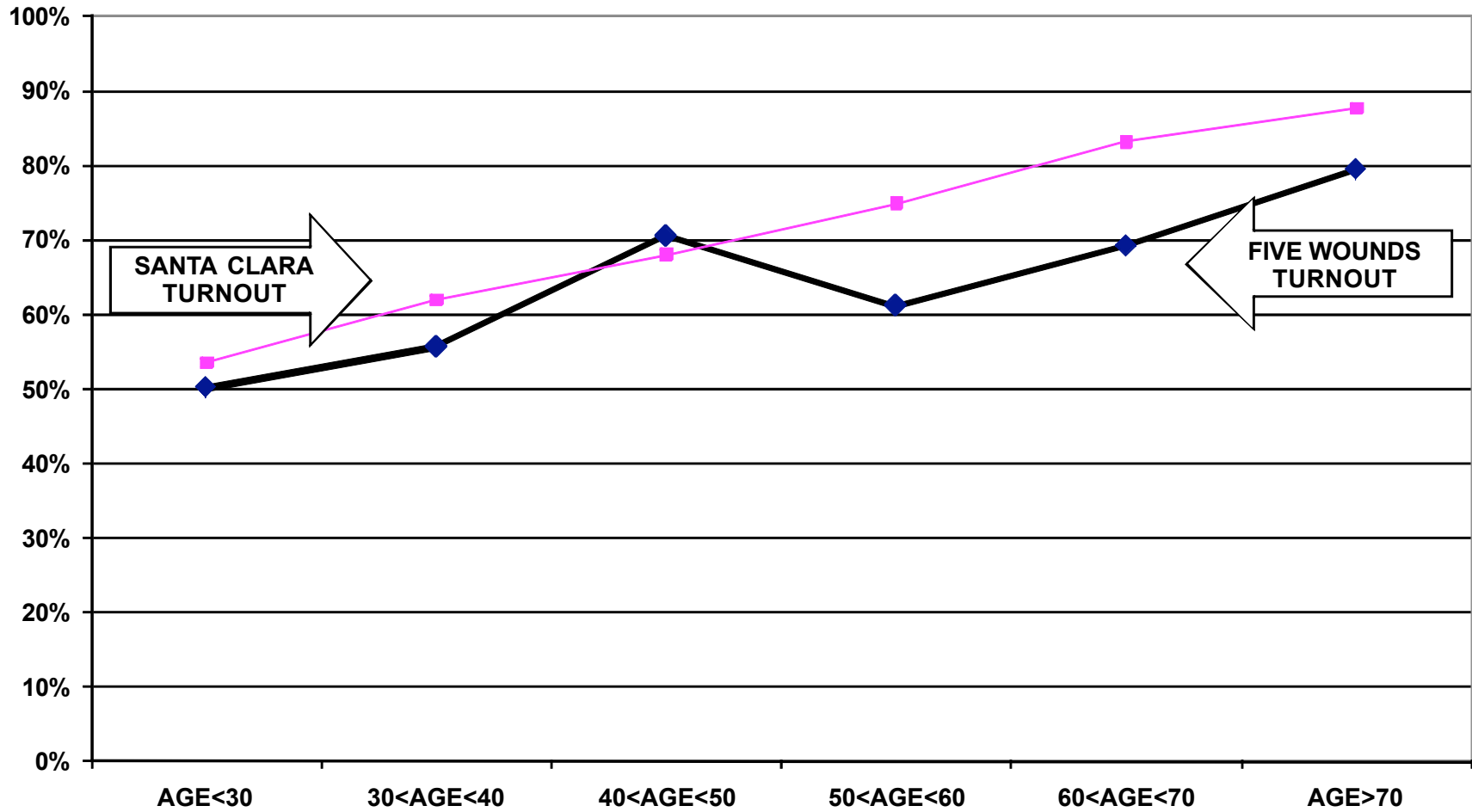
For example, registered voters associated with the parish under 30 years old had a 53% turnout rate in the February elections, while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 79% turnout rate. For the June elections, the under 30 year old associated voters had a 50% turnout rate compared to a 69% turnout rate for voters between 60 and 70 years old. Voters associated with Five Wounds under 30 years old had a 83% turnout rate in the November Presidential elections, while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 92% turnout rate.

The following graphs for the February, June, and November 2008 elections illustrate the relationship between turnout rates and age. These graphs refer to all family members associated with the parish, not just heads of household.

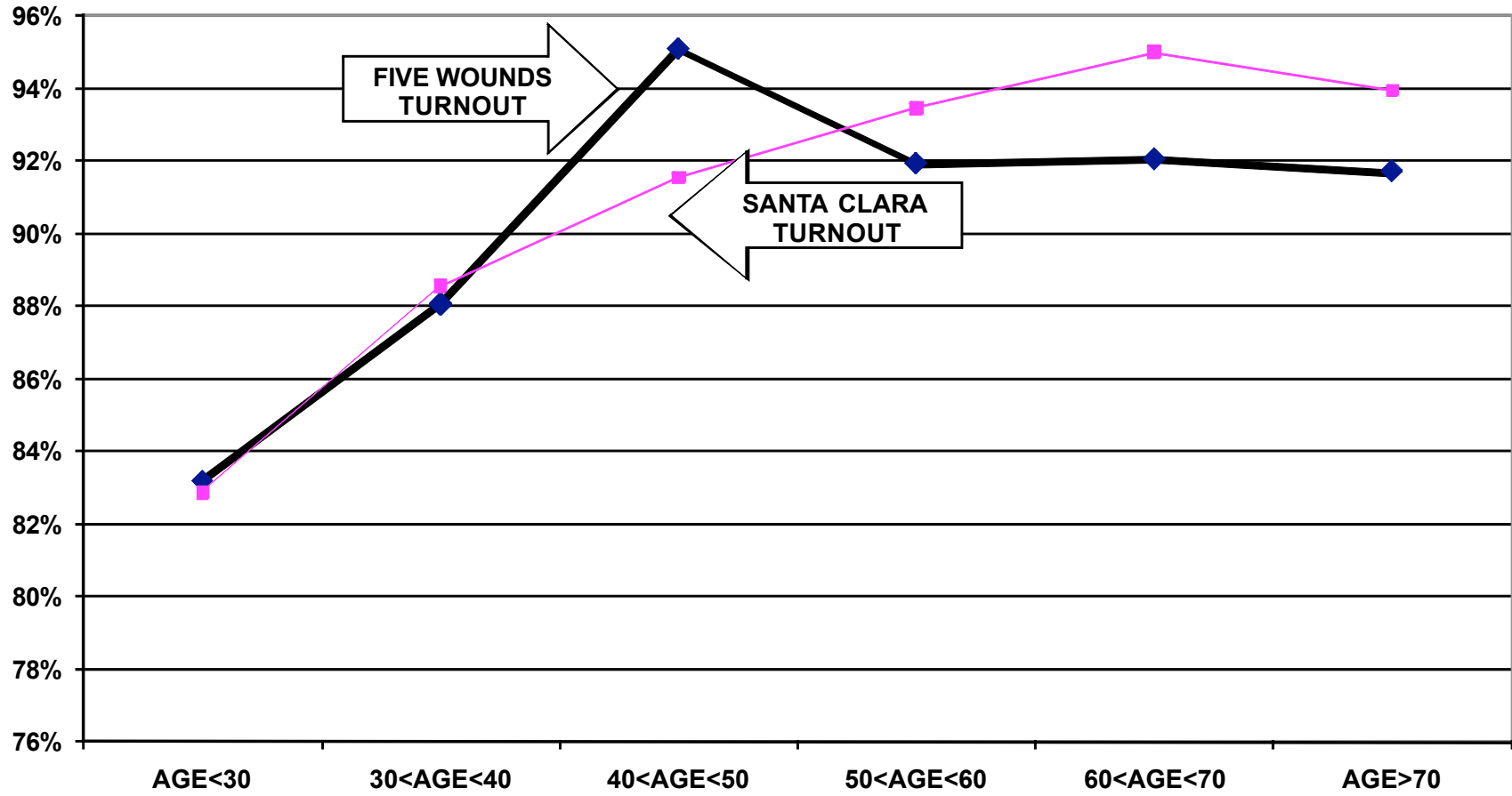
TURNOUT BY AGE FEBRUARY 2008 FIVE WOUNDS PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE JUNE 2008 FIVE WOUNDS PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2008 FIVE WOUNDS PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ☒ The parish must determine if and how it will provide funding for the costs of participation in the Citizenship Project. The Luso American Foundation has completed 10 years of financial support for the Project but will terminate this support for 2009 and beyond. In 2009, the Project will continue to provide data processing and assist in the preparation of voter cards. The approximate cost of preparing and printing voter cards for two elections is \$900.
- ☒ If the parish cannot provide the financial support for mailing and/or cannot accomplish the logistics of printing and mailing the voter cards, interested members of the community should examine the accomplishments of the past ten years and determine how to build on these achievements using alternative methods of promoting civic participation.

APPENDIX

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**HISTORICAL DATA: FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

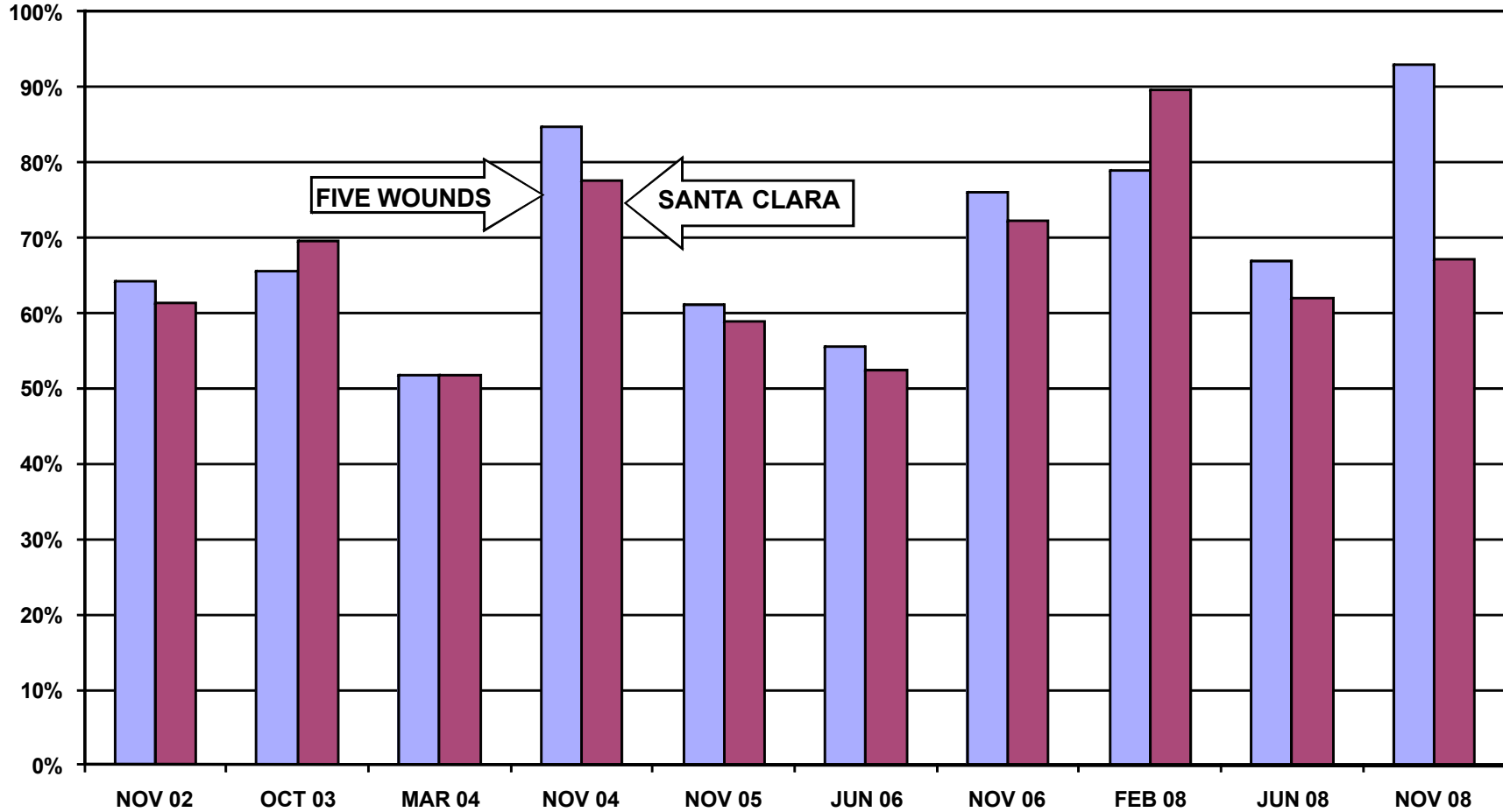
MEMBERS	2,043
MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA	550 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD
	1,635 ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

VOTING PERFORMANCE OF SANTA CLARA RESIDENTS

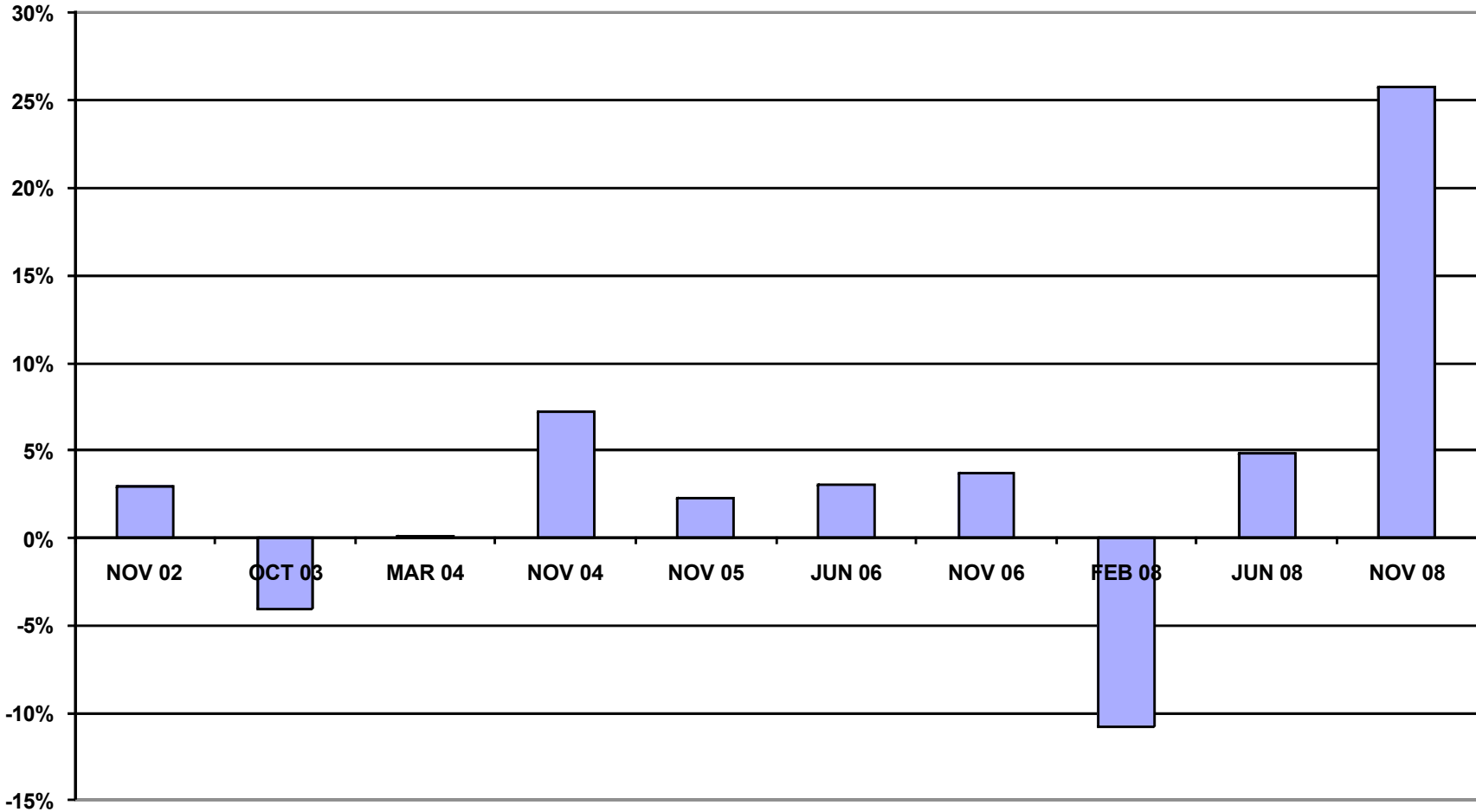
	HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD	AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE	COUNTY WIDE VOTING HISTORY AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
		COMPARABLE STATISTICS	
VOTERS NOV 2002	373	64.2%	61.3%
VOTERS OCT 2003	399	65.5%	69.5%
VOTERS MAR 2004	321	51.8%	51.7%
VOTERS NOV 2004	540	84.7%	77.5%
VOTERS NOV 2005	380	61.1%	58.9%
VOTERS JUN 2006	305	55.6%	52.5%
VOTERS NOV 2006	417	76.0%	72.3%
VOTERS FEB 2008	434	78.9%	89.7%
VOTERS JUN 2008	368	66.9%	62.0%
VOTERS NOV 2008	511	92.9%	67.1%

Note: Voting statistics for November 2008 are based on registration statistics from May 2009

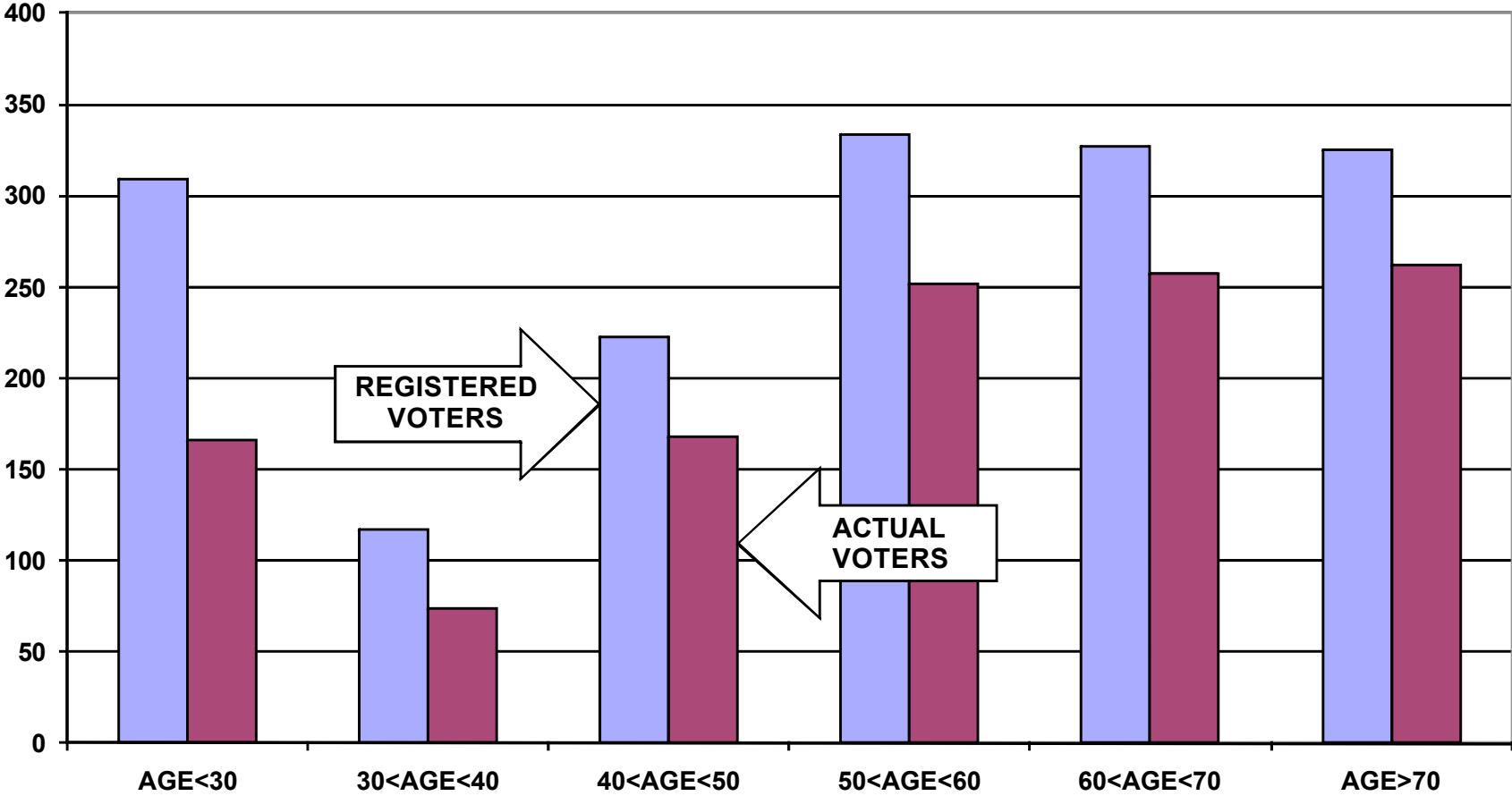
REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY AND FIVE WOUNDS PARISH HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



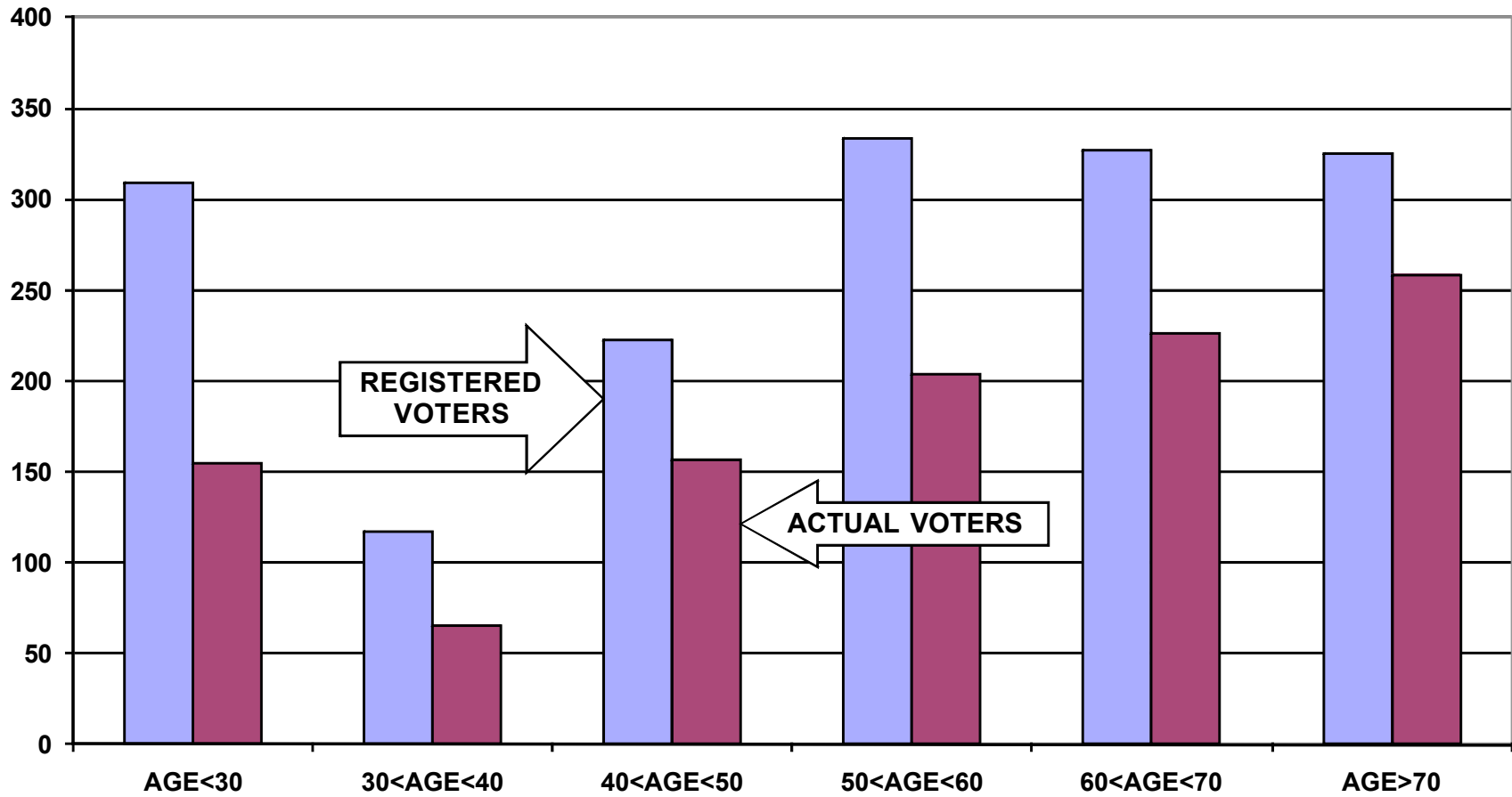
**DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN
FIVE WOUNDS PARISH VOTERS AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS FEBRUARY 2008
FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS JUNE 2008
FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2008
FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

