

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



**SAINT ANNE'S PARISH
FALL RIVER, MA.**

**EVALUATION
OF
THE 2008 ELECTIONS**

June 19, 2009

SUPPORTED BY THE
LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

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KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Parishioners: 3,036**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in Fall River: 1,498 (49% of all parishioners)**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in Bristol County: 1,797**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Fall River: 2,147**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Bristol County: 2,537**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout* in February 2008 – 48% (citywide turnout 37%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in September 2008 – 29% (citywide turnout 23%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2008 – 79% (citywide turnout 68%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

St. Anne's has been an active participant in the Portuguese American Citizenship Project since the Summer of 2000.

For the 2008 elections, postcards in Portuguese and English were sent to every registered parish voter reminding them of the date, polling hours, and location of the assigned polling station for the election. Cards were not sent out for February 2008 Presidential Primary Elections.

* Voter turnout is the number of citizens voting in an election divided by the total number of citizens registered to vote. Voter turnout statistics are based on Fall River residents only.

RESULTS

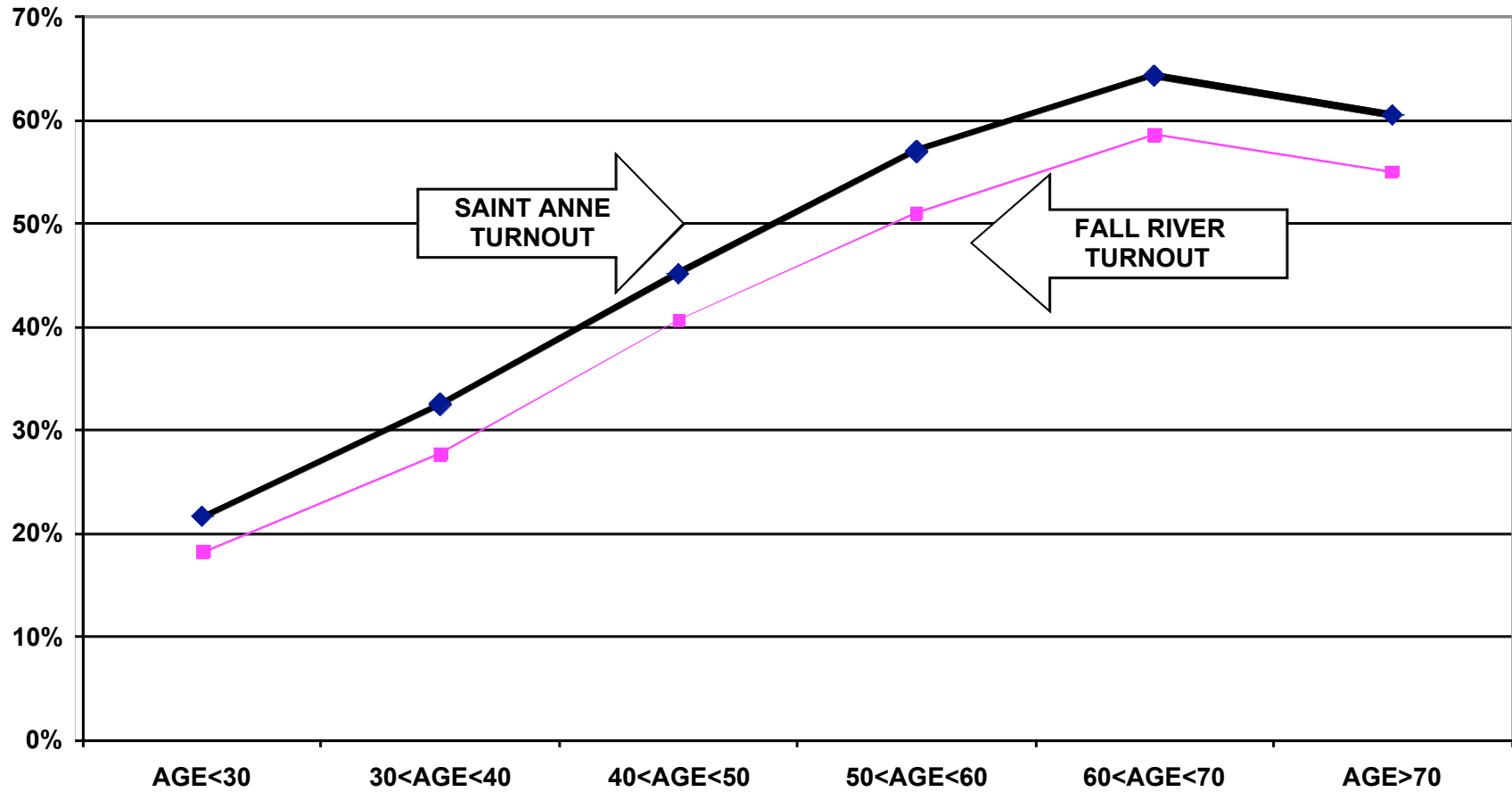
St. Anne's voter turnout for the February, September, and November 2008 elections was consistently higher than citywide turnout. Heads of household turnout for the February Presidential Primary Elections was 48%, as compared to the city turnout of 37%. The St. Anne heads of household turnout for the September State Primary Elections was 29%, as compared to the city turnout of 23%. Heads of household turnout for the November 2008 Presidential Elections was 79%, as compared to the city turnout of 68%.

Voter turnout 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 registered voters in the parish and true for the registered voters in the community at large.

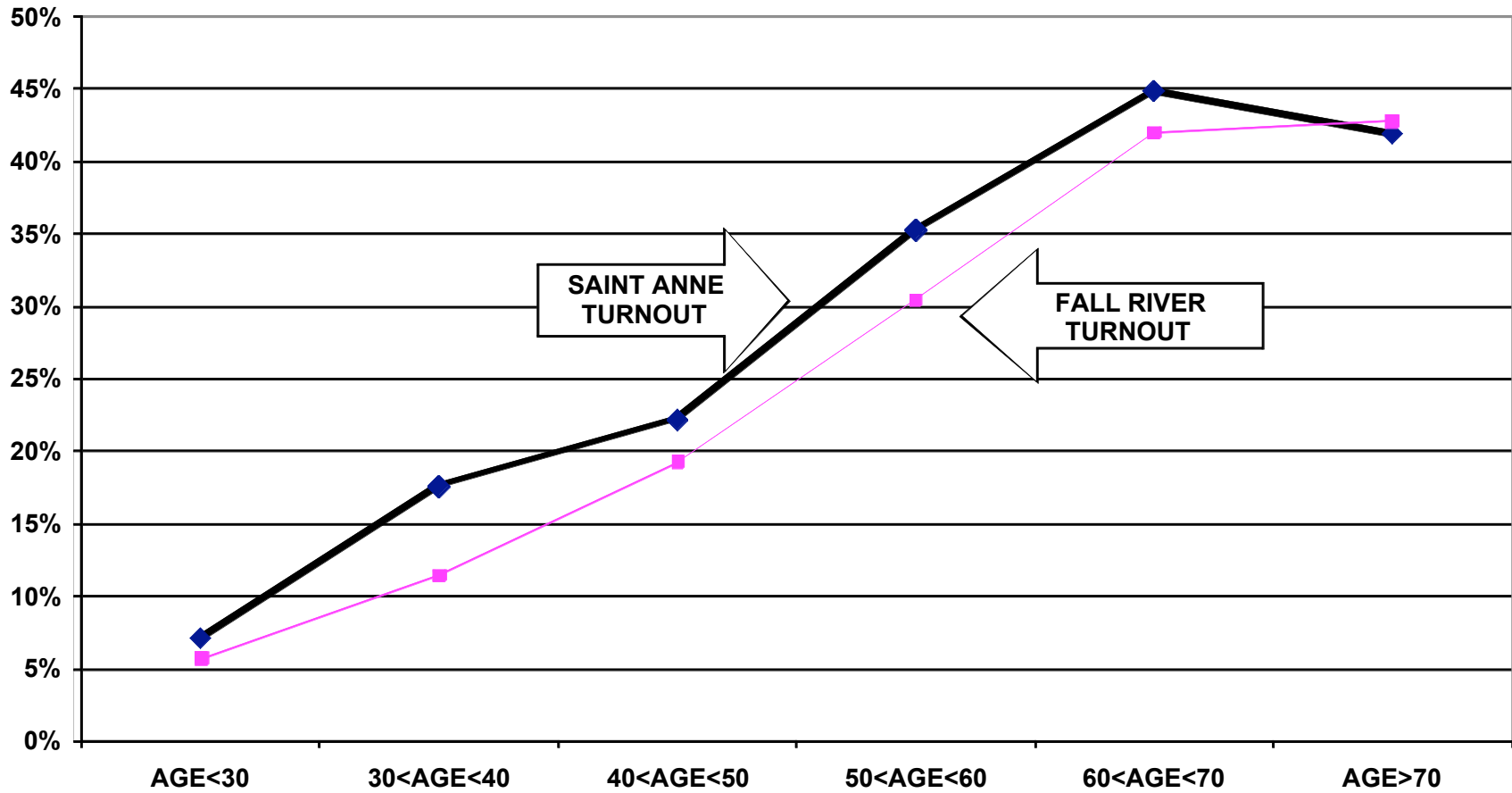
For example, voters under 30 years old associated with the parish had a 22% turnout rate in the February elections while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 64% turnout rate. For the September elections, the under 30 year old associated parishioners had a 7% turnout rate compared to a 45% turnout rate for voters between 60 and 70 years old. For the November Presidential elections, voters under 30 years old associated with the parish had a 62% turnout rate while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 85% turnout rate.

The following graphs for the February, September, and November 2008 elections, illustrate the relationship between turnout rates and age. These graphs are for all voters associated with the parish, not just the heads of household.

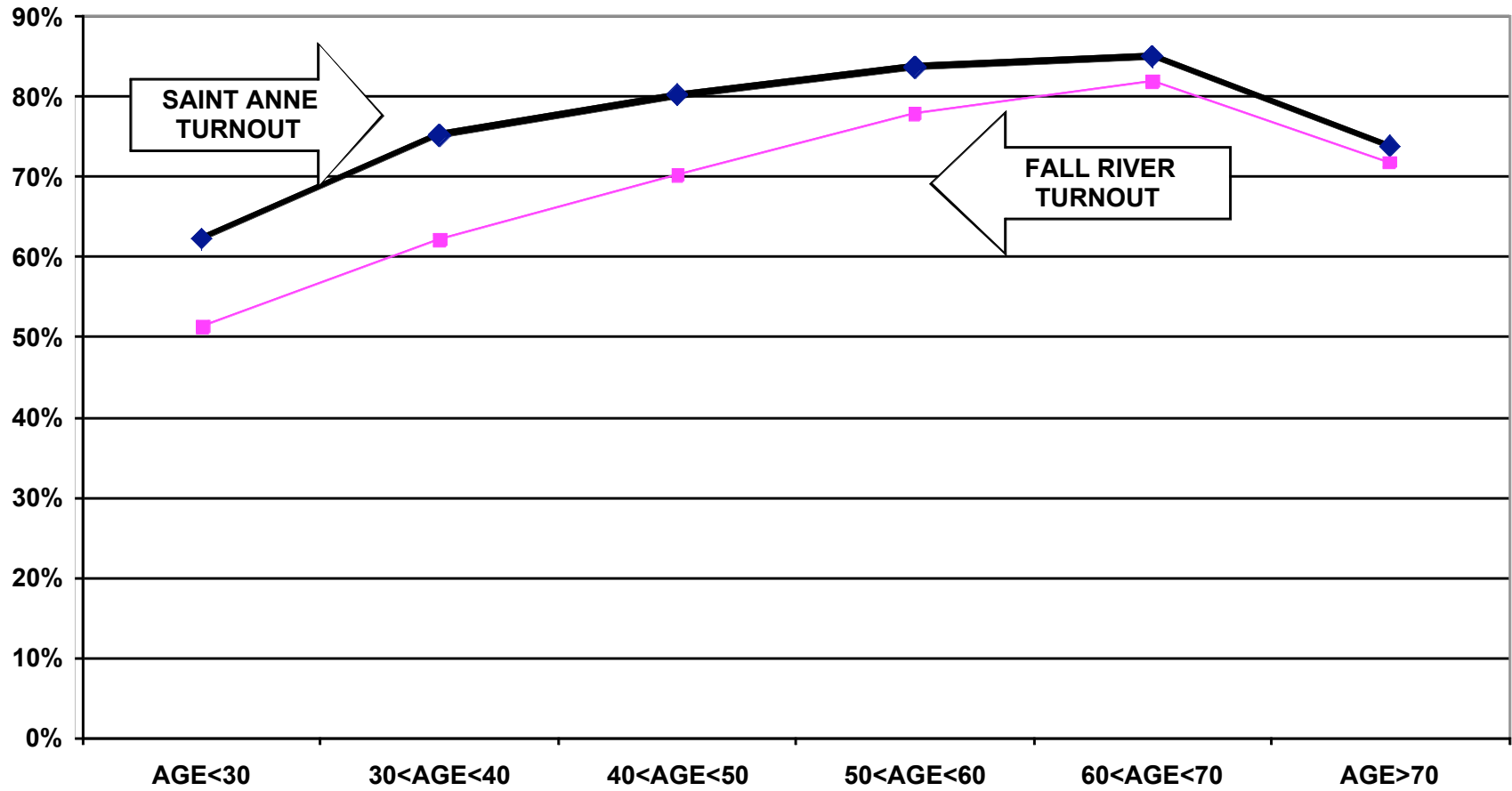
TURNOUT BY AGE FEBRUARY 2008 SAINT ANNE PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE SEPTEMBER 2008 SAINT ANNE PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2008 SAINT ANNE 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. With a mailing permit, the cost of printing and mailing the cards for a September Primary and November City election is approximately \$1,300.
- If the parish cannot provide the financial support for this 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.
- The parish has over 2,100 registered voters and an exceptionally high voter turnout rate and is, as a result, a force to be reckoned with in the Bristol Country and Fall River political arena. The local political leadership acknowledges the voting strength of the parish but needs to be unequivocally told what the parishioners want from their government. The October 2007 Candidate Night for Mayor was an excellent example of how best to allow parishioners themselves to determine the key issues of an election. Formal debates and other methods of communication are necessary to allow candidates for public office to know fully what the community wants from their leaders.

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- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters February 2008 Graph 14
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters September 2008 Graph 15
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters November 2008 Graph 16

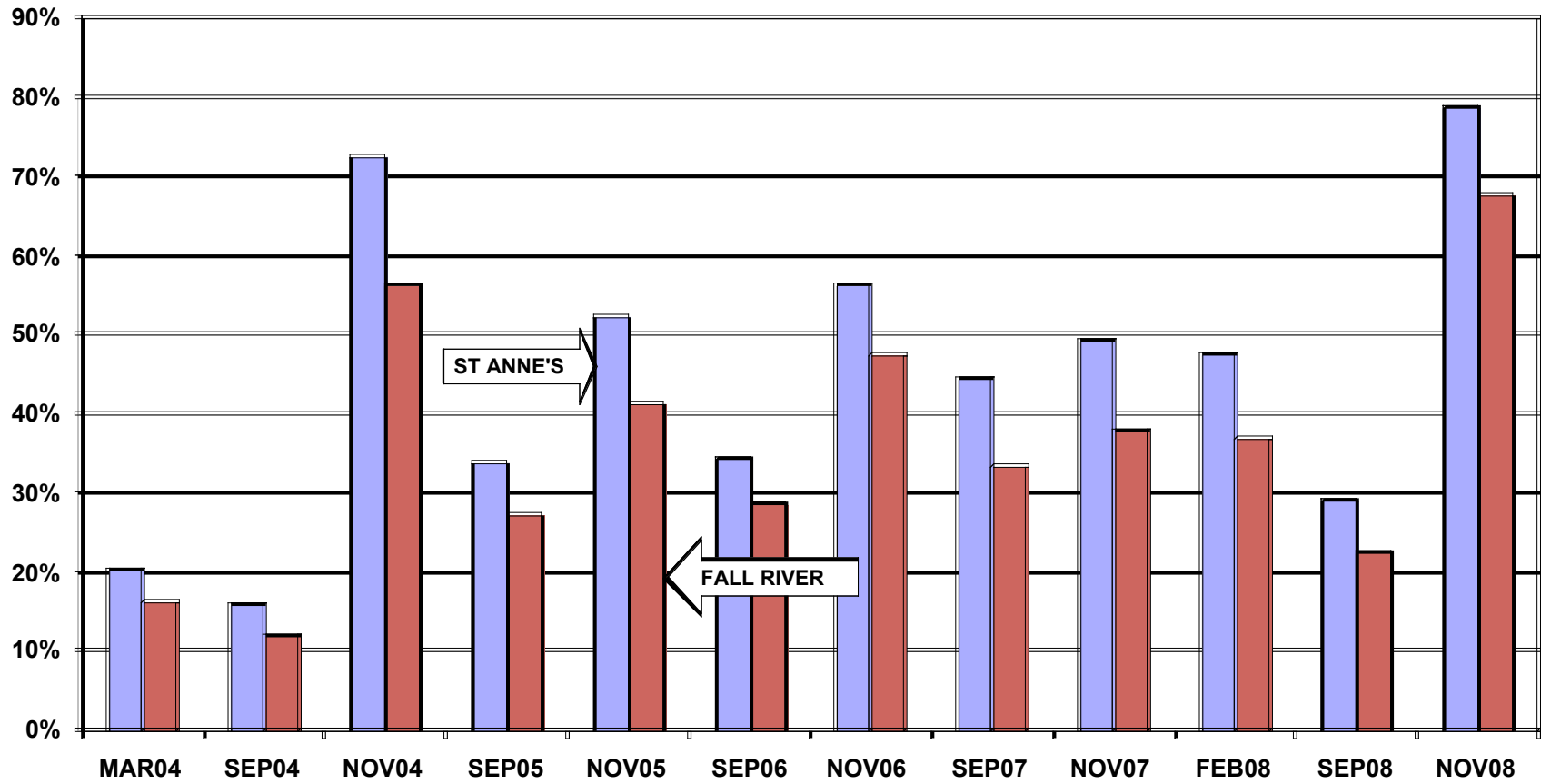
**HISTORICAL DATA: ST ANNE'S PARISH
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

MEMBERS RESIDING IN FALL RIVER	2 433
MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN CITY OF FALL RIVER	1 498 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD
	2 147 ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

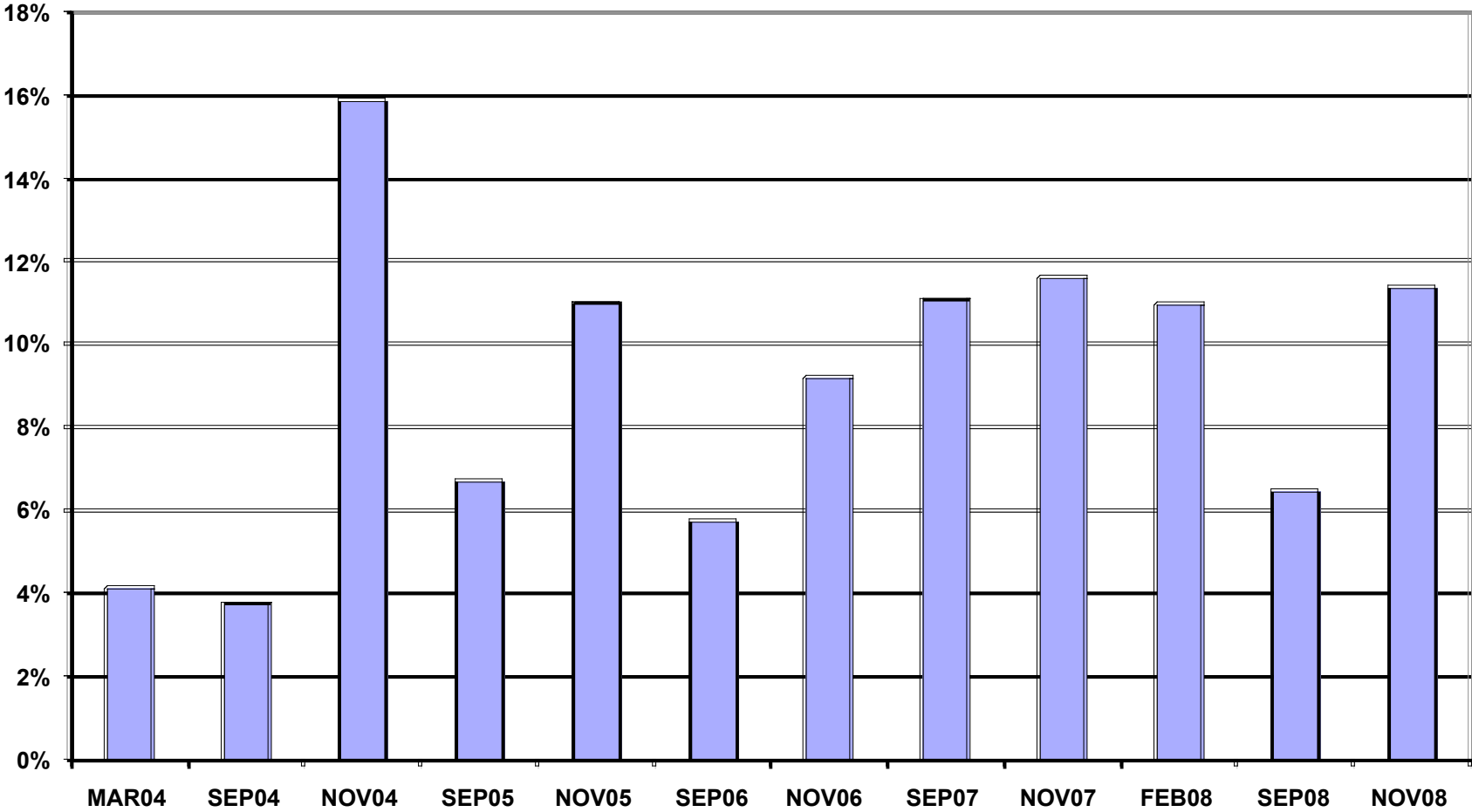
VOTING PERFORMANCE OF FALL RIVER RESIDENTS

	HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD	AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE	CITY WIDE VOTING HISTORY (AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS)
		COMPARABLE STATISTICS	
VOTERS SEP 2003	541	33.4%	22.7%
VOTERS NOV 2003	803	50.4%	38.8%
VOTERS MAR 2004	326	20.5%	16.3%
VOTERS SEP 2004	254	15.9%	12.2%
VOTERS NOV 2004	1153	72.3%	56.4%
VOTERS SEP 2005*	483	33.9%	27.2%
VOTERS NOV 2005*	743	52.2%	41.2%
VOTERS SEP 2006	722	34.6%	28.8%
VOTERS NOV 2006	958	56.5%	47.3%
VOTERS SEP 2007	672	44.5%	33.4%
VOTERS NOV 2007	747	49.5%	37.9%
VOTERS FEB 2008	715	47.7%	36.8%
VOTERS SEP 2008	437	29.2%	22.7%
VOTERS NOV 2008	1182	78.9%	67.5%

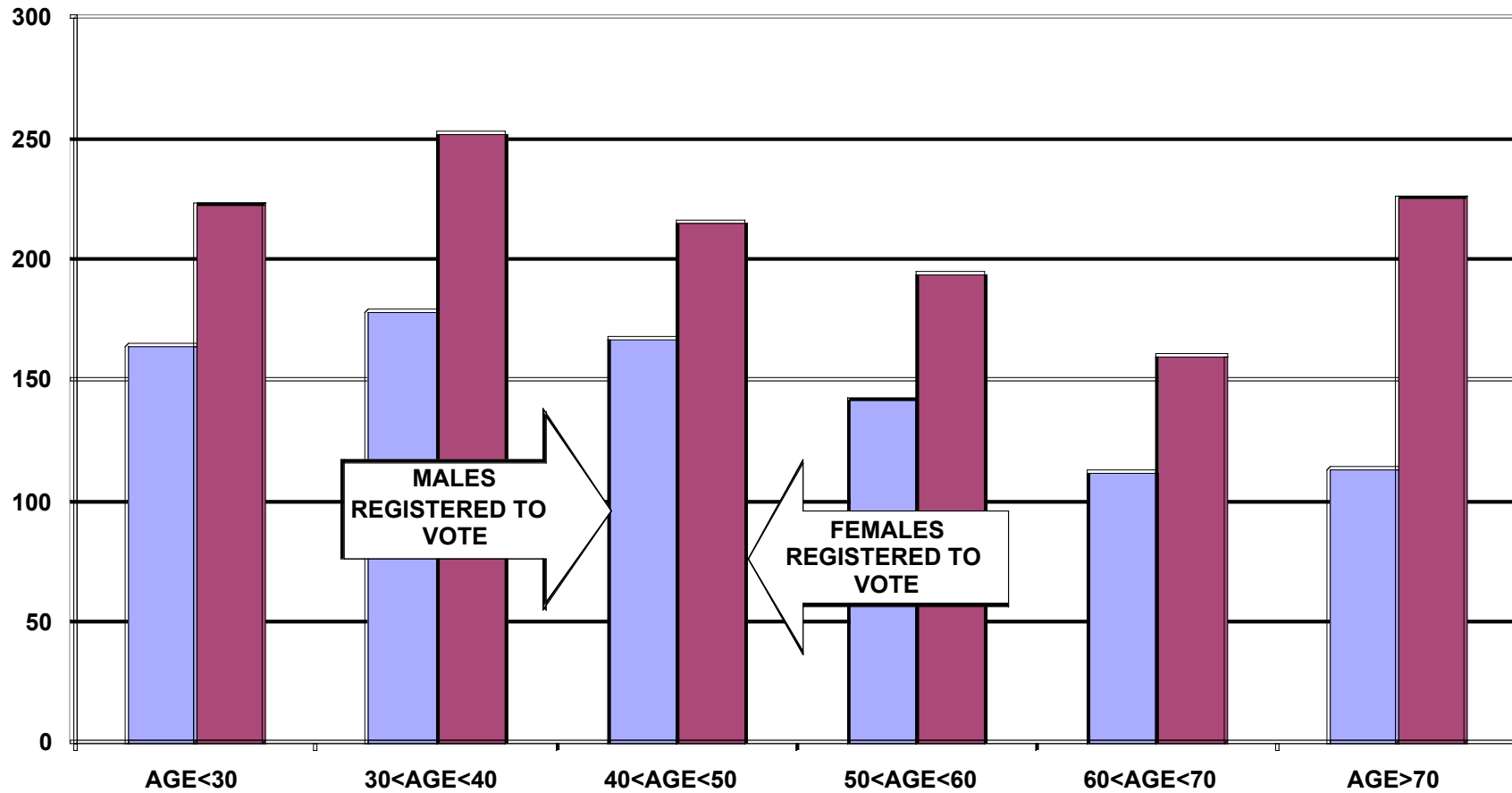
REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON BETWEEN FALL RIVER AND ST ANNE'S HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



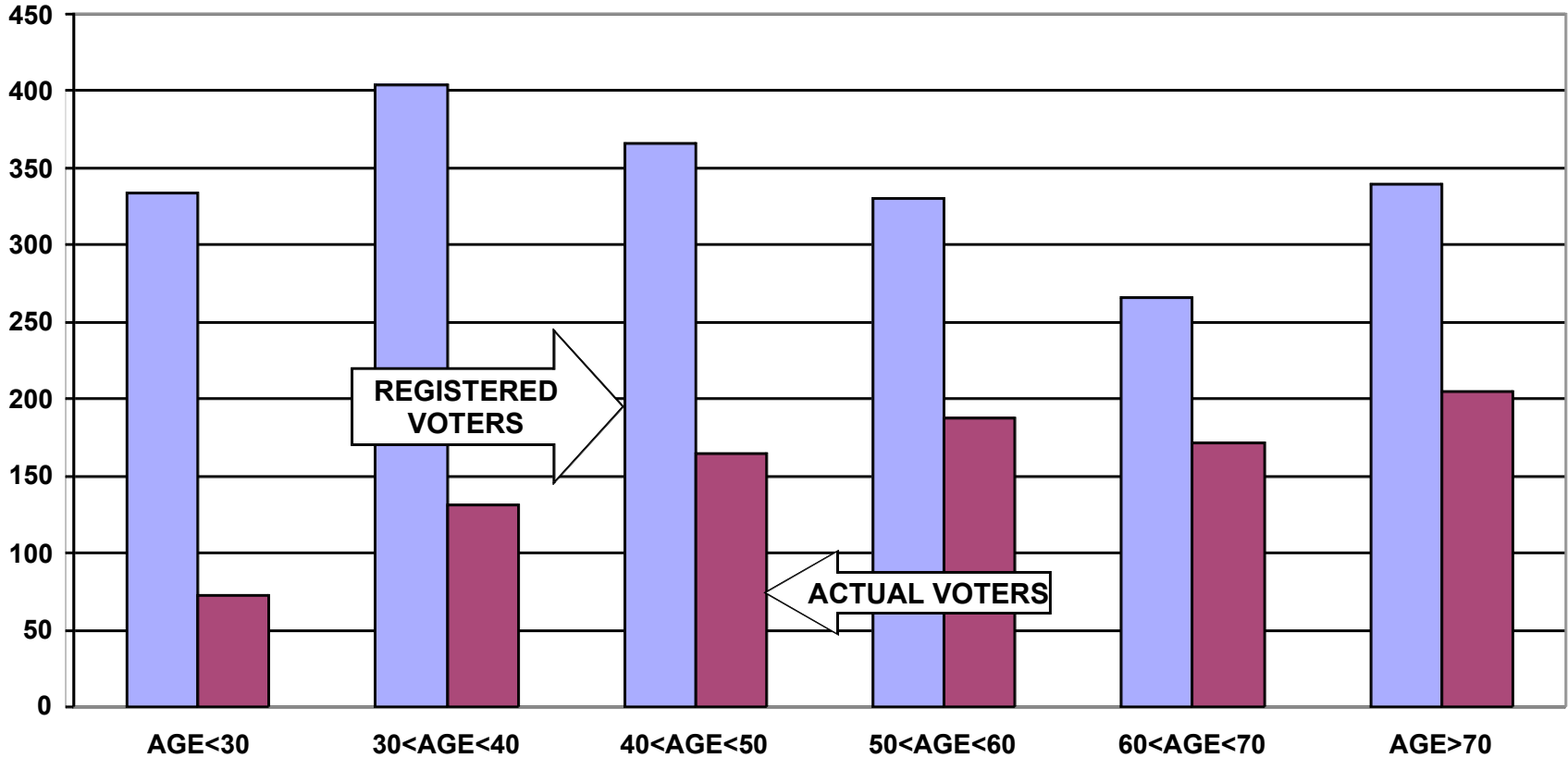
DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN ST ANNE'S VOTERS AND FALL RIVER VOTERS HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



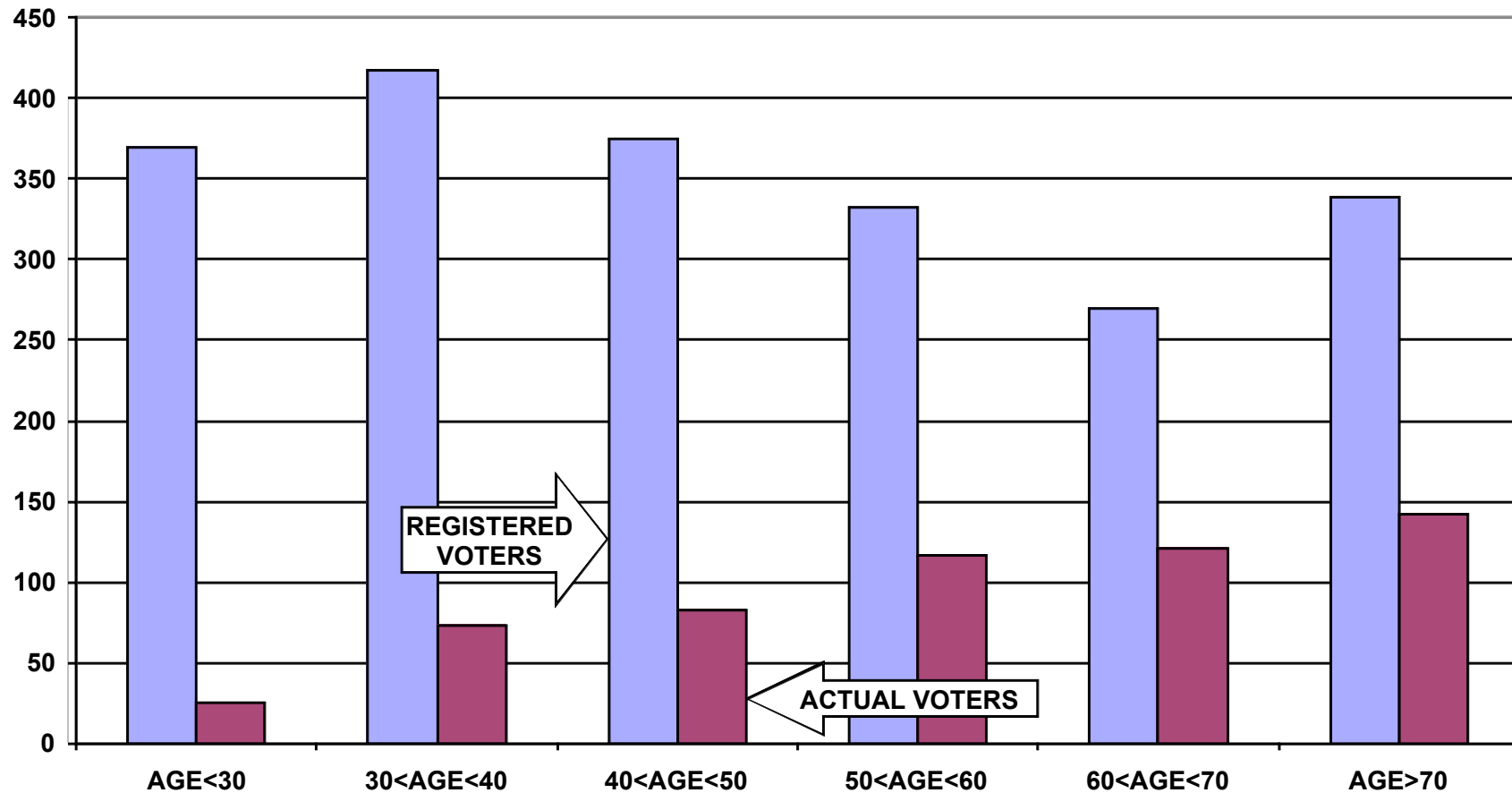
**VOTER REGISTRATION BY AGE AND GENDER
SAINT ANNE
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS FEBRUARY 2008
SAINT ANNE PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS SEPTEMBER 2008
SAINT ANNE PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2008
SAINT ANNE PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

