

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



**SAINT ANTHONY'S PARISH
NEW BEDFORD, MA**

**EVALUATION
OF
THE 2008 ELECTIONS**

June 14, 2009

SUPPORTED BY THE
LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

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KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Parishioners in St. Anthony: 624**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in New Bedford: 339 (45% of all parishioners)**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in Bristol County: 428**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in New Bedford: 420**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Bristol County: 628**
- **Voter Turnout* in February 2008 – 62% (city-wide turnout 32%)**
- **Voter Turnout in September 2008 – 34% (city-wide turnout 14%)**
- **Voter Turnout in November 2008 – 85% (city-wide turnout 61%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

St. Anthony has been an active participant in the Portuguese American Citizenship Project since 2003.

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

RESULTS

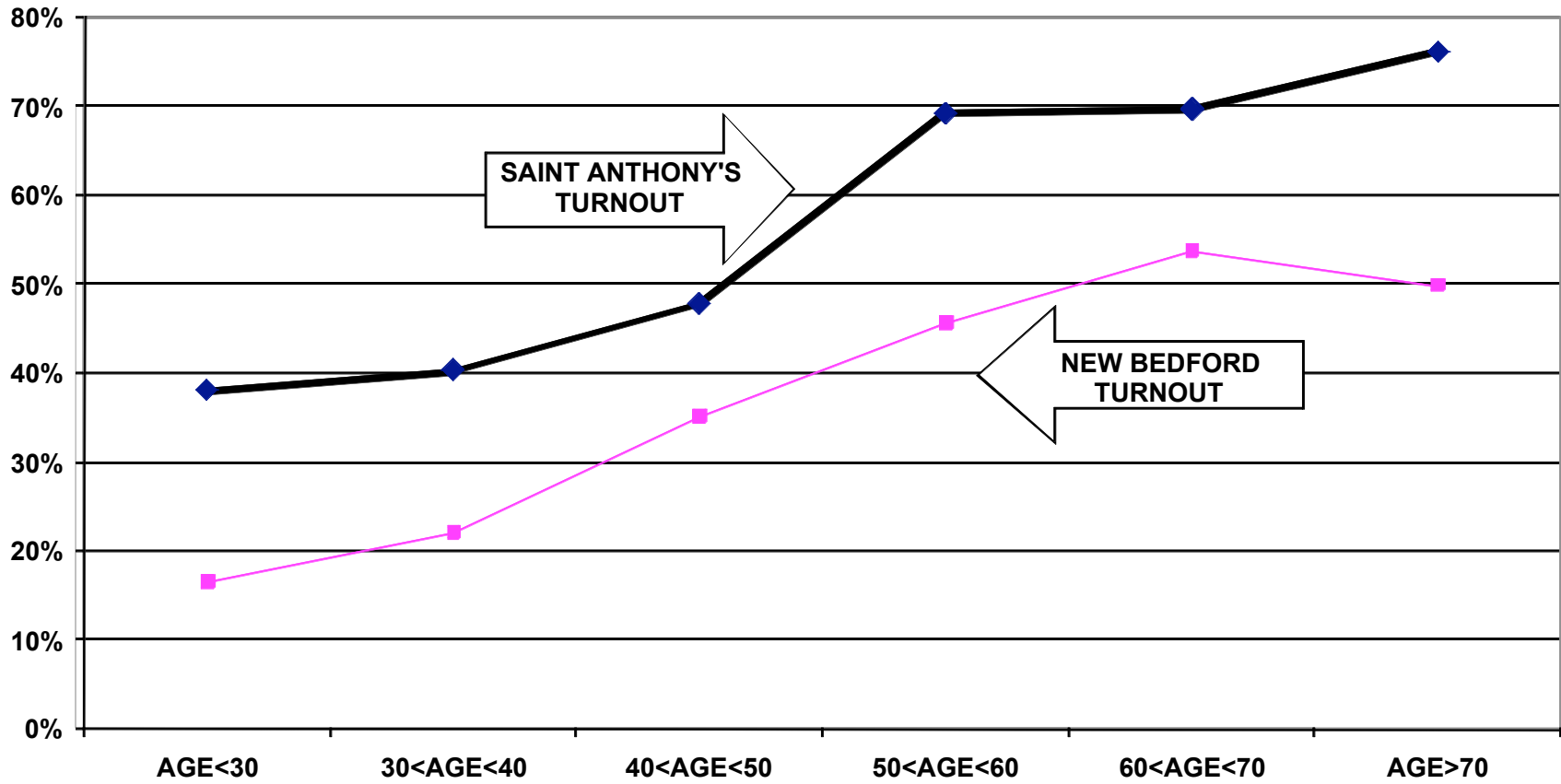
The St. Anthony voter turnout for the February, September, and November 2008 elections was consistently higher than citywide turnout. Heads of household turnout for the February Presidential Primary Elections was 62%, as compared to the city turnout of 32%. The St Anthony heads of household turnout for the September State Primary Elections was 34%, as compared to the city turnout of 14%. Heads of household turnout for the November 2008 Presidential Elections was 85%, as compared to the city turnout of 61%.

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.

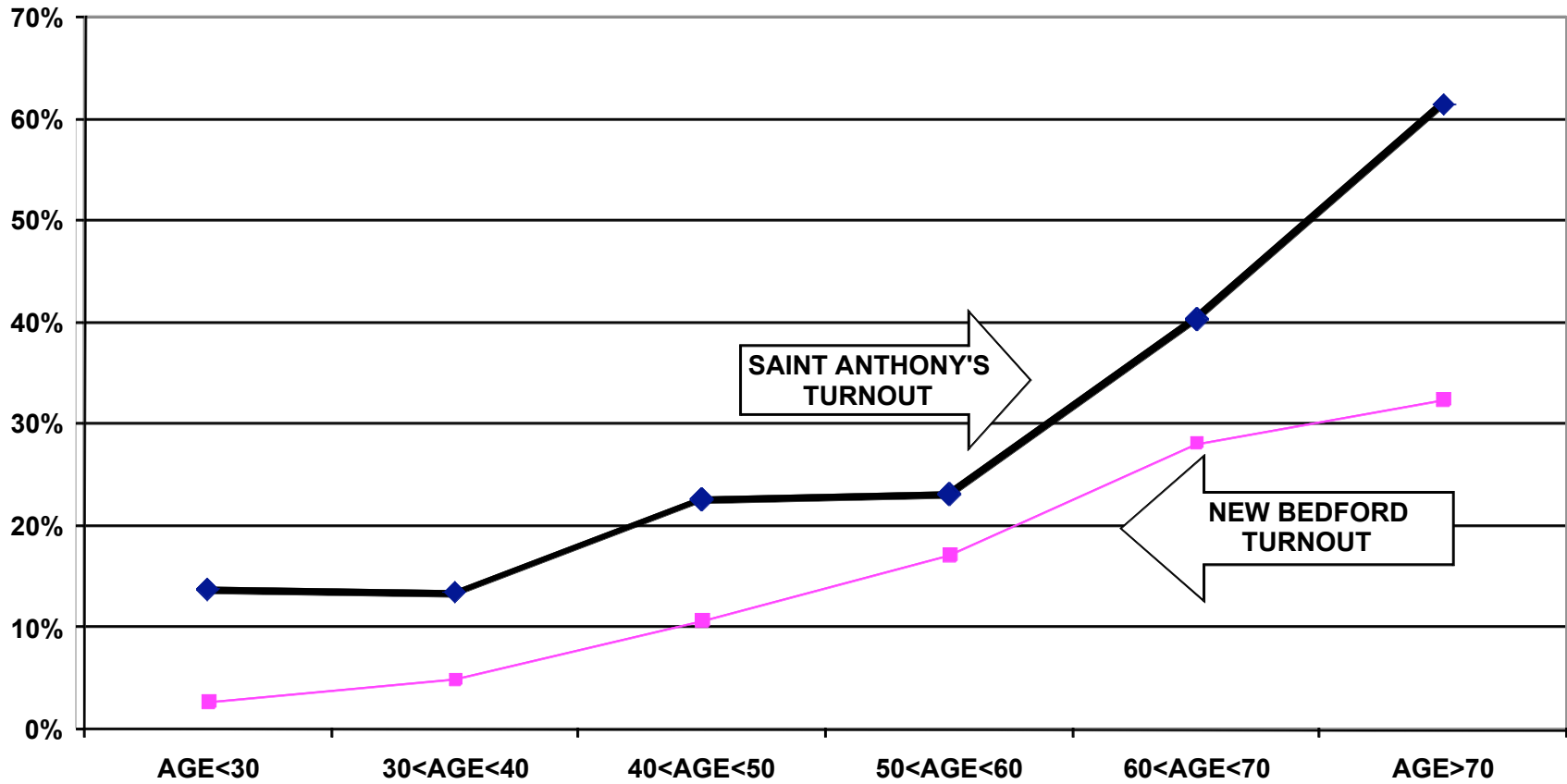
For example, voters under 30 years old associated with the parish had a 25% turnout rate in the February elections, while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 70% turnout rate. For the September elections, the under 30 year old associated parishioners had an 7% turnout rate compared to a 43% turnout 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 63% turnout rate while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 87% 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.

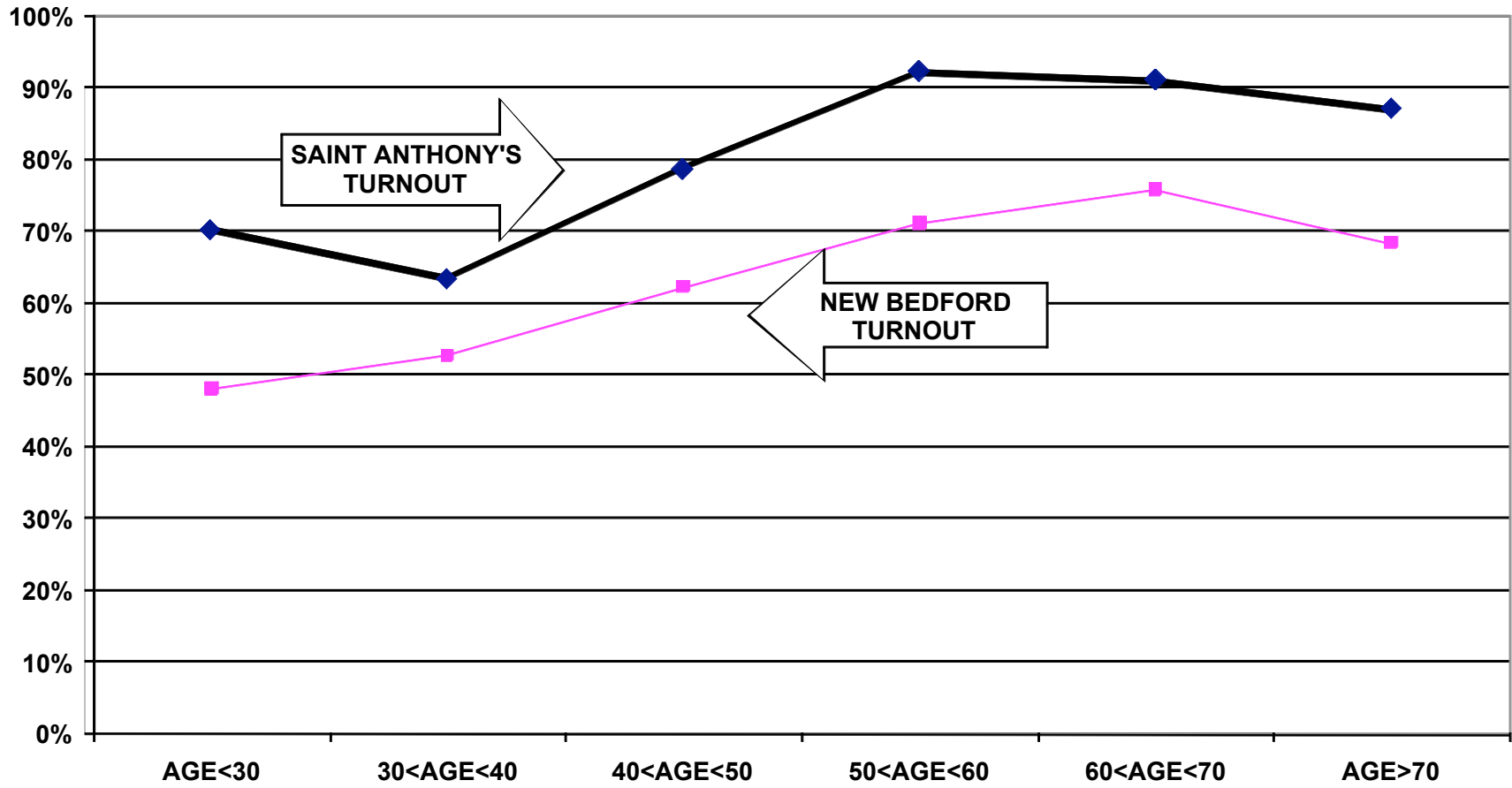
TURNOUT BY AGE FEBRUARY 2008 SAINT ANTHONY'S PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE SEPTEMBER 2008 SAINT ANTHONY'S PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2008 SAINT ANTHONY'S 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 elections is approximately \$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.

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- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters February 2008 Graph 14
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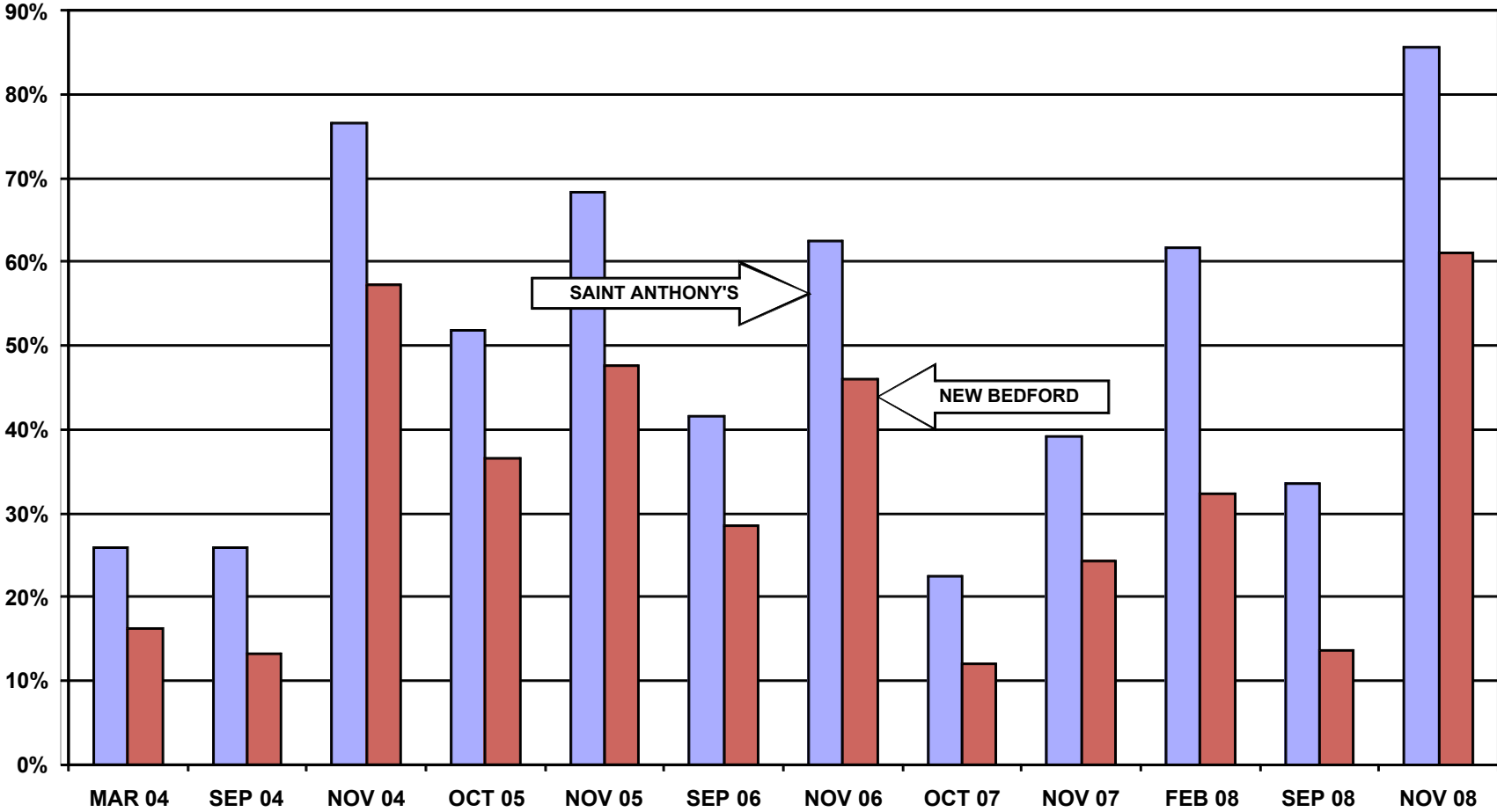
**HISTORICAL DATA – SAINT ANTHONY PARISH
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

MEMBERS	624
MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN NEW BEDFORD	339 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD
	420 ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

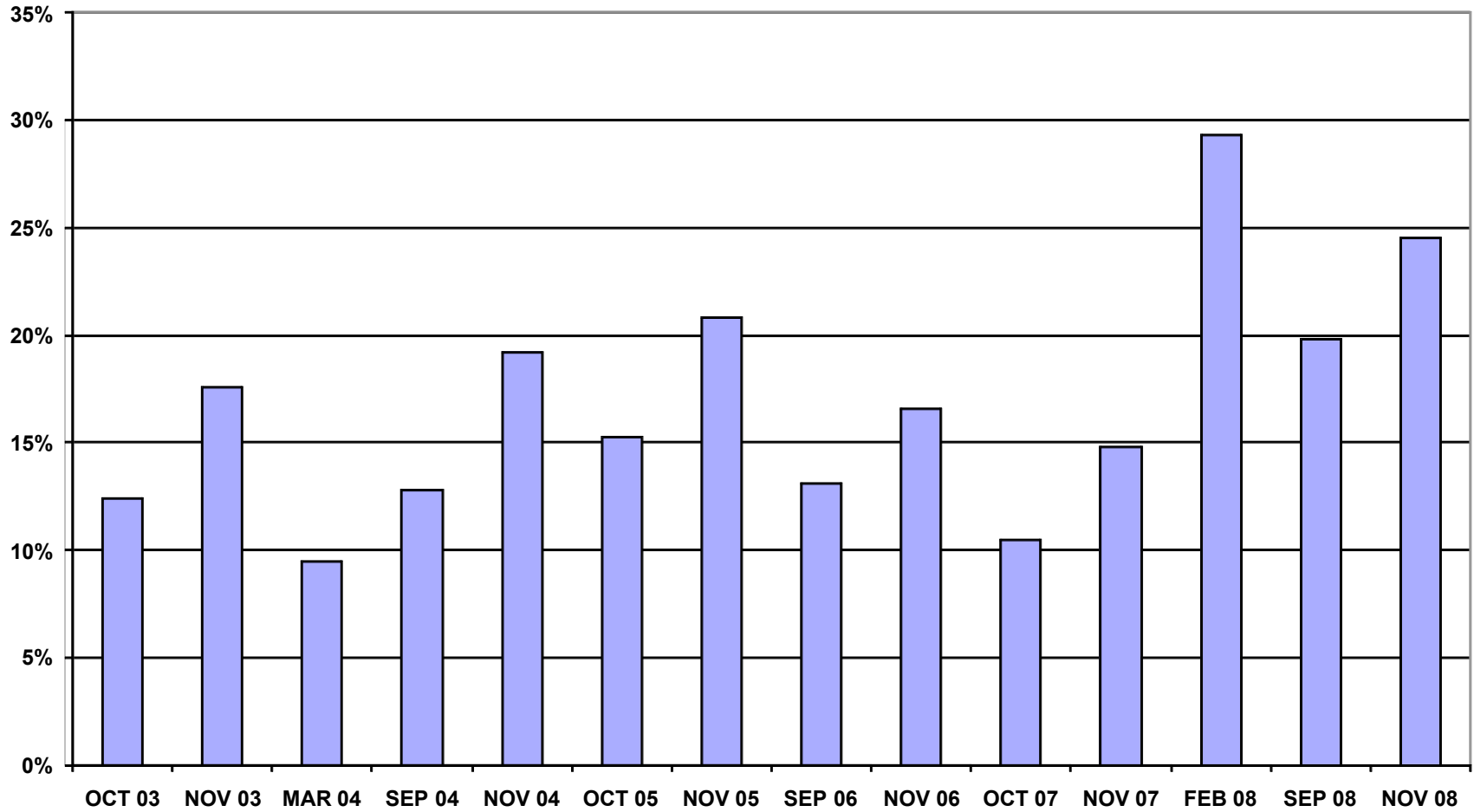
VOTING PERFORMANCE OF NEW BEDFORD RESIDENTS

	HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD WHO VOTED	AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE	CITYWIDE VOTING HISTORY AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
		COMPARABLE STATISTICS	
VOTERS SEP 2002	236	34.3%	23.4%
VOTERS NOV 2002	398	57.8%	43.3%
VOTERS OCT 2003	225	32.7%	20.2%
VOTERS NOV 2003	332	48.2%	30.6%
VOTERS MAR 2004	178	25.9%	16.4%
VOTERS SEP 2004	179	26.0%	13.2%
VOTERS NOV 2004	527	76.5%	57.3%
VOTERS OCT 2005	315	48.8%	36.7%
VOTERS NOV 2005	415	63.6%	47.6%
VOTERS SEP 2006	290	41.6%	29.5%
VOTERS NOV 2006	436	62.6%	46.0%
VOTERS OCT 2007	148	22.6%	12.1%
VOTERS NOV 2007	256	39.1%	24.3%
VOTERS FEB 2008	208	61.7%	32.4%
VOTERS SEP 2008	113	33.5%	13.7%
VOTERS NOV 2008	288	85.5%	61.0%

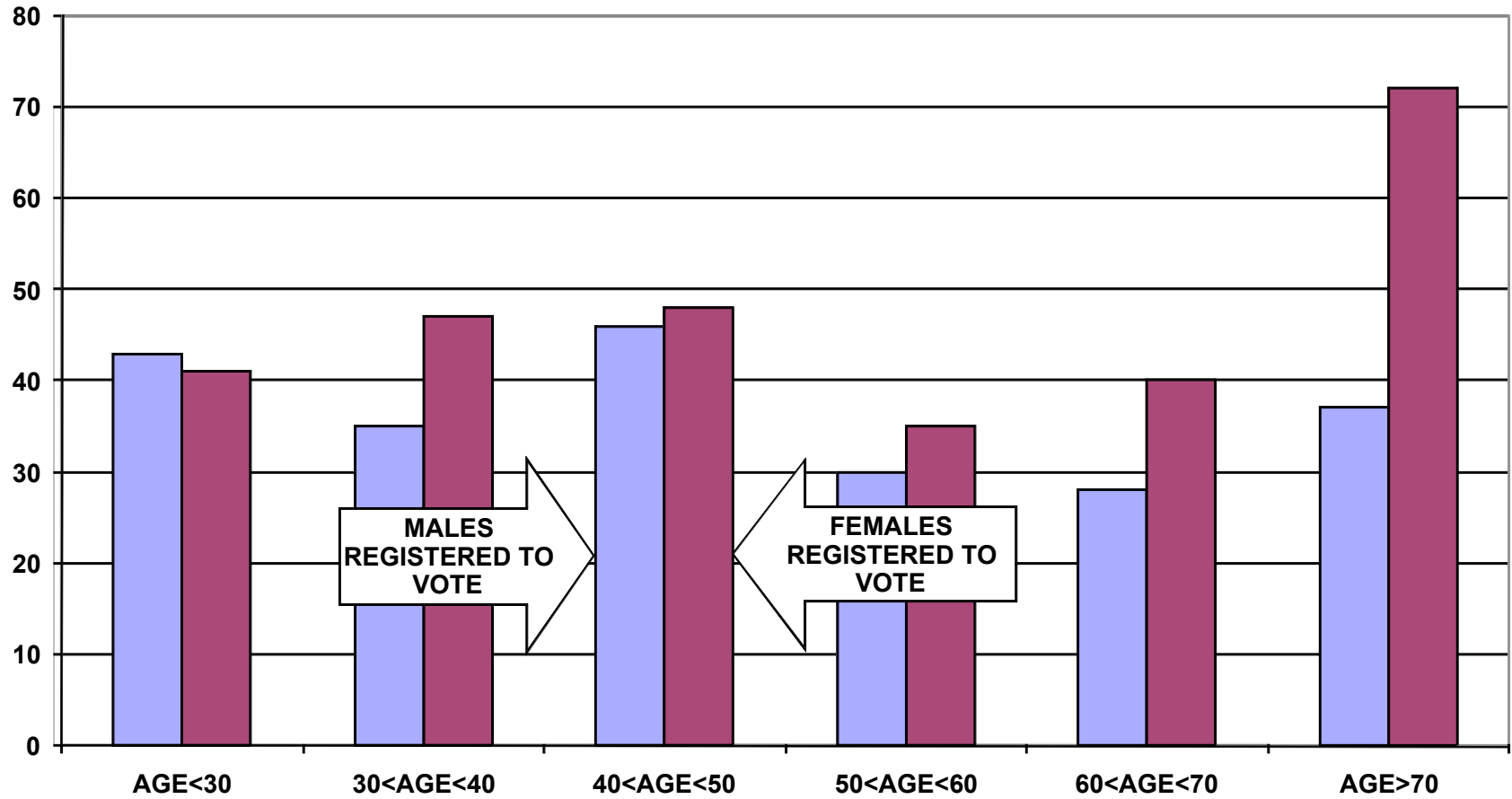
REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON BETWEEN NEW BEDFORD AND SAINT ANTHONY'S HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



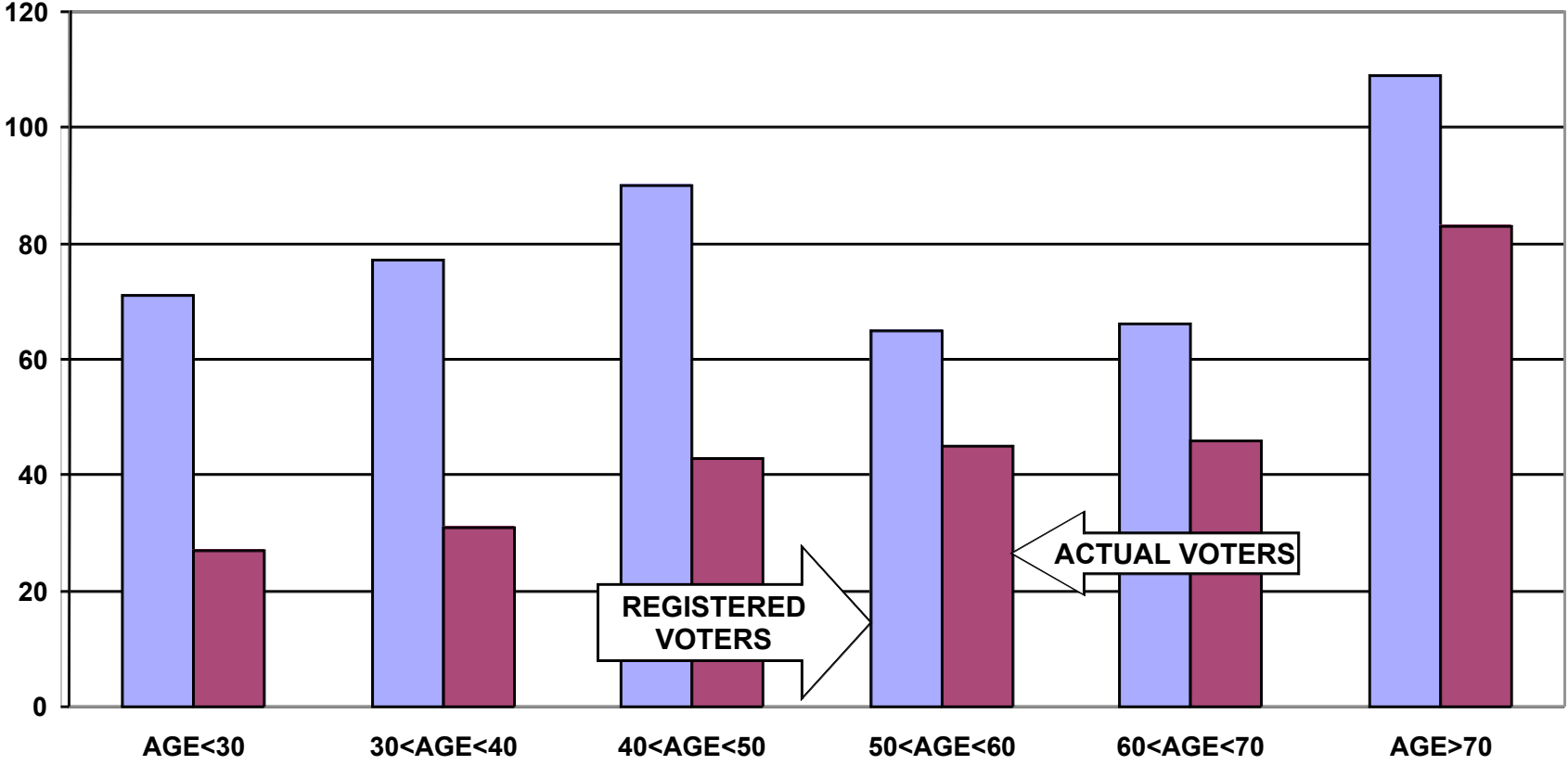
DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN SAINT ANTHONY'S VOTERS AND NEW BEDFORD VOTERS HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



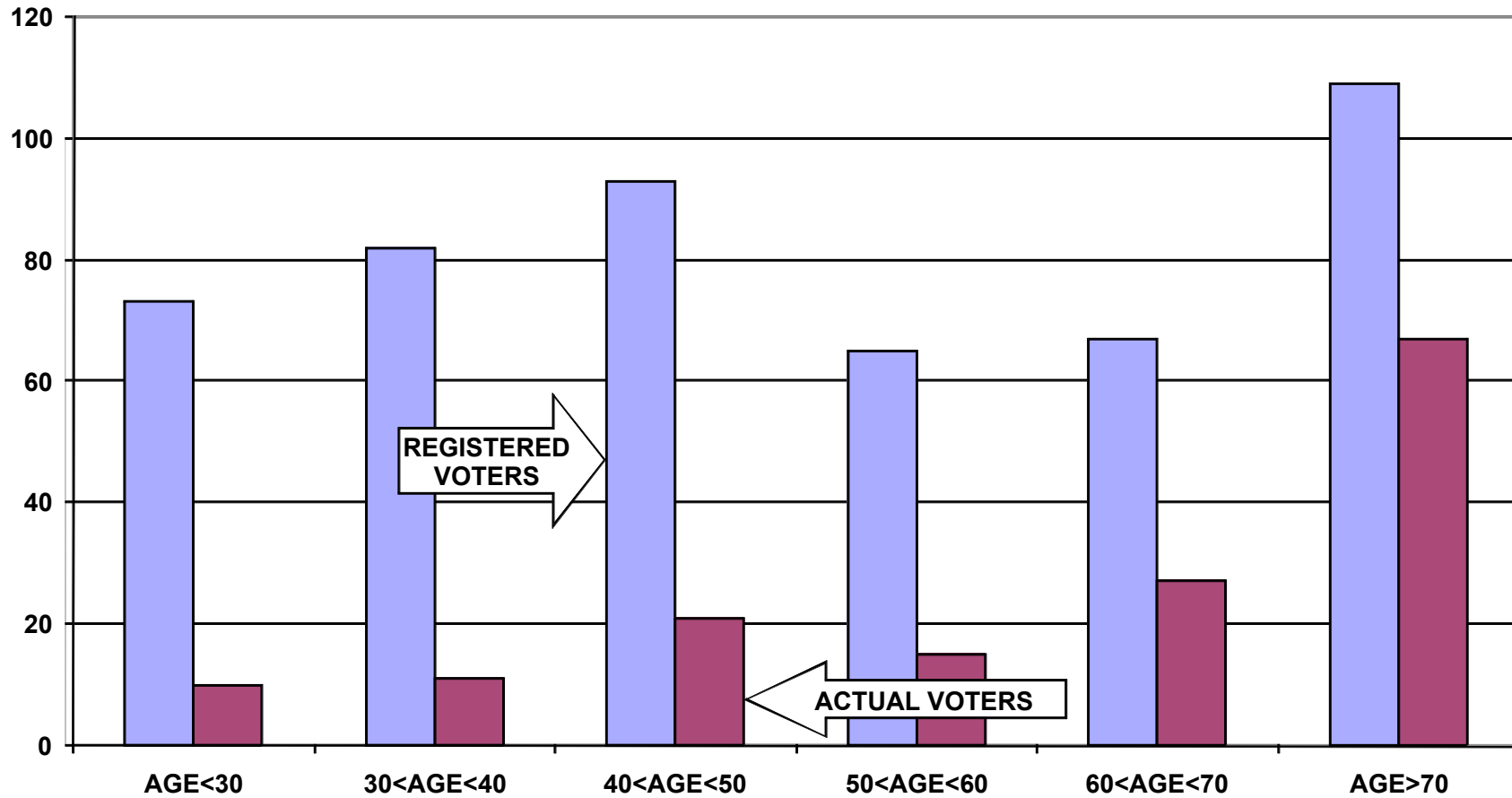
**VOTER REGISTRATION BY AGE AND GENDER
SAINT ANTHONY'S PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS FEBRUARY 2008
SAINT ANTHONY'S PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS SEPTEMBER 2008
SAINT ANTHONY'S PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2008
SAINT ANTHONY'S PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

