

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

Portuguese Cultural Association



KEARNY, NEW JERSEY

VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE 2006 ELECTIONS

February 4, 2008

SUPPORTED BY THE
LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

REPORT CONTENTS

- **STATISTICS AND SUMMARY OF WORK** 3
- **RESULTS** 4
- **RECOMMENDATIONS** 7
- **APPENDIX** 8

KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Members in Kearny: 1,044**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in Kearny: 345 (33% of all members)**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Kearny: 810**
- **Cultural Association Heads of Household voter turnout* in June 2006 – 6.4% (town-wide turnout 5.7%)**
- **Cultural Association Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2006 – 46% (town-wide turnout 38%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

The Portuguese Cultural Association has been an active participant in the Portuguese American Citizenship Project since 2003.

For the June 2006 Primary Elections and the November 2006 General Elections, postcards in Portuguese and English were sent to every Association member registered to vote reminding them of the date, polling hours, and location of the assigned polling station for each election.

RESULTS

The Portuguese Cultural Association voter turnout for the 2006 elections was consistently higher than town-wide turnout. Heads of household turnout for the June 2006 Primary Elections was 6.4%, as compared to the town turnout of 5.7%. The Portuguese Cultural Association heads of household turnout for the November 2006 General Elections was 46%, as compared to the town turnout of 38%.

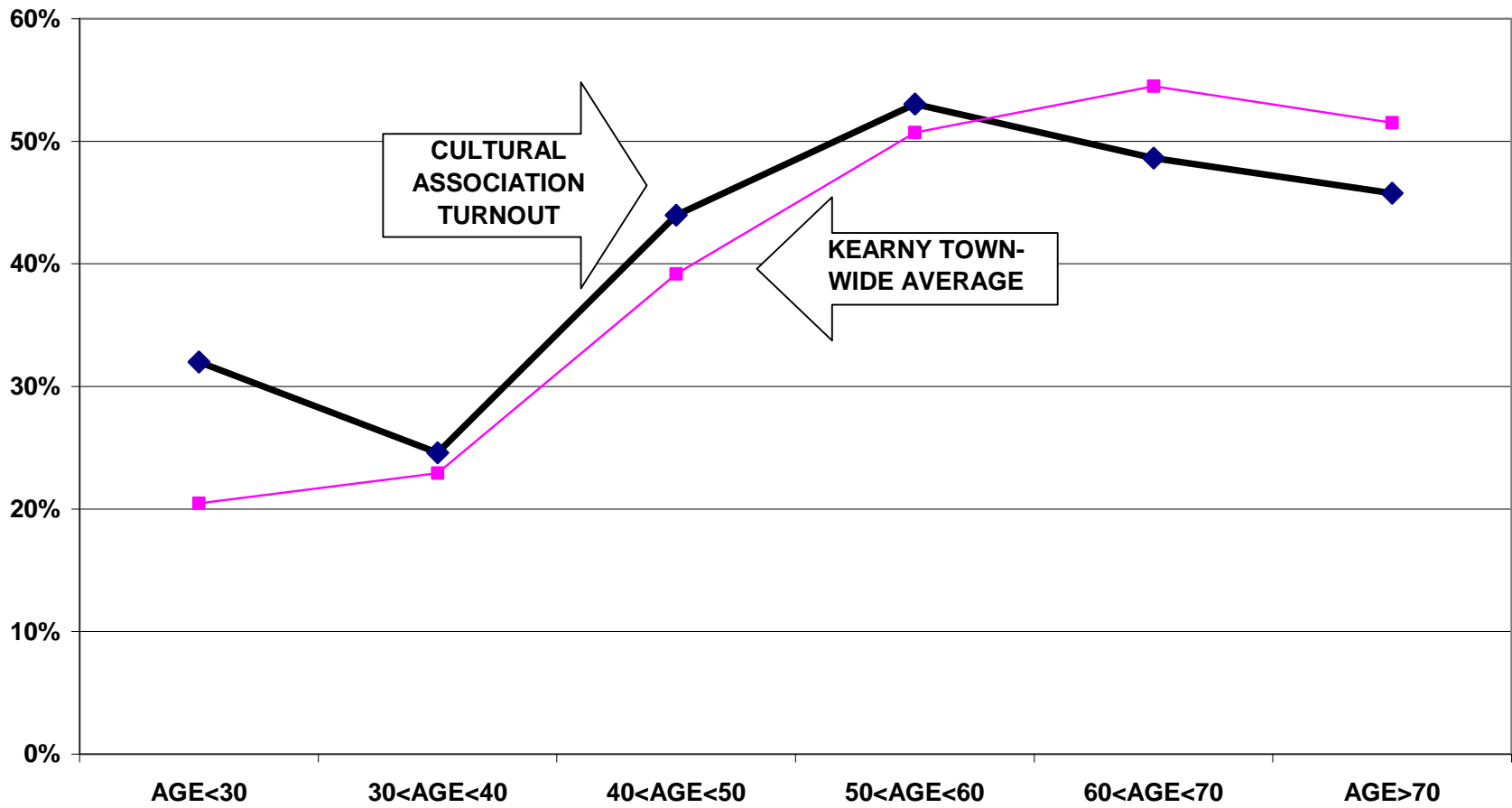
Voter turnout is not uniform across age groups. Voters under 30 years of age and even those between 30 and 40 years old had lower turnout rates than the older voters. This trend is present among registered voters in the Association and among registered voters in the community at large.

For example, among all Association members, those under 30 years old and registered to vote had a 32% turnout rate in the November 2006 election while those between 50 and 60 years old had a 53% turnout rate.

The following graph for the November election illustrates the relationship between turnout rates and age.

* Voter turnout is the number of citizens voting in an election divided by the total number of citizens registered to vote

TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2006 PORTUGUESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Portuguese Cultural Association should examine ways to increase its overall voter turnout rate. While the Society has consistently outvoted the town overall, the difference between the group's turnout and the town's turnout has steadily decreased.
- The group should examine measures to increase general civic participation among younger members. Activities such as meet-and-greets with elected officials and initiatives to highlight policies that affect these younger voters could be helpful.
- In order to revive commitment to a strong Portuguese American voter turnout, the Association should consider sending letters to every that is a part of the Association reminding them of group's involvement in the Project and encouraging voter registration for members who are citizens but have not yet registered.

APPENDIX

- Historical Data 8
- Registered Voter Turnout Bar Graph 9
- Difference in Voter Turnout Bar Graph 10
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters June 2006 Bar Graph 11
- Turnout by Age June 2006 Line Graph 12
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters November 2006 Bar Graph 13

**HISTORICAL DATA – PORTUGUESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

**HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS
RESIDENT IN KEARNY 1044**

**HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD REGISTERED
TO VOTE IN KEARNY 345**

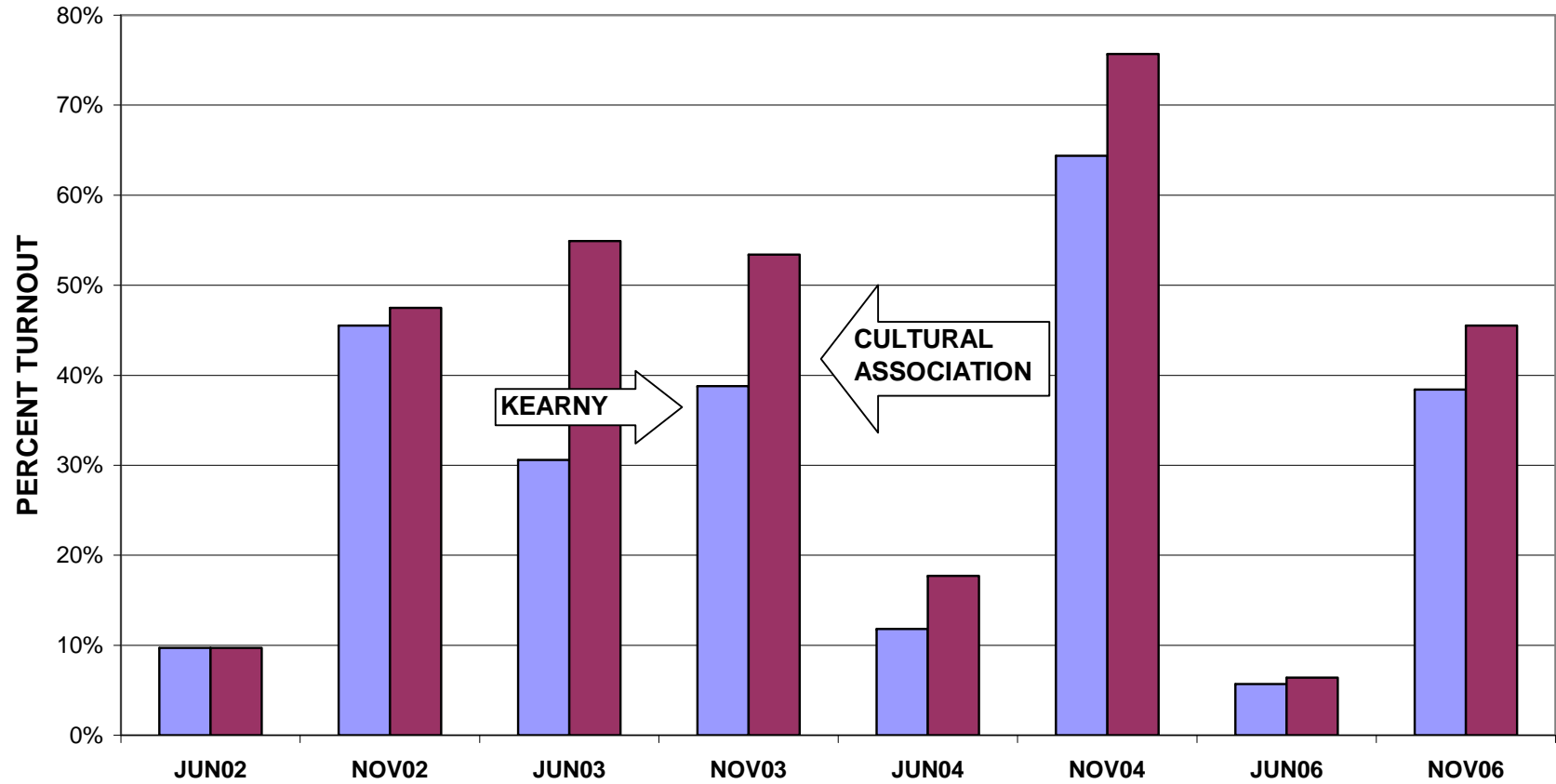
**ALL FAMILY MEMBERS REGISTERED
TO VOTE IN KEARNY 810**

VOTING PERFORMANCE OF PORTUGUESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

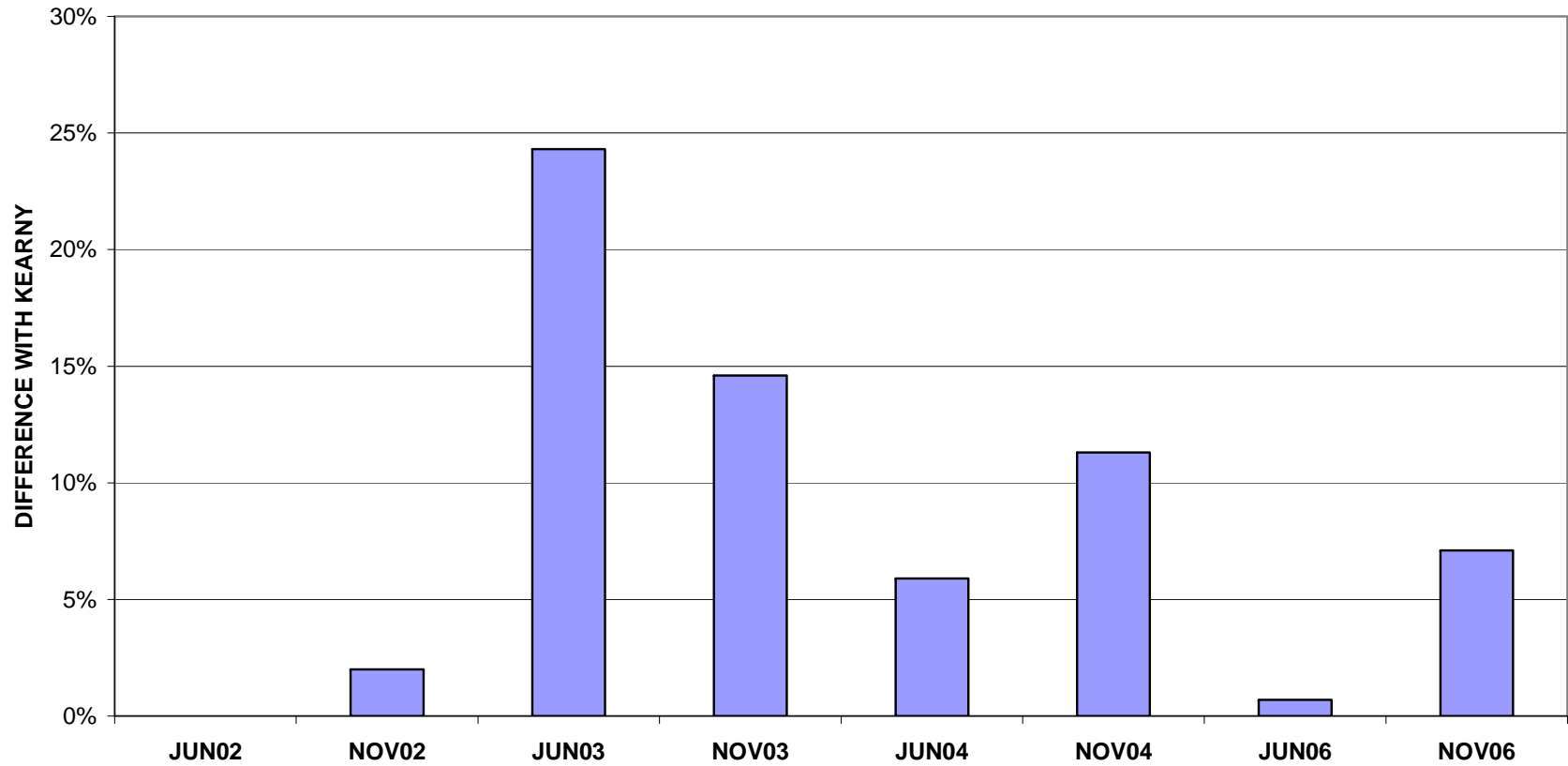
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD		AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE	TOWN-WIDE VOTING HISTORY AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
COMPARABLE STATISTICS			
VOTERS JUN 2002	33	9.7%	9.7%
VOTERS NOV 2002	161	47.5%	45.5%
VOTERS JUN 2003	186	54.9%	30.6%
VOTERS NOV 2003	181	53.4%	38.8%
VOTERS JUN 2004	61	17.7%	11.8%
VOTERS NOV 2004	269	75.7%	64.4%
VOTERS JUN 2006	22	6.4%	5.7%
VOTERS NOV 2006	157	45.5%	38.4%

Note: Voting statistics for all elections are based only on voters registered as of June 2007. These statistics cannot be compared to official voter turnout reports which are based on a different registered voter population.

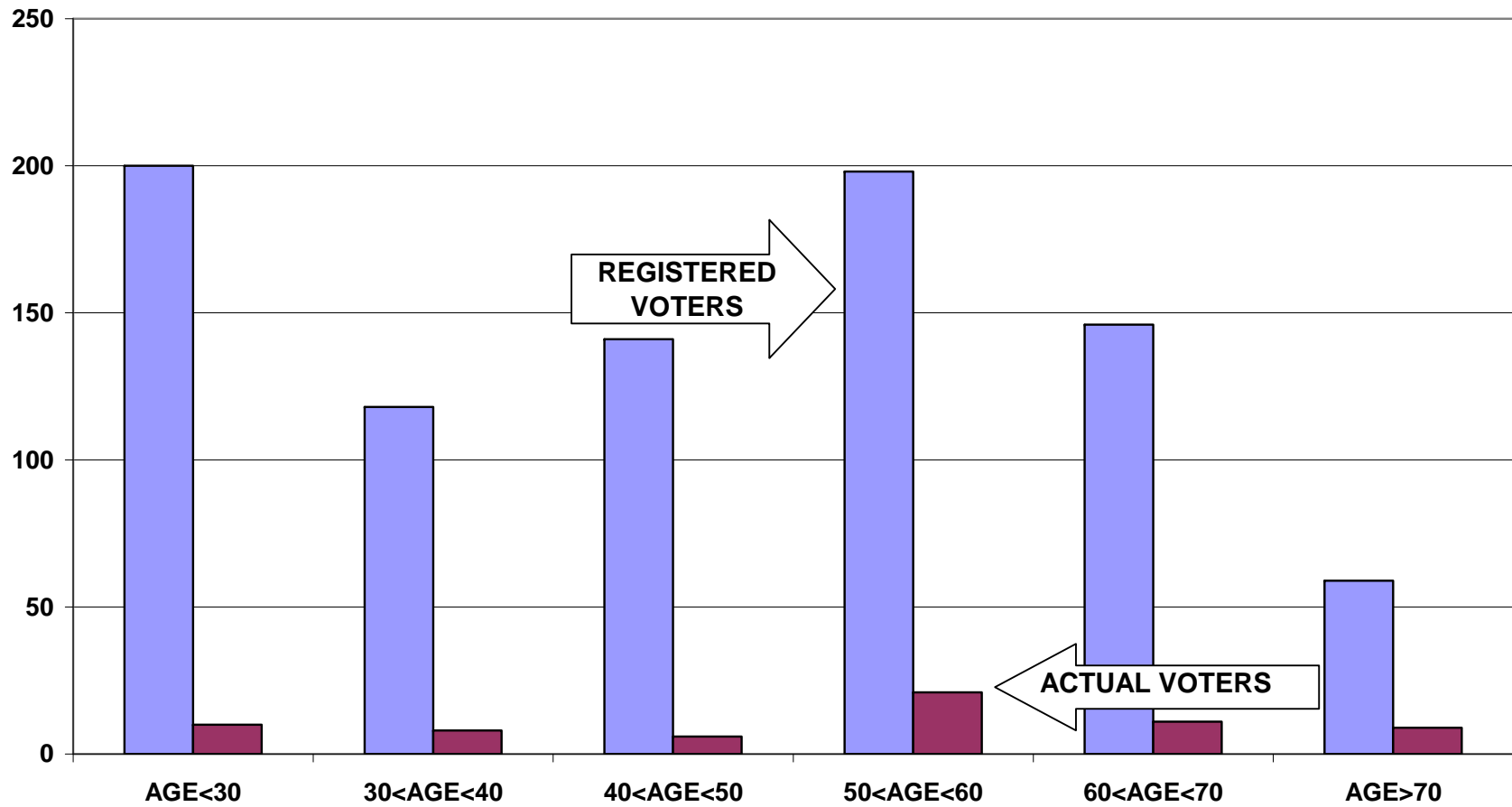
REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON OF KEARNY AND PORTUGUESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



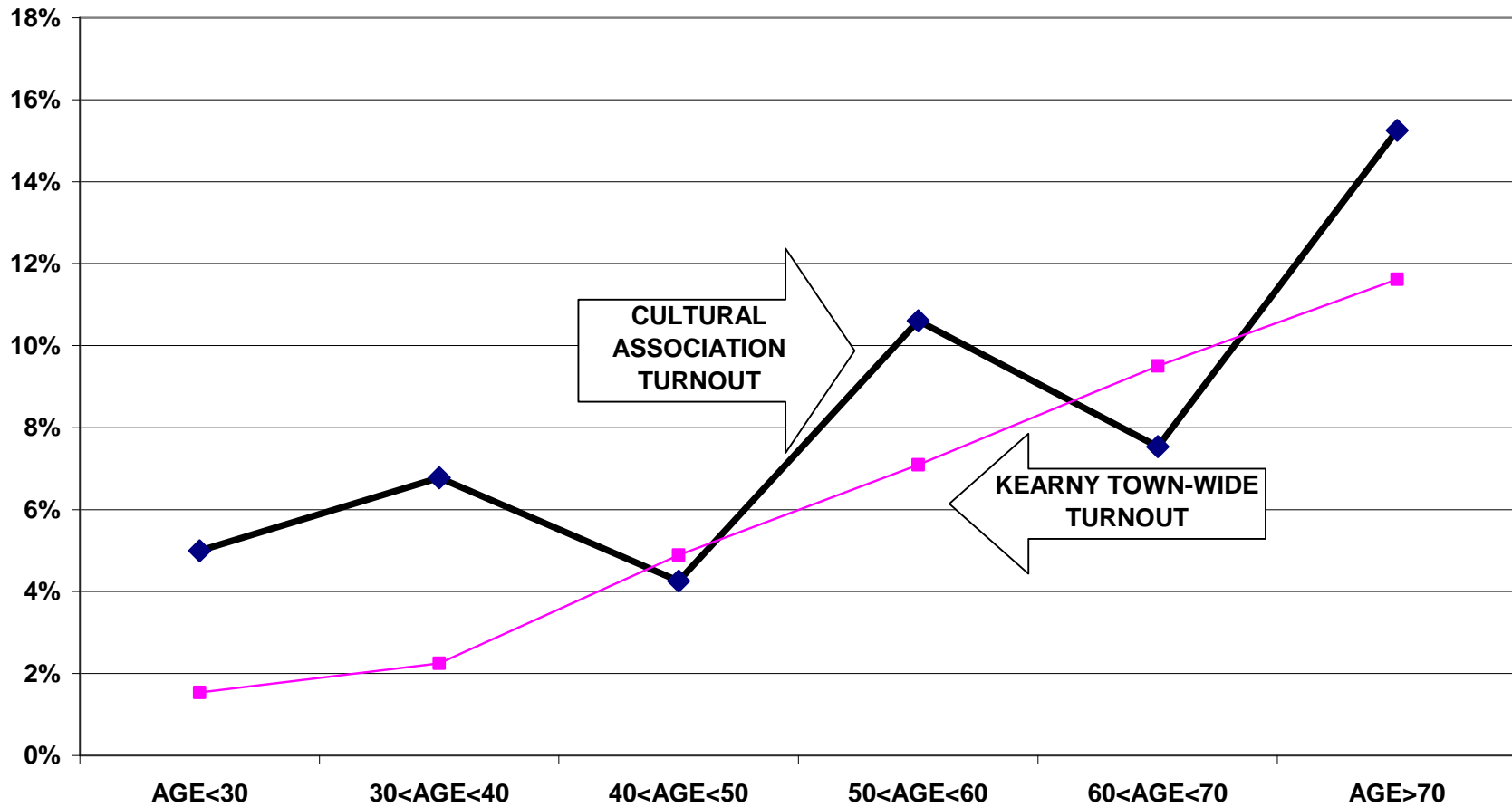
DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN PORTUGUESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION VOTERS AND KEARNY VOTERS HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS JUNE 2006
PORTUGUESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**TURNOUT BY AGE JUNE 2006
PORTUGUESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2006
PORTUGUESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

