

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

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

EVALUATION
OF
THE 2010 ELECTIONS



September 1, 2011

SUPPORTED BY THE


REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DOS AÇORES
PRESIDÊNCIA DO GOVERNO
Secretário Regional da Presidência
Direcção Regional das Comunidades

LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

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KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Parishioners in Rhode Island: 3,983**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in Rhode Island: 911 (23% of all parishioners)**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Rhode Island: 1,201**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout¹ in September 2010 – 23% (statewide turnout 18%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2010 – 46% (statewide turnout 50%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

Our Lady of the Rosary has been an active participant in the Portuguese American Citizenship Project since late 2002.

For the 2010 September Primary Elections and the November General Elections, no postcards in either Portuguese or English were sent to the registered voters of the parish reminding them of the date, location, 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 Rhode Island residents only.

RESULTS

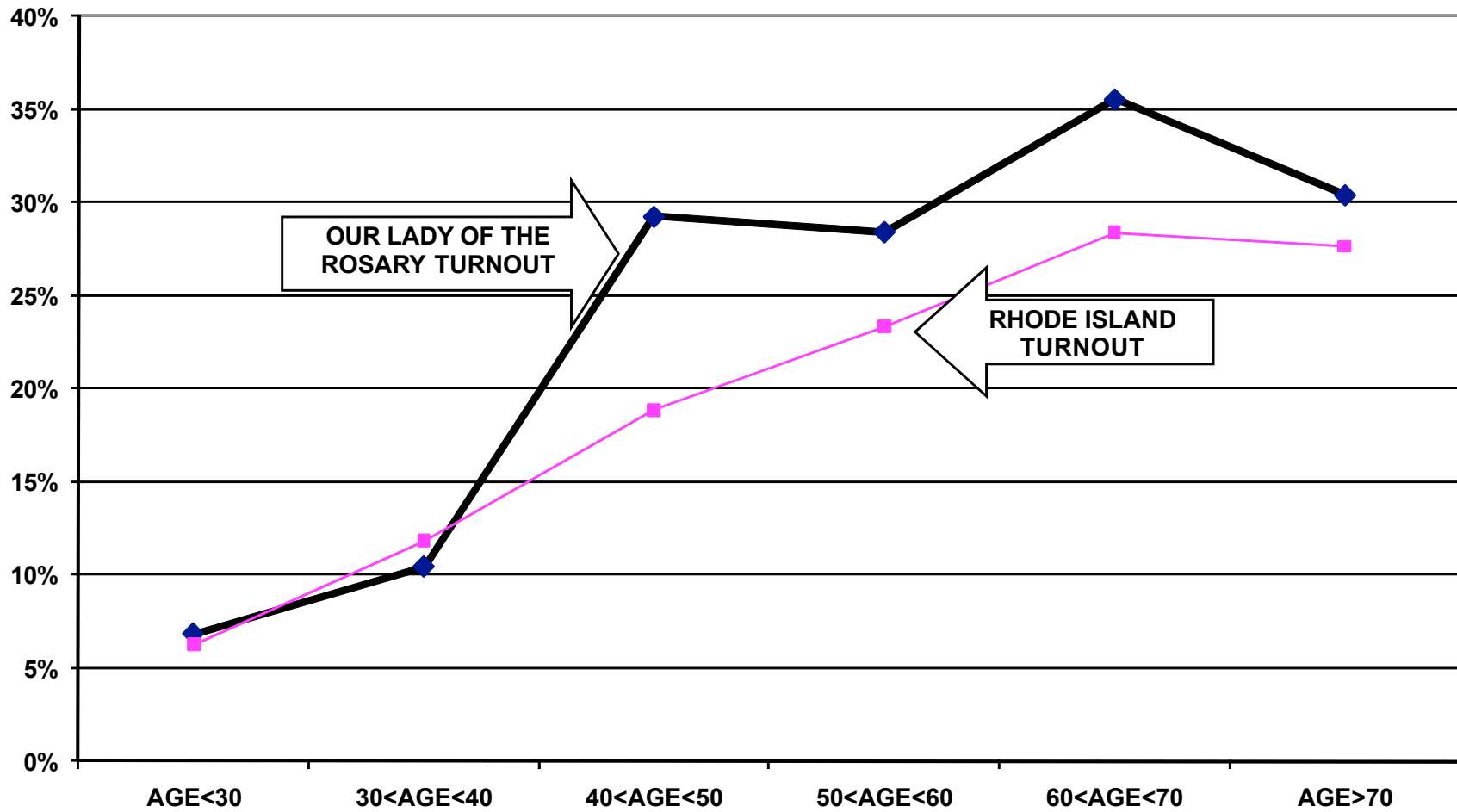
Our Lady of the Rosary's heads of household voter turnout was higher than the statewide turnout in the 2010 September Statewide Primary Election but lower during the November General Elections. Heads of household turnout for the September Primary Elections was 23%, as compared to the state turnout of 18%. Our Lady of the Rosary's heads of household turnout for the November General Elections was however 46%, as compared to the state's turnout of 50%.

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 among all registered voters associated with the parish and among registered voters in the community at large.

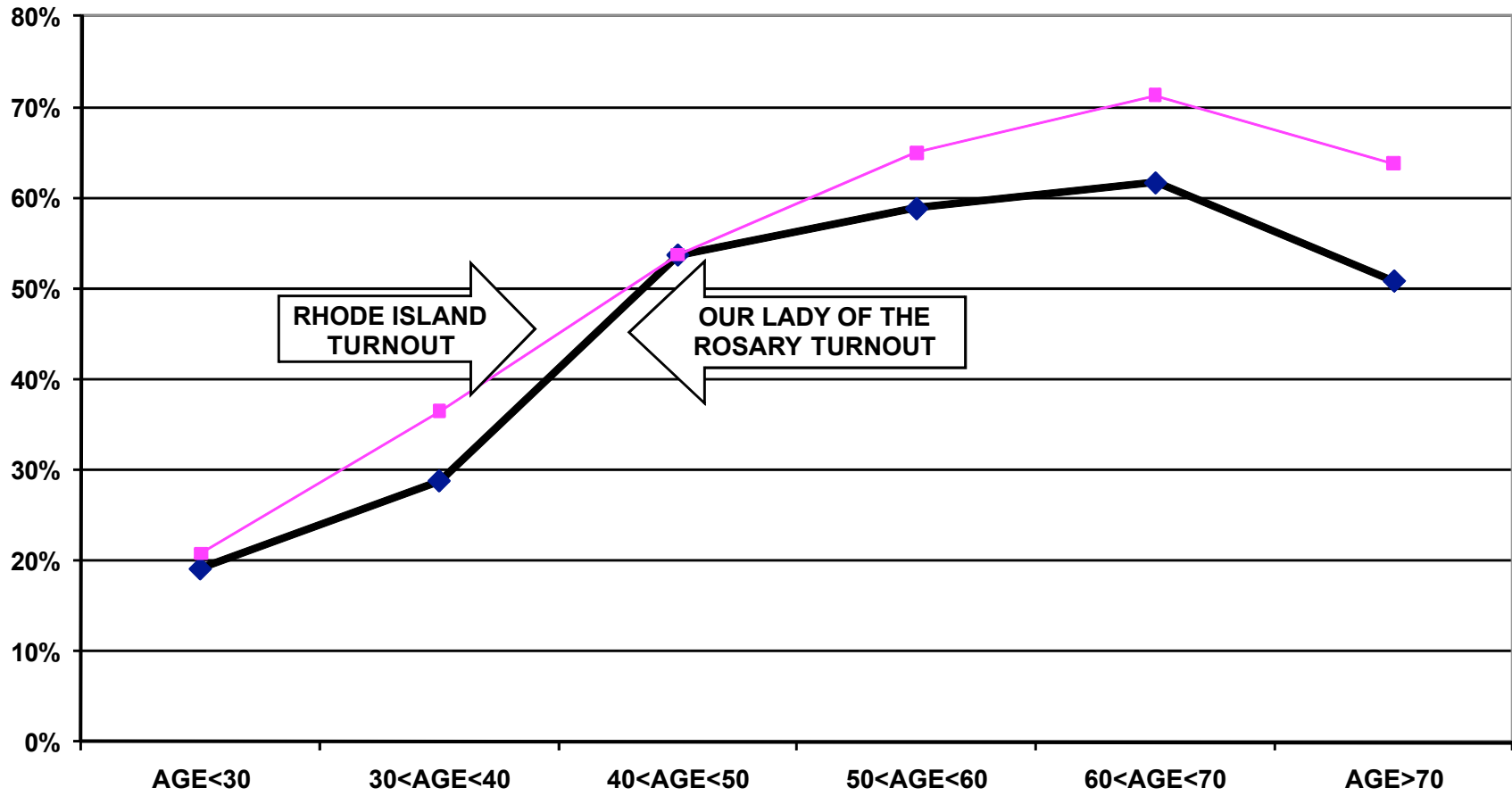
For example, registered voters that are associated with Our Lady of the Rosary under 30 years old had a 7% turnout rate in the September Primary elections, while those between 60 and 70 years old had a 36% turnout rate. For the November General elections, the under 30 years old associated voters had a 19% turnout rate, compared to a 62% turnout rate among parishioners between 60 and 70 years old.

The following graphs for the 2010 September and November 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 SEPTEMBER 2010
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2010 OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The parish must determine if and how it will provide funding for the costs of participation in the Citizenship Project. After 10 years of full financial support for the Project, the Luso American Foundation significantly reduced its funding in 2009. In 2011, the Project will continue to provide data processing and assist in the preparation of voter cards.
- 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.

APPENDIX

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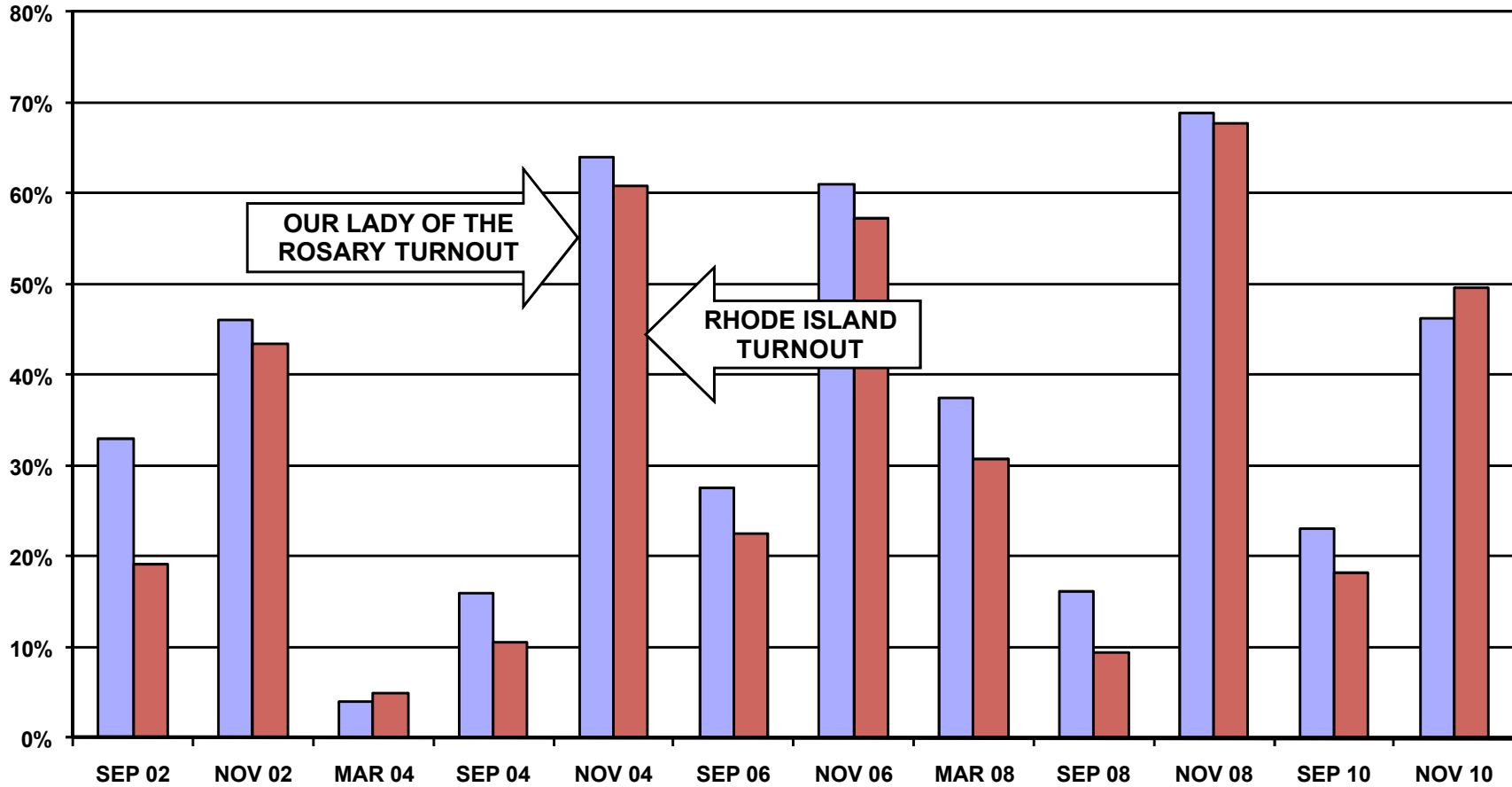
**HISTORICAL DATA: OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| MEMBERS | 3,983 |
| MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN RHODE ISLAND | 911 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD |
| | 1,201 ALL FAMILY MEMBERS |

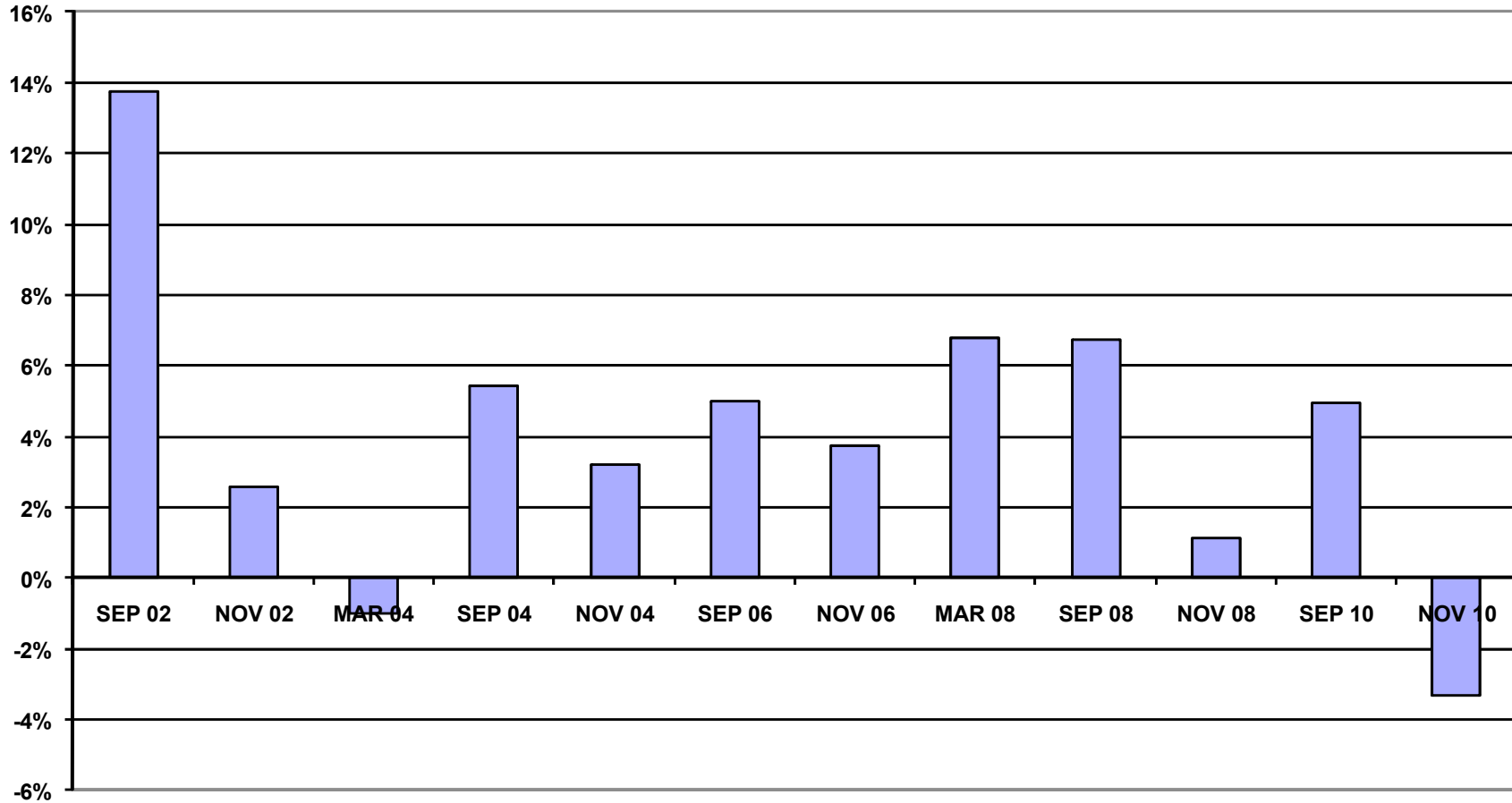
VOTING PERFORMANCE OF RHODE ISLAND RESIDENTS

| HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD | | AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE | STATE WIDE VOTING HISTORY (AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS) |
|------------------------------|------------|--|--|
| COMPARABLE STATISTICS | | | |
| VOTERS SEP 2002 | 314 | 32.9% | 19.2% |
| VOTERS NOV 2002 | 439 | 46.1% | 43.5% |
| VOTERS MAR 2004 | 38 | 4.0% | 5.0% |
| VOTERS SEP 2004 | 152 | 15.9% | 10.5% |
| VOTERS NOV 2004 | 610 | 64.0% | 60.8% |
| VOTERS SEP 2006 | 262 | 27.5% | 22.5% |
| VOTERS NOV 2006 | 581 | 61.0% | 57.2% |
| VOTERS MAR 2008 | 392 | 37.5% | 30.7% |
| VOTERS SEP 2008 | 169 | 16.2% | 9.4% |
| VOTERS NOV 2008 | 721 | 68.9% | 67.8% |
| VOTERS SEP 2010 | 211 | 23.2% | 18.2% |
| VOTERS NOV 2010 | 421 | 46.2% | 49.5% |

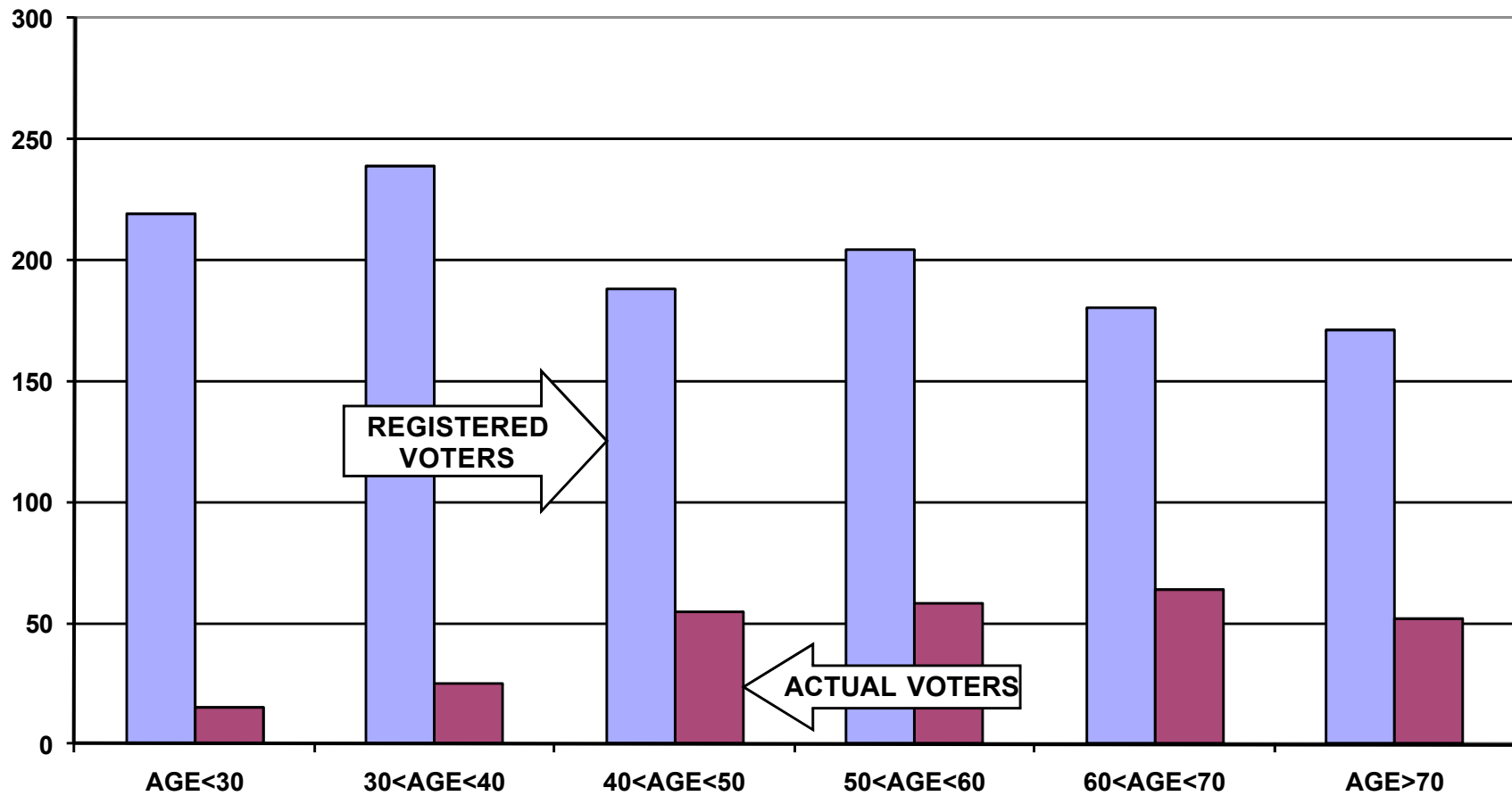
REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON BETWEEN RHODE ISLAND AND OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



**DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY VOTERS
AND RHODE ISLAND VOTERS
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD**



REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS SEPTEMBER 2010
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2010
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

