

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



SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

EVALUATION
OF
THE 2008 ELECTIONS

February 25, 2010

SUPPORTED BY THE
LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

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KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Parishioners in Rhode Island: 3,026**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in Rhode Island: 1,579 (52% of all parishioners)**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Rhode Island: 2,312**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in March 2008: 41% (statewide turnout 31%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout* in September 2008 – 4% (statewide turnout 9%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2008 – 79% (statewide turnout 68%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

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

For the 2008 September Statewide Primary Elections and the November Presidential Elections, postcards in Portuguese and English were sent to every registered voter in the organization reminding them of the date, location, and polling hours for each election.

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

RESULTS

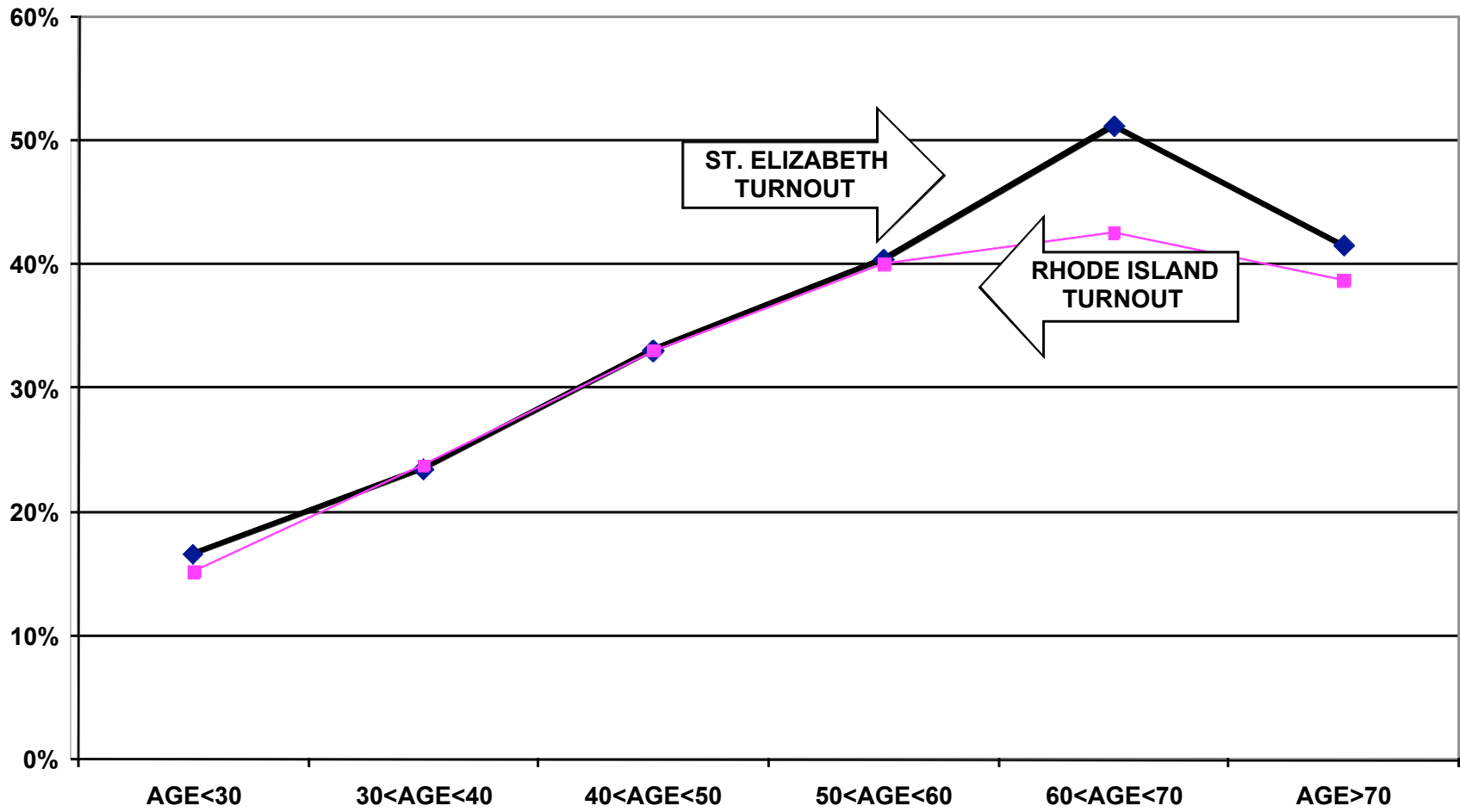
The St. Elizabeth heads of household voter turnout for the 2008 November Presidential Election was higher than statewide turnout, but turnout for the September Statewide Primary election was lower than that for the state. Heads of household turnout for the September Statewide Primary elections was 4%, as compared to the state turnout of 9%. The St. Elizabeth heads of household turnout for the November Presidential elections was 79%, as compared to the state 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.

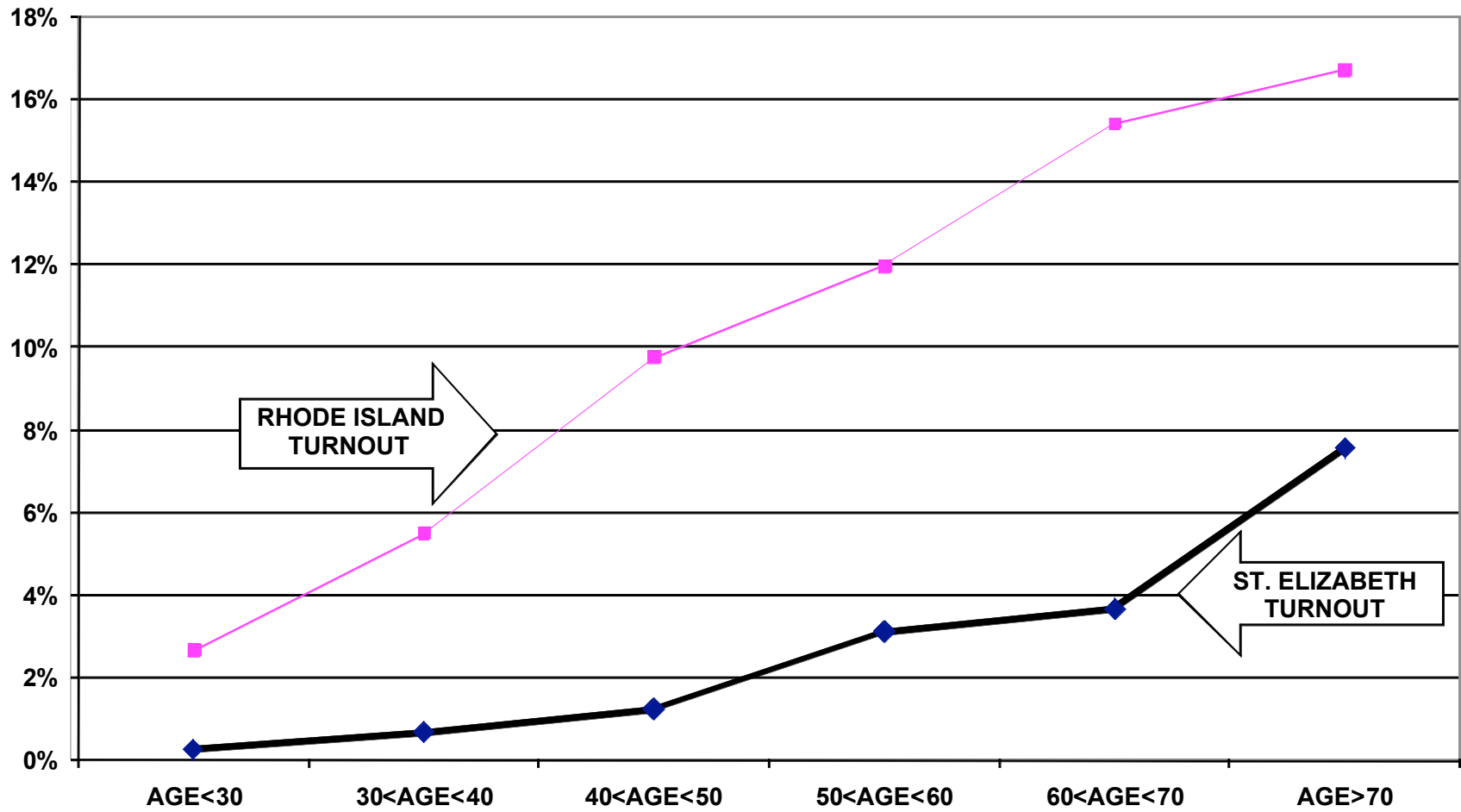
For example, voters associated with the parish under 30 years old had less than 1% turnout rate in the September Statewide Primary elections while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 4% turnout rate. For the November Presidential elections, the under 30 year old associated parishioners had a 53% turnout rate, compared to a 86% turnout rate for voters between 60 and 70 years old.

The following graphs for the 2008 March, 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.

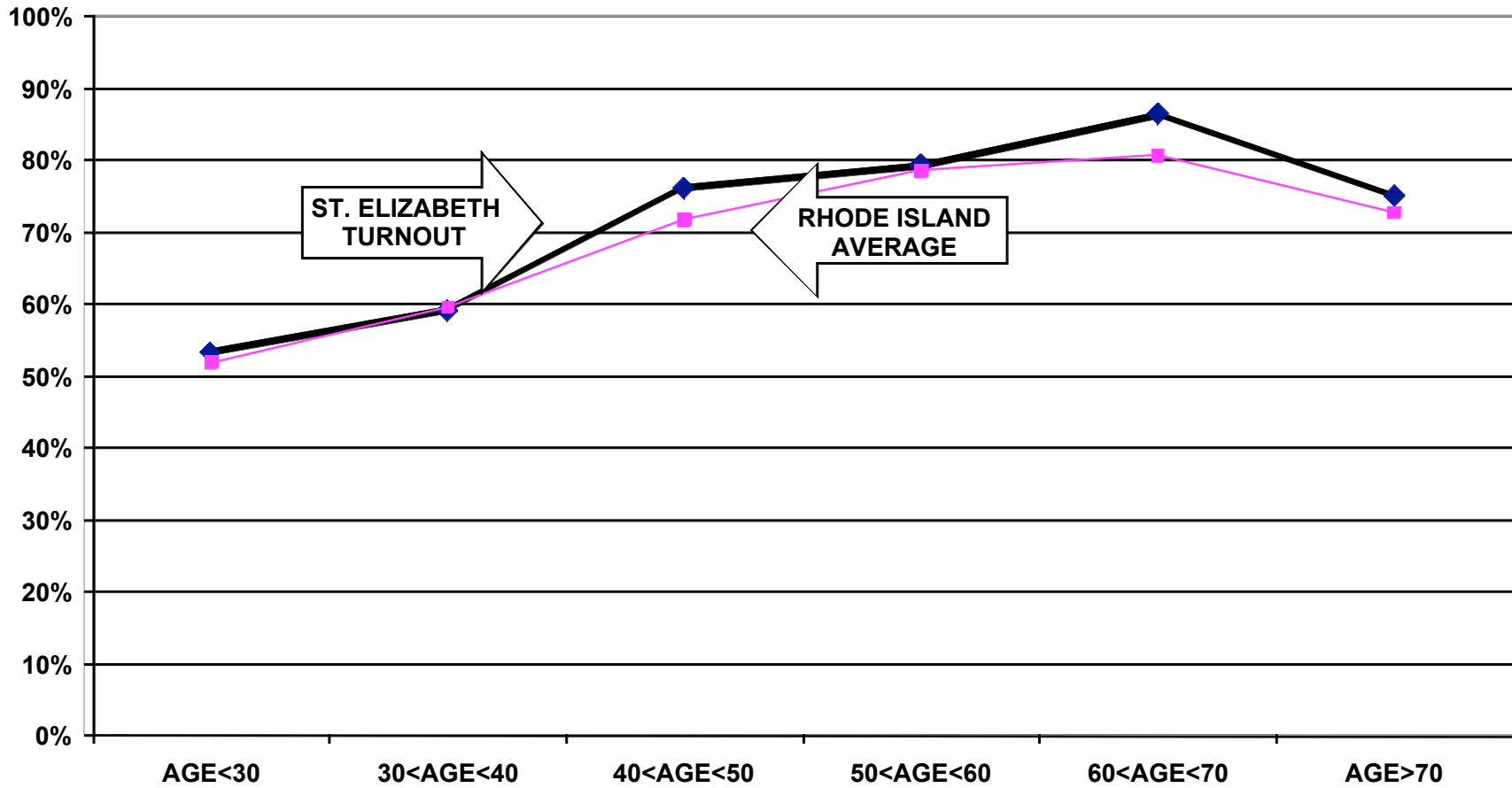
TURNOUT BY AGE MARCH 2008 SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE SEPTEMBER 2008 SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2008 SAINT ELIZABETH 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 General elections is approximately \$1,200.
- 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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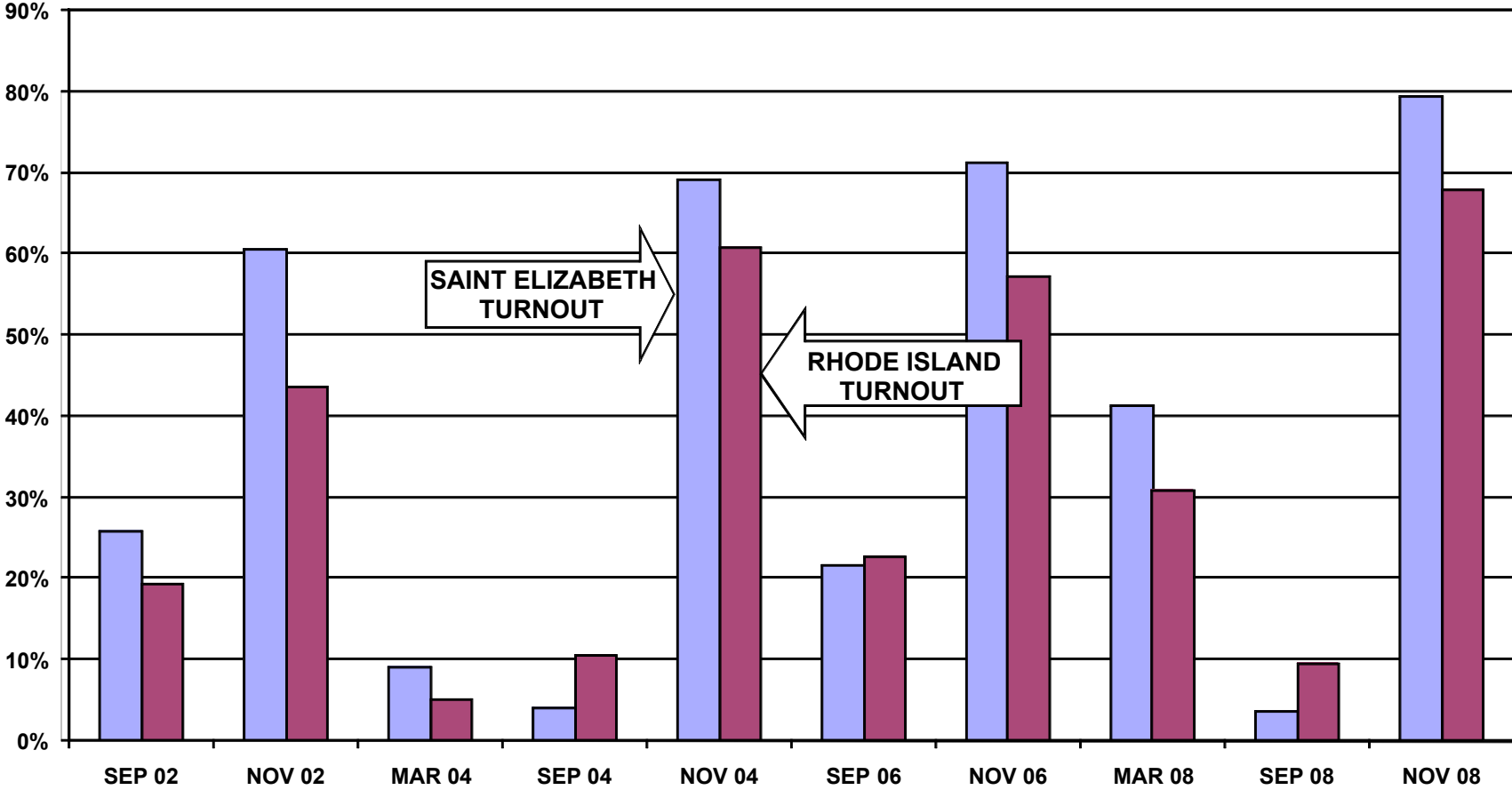
**HISTORICAL DATE: SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

MEMBERS	3,026	
MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN STATE OF RHODE ISLAND	1,579	HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD
	2,312	ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

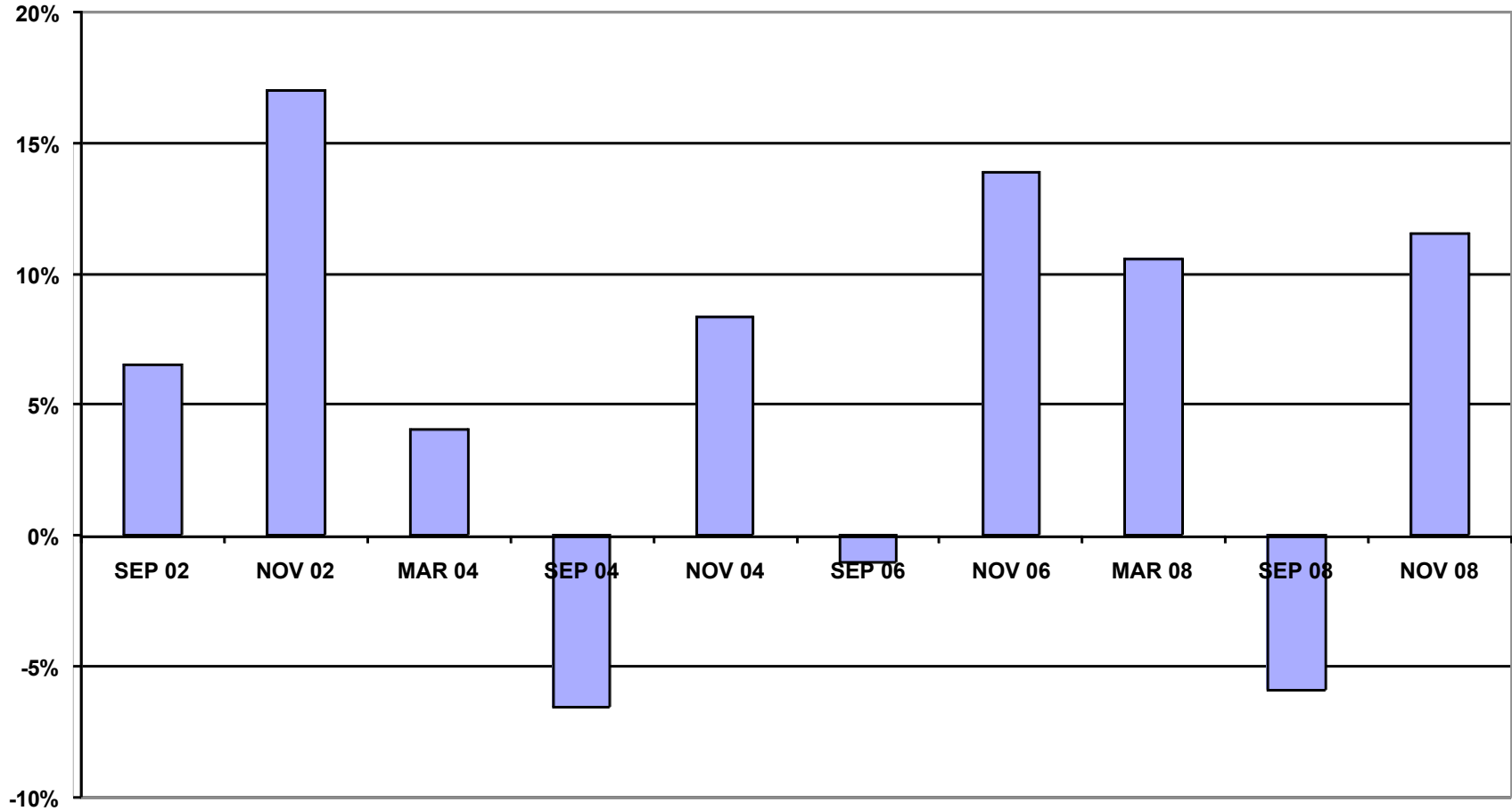
VOTING PERFORMANCE OF RHODE ISLAND RESIDENTS

	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	434	25.7%	19.2%
VOTERS NOV 2002	1020	60.5%	43.5%
VOTERS MAR 2004	153	9.1%	5.0%
VOTERS SEP 2004	66	3.9%	10.5%
VOTERS NOV 2004	1166	69.2%	60.8%
VOTERS SEP 2006	362	21.5%	22.5%
VOTERS NOV 2006	1199	71.1%	57.2%
VOTERS MAR 2008	651	41.2%	30.7%
VOTERS SEP 2008	56	3.5%	9.4%
VOTERS NOV 2008	1253	79.4%	67.8%

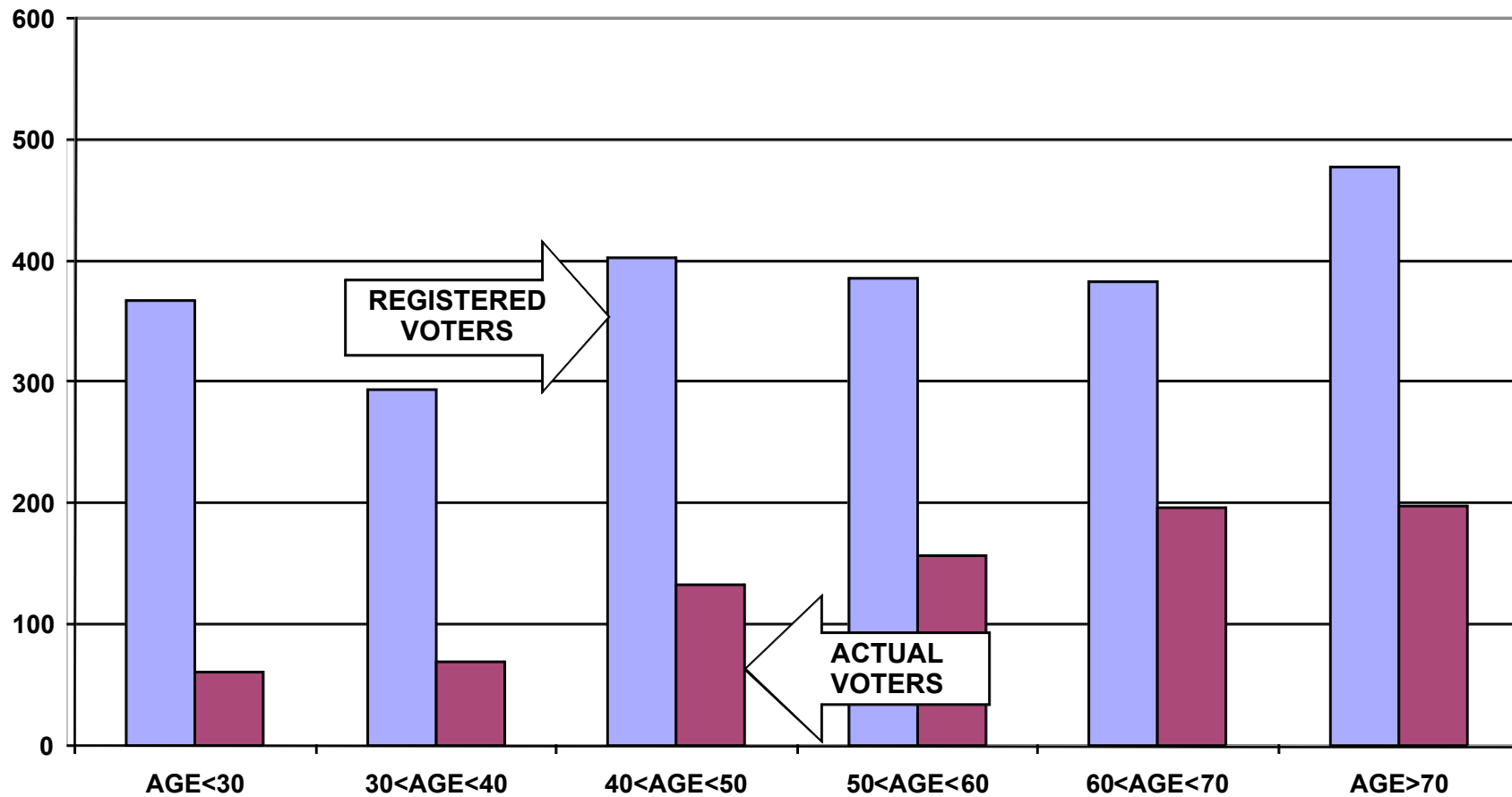
REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON OF RHODE ISLAND AND SAINT ELIZABETH HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



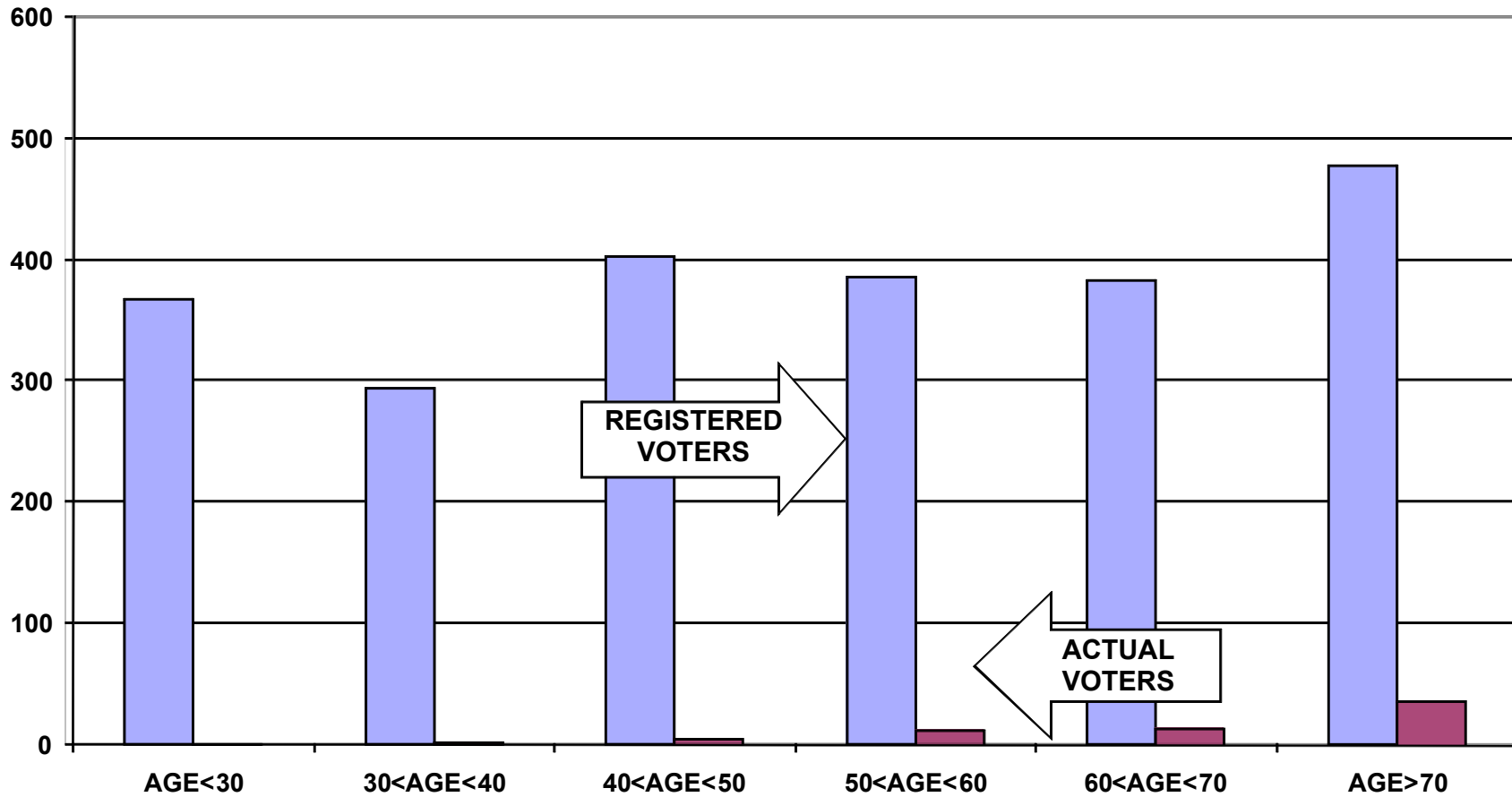
DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN SAINT ELIZABETH VOTERS AND RHODE ISLAND VOTERS HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS MARCH 2008
SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



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



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

