

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



PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

EVALUATION
OF
THE 2008 ELECTIONS

February 25, 2010

SUPPORTED BY THE
LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

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KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Members in Rhode Island: 534**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in Rhode Island: 217 (41% of all members)**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Rhode Island: 536**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in March 2008: 54% (statewide turnout 31%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout* in September 2008 – 26% (statewide turnout 9%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2008 – 83% (statewide turnout 68%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

The Portuguese Social Club has been an active participant in the Portuguese American Citizenship Project since late 2002.

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 club 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. Voter turnout for each election is based on Rhode Island residents only.

RESULTS

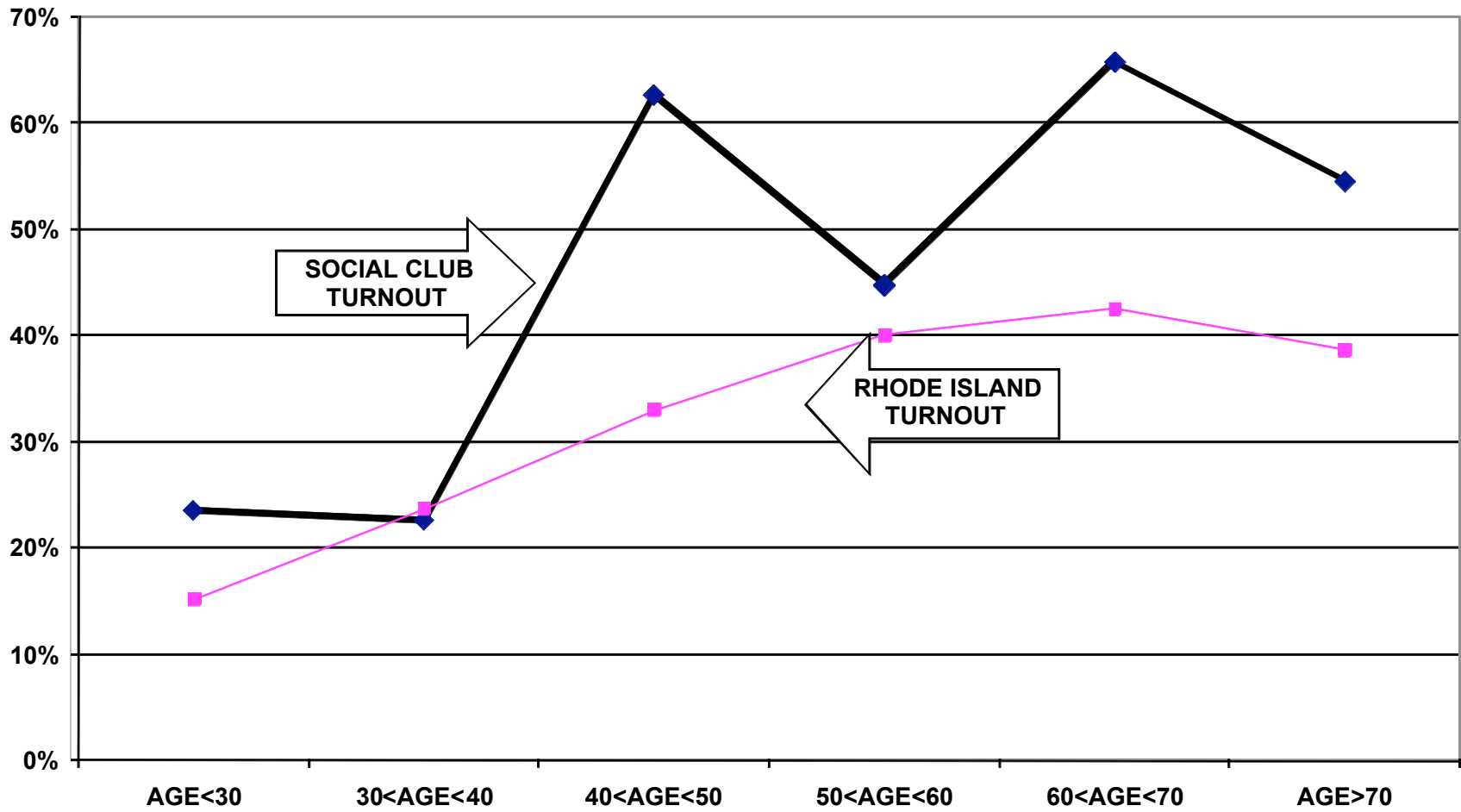
The Portuguese Social Club's heads of household voter turnout was higher than the statewide turnout in the 2008 September Statewide Primary Election and the November Presidential Election. Heads of household turnout for the September Statewide Primary Elections was 26%, as compared to the state turnout of 9%. The Portuguese Social Club's heads of household turnout for the November Presidential Election was 83%, 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 among all registered voters in the organization and among registered voters in the community at large.

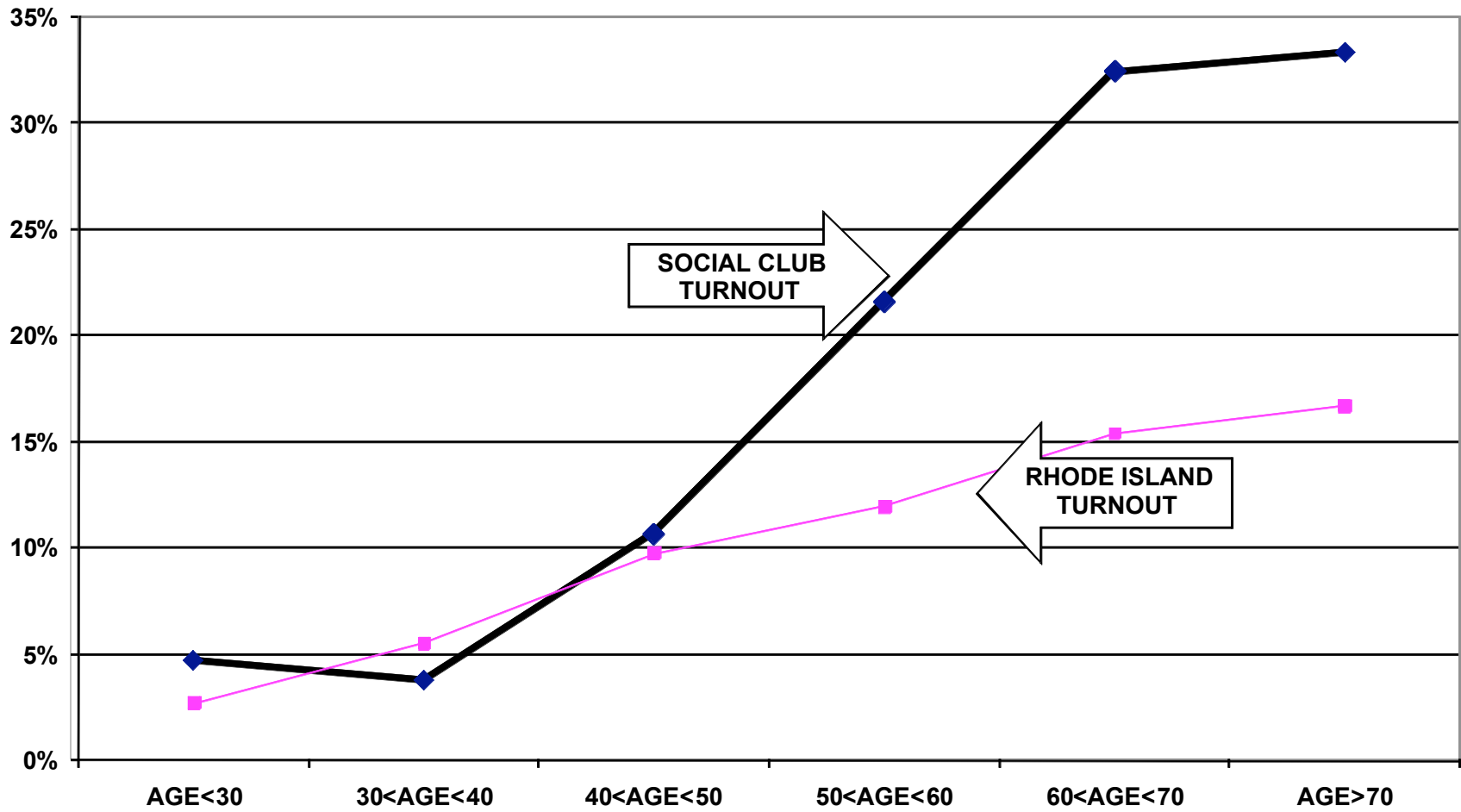
For example, registered voters that are associated with the Portuguese Social Club under 30 years old had a 5% turnout rate in the September Statewide Primary elections while those between 60 and 70 years old had a 32% turnout rate. For the November Presidential elections, the under 30 years old associated voters had a 55% turnout rate, compared to a 83% turnout rate among members 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 club, not just heads of household.

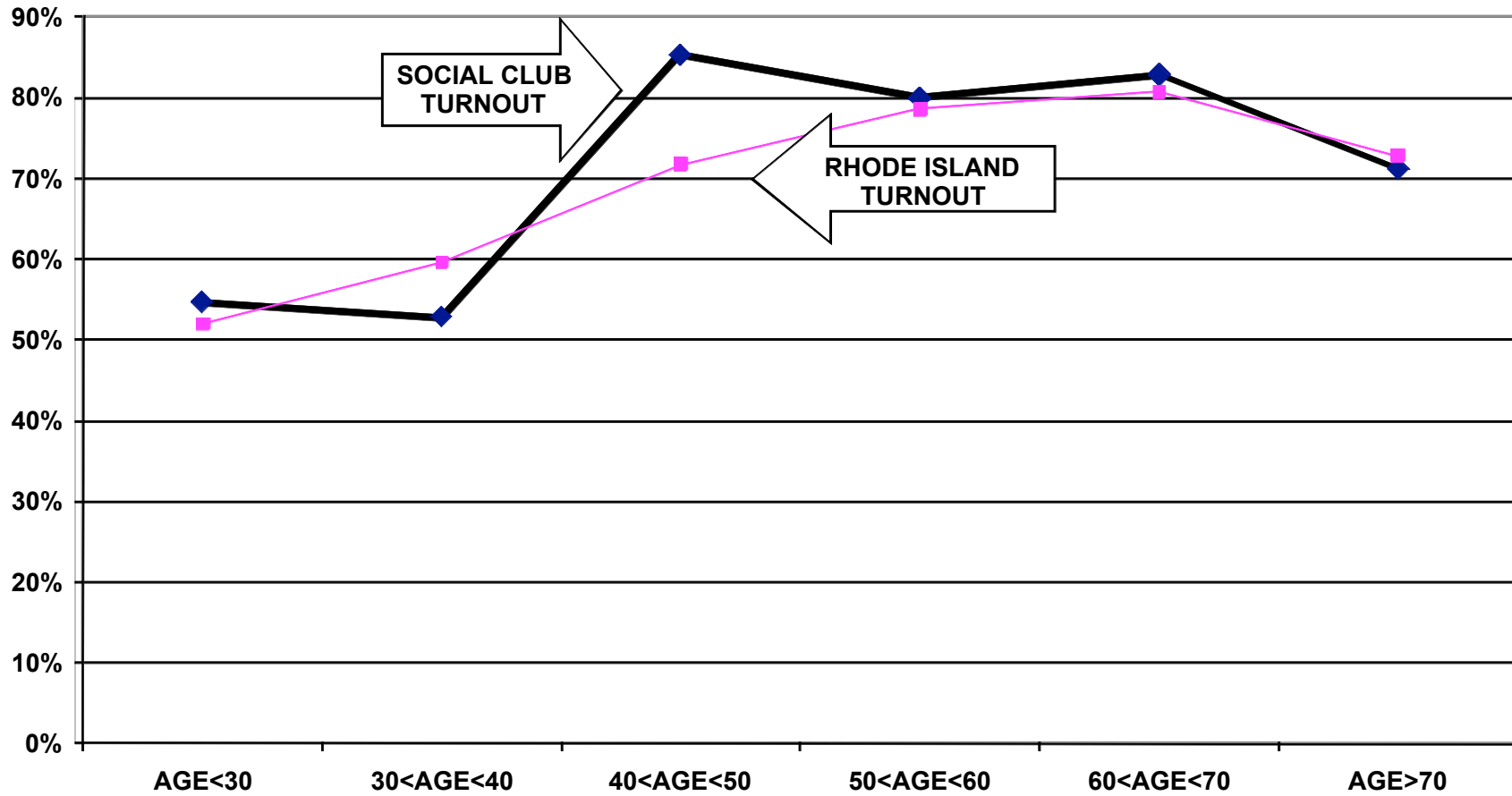
TURNOUT BY AGE MARCH 2008 THE PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE SEPTEMBER 2008 THE PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2008 THE PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The club 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 \$270.
- If the club 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 DATA: PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

MEMBERS RESIDING IN RHODE ISLAND	534	
MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN RHODE ISLAND	217	HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD
	536	ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

VOTING PERFORMANCE OF RHODE ISLAND RESIDENTS

MEMBERS VOTING

**AS PERCENT OF ALL
REGISTERED MEMBERS
ELIGIBLE TO VOTE**

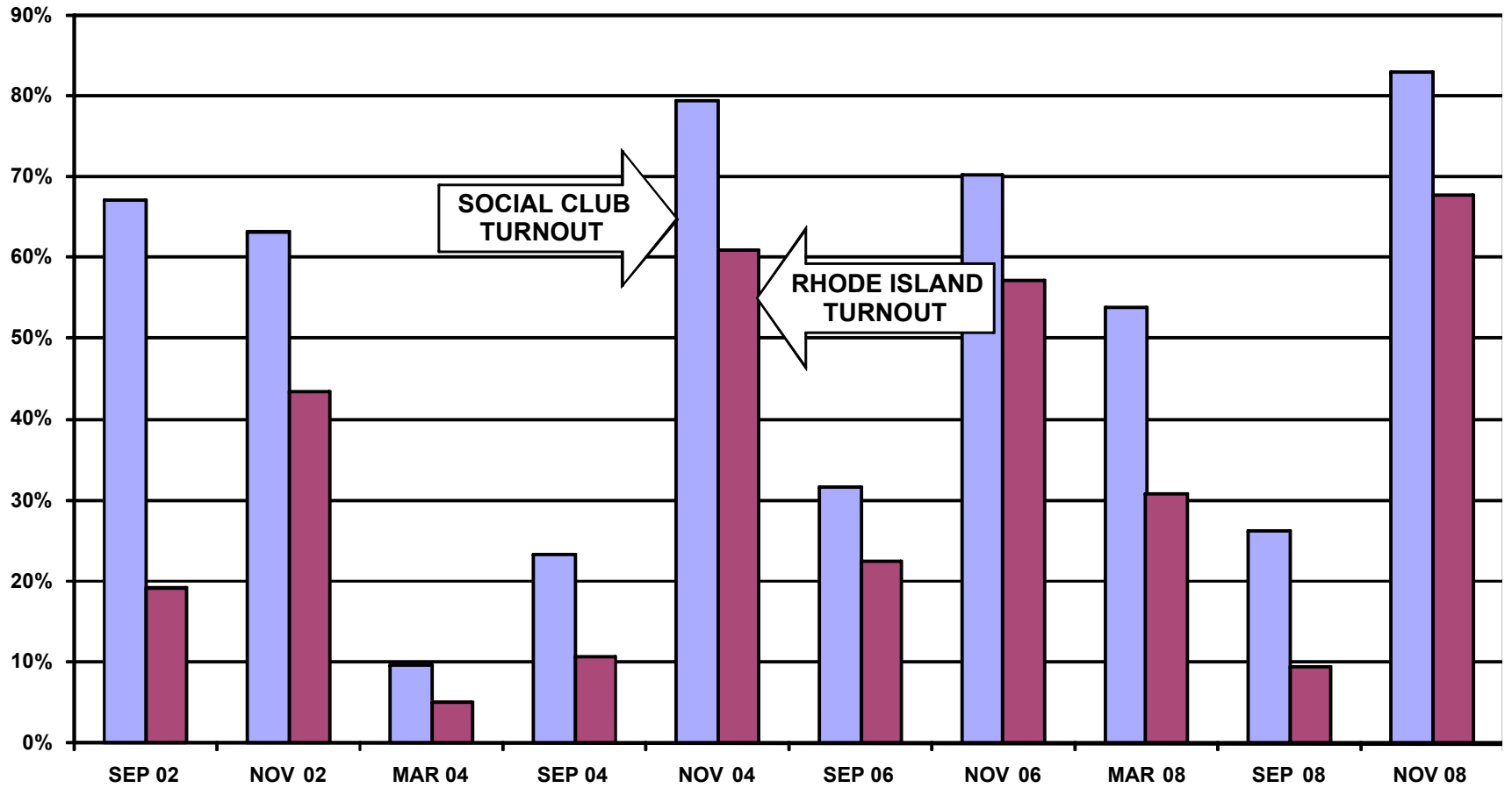
**STATEWIDE VOTING HISTORY
AS PERCENT OF ALL
REGISTERED VOTERS)**

VOTERS MAR 2000	
VOTERS SEP 2000	
VOTERS NOV 2000	
VOTERS SEP 2002	153
VOTERS NOV 2002	144
VOTERS MAR 2004	22
VOTERS SEP 2004	53
VOTERS NOV 2004	181
VOTERS SEP 2006	72
VOTERS NOV 2006	160
VOTERS MAR 2008	117
VOTERS SEP 2008	57
VOTERS NOV 2008	180

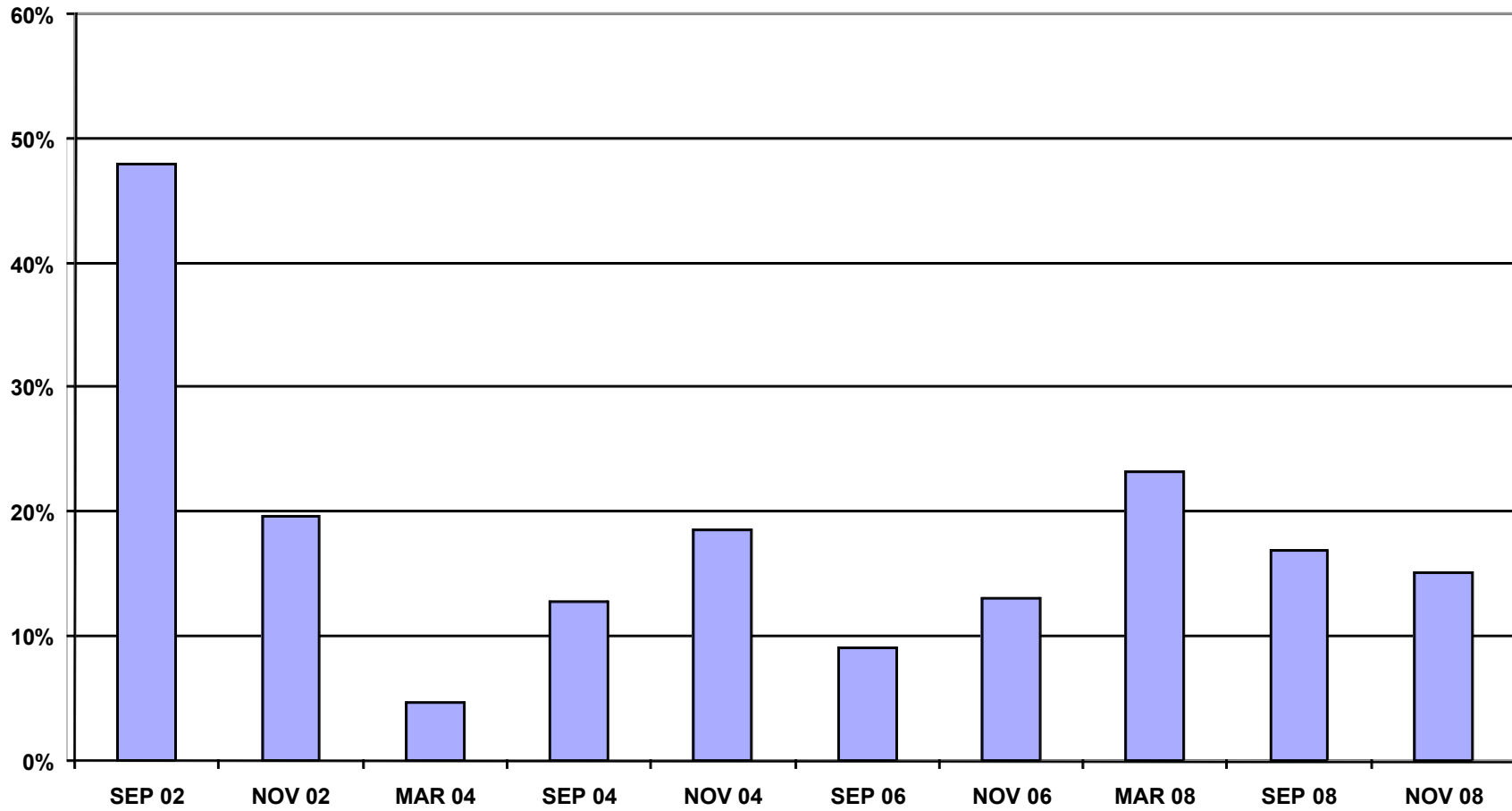
COMPARABLE STATISTICS

17.7%	14.1%
22.6%	13.3%
74.9%	58.6%
69.7%	19.2%
68.0%	43.5%
10.7%	5.0%
22.7%	10.5%
71.6%	60.8%
31.6%	22.5%
70.2%	57.2%
53.9%	30.7%
26.3%	9.4%
82.9%	67.8%

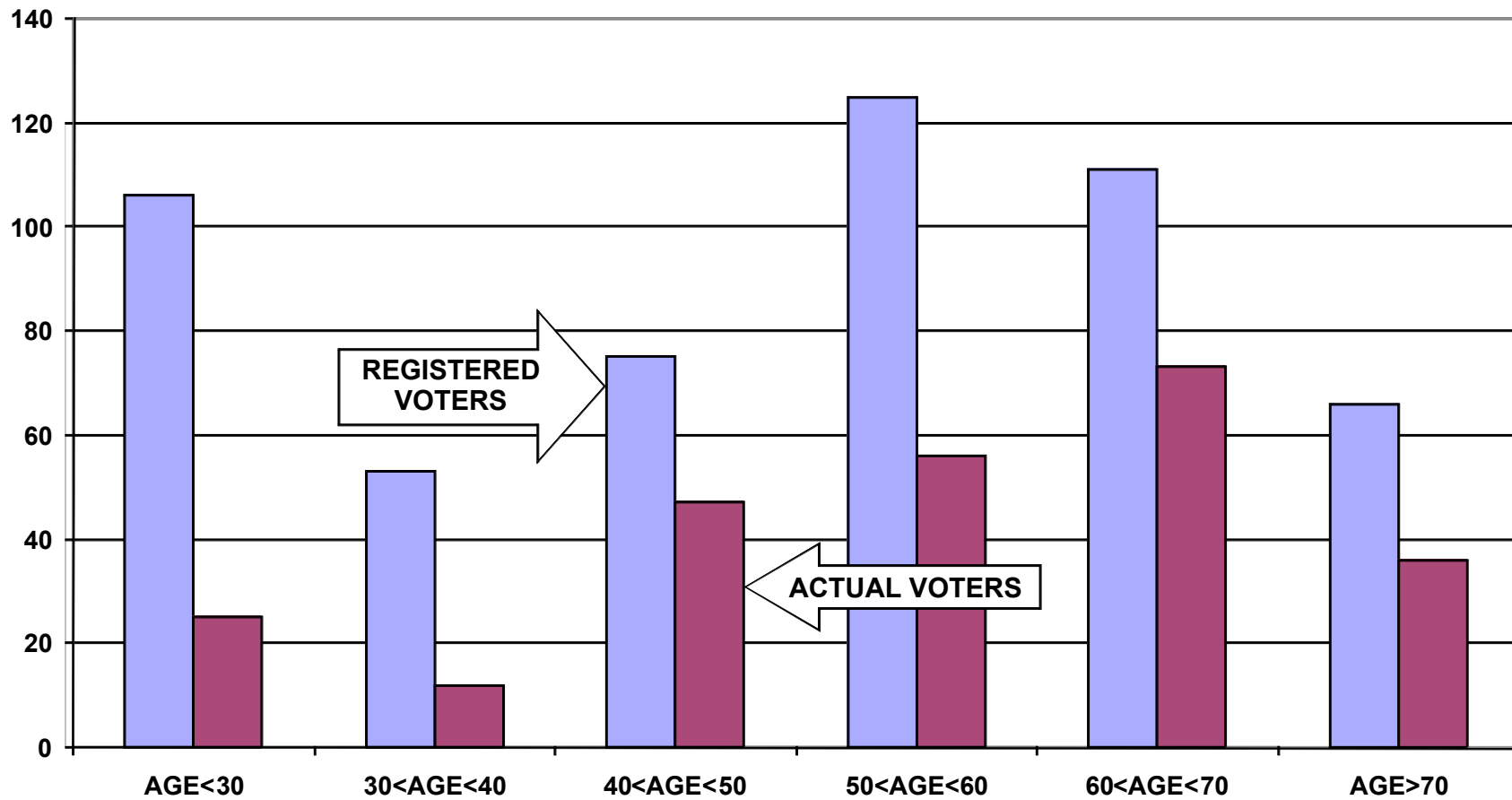
REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



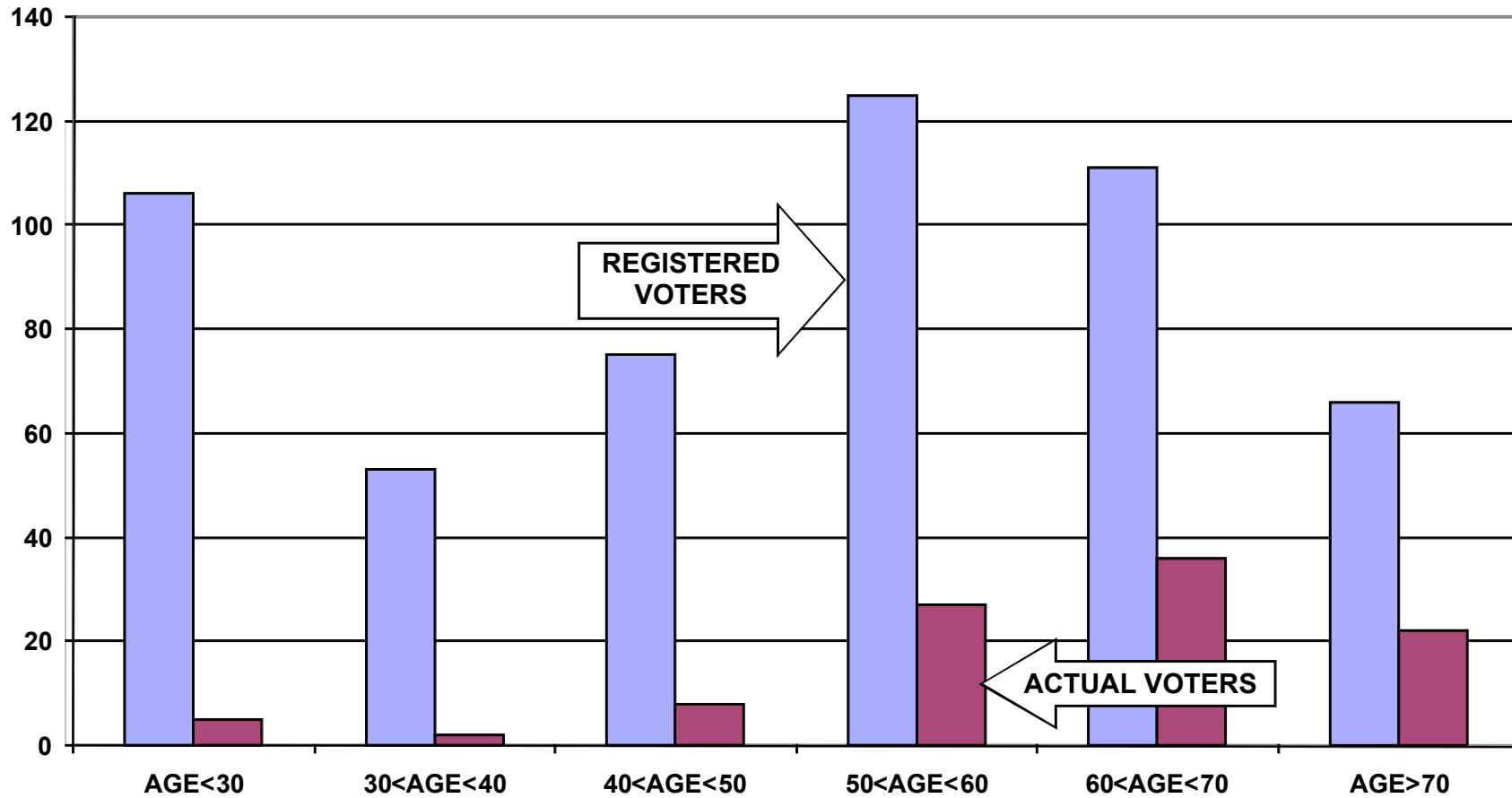
**DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN
THE PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB VOTERS AND
RHODE ISLAND VOTERS
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD**



REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS MARCH 2008
PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS SEPTEMBER 2008
PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2008
PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

