

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



**SACRED HEART PARISH**  
**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: 4,031**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in Rhode Island: 953 (24% of all parishioners)**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Rhode Island: 1,225**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in March 2008: 48% (statewide turnout 31%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout\* in September 2008 – 25% (statewide turnout 9%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2008 – 76% (statewide turnout 68%)**

## SUMMARY OF WORK

Sacred Heart became was an active participant in the Portuguese American Citizenship Project from late 2002 to 2006. The parish did not send voter cards to its parishioners in 2008.

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\* 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

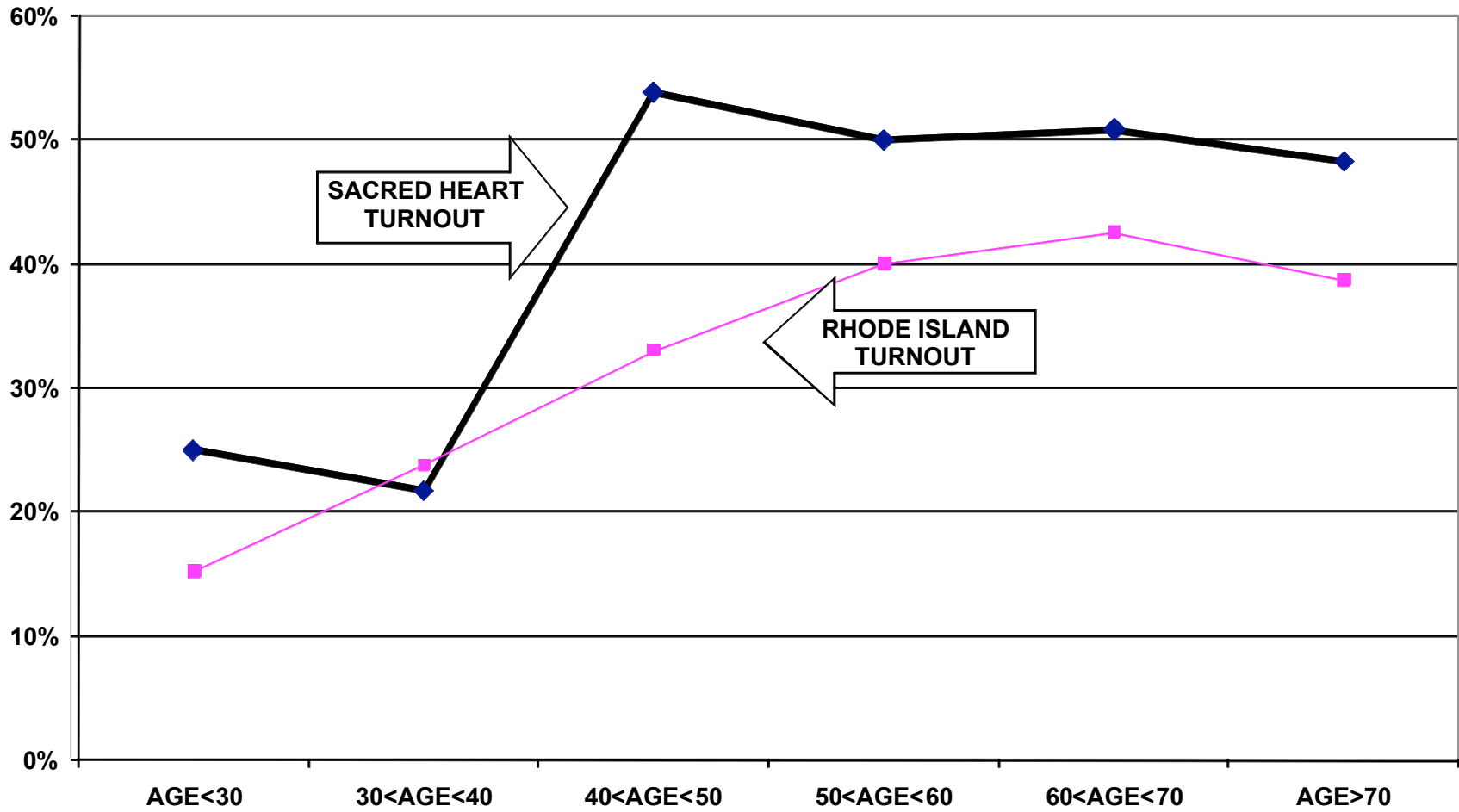
Sacred Heart's heads of household voter turnout was higher than the statewide turnout in the 2008 September Statewide Primary Election and the November Presidential Election. Heads of household turnout for the September Statewide Primary Elections was 25%, as compared to the state turnout of 9%. Sacred Heart's heads of household turnout for the November Presidential Election was 76%, 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 associated with the parish and among registered voters in the community at large.

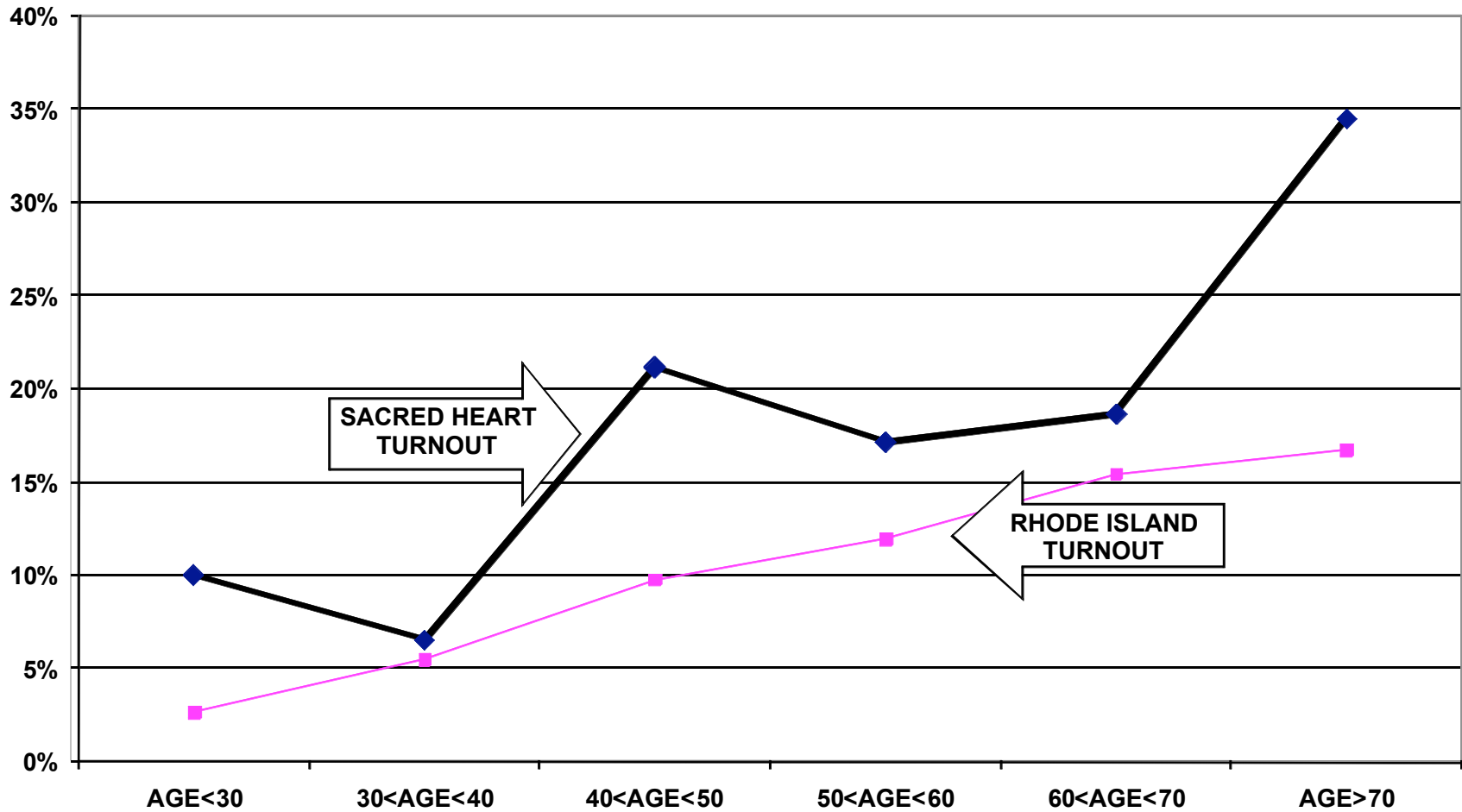
For example, registered voters that are associated with Sacred Heart under 30 years old had a 10% turnout rate in the September Statewide Primary elections, while those between 60 and 70 years old had a 19% turnout rate. For the November Presidential elections, the under 30 years old associated voters had a 62% turnout rate, compared to a 81% turnout rate among parishioners 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 group, not just heads of household.

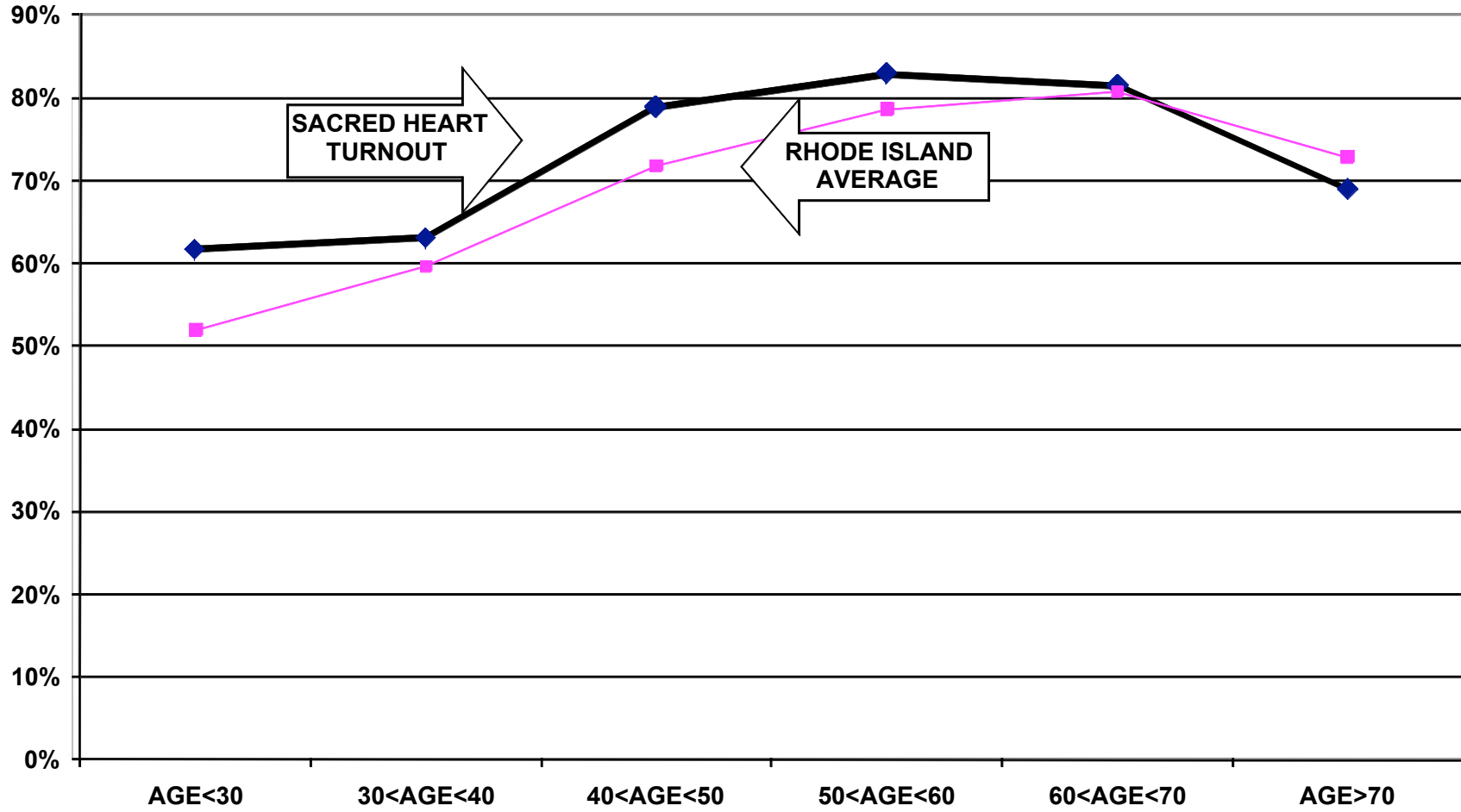
### TURNOUT BY AGE MARCH 2008 SACRED HEART PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



### TURNOUT BY AGE SEPTEMBER 2008 SACRED HEART PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



### TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2008 SACRED HEART 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 \$600.
- 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.

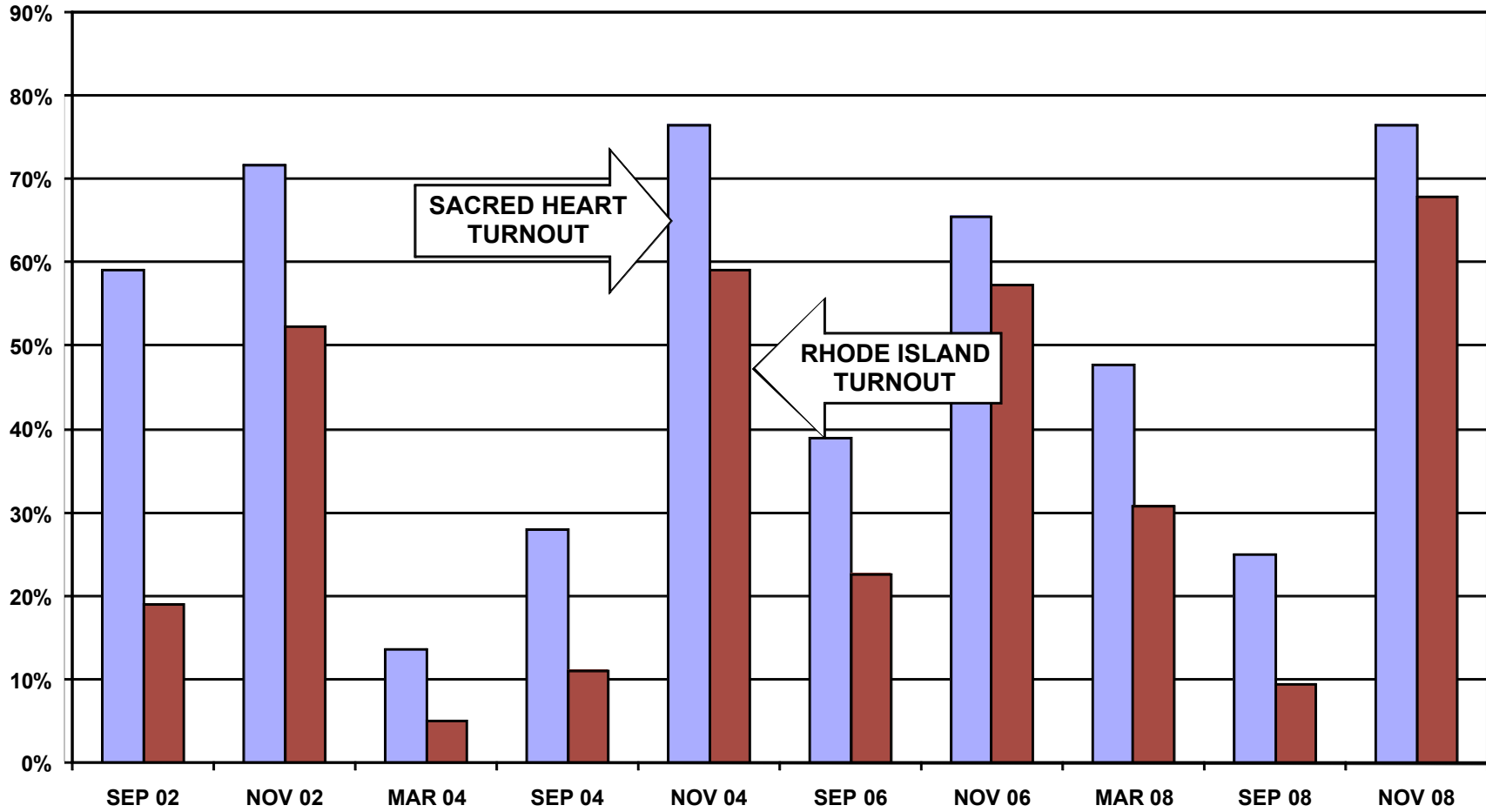


# APPENDIX

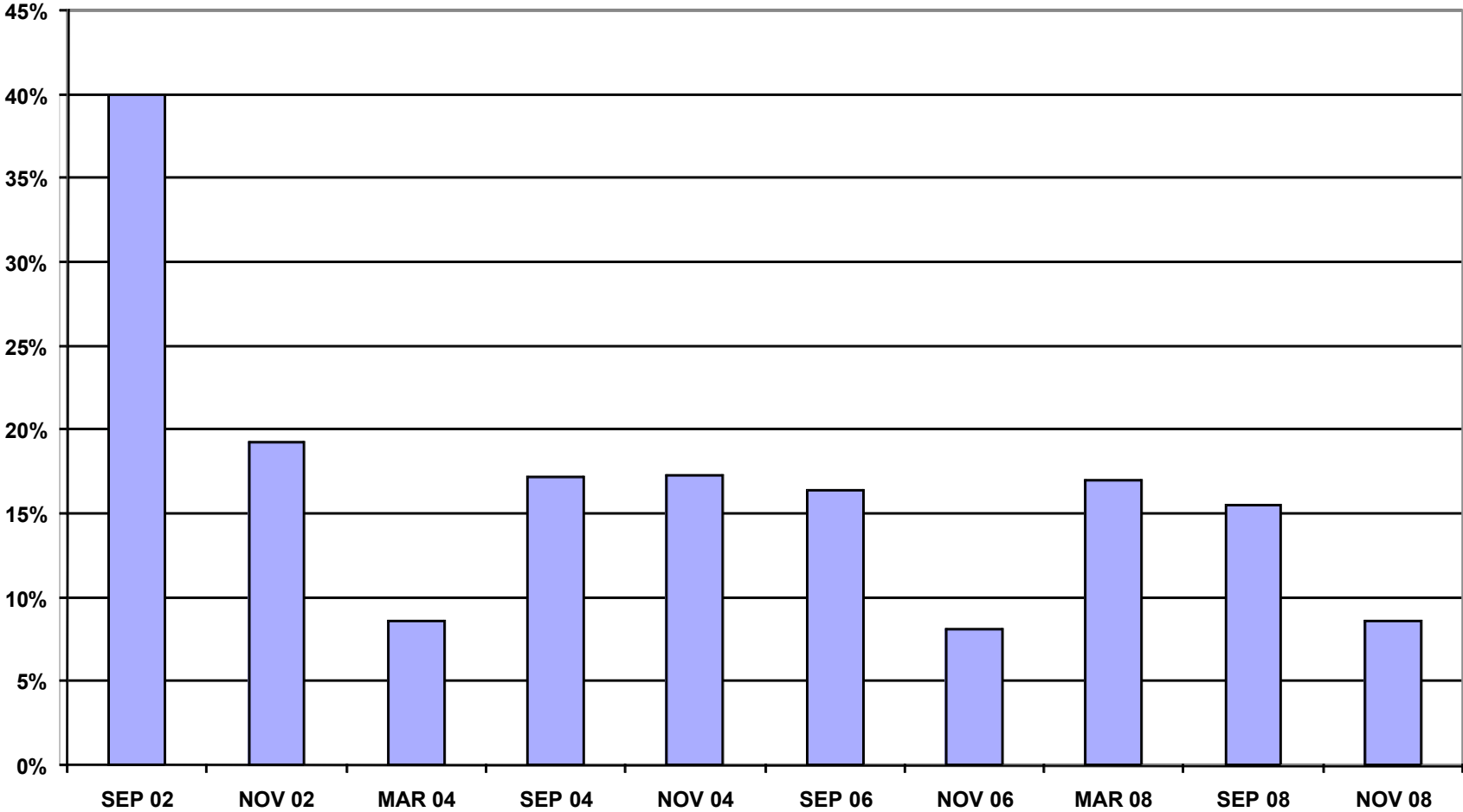
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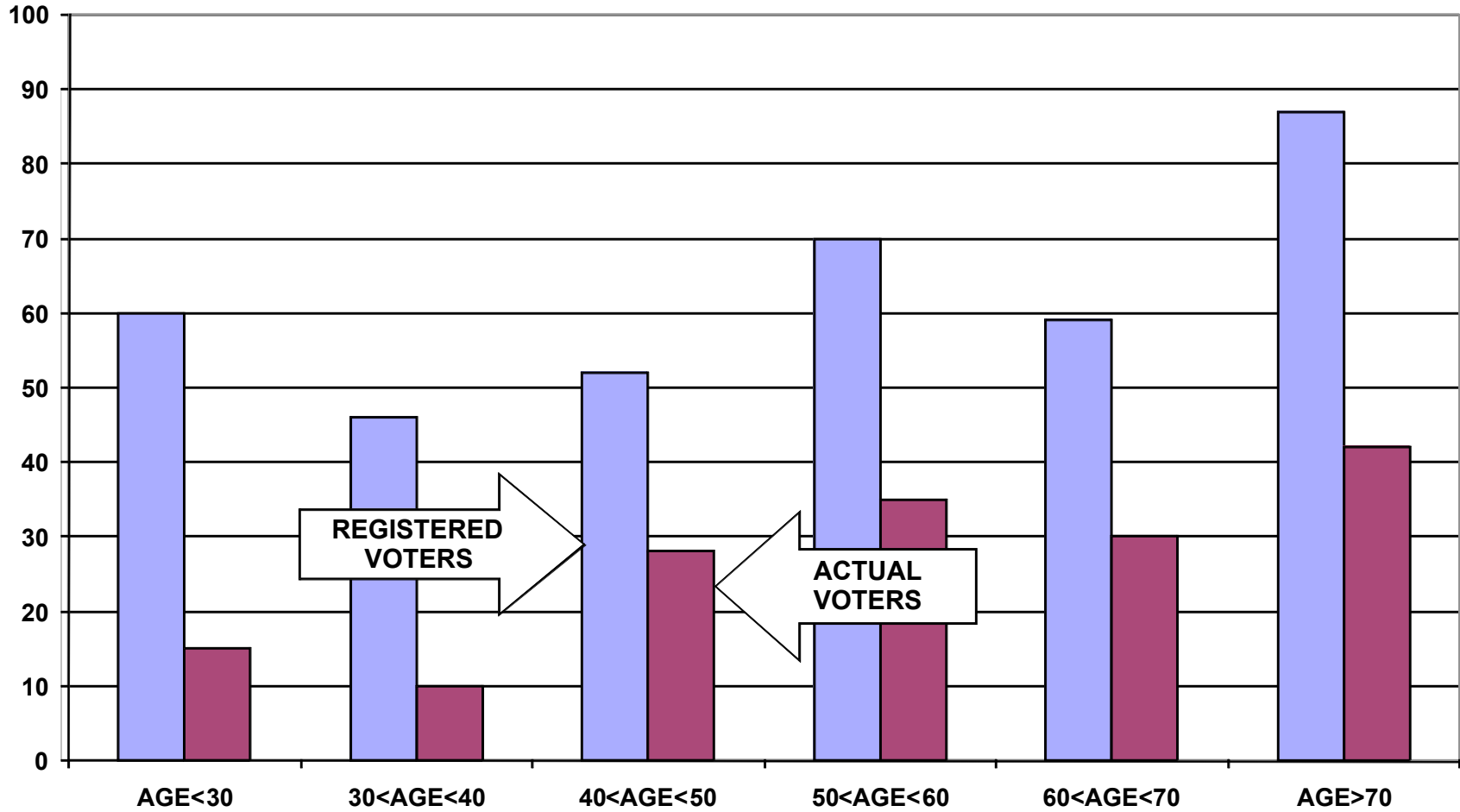
### REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON BETWEEN RHODE ISLAND AND SACRED HEART PARISH HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



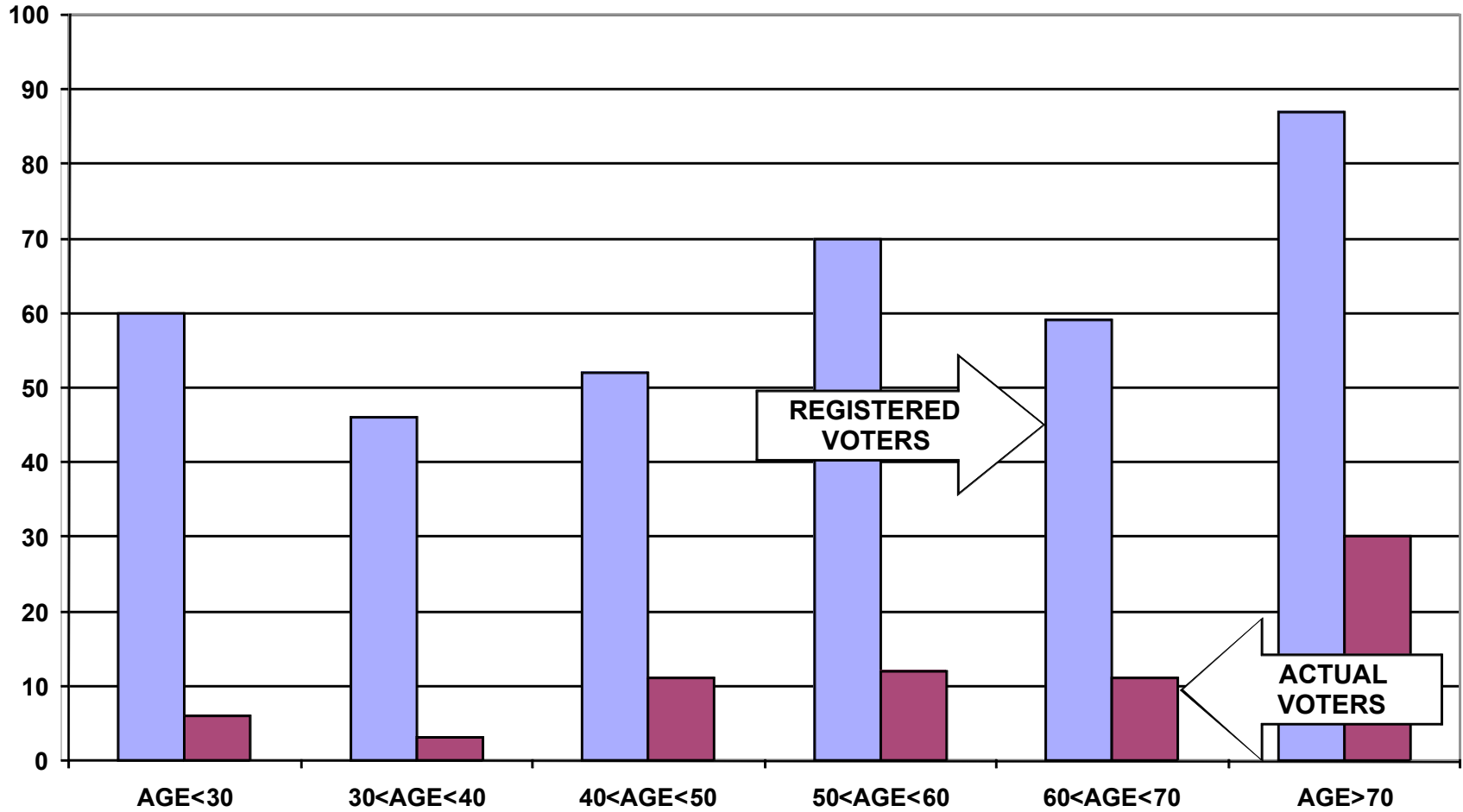
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**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS MARCH 2008  
SACRED HEART PARISH  
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS SEPTEMBER 2008  
SACRED HEART PARISH  
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**





**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2008  
SACRED HEART PARISH  
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

