

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



FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CA



EVALUATION
OF
THE 2006 ELECTIONS

July 17, 2007

SUPPORTED BY THE
LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

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KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Members: 2,043**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote: 549 (27% of all parishioners)**
- **All Household Members registered to vote: 872**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout* in June 2006 – 56% (county-wide turnout 53%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2006 – 76% (county-wide turnout 72%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

Five Wounds Parish, in collaboration with the Portuguese Organization for Social Services and Opportunities (POSSO), has been an active participant in the Portuguese American Citizenship Project since late 2002.

For the June 2006 Primary Elections and the November 2006 General Elections, postcards in Portuguese and English were sent to every registered voter in the parish reminding them of the date, polling hours, and location of the assigned polling station 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 Santa Clara county residents only.

RESULTS

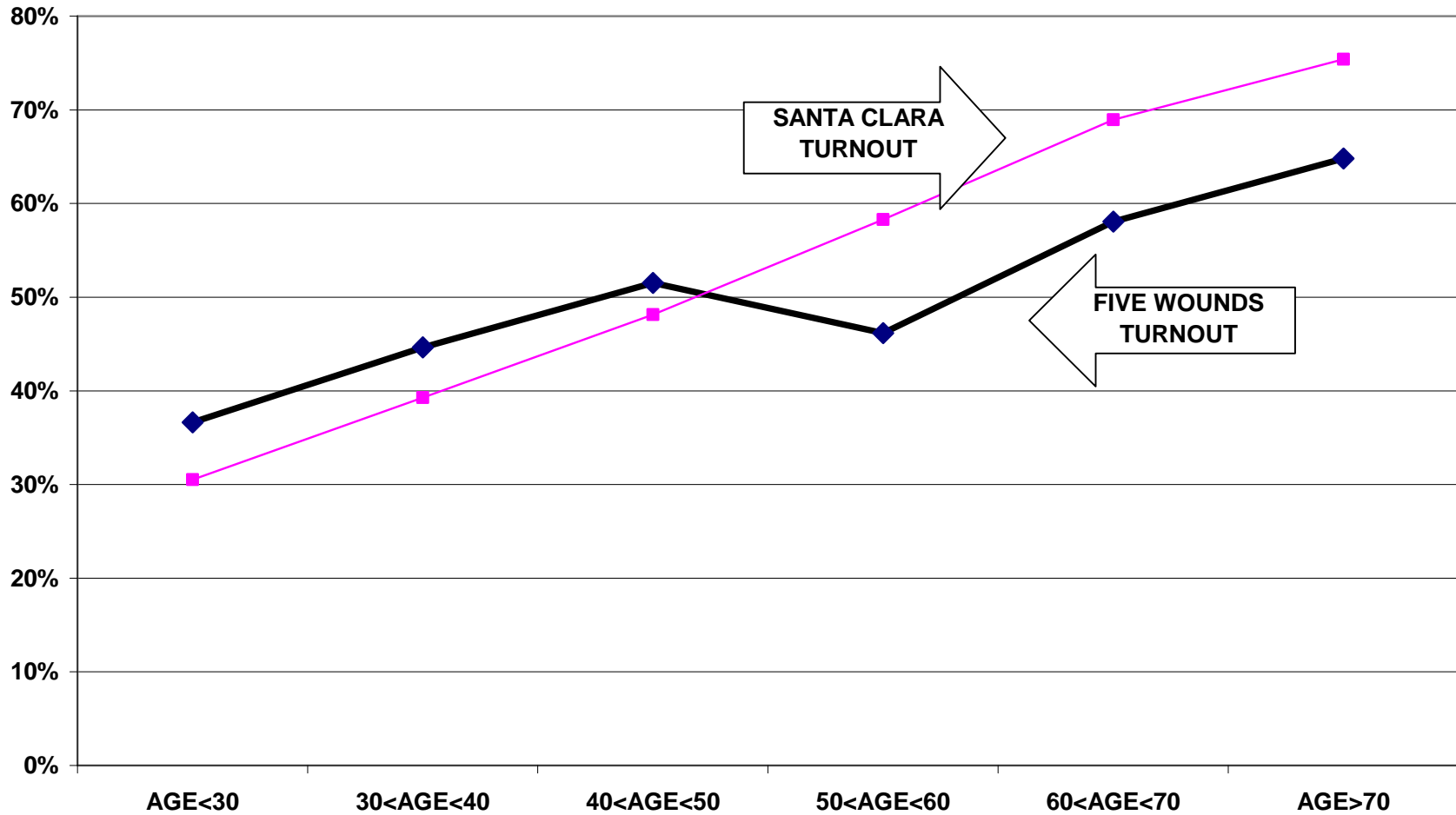
The Five Wounds Parish heads of household voter turnout was higher than the countywide turnout in the June 2006 Primary Election and the November 2006 General Election. Heads of household turnout for the June 2006 Primary Elections was 56%, as compared to the county turnout of 53%. The Five Wounds Parish heads of household turnout for the November 2006 General Election was 76%, as compared to the county turnout of 72%.

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 registered voters in the parish and among registered voters in the community at large.

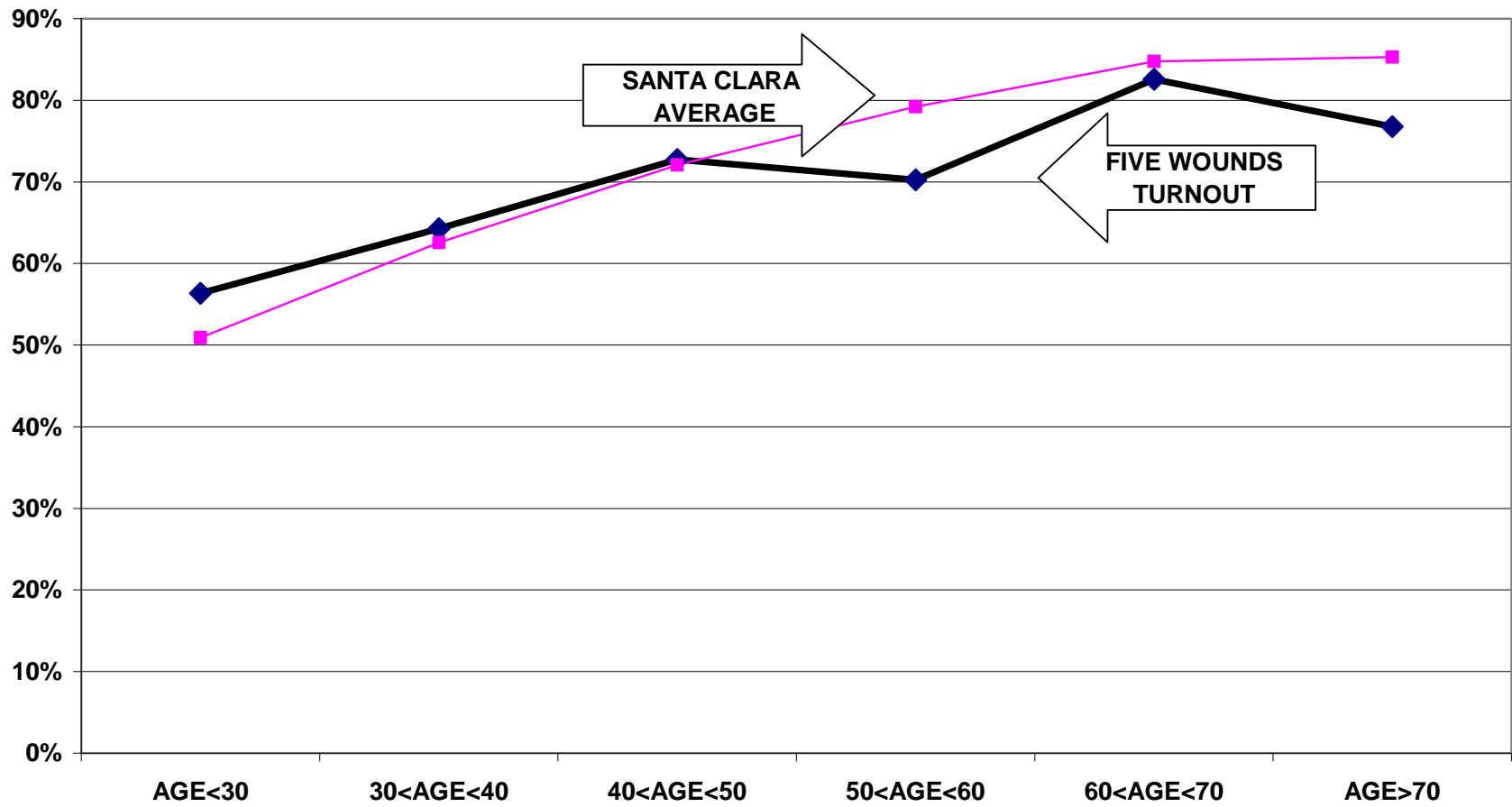
For example, registered voters associated with the parish under 30 years old had a 37% turnout rate in the June 2006 elections while those between 60 and 70 years old had a 58% turnout rate. For the November 2006 elections, the under 30 years old associated voters had a 56% turnout rate compared to an 83% turnout rate among those between 60 and 70 years old.

The following graphs for the June and November 2006 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 JUNE 2006 FIVE WOUNDS PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2006 FIVE WOUNDS PARISH ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The parish should make an effort to update the list of parishioners. The methodology for creating the mailing lists for post cards and measuring voter turnout consists of combining the parish member lists with the POSSO member list, eliminating duplicates and then matching the resulting list with the voter registration list for Santa Clara County. An updated list of parishioners will ensure that voter postcards reach all registered voters in the parish to further increase voter turnout among parishioners.
- The parish should examine ways to increase its overall voter turnout rate. While the Society has done an excellent job of outvoting the county overall, the difference between the Five Wounds Parish turnout and the Santa Clara county turnout has grown smaller since November of 2004. Voters in the older categories consistently outvote the younger voter categories. This issue should be addressed to increase voting turnout for the younger age groups.
- In order to revive parishioner commitment to strong voter turnout, the parish should consider sending letters to every parish family reminding them of the church's involvement in Faithful Citizenship and encouraging voter registration for members who are citizens but have not yet registered to vote.

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- Difference in Voter Turnout Bar Graph 11
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters June 2006 Bar Graph 12
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters November 2006 Bar Graph 13

**HISTORICAL DATA: FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

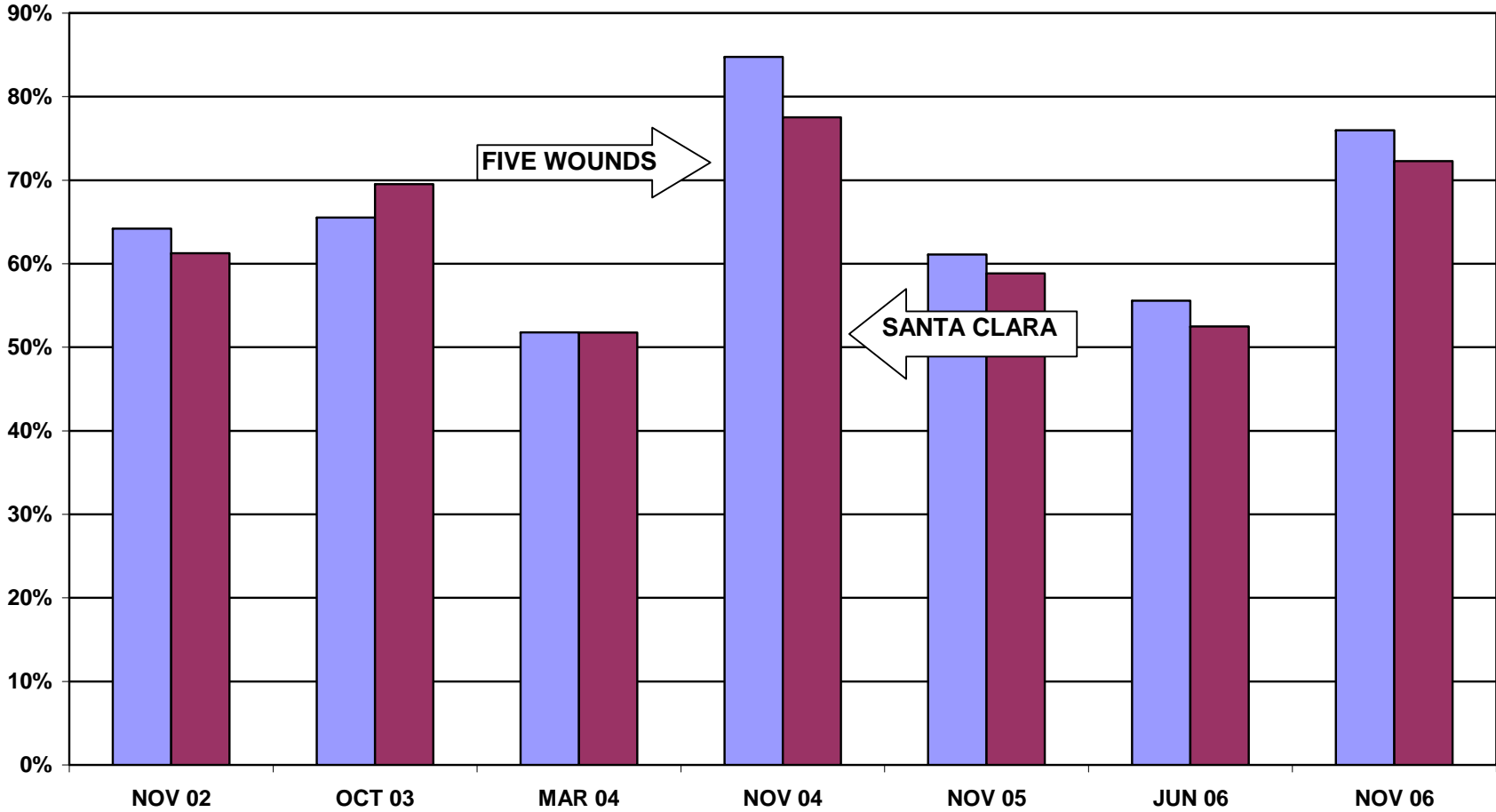
MEMBERS	2,043
MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA	549 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD
	872 ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

VOTING PERFORMANCE OF SANTA CLARA RESIDENTS

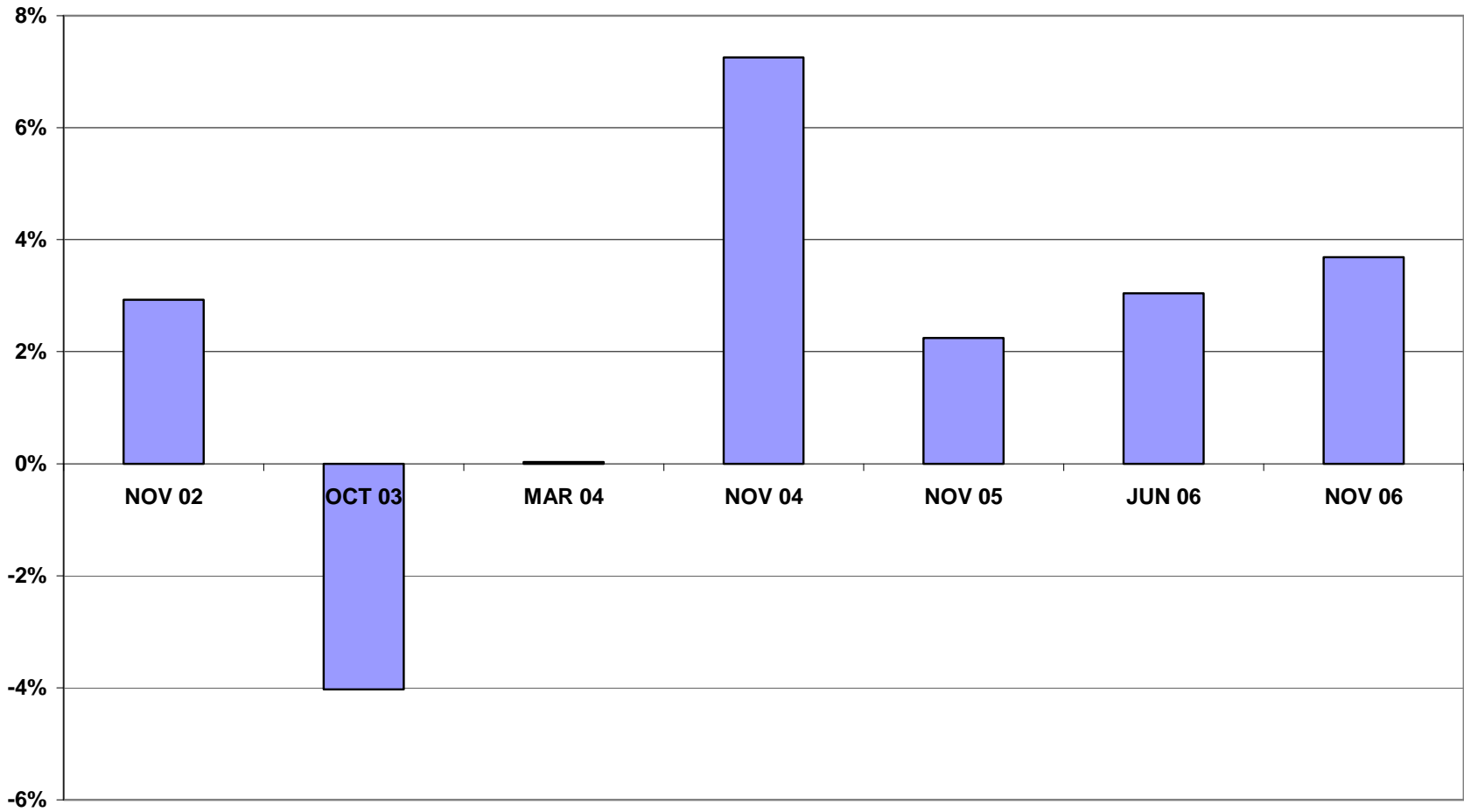
	HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD	AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE	COUNTY WIDE VOTING HISTORY AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
		COMPARABLE STATISTICS	
VOTERS NOV 2002	373	64.2%	61.3%
VOTERS OCT 2003	399	65.5%	69.5%
VOTERS MAR 2004	321	51.8%	51.7%
VOTERS NOV 2004	540	84.7%	77.5%
VOTERS NOV 2005	380	61.1%	58.9%
VOTERS JUN 2006	305	55.6%	52.5%
VOTERS NOV 2006	417	76.0%	72.3%

Note: Data for 2006 elections are based on registration from May 2007

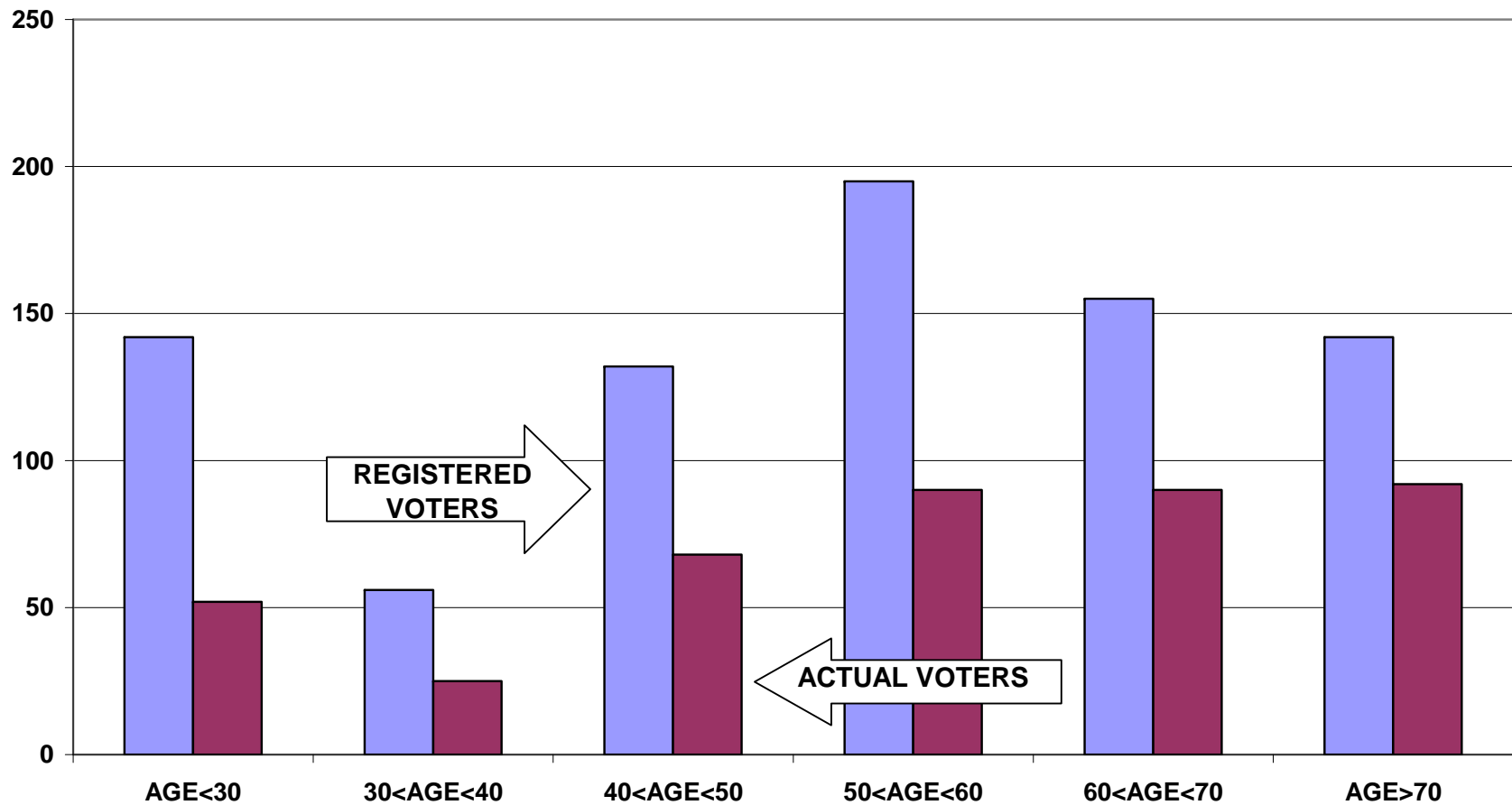
**REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT
COMPARISON OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY AND
FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD**



DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN FIVE WOUNDS PARISH VOTERS AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS JUNE 2006
FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2006
FIVE WOUNDS PARISH
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

