

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

**SOCIEDADE ESPIRITO SANTO CORP.**  
**SANTA CLARA, CA**

**EVALUATION**  
**OF**  
**THE 2006 ELECTIONS**

**June 29, 2007**

**SUPPORTED BY THE**  
**LUSO-AMERICAN**  
**FOUNDATION**

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## KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Members: 439**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote: 118 (27% of all members)**
- **All Household Members registered to vote: 190**
- **Voter Turnout\* in June 2006 – 48% (county-wide turnout 53%)**
- **Voter Turnout in November 2006 – 75% (county-wide turnout 72%)**

## SUMMARY OF WORK

Sociedade Espirito Santo Corp. in collaboration with the Portuguese American Forum of Santa Clara 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 organization reminding them of the date, polling hours, and location of the assigned polling station for each election.

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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 Santa Clara county residents only.

## RESULTS

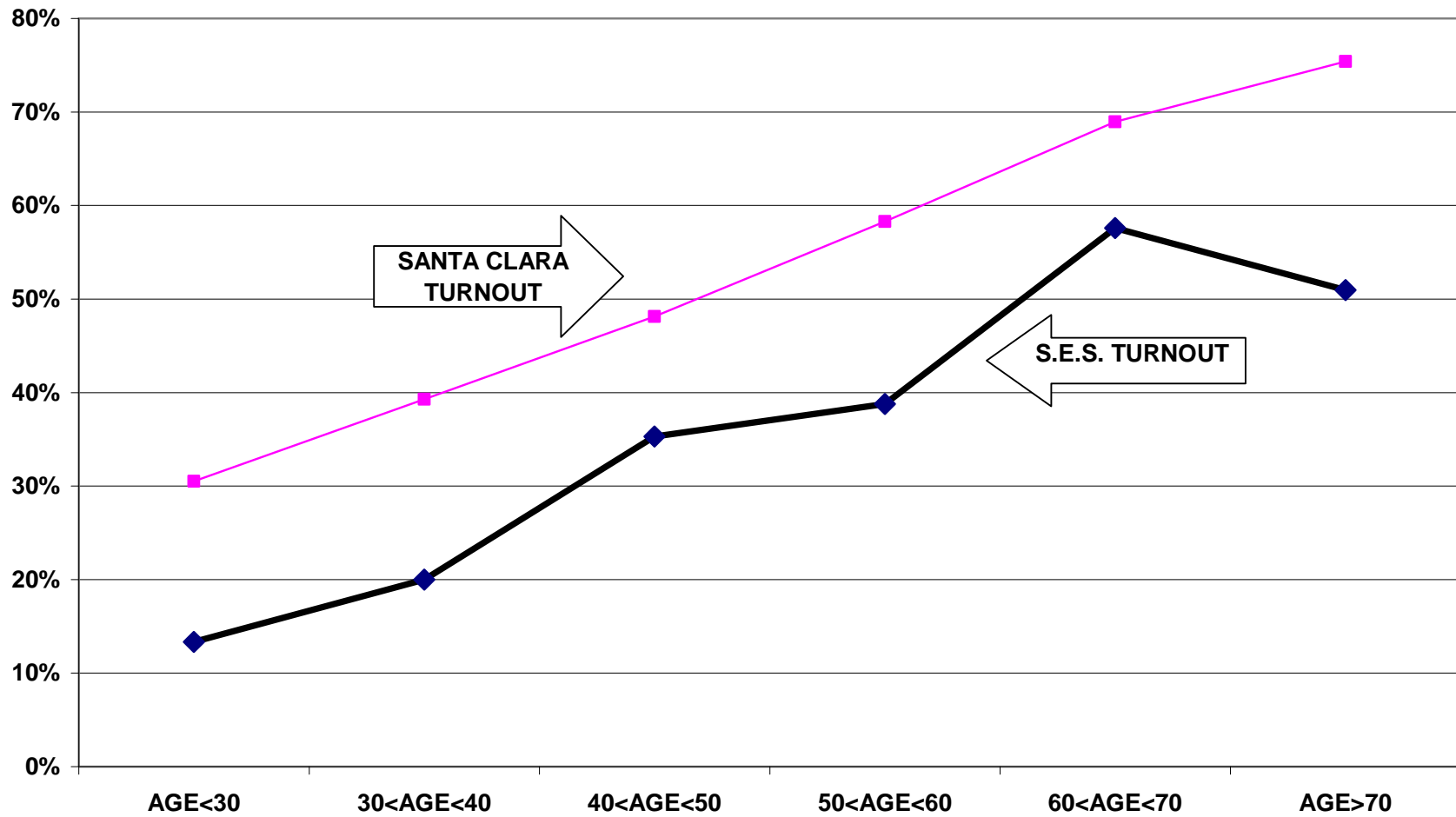
Sociedade Espirito Santo's heads of household voter turnout was lower than the countywide turnout in the June 2006 Primary Election but higher than countywide turnout in the November 2006 General Election. Heads of household turnout for the June 2006 Primary Elections was 48%, as compared to the county turnout of 53%. The Sociedade Espirito Santo heads of household turnout for the November 2006 General Election was 75%, as compared to the county turnout of 72%.

Voter turnout is not uniform across the age groups for all family members. 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 organization and true for the registered voters in the community at large.

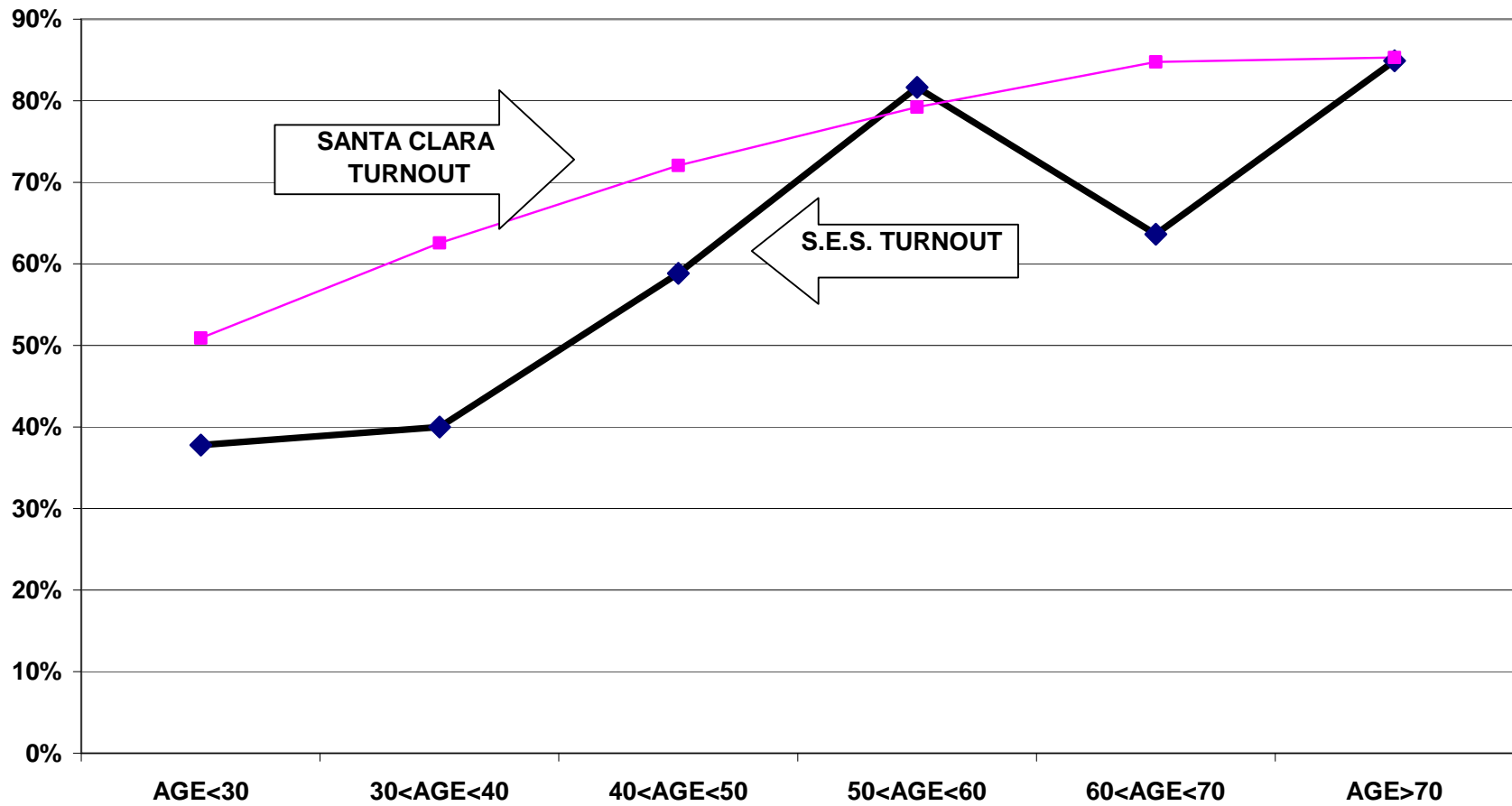
For example, voters associated with the organization under 30 years old had a 13% turnout rate in the June 2006 elections while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 58% turnout rate. For the November 2006 elections, the under 30 year old associated members had a 38% turnout rate compared to a 64% turnout rate for voters between 60 and 70 years old.

The following graphs for the June and November elections illustrate the relationship between turnout rates and age. These graphs refer to all family members associated with the organization, not just heads of household.

**TURNOUT BY AGE JUNE 2006  
SOCIEADE ESPIRITO SANTO  
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2006**  
**SOCIEADE ESPIRITO SANTO**  
**ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The club should carefully examine the June 2006 election to determine why group turnout was so low in that election and discuss what should be done in the future to prevent low voter turnout rates. The group under-voted the county by 5% in the June 2006 Primary Election, but outvoted the county in all previous elections and in the November 2006 election.
- The club should examine measures to bring younger members into the political process. Turnout rates for the members under 30 are one half those of the 60 to 70 year old members.
- In order to encourage increased voter registrations and revive group commitment to strong voter turnout, the club should consider sending letters to every group family reminding them of the group's involvement in the Citizenship Project and encouraging voter registration for members who are citizens but have not yet registered.

# APPENDIX

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- Registered Voter Turnout Bar Graph 10
- 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

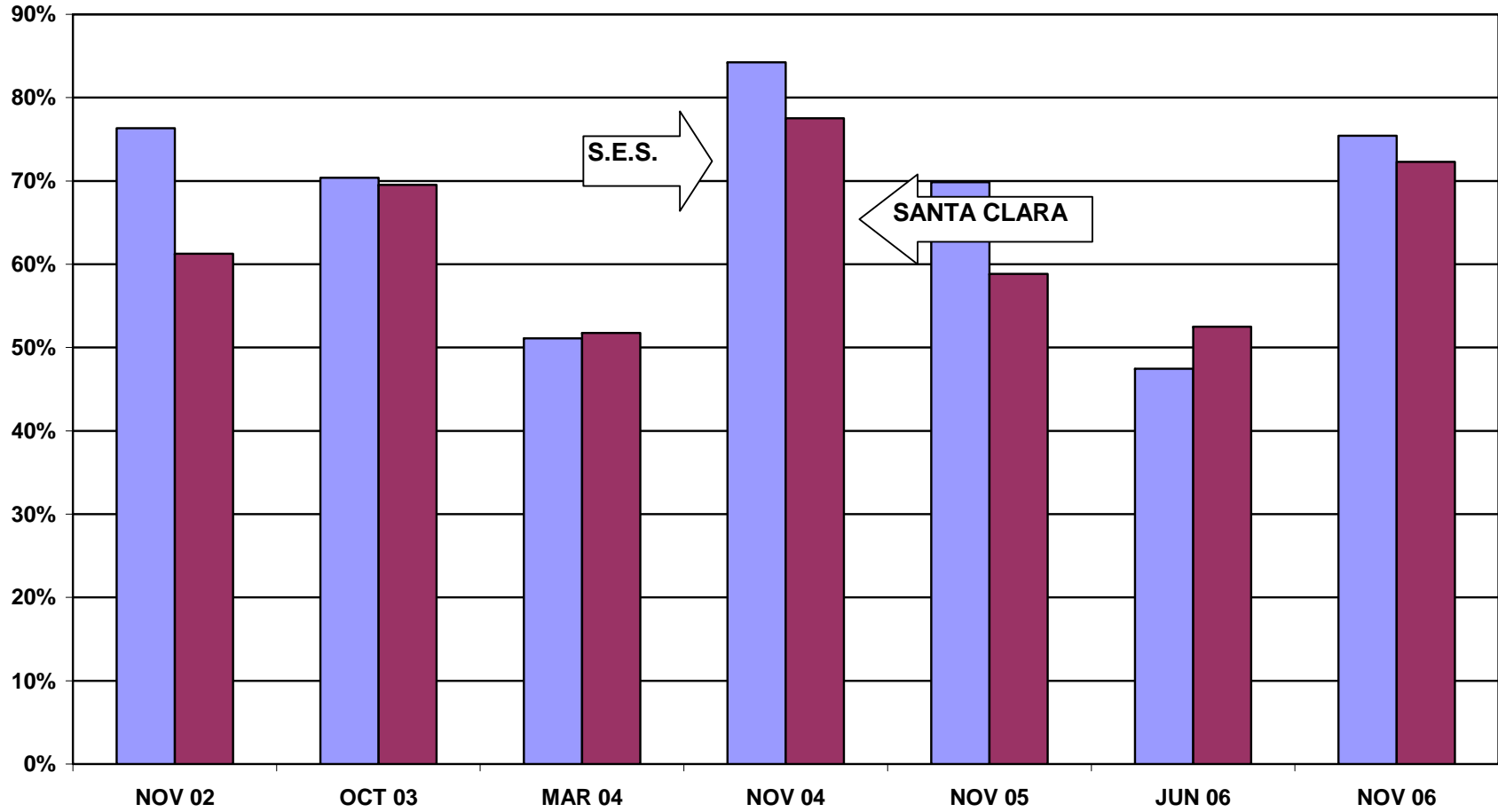
**HISTORICAL DATA: SOCIEDADE ESPIRITO SANT, CORP.  
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>439</b>
<b>MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA</b>	<b>118 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD</b>
	<b>190 ALL FAMILY MEMBERS</b>

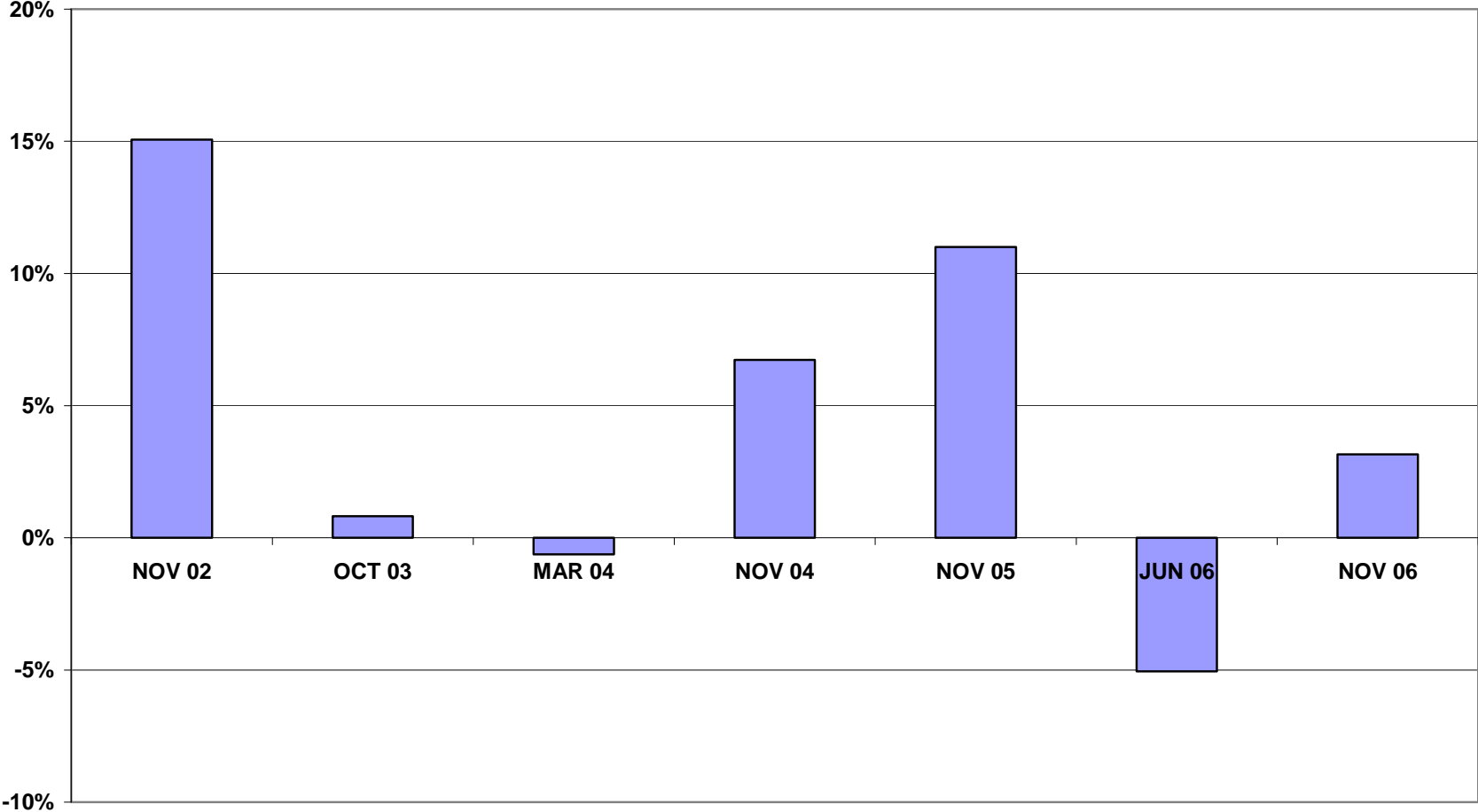
**VOTING PERFORMANCE OF SANTA CLARA RESIDENTS**

	<b>HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD</b>	<b>AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE</b>	<b>COUNTYWIDE VOTING HISTORY AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS</b>
		<b>COMPARABLE STATISTICS</b>	
<b>VOTERS NOV 2000</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>93.7%</b>	<b>90.0%</b>
<b>VOTERS NOV 2002</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>76.3%</b>	<b>61.3%</b>
<b>VOTERS OCT 2003</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>70.4%</b>	<b>69.5%</b>
<b>VOTERS MAR 2004</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>51.1%</b>	<b>51.7%</b>
<b>VOTERS NOV 2004</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>84.2%</b>	<b>77.5%</b>
<b>VOTERS NOV 2005</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>69.9%</b>	<b>58.9%</b>
<b>VOTERS JUN 2006</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47.5%</b>	<b>52.5%</b>
<b>VOTERS NOV 2006</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>75.4%</b>	<b>72.3%</b>

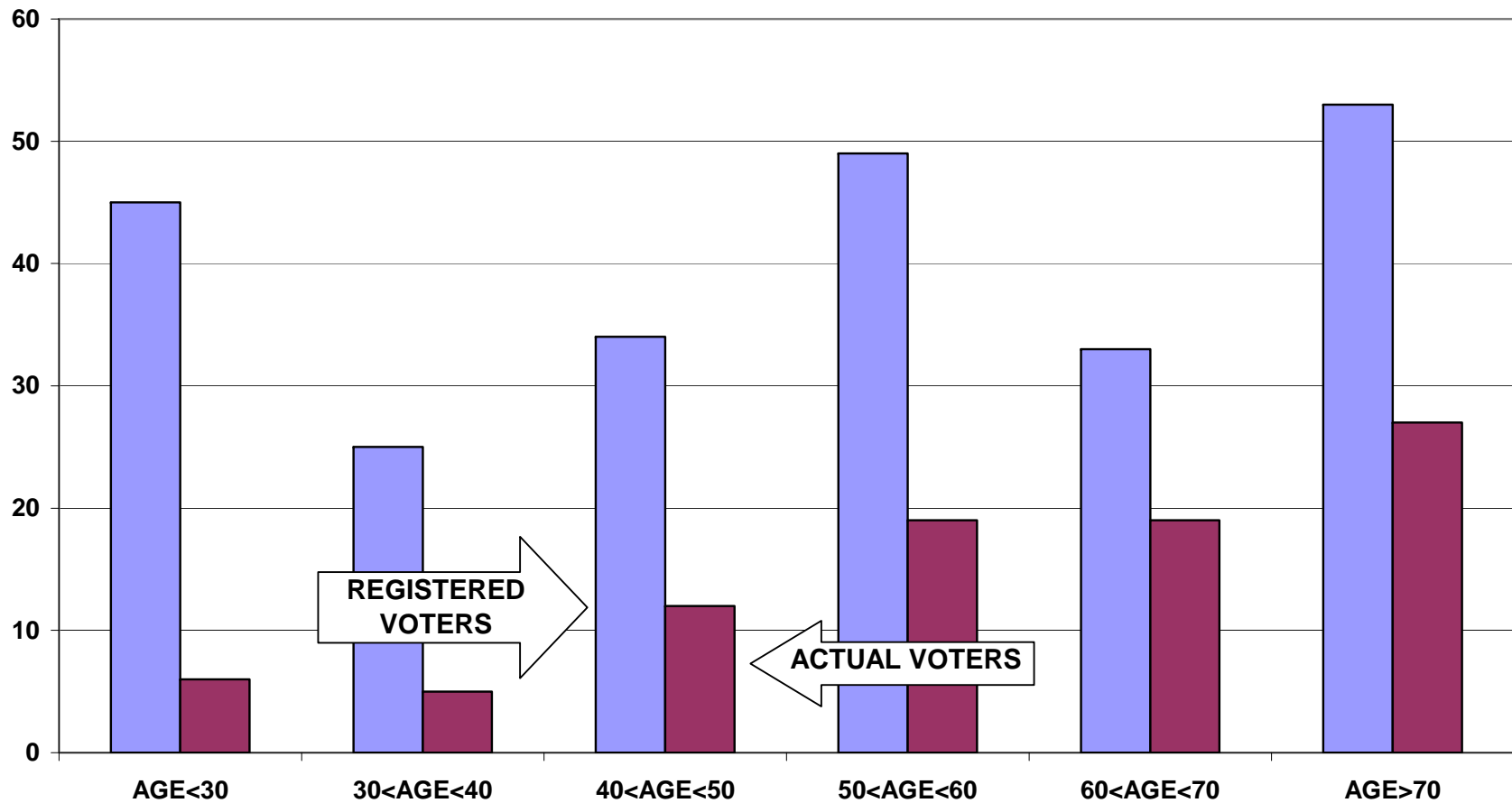
### REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY AND SOCIEDADE ESPIRITO SANTO HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



**DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN  
SOCIEDADE ESPIRITO SANTO VOTERS AND  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY VOTERS  
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS JUNE 2006  
SOCIEDADE ESPIRITO SANTO  
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2006  
SOCIEDADE ESPIRITO SANTO  
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

