

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



**SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND**

**EVALUATION
OF
THE 2006 ELECTIONS**

June 26, 2007

SUPPORTED BY THE
LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

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KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Parishioners: 3,026**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote: 1,686 (56% of all parishioners)**
- **All Household Members registered to vote: 2,318**
- **Voter Turnout* in September 2006 – 22% (state-wide turnout 23%)**
- **Voter Turnout in November 2006 – 71% (state-wide turnout 57%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

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

For the September 2006 Primary Elections and the November 2006 General Elections, postcards in Portuguese and English were sent to every registered parish voter reminding them of the date, polling hours, and location of the assigned polling station for the election.

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

RESULTS

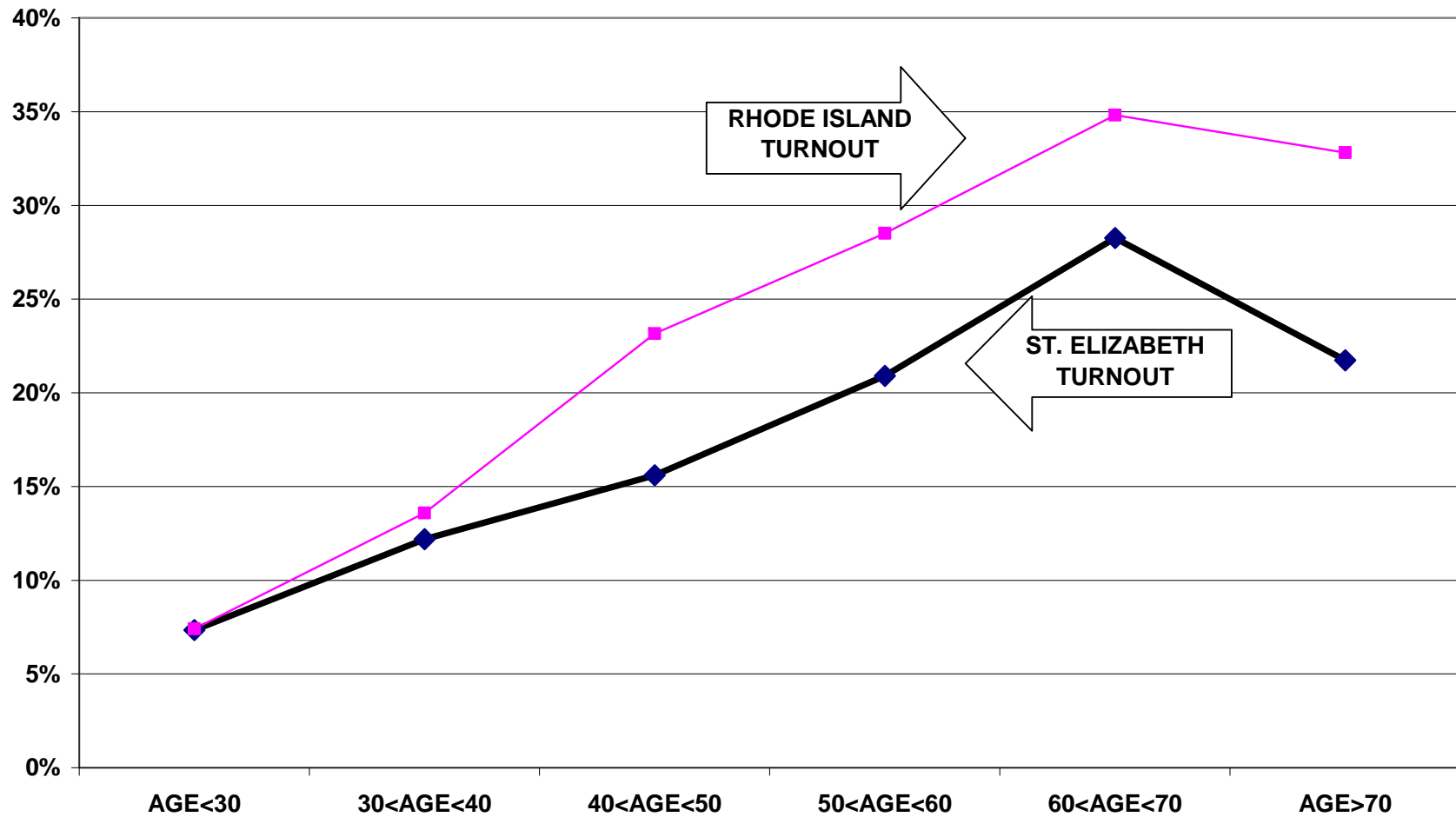
The St. Elizabeth voter turnout for the November 2006 election was higher than statewide turnout, but turnout for the September 2006 election was slightly lower than that for the state. Heads of household turnout for the September 2006 primary elections was 22%, as compared to the state turnout of 23%. The St. Elizabeth heads of household turnout for the November 2006 state elections was 71%, as compared to the state turnout of 57%.

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.

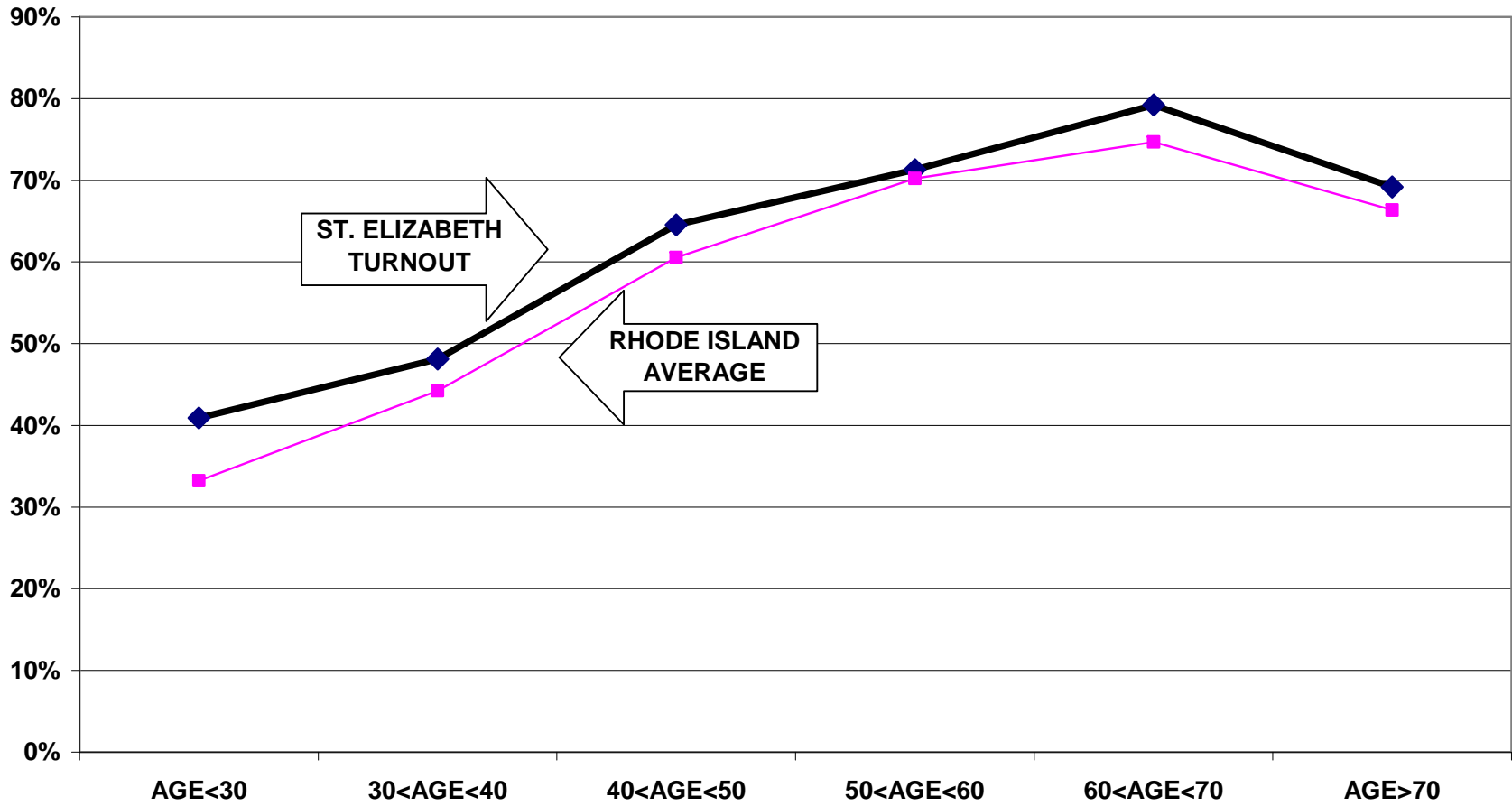
For example, voters under 30 years old had a 7% turnout rate in the September 2006 elections while voters between 60 and 70 years old had a 28% turnout rate. For the November 2006 elections, the under 30 year old parishioners had a 41% turnout rate, compared to a 79% turnout rate for voters between 60 and 70 years old.

The following graphs for the September and November 2006 elections illustrate the relationship between turnout rates and age.

**ST. ELIZABETH PARISH, BRISTOL, RI TURNOUT
ALL FAMILY MEMBERS
SEP06 TURNOUT BY AGE**



ST. ELIZABETH PARISH, BRISTOL, RI TURNOUT ALL FAMILY MEMBERS NOV06 TURNOUT BY AGE



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The parish should carefully examine the September 2006 election to determine why parish turnout was so low in that election and discuss what should be done in the future to prevent low turnout rates. While the parish only under-voted the state by 1% in the September 2006 Primary Election, the parish outvoted the state by 14% in the November 2006 General Election.
- The parish 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. Fostering informal meetings between political leaders and local youth groups may allow for a greater sense of involvement in this age group.

APPENDIX

Historical Data

Voter Turnout Bar Graph

Difference Between Member Turnout and State Average Bar Graph

Registered Voters vs. Parish Voters Sep. 06 Bar Graph

Registered Voters vs. Parish Voters Nov. 06 Bar Graph

**HISTORICAL DATE: SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

MEMBERS	3026	
MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN STATE OF RHODE ISLAND	1686	HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD
	2318	ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

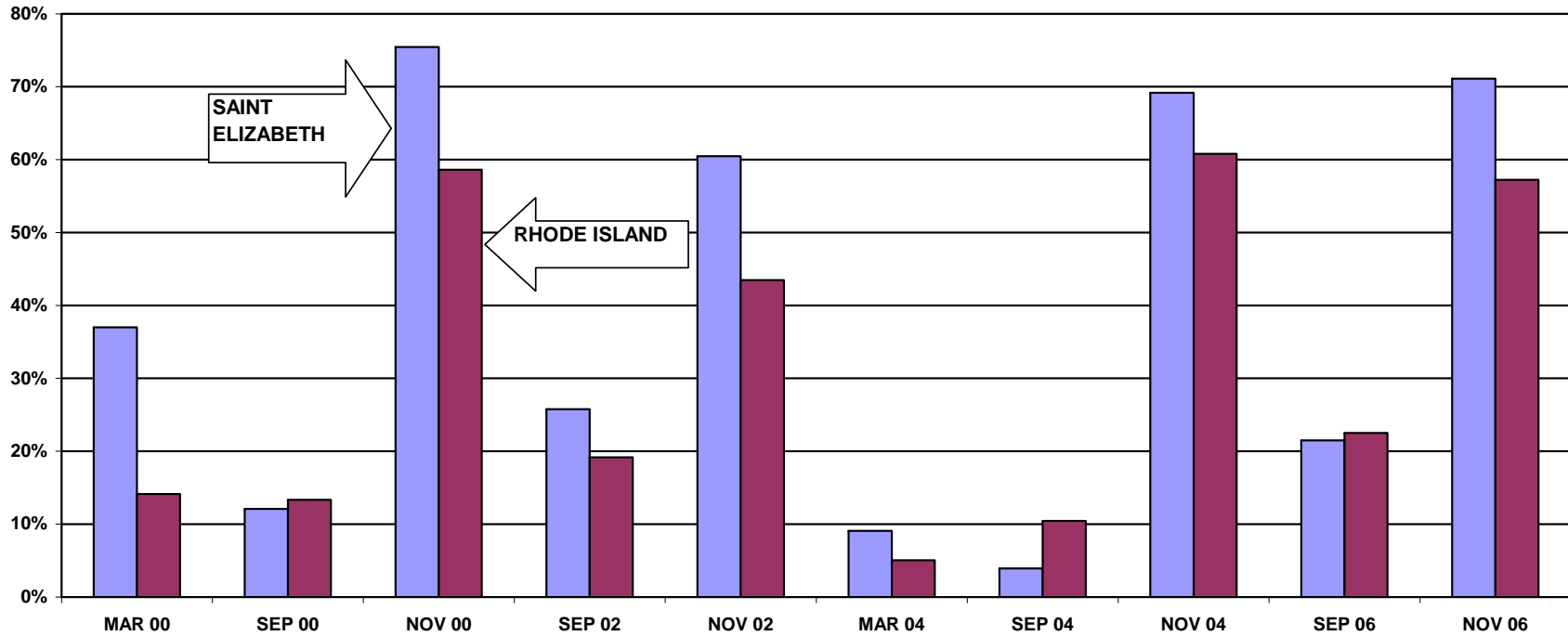
VOTING PERFORMANCE OF RHODE ISLAND RESIDENTS

	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 MAR 2000		37.0%	14.1%
VOTERS SEP 2000		12.1%	13.3%
VOTERS NOV 2000		75.5%	58.6%
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%

Note: Voting statistics for all elections are based only on voters registered as of May 2007. These statistics cannot be compared to official voter turnout reports which are based on an earlier registered voter population

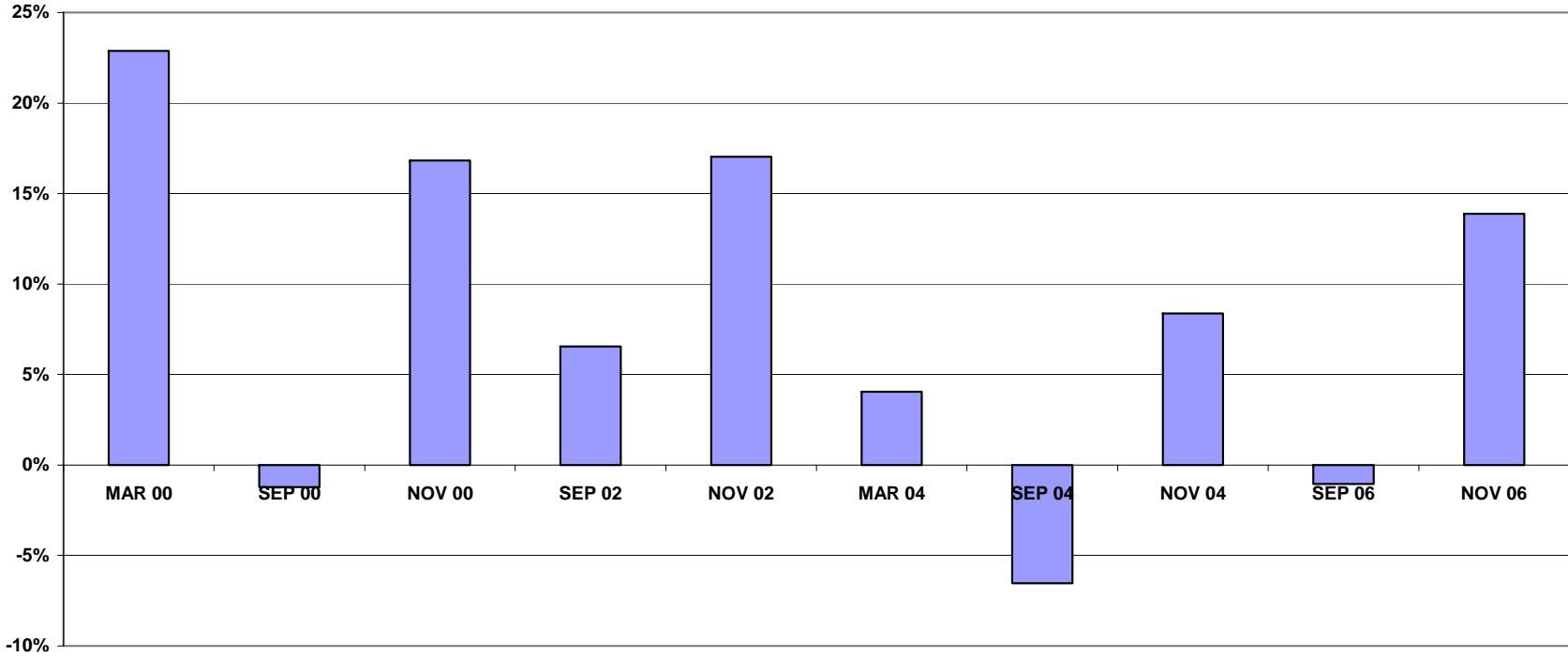
SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH VOTER TURNOUT

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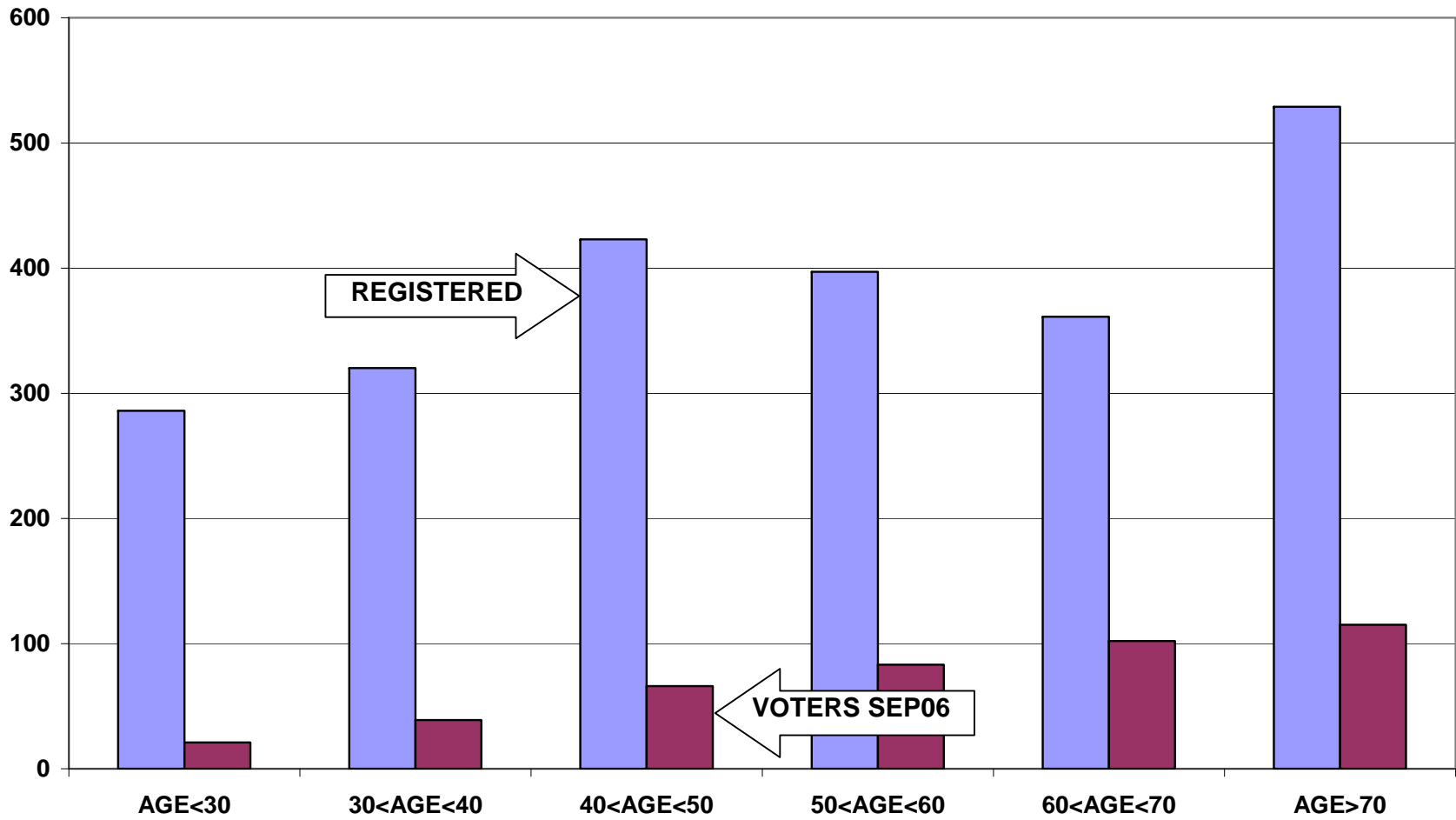


SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEMBER TURNOUT AND STATE AVERAGE

Note: Voting statistics for all elections are based only on voters registered as of May 2007. These statistics cannot be compared to official voter turnout reports which are based on an earlier registered voter population



ST. ELIZABETH PARISH, BRISTOL, RI REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS VOTERS SEP06



ST. ELIZABETH PARISH, BRISTOL, RI REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS VOTERS NOV06

