

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



PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

EVALUATION
OF
THE 2006 ELECTIONS

July 23, 2007

SUPPORTED BY THE
LUSO-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

REPORT CONTENTS

- **STATISTICS AND SUMMARY OF WORK** 3
- **RESULTS** 4
- **RECOMMENDATIONS** 7
- **APPENDIX** 8

KEY STATISTICS

- **Number of Members in Rhode Island: 534**
- **Heads of Household registered to vote in Rhode Island: 228 (43% of all members)**
- **All Household Members registered to vote in Rhode Island: 531**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout* in September 2006 – 32% (statewide turnout 23%)**
- **Heads of Household voter turnout in November 2006 – 70% (statewide turnout 57%)**

SUMMARY OF WORK

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

For the September 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, 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

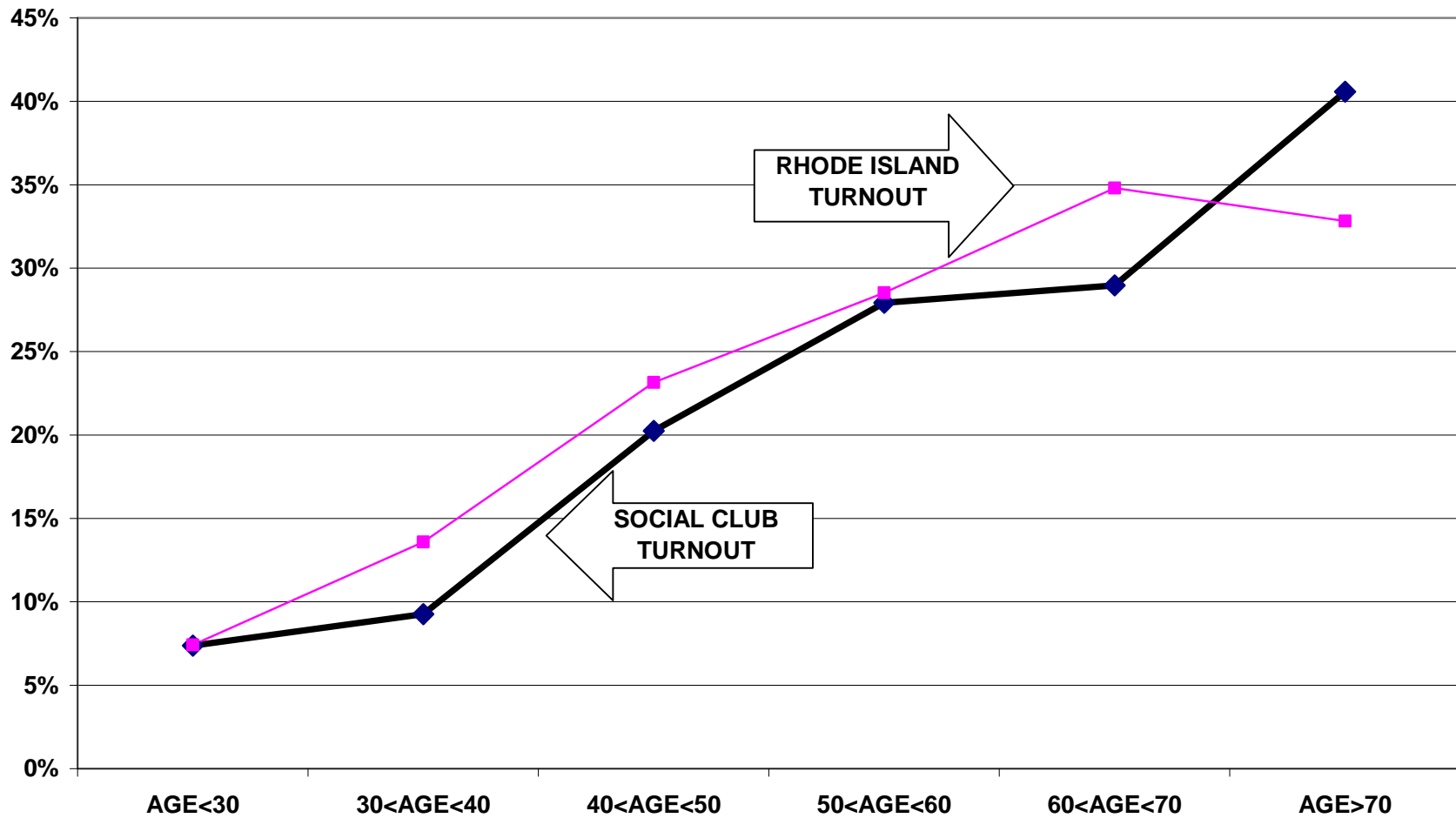
The Portuguese Social Club's heads of household voter turnout was higher than the statewide turnout in the September 2006 Primary Election and the November 2006 General Election. Heads of household turnout for the September 2006 Primary Elections was 32%, as compared to the state turnout of 23%. The Portuguese Social Club's heads of household turnout for the November 2006 General Election was 70%, 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 among all registered voters in the organization and among registered voters in the community at large.

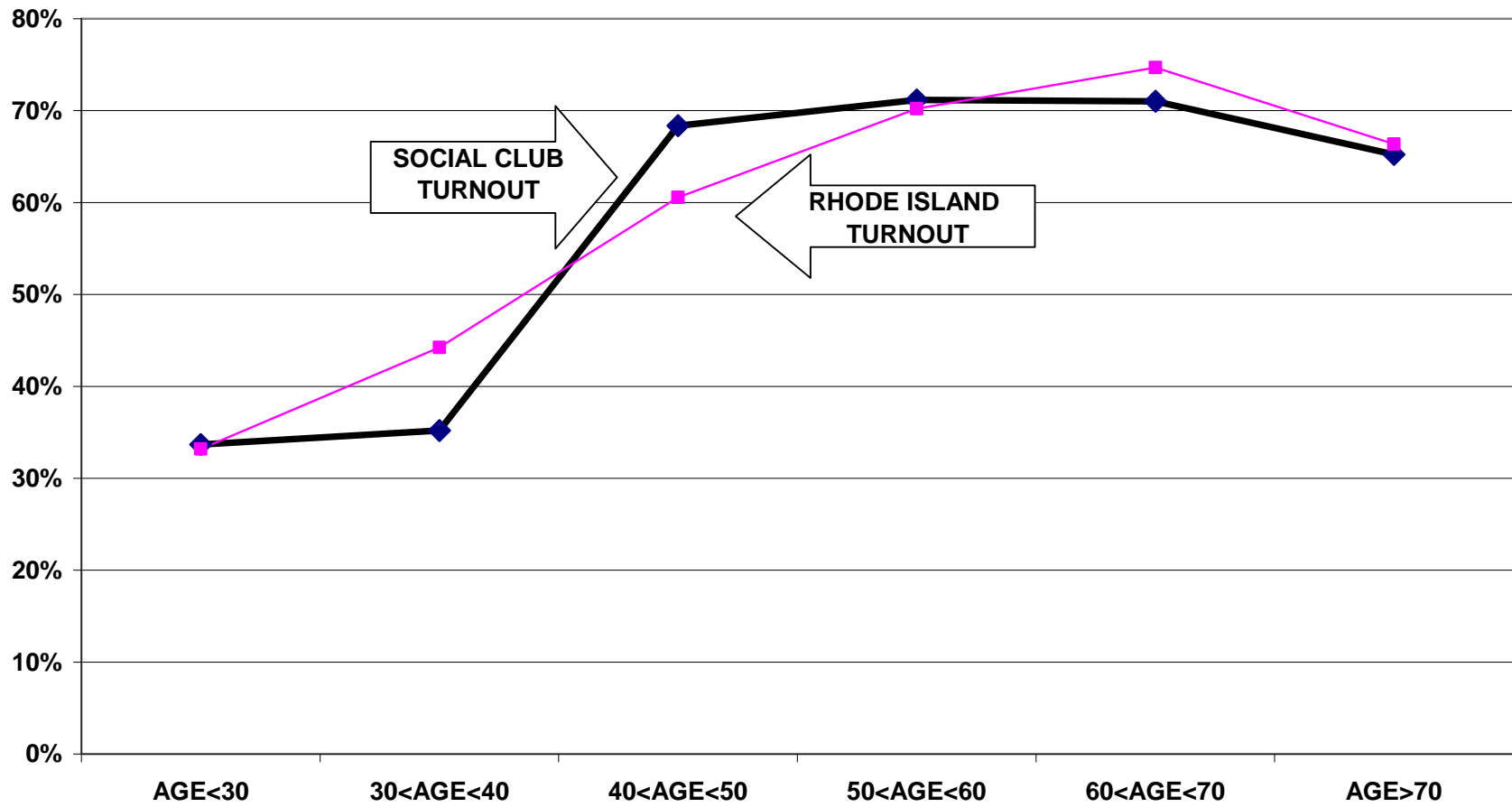
For example, registered voters that are associated with the Portuguese Social Club under 30 years old had a 7% turnout rate in the September 2006 elections while those between 60 and 70 years old had a 29% turnout rate. For the November 2006 elections, the under 30 years old associated voters had a 34% turnout rate, compared to a 71% turnout rate among members between 60 and 70 years old.

The following graphs for the September and November 2006 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 SEPTEMBER 2006
THE PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**TURNOUT BY AGE NOVEMBER 2006
THE PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Portuguese Social Club should examine ways to increase overall voter turnout rate. While the club has generally had higher voter turnout than the state overall, the difference between the Portuguese Social Club's turnout and the Rhode Island turnout had decreased. Voters in the older categories consistently outvote the younger voter categories. This issue should be addressed so as to increase voting turnout for the younger age groups.
- In order to revive group commitment in a strong turnout, the club should send 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.
- The club leaders should also examine what measures it adopted in September 2002 to promote voter turnout – the club turnout was more than three times the state turnout or 69 percent versus 19 percent. Admittedly, the candidacy of a Portuguese American for governor gave members incentive to vote, but the leadership of the club, like many others in the state, took extraordinary steps to get their members to the polls. Elements of this effort should be examined as to their relevance to current campaigns.

APPENDIX

- Historical Data 9
- Registered Voter Turnout Bar Graph 10
- Difference in Voter Turnout Bar Graph 11
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters September 2006 Bar Graph 12
- Registered Voters vs. Actual Voters November 2006 Bar Graph 13

**HISTORICAL DATA: PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
REGISTRATION - VOTING**

MEMBERS RESIDING IN RHODE ISLAND	534	
MEMBERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN RHODE ISLAND	228	HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD
	531	ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

VOTING PERFORMANCE OF RHODE ISLAND RESIDENTS

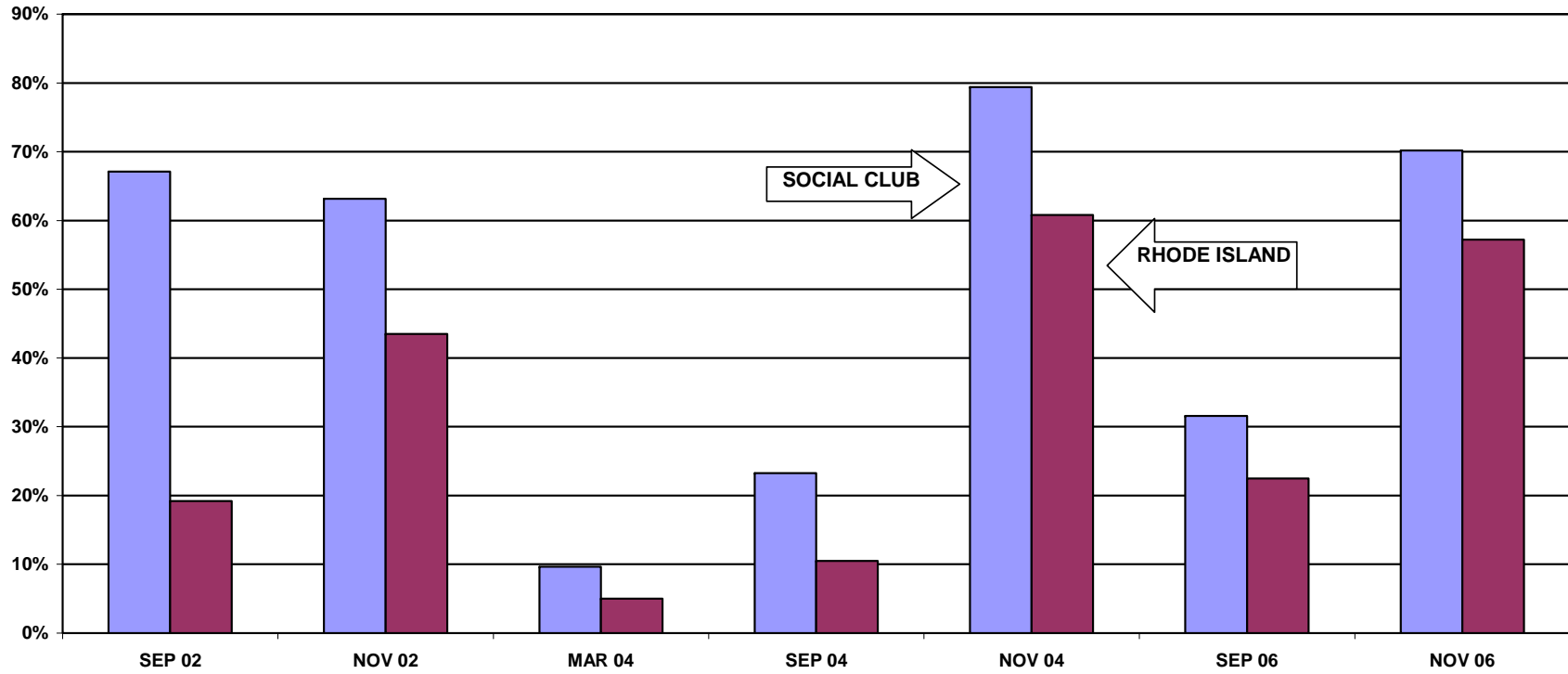
MEMBERS VOTING	AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE	STATEWIDE VOTING HISTORY AS PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS)
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VOTERS MAR 2000	
VOTERS SEP 2000	
VOTERS NOV 2000	
VOTERS SEP 2002	153
VOTERS NOV 2002	144
VOTERS MAR 2004	22
VOTERS SEP 2004	53
VOTERS NOV 2004	181
VOTERS SEP 2006	72
VOTERS NOV 2006	160

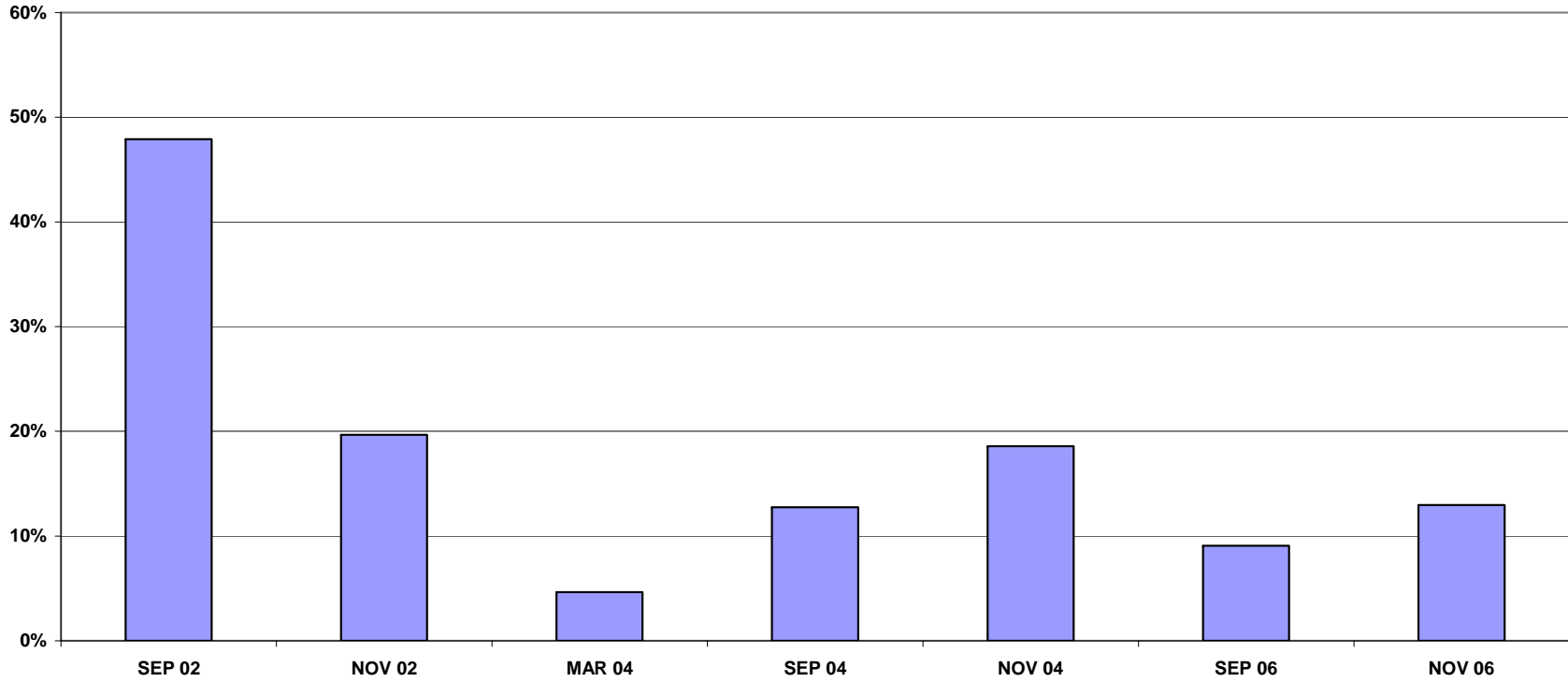
COMPARABLE STATISTICS		
	17.7%	14.1%
	22.6%	13.3%
	74.9%	58.6%
	69.7%	19.2%
	68.0%	43.5%
	10.7%	5.0%
	22.7%	10.5%
	71.6%	60.8%
	31.6%	22.5%
	70.2%	57.2%

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.

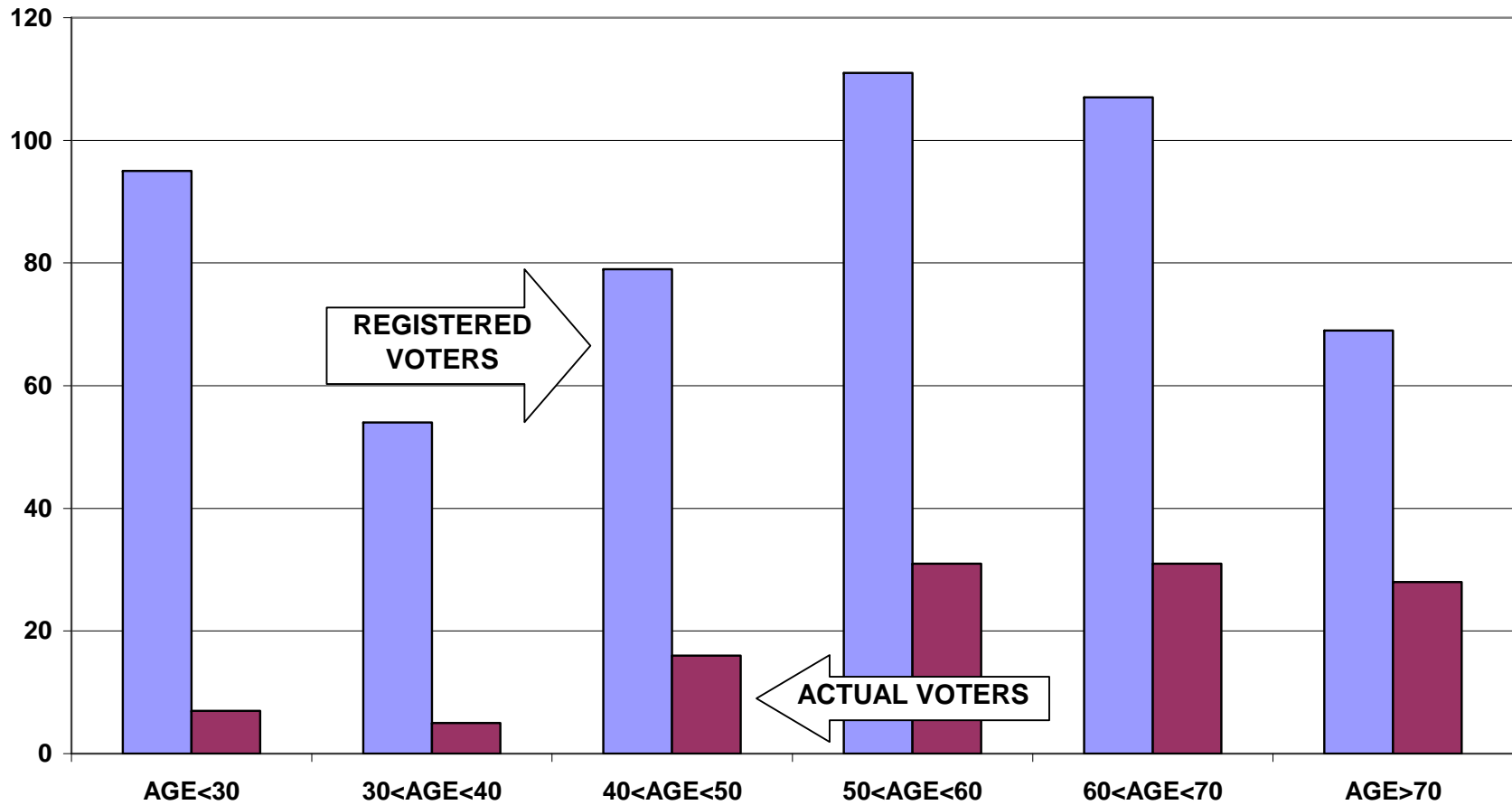
REGISTERED VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



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



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS SEPTEMBER 2006
PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**



**REGISTERED VOTERS VERSUS ACTUAL VOTERS NOVEMBER 2006
PORTUGUESE SOCIAL CLUB
ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

