Analyzing Data from the 2022 Midterm Election

Karen Waples

- Teacher at Holy Family High School

- AP US and Comparative Government

- Former AP Question Leader, Comparative Government

- Co-author, *American Government: Stories of a Nation* for the AP Course

- Author, *Comparative Government: Stories of the World* for the AP Course

Polarization Cartoon

AP U.S. Government and Politics Curriculum Framework - Practice 3

Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics

Data Analysis

3.a. Describe the data presented

**3.b.** Describe patterns and trends in data

3.c. Explain patterns and trends in data to draw conclusions

3.d. Explain what the data imply or illustrate about political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors

3.e. Explain possible limitations of the data provided
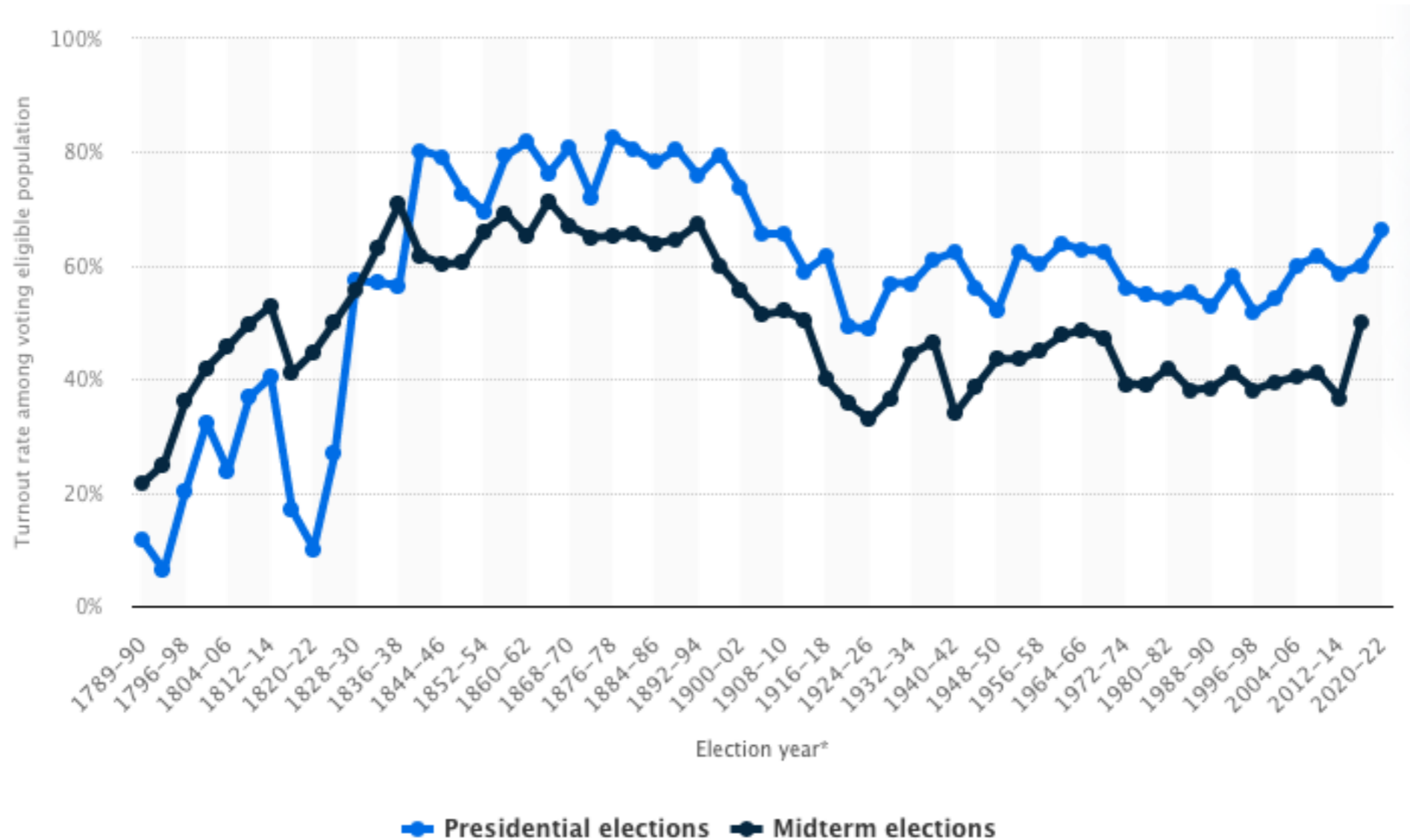
3.f. Explain possible limitations of the visual representation of the data provided

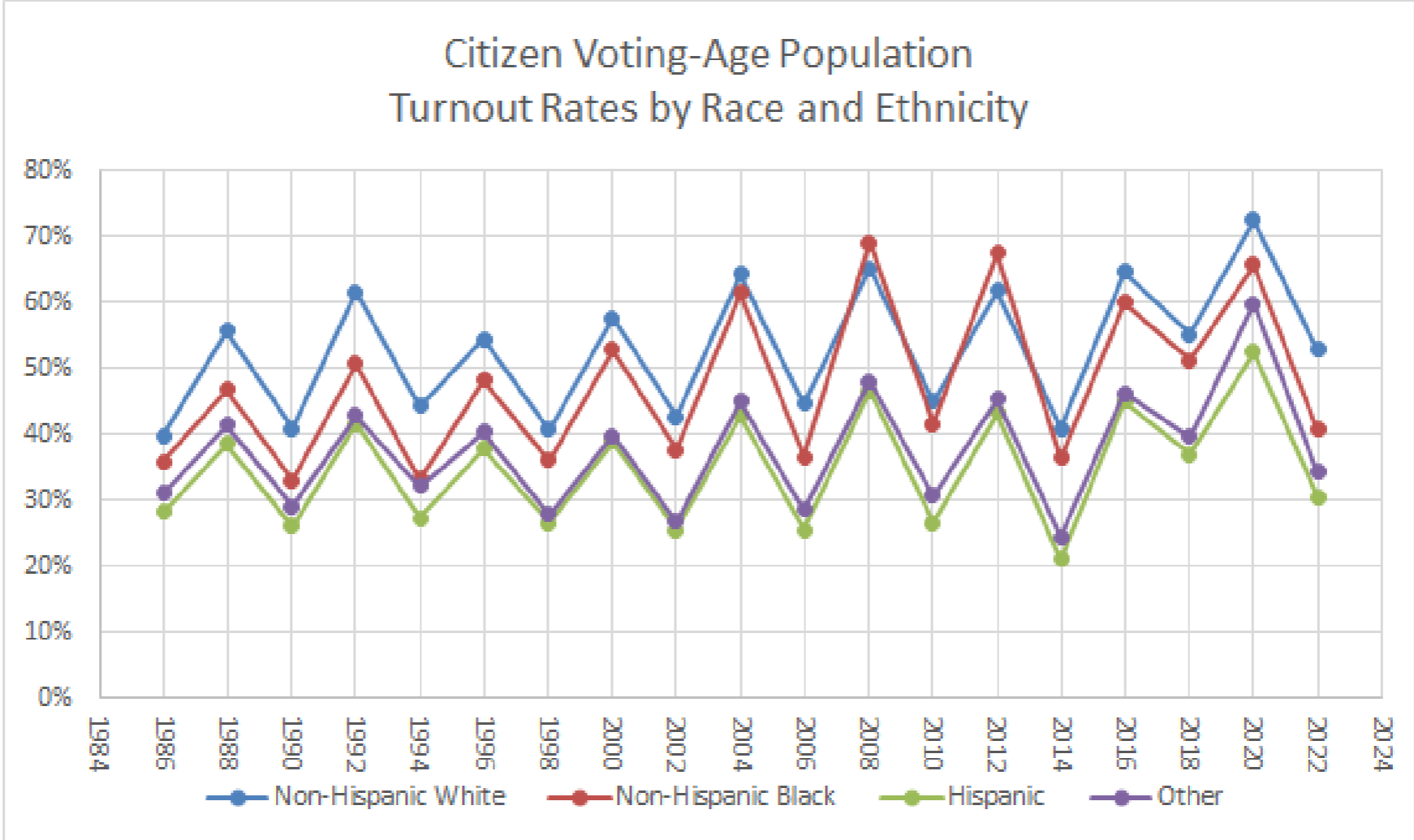# Historical Statistics Regarding Midterm Elections
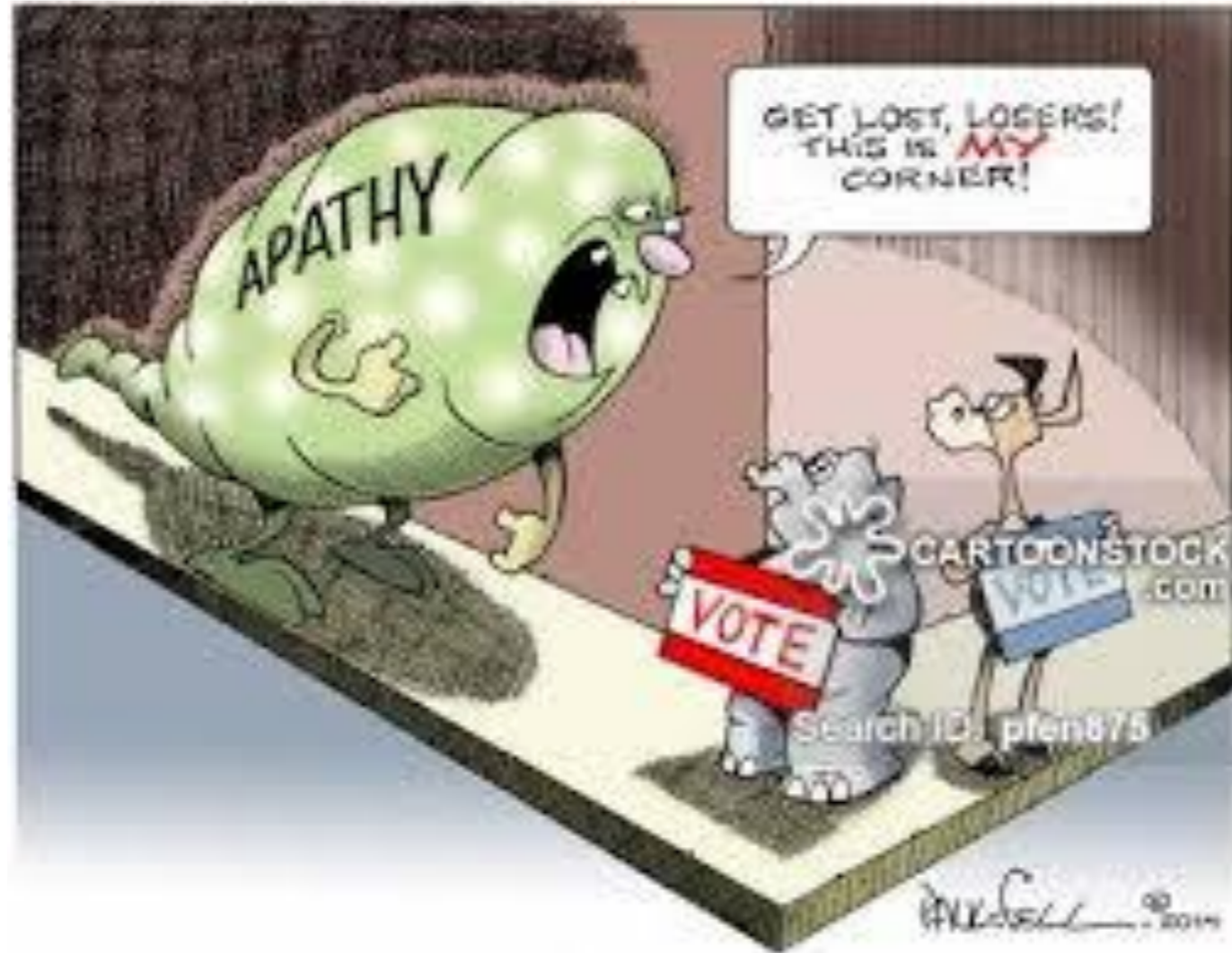
Historical Statistics Regarding Midterm Elections
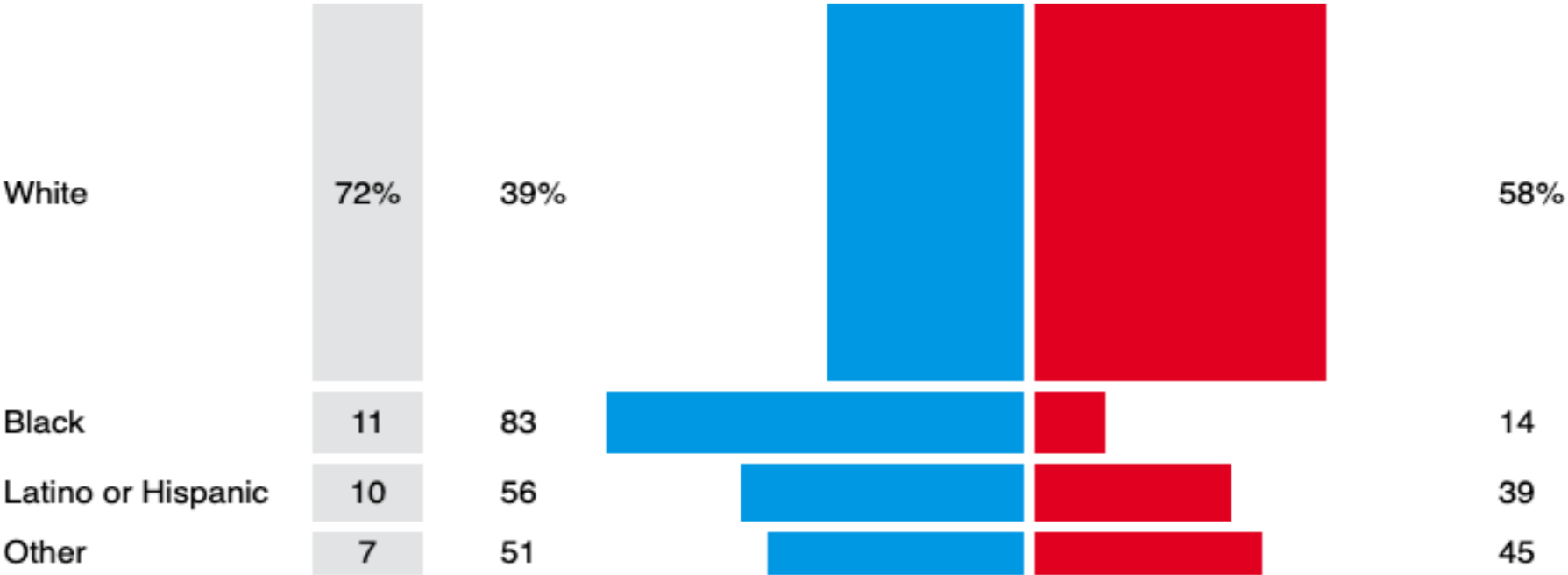
Source: Statista, 2023

Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity

Citizen Voting-Age Population
Turnout Rates by Race and Ethnicity

Source: The Elections Project

Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity

By race/ethnicity

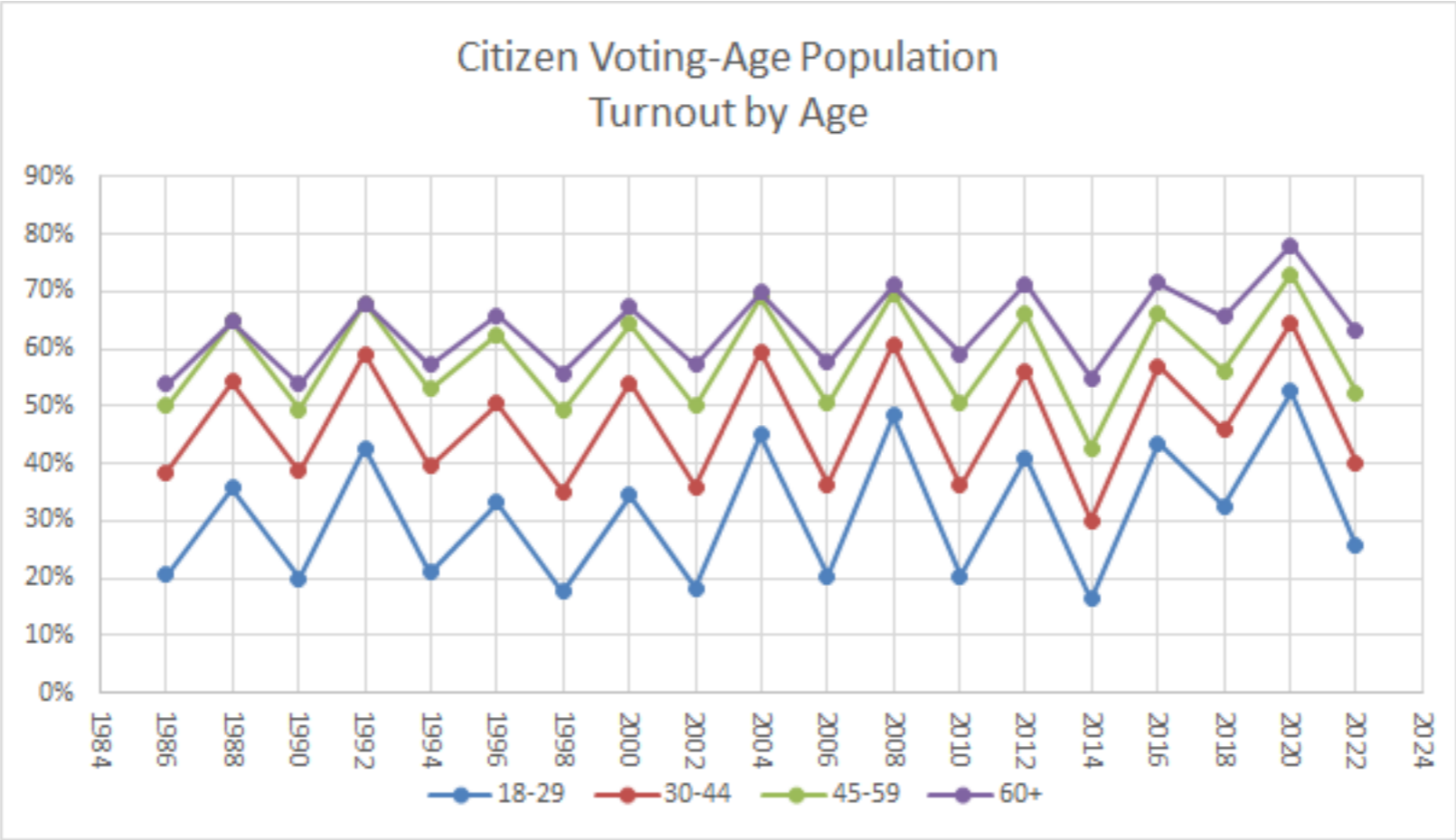|				
White	72%	39%		58%
Black	11	83		14
Latino or Hispanic	10	56		39
Other	7	51		45

Source: The Wall Street Journal

White Share of the Electorate
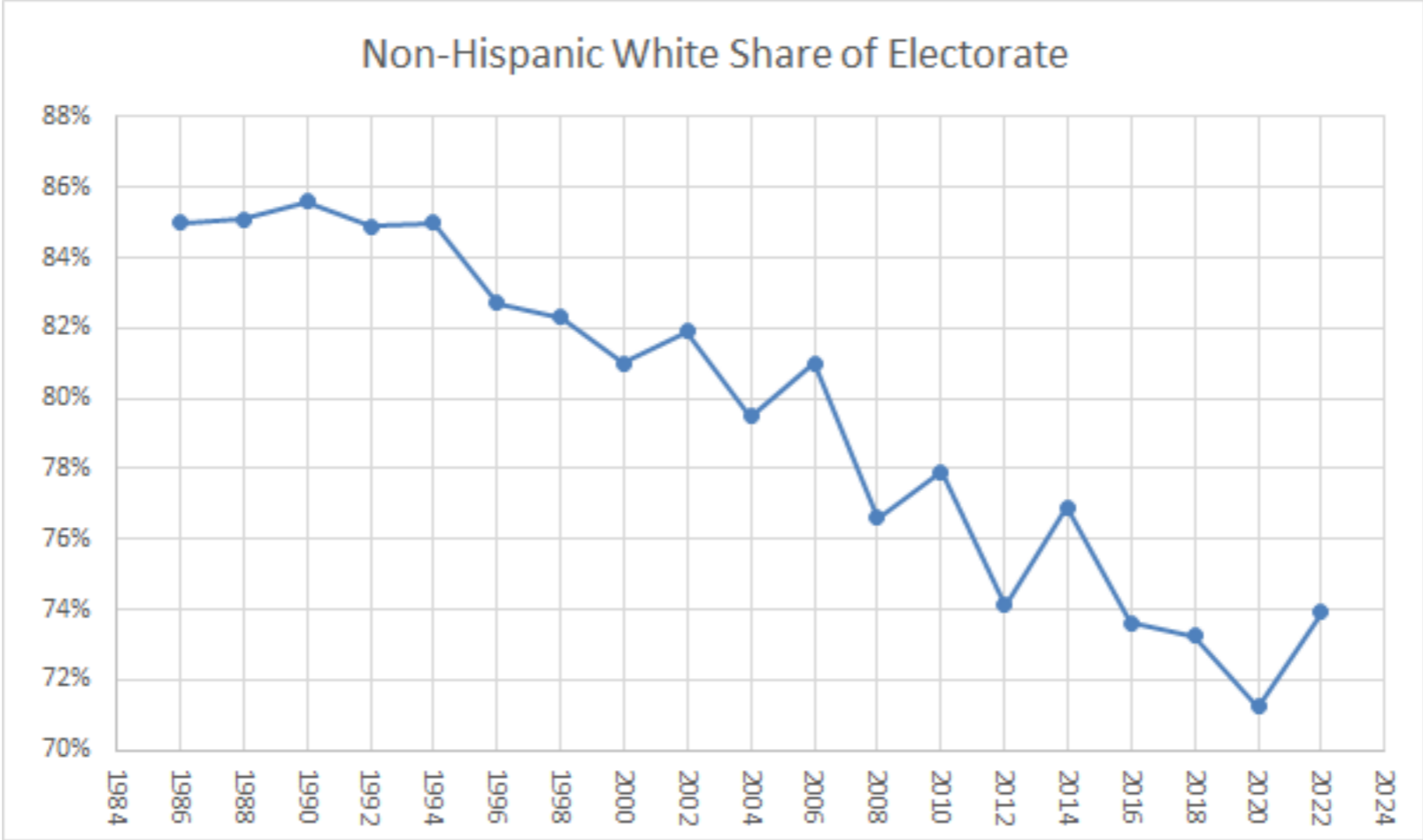
Source: The Elections Project

Voter Turnout by Age

Source: The Elections Project

Voting by Age Groups

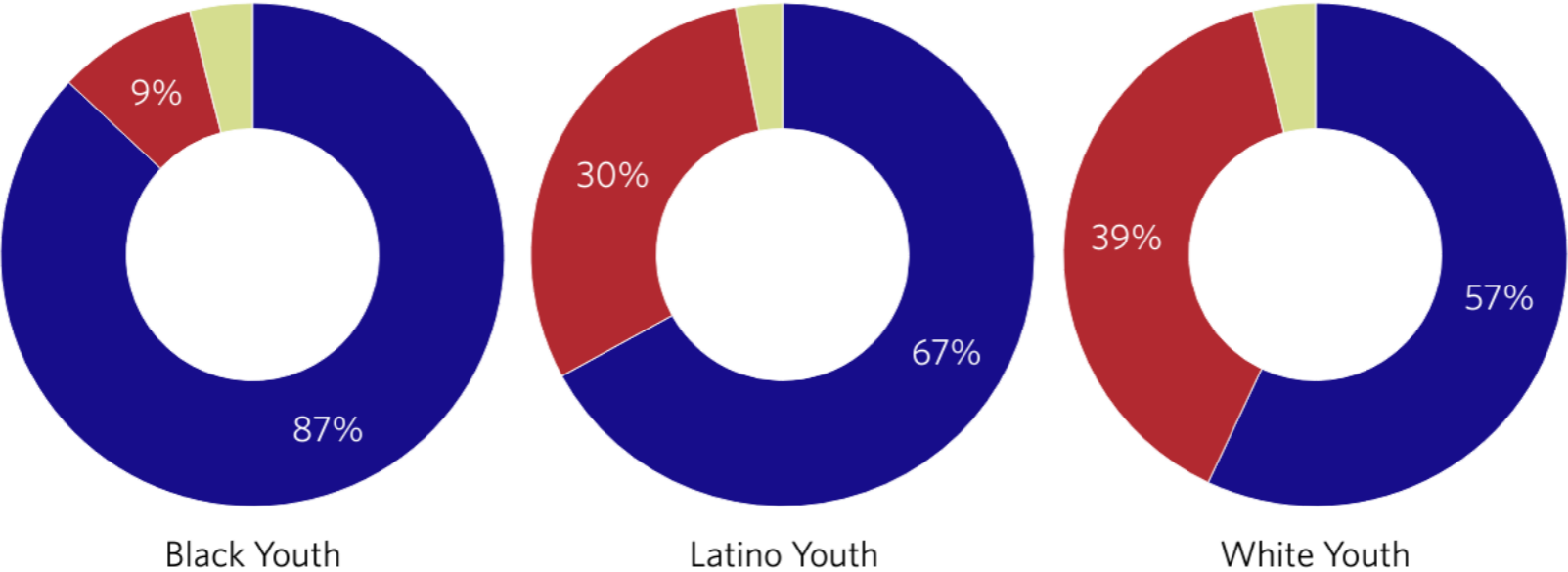| By age				
18-24	7%	54%		40%
25-29	6	53		43
30-39	15	53		43
40-49	15	49		48
50-64	28	42		56
65+	29	44		54
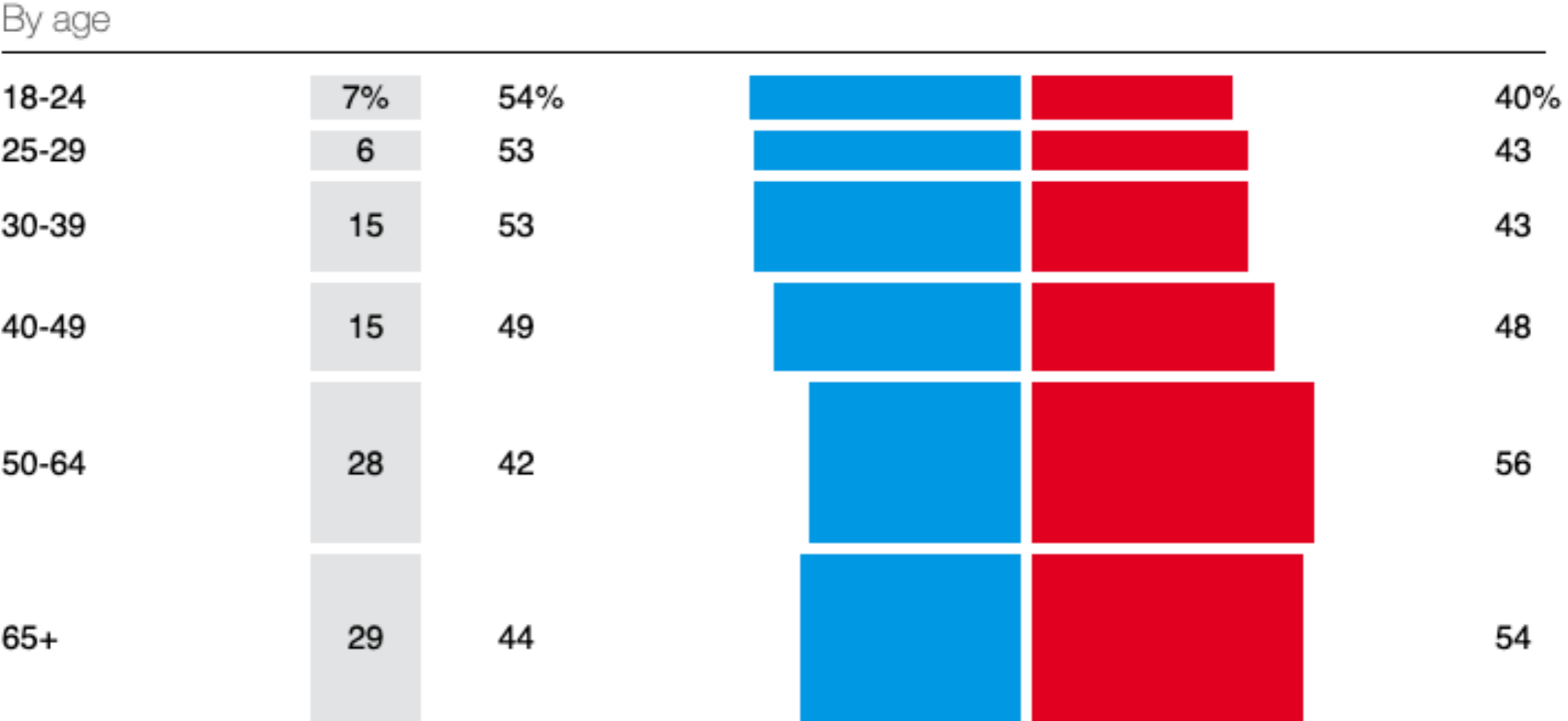
Source: The Wall Street Journal

Youth Turnout by Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity: National Youth Vote Choice for the House of Representatives in the 2022 Midterm Election

Democrat Republican Other/No Answer

Black Youth: Democrat 87%, Republican 9%

Latino Youth: Democrat 67%, Republican 30%

White Youth: Democrat 57%, Republican 39%

Note: Data for other races/ethnicities was not available.

CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE

Source: CIRCLE analysis of 2022 Edison national exit pool data

Changes in Voting Patterns by Age

What is your age?

	SHARE	VOTED DEMOCRATIC	CHG. FROM 2018	VOTED REPUBLICAN	CHG. FROM 2018	OTHER VOTES
18-29	13%	53%	-11	41%	7	5%
30-44	23	52	-5	45	5	4
45-64	35	43	-7	55	7	2
65+	29	44	-5	54	4	2

Source: The Wall Street Journal

The Gender Gap Continues
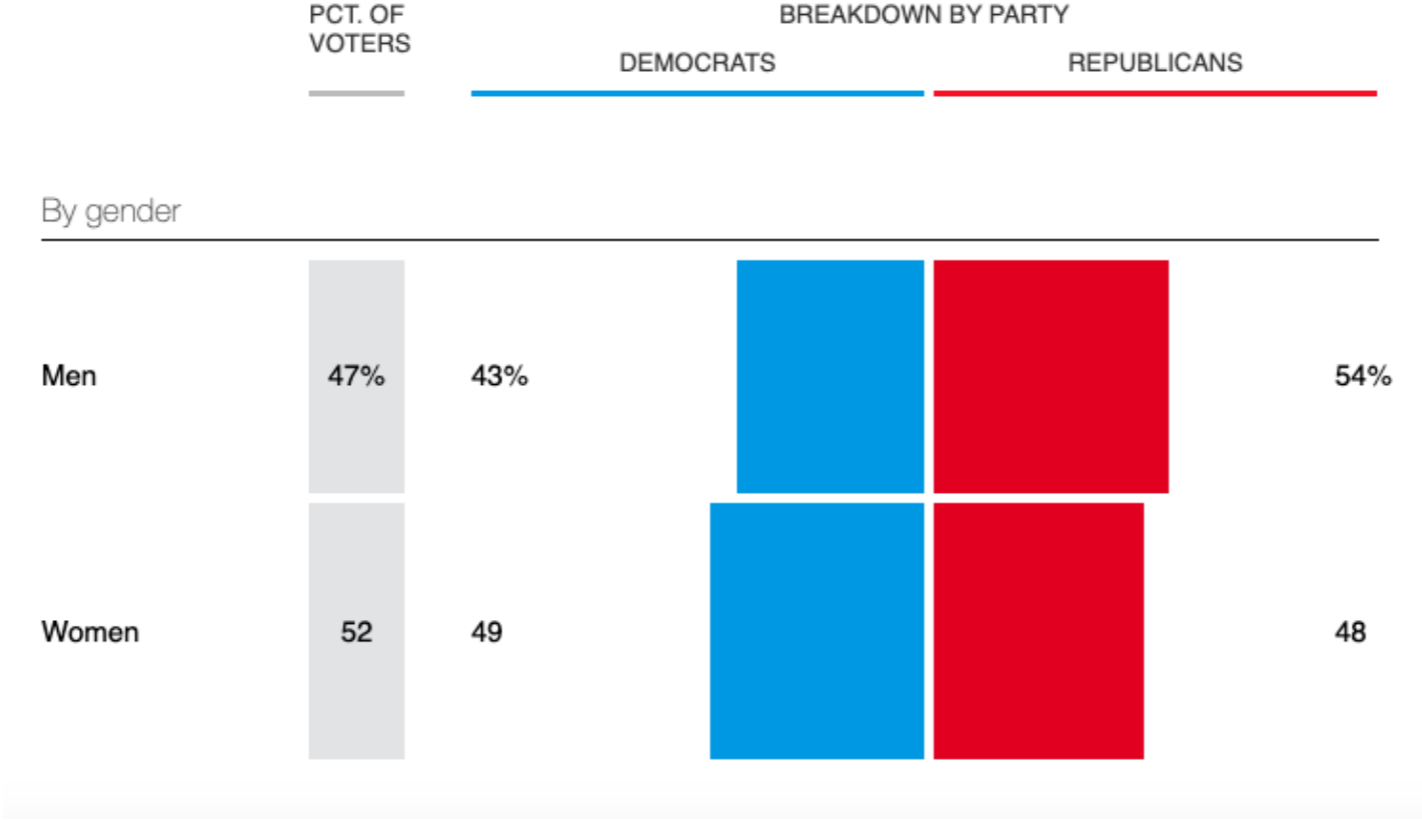
Source: The Wall Street Journal

Changes in Voting Patterns by Gender

Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, nonbinary or in another way?

	SHARE	VOTED DEMOCRATIC	CHG. FROM 2018	VOTED REPUBLICAN	CHG. FROM 2018	OTHER VOTES
Men	47%	43%	-5	54%	4	3%
Women	52	49	-9	48	8	3
Nonbinary/Other	1	63	N/A	23	N/A	14

Source: The Wall Street Journal

Gender Gap Among Young Voters

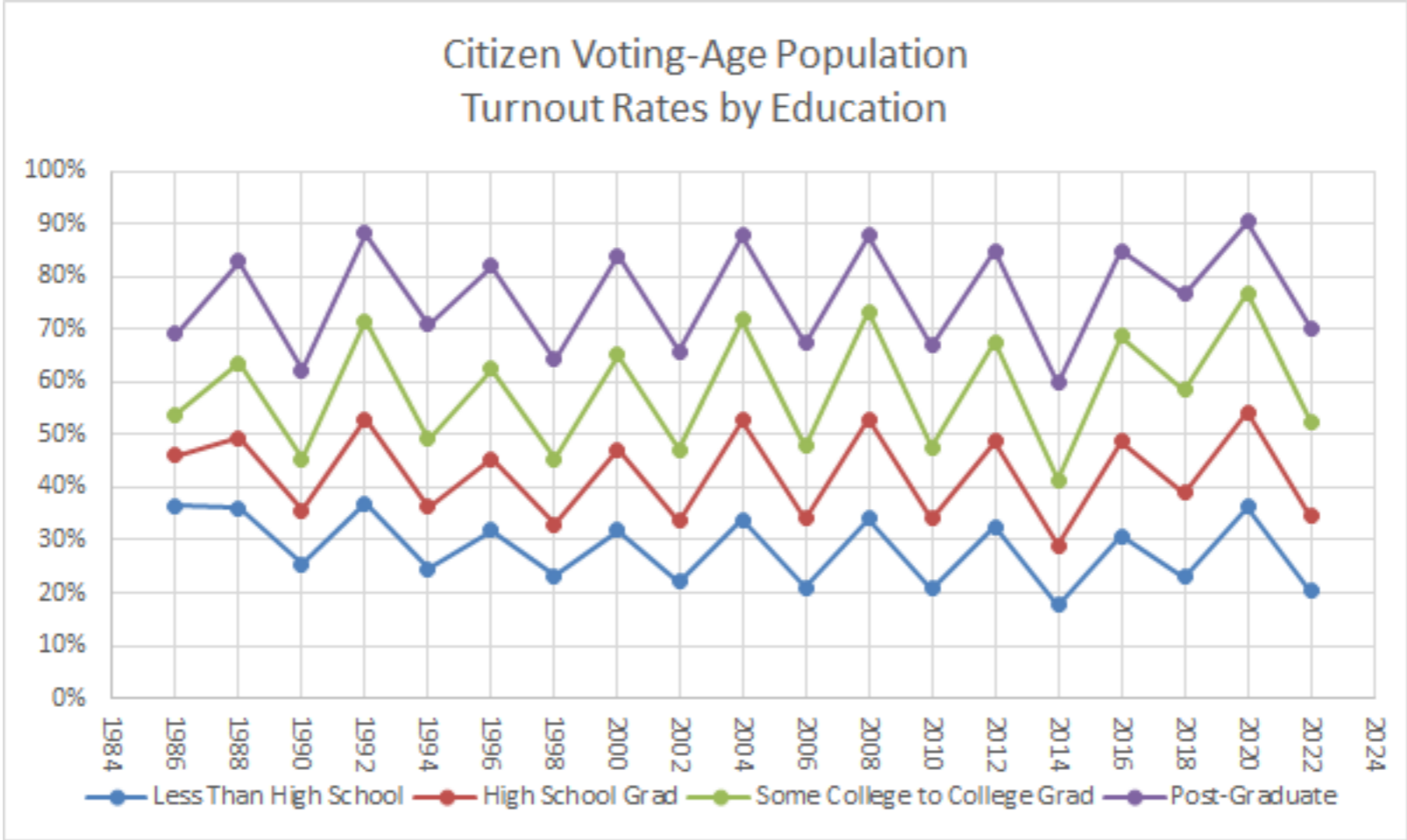## Growing Gender Divide Among Young Voters

Percentage of young voters (age 18–29) who supported the Democratic House candidate . . .
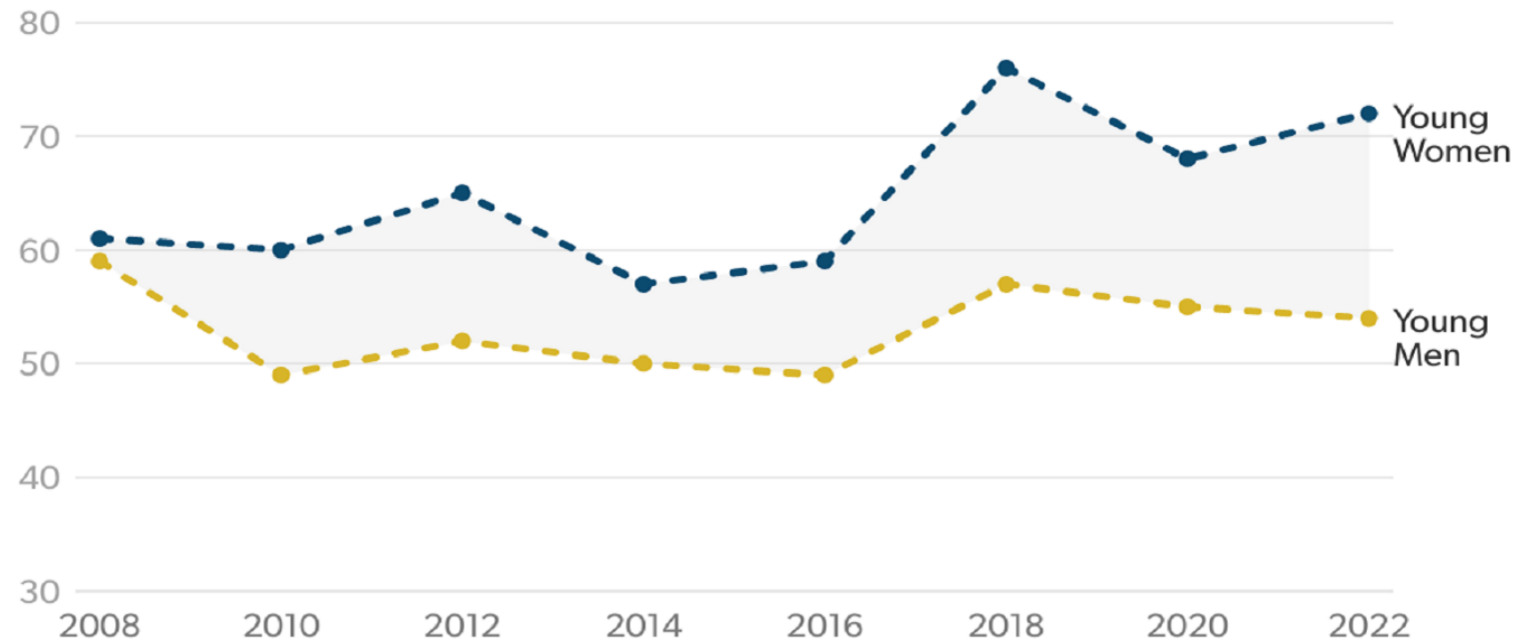
Source: Edison National Exit Polls 2008-2022.

Source: Survey Center On American Life

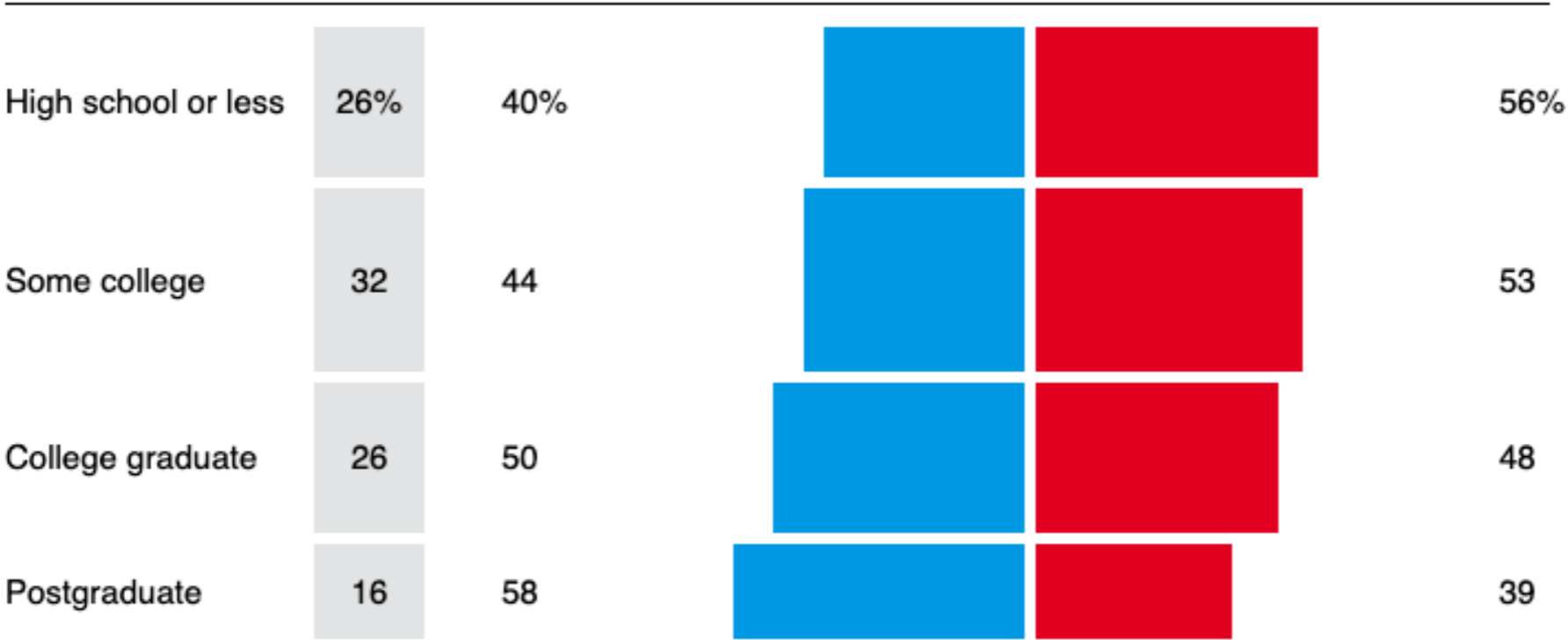# Turnout Rates by Education

Source: The Elections Project

Voting Patterns by Educational Attainment

By education

High school or less	26%	40%
		56%
Some college	32	44
		53
College graduate	26	50
		48
Postgraduate	16	58
		39

Source: The Wall Street Journal

Changes in Voting Patterns by Educational Attainment

Which best describes your level of education?

	SHARE	VOTED DEMOCRATIC	CHG. FROM 2018	VOTED REPUBLICAN	CHG. FROM 2018	OTHER VOTES
High school or less	26%	40%	-10	56%	8	4%
Some college/assoc. degree	32	44	-7	53	6	3
College graduate	26	50	-4	48	4	2
Postgraduate study	16	58	-1	39	0	2

Source: The Wall Street Journal

Voting Patterns by Community

By community

Urban	21%	63%		34%
Suburban	45	49		48
Small town	16	38		59
Rural	19	30		67
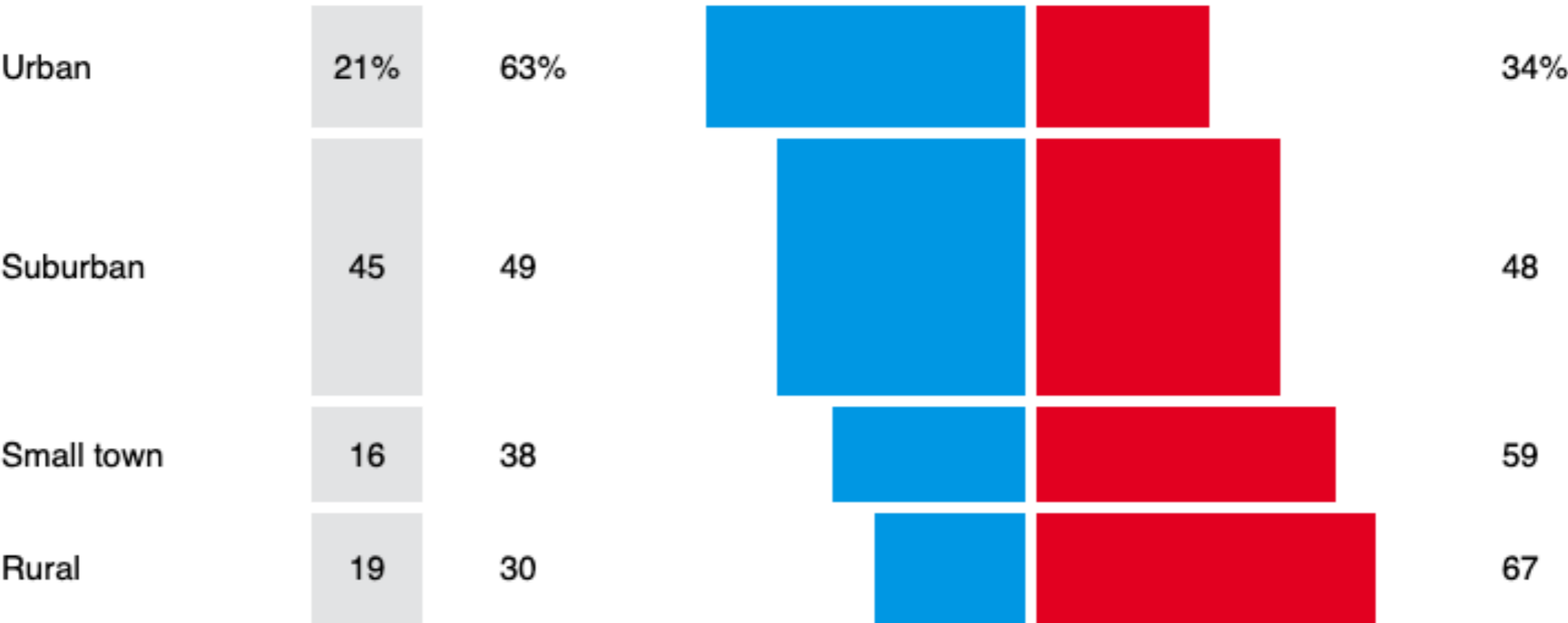
Source: The Wall Street Journal

Drawing Conclusions from the Midterm Election

The election did not signify a realignment of voters.

A "red wave" did not sweep the nation.

Republicans won 222 seats, to gain majority control.

Democrats held 51 seats in the Senate, retaining control.

The result is divided government.

If these patterns hold, the 2024 presidential election will depend on voter turnout among key demographic groups:

- 18-39 year-old voters

- Latino and African American voters

- College educated female voters

- Non-college educated, white male voters

Quantitative Free Response Question

Which of the following best describes the area where you live?

	SHARE	VOTED DEMOCRATIC	CHG. FROM 2018	VOTED REPUBLICAN	CHG. FROM 2018	OTHER VOTES
Urban	21%	63%	-6	34%	5	3%
Suburban	45	49	-6	48	4	3
Small town	16	38	-7	59	6	4
Rural	19	30	-8	67	7	3

Note: Data is from the 2022 Congressional Midterm Elections
Source: The Wall Street Journal

Quantitative Free Response Question

Use the table to answer the questions.

A. Identify the community with the highest percentage of support for the Republican Party in the 2022 elections

B. Describe a trend in the data from 2018 to 2022.

C. Draw a conclusion about how the trend you described in Part B might impact the campaign strategies of political parties.

D. Explain how the data might impact the outcome of the presidential election in the Electoral College in 2024.

Resources for Teachers

The following sites have easily accessible quantitative data:

- https://www.electproject.org/
- The Pew Research Center
- pollingreport.com
- fivethirtyeight.com
- Realclearpolitics.com

Khan Academy also has a video about voter turnout and evaluating public opinion data

Thank You

Karen Waples
KarenWaples@gmail.com