

Evolution of **Voting Rights** The Cornerstone of U.S. Democracy and Civic Participation/Engagement



**What happens on
November 8th, 2016?**

Election Day

Tuesday after first Monday in November

Republican Party



Democrat Party



How old do you have to be to vote?

18

Anything else?

Being a citizen

Has it always been this way?

Essential Question:

How far have we come along in the advancement of voter rights?



**At the start, who could
vote?**

Major Milestones of Voting Rights in the US

Start (1787)

U.S. Constitution does not specify
States – Property Ownership

1870

15th Amendment

Right to vote regardless of race, color, or prior
servitude

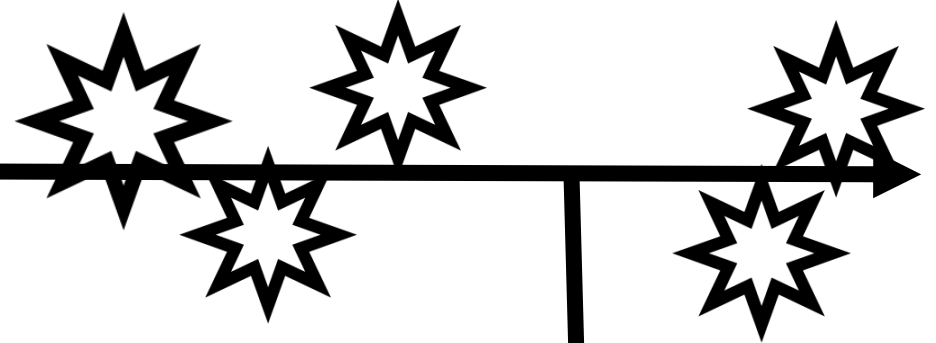
By mid-1800s

Property qualifications removed
“Universal manhood suffrage”

1920

19th Amendment

Women’s suffrage



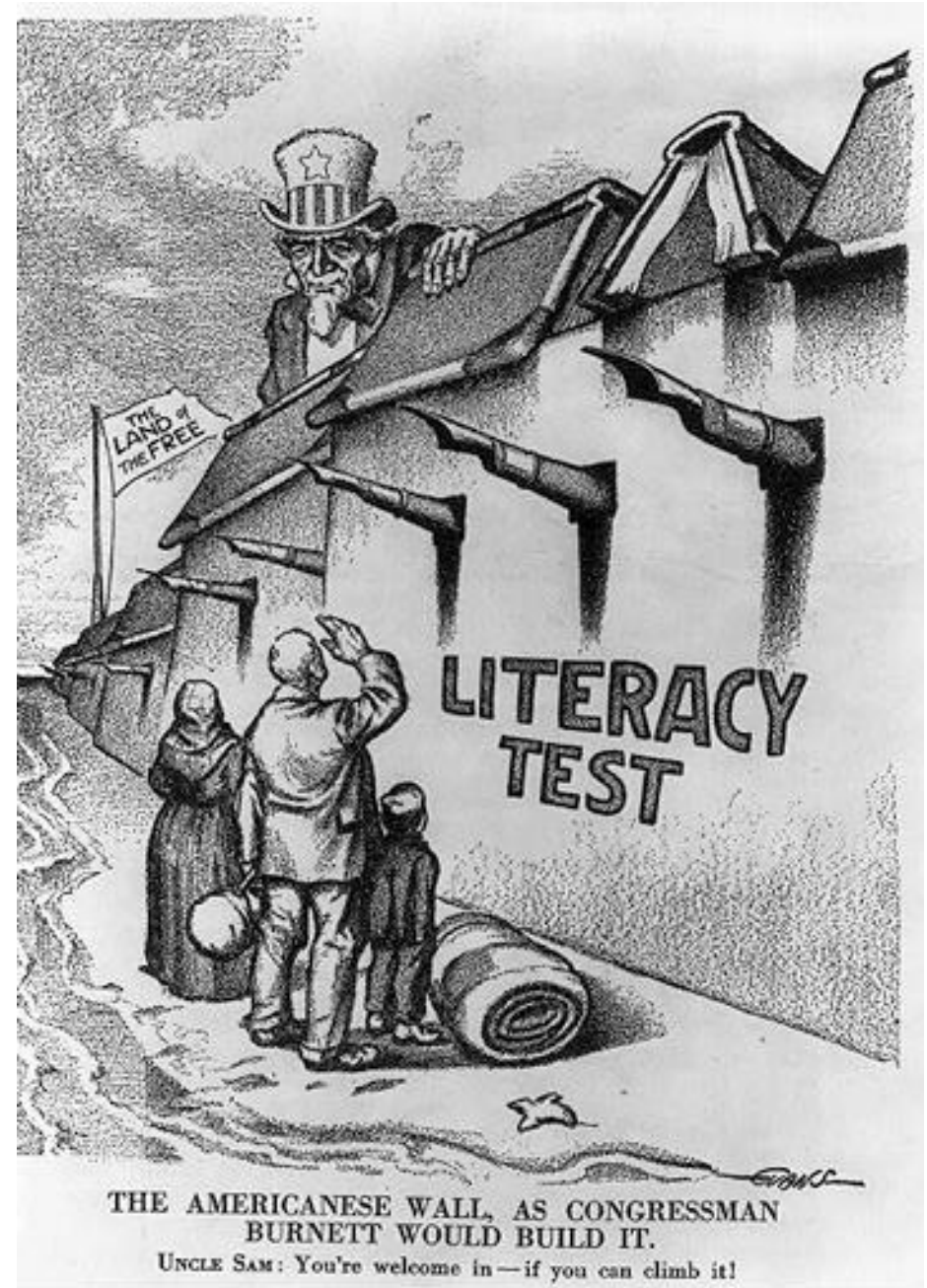


Let's Take Another Test

10 Minutes to Complete the Test

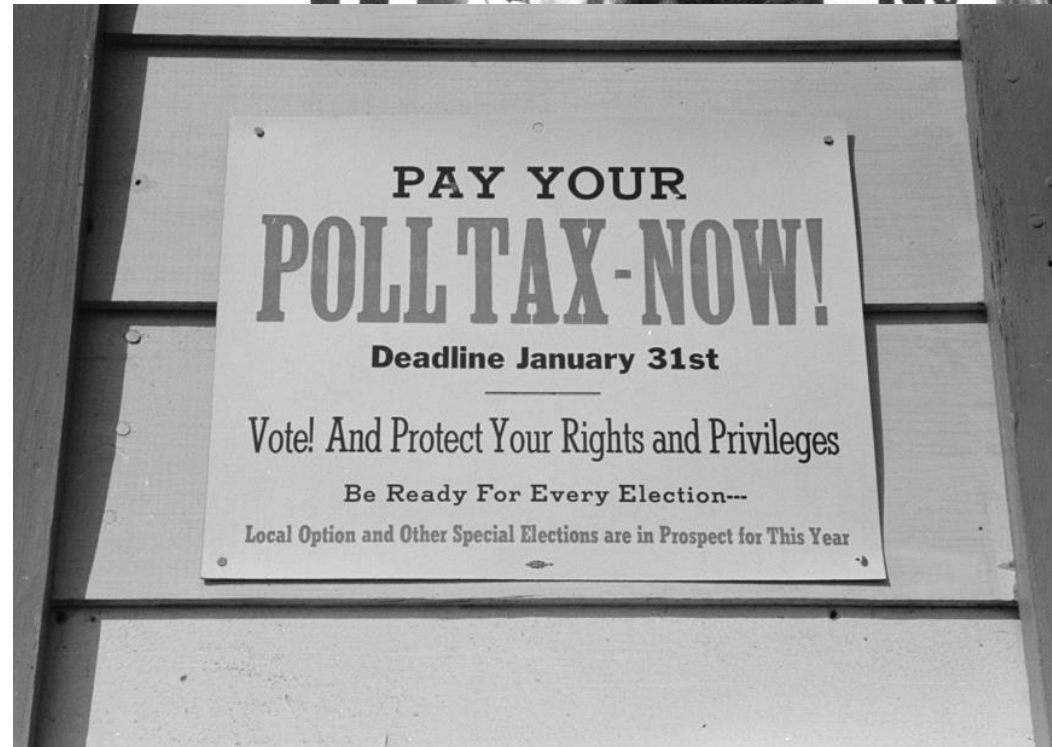
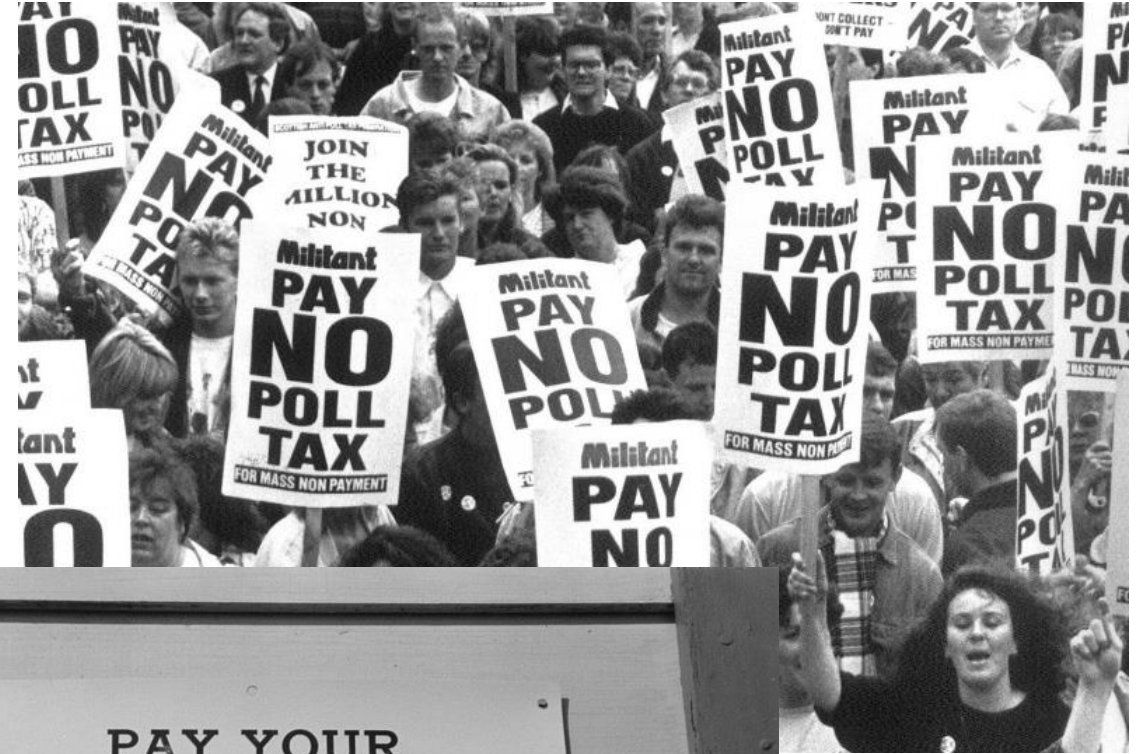
Literacy Test

- Test literacy as voting requirement
- Deliberately disenfranchise racial minorities and the poor
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - Put limits
 - Banned in 1970



Poll Taxes

- Payment as a prerequisite to voter registration
- Paid annually
- Racial and social discrimination
- 24th Amendment
 - Removed poll taxes from federal elections
- State removal by 1966

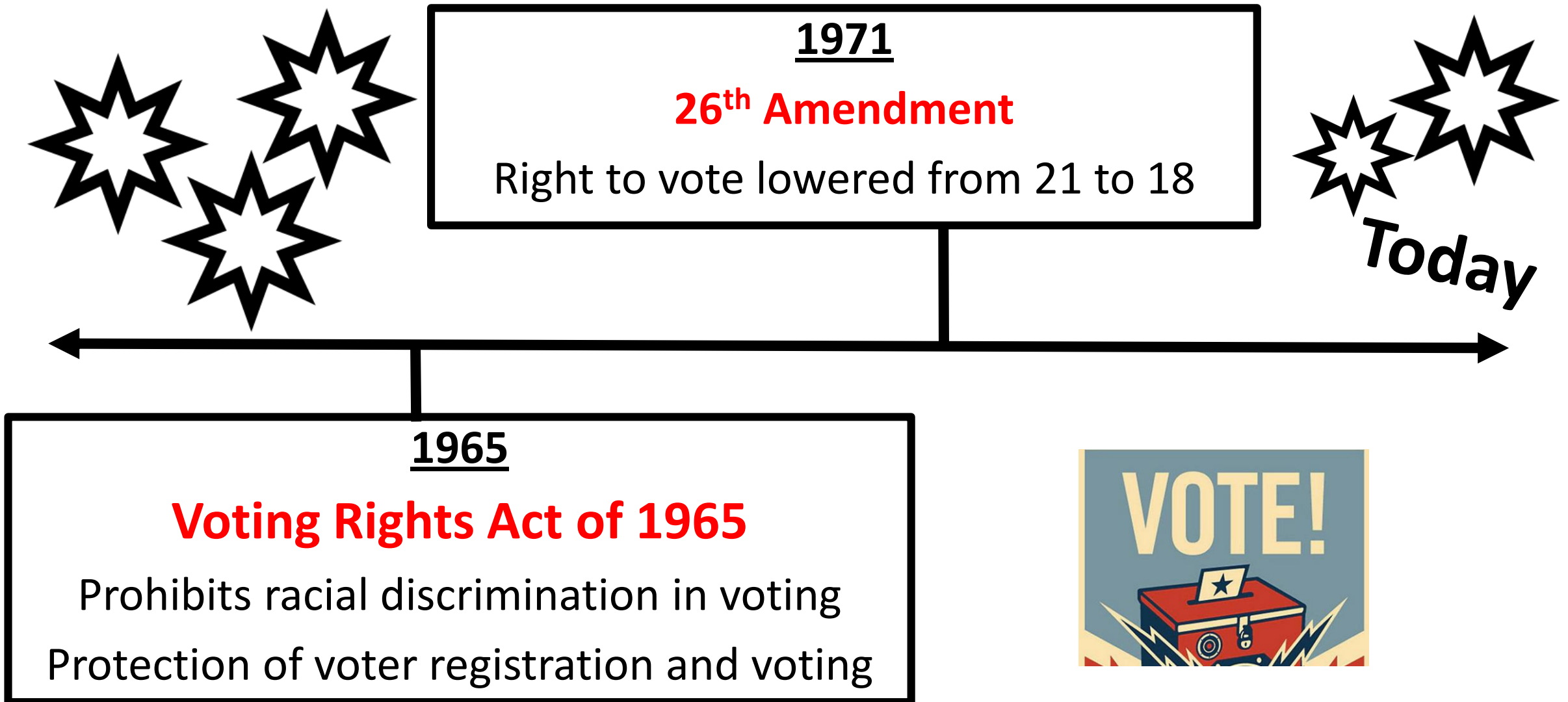


Civil Rights Movement (1960s)

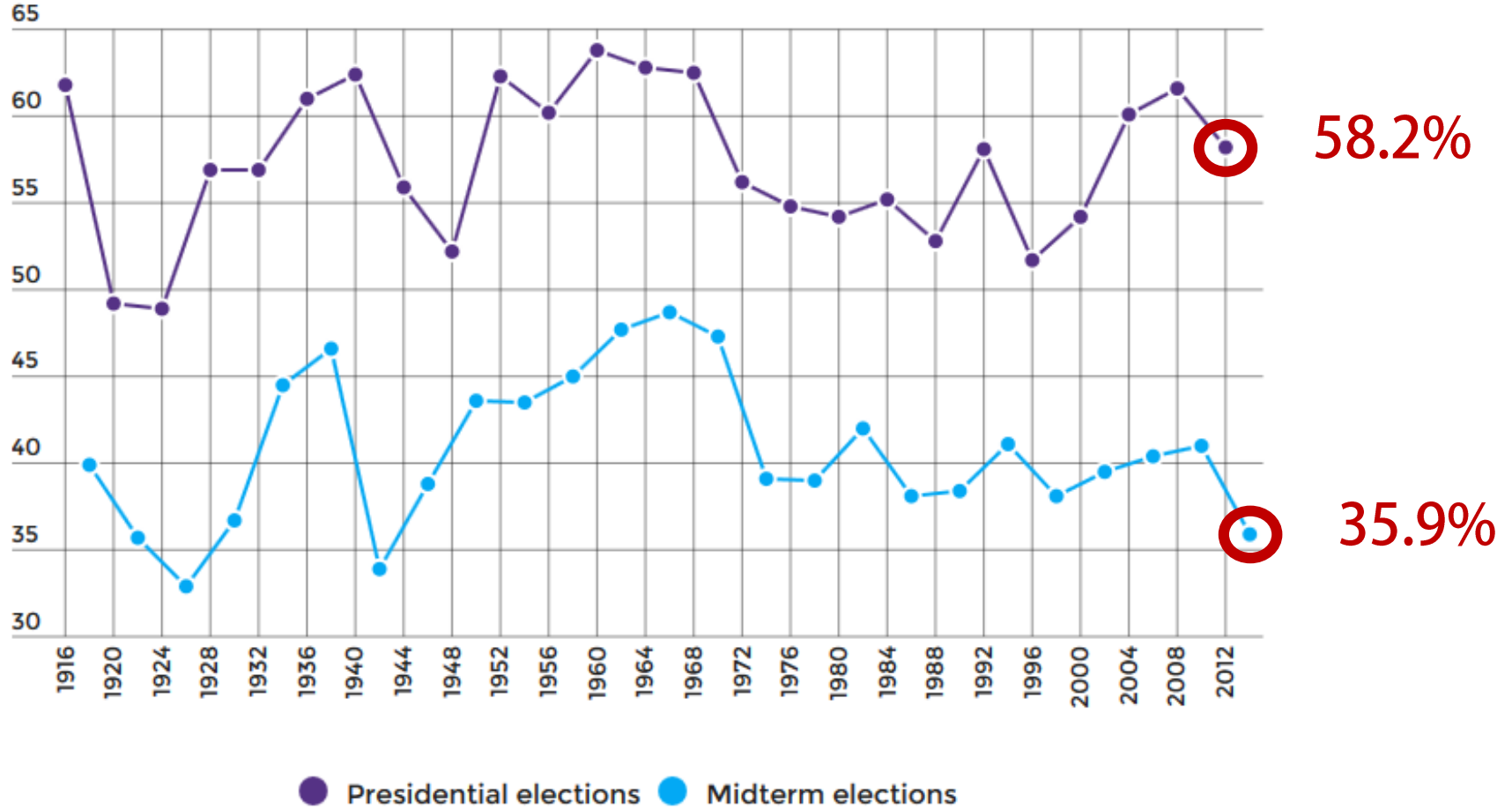
- Fought against racial segregation and discrimination
- **Civil Rights Act of 1964**
 - Outlawed discrimination and racial segregation
- **Voting Rights Act of 1965**
 - Prohibits racial discrimination in voting



Major Milestones of Voting Rights in the US

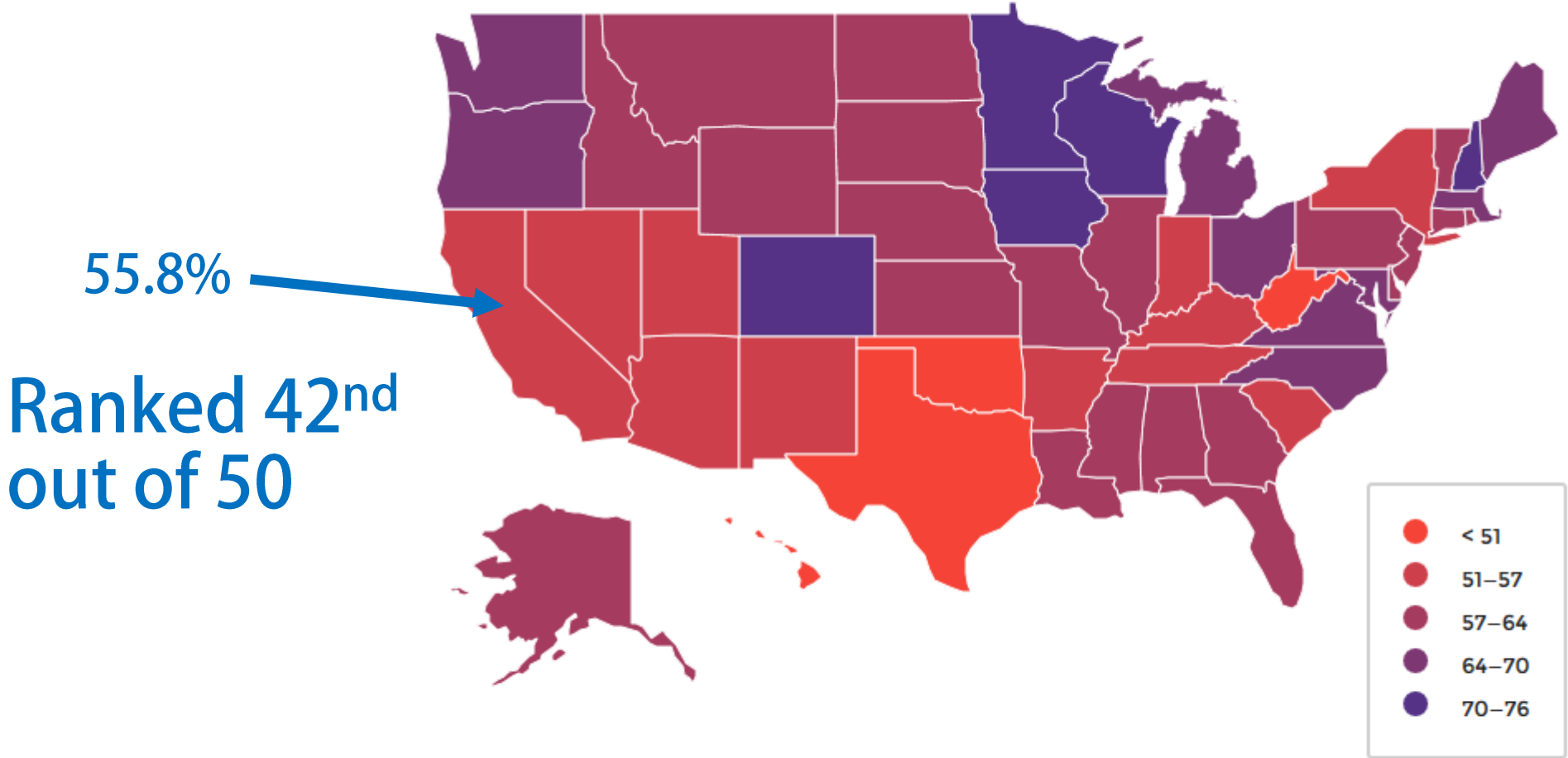


Voter Turnout Rates, 1916 - 2014



National estimates of voter turnout expressed as a percentage of the voting eligible population.

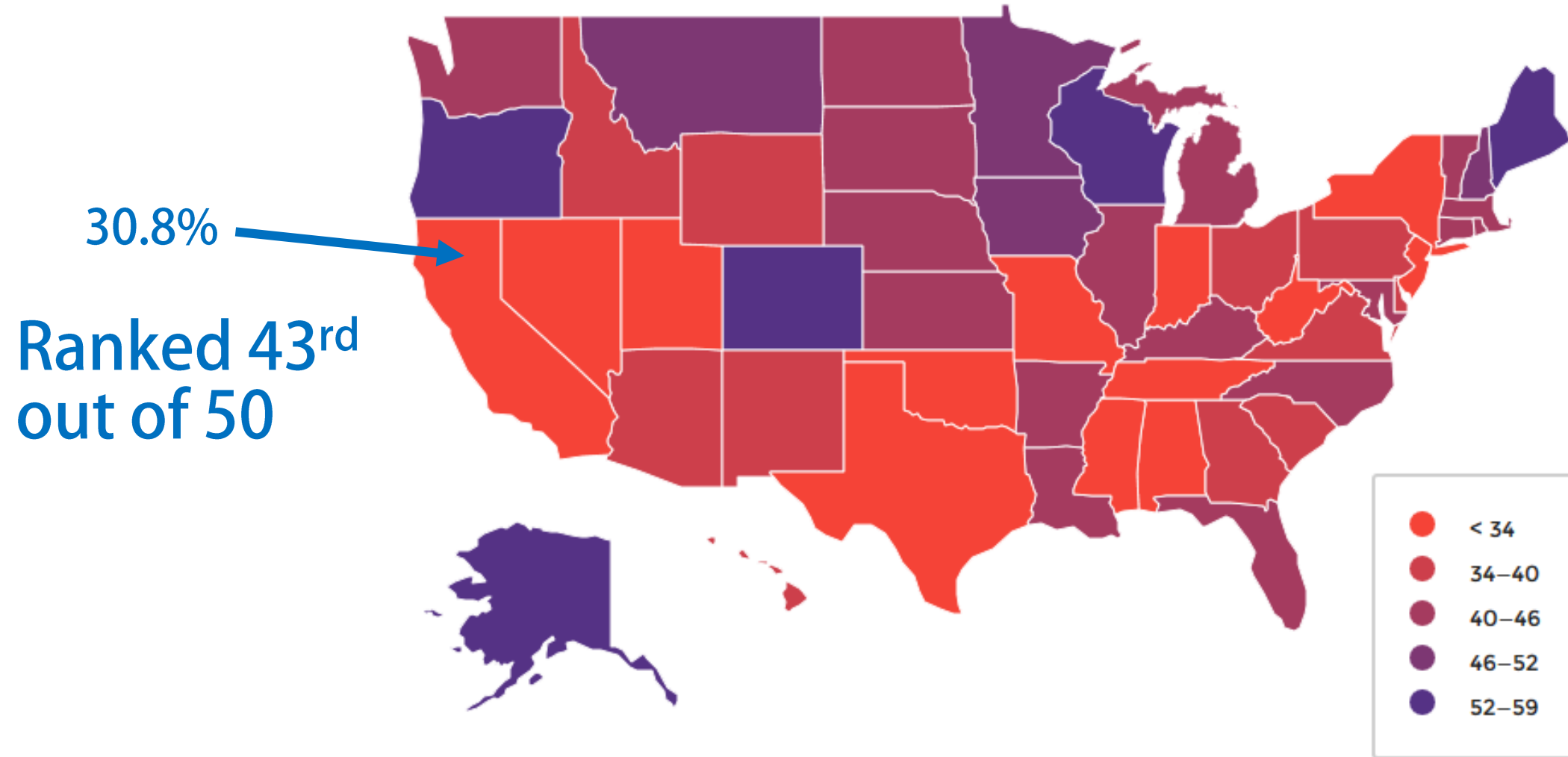
Voter Turnout 2012 Elections



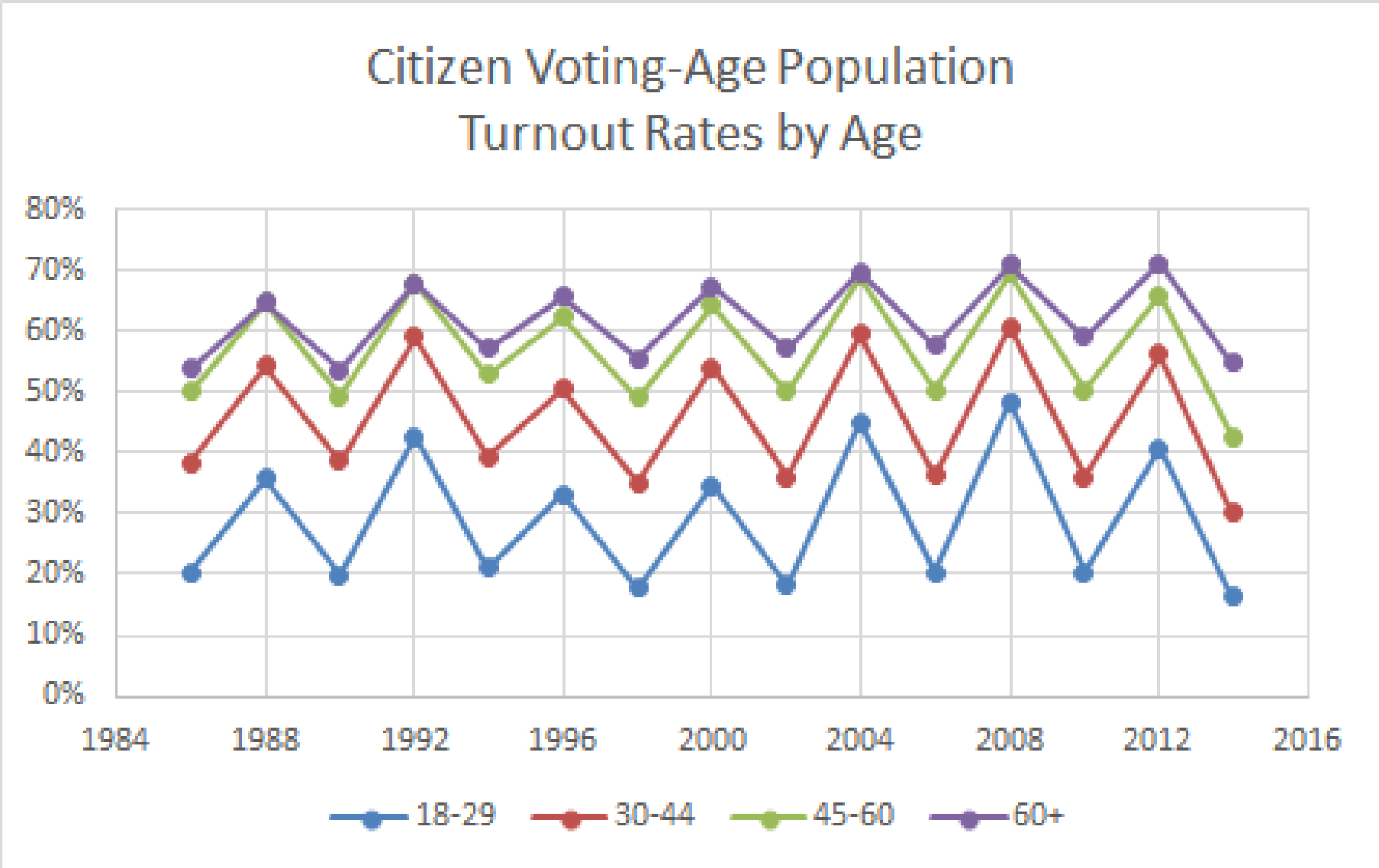
Percentage of eligible voters (based on estimated adult citizen population) who cast a ballot (for any office) in the November 2012 and 2014 elections. The higher a state's turnout, the more purple it appears.

Source: United States Elections Project (<http://www.electproject.org/>)

Voter Turnout in 2014 Elections



Voter Turnout Over Time



Voter Suppression Today

- Voter registration restrictions
- Photo ID laws
 - About 11% of population do not have government-issued IDs
- Purging voter registrations
- Disinformation on voting procedures
- Uninformed voting procedures
- Inequality of resources
- Election Day on a Tuesday
- Gerrymandering

YOUR VOTE
IS
YOUR VOICE

No country is perfect, but we're still a better country than many others.

It's been built over time.

It's our duty as the future to **maintain** it, not destroy it.

Be informed and participate in our democratic process.

June 7th, 2016 – Tuesday – California Primaries

Los Angeles Times

California's total voter registration now stands at **17,915,053**. That's the largest number ever registered heading into a primary election.

California's registered voters hit record high ahead of Tuesday presidential primary



(Los Angeles Times)

CA voting age population stands around at 24 million, 74.5% registered

But how many are going to actually vote?

According to US News & World Reports on July 15th 2016, 8.5 million people reported to have voted.

47.7% of registered voters

Historical low