

# TURNING OUT OR TUNING OUT?

## VOTING PATTERNS IN FLORIDA & GAINESVILLE

---

**Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Gainesville 42  
Government and Policy Day  
Wednesday, September 8, 2015**

**Professor Daniel A. Smith, Ph.D.  
Department of Political Science  
University of Florida  
dasmith@ufl.edu  
www.electionsmith.com  
Twitter: @electionsmith**

# So Many Issues, So Little Time...



# Turnout: March 17, 2015 Gainesville Election

**OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
**GAINESVILLE REGULAR ELECTION**  
**MARCH 17, 2015**

Date:03/19/15  
Time:16:38:26  
Page:1 of 1

Registered Voters 74621 - Cards Cast 9356 12.54%

Num. Report Precinct 35 - Num. Reporting 35 100.00%

**At Large Seat 1**

	Total	
Number of Precincts	35	
Precincts Reporting	35	100.0 %
Times Counted	9356/74621	12.5 %
Total Votes	9217	
Harvey M. Budd	3117	33.82%
Jay Curtis	3023	32.80%
Adrian Hayes-Santos	2723	29.54%
Donald Shepherd Sr.	354	3.84%

**District 1**

	Total	
Number of Precincts	9	
Precincts Reporting	9	100.0 %
Times Counted	1926/16607	11.6 %
Total Votes	1894	
Charles E. Goston Sr	511	26.98%
Scherwin L. Henry	467	24.66%
Yvonne Hinson-Rawls	716	37.80%
Lucas A. Jewell	55	2.90%
Chris Weaver	145	7.66%

# Turnout: April 14, 2015 Gainesville Runoff Election

Official Results  
City of Gainesville, Florida Run-off Election  
April 14, 2015

Date:04/16/15  
Time:16:36:45  
Page:1 of 1

Registered Voters 74884 - Cards Cast 8873 11.85%

Num. Report Precinct 35 - Num. Reporting 35 100.00%

At Large Seat 1

	Total	
Number of Precincts	35	
Precincts Reporting	35	100.0 %
Times Counted	8873/74884	11.8 %
Total Votes	8776	
Harvey M. Budd	4472	50.96%
Jay Curtis	4304	49.04%

District 1

	Total	
Number of Precincts	9	
Precincts Reporting	9	100.0 %
Times Counted	1777/16664	10.7 %
Total Votes	1758	
Charles E. Goston Sr	914	51.99%
Yvonne Hinson-Rawls	844	48.01%

# Turnout: April 14, 2015 Gainesville Runoff Election

***Preliminary Statement of Votes Cast***													Date:04/14/15	
April 14, 2015 Runoff Election													Time:19:48:10	
City of Gainesville, Florida													Page:1 of 1	
	TURN OUT			At Large Seat 1						District 1				
	Reg. Voters	Cards Cast	% Turnout	Reg. Voters	Times Counted	Total Votes	Harvey M. Budd	Jay Curtis	Reg. Voters	Times Counted	Total Votes	Charles E. Goston Sr	Yvonne Hinson-Rawls	
Jurisdiction Wide														
5 First Lutheran Church	2523	346	13.71%	2523	346	346	221	63.87%	125	36.13%	-	-	-	
7 Ignite Life Center	2013	156	7.75%	2013	156	156	95	60.90%	61	39.10%	-	-	-	
12 Parkview Baptist Church	2191	324	14.79%	2191	324	324	195	60.19%	129	39.81%	-	-	-	
13 Mt. Carmel Baptist Church	2279	358	15.71%	2279	358	333	196	58.86%	137	41.14%	2279	358	356	
17 Elks Lodge #990	2559	443	17.31%	2559	443	443	215	48.53%	228	51.47%	-	-	175	
19 Springhill Baptist Church	1517	207	13.65%	1517	207	190	119	62.63%	71	37.37%	1517	207	207	
21 The Greenhouse Church	2758	314	11.39%	2758	314	312	124	39.74%	188	60.26%	-	-	102	
22 First Church of the Nazarene	917	96	10.47%	917	96	96	38	39.58%	58	60.42%	-	-	49.28%	
23 American Cancer Society Hope Lodge	1159	87	7.51%	1159	87	87	40	45.98%	47	54.02%	-	-	105	
24 Gainesville Baptist Church	1983	459	23.15%	1983	459	459	233	50.76%	226	49.24%	-	-	50.72%	
25 SFC Center for Innovation and Economic Development	2064	127	6.15%	2064	127	123	70	56.91%	53	43.09%	2064	127	126	
26 Westside Recreation Center	1546	364	23.54%	1546	364	364	236	64.84%	128	35.16%	-	-	51	
27 Thelma Bolin Activity Center	2674	453	16.94%	2674	453	453	285	62.91%	168	37.09%	-	-	40.48%	
28 McPherson Recreation Center	2066	433	20.96%	2066	433	402	240	59.70%	162	40.30%	2066	433	432	
30 Mt. Carmel Baptist Church	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	-	-	229	
31 J. Wayne Retz Union	4681	38	0.81%	4681	38	38	12	31.58%	26	68.42%	-	-	53.01%	
32 LifeSouth Community Blood Center	3217	414	12.87%	3217	414	414	210	50.72%	204	49.28%	-	-	203	
33 Highlands Presbyterian Church	2571	341	13.26%	2571	341	333	156	46.85%	177	53.15%	2571	341	339	
34 Highlands Presbyterian Church	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	-	-	208	
36 Doyle Conner Building	2774	71	2.56%	2774	71	71	34	47.89%	37	52.11%	-	-	61.36%	
37 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	2099	344	16.39%	2099	344	344	146	42.44%	198	57.56%	-	-	131	
38 Senior Recreation Center	2876	336	11.68%	2876	336	334	127	38.02%	207	61.98%	-	-	38.64%	
39 Hilton Garden Inn	2578	36	1.40%	2578	36	35	11	31.43%	24	68.57%	-	-	0	
40 University City Church of Christ	1338	354	26.46%	1338	354	354	157	44.35%	197	55.65%	-	-	0	
43 LifeSouth Community Blood Center	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	-	-	0	
44 Phillips Center for the Performing Arts	4948	68	1.37%	4948	68	68	26	38.24%	42	61.76%	-	-	0	
45 Trinity United Methodist Church	3606	666	18.47%	3606	666	666	281	39.19%	405	60.81%	-	-	0	
48 Hilton Garden Inn	6	1	16.67%	6	1	1	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	-	-	0	
50 Westminster Presbyterian Church	1748	511	29.23%	1748	511	511	267	52.25%	244	47.75%	-	-	0	
52 Doyle Conner Building	121	2	1.65%	121	2	2	2	100.00%	0	0.00%	-	-	0	
54 Florida Museum of Natural History	3319	306	9.22%	3319	306	306	140	45.75%	166	54.25%	-	-	0	
55 City Public Works Admin. Bldg.	1080	117	10.83%	1080	117	115	56	48.70%	59	51.30%	1080	117	113	
57 Z. L. Sung Seventh-day Adventist School	2466	339	13.75%	2466	339	338	165	48.82%	173	51.18%	-	-	70	
59 Paramount Plaza Hotel	5087	193	3.79%	5087	193	189	96	50.79%	93	49.21%	5087	193	184	
61 The Atrium	2120	564	26.60%	2120	564	564	297	52.66%	267	47.34%	-	-	84.39%	
Total	74884	8868	11.84%	74884	8868	8771	4470	50.96%	4301	49.04%	16664	1776	1757	

# Turnout: April 14, 2015 Gainesville Runoff Election



31 J. Wayne Reitz Union	4681	38	0.81%
32 LifeSouth Community Blood Center	3217	415	12.90%
33 Highlands Presbyterian Church	2571	341	13.26%
34 Highlands Presbyterian Church	0	0	-
36 Doyle Conner Building	2774	71	2.56%
37 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	2099	344	16.39%
38 Senior Recreation Center	2876	336	11.68%
39 Hilton Garden Inn	2578	36	1.40%
40 University City Church of Christ	1338	354	26.46%
43 LifeSouth Community Blood Center	0	0	-
44 Phillips Center for the Performing Arts	4948	68	1.37%

# Statewide Turnout, 2010 & 2014

2010	Turnout	2014
3.1m	Election Day	2.8m
1.1m	Early In-Person	1.3m
1.2m	Absentee	1.9m
5.4m	Total votes	6.0m
11.2m	Active Registered Voters	11.9m
48%	% Turnout (of Active Registered Voters)	50%
57%	% Election Day	48%
20%	% Early In-Person	22%
23%	% Absentee	30%

# Statewide Turnout, 2010 & 2014

2010	Turnout	2014
3.1m	Election Day	2.8m
1.1m	Early In-Person	1.3m
1.2m	Absentee	1.9m
5.4m	Total votes	6.0m
11.2m	Active Registered Voters	11.9m
48%	% Turnout (of Active Registered Voters)	50%
57%	% Election Day	48%
20%	% Early In-Person	22%
23%	% Absentee	30%

## Turnout in Alachua County

2010

75,108/152,014

49.41%

2014

79,236/157,849

50.20%



# Statewide Drop-Off: Party and Method of Vote, 2012 → 2014

## Differential Drop-Off, 2012→2014

Registered voters & % turnout by party in **2014**

**Republicans**

4.4m (55%)

**Democrats**

5.0m (43%)

**NPAs**

3.1m (31%)

# Statewide Drop-Off: Party and Method of Vote, 2012 → 2014

## Differential Drop-Off, 2012→2014

	Registered voters & % turnout by party in <b>2014</b>	Voted <b>early</b> in 2012 & % <b>voted</b> in 2014
<b>Republicans</b>	4.4m (55%)	76% of 843k
<b>Democrats</b>	5.0m (43%)	65% of 1.1m
<b>NPA's</b>	3.1m (31%)	56% of 378k

# Statewide Drop-Off: Party and Method of Vote, 2012 → 2014

Differential Drop-Off, 2012→2014				
	Registered voters & % turnout by party in <b>2014</b>	Voted <b>early</b> in 2012 & % <b>voted</b> in 2014	Voted <b>absentee</b> in 2012 & % <b>voted</b> in 2014	
<b>Republicans</b>	4.4m (55%)	76% of 843k	74% of 937k	
<b>Democrats</b>	5.0m (43%)	65% of 1.1m	69% of 865k	
<b>NPA's</b>	3.1m (31%)	56% of 378k	60% of 367k	

# Statewide Drop-Off: Party and Method of Vote, 2012 → 2014

Differential Drop-Off, 2012→2014				
	Registered voters & % turnout by party in <b>2014</b>	Voted <b>early</b> in 2012 & % <b>voted</b> in 2014	Voted <b>absentee</b> in 2012 & % <b>voted</b> in 2014	Voted <b>Election Day</b> in 2012 & % <b>voted</b> in 2014
<b>Republicans</b>	4.4m (55%)	76% of 843k	74% of 937k	61% of 1.4m
<b>Democrats</b>	5.0m (43%)	65% of 1.1m	69% of 865k	50% of 1.4m
<b>NPA's</b>	3.1m (31%)	56% of 378k	60% of 367k	42% of 773k

# Statewide Drop-Off: Race and Method of Vote, 2012 → 2014

## Differential Drop-Off, 2012→2014

Registered voters & % turnout by race in 2014

<b>Whites</b>	8.5m (50%)
<b>Blacks</b>	1.8m (39%)
<b>Hispanics</b>	1.9m (30%)

# Statewide Drop-Off: Race and Method of Vote, 2012 → 2014

## Differential Drop-Off, 2012→2014

	Registered voters & % turnout by race in <b>2014</b>	Voted <b>early</b> in 2012 & <b>voted</b> in 2014
<b>Whites</b>	8.5m (50%)	74% of 1.4m
<b>Blacks</b>	1.8m (39%)	60% of 534k
<b>Hispanics</b>	1.9m (30%)	52% of 265k

# Statewide Drop-Off: Race and Method of Vote, 2012 → 2014

Differential Drop-Off, 2012→2014				
	Registered voters & % turnout by race in <b>2014</b>	Voted <b>early</b> in 2012 & <b>voted</b> in 2014	Voted <b>absentee</b> in 2012 & <b>voted</b> in 2014	
<b>Whites</b>	8.5m (50%)	74% of 1.4m	73% of 1.7m	
<b>Blacks</b>	1.8m (39%)	60% of 534k	74% of 212k	
<b>Hispanics</b>	1.9m (30%)	52% of 265k	62% of 244k	

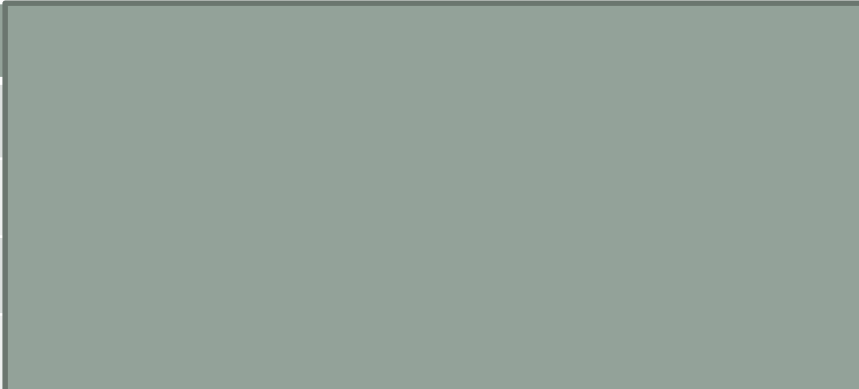
# Statewide Drop-Off: Race and Method of Vote, 2012 → 2014

Differential Drop-Off, 2012→2014				
	Registered voters & % turnout by race in <b>2014</b>	Voted <b>early</b> in 2012 & <b>voted</b> in 2014	Voted <b>absentee</b> in 2012 & <b>voted</b> in 2014	Voted <b>Election Day</b> in 2012 & <b>voted</b> in 2014
<b>Whites</b>	8.5m (50%)	74% of 1.4m	73% of 1.7m	58% of 2.5m
<b>Blacks</b>	1.8m (39%)	60% of 534k	74% of 212k	43% of 412k
<b>Hispanics</b>	1.9m (30%)	52% of 265k	62% of 244k	37% of 533k



# Who Turned Out in 2014 General Election? CNN Exit Poll Underestimates Elderly Turnout

Age	CNN Exit Poll
18-29	14%
30-44	19%
45-64	42%
65+	25%



# Who Turned Out in 2014 General Election?

## CNN Exit Poll Underestimates Elderly Turnout

Age	CNN Exit Poll	FL Voter File	Difference
18-29	14%	8%	+6% points
30-44	19%	16%	+3% points
45-64	42%	40%	+2% points
65+	25%	36%	-11% points

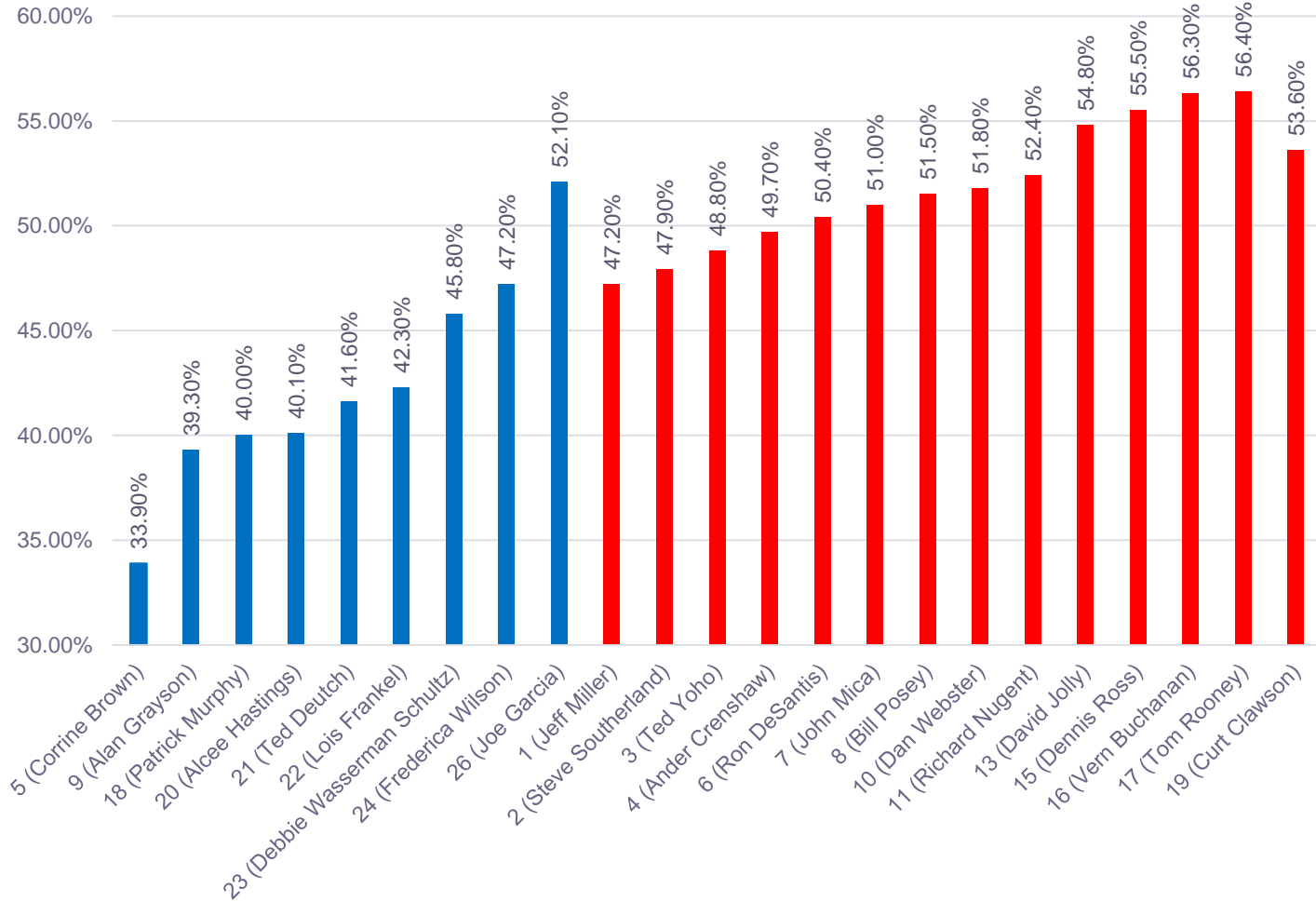
Only 24% of voters in 2014 under the age of 45

Turnout in  
Republican  
Districts: 51.9%

Turnout in  
Democratic  
Districts: 42.5%

Gerrymandering  
→ Lack of  
Competitive  
Congressional  
Elections

## Turnout by Congressional District, 2014



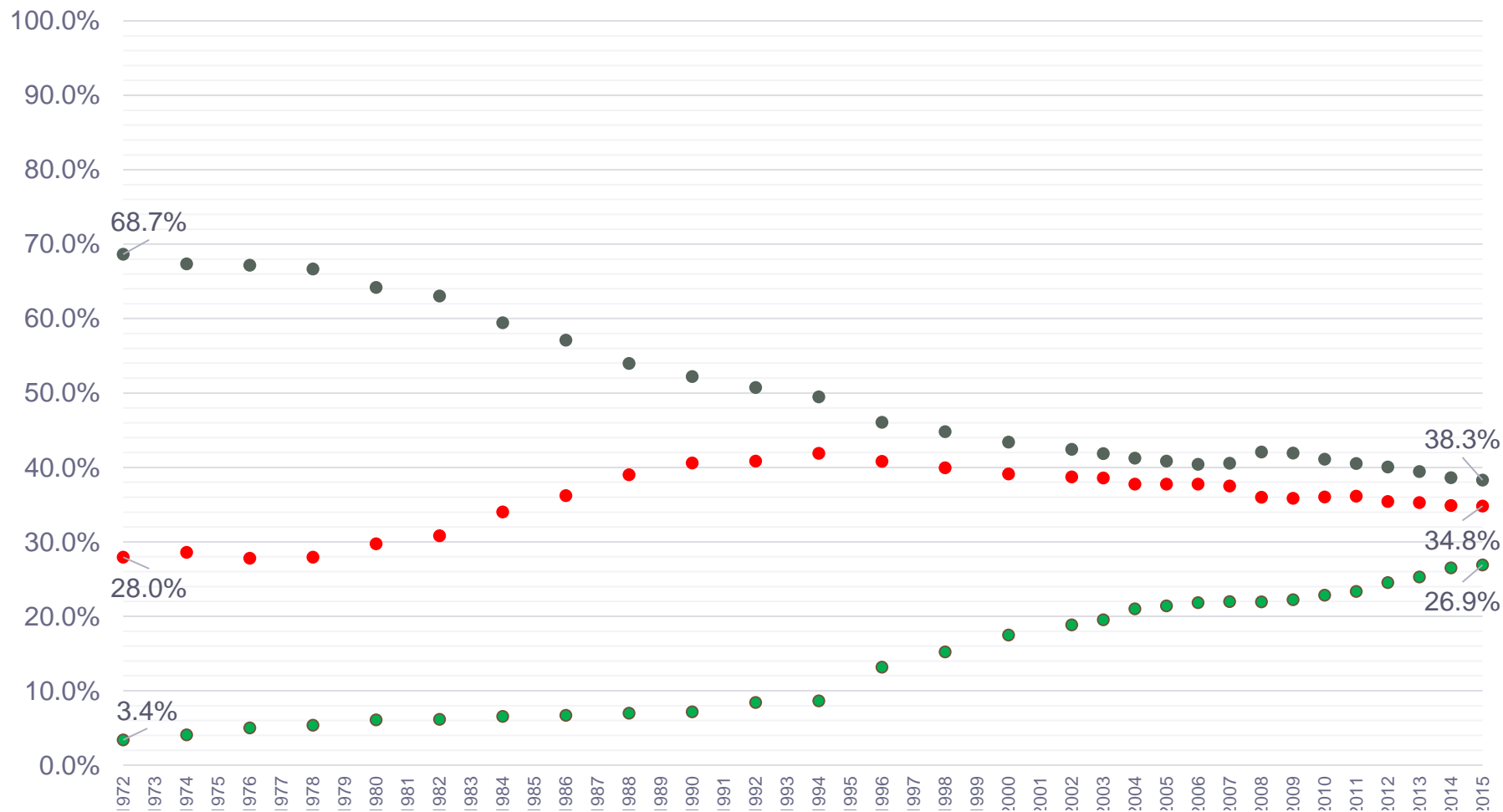
# Why Do Some Voters Drop-Off in Midterm & Local Elections?

- Campaign Explanations
  - Lack of Mobilization by Parties/ Presidential Candidates
  - Gerrymandering: Lack of Competitive Elections
  - Nonpartisan elections
- Behavioral Explanations
  - Younger, Lower SES, Racial/Ethnic minorities, Non-partisans
- Structural Explanations (Election Rules)
  - 29 Day Registration Cutoff vs EDR/SDR
  - Restrictive Photo Voter ID Laws
  - Cuts in Early Voting
    - Long Lines – Balking and Reneging
  - Administration of Absentee Ballots

# Florida's Increasingly Non-Partisan Landscape

## Florida Party Registration, 1972-2015

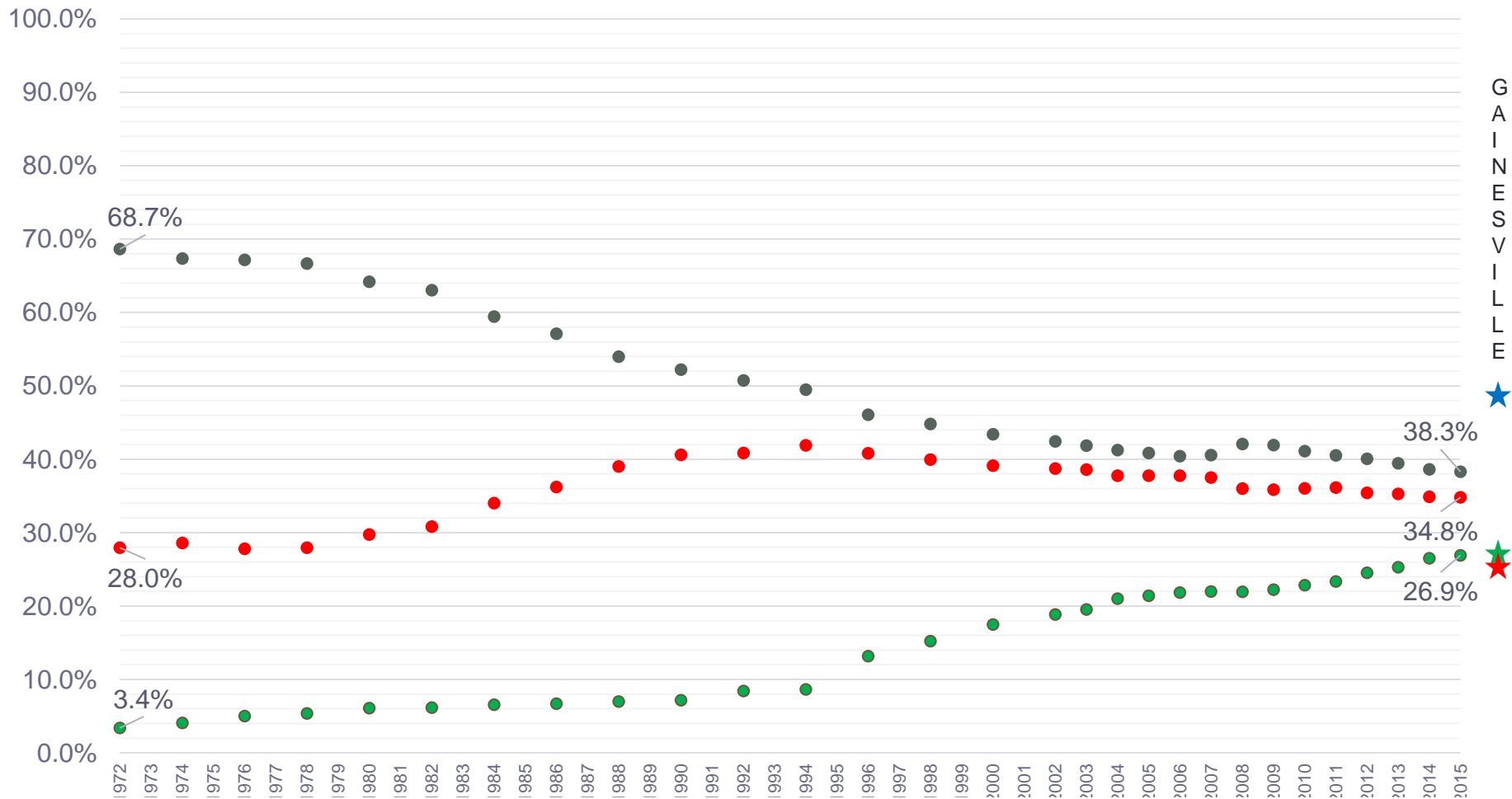
● % Republican    ● % Democrat    ● % NPA/Independent



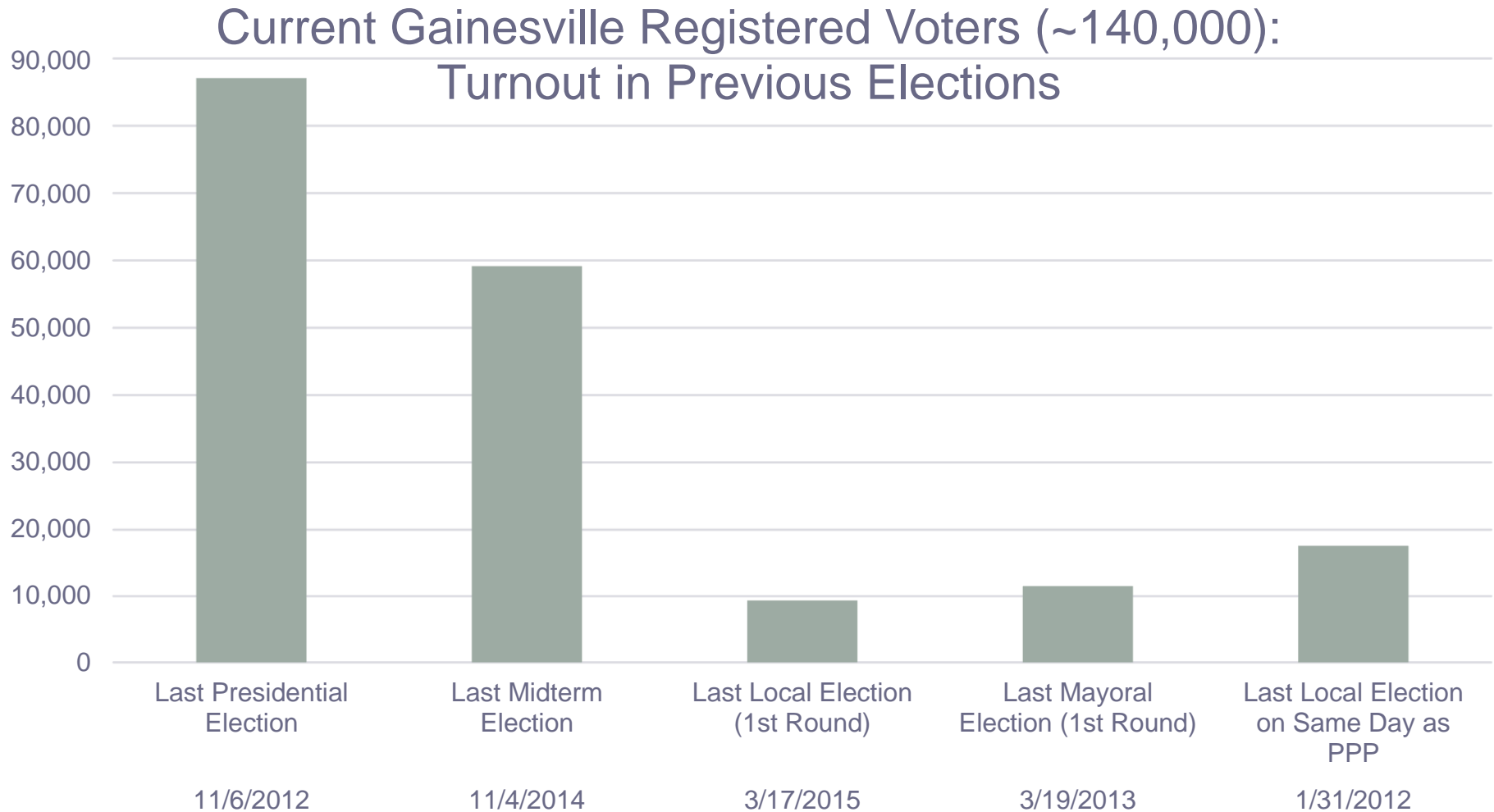
# Florida's Increasingly Non-Partisan Landscape

## Florida Party Registration, 1972-2015

● % Republican    ● % Democrat    ● % NPA/Independent

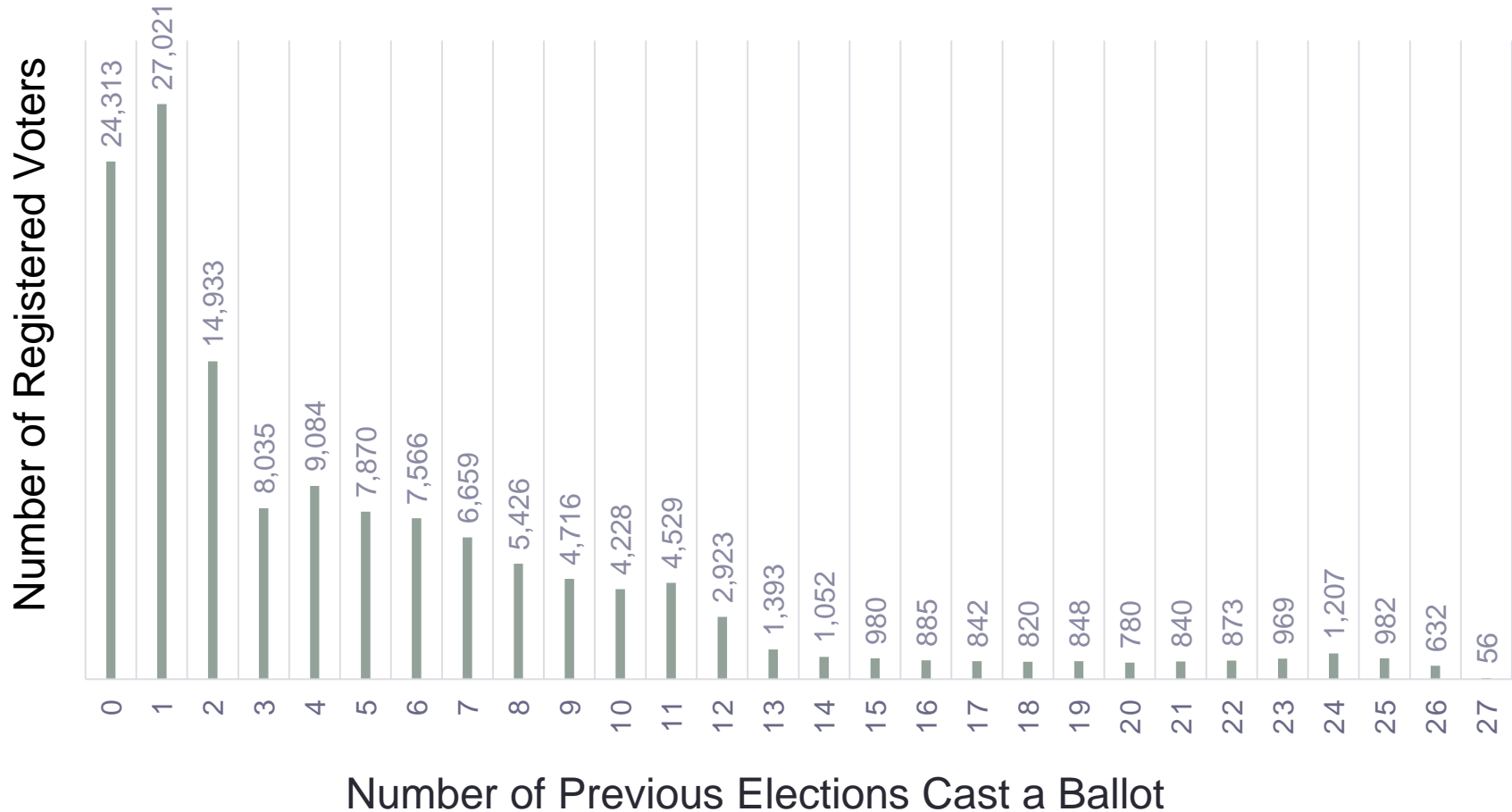


# Drop-off in Gainesville: A Look Ahead to 2016



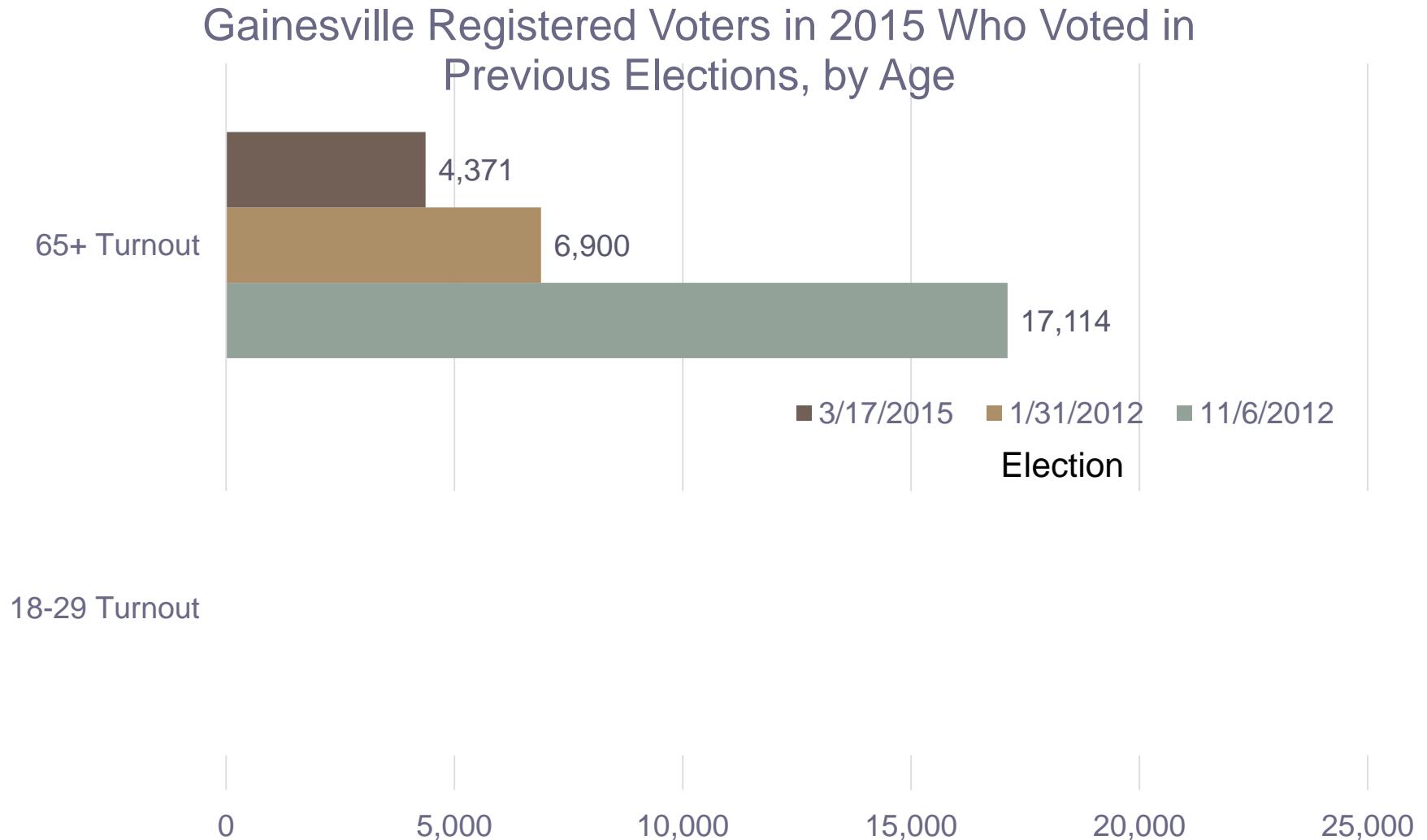
# Drop-off in Gainesville: A Look Ahead to 2016

Current Gainesville Registered Voters:  
Past Election Participation, 2006-2015





# Drop-off in Gainesville: A Look Ahead to 2016



# Drop-off in Gainesville: A Look Ahead to 2016

