

# Voting Behavior in US Presidential Elections

SÖREN HOLMBERG  
RICHARD KARLSSON

# US Presidential Elections 2008-2020

2008	percent	2012	percent
Barack Obama (Democrat)	52,9	Barack Obama (Democrat)	51,0
John McCain (Republican)	45,7	Mitt Romney (Republican)	47,2
Ralph Nader (Independent)	0,6	Gary Johnson (Libertarian)	1,0
Bob Barr (Libertarian)	0,4	Jill Stein (Greens)	0,4
Cynthia McKinney (Greens)	0,1	Others	0,4
Others	0,3		100,0
	100,0		

2016	percent	2020	percent
Hillary Clinton (Democrat)	48,2	Joe Biden (Democrat)	51,4
Donald Trump (Republican)	46,1	Donald Trump (Republican)	46,8
Gary Johnson (Libertarian)	3,3	Jo Jorgensen (Libertarian)	1,2
Jill Stein (Greens)	1,1	Howie Hawkins (Greens)	0,3
Evan McMullin (Independent)	0,5	Others	0,3
Others	0,8		100,0
	100,0		

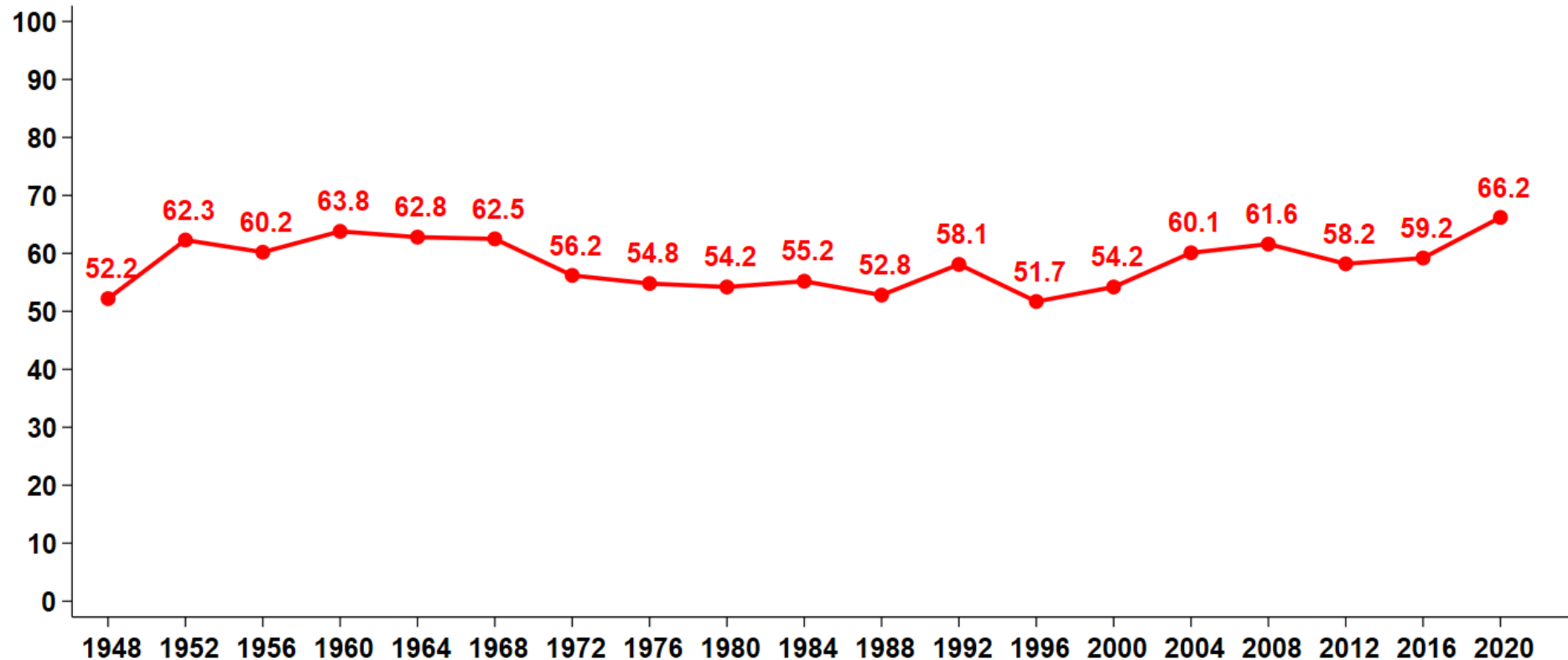
Estimated Turn-Out 2008: 131,3 million voters; eligible voters 213 million; turn-out per cent 61,6%

Estimated Turn-Out 2012: 129,1 million voters; eligible voters 222 million; turn-out per cent 58,2%

Estimated Turn-Out 2016: 136,7 million voters; eligible voters 230,9 million; turn-out per cent 59,2%

Estimated Turn-Out 2020: 158,5 million voters; eligible voters 239,3 million; turn-out percent 66,2%

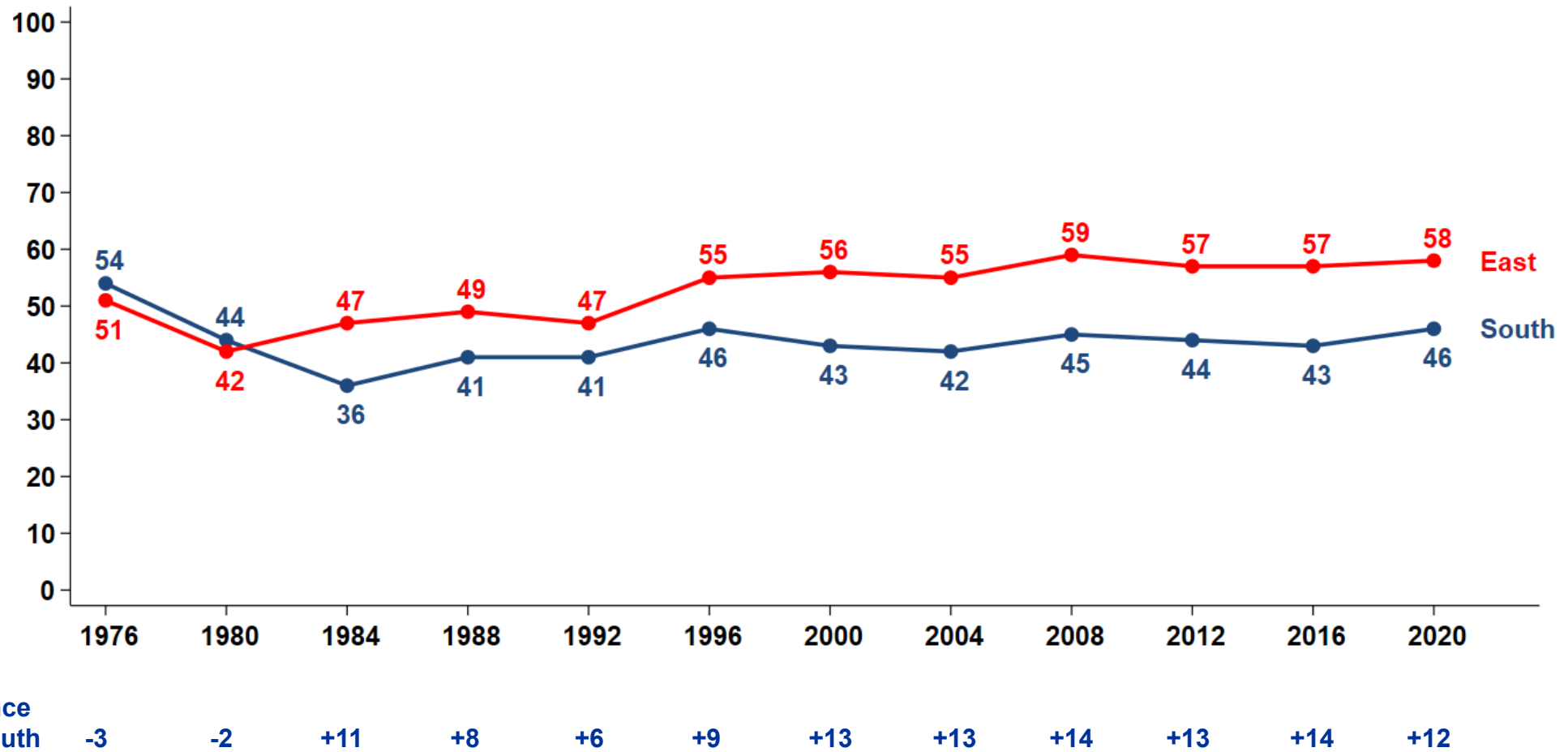
# Turn-Out in US Presidential Elections



**Source:** Stanley and Niemi: *Vital Statistics in American Politics* and MacDonald: *US Election Project*. The turn-out figures represent the percentage of the eligible electorate that cast votes in presidential elections.

# Regional Voting

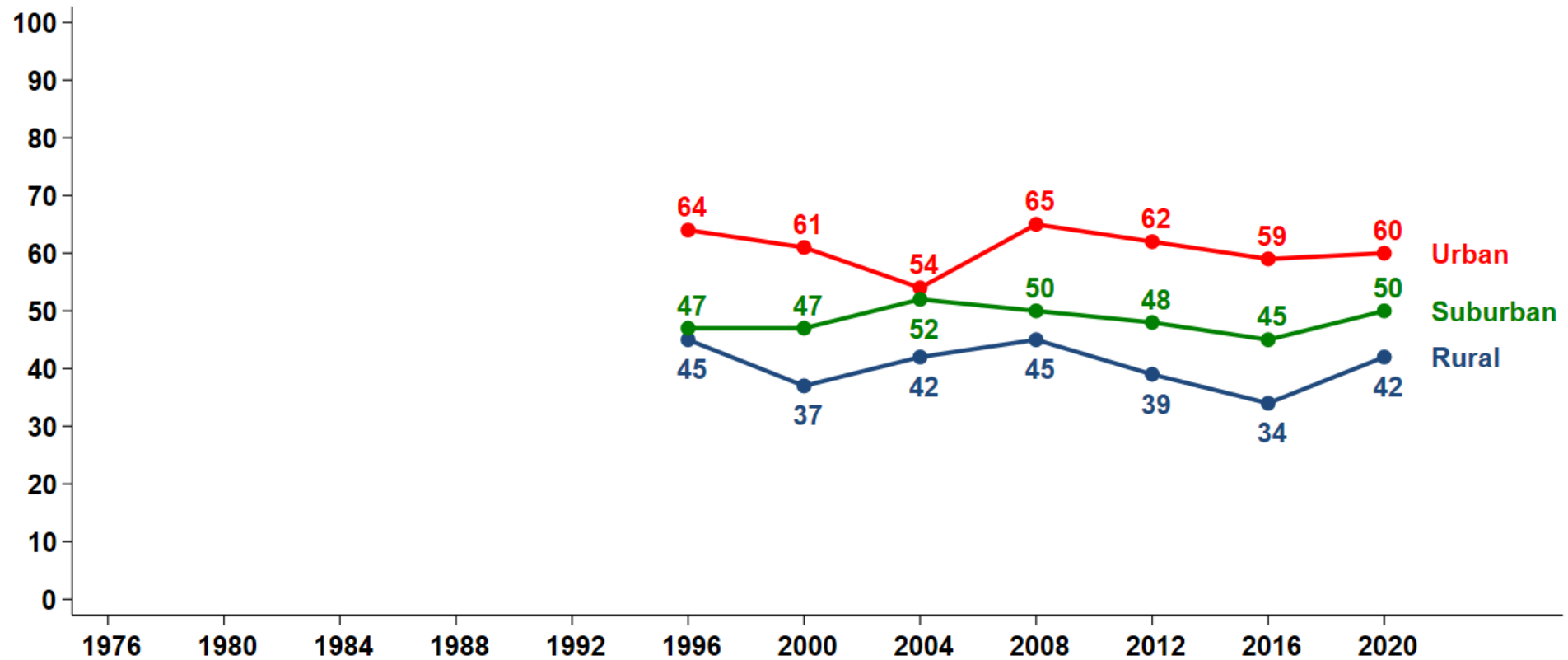
*per cent Democrats*



**Source:** VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022).

# Urban – Suburban – Rural

*per cent Democrats*



Difference  
Urban-Rural

-   -   -   -   -   +19   +24   +12   +20   +23   +25   +18

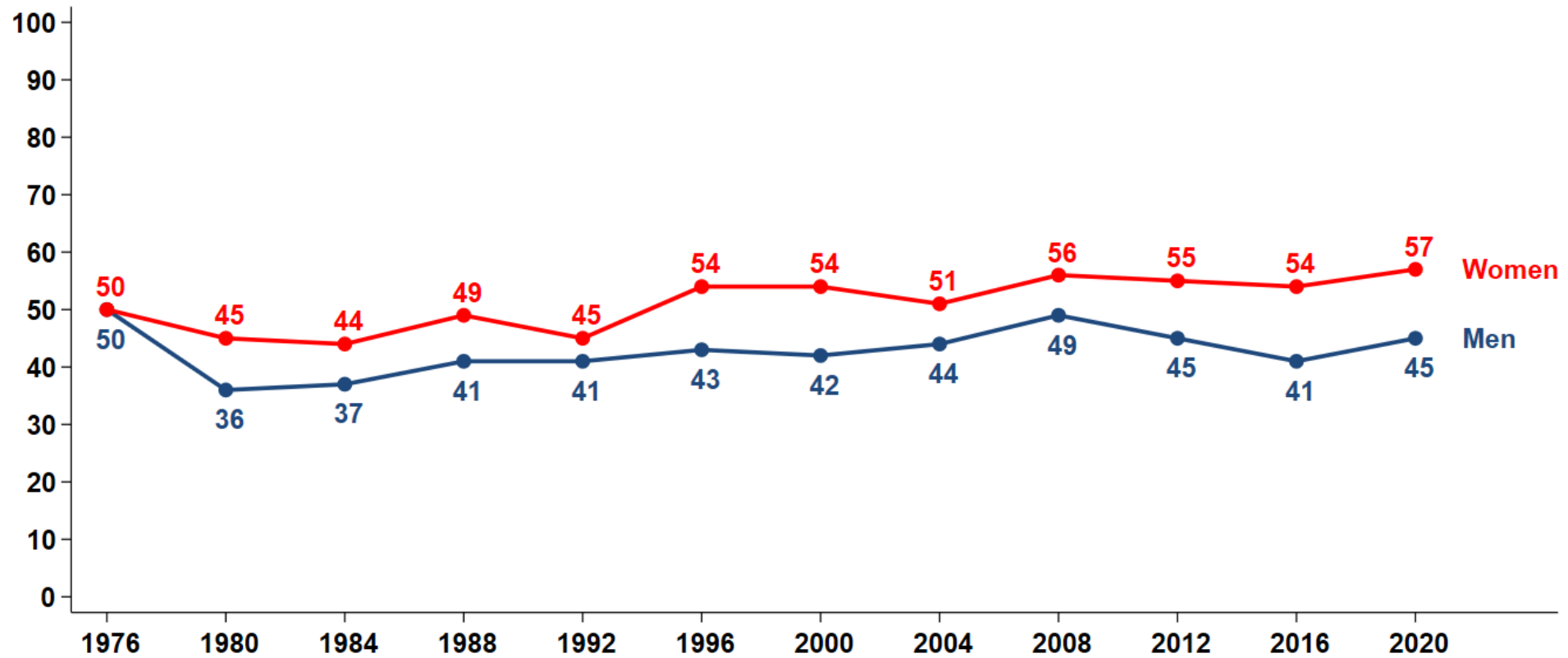
Suburban Women

-   38   43   46   42   53   52   50   52   53   51   56

**Source:** VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). Errors for Urban in 1996 and 2008 have been corrected.

# Gender

*per cent Democrats*



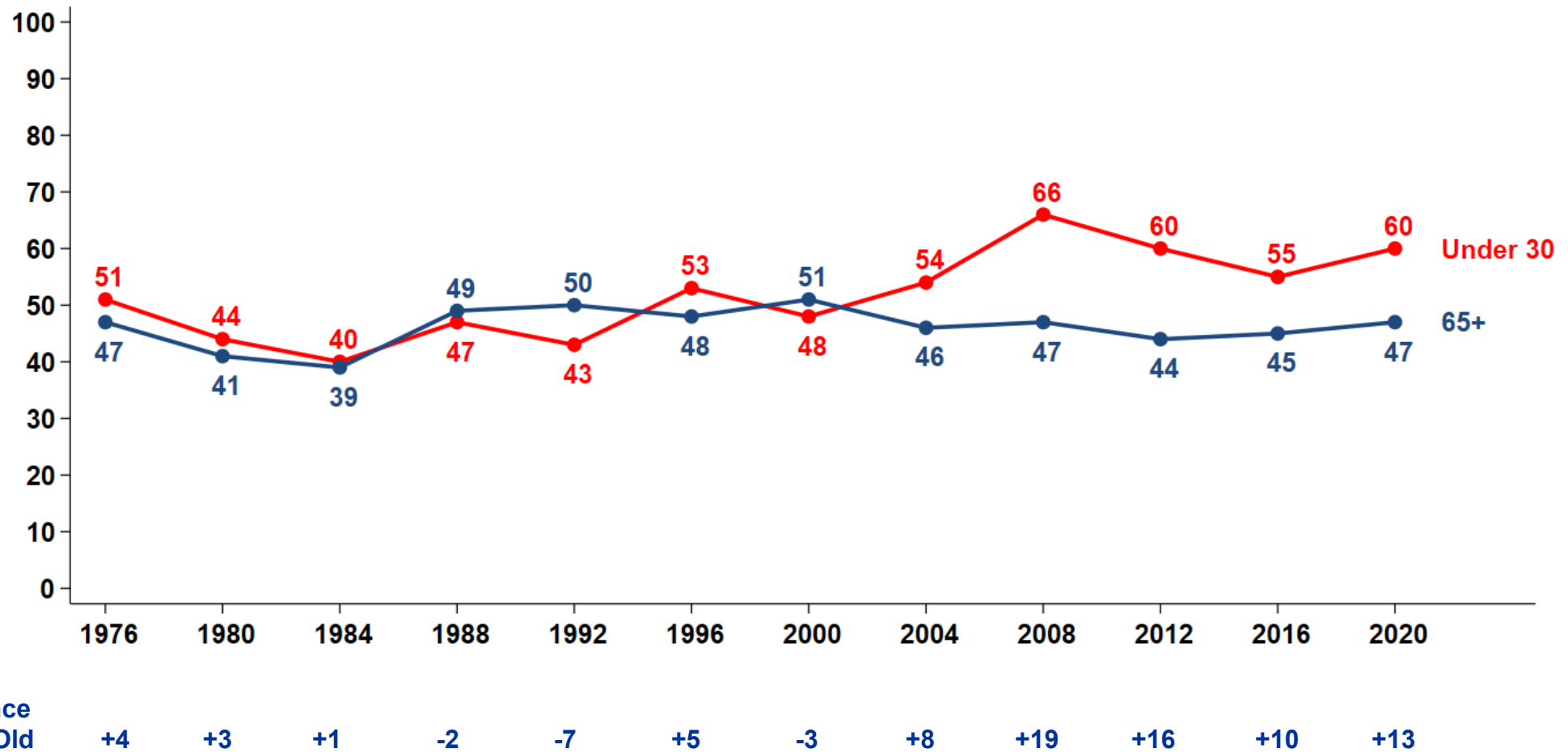
Difference

Women-Men

±0   +9   +7   +8   +4   +11   +12   +7   +7   +10   +13   +12

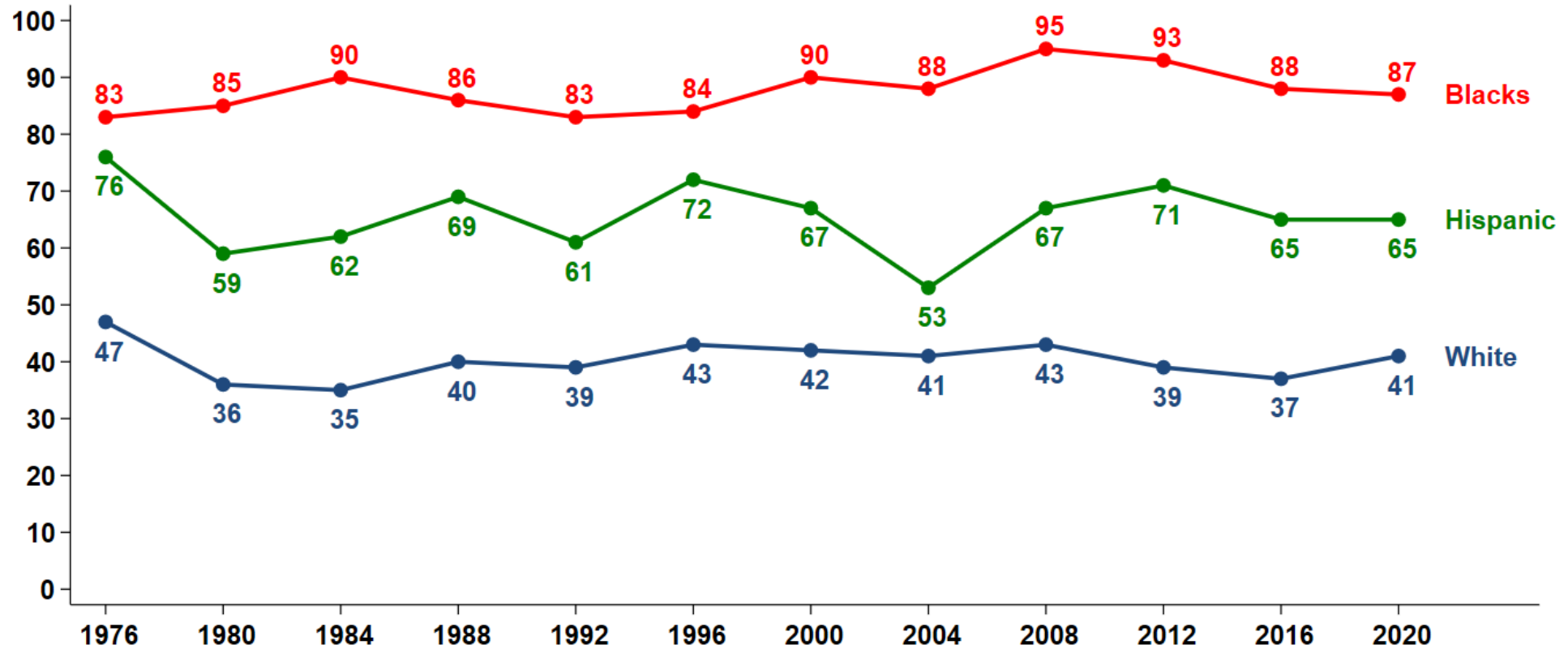
Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022)

# Age *per cent Democrats*



**Source:** VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison: AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022)

# Ethnic Group *per cent Democrats*



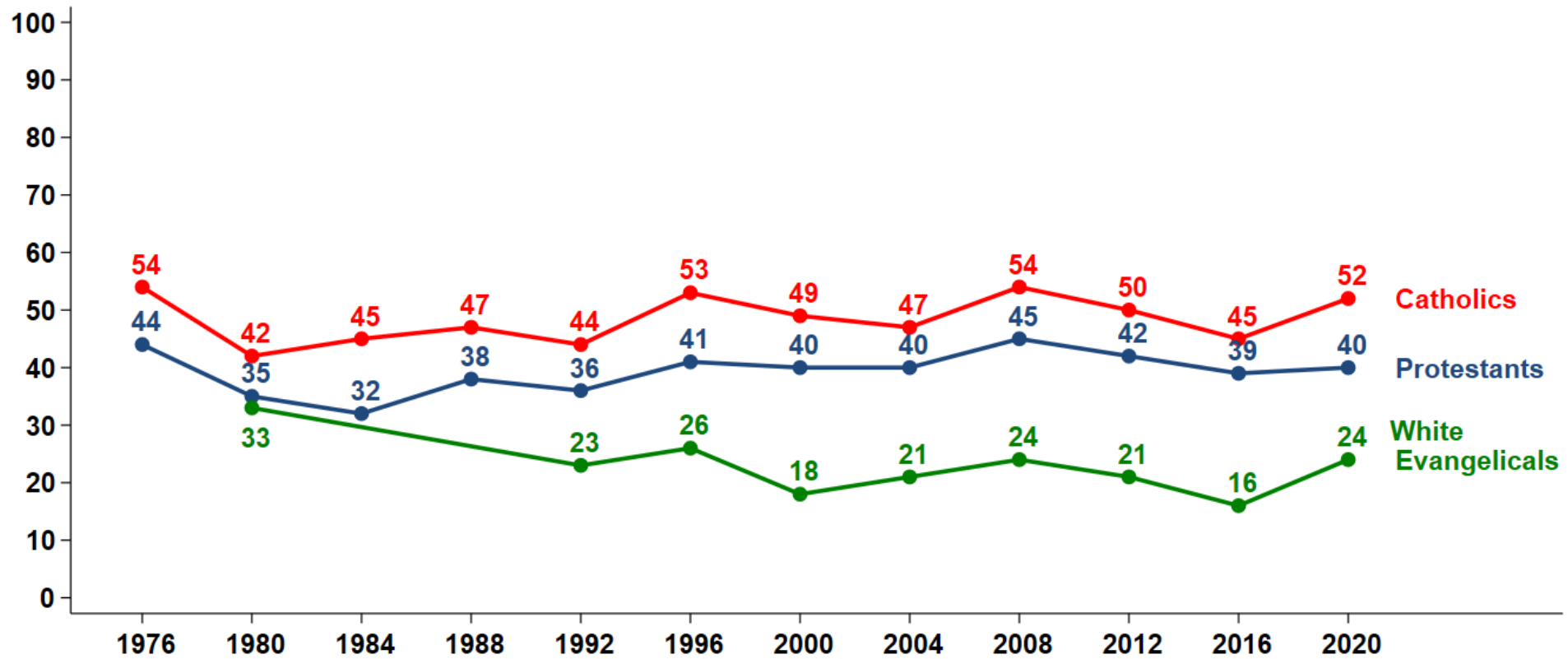
Jews	64	45	67	64	80	78	79	74	78	69	71	68
Asians	-	-	-	-	31	43	54	56	62	73	65	61

**Source:** VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). The result for Jews in 2020 comes from AP VoteCast.



# Religion

## *per cent Democrats*

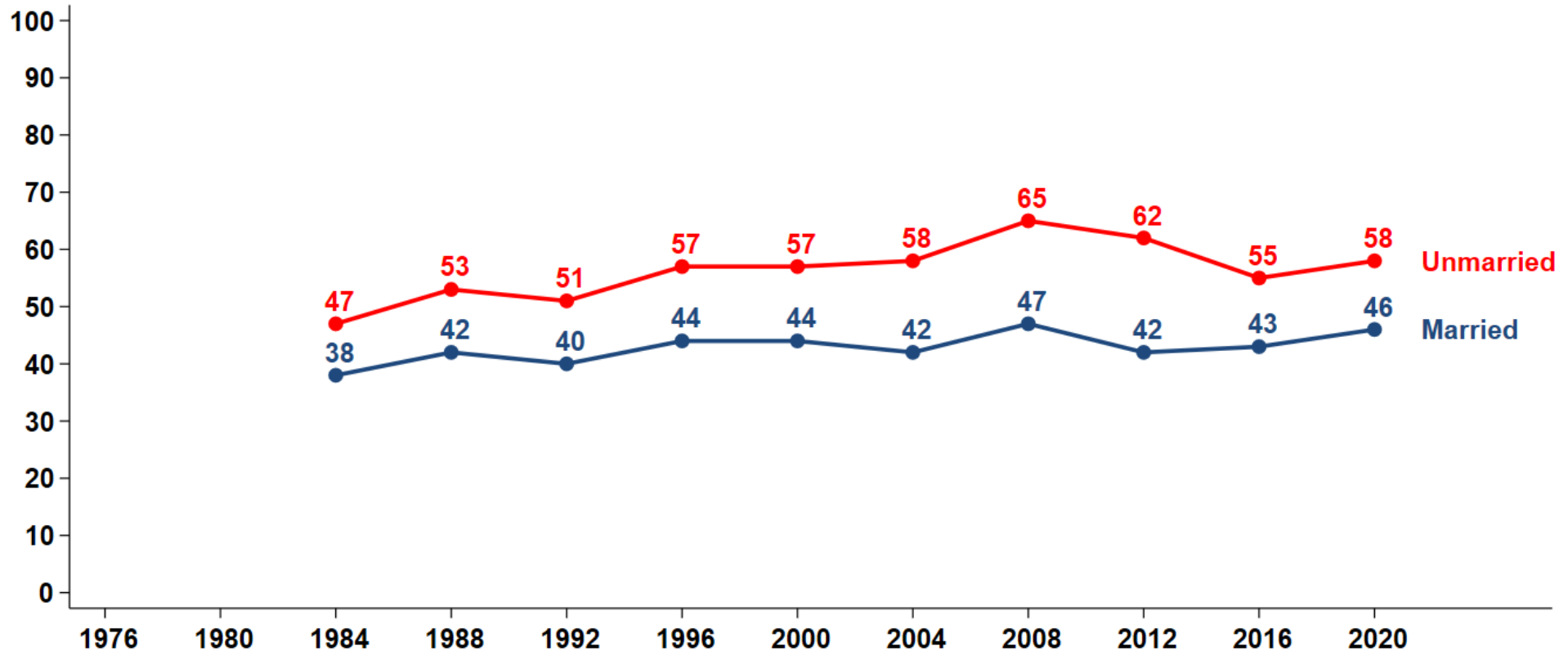


Jews	64	45	67	64	80	78	79	74	78	69	71	68
Weekly Church Goers					36	-	39	39	43	39	40	37

**Source:** VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2016; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). The results for Jews and Weekly Church Goers in 2020 come from AP VoteCast.

# Marital Status

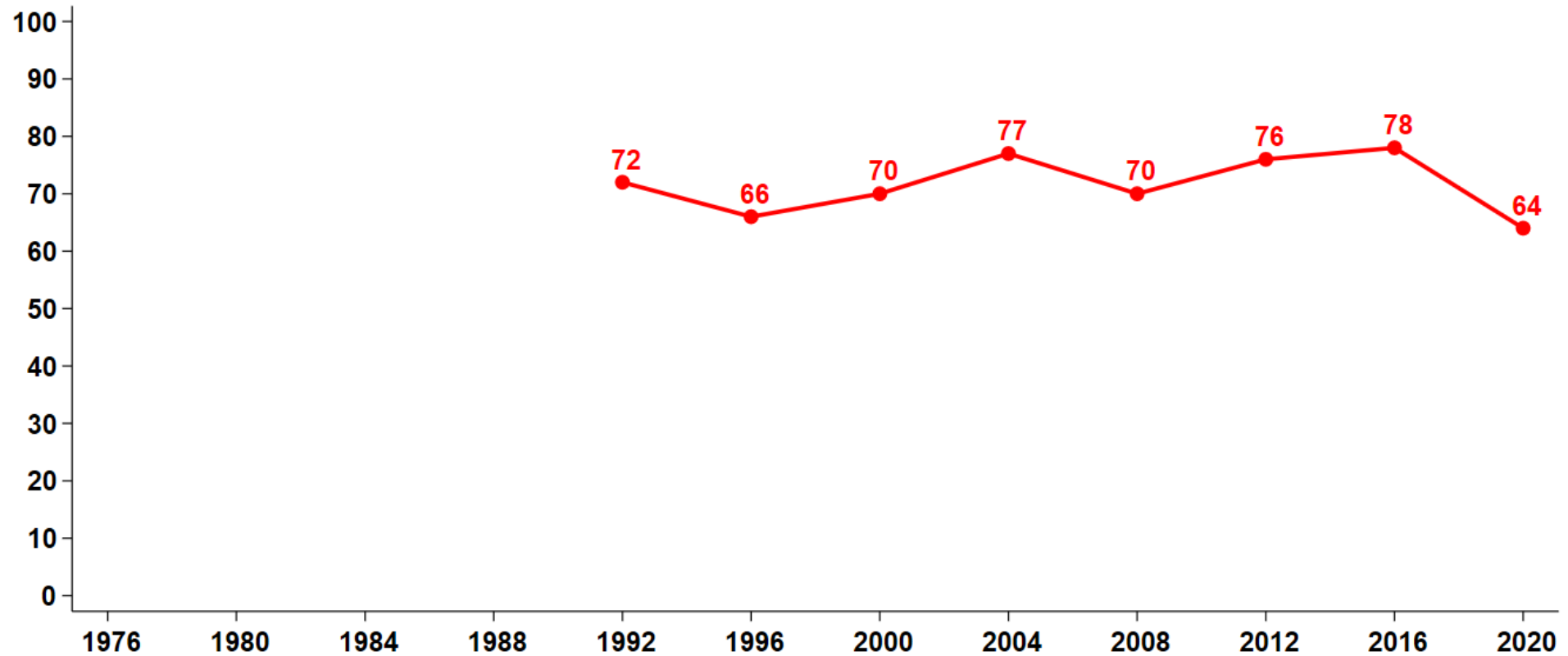
*per cent Democrats*



Difference	-	-	+9	+11	+11	+13	+13	+16	+18	+20	+12	+12
Unmarried-Married												

**Source:** VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2016; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022).

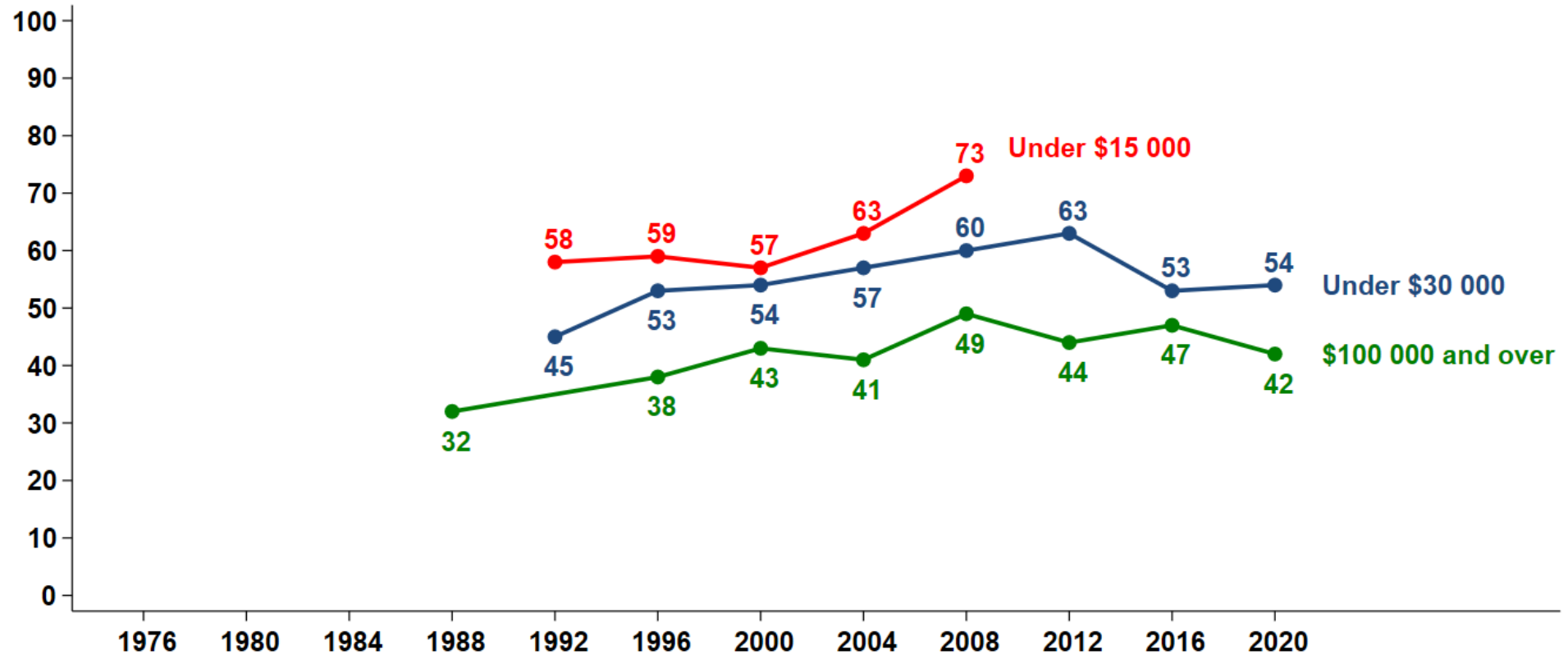
# Gays/Lesbians *per cent Democrats*



**Source:** VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2016 ; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). The AP VoteCast result in 2020 is 73 per cent.

# Income

## *per cent Democrats*



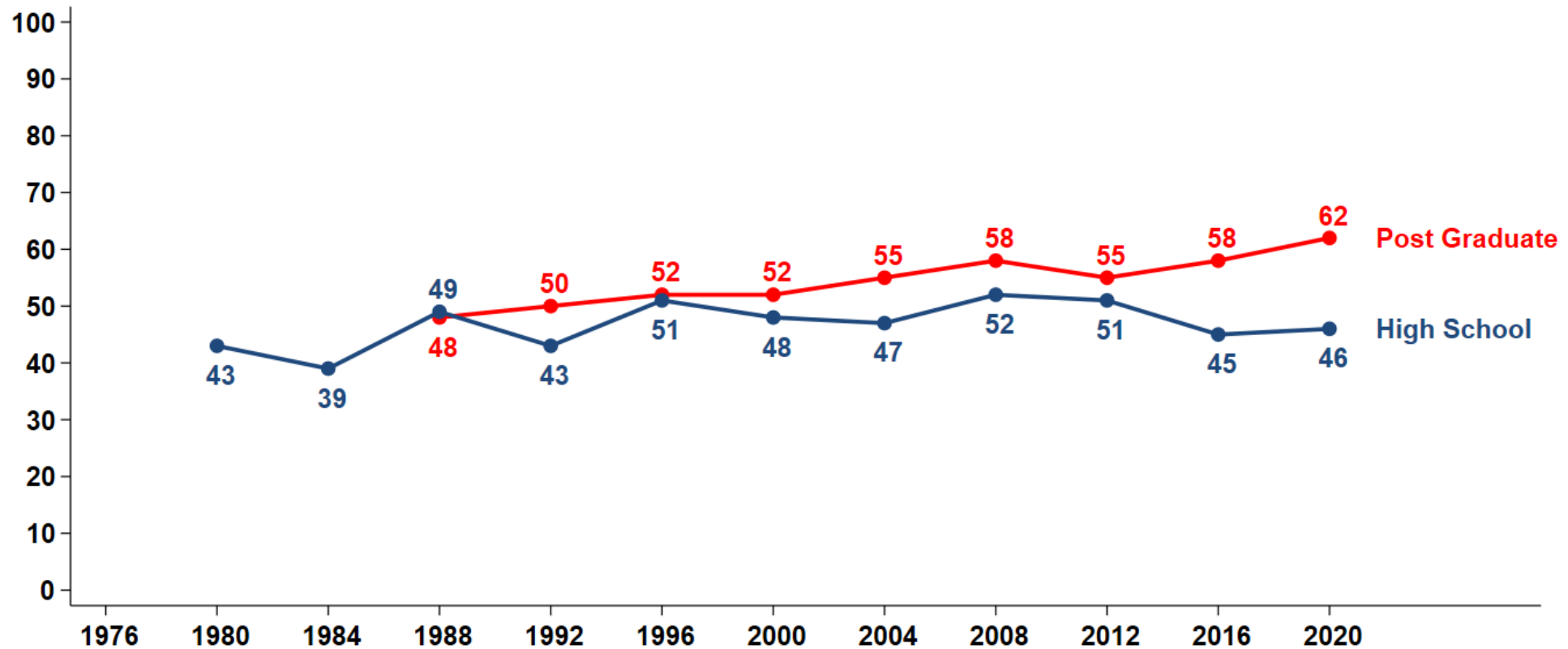
### Difference

Under \$ 30K – \$100K+    -    -    -    -    -    +15    +11    +16    +11    +19    +6    +12

**Source:** VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison. In 1992-2012 the under \$30 000 income category was defined as \$15 000 - \$29 000.

# Education

## *per cent Democrats*



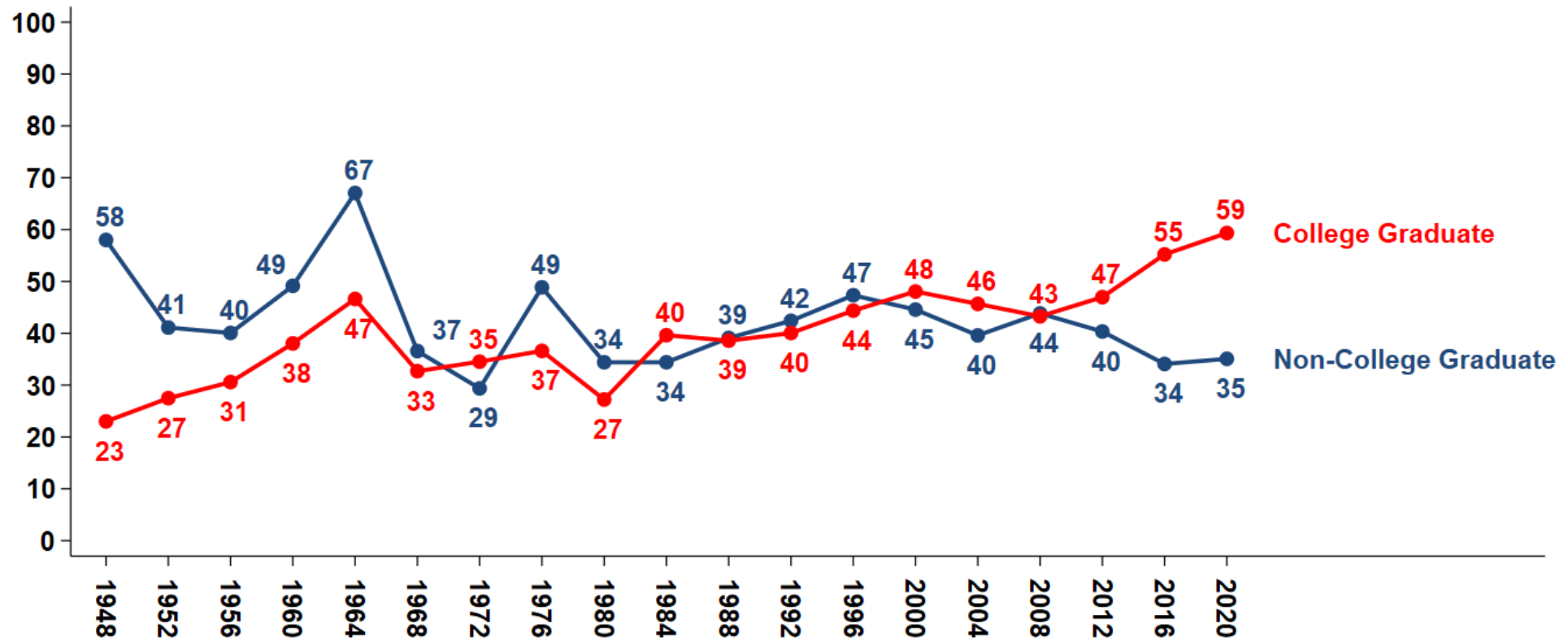
### Difference

Post Grad – HS	-	-	-	-1	+7	+1	+4	+8	+6	+4	+13	+16
College Graduate	-	35	41	37	39	44	45	46	49	49	49	51

**Source:** VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). The result for High School in 2020 comes from AP VoteCast.

# Level of Education/Whites Only

## *per cent Democrats*

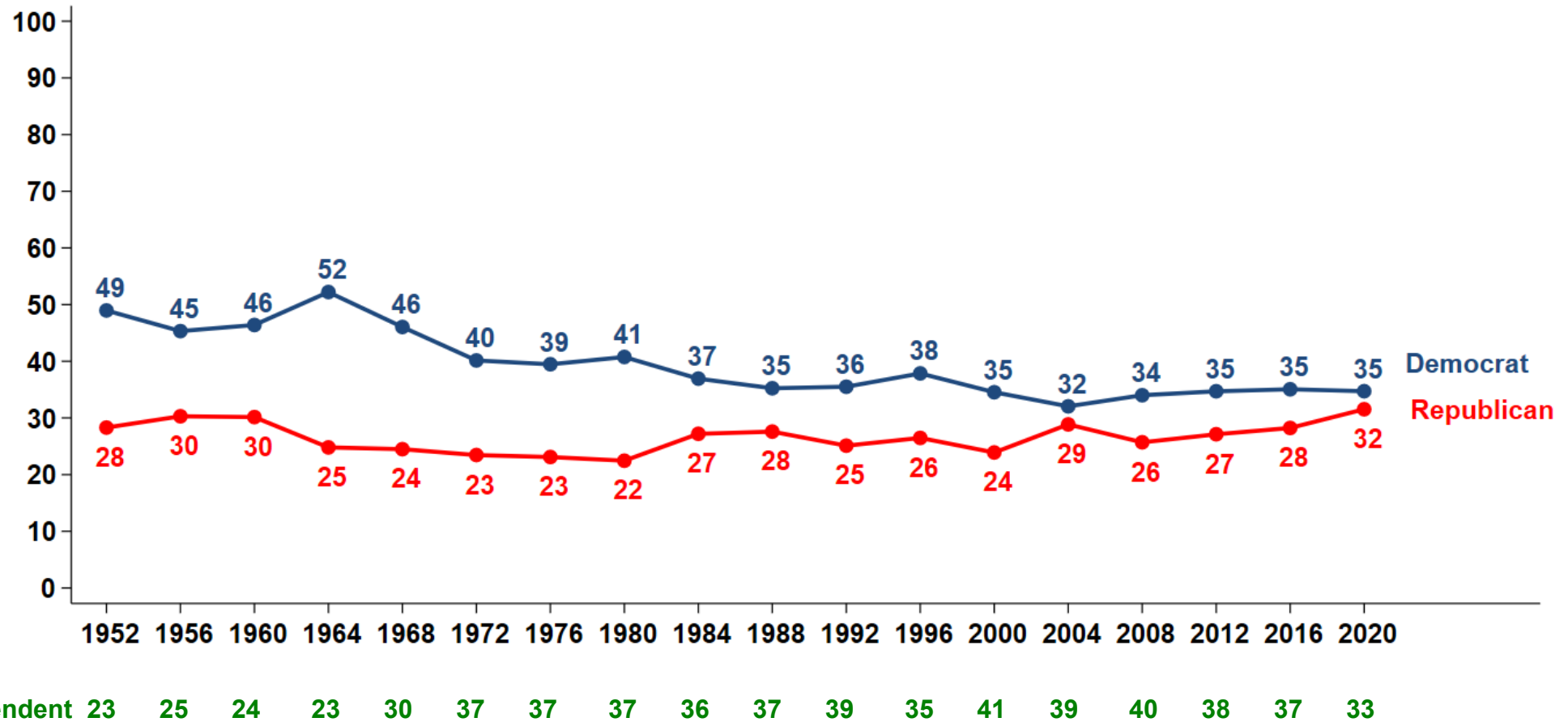


### Difference

NonGrad-Grad    +35   +14   +9   +11   +20   +4   -6   +12   +7   -6   ±0   +2   +3   -3   -6   +1   -7   -21   -24

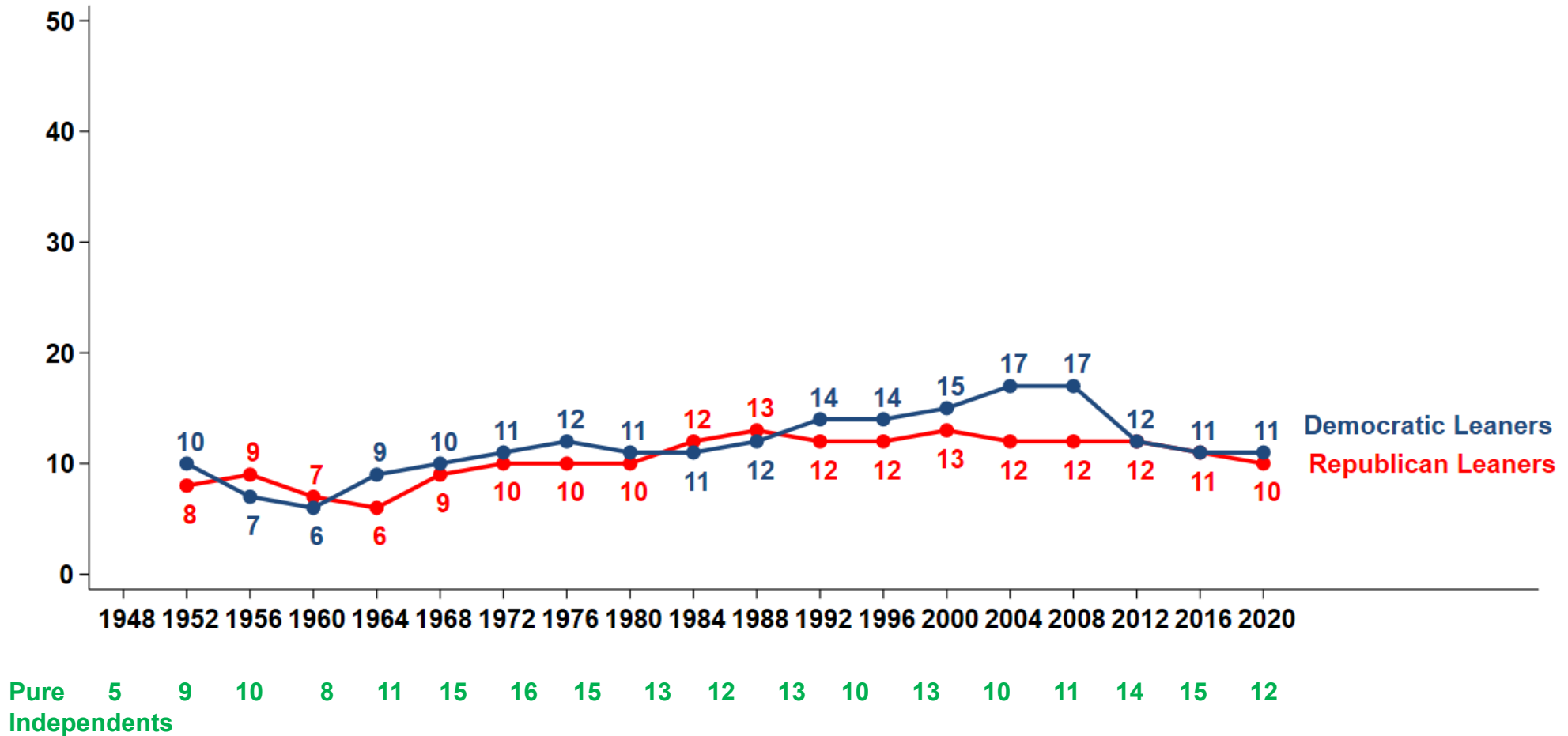
**Source:** ANES 1948-2012. White Non-Hispanic. Non-College Graduates vs. College Graduates. In 1948 No College Education vs. at least Some College Education.

# US Party Identification



Source: ANES 1952 – 2020.

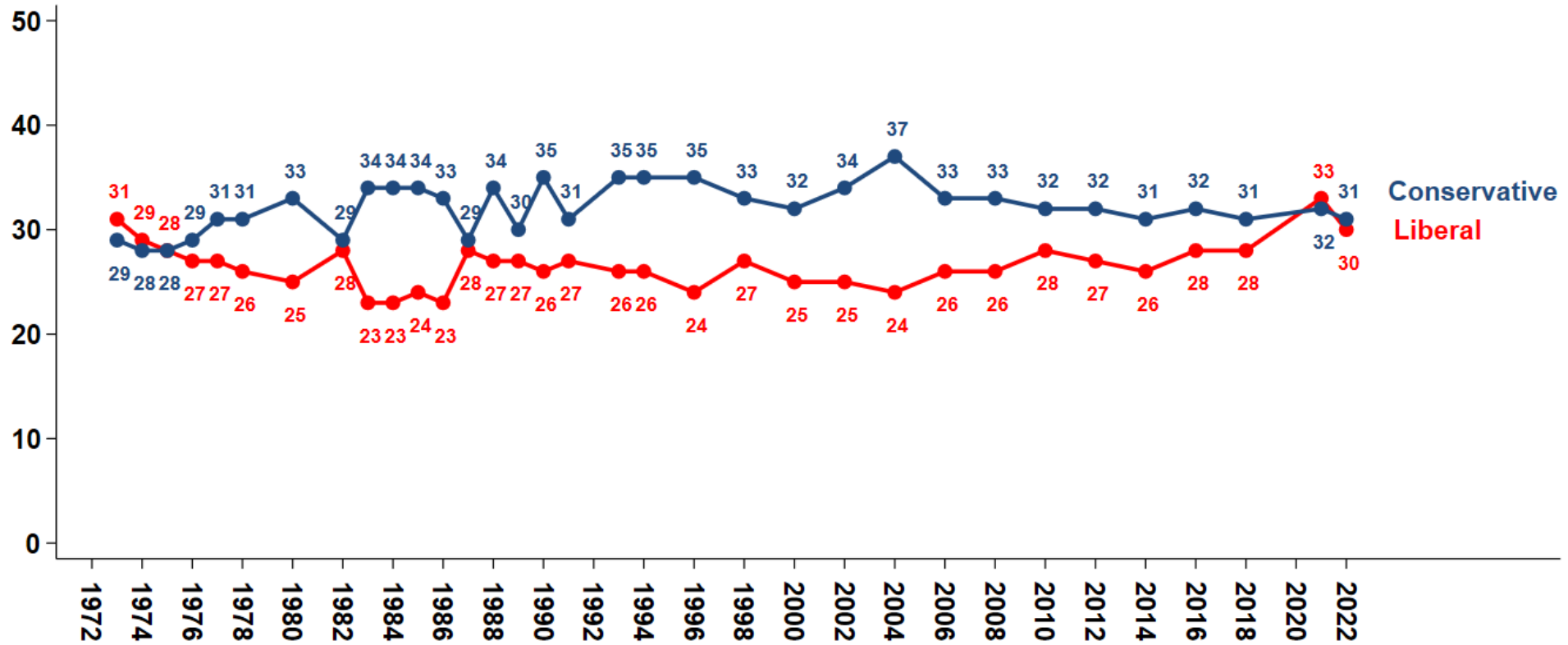
# US: Independent Party Leaners



Source: ANES 1952-2020.



# US Ideological Self-Identification

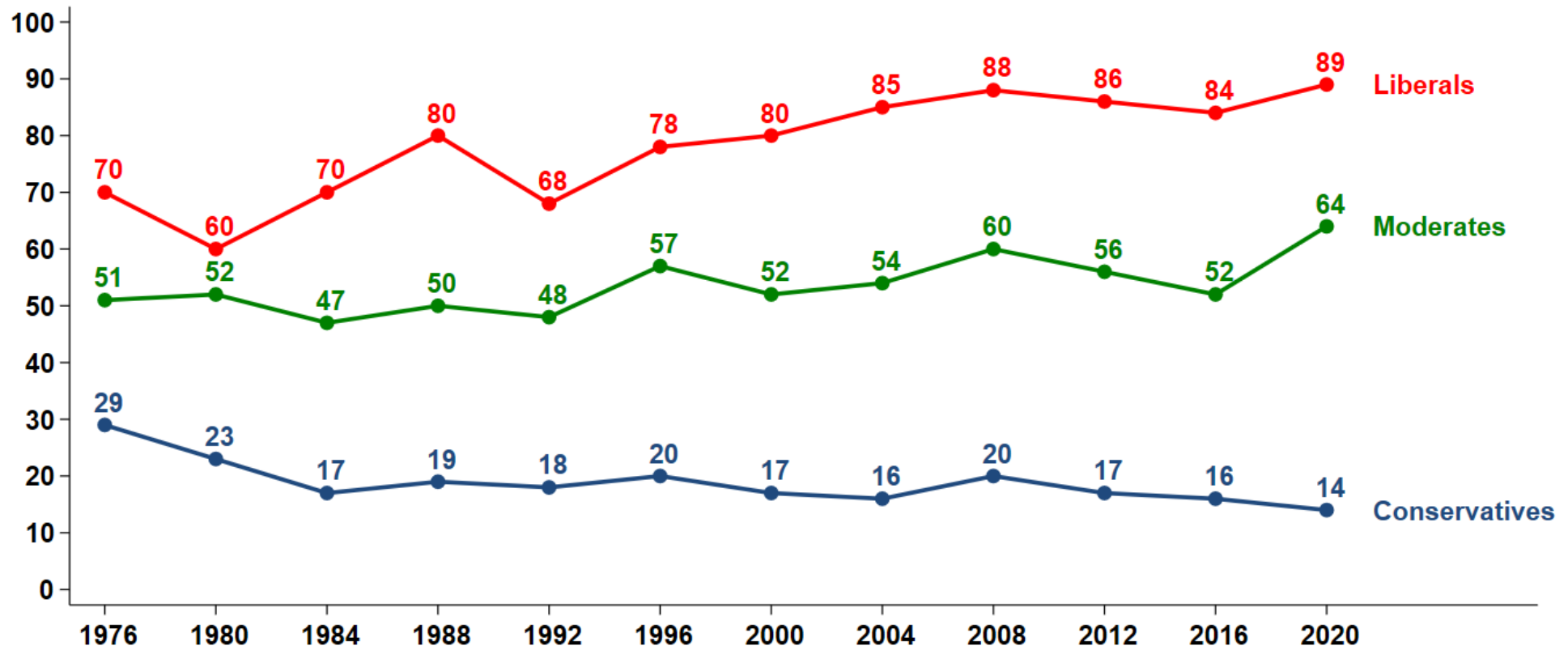


Moderates 36 38 38 37 37 36 40 37 40 39 37 39 35 35 37 35 39 36 35 36 35 37 38 37 37 37 36 39 36 36 34 35

Source: General Social Survey, NORC 1973-2022. DKs 1 – 6%.

# Ideology

*per cent Democrats*



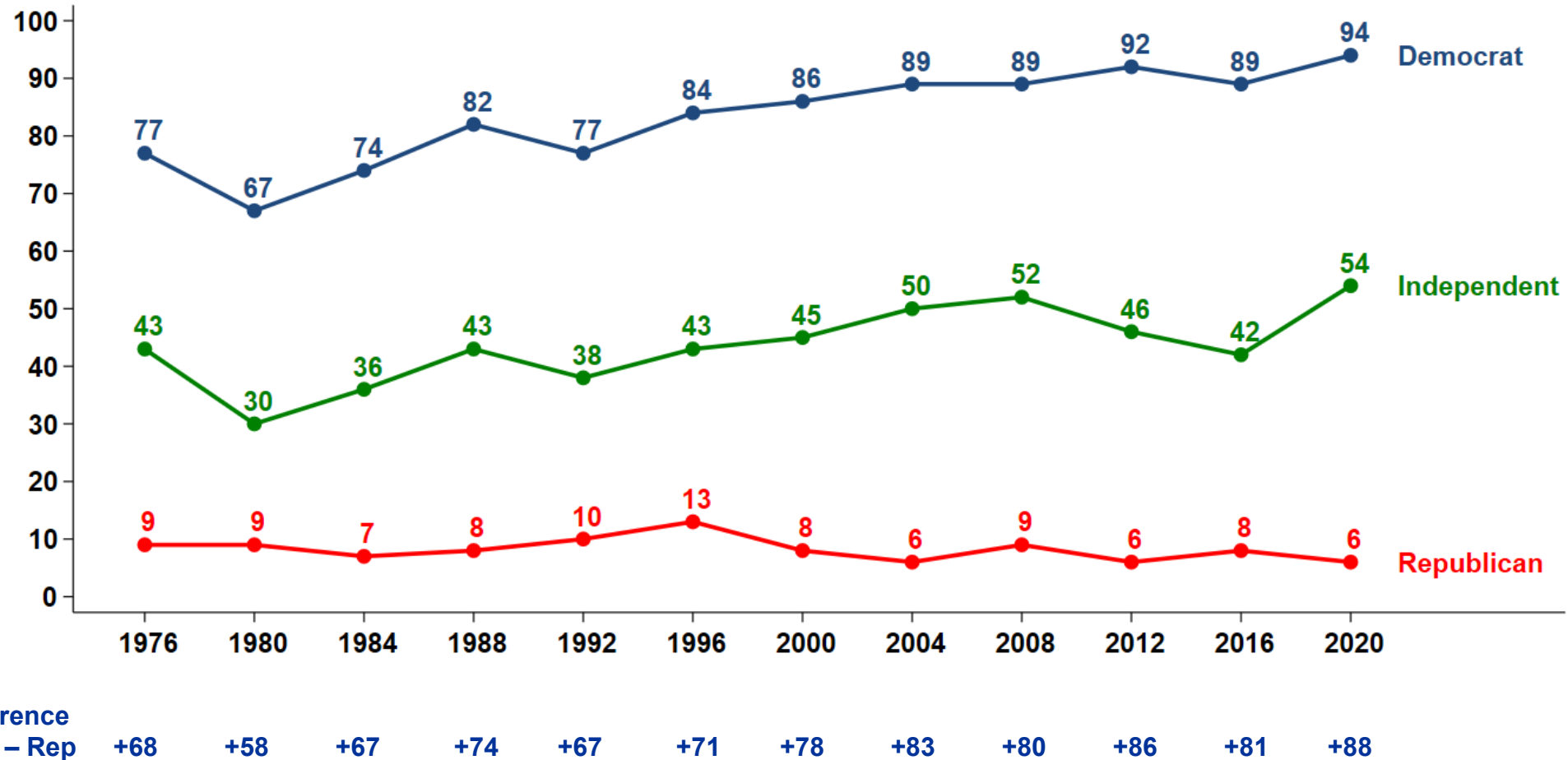
Difference  
Lib – Cons

+41   +37   +53   +61   +50   +58   +63   +69   +68   +69   +68   +75

Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022).

# Party Identification

*per cent voting Democratic*



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022).

[www.gu.se/valforskningsprogrammet](http://www.gu.se/valforskningsprogrammet)