GEORGIA ABSENTEE VOTING PROJECTIONS
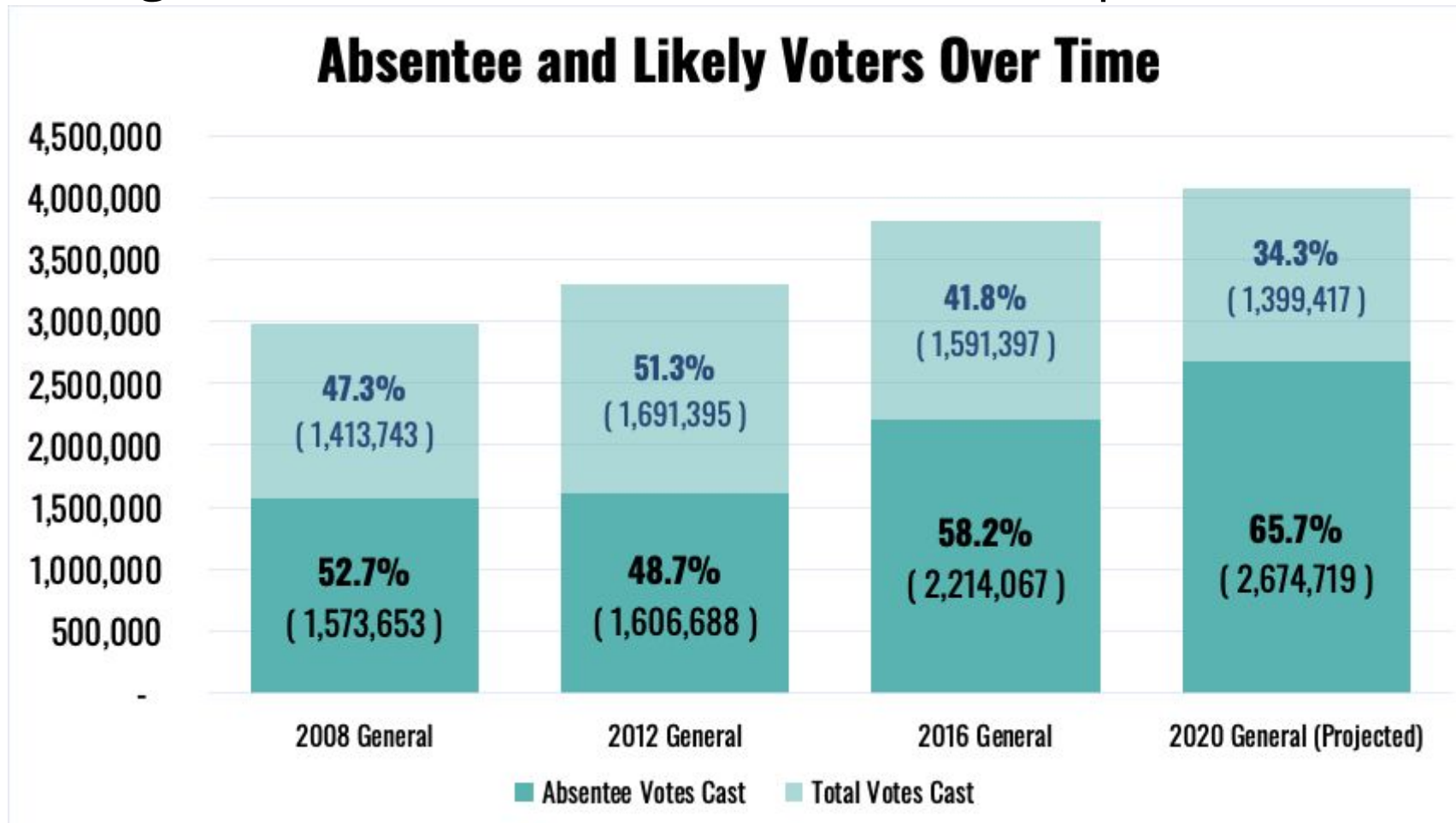
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Relative to recent electoral history,
2020 Georgia turnout and absentee rates are expected to be higher.

Absentee and Likely Voters Over Time

	2008 General	2012 General	2016 General	2020 General (Projected)
Total Votes Cast	47.3% (1,413,743)	51.3% (1,691,395)	41.8% (1,591,397)	34.3% (1,399,417)
Absentee Votes Cast	52.7% (1,573,653)	48.7% (1,606,688)	58.2% (2,214,067)	65.7% (2,674,719)

■ Absentee Votes Cast ■ Total Votes Cast

Overall, nearly 4.1 million voters are expected to turn out in the Georgia 2020 general election. About 66% of those votes are projected to be cast by an absentee ballot. Of those absentee ballots, Citizen's model projects about 82.6% will be returned by mail, while 17.4% will be returned at a secure dropbox.

Projected absentee voting rates vary by geography, with greater proportions of urbanites voting absentee than rural voters.

Likely Absentee Ratio
0.2500 — 0.9000

South Carolina
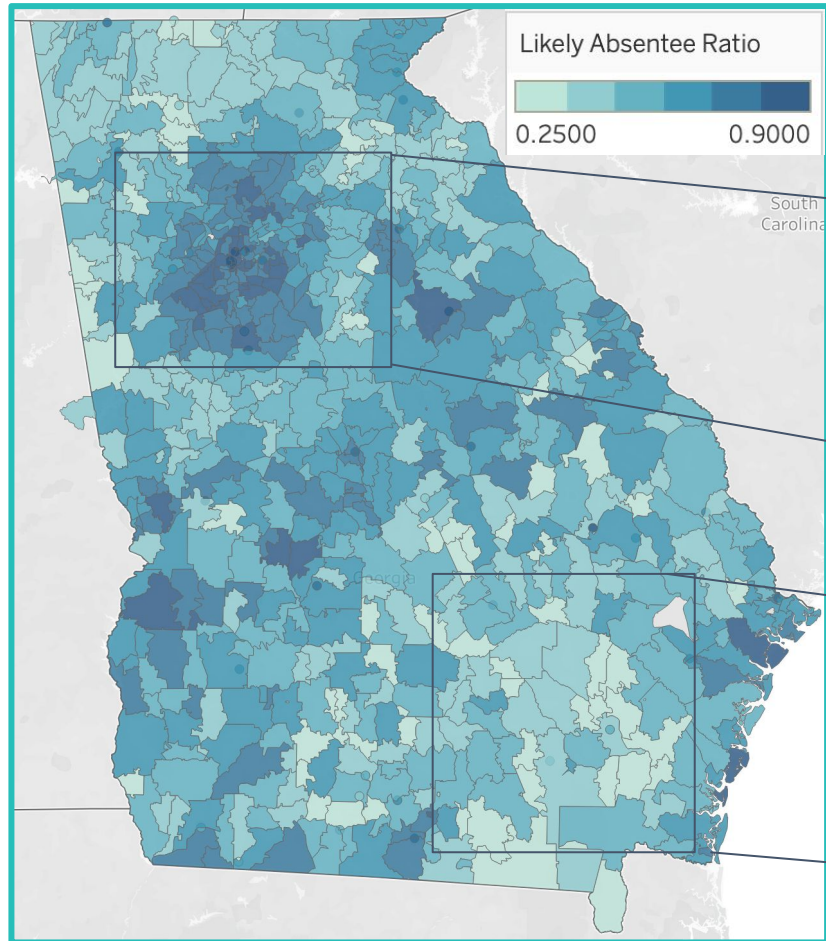
Election administrators near Atlanta should expect rates of absentee voting nearing 90%.

The lowest density areas of Georgia will see absentee voting rates closer to 25%.

Georgia is likely to see a high rate of absentee turnout across the state. However, that turnout will be particularly high in urban areas, where absentee turnout rates may be as high as 90%. The lower density southeast portion of the state may see closer to 25% of absentee vote rates, in contrast.

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When broken down by racial demographic,
Black and Asian voters are most likely to vote absentee.

## Absentee and Likely Voters by Race
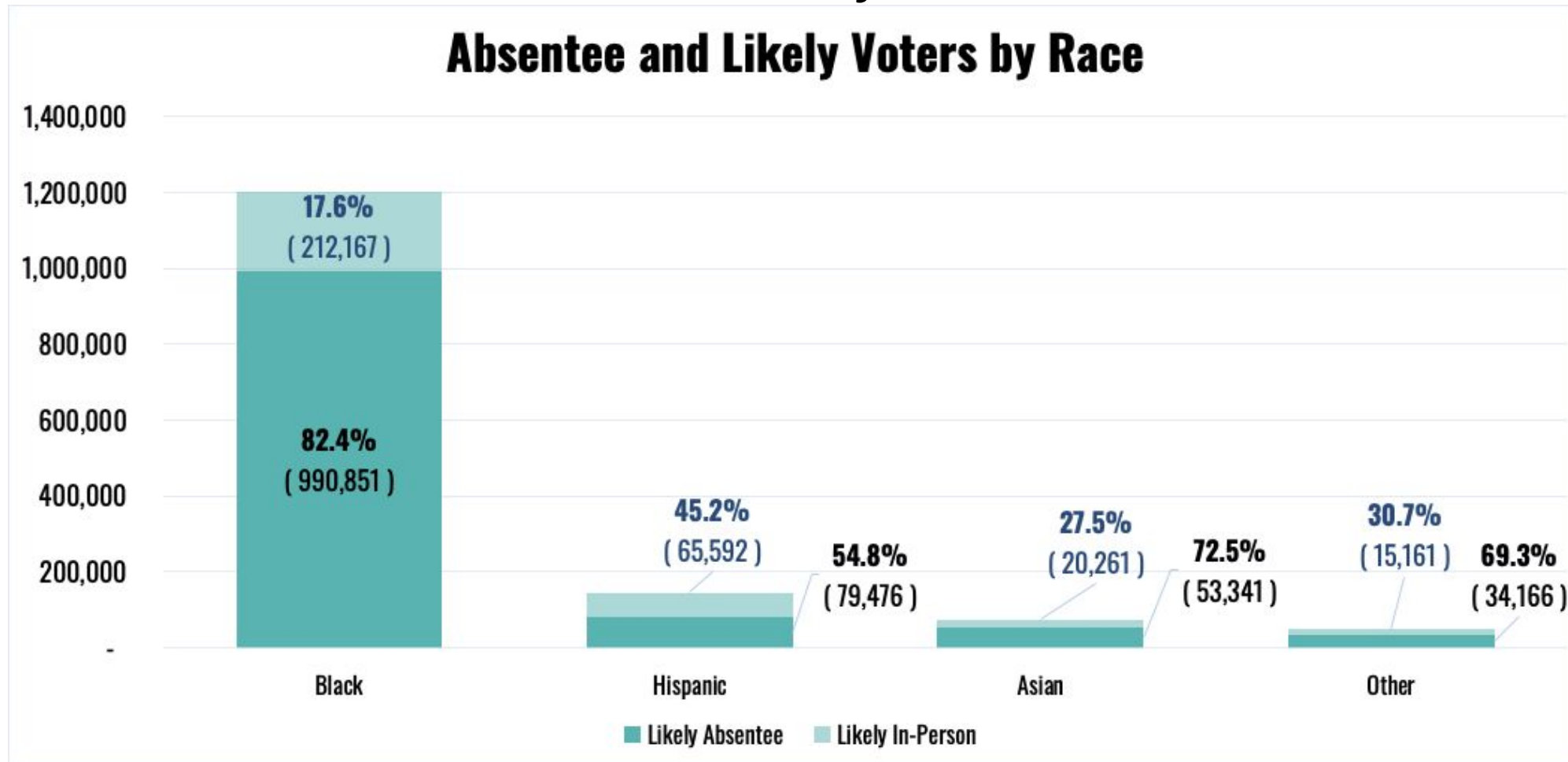
White voters represent the greatest portion of votes cast in Georgia. About 2.3 million white voters are projected to cast a ballot in Georgia and about 1.4 million of those (57.9%) are likely to be cast by mail or dropbox. Black voters, though less numerous, are expected to have much higher rates of absentee voting.

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Absentee voting rates are projected to be high,
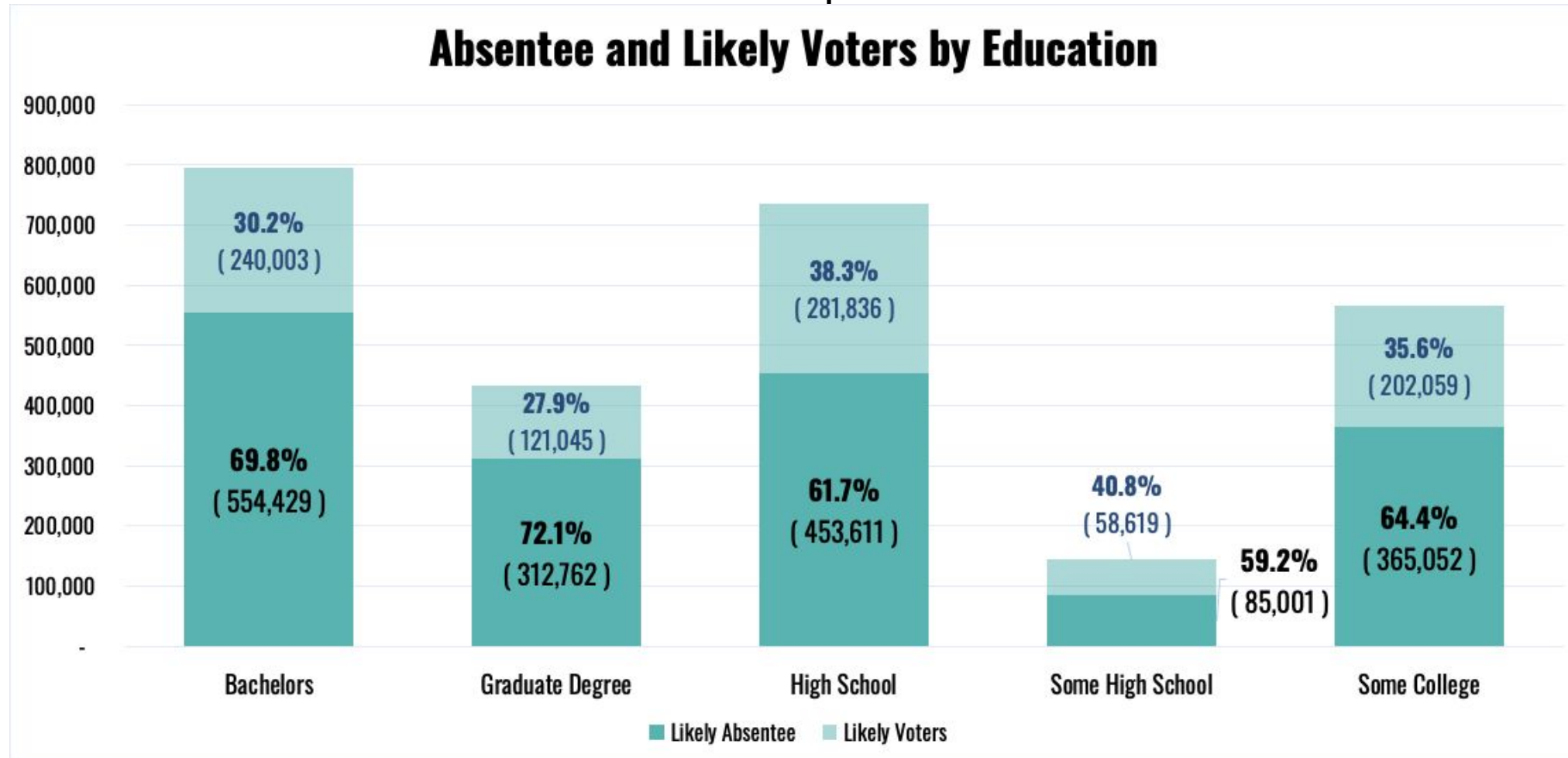particularly among voters aged 70 and older.
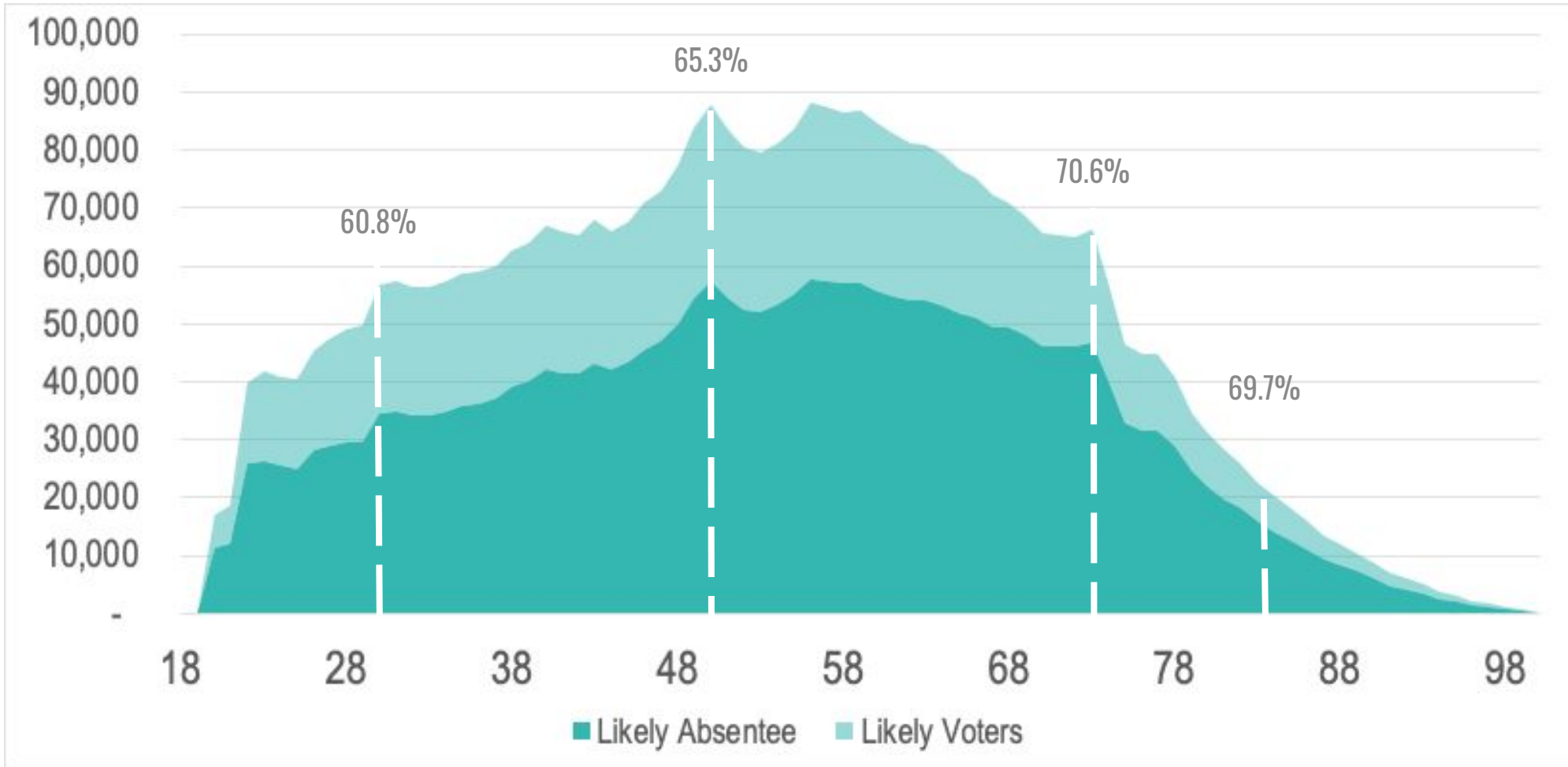
Absentee voting is likely to be greater than 50% in nearly all age demographics. (The light blue area above conveys those individuals who are likely to vote in person, but the dark blue area demonstrates that the majority will likely vote absentee).

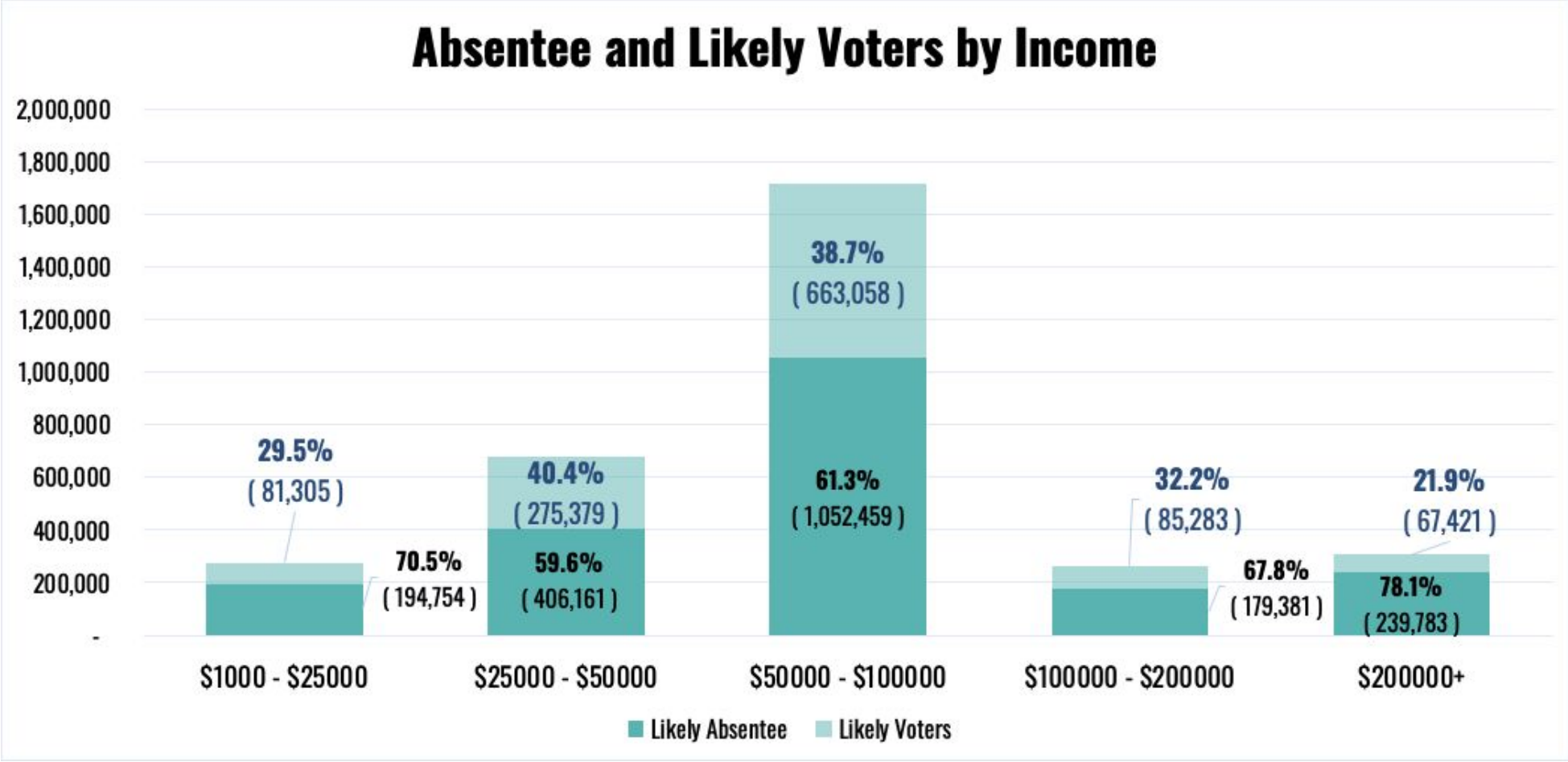CITIZEN DATA
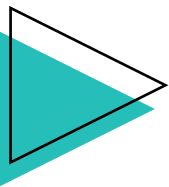
Education reveals a wider variety in behavior:
voters with the least education are predicted to vote absentee at lower rates.

Absentee and Likely Voters by Education

Bachelors
30.2% (240,003)
69.8% (554,429)

Graduate Degree
27.9% (121,045)
72.1% (312,762)

High School
38.3% (281,836)
61.7% (453,611)

Some High School
40.8% (58,619)
59.2% (85,001)

Some College
35.6% (202,059)
64.4% (365,052)

Legend: ■ Likely Absentee   ■ Likely Voters

Those with the least education reflect the smallest proportion of likely voters, and also are projected to vote absentee at the lowest rates. Those with the most education are predicted to vote absentee at the highest rates.
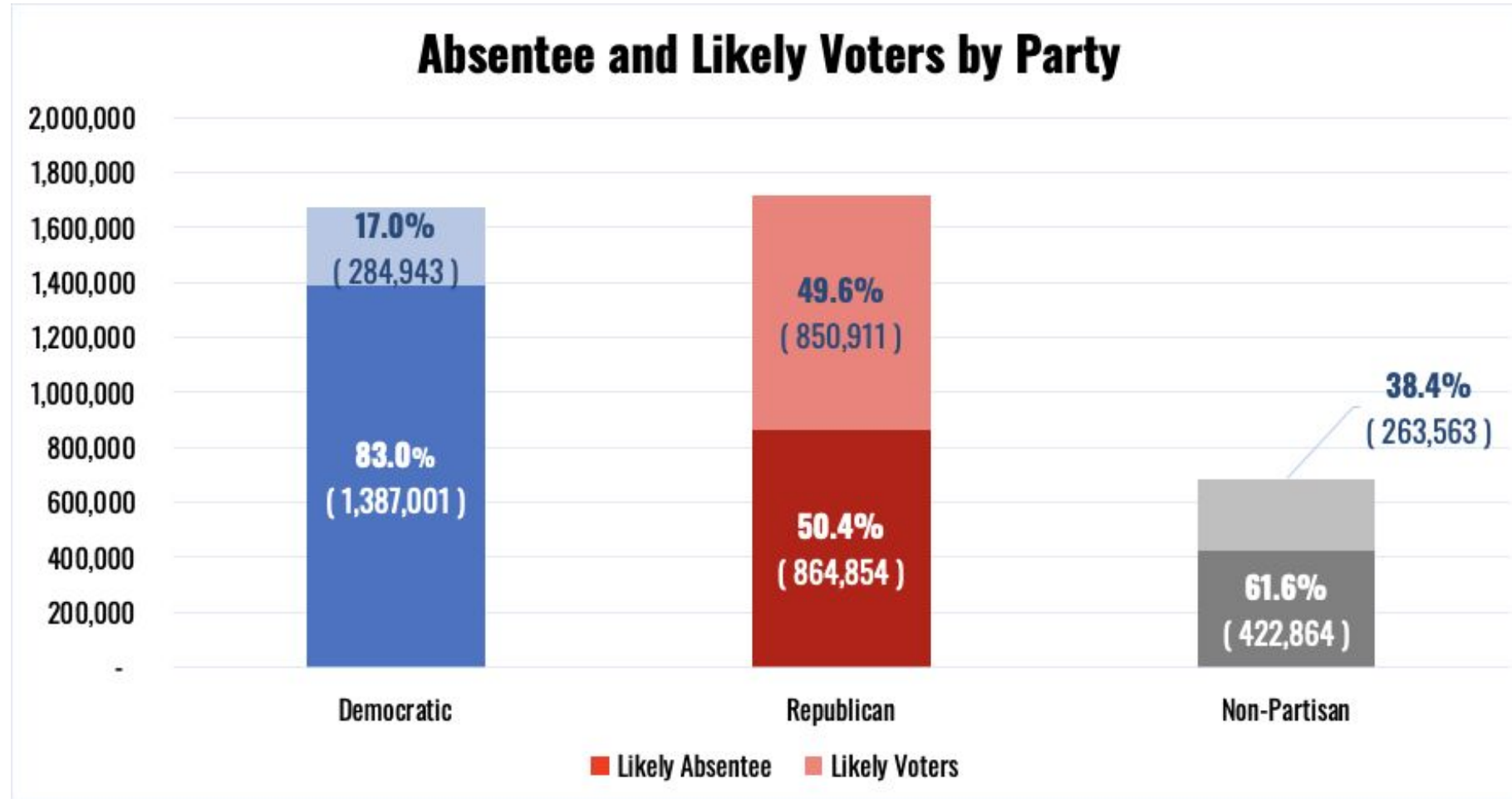
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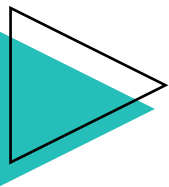
Across all income levels,
absentee vote rates will be high, but highest among the highest earners.

Absentee and Likely Voters by Income

- Likely Absentee
- Likely Voters

$1000 - $25000:
- 29.5% (81,305)
- 70.5% (194,754)

$25000 - $50000:
- 40.4% (275,379)
- 59.6% (406,161)

$50000 - $100000:
- 38.7% (663,058)
- 61.3% (1,052,459)

$100000 - $200000:
- 32.2% (85,283)
- 67.8% (179,381)

$200000+:
- 21.9% (67,421)
- 78.1% (239,783)

The largest segment of the earning population (those earning between $50,000 and $100,000 each year) will vote absentee at a rate of approximately 61%. A small portion of the population earning less than $25,000 will vote absentee at the highest rate (about 70%).

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Most voters across parties will likely vote absentee,
but Democratic voters are much more likely to do so.

Absentee and Likely Voters by Party

	Likely Absentee	Likely Voters
Democratic	83.0% (1,387,001)	17.0% (284,943)
Republican	50.4% (864,854)	49.6% (850,911)
Non-Partisan	61.6% (422,864)	38.4% (263,563)

Among surveyed Republicans who say they will vote absentee, 95.2% say they will vote by mailing in their ballot and and the remainder (4.8%) will drop off their ballot at a secure drop box. Surveyed Democrat voters say they will mail in their ballot at a higher rate than Republicans (88.3%).

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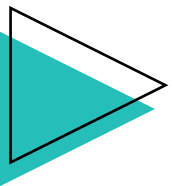
Methodology:

➤ *Our first step was to gather historical data. We used Georgia voter data from the 2016 primary election as well as the 2020 presidential primary.*

➤ *Next, we conducted a large-sample survey. Our survey was conducted July 24 to July 26 (N=4,000 via IVR/P2P). Voters in the sample were required to have voted in at least one election since and including the 2016 general election, or to have been newly registered. The survey respondents were selected to closely match the age and other demographic distribution of the Georgia electorate, and were sampled evenly across Congressional Districts. After the survey was completed, we matched each respondent to our national voter file.*

Methodology:

> ➤ *Then, we combined results with the historical data referenced above to model likelihood to vote by any method. We then trained the model to predict voter likelihood in the 2016 election using an ensemble of machine learning methods, and applied that predictive model to the 2020 voter file, generating a likelihood between 0 and 1 that each voter would vote.*

> ➤ *As a final step, we modeled likelihood to vote absentee on top of our likely voters model. Specifically, we accepted individual's survey answers that they were "Likely" or "Very Likely" to vote absentee by mail or dropbox as an intention to vote absentee and considered all other voters as unlikely to vote absentee. We then eliminated all individuals from the survey file who responded that they had voted in the preceding primary election, but in fact had not. Using an ensemble of machine learning methods, we then trained this model to predict whether an individual would vote absentee against the dataset resulting from the survey.*