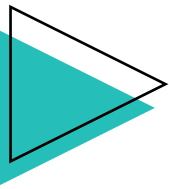


FLORIDA ABSENTEE VOTING PROJECTIONS



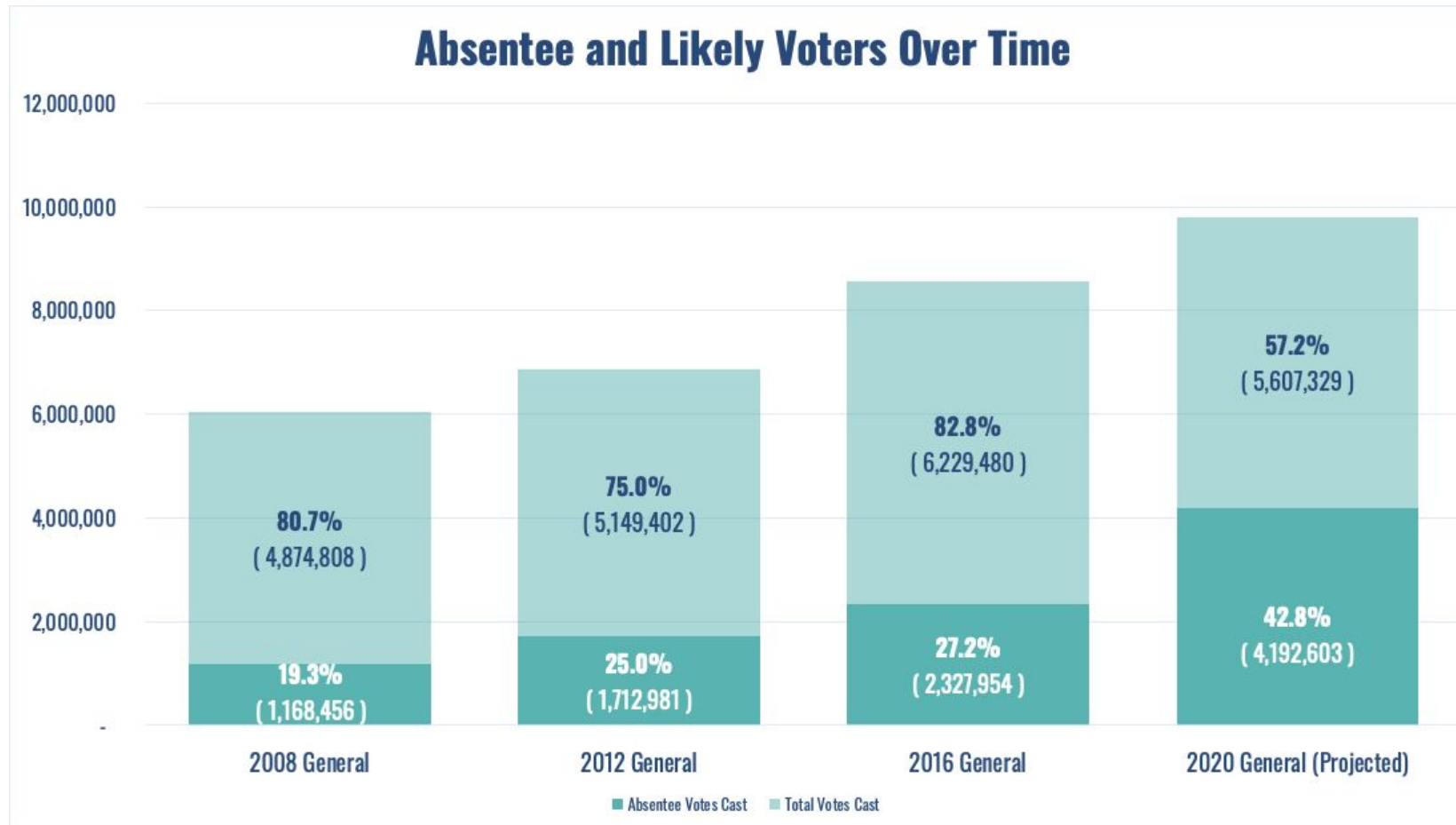
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Relative to recent electoral history,

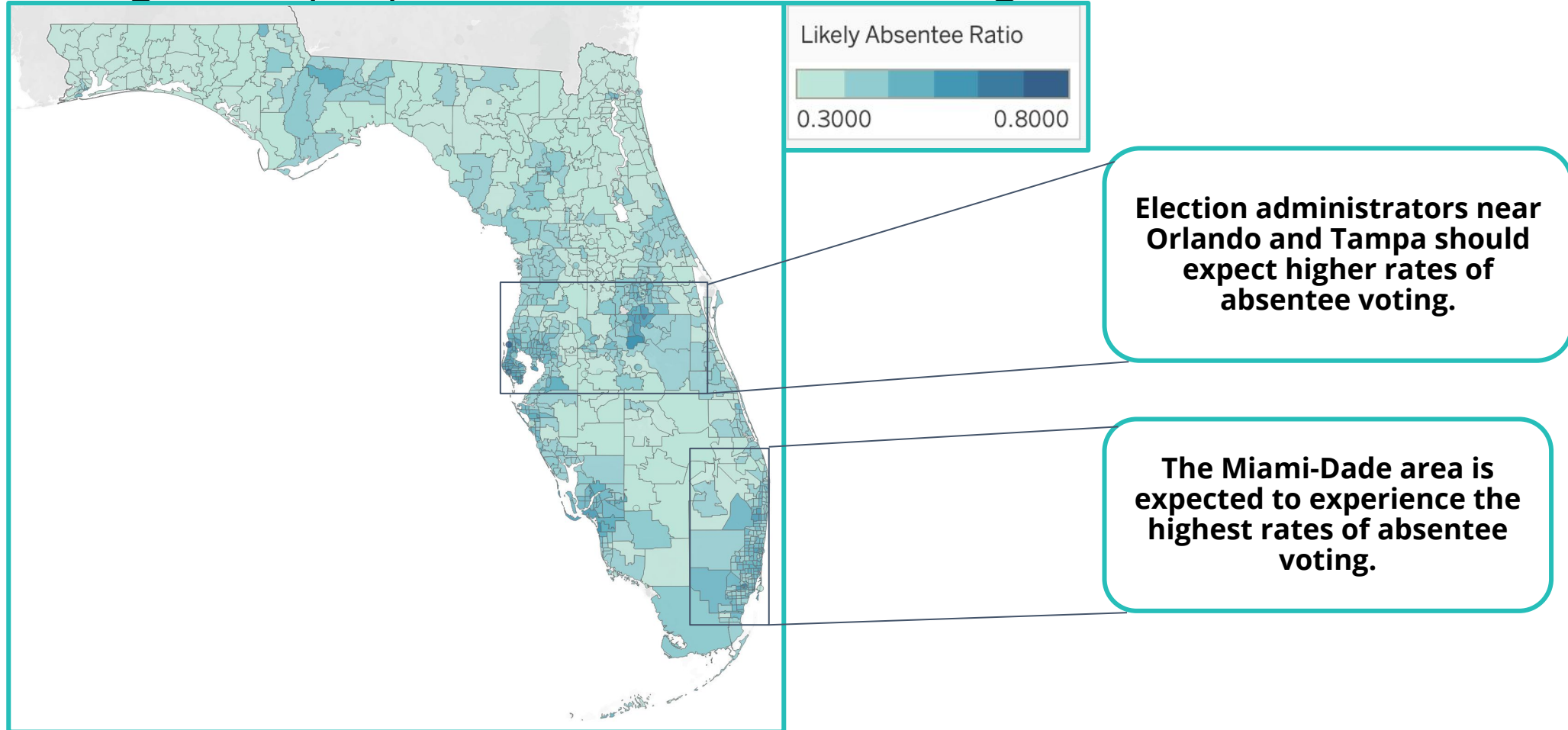
2020 Florida turnout and absentee rates are expected to be notably higher.



Overall, nearly 9.8 million voters are expected to turn out in the Florida 2020 general election. About 43% of those votes are projected to be cast by an absentee ballot. Of those absentee ballots, Citizen's model projects about 88.7% will be returned by mail, while 11.3% will be returned at a secure dropbox.

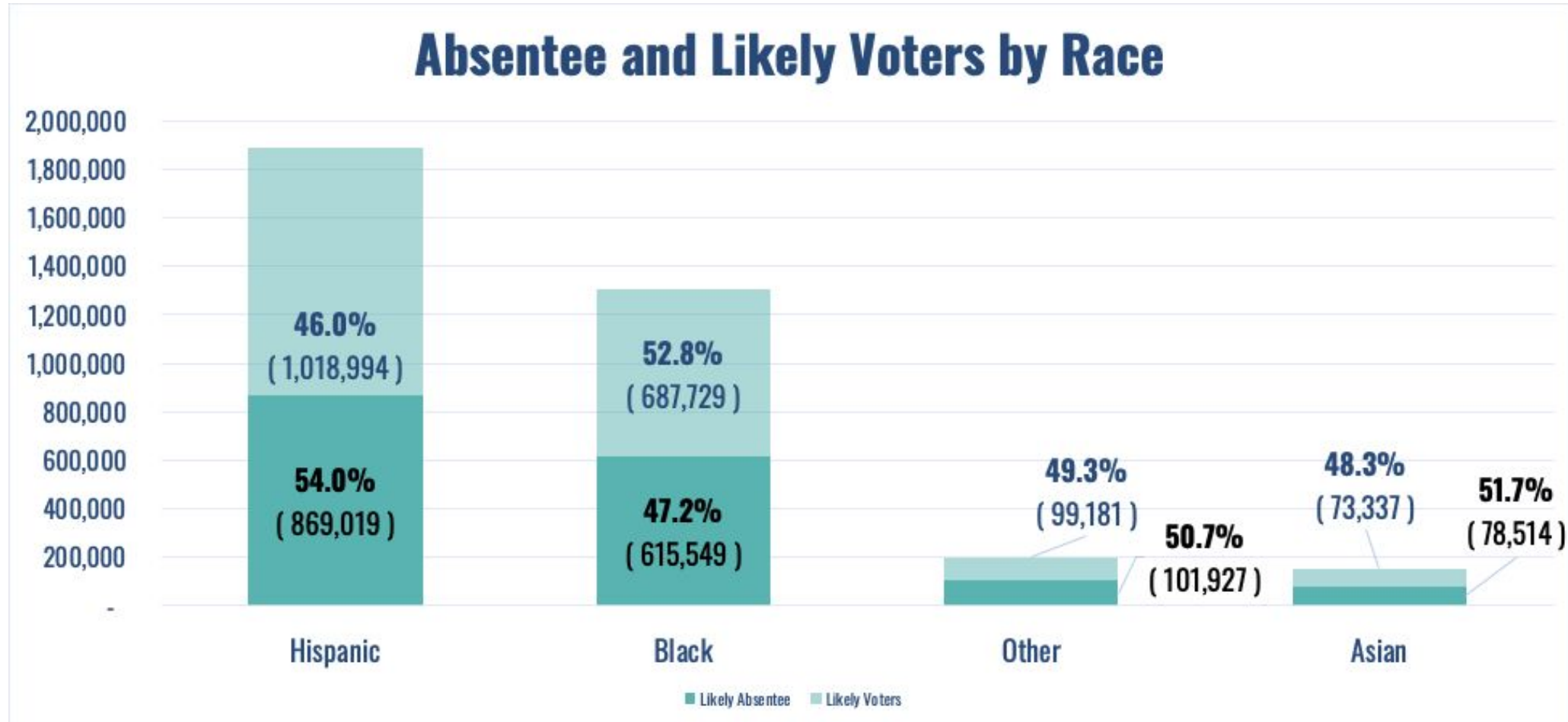
Florida absentee voting will vary by geography,

with greater proportions of urbanites voting absentee than rural voters.



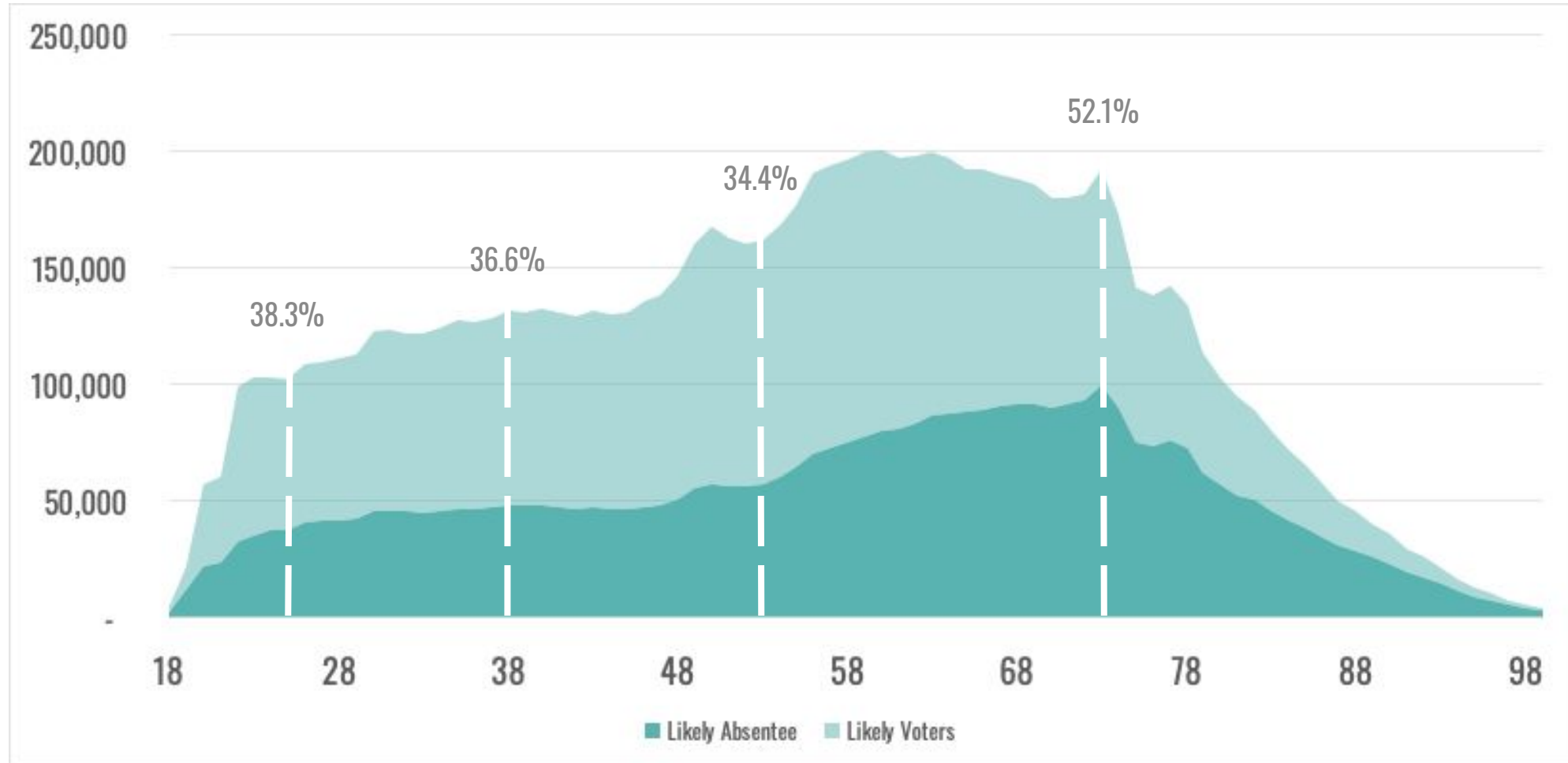
Florida is likely to see notably different absentee turnout rates between dense and rural areas. In urban areas, absentee turnout rates may be as high as 80%, while rural areas may see closer to 30% of voters submitting an absentee ballot.

When broken down by racial demographic,
non-white voters are more likely to vote absentee than white voters.



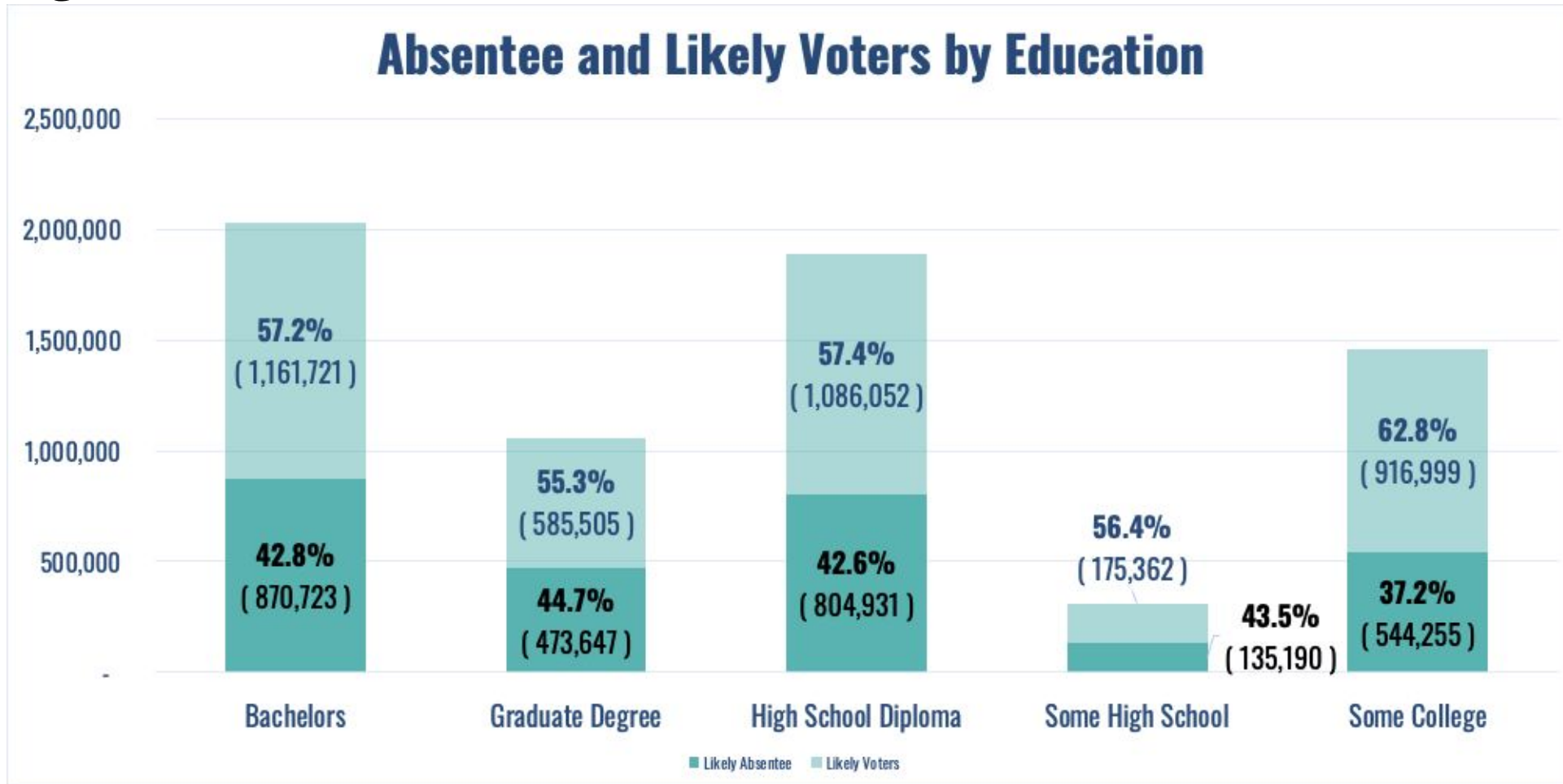
White voters represent the greatest portion of votes cast in Florida. About 5.7 million white voters are projected to cast a ballot in Florida in 2020, and about 2.2 million of those (39.4%) are likely to be cast by mail or dropbox. Minority voters, though less numerous, are expected to higher rates of absentee voting.

Absentee voting rates are projected to be high, particularly among older populations.

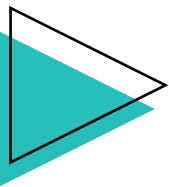


In general, we project higher volumes of turnout and higher rates of absentee voting among older populations in Florida. (The light blue area above conveys those individuals who are likely to vote in person, but the dark blue area demonstrates that the volume of those that will likely vote absentee).

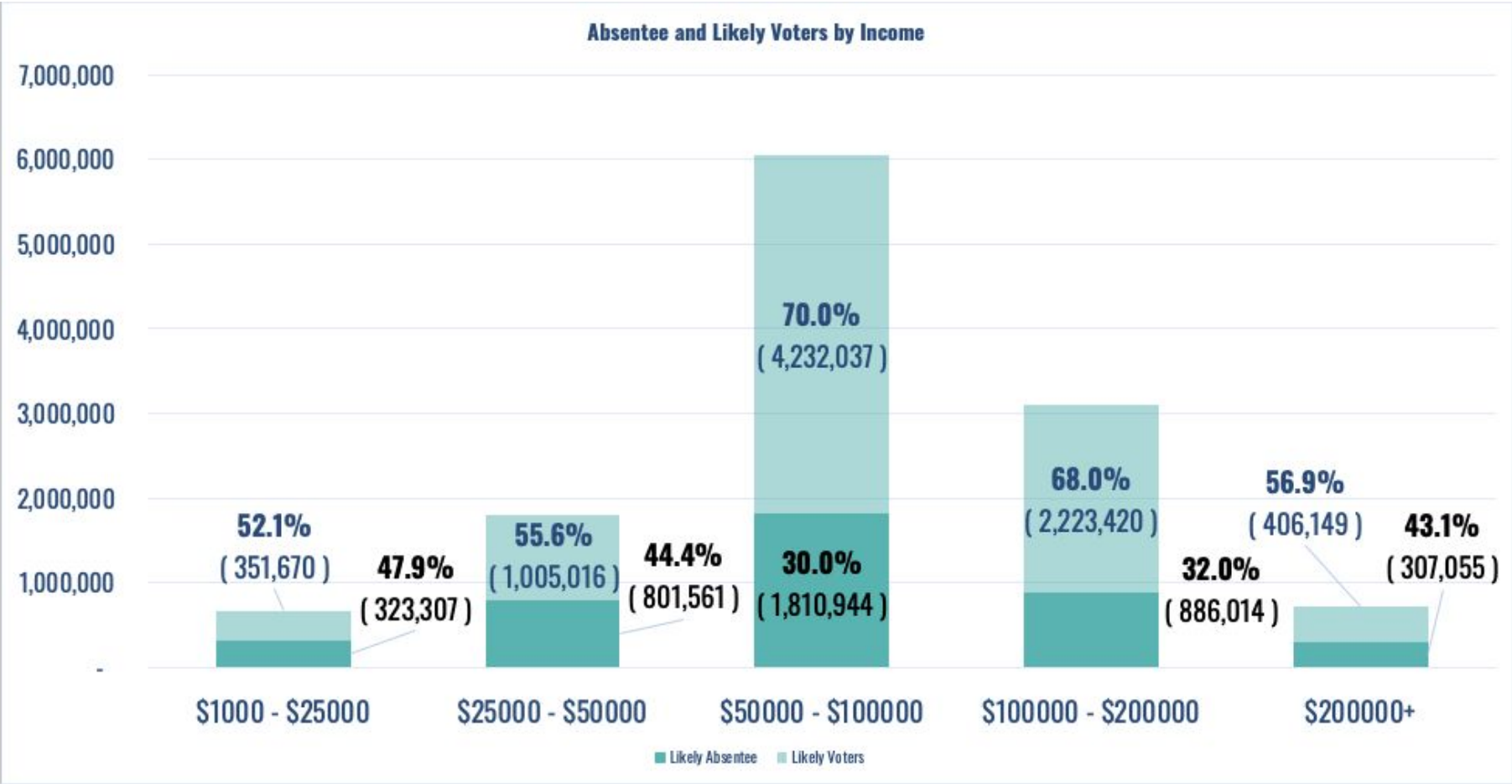
All education levels show similar absentee voting rates,
along with similar likelihood to vote.



Across all levels of education, Florida voters are projected to vote absentee at rates close to 40%.

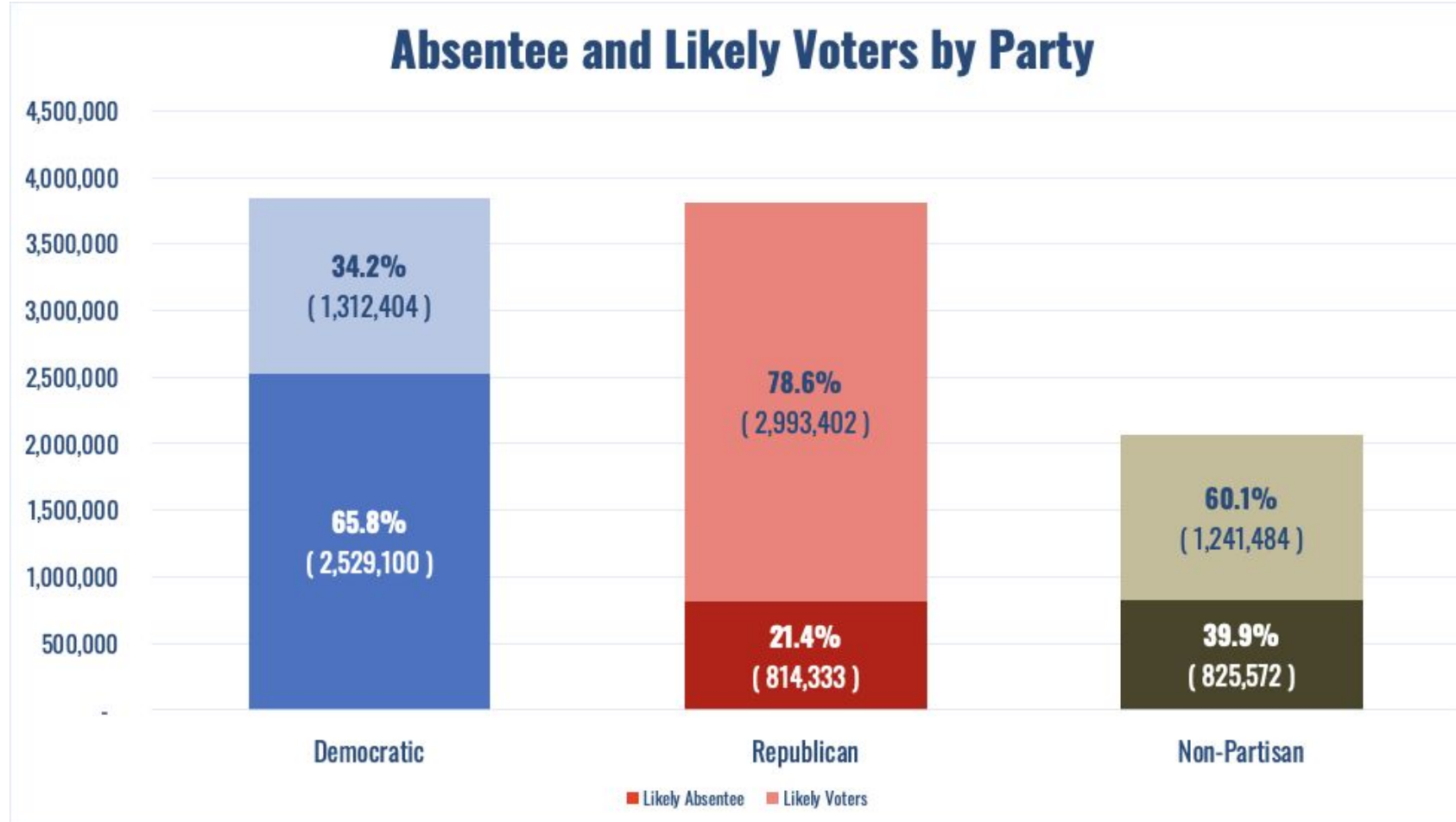


The middle class will see slightly lower absentee rates,
and the lowest earners will vote absentee at slightly higher rates.

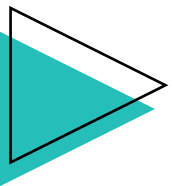


The smallest segment of the earning population (those earning between \$1,000 and \$25,000 each year) is predicted to vote absentee at the highest rate (47.9%). A large portion of the population earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 is projected to vote absentee at the lowest rate of 30%.

Republicans and Democrats will turn out similarly,
but Democrats are much more likely to vote absentee.



Among surveyed Republicans who say they will vote absentee, 87.9% say they will vote by mailing in their ballot and the remainder (12.1%) will drop off their ballot at a secure drop box. Surveyed Democrats voters say they will mail in their ballot at a slightly higher rate than Republicans (91.1%).



Methodology:

- *Our first step was to gather historical data. We used Florida 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 25 (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 Florida 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.*



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