MICHIGAN ABSENTEE VOTING PROJECTIONS

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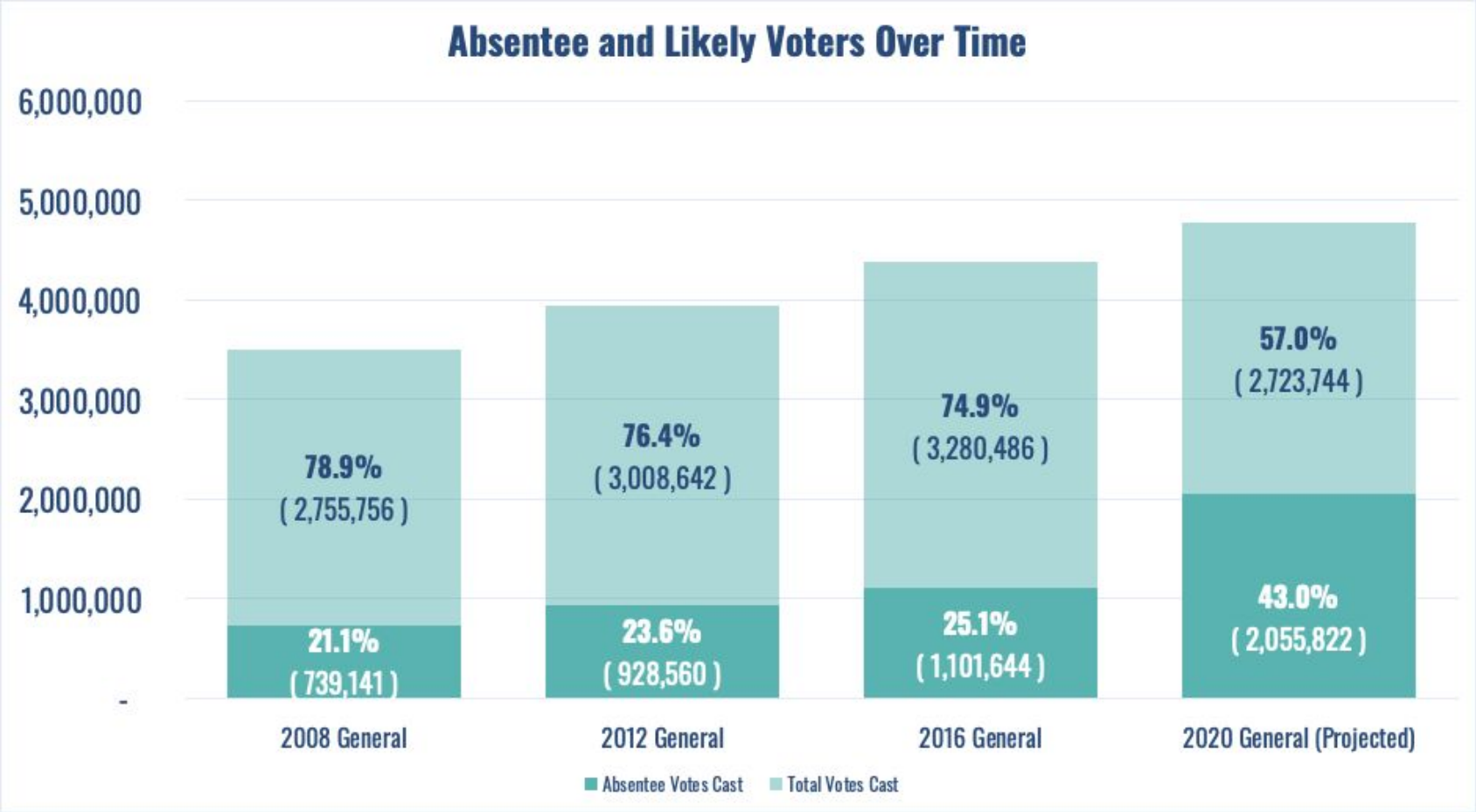
Relative to recent electoral history,

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



Overall, nearly 4.8 million voters are expected to turn out in the Michigan 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 74.7% will be returned by mail, while 25.3% will be returned at a secure dropbox.

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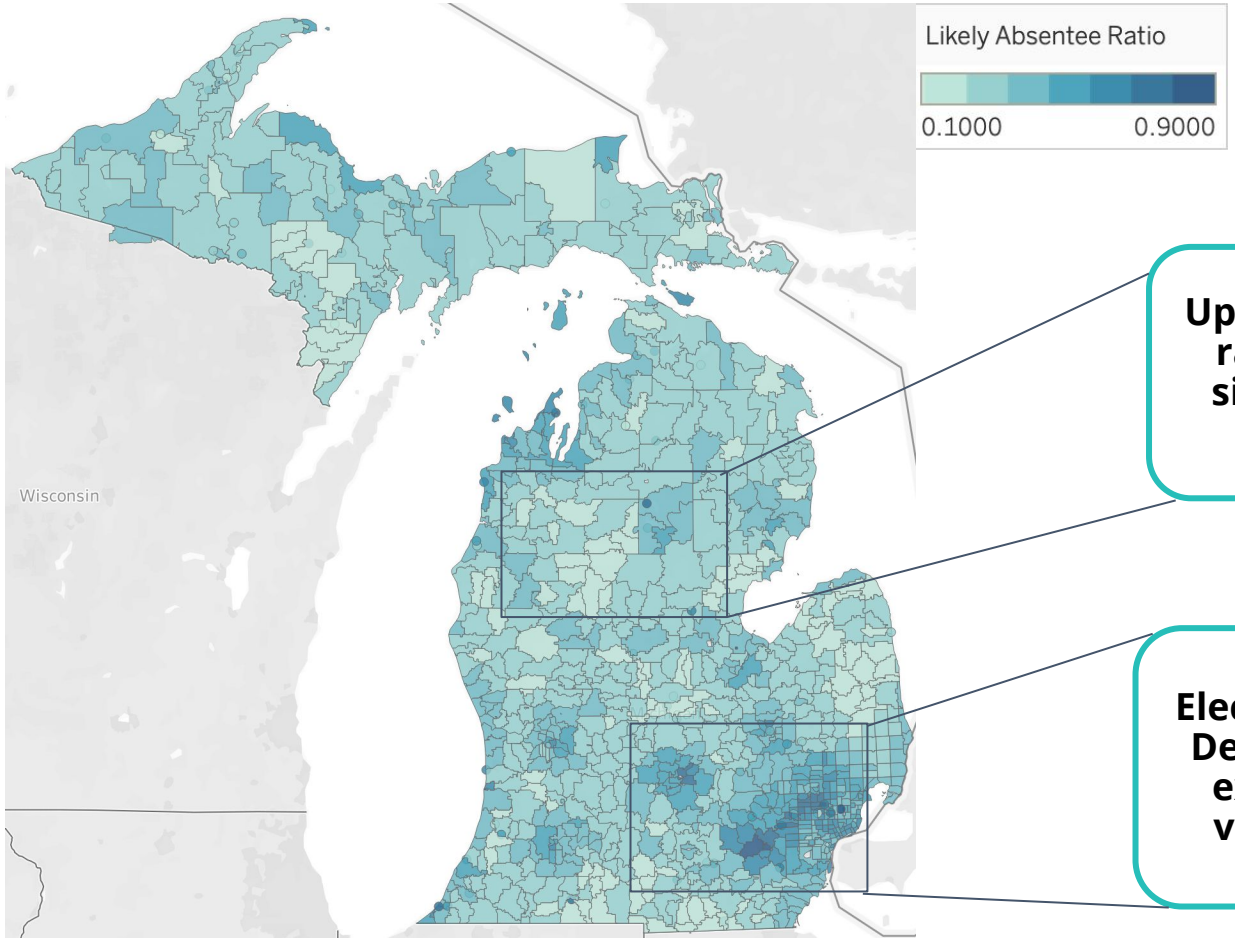
Michigan absentee voting will vary by geography,
with greater proportions of urbanites voting absentee than rural voters.



Up north, absentee turnout rates are expected to be significantly lower - near 10%.

Election administrators near Detroit and Lansing should expect rates of absentee voting approaching 90%.

Michigan is likely to see a stark difference in absentee turnout between dense and rural areas. In urban areas, absentee turnout rates may be as high as 90%, while rural areas may see almost 90% of likely voters vote in-person instead.

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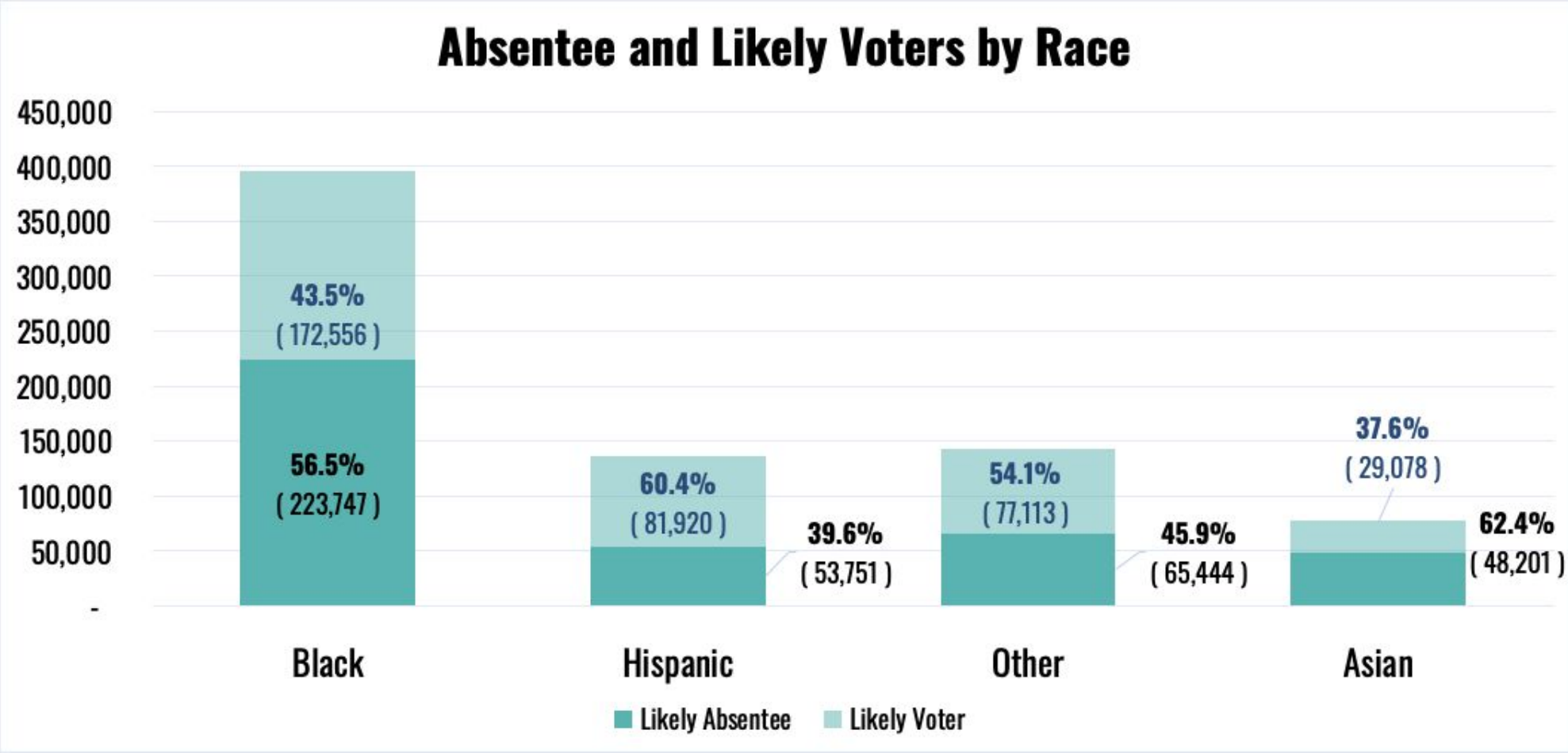
When broken down by racial demographic,

Black and Asian voters are more likely to vote absentee than white voters.



White voters represent the greatest portion of votes cast in Michigan. Just over 3.5 million white voters are projected to cast a ballot in Michigan and about 1.4 million of those (41.4%) are likely to be cast by mail or dropbox. However, minority voters, though less numerous, are expected to have nearly equal, or in some cases, even slightly higher rates of absentee voting.

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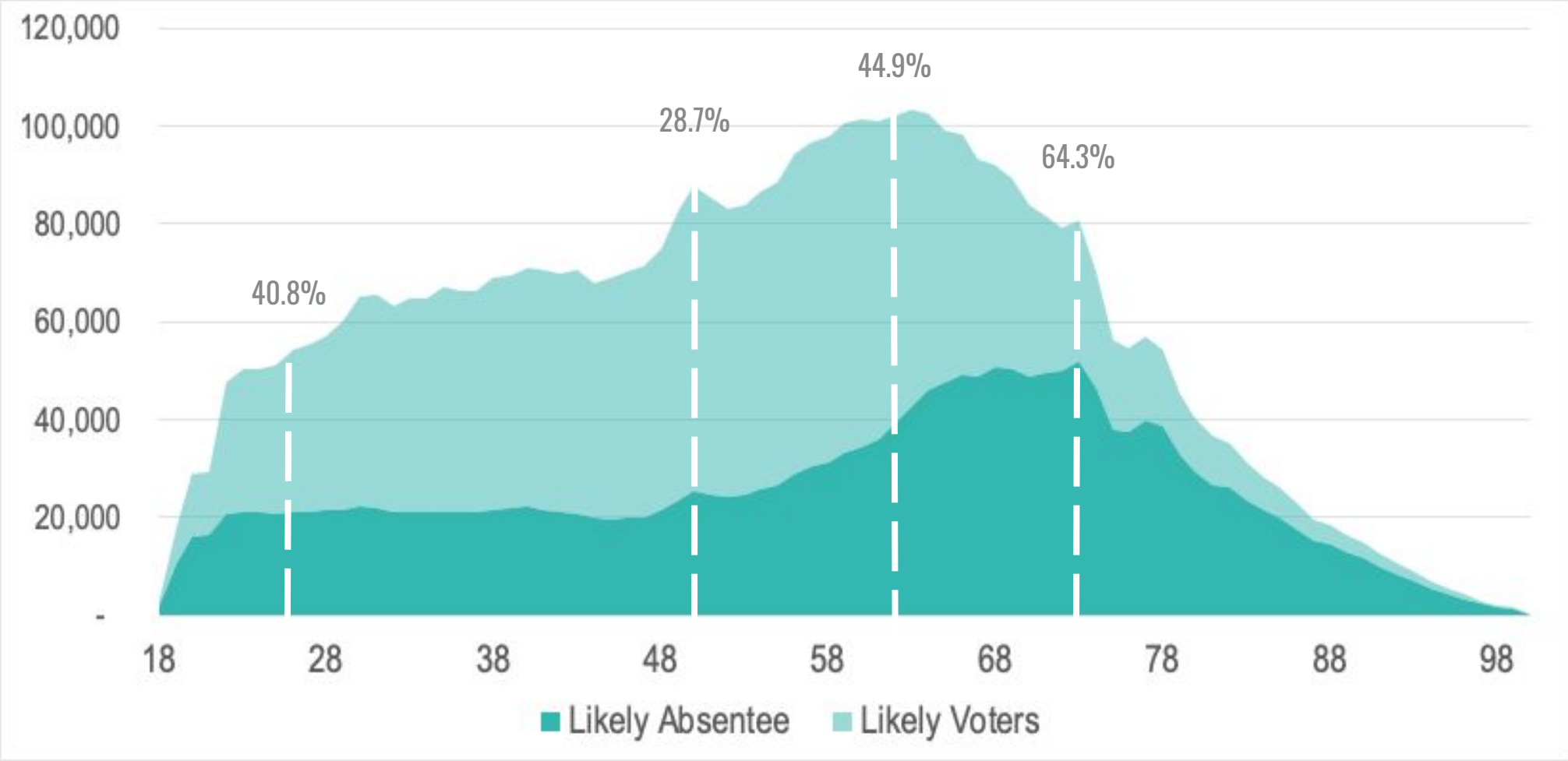
Absentee voting rates vary by generation,
with many voters between 40 and 60 preferring to vote in-person.



In general, middle aged voters have higher volumes of turnout but lower rates of absentee voting in Michigan. The light blue area describes those individuals who are likely to vote in person, but the dark blue area demonstrates the volume of those likely to vote absentee.

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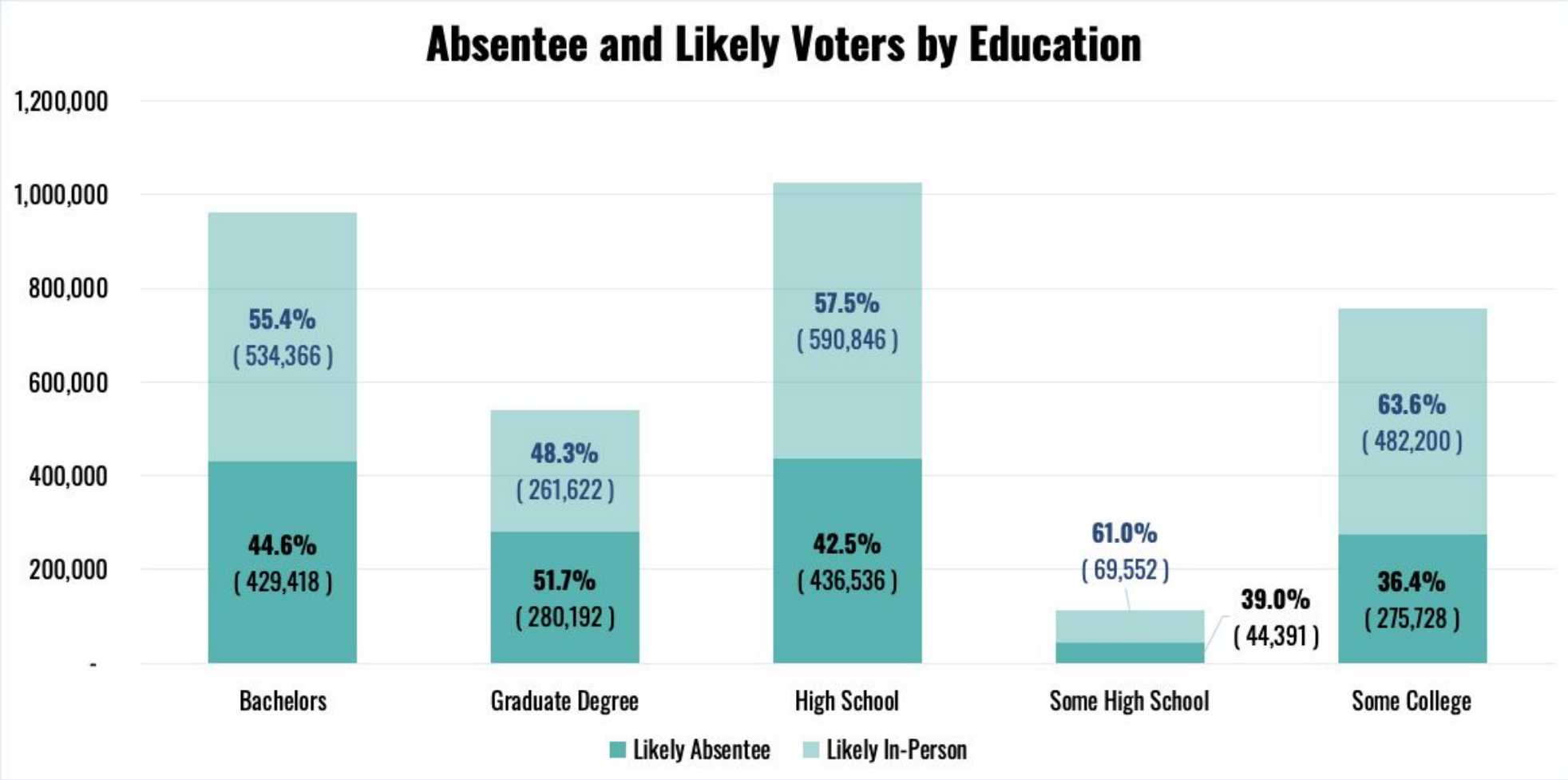
Education reveals a wider variety in behavior;

voters with less education will vote absentee at lower rates.



Those with the least education reflect the smallest proportion of likely voters, but also will vote absentee at the lowest rates. Those with the most education will vote absentee at the highest rates.

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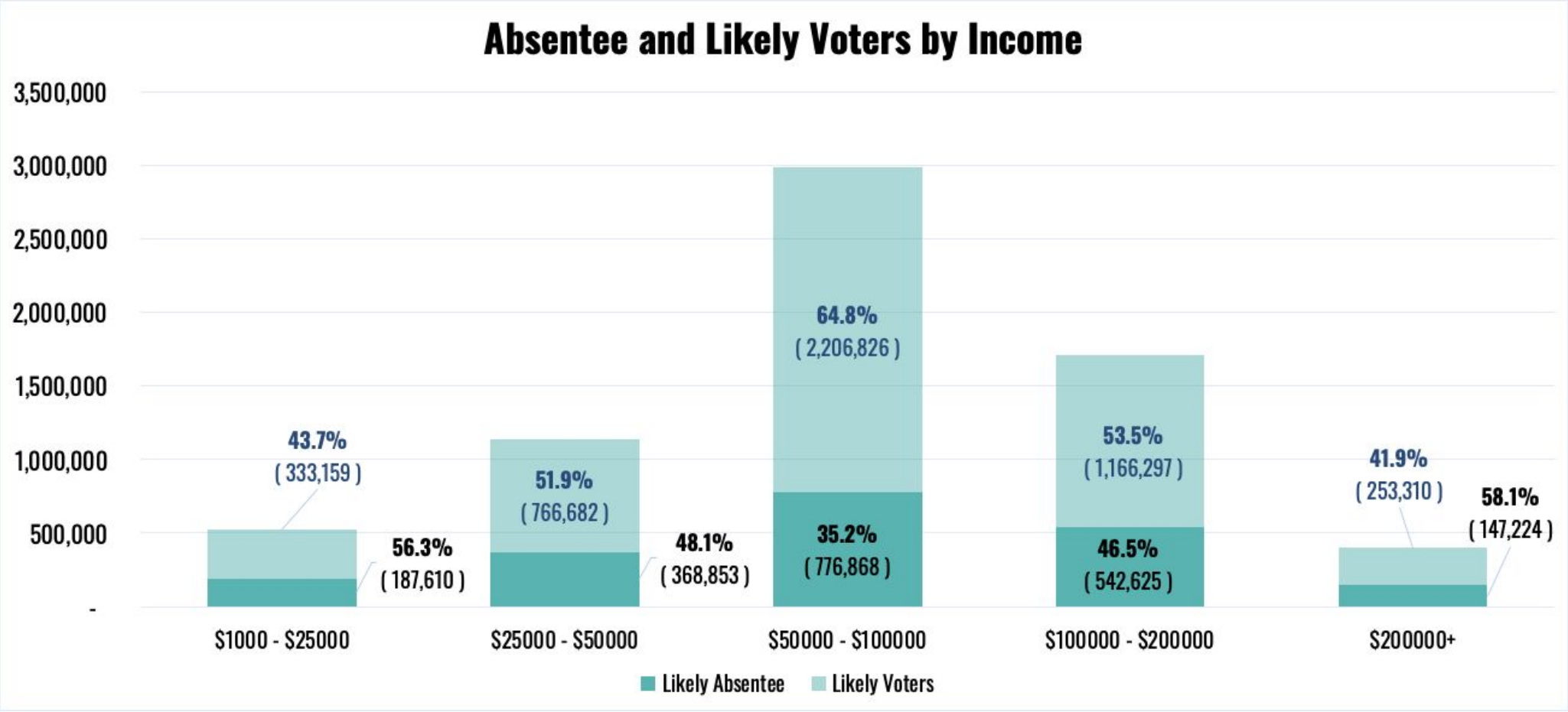
The middle class will see lower absentee rates,

but the highest earners will vote absentee much more.



The largest segment of the earning population (those earning between $50,000 and $100,000 each year) are likely to vote absentee at the lowest rate (35.2%). A small portion of the population earning over $200,000 are projected to vote absentee at the highest rate (58.1%).

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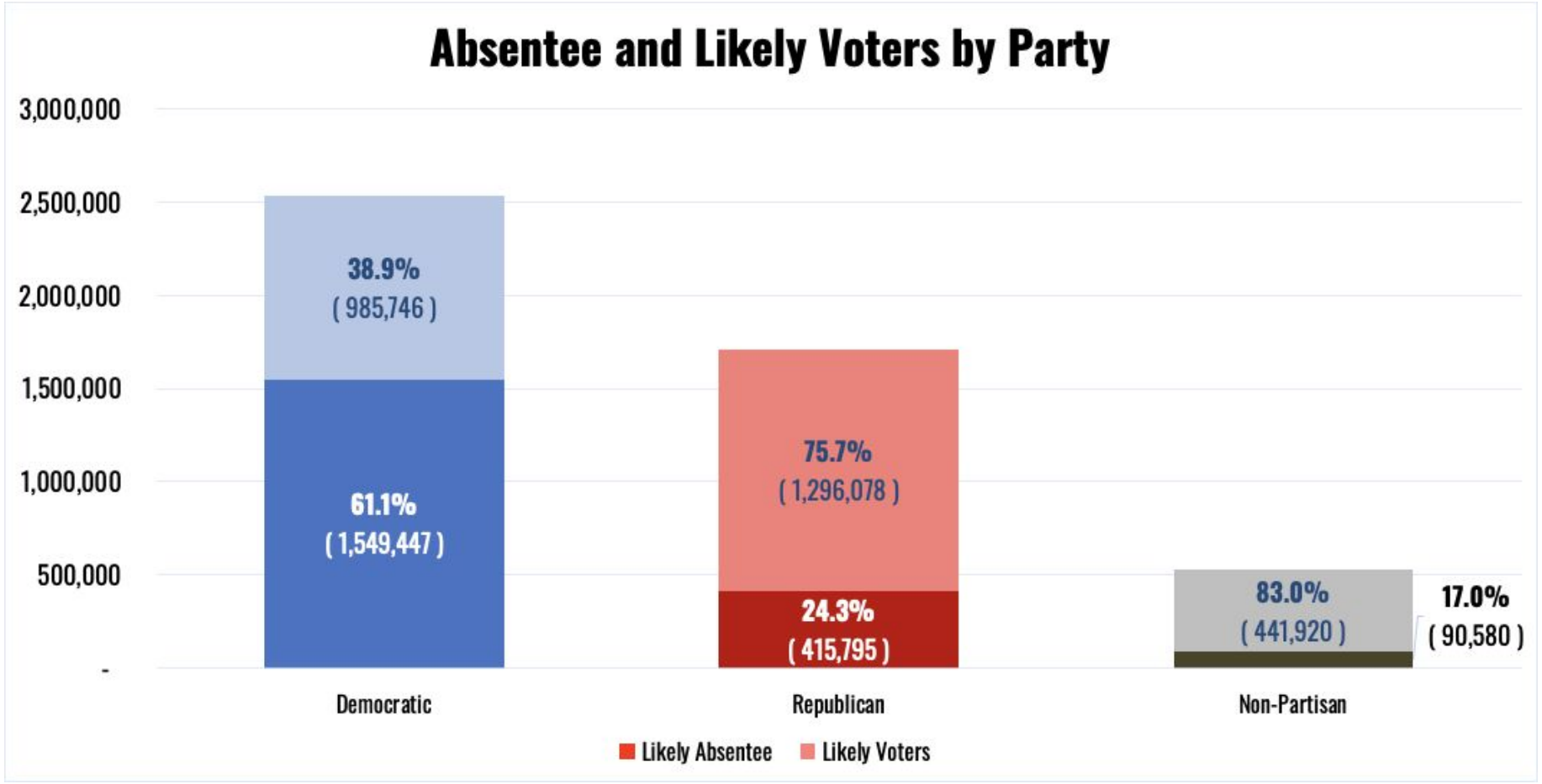
Democrats will vote absentee much more

than Republicans, and will also comprise the highest volume of likely voters.



Among surveyed Republicans who say they will vote absentee, 72.9% say they will vote by mailing in their ballot and and the remainder (27.1%) 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 (79.6%).

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Methodology:

- *Our first step was to gather historical data. We used Michigan 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 Michigan 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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