OHIO ABSENTEE VOTING PROJECTIONS

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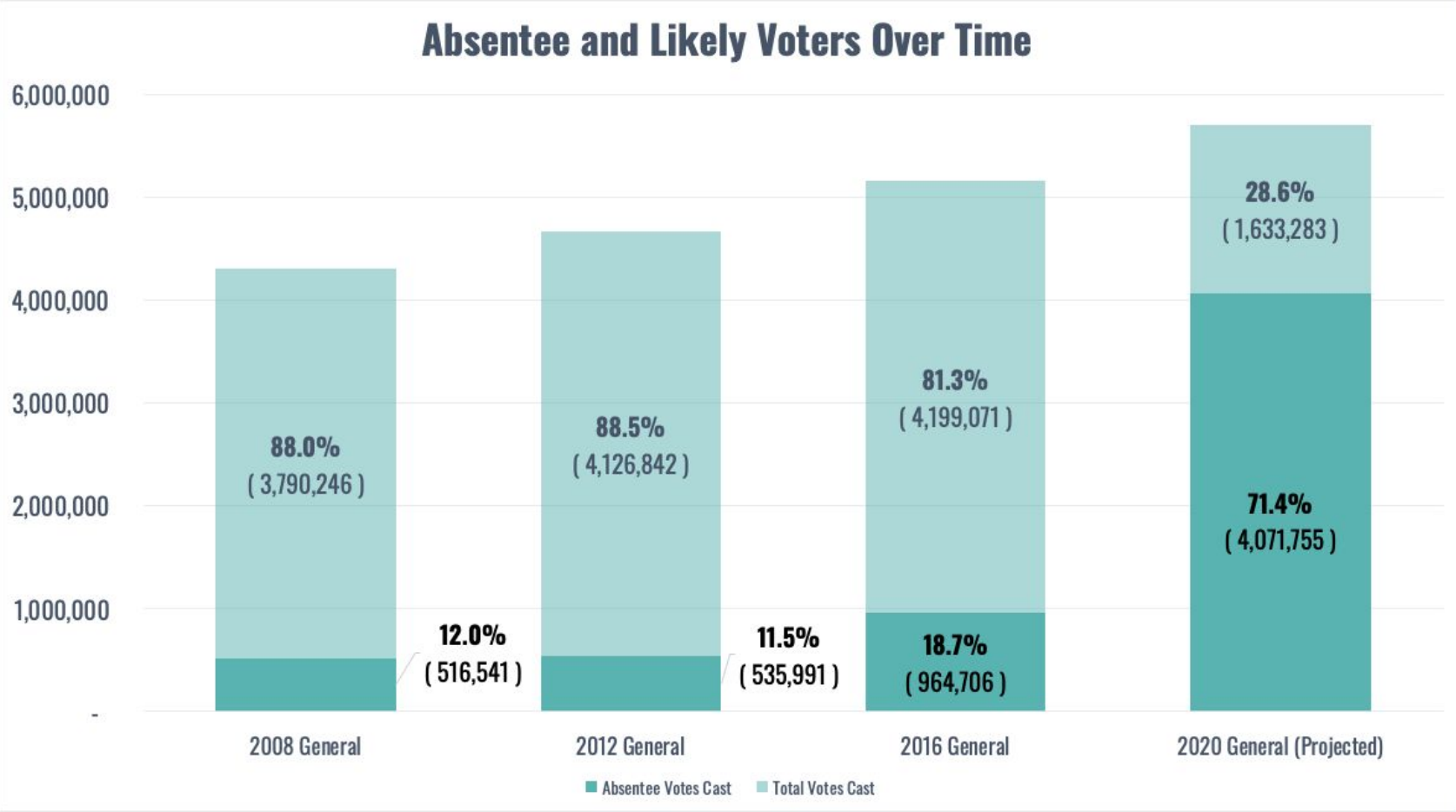
Relative to recent electoral history,

2020 Ohio absentee voting rates are expected to be dramatically higher.



The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic brought lower turnout in the 2020 primary, but we project an increase in turnout in the 2020 general election — consistent with the trend of increased presidential year turnout. The vast majority of that turnout will be absentee.

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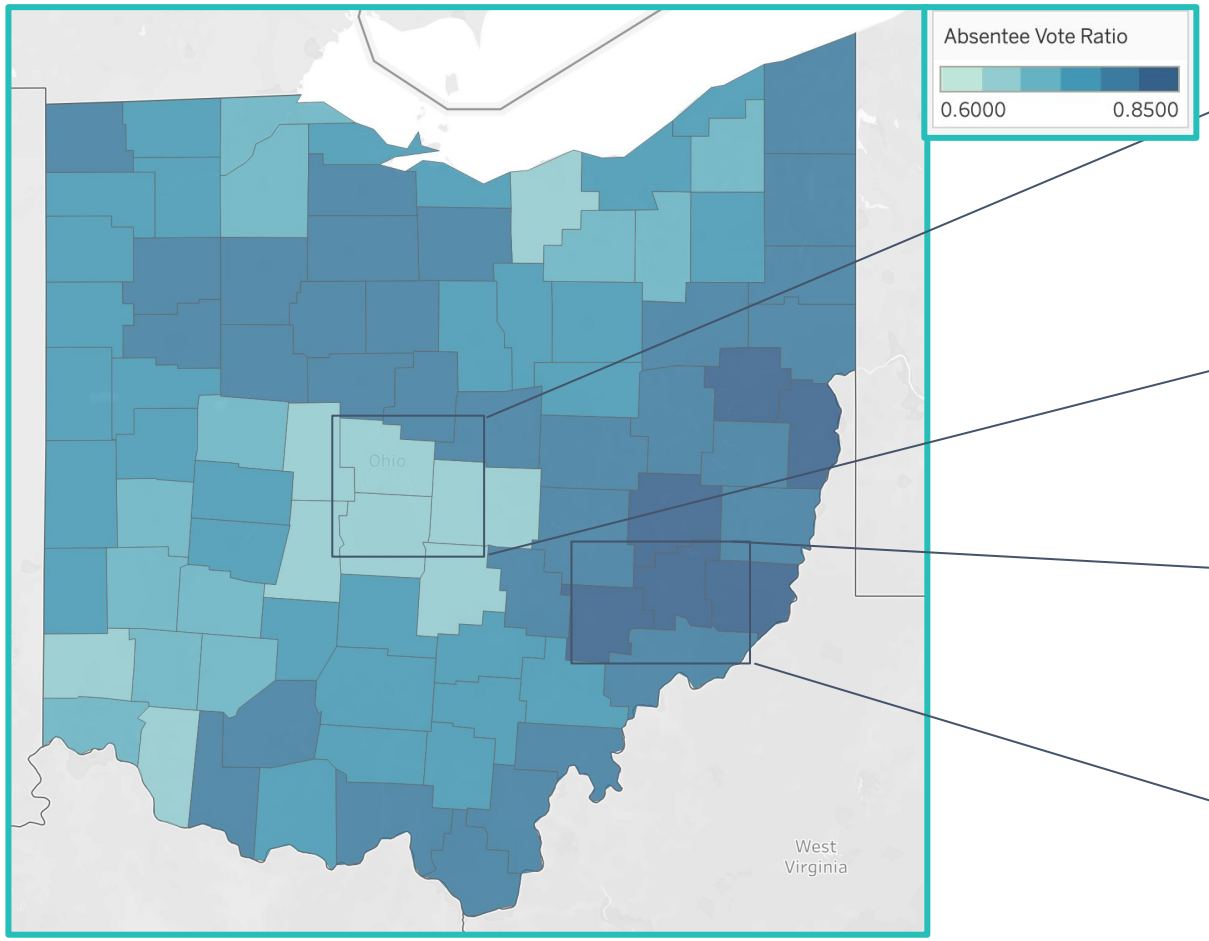
Ohioans across the state will vote absentee,

with denser urban areas and rural areas most likely to vote absentee.



Within the Columbus metro area, denser urban areas are expected to see higher absentee voting than the surrounding suburbs.

More rural areas of the state are expected to see the highest rates of absentee voting.

Out of the 5,705,038 million Ohio voters expected to vote in the 2020 General Election, 4,071,755 (71.3%) are predicted to vote absentee. These rates are high as a percent of likely voters across all counties in Ohio.

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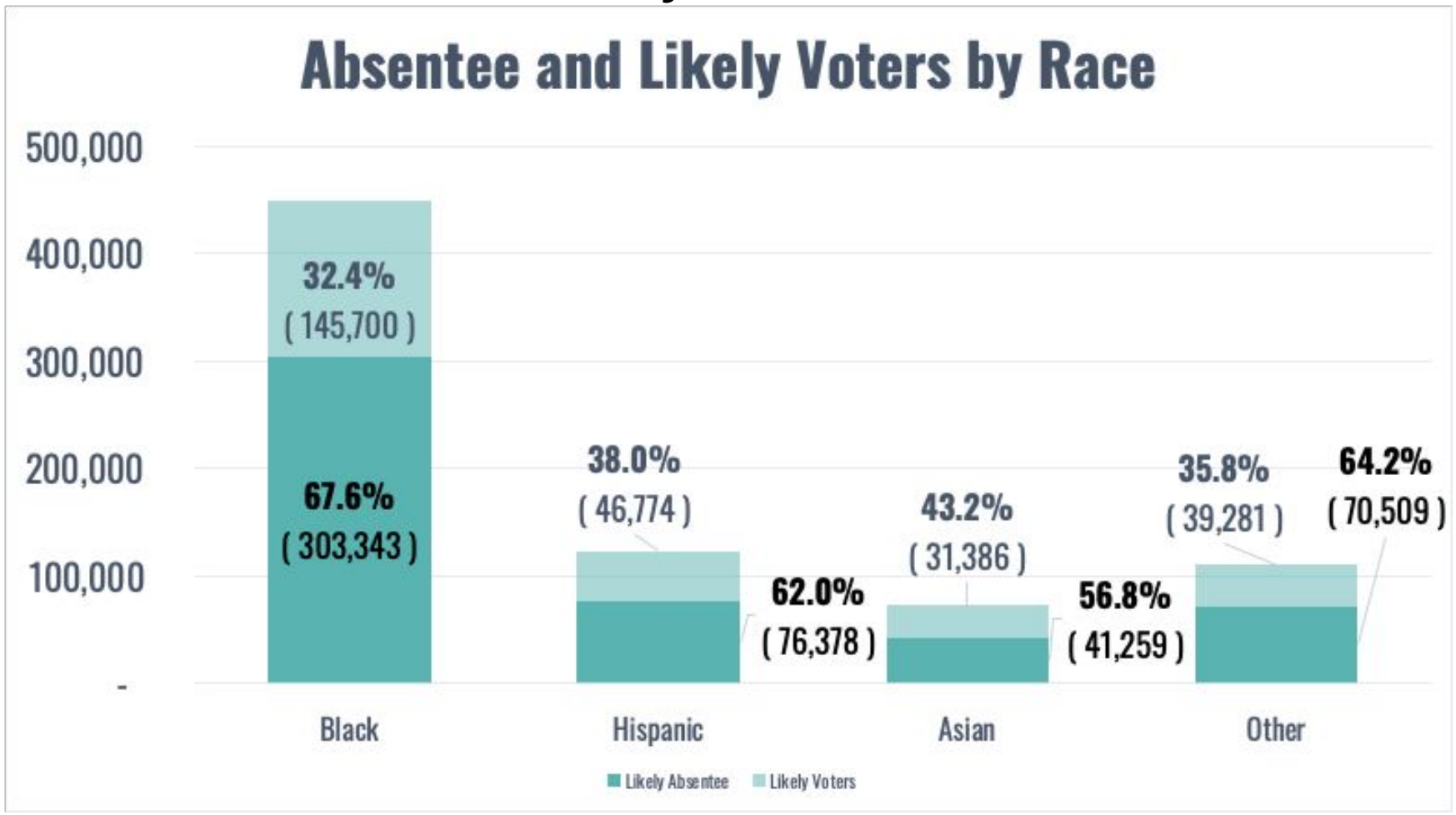
When broken down by racial demographic,
non-white voters are less likely to vote absentee than white voters.



White voters represent the greatest portion of votes cast in Ohio. About 4.4 million white voters are projected to cast a ballot in Ohio and about 3.1 million of those (72.4%) are likely to be cast by mail or dropbox. Minority voters are expected to show very high rates of absentee turnout, but lower than that of white voters.

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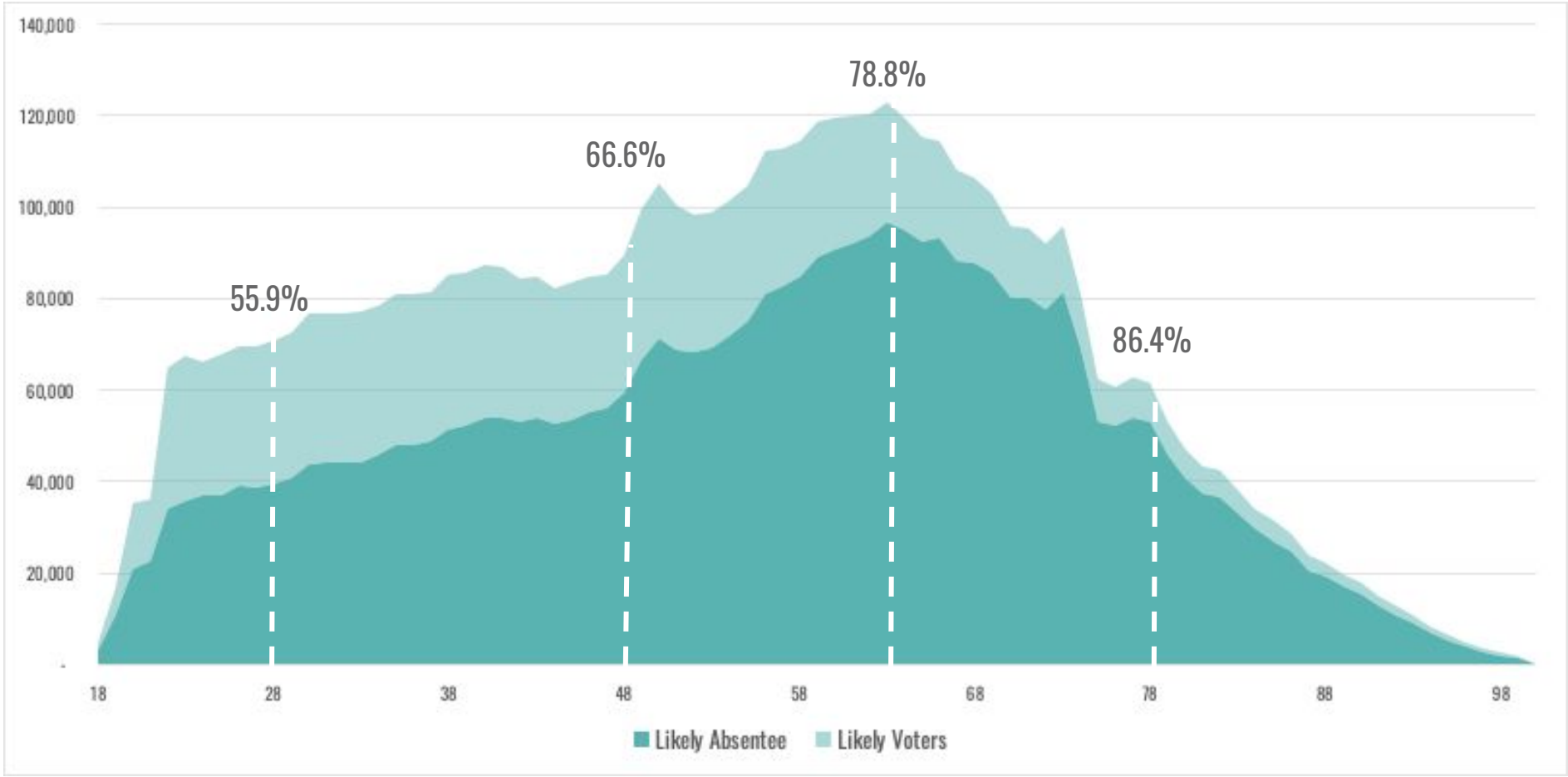
Absentee voting rates are projected to be high, especially among older populations.



Absentee voting is likely to be greater than 50% in nearly all age demographics. (The light blue area describes those individuals who are likely to vote in person, but the dark blue area demonstrates that the majority will likely vote absentee).

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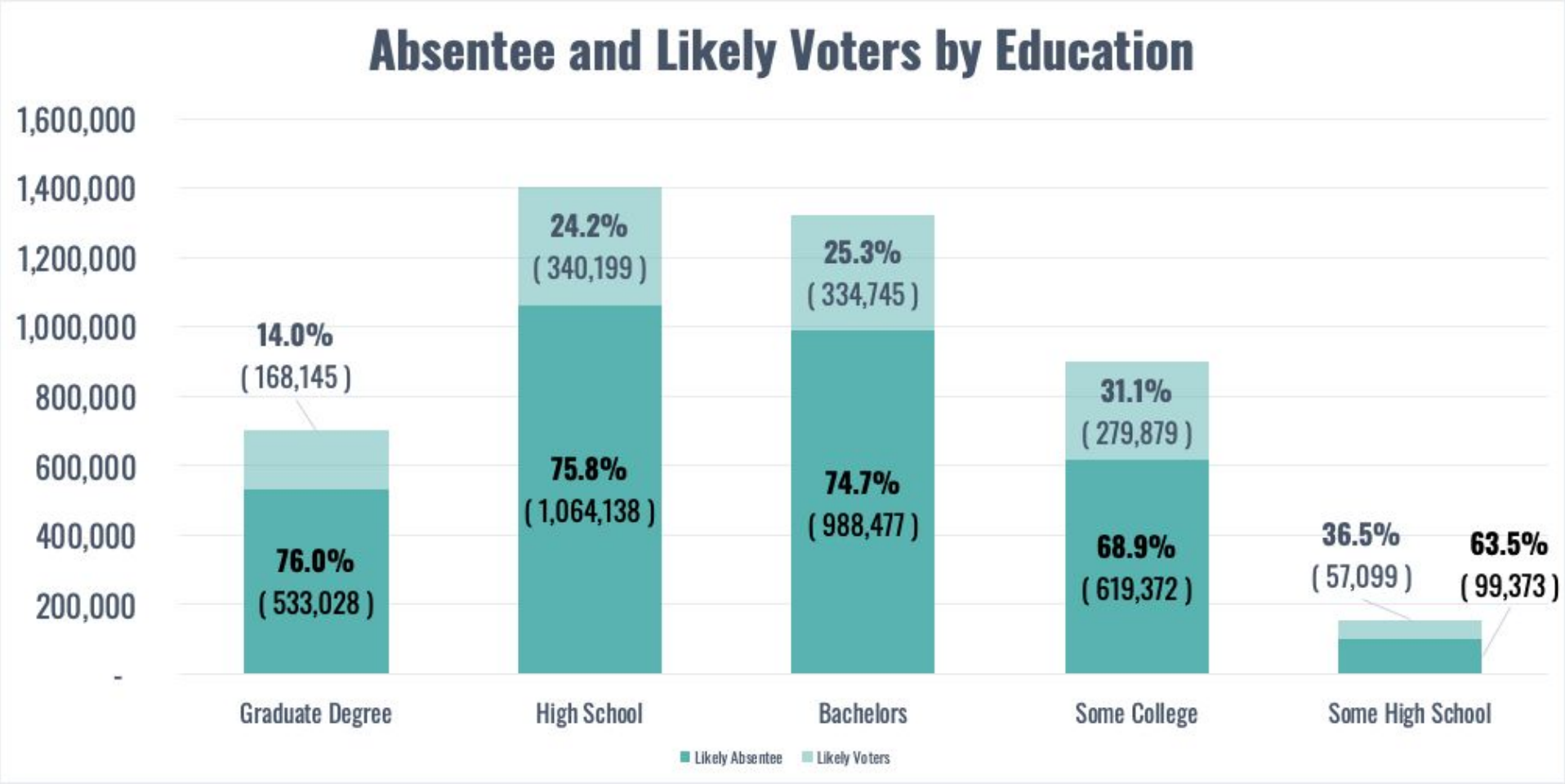
All education groups will vote absentee at high rates,
but voters with the least education will vote absentee at slightly lower rates.



Those with the least education reflect the smallest proportion of likely voters, but also will vote absentee at slightly lowest rates than the other groups.

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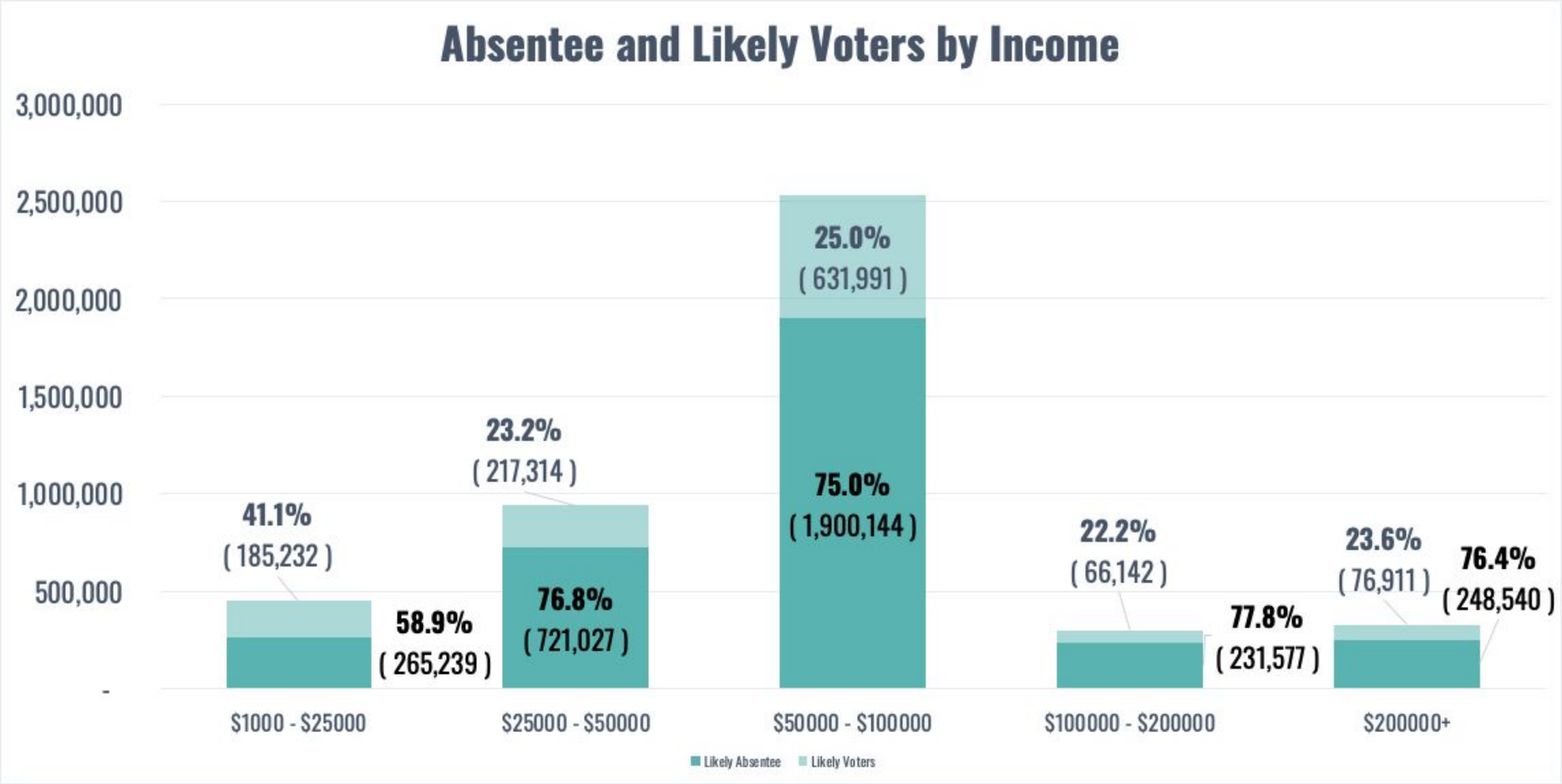
Across all income levels,

absentee vote rates will be high; but, lowest among the lowest earners.



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 75%. A small portion of the population earning less than $25,000 will vote absentee at the lowest rate.

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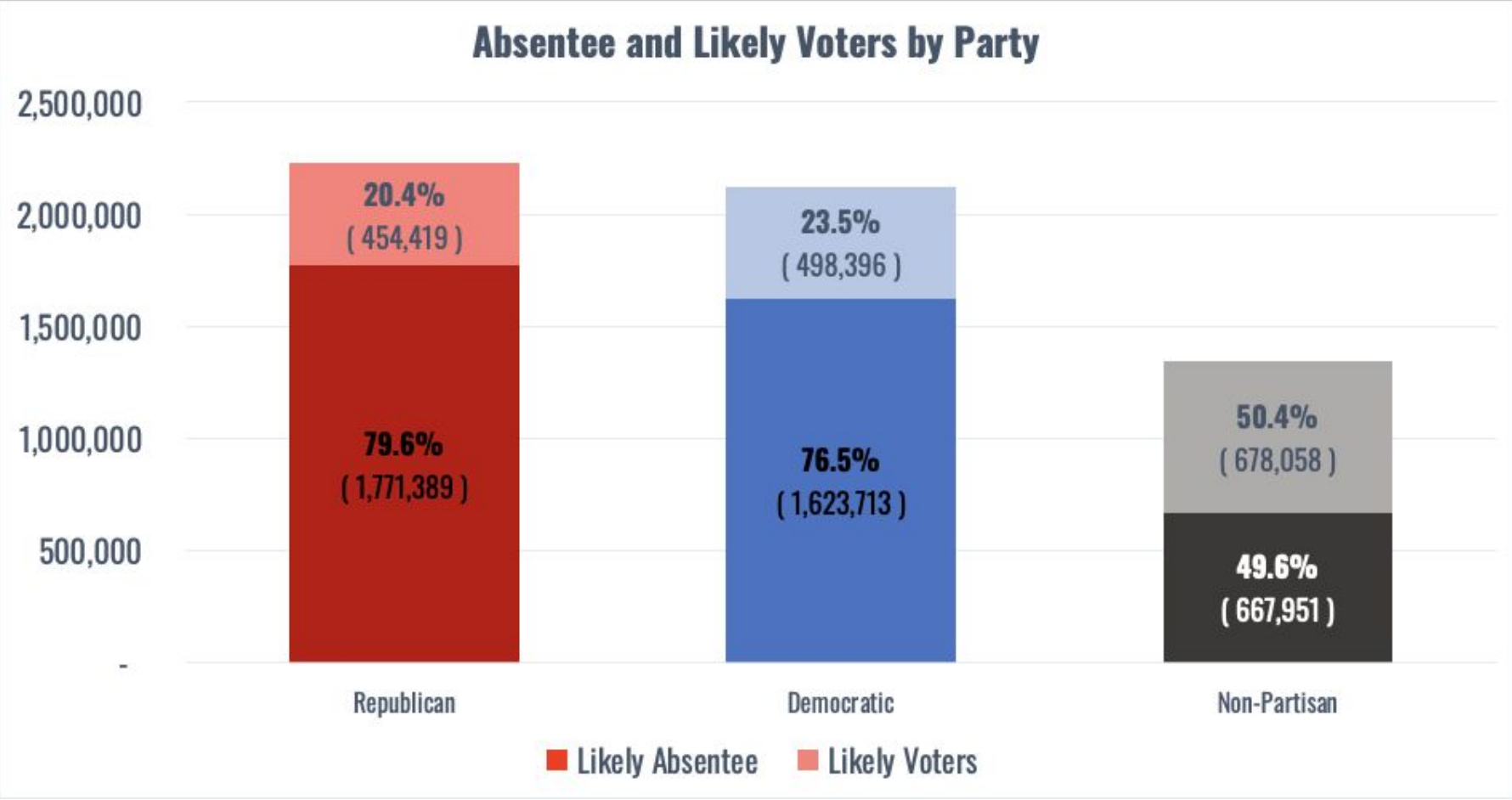
Absentee voting will occur on both sides,
but non-partisan voters will be somewhat less likely to vote absentee.



In a survey of registered Ohio voters, Republicans say they will vote by mail at a rate of 19% and turn in at a secure dropbox at a rate of 42% for a total of 61% of Republicans voting absentee. Democrats will vote by mail at a higher rate than Republicans (49%), but at a lower rate via a secure dropbox (19%), for a total of 68% of Democrats voting absentee.

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Methodology:

- *Our first step was to gather historical data. We used Ohio 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 June 29 to July 2 (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 Ohio 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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