

Voting Behavior in US Presidential Elections

A Graphical Story

SÖREN HOLMBERG

Senior Professor

Former Research Director of the Swedish National Election Studies

Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

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US Presidential Elections 2008, 2012, 2016 and 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%

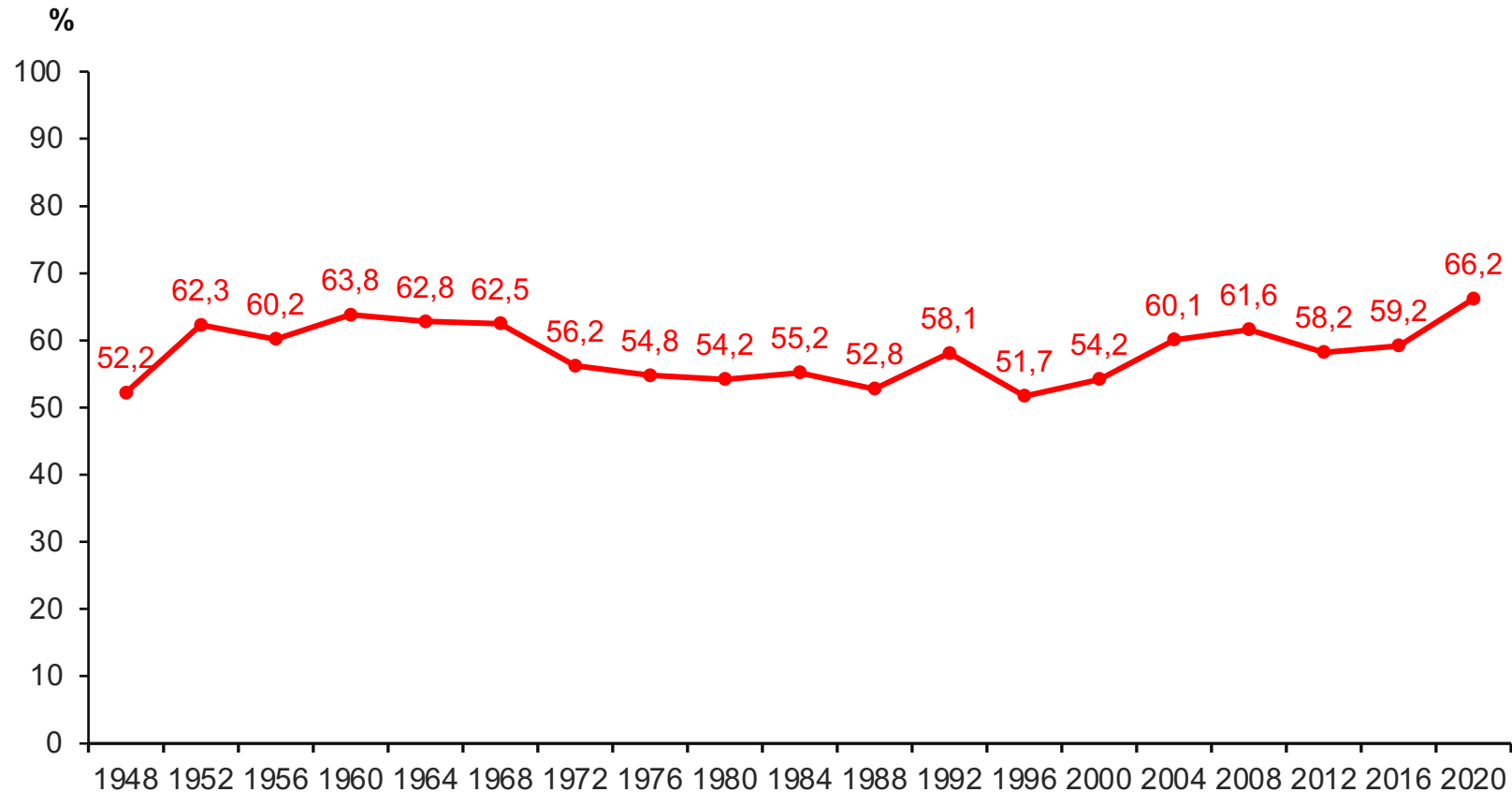
Estimated Turn-Out 2012: 129,1 million voters; eligible voters 222 million; turn-out per cent 58,2%

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

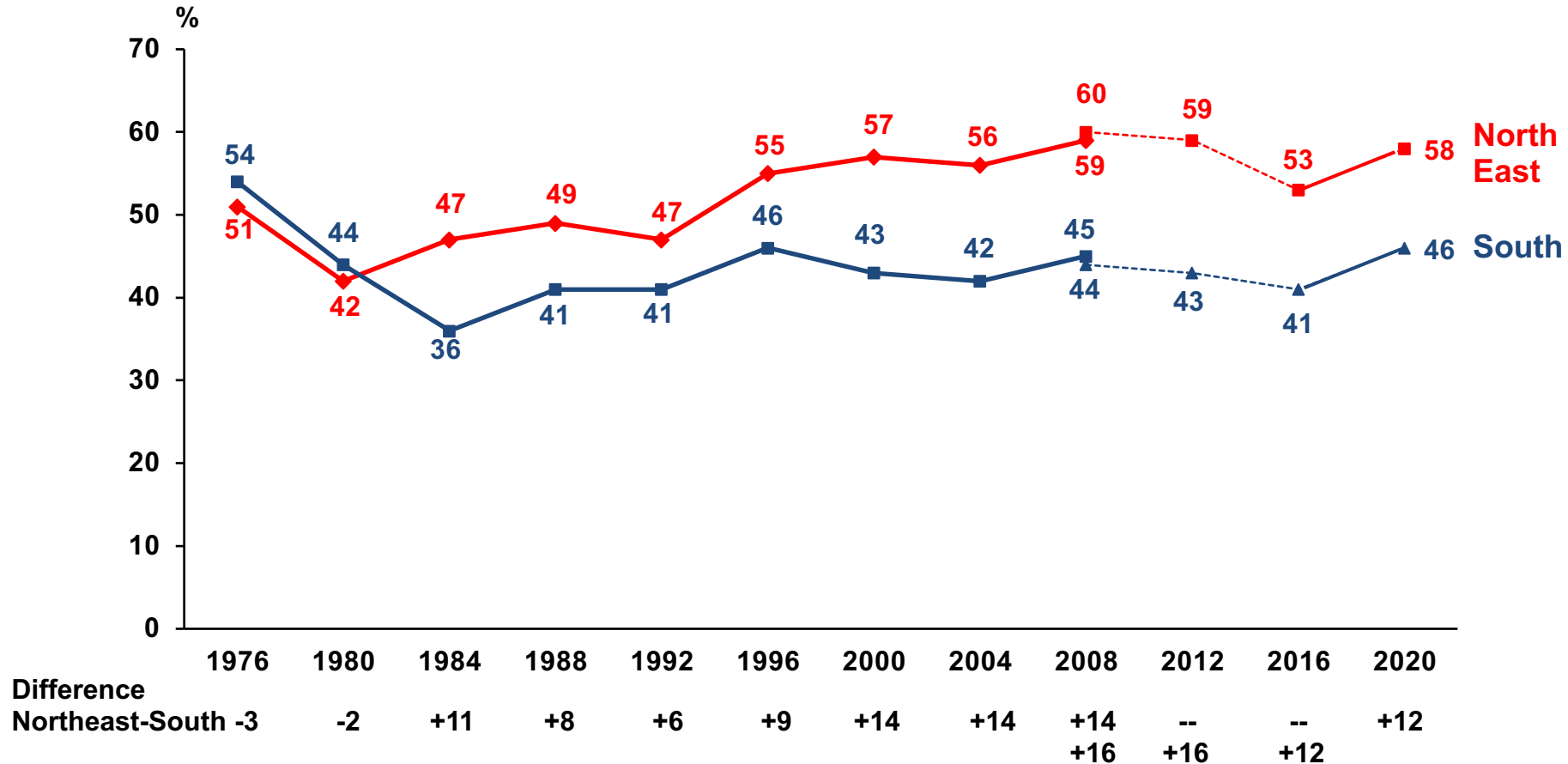


Source: Stanley and Niemi: *Vital Statistics in American Politics* and McDonald: *US Election Project*. The turn-out figures represent the percentage of the eligible electorate that cast votes in presidential elections.



Regional Voting

per cent Democrats

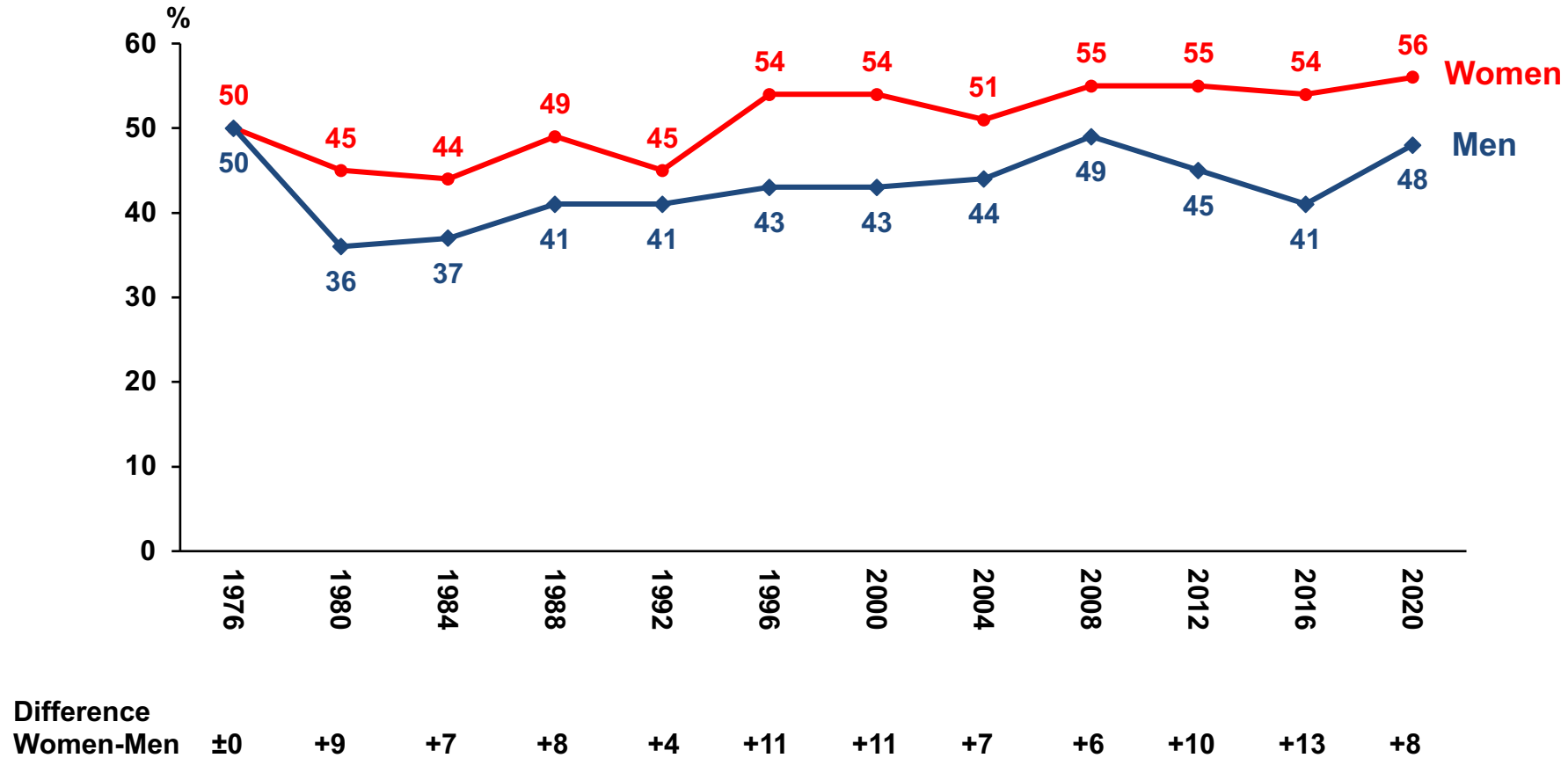


Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2008; averaged official election results for 7 Southern and 9 Northeastern states in 2008, 2012 and 2016. Edison's published exit polling data in 2012 and 2016 did not contain any regional breakdowns, but did so in 2020



Gender

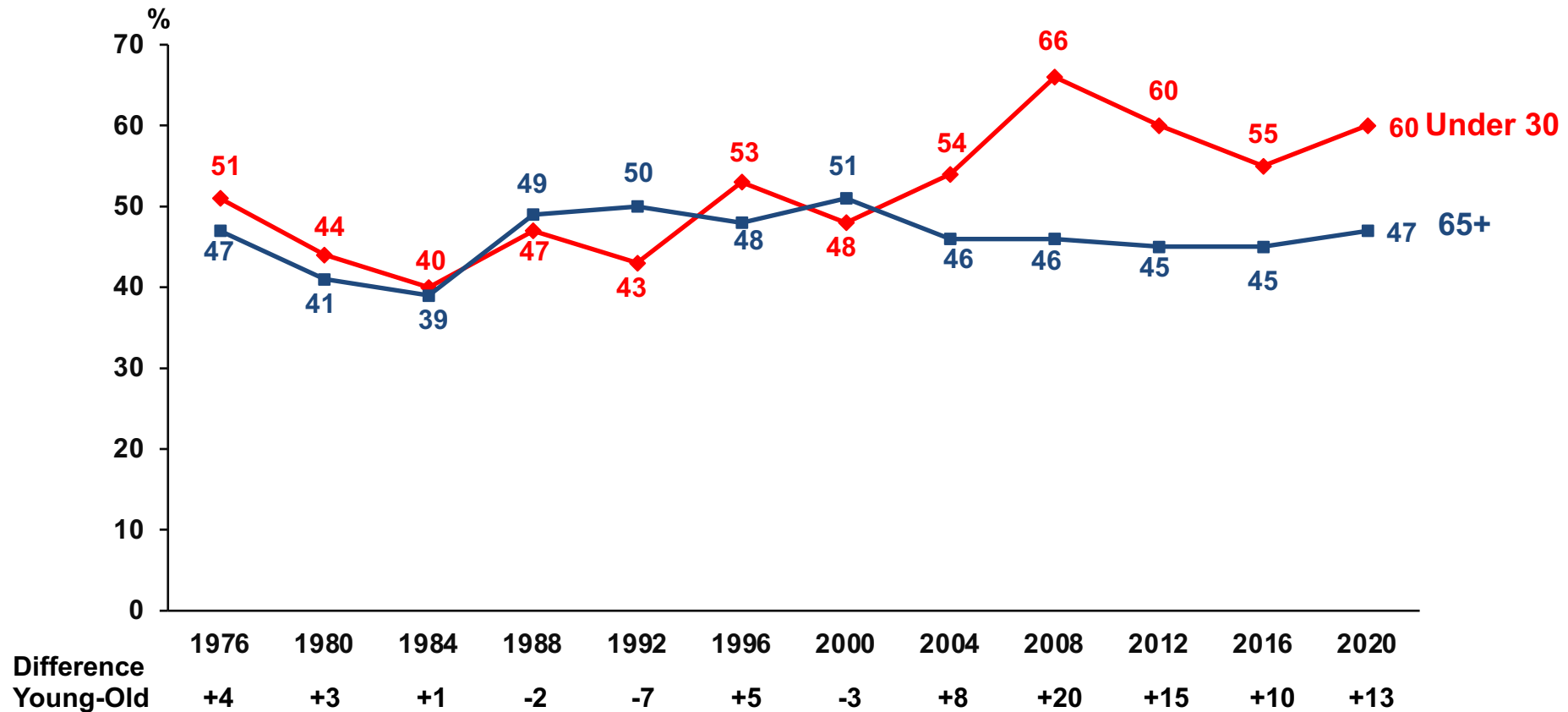
per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2020.



Age *per cent Democrats*

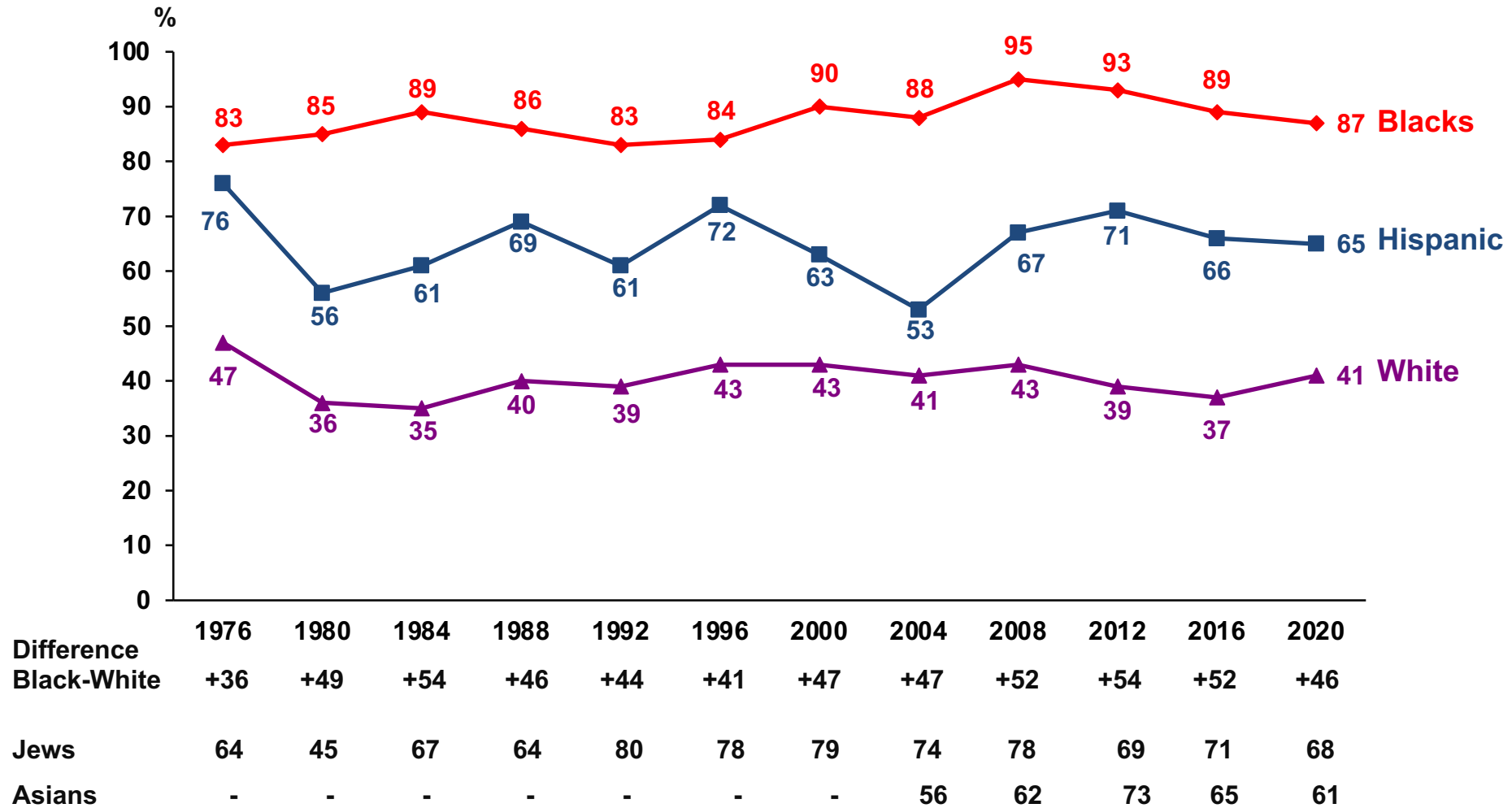


Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2020.



Ethnic Group

per cent Democrats

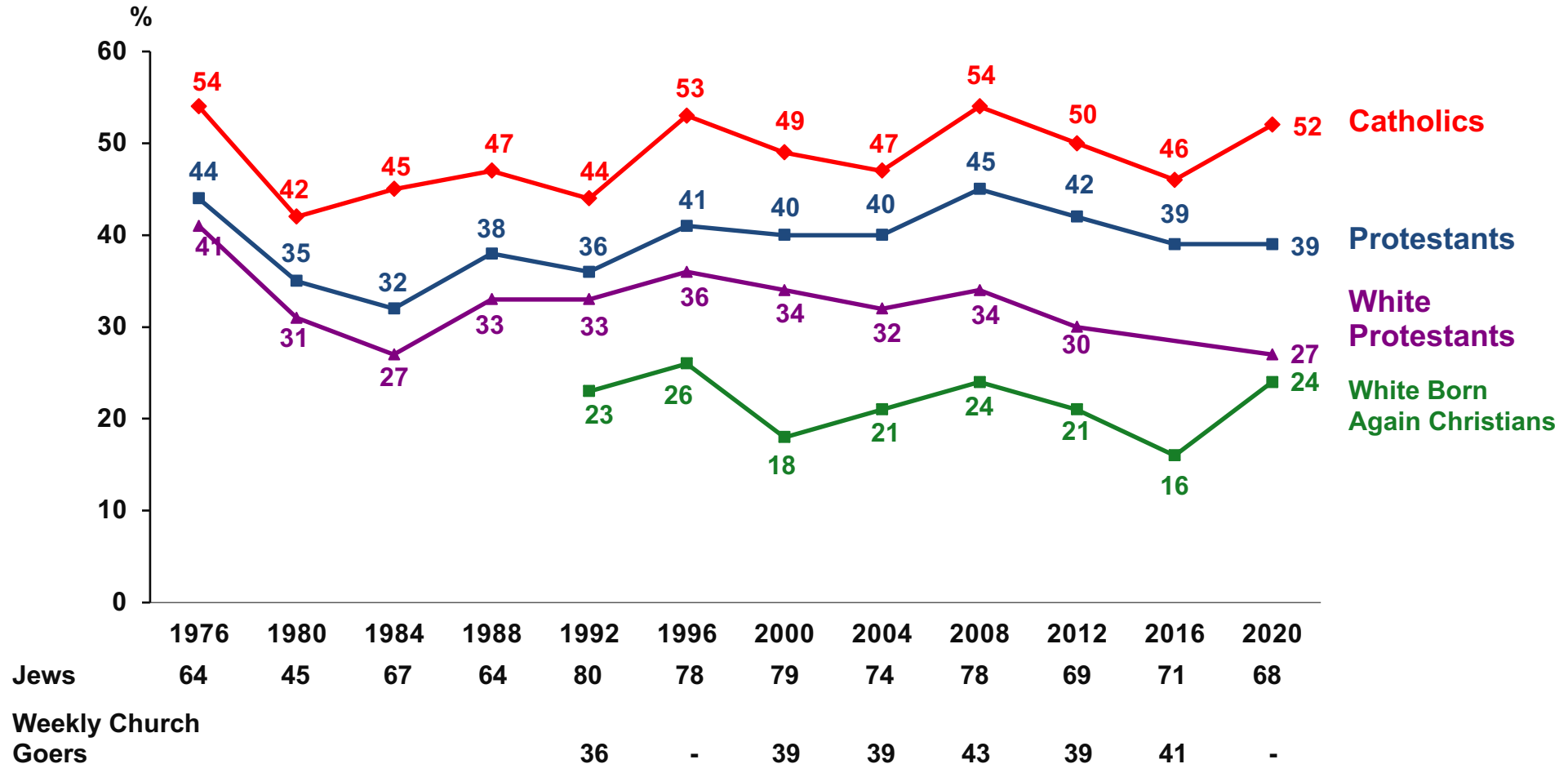


Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2020. The result for Jews in 2020 comes from AP VoteCast.



Religion

per cent Democrats

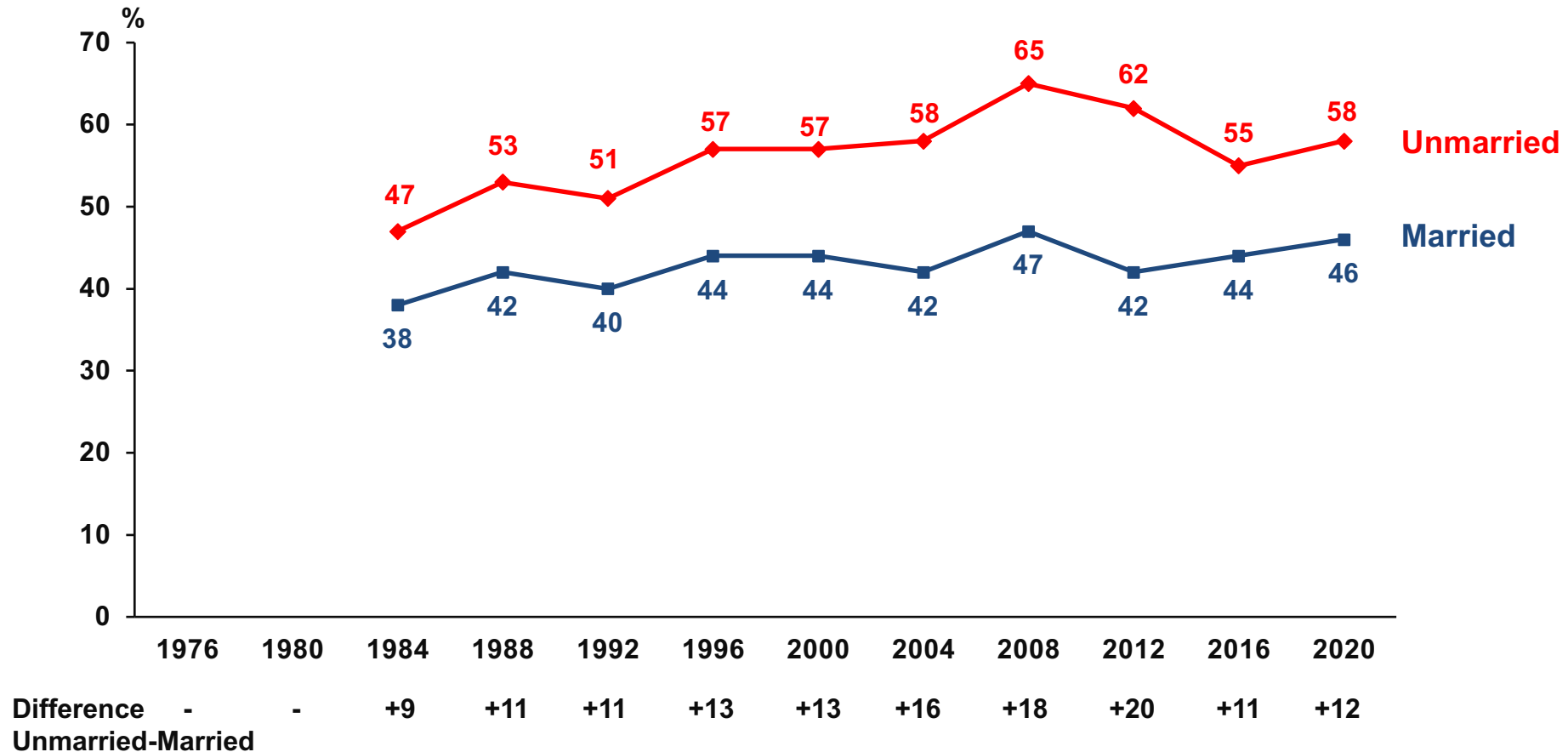


Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2020. The result for Jews in 2020 comes from AP VoteCast.



Marital Status

per cent Democrats

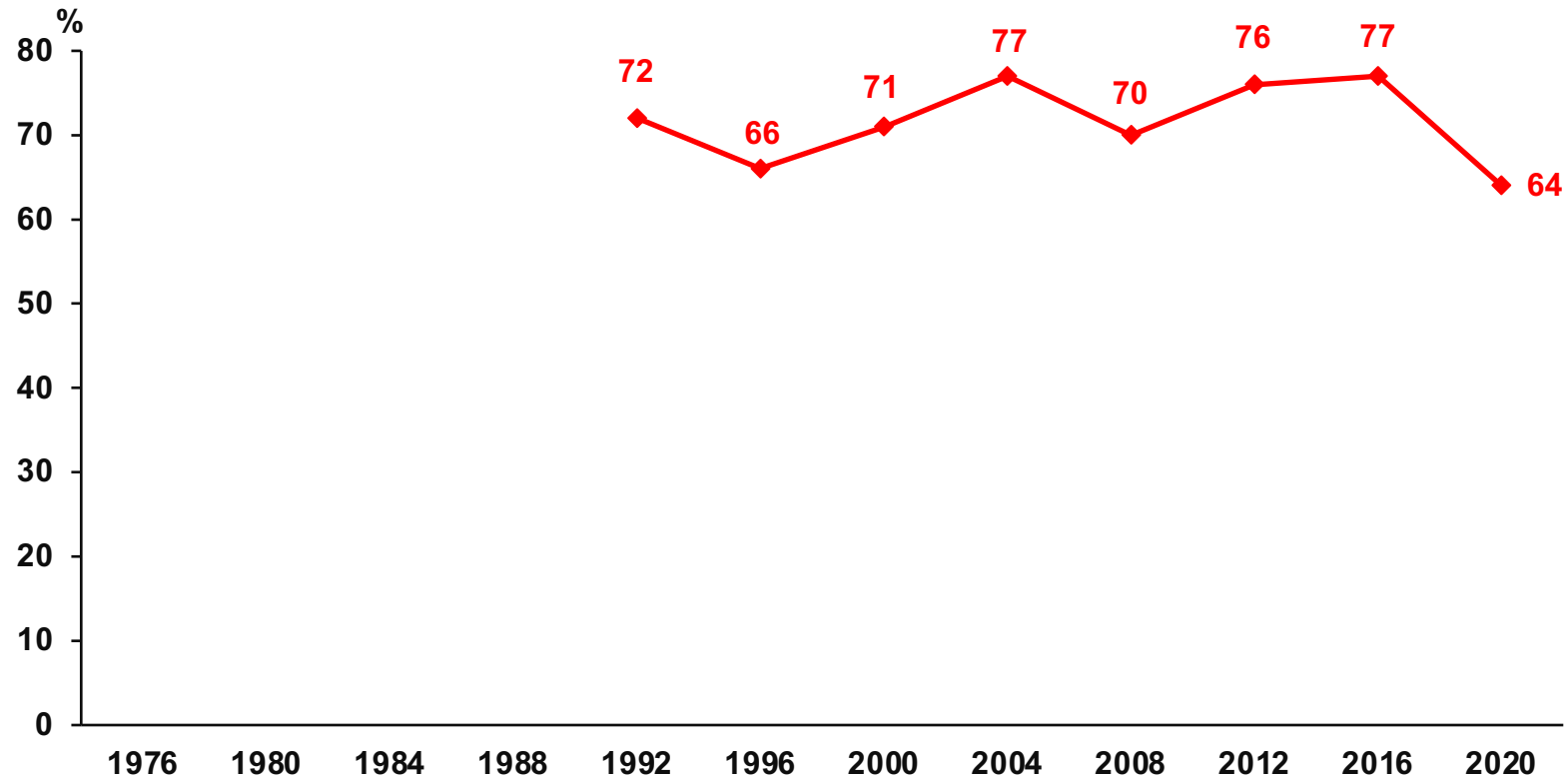


Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2020.



Gays/Lesbians

per cent Democrats

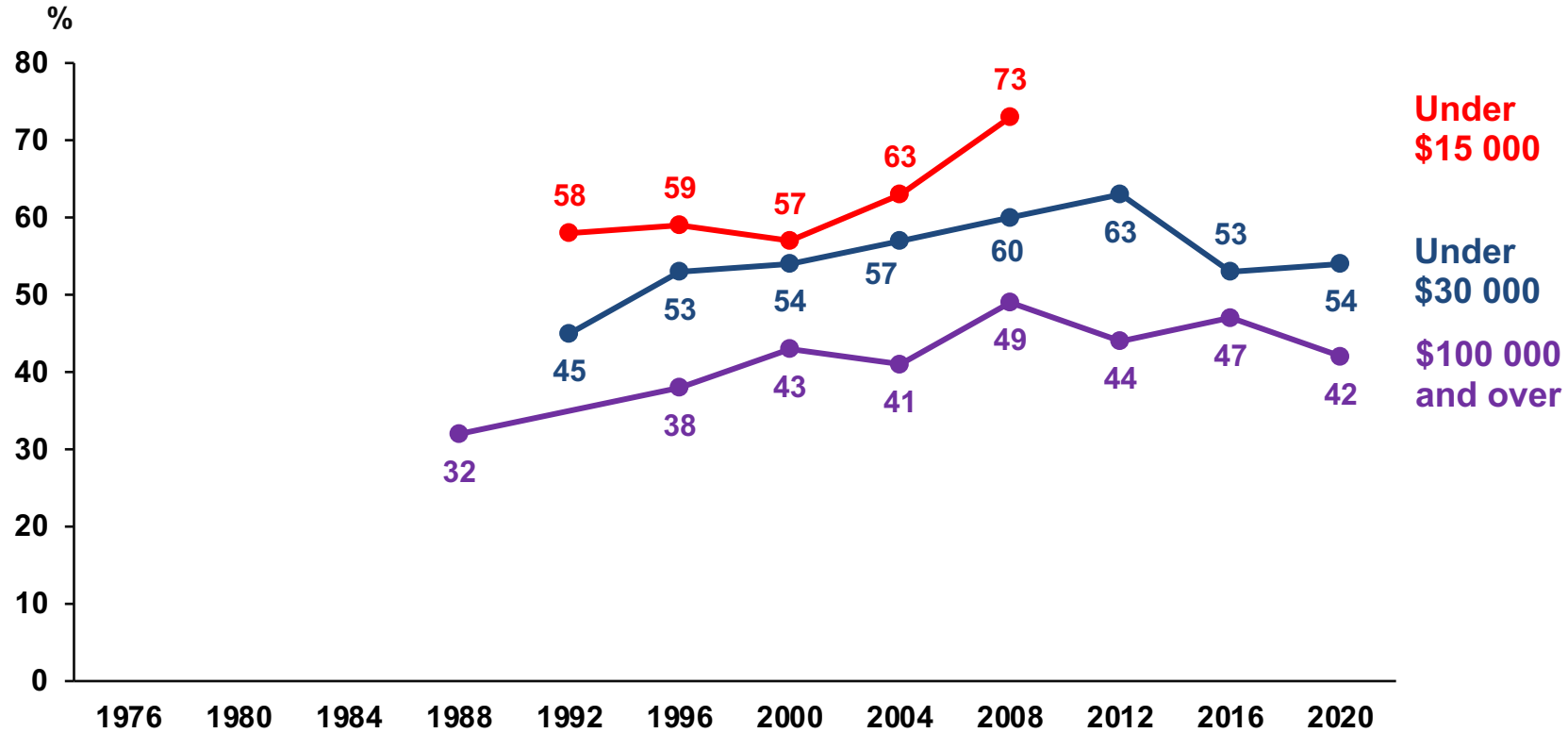


Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2020.



Income

per cent Democrats



Difference

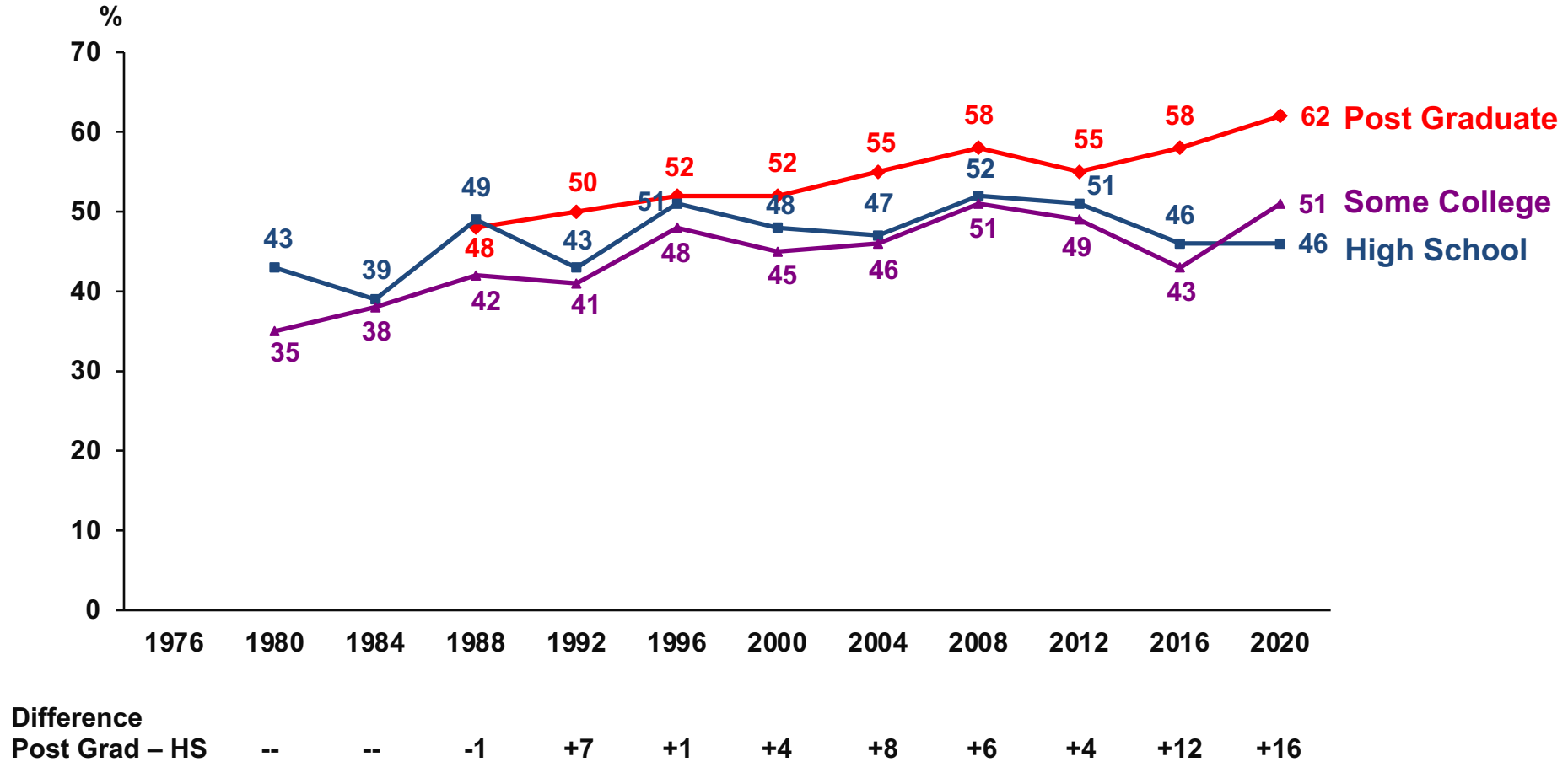
Under \$ 30K – \$100K+ -- -- +15 +11 +16 +11 +19 +6 +12

Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2020. In 1992-2012 the under \$30 000 income category was defined as \$15 000 - \$29 000.



Education

per cent Democrats

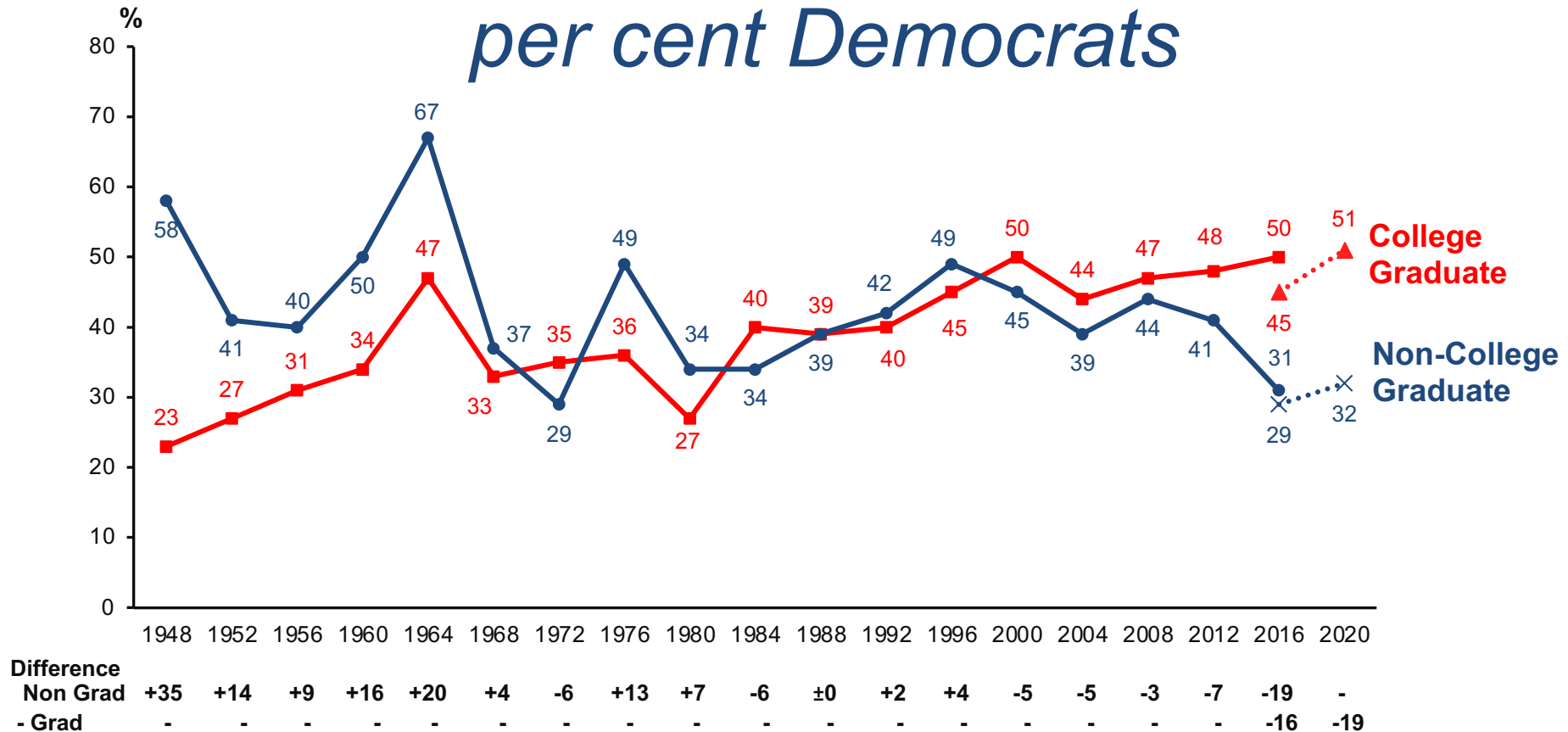


Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2020. Response alternatives were more specified in 2020 than in previous years.



Level of Education/Whites Only

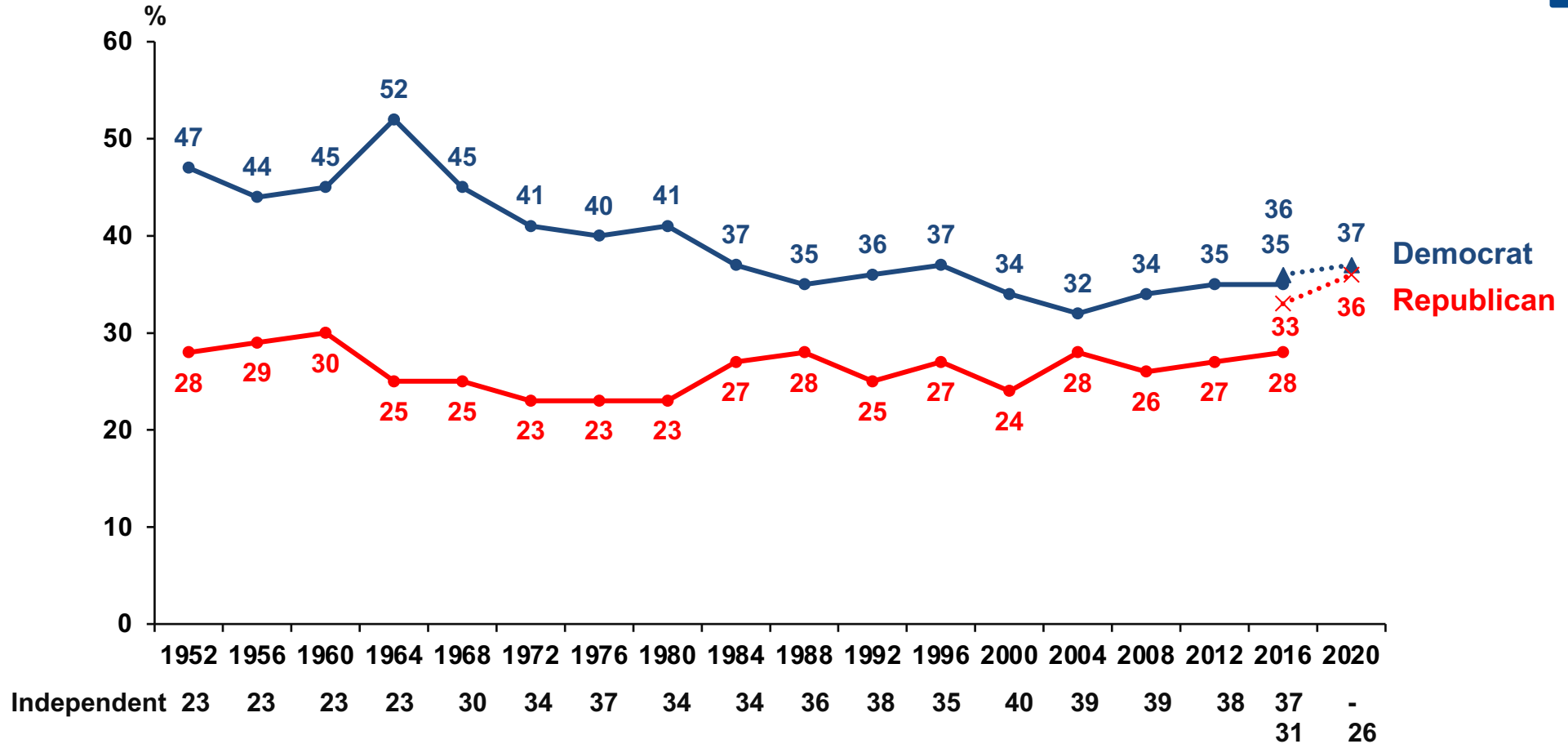
per cent Democrats



Source: ANES 1948-2016. White Non-Hispanic. Non-College Graduates vs. College Graduates. In 1948 No College Education vs. at least Some College Education. The (.....) results for 2016 and 2020 come from the NEP/Edison exit poll.



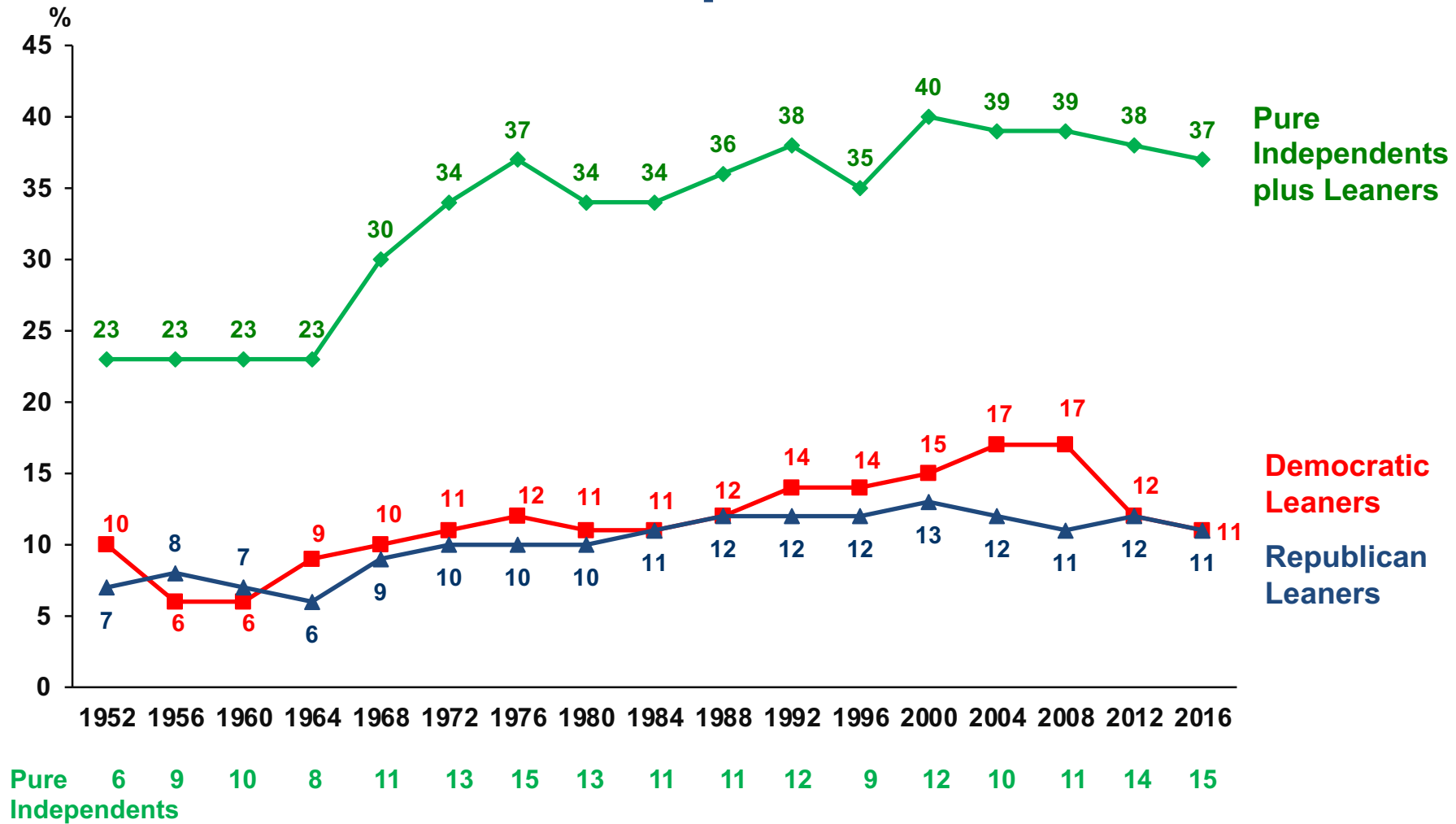
US Party Identification



Source: ANES 1952 – 2016. The (.....) results for 2016 and 2020 come from the NEP/Edison exit poll.



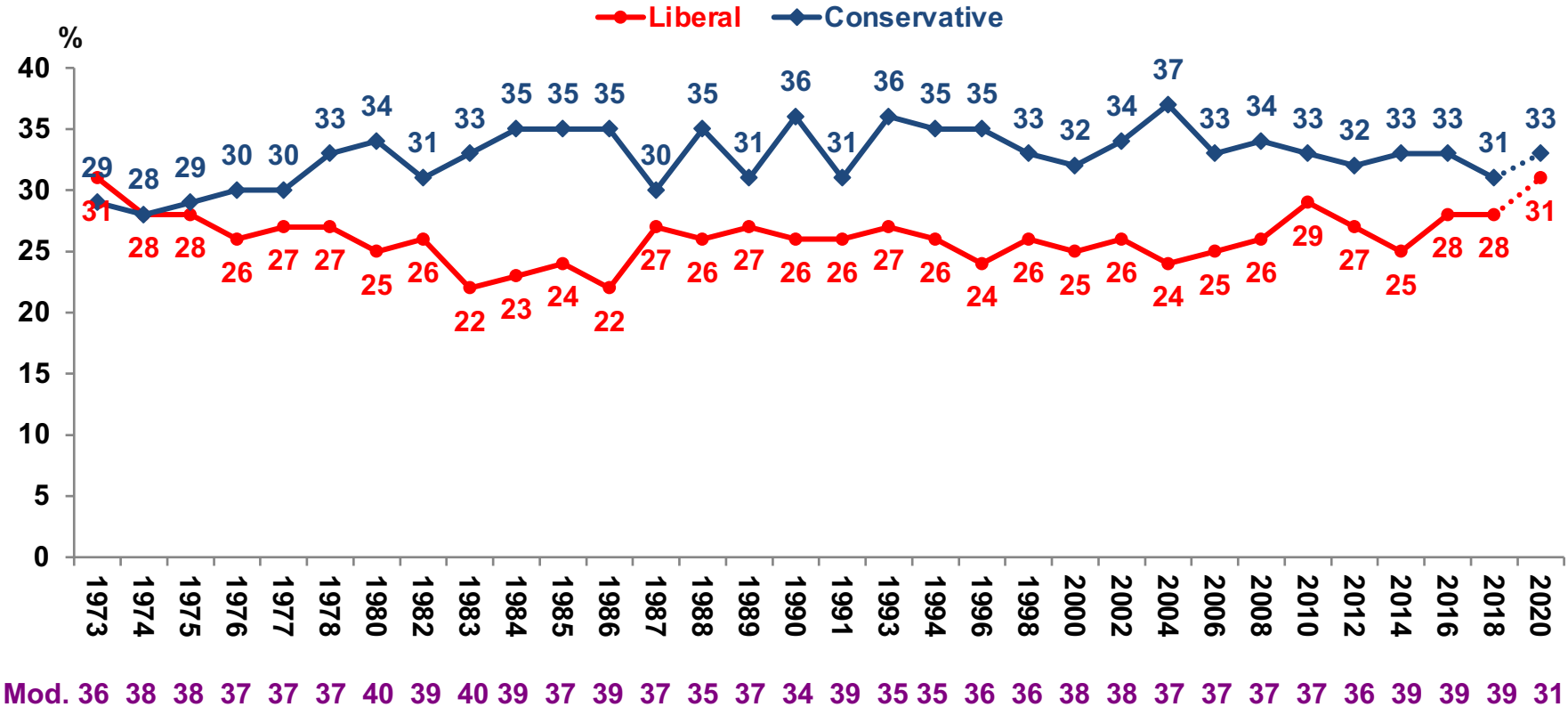
US: Independents



Source: ANES 1952-2016. Per cent pure independents is 10 per cent in face-to-face-studies in 2012 and 2016, and 16 per cent in both years in web studies.



US Ideological Self-Identification

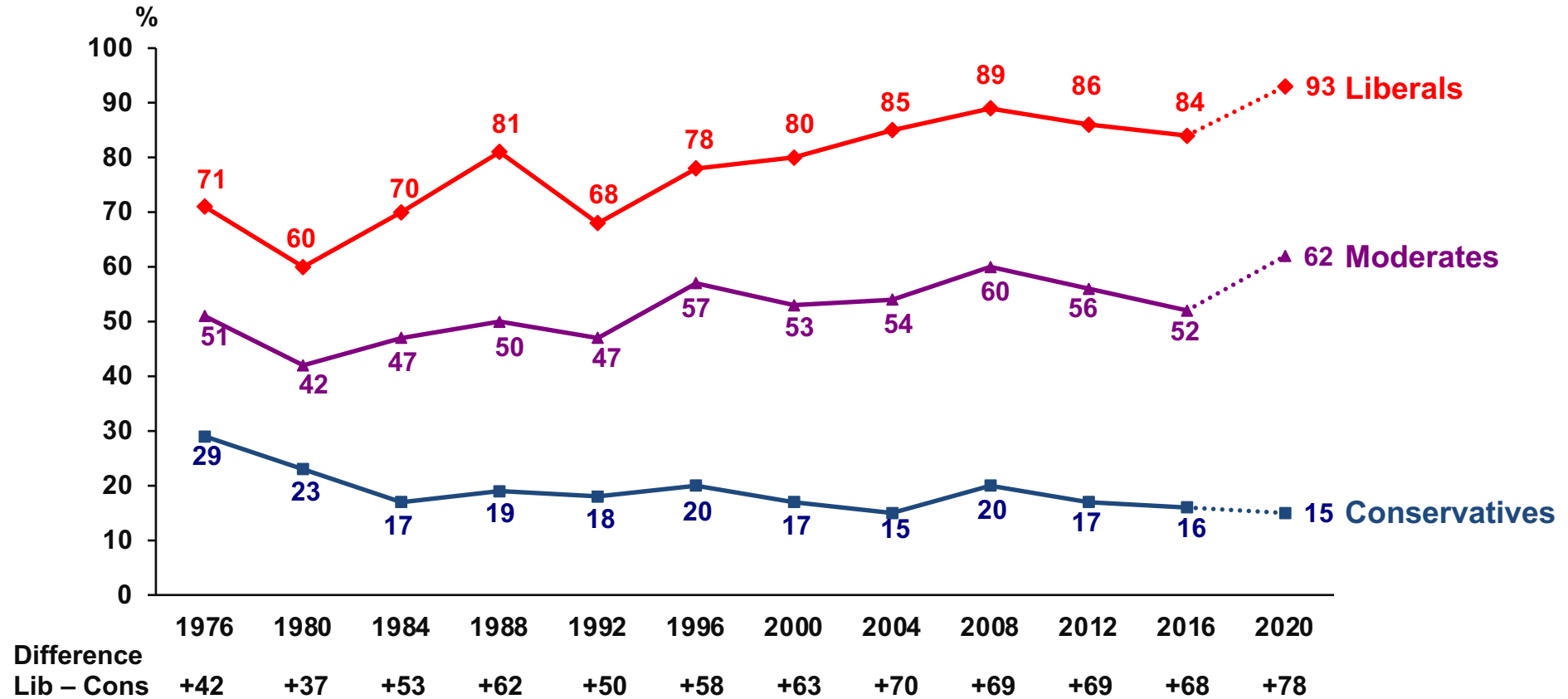


Source: DKs 1 – 6%; General Social Survey, NORC 1973-2018. The (.....) results for 2020 come from YouGov in late October 2020.



Ideology

per cent Democrats

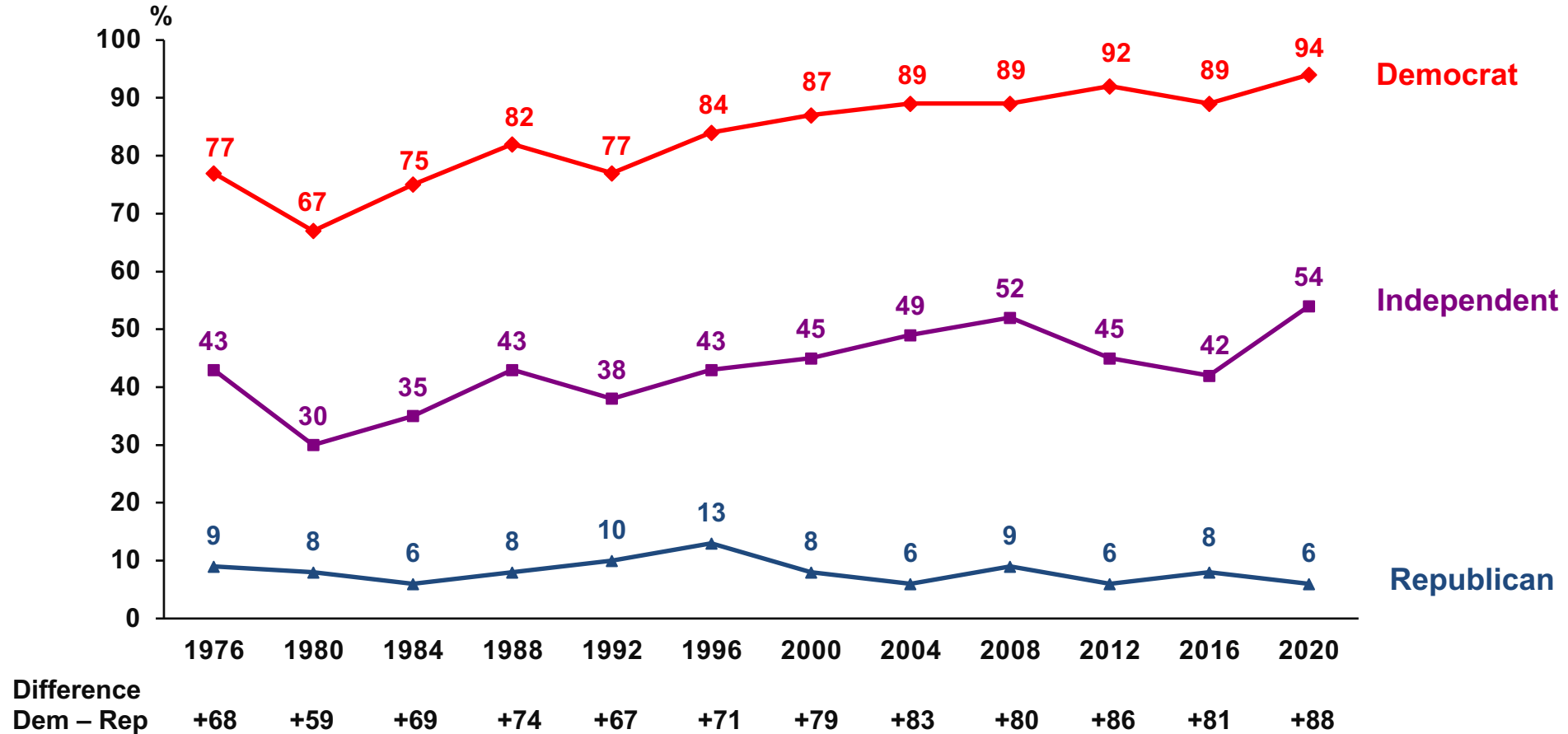


Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2016. The results for 2020 come from YouGov in late October 2020.



Party Preference

per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2020.



Swedish National
Election Studies



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www.gu.se/valforskningsprogrammet