

Voting Behavior in US Presidential Elections

1976-2024

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RICHARD KARLSSON

US Presidential Elections

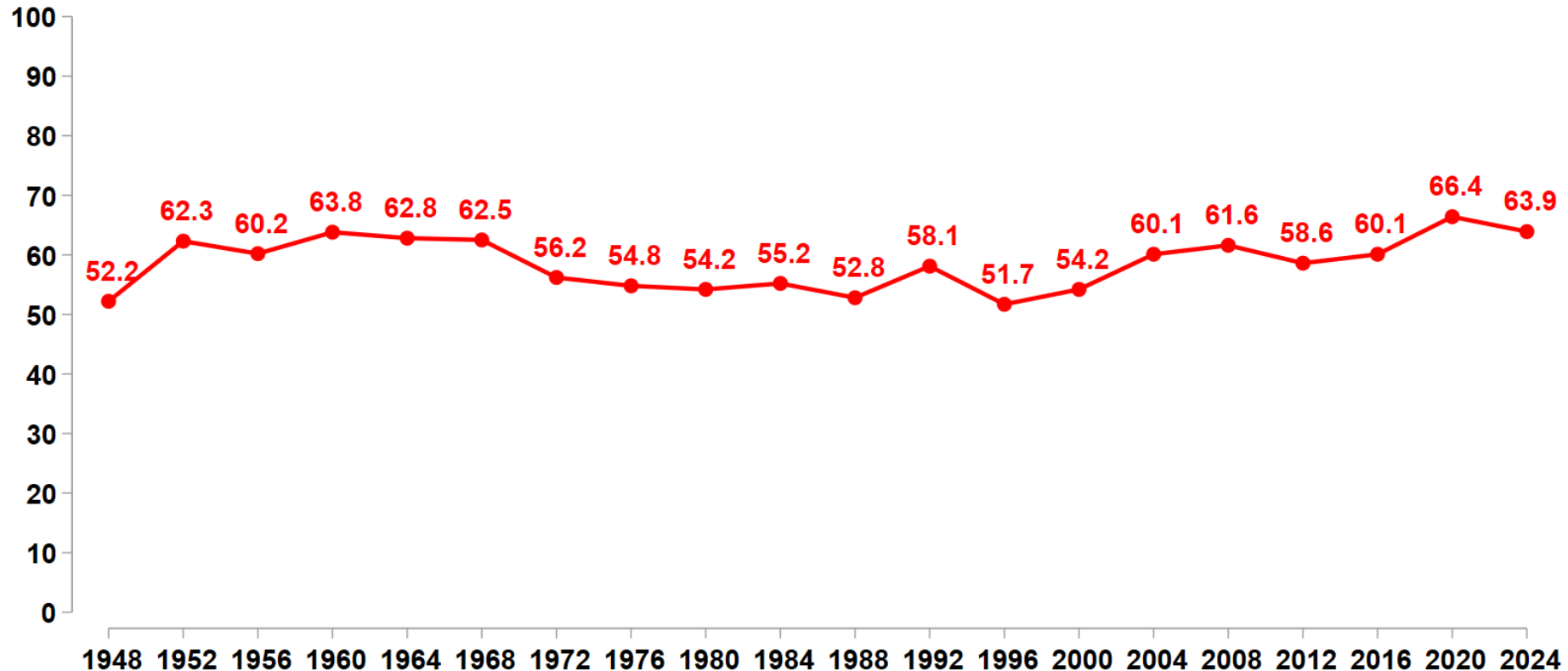
2008-2024

2008	percent	2012	percent	2016	percent
Barack Obama (Democrat)	52,9	Barack Obama (Democrat)	51,0	Hillary Clinton (Democrat)	48,2
John McCain (Republican)	45,7	Mitt Romney (Republican)	47,2	Donald Trump (Republican)	46,1
Ralph Nader (Independent)	0,6	Gary Johnson (Libertarian)	1,0	Gary Johnson (Libertarian)	3,3
Bob Barr (Libertarian)	0,4	Jill Stein (Greens)	0,4	Jill Stein (Greens)	1,1
Cynthia McKinney (Greens)	0,1	Others	0,4	Evan McMullin (Independent)	0,5
Others	0,3		100,0	Others	0,8
	100,0				100,0

2020	Percent	2024	percent
Joe Biden (Democrat)	51,4	Donald Trump (Republican)	49,9
Donald Trump (Republican)	46,8	Kamala Harris (Democrat)	48,4
Jo Jorgensen (Libertarian)	1,2	Jill Stein (Greens)	0,5
Howie Hawkins (Greens)	0,3	Chase Oliver (Libertarian)	0,4
Others	0,3	Others (incl. Kennedy)	0,8
	100,0		100,0

	Estimated Turn-Out	Eligible voters	Turn-Out (%)
2008	131,3 million voters	213 million voters	61,6
2012	130,2 million voters	222 million voters	58,6
2016	138,7 million voters	230,8 million voters	60,1
2020	159,7 million voters	240,6 million voters	66,4
2024	156,3 million voters	244,7 million voters	63,9

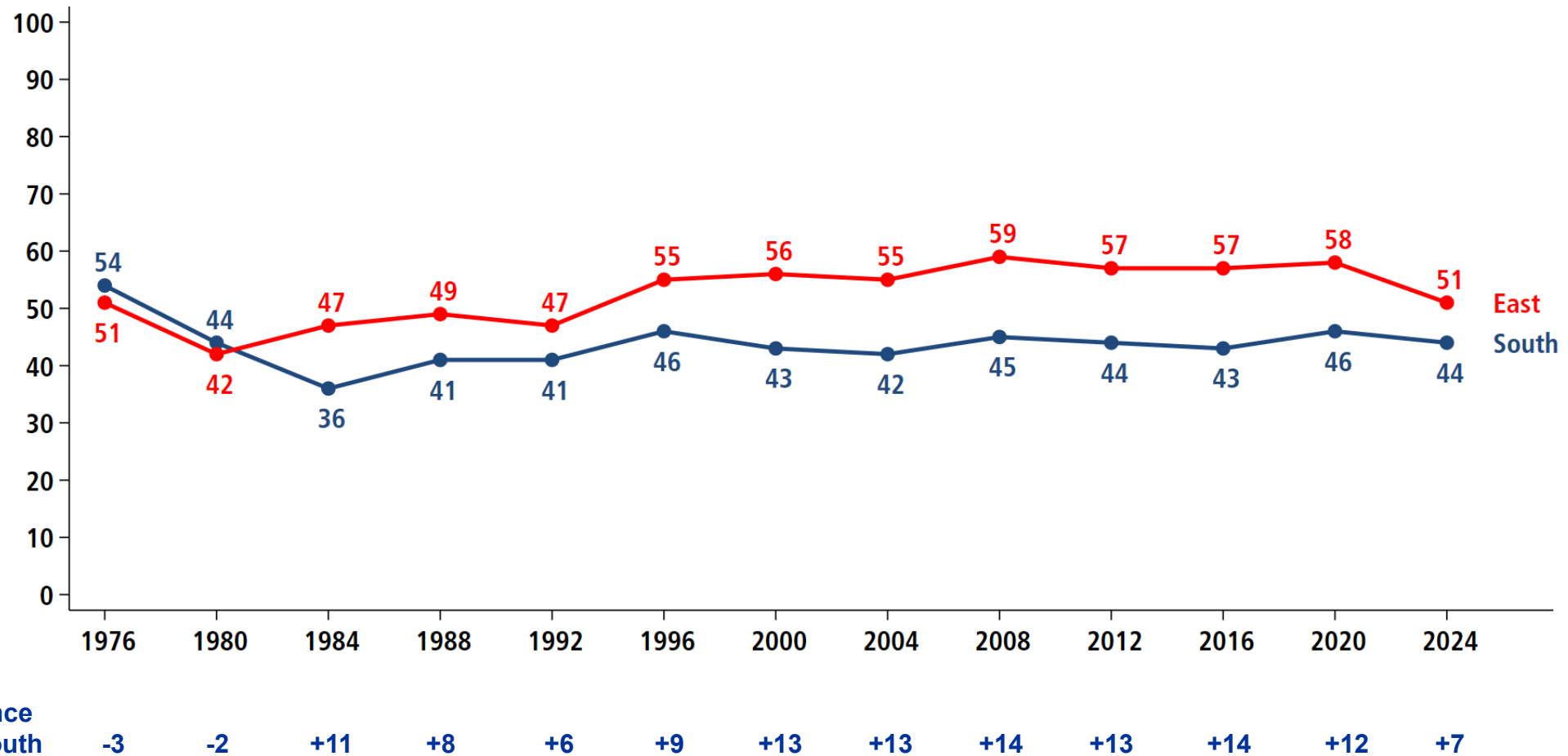
Turn-Out in US Presidential Elections



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

Regional Voting

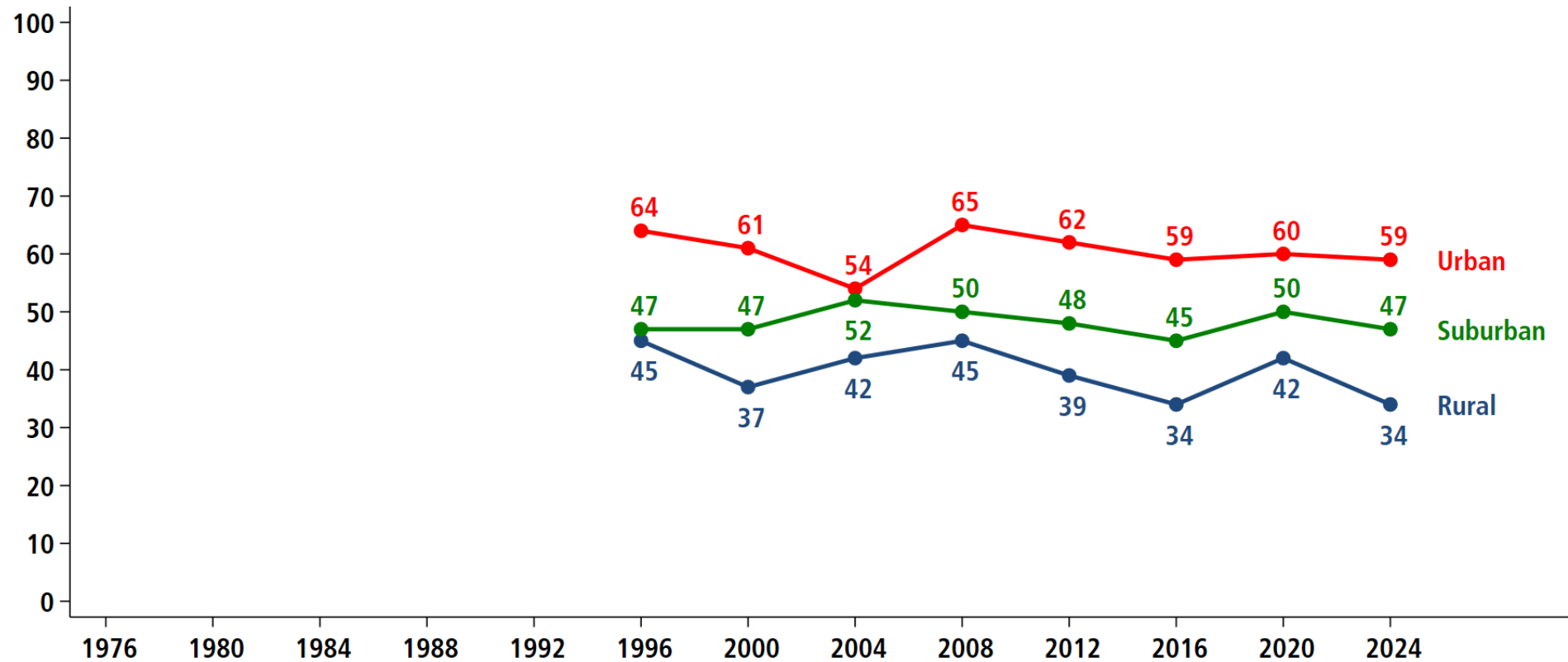
per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022), NEP/Edison 2024.

Urban – Suburban – Rural

per cent Democrats



Difference
Urban-Rural

- - - - - +19 +24 +12 +20 +23 +25 +18 +25

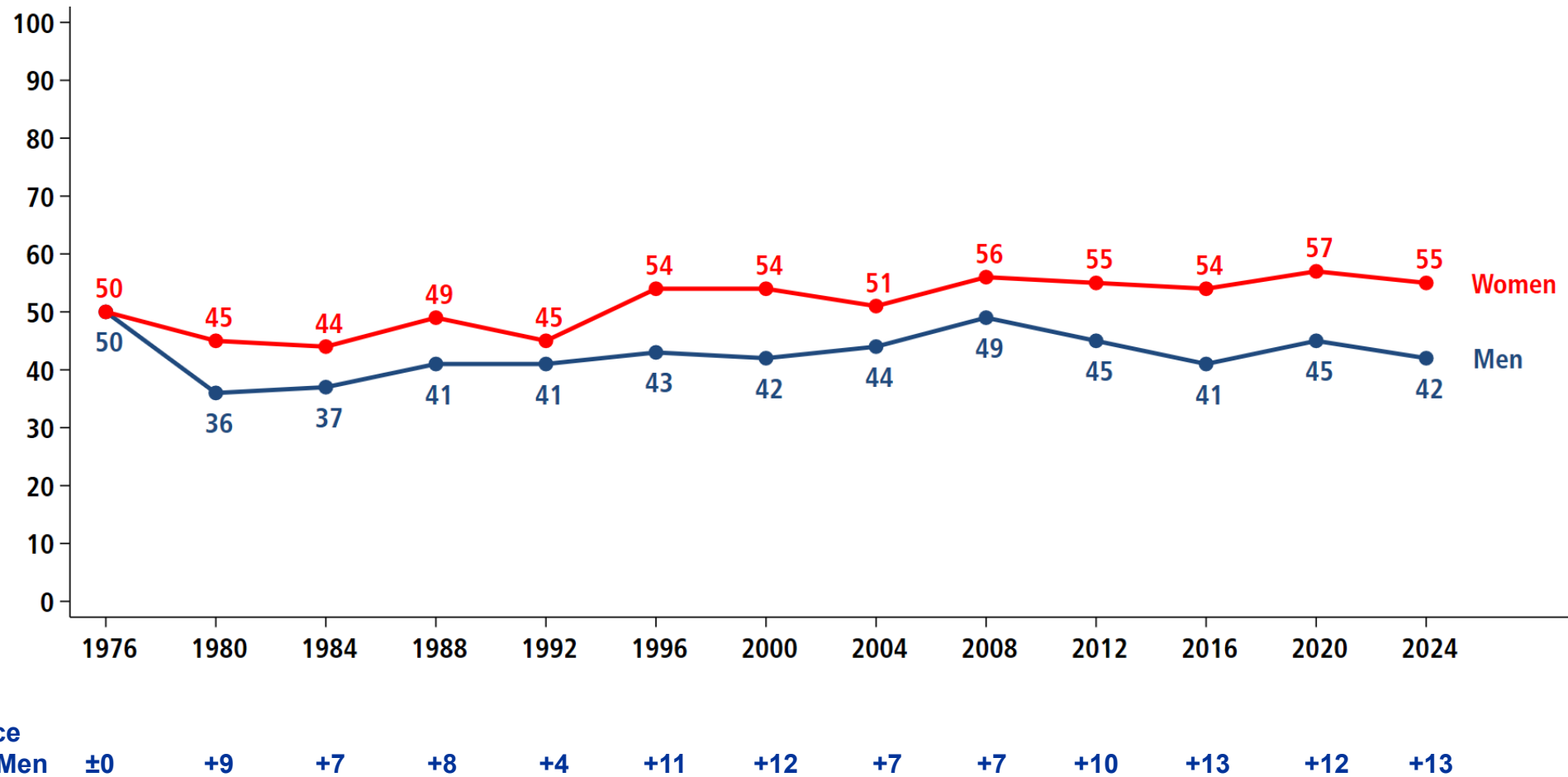
Suburban Women

- 38 43 46 42 53 52 50 52 53 51 56 57

Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). Errors for Urban in 1996 and 2008 have been corrected. NEP/Edison 2024. The result for Suburban Women is taken from AP VoteCast 2024.

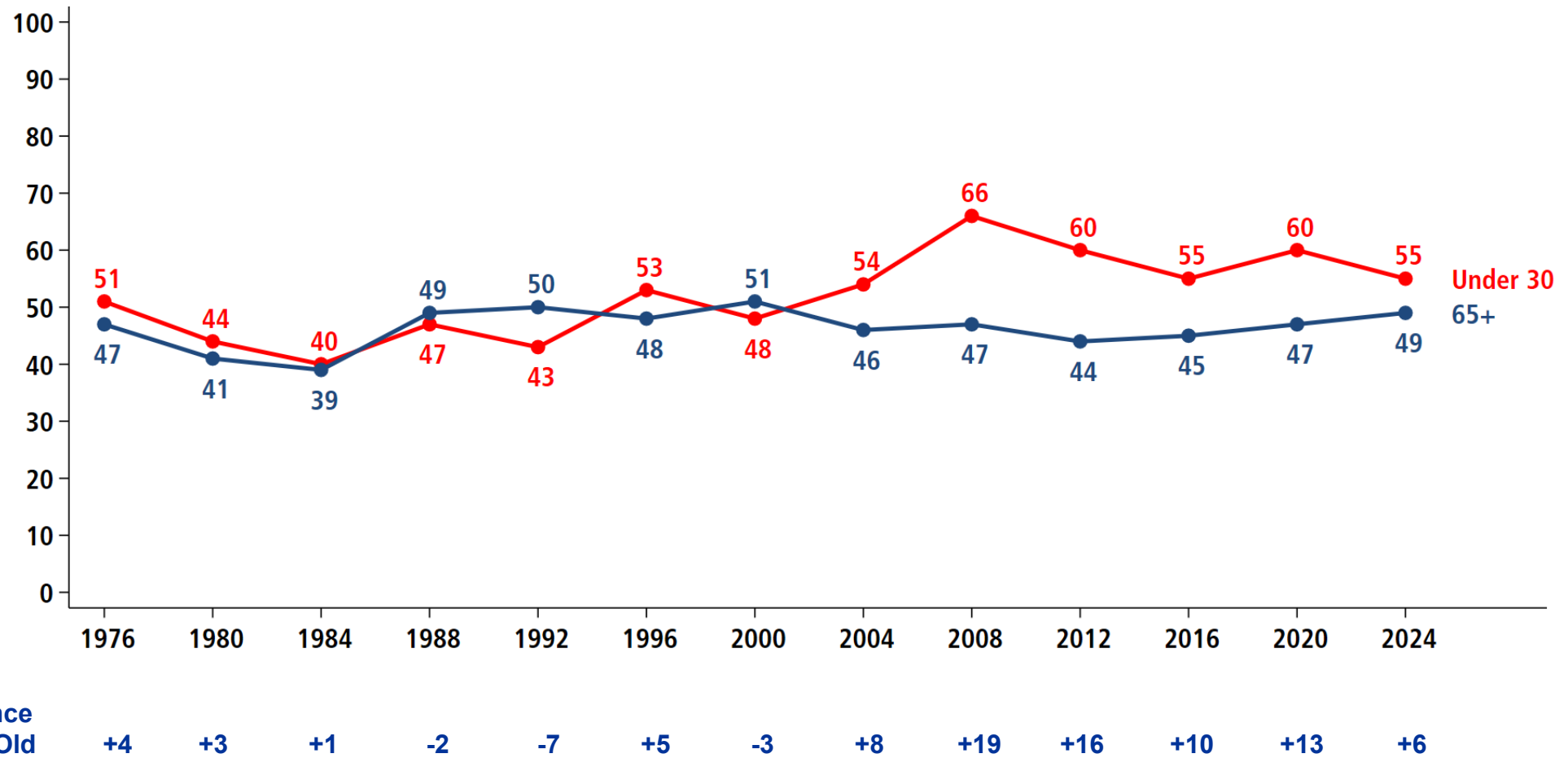
Gender

per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022), NEP/Edison 2024.

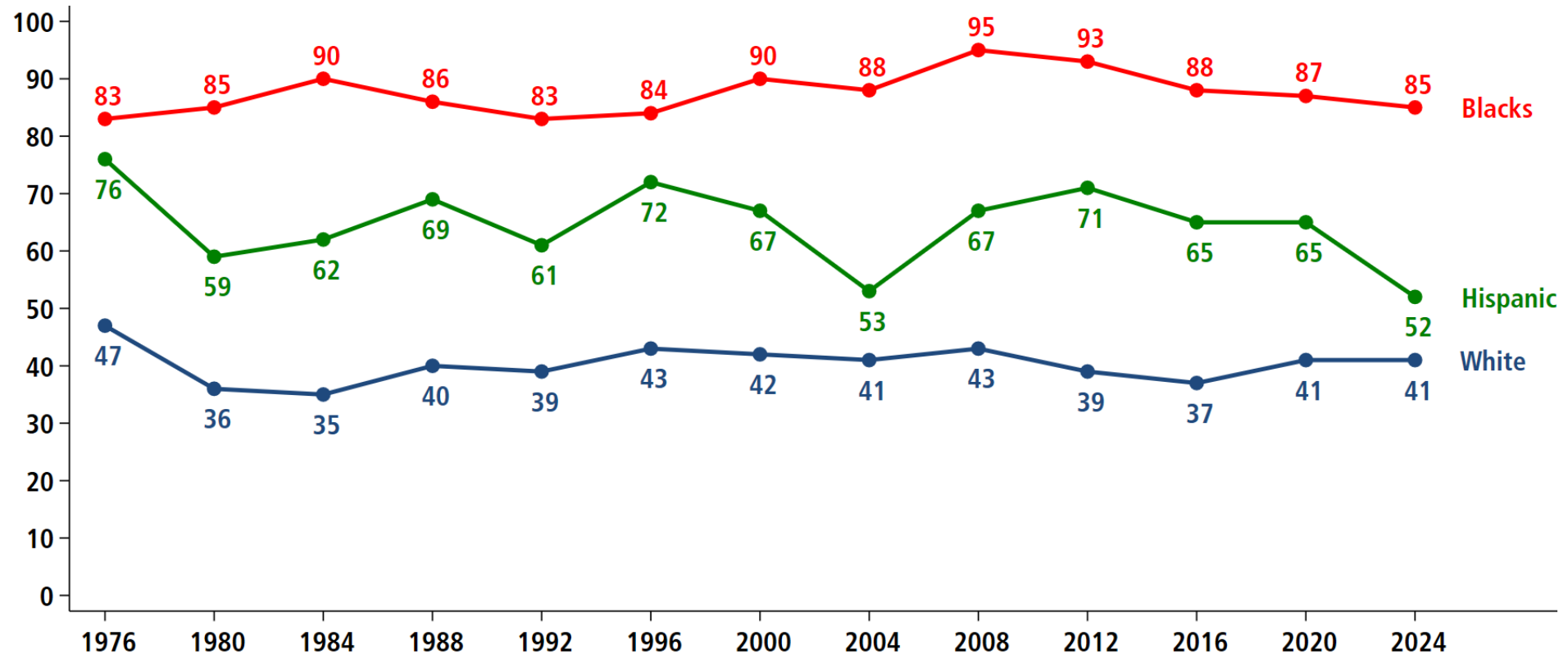
Age *per cent Democrats*



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison: AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022), NEP/Edison 2024.

Ethnic Group

per cent Democrats

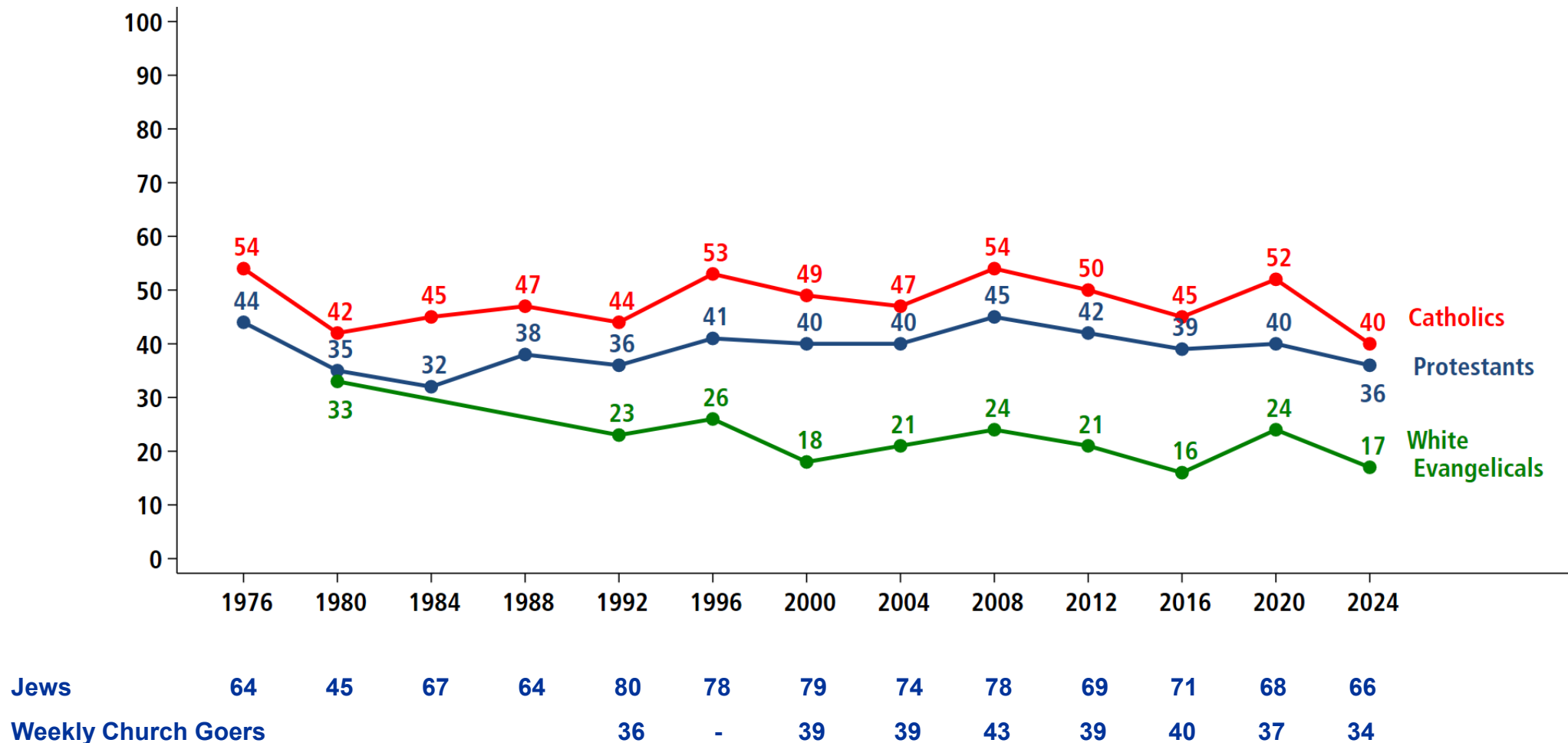


Jews	64	45	67	64	80	78	79	74	78	69	71	68	66
Asians	-	-	-	-	31	43	54	56	62	73	65	61	54

Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). The results for Jews in 2020 and 2024 come from AP VoteCast, NEP/Edison 2024.

Religion

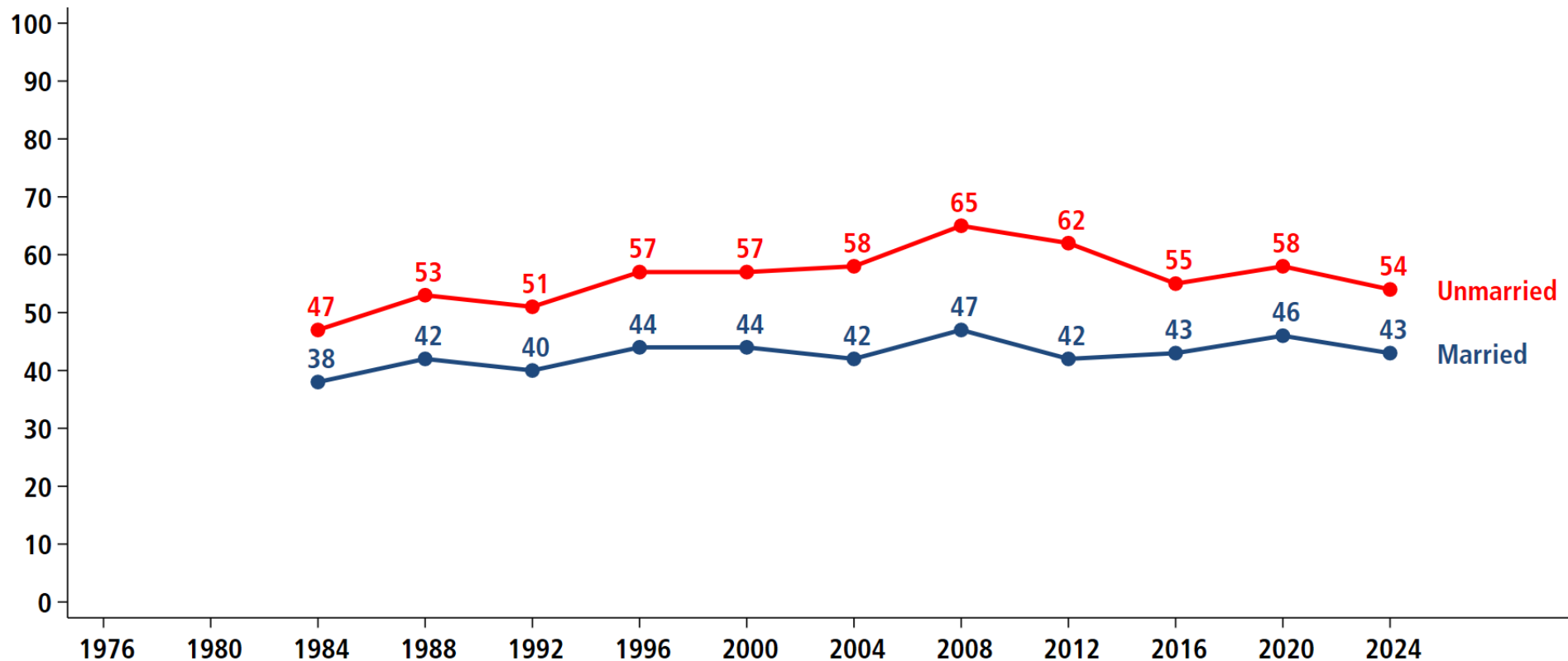
per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2016; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). The results for Jews and Weekly Church Goers in 2020 and 2024 come from AP VoteCast, NEP/Edison 2024.

Marital Status

per cent Democrats



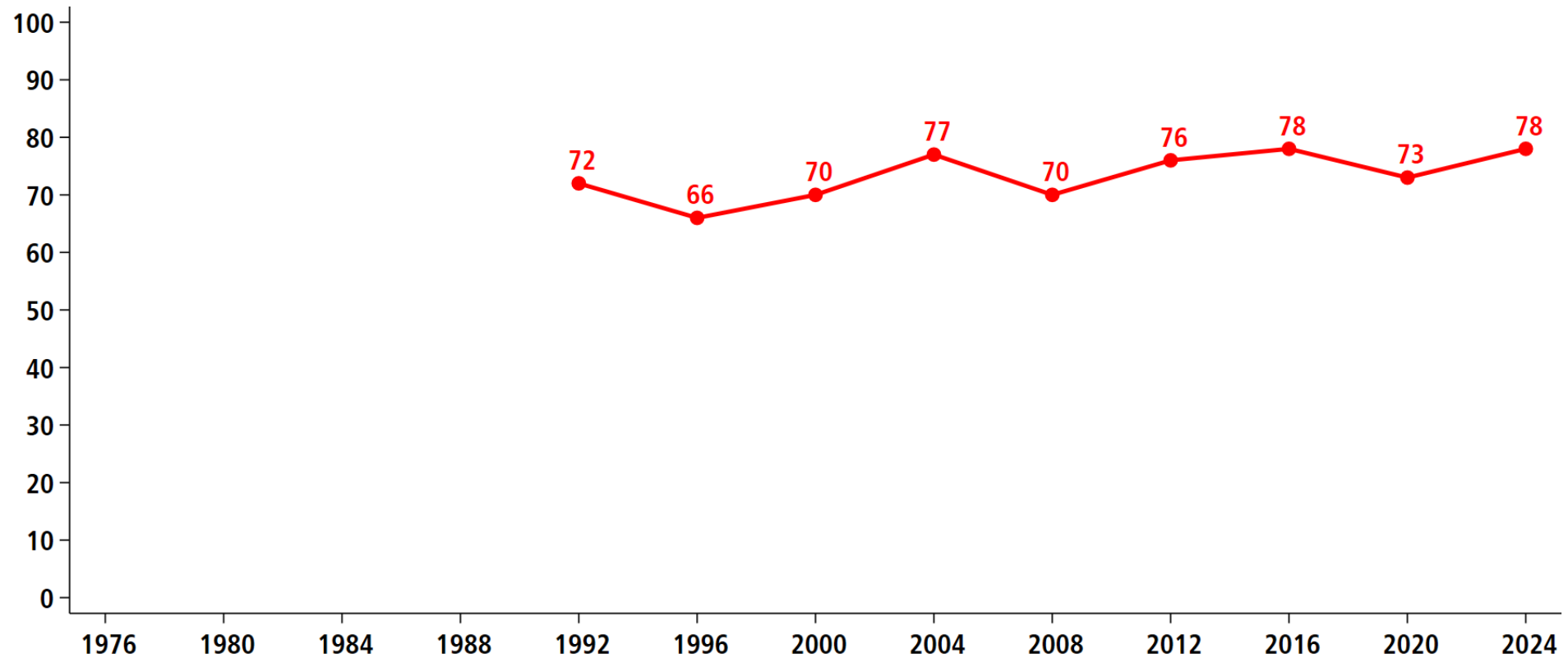
Difference - - +9 +11 +11 +13 +13 +16 +18 +20 +12 +12 +11

Unmarried-Married

Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2016; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022), NEP/Edison 2024.

Gays/Lesbians

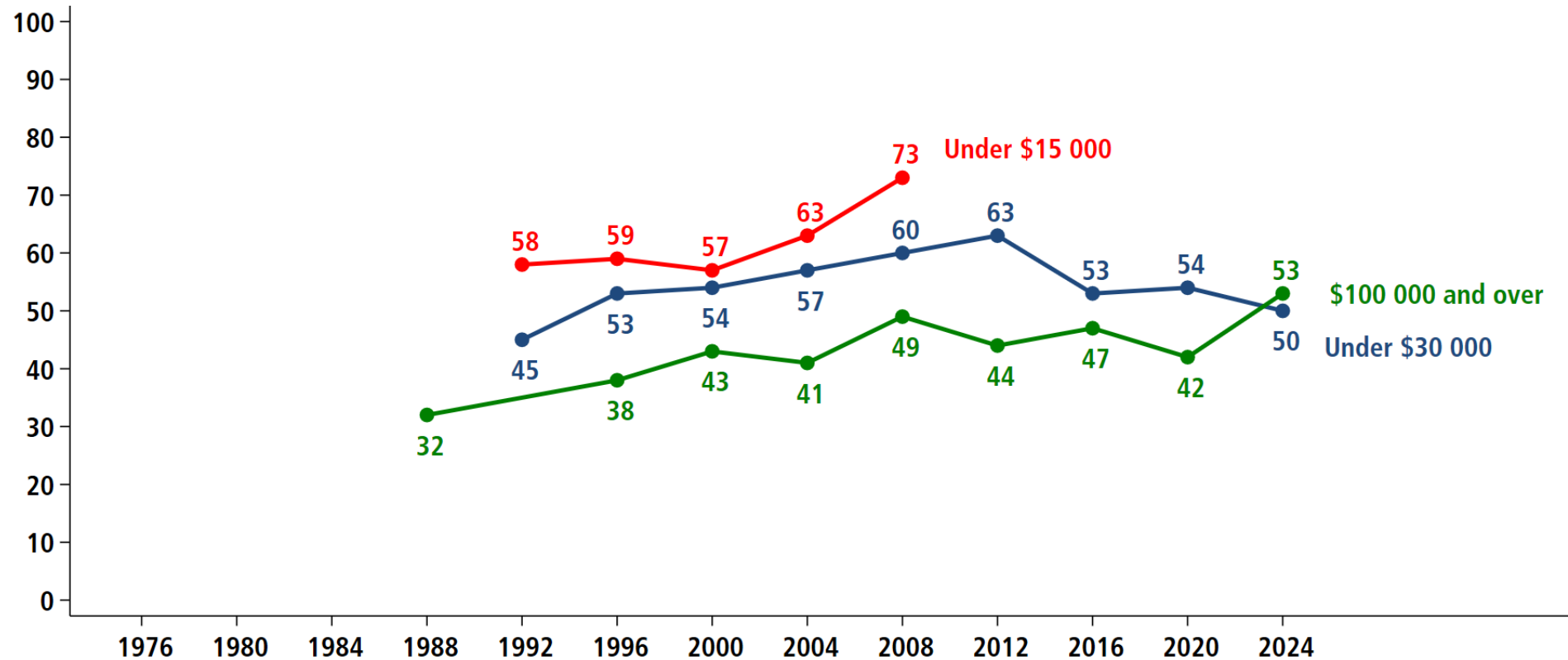
per cent Democrats



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison 2004-2016 ; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). The AP VoteCast result in 2020 is 73 per cent and in 2024 78 per cent.

Income

per cent Democrats



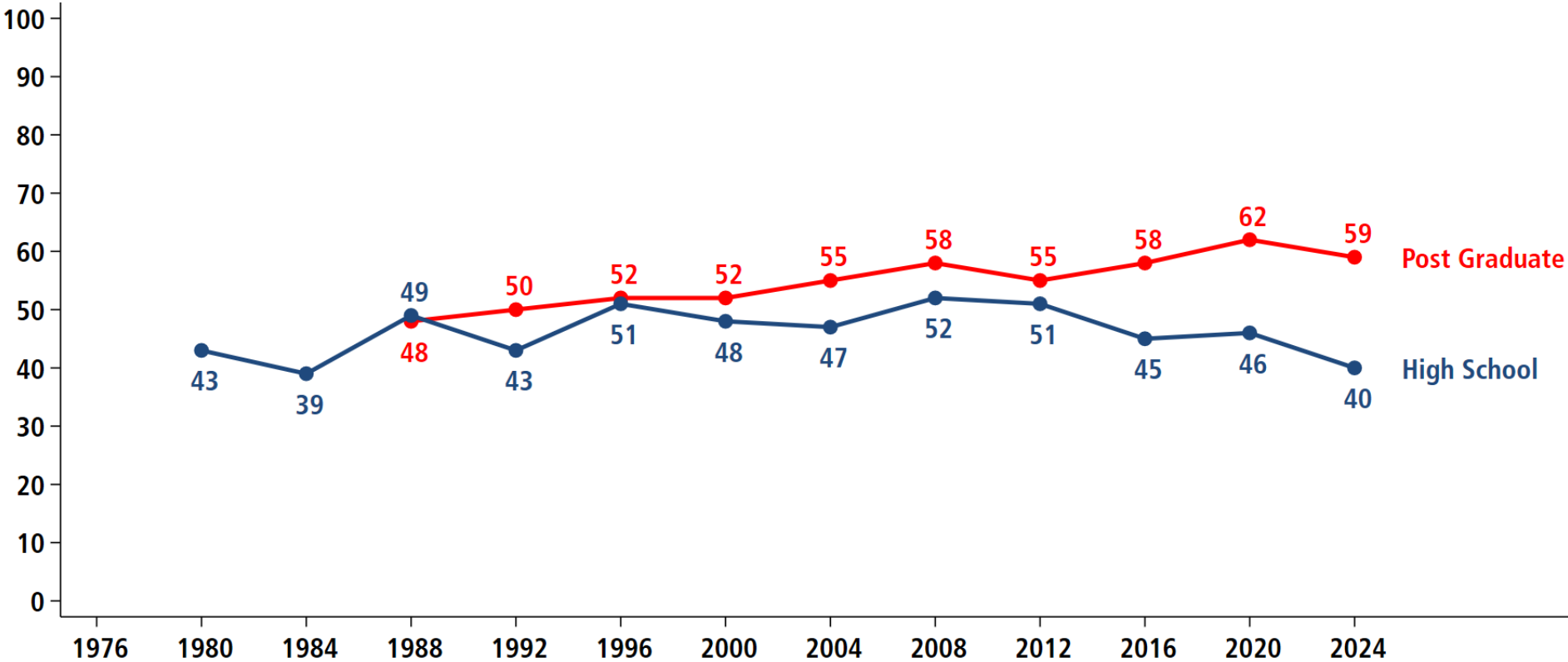
Difference

Under \$ 30K – \$100K+ - - - - - +15 +11 +16 +11 +19 +6 +12 -3

Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison. In 1992-2012 the under \$30 000 income category was defined as \$15 000 - \$29 000. The results for 2024 are from AP VoteCast and the lowest income is defined as under \$25 000.

Education

per cent Democrats



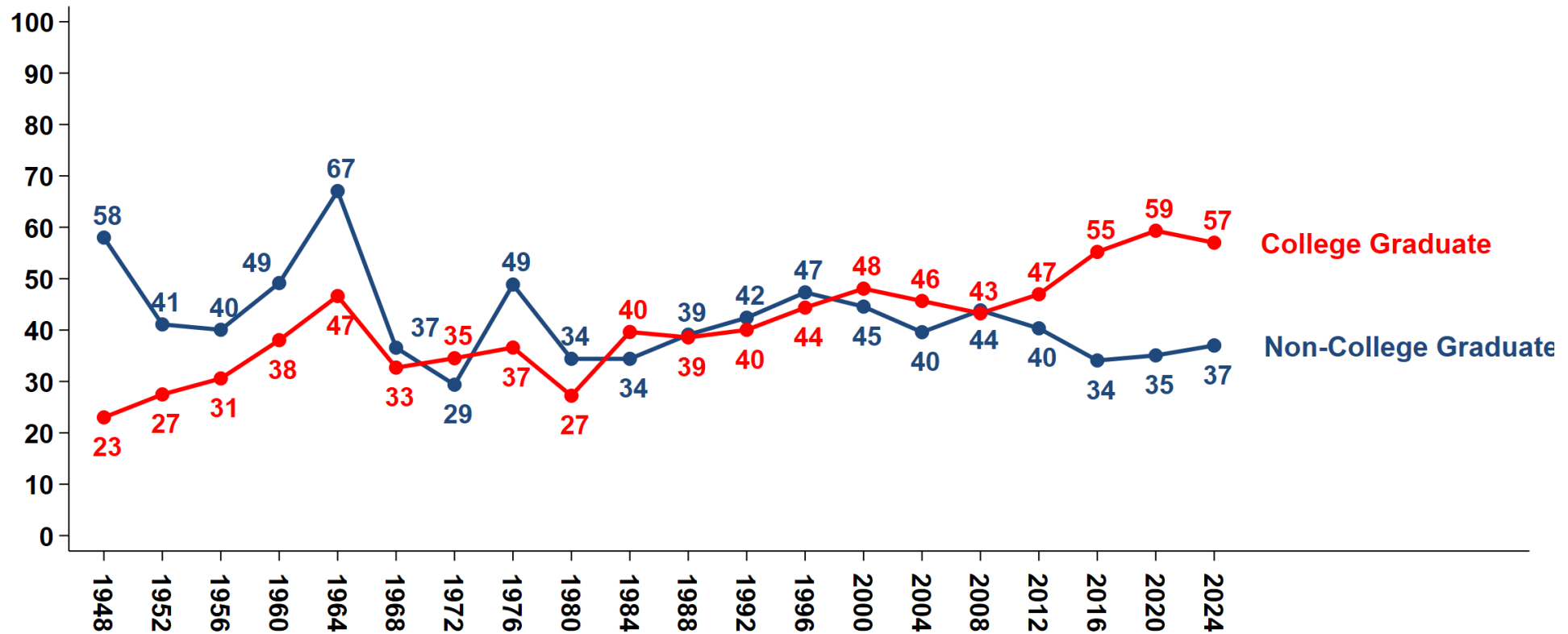
Difference

Post Grad – HS	-	-	-	-1	+7	+1	+4	+8	+6	+4	+13	+16	+19
College Graduate	-	35	41	37	39	44	45	46	49	49	49	51	55

Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022). The results for High School in 2020 and 2024 come from AP VoteCast.

Level of Education/Whites Only

per cent Democrats

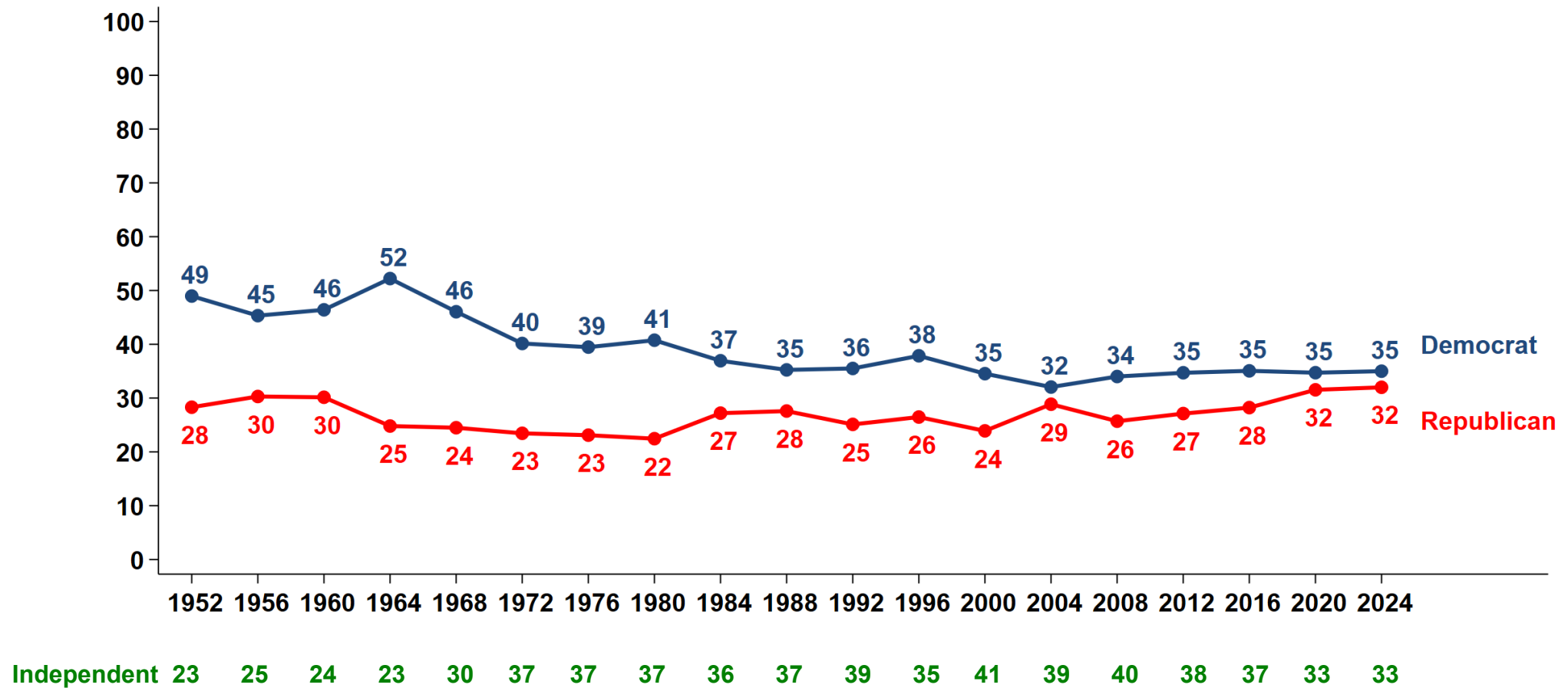


Difference

NonGrad-Grad +35 +14 +9 +11 +20 +4 -6 +12 +7 -6 ±0 +2 +3 -3 -6 +1 -7 -21 -24 -20

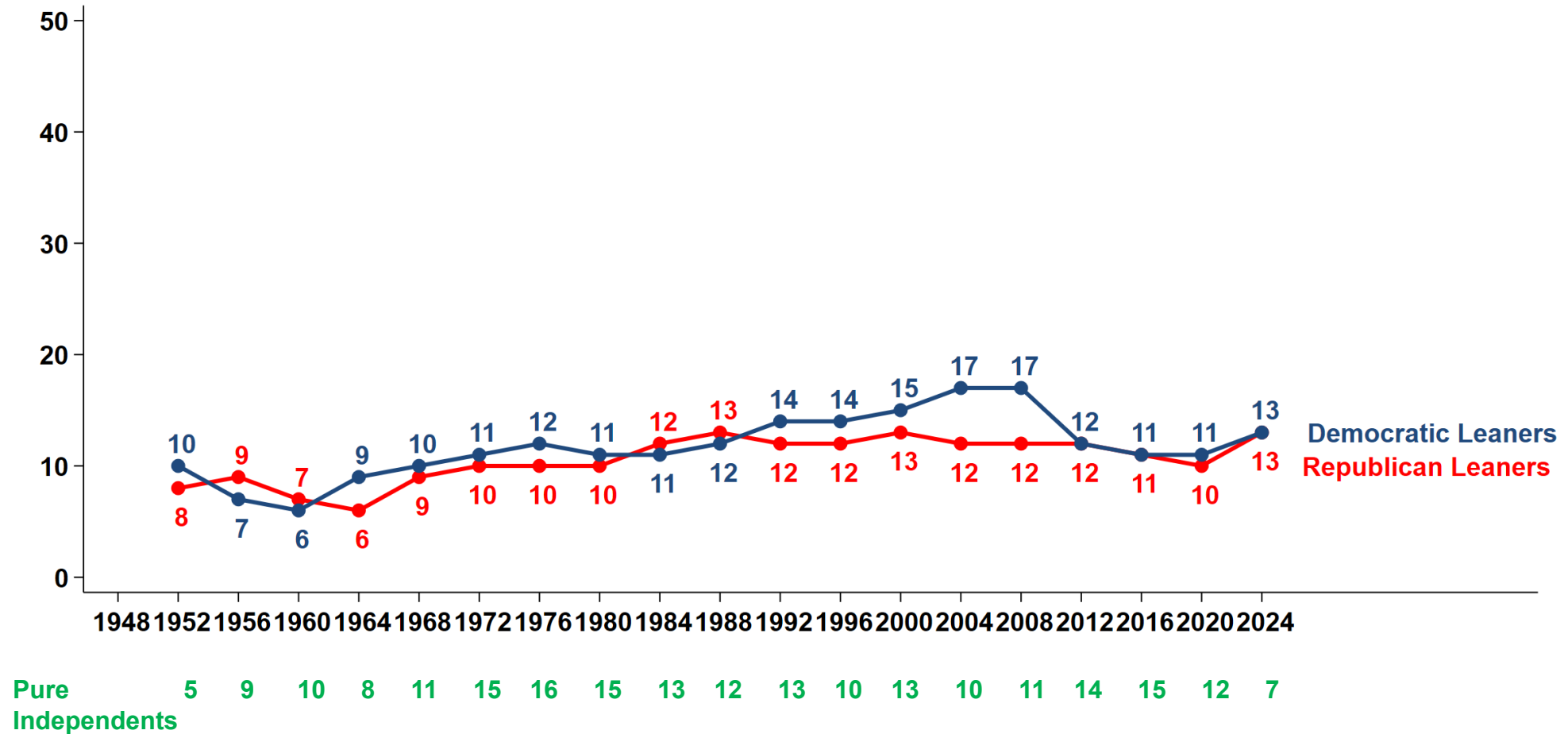
Source: ANES 1948-2024. White Non-Hispanic. Non-College Graduates vs. College Graduates.
In 1948 No College Education vs. at least Some College Education.

US Party Identification



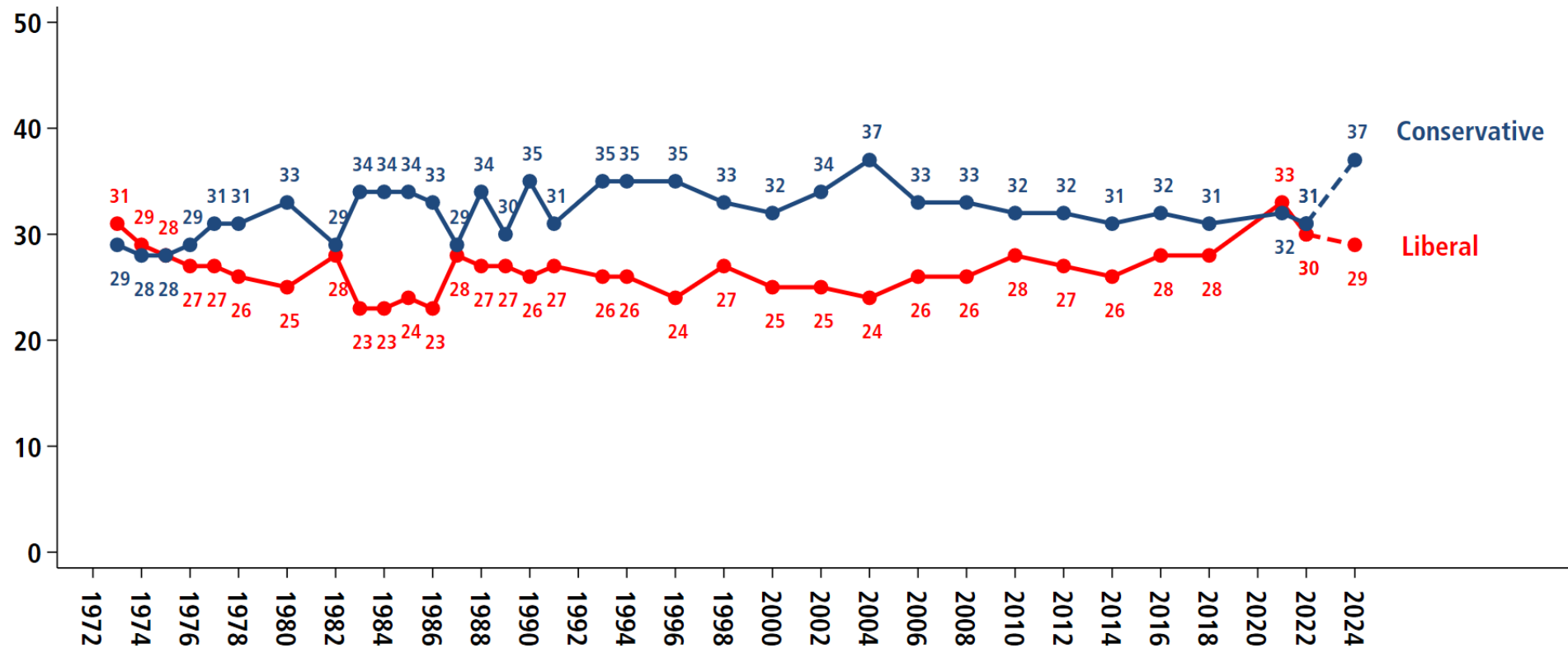
Source: ANES 1952 – 2024.

US: Independent Party Leaners



Source: ANES 1952-2024.

US Ideological Self-Identification

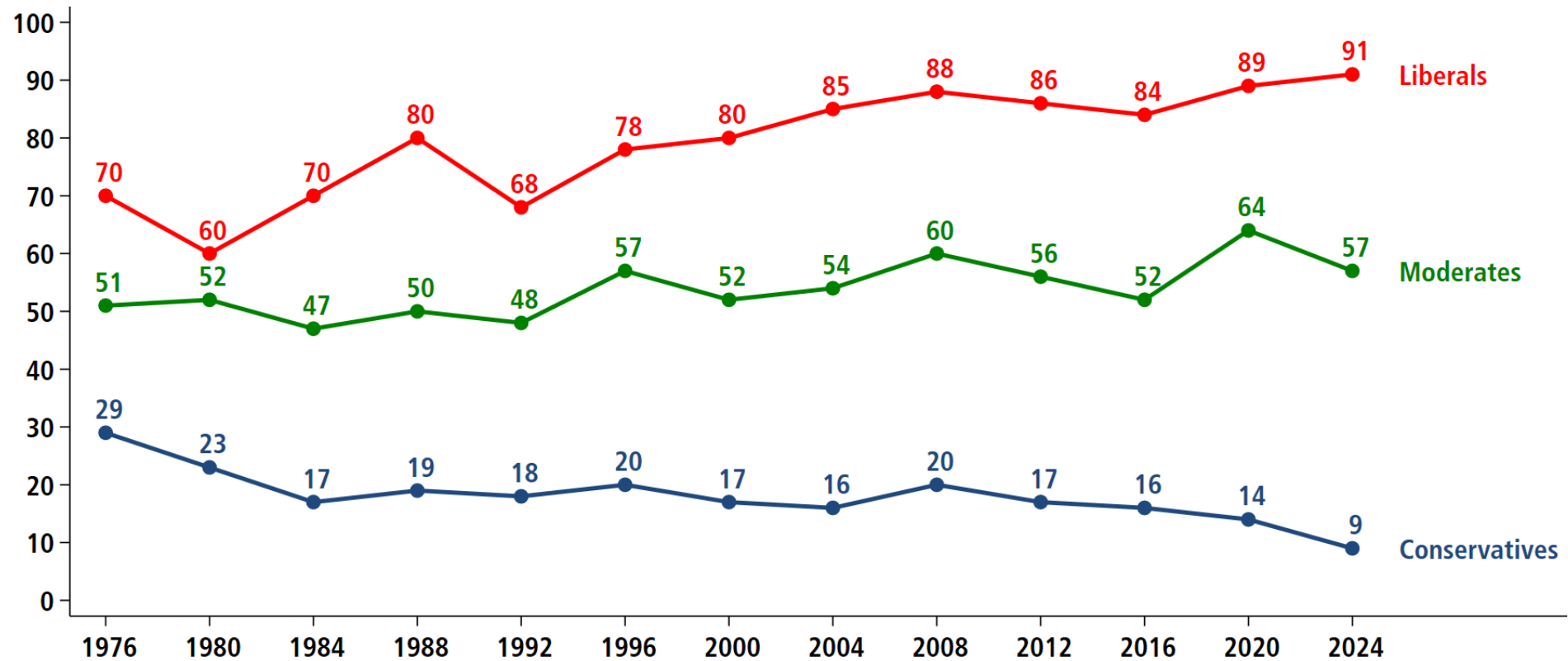


Moderates 36 38 38 37 37 36 40 37 40 39 37 39 35 35 37 35 39 36 35 36 35 37 38 37 37 37 37 36 39 36 36 34 35 33

Source:; General Social Survey, NORC 1973-2022. DKs 1 – 6%, AP VoteCast 2024.

Ideology

per cent Democrats



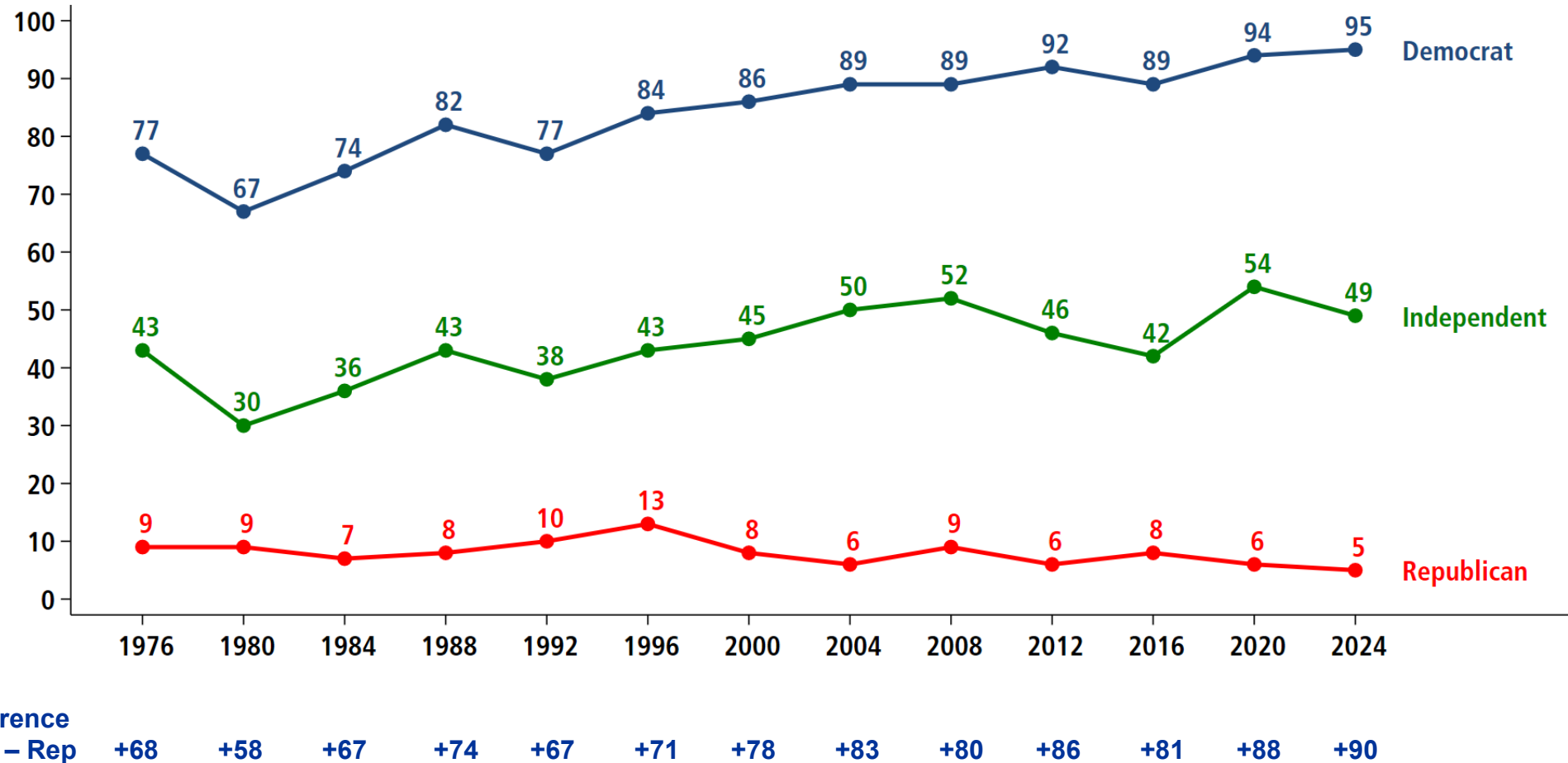
Difference
Lib – Cons

+41 +37 +53 +61 +50 +58 +63 +69 +68 +69 +68 +75 +82

Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022), NEP/Edison 2024.

Party Identification

per cent voting Democratic



Source: VNS Exit Polls; NEP/Edison; AEI: *The Exit Polls* (2022), NEP/Edison 2024.

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