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Iowa Voting Series, Paper 7: An Examination of Iowa Voter Distribution in Elections Since 2000

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Iowa Voting Series, Paper 7: An Examination of Iowa Voter Distribution in Elections Since 2000

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Abstract

This is the seventh paper in a series examining aspects of voting in Iowa. In the second through fifth papers in this series I examined Iowa's turnout statistics in midterm and presidential elections since 2000 in various combinations of party, gender, and age group. For the most part, these papers only examined the turnout percentages within each group or subgroup. In the sixth paper I changed focus and examined turnout in terms of absentee and early voting. In doing so I looked at the data in terms of turnout percentages for the subgroups, but also in terms of the distributions of subgroups among the voters for a particular election. Looking at voter distributions provided additional information regarding absentee voting, so in this paper I am returning to the prior analyses for an examination of the group and subgroup distributions. The results show that Republicans have a larger proportion of the voters in six of the seven elections examined. Women were consistently more numerous in all seven elections. Among the five indicated age groups, the 18-24 and 25-34 groups had the smallest proportions. For the three older groups (35-49, -50-64, and 65 & Over) the pattern was more complex, but driven largely by underlying changes in voter registration numbers. Results for combinations of gender, age group, and party are also examined.

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Updates

Unlike most academic papers I plan to update the data for this paper as elections occur. Data updates might lead to changes in the text as well. Below is a list of the updates as they occur.

- Initial release, May 2014

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In the second through fifth papers in this series¹ I examined Iowa's turnout statistics in midterm and presidential elections since 2000 in various combinations of party, gender, and age group.² For the most part, these papers only examined the turnout percentages within each group or subgroup. In the sixth paper I changed focus and examined turnout in terms of absentee and early voting. In doing so I looked at the data in terms of turnout percentages for the subgroups, but also in terms of the distributions of subgroups among the voters for a particular election. Looking at voter distributions provided additional information regarding absentee voting, so in this paper I am returning to the prior analyses for an examination of the group and subgroup distributions. As with the prior papers in this series my focus will be on the statistics involved rather than theorizing about the reasons for particular distributions. Nevertheless, the goal of this paper, like the others in the series, is to examine aspects of voting in Iowa with an eye to future elections and to provide some background and context to discussions about Iowa voters.

Data

As with prior papers, data for this examination were gathered from the Election Results & Statistics page of the Iowa Secretary of State's website.³ This page provides links to election results for a variety of primary and general election contests in Iowa, including those for presidential and midterm elections. The statistics examined here are obtained

¹ All prior papers in the series are available at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~030116/papersframe.htm>. Although I would like each to stand on its own, the papers tend to build on each other so I will make frequent references to prior papers in the series. In addition, some explanatory material will be repeated from one paper to the next to provide background or context.

² When I refer to turnout in "presidential elections" or "midterm elections" it is a shorthand way of referring to turnout in that year in general, not for a particular contest. Certainly some who vote in a particular election do not do so for every contest. As noted below, the data considered here are from statewide turnout statistics not from any particular contest except when a particular race is used as an example.

³ <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/results/index.html>

from the Statewide Statistical Reports links.⁴ The data in these reports is broken out by party, gender, and age group.

As in the prior papers, before proceeding I need to make an additional comment about the data for this paper. The information contained in the Statewide Statistical Reports links is not entirely complete with respect to party identification. The reports contain divisions for Democrat, Republican, and No Party voters, but do not include an “Other” category as they do for the registration statistics. Although this was not a problem for the 2000 through 2006 elections, for 2008 and beyond it means that the grand total of registrants and voters in any particular age group cannot be achieved by simply adding the Democrats, Republicans, and No Party voters in that age group. In the first paper in this series I simply added registrants in the Other category to No Party registrants. I cannot do that for this paper, however, as I have neither an exact count of such Other registrants on election day nor an indication of how many voted. Nevertheless, although this number varies from about one to several hundred registrants or voters depending on the category or election, that number is small, relatively speaking, and I will only focus on the three main political affiliations.

Iowa Registered Voters and Past Findings

The focus of this paper is on the distribution of Iowa voters for general elections since 2000. This means I will examine the proportion of voters belonging to various categories based on political party, gender, and age group. There are, of course, two factors that determine the voter distribution for a particular election: registration and turnout. In examining the proportion of voters for a set of categories we must keep in mind the underlying voter registration numbers and turnout percentages for those categories. Although I examined registration numbers and turnout percentages in prior papers, in examining distributions here I will make frequent references to findings from those prior papers.

For present purposes I begin by repeating Figure 1⁵ from the second paper. This figure shows the number of registered Iowa voters and the turnout percentages in general elections from 2000 to 2012. This period covers four presidential elections and three midterm elections. The height of the bars represents the total number of registered voters. Except for a slight decline for the 2002 election (due to adjustments following the 2000 census), the number of registered voters in Iowa has slowly increased in the last dozen years.⁶ The turnout percentages for the elections have been steady, though

⁴ For example, the turnout statistics for the 2000 presidential election can be found at <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/2000StateWithLinnDemo.pdf>

⁵ It is a bit inconvenient for readers, but to make the figures larger I will put them at the end of the paper rather than within the text.

⁶ See the first paper in the series, “An Empirical Examination of Iowa Voter Registration Statistics” for more details. Interestingly, although 2012 was also a post-census adjustment year, the registration losses

there is a clear difference between presidential and midterm years. The turnout in presidential elections has varied only a few percentage points between 71.57% and 75.96%. Although the turnout for midterm elections has also varied within a narrow range (52.71% to 56.35%), that range is substantially lower than for presidential elections. The average turnout in presidential years is 73.36%, but only 54.01% in midterm years. Those who follow politics are well aware of the much lower turnout for midterm elections, but it is worth knowing just how substantial the difference is. This is particularly true in a state such as Iowa that is fairly evenly balanced between the two major parties. More specifically, knowing who turns out, particularly in midterm elections, can aid parties and candidates in their get out the vote (GOTV) efforts.

The second paper then examined turnout differences by political party. Figure 2 is also a repeat from the second paper showing the voter registration differences between Democrats, Republicans, and No Party voters (what Iowa calls independents).⁷ With the exception of a surge for Democrats in 2008, registration for the two major parties has been fairly even. No Party registrants, however, have always been more numerous than those of either party, though the gap closed between 2000 and 2012. In terms of turnout, the findings were, in brief, that Republicans were consistently a few percentage points higher than Democrats for both midterm and presidential elections. In addition, turnout for both major parties was several points lower in midterm elections. In contrast, turnout for No Party voters was much lower than either Democrats or Republicans, particularly in midterm elections.

The third paper examined registration and turnout differences by gender and party and found that women outnumbered men as registered voters in all seven elections examined. By party, there were clearly more women than men registered as Democrat or No Party. The gender difference for Republican registrations was much smaller. Republican women were more numerous at the beginning of the period, but men moved ahead for the 2004 election and began to take a widening lead in the last two elections. As for turnout, women had a higher turnout percentage than men in all four presidential elections regardless of party. For midterm elections the turnout percentages of men and women were much closer and somewhat mixed in that Republican women had a higher turnout percentage than men for all three midterms, men were higher than women No Party voters for all three midterms, and the results for Democrats were mixed.

earlier in the year were made up by the time of the general election in November. As I mentioned in the fourth paper, this is an example of the difference in resources for get out the vote efforts in midterm (2002) versus presidential (2012) election years.

⁷ As I mentioned in prior papers, I hesitate to refer to No Party voters as a political party. In earlier papers I referred to Democrats, Republicans, and No Party voters as “groups” to avoid this. Unfortunately, this can become confusing when I am also discussing the age groups. Thus, for present purposes I will refer to No Party voters as a party to distinguish between political registrations as opposed to age groups.

In the fourth paper I looked at registration and turnout statistics for the five age groups for which turnout statistics are reported (18-24, 25-34, 35-49, 50-64, and 65 & Over) along with party differences. In terms of registration, in the 18-24 group No Party voters had more registrants than those of either major party combined. Although No Party voters also dominated the 25-34 category, the number of No Party voters was so small for the 65 & Over group that they were only a bit over half of those for either of the major parties. In terms of turnout, the data confirmed conventional wisdom that older registrants are more likely to vote. In addition, the differences in turnout between presidential and midterm election years was reduced as voters aged. For the most part, party differences shown in prior papers were evident across age groups. More specifically, No Party voters had consistently lower turnout than Democrats or Republicans, and Republican turnout was usually a bit higher than that of Democrats.

In the fifth paper I examined registration and turnout statistics for subgroups based on age group, gender, and party. Some trends from prior papers persisted in the subgroups. Republican men and women tend to have the highest turnout percentages regardless of age group, but are closely followed by men and women Democrats. Men and women No Party voters are clearly below the turnout percentages of voters of either party. A general pattern of women having higher turnout percentages in presidential elections and men in midterm elections is fairly persistent across age groups and parties.

As I mentioned in the third paper, it is worth noting that there are different ways of calculating turnout percentage. Some use as the baseline the voting age population. Others use the number of those who are eligible to vote (i.e., not counting those who have lost their voting rights). For present purposes I use the number registered to vote. How many Iowans are not registered, regardless of eligibility, is a separate matter.⁸ I am also not considering how Iowa compares to other states in terms of turnout.

With the above as a brief summary of the prior papers we can now turn to examining the distribution of voters for the seven elections.

Iowa Voter Distribution by Party

Figure 3 shows the proportion of voters (as a percentage) from the three political parties. In looking at this and the following figures remember that because they are

⁸ Clearly the turnout efforts of campaigns focus on registering people to vote as well as getting them to cast a ballot. Nevertheless, those already registered are likely to be more interested in the political process and therefore more likely to vote, on average, than those who are not yet registered. Identifying and registering those who are eligible is an additional process that requires treatment separate from the focus of this paper.

based on distributions if all the groups increase their number of voters the lines will not be affected, but if one group increases the number of its voters and another group does not, then the first group's percentage (and line) will rise and the other's will fall. With that in mind we see from Figure 3 that the lines for Republicans and No Party voters are nearly mirror images of each other. The proportions for Republican and No Party voters were close in presidential years, but much further apart in midterm years. This is as we would expect given that although the turnout percentages for all three parties decreased in midterm years, the drop was much larger for No Party voters. Thus, fewer No Party voters means Republicans made up a larger proportion of the total voters.

From Figure 3 of the second paper we saw that the turnout percentage for Democrats was only a few percentage points below that of Republicans for all but 2010 where the gap was a bit larger. As such, it is a bit unexpected that the line for Democrats does not more closely resemble that of Republicans. The basic up and down for midterm and presidential years is visible through 2006, but rather than having a smaller proportion for 2008 Democrats actually increased their share. The reason for this has to do with the large surge in registrations Democrats experienced for both the 2008 Iowa Caucuses and the general election (much of which was at the expense of No Party registrations). It was during this period that Democrats had their largest voter registration advantage over Republicans since at least the beginning of 2000.⁹ Thus, although the turnout percentage for Democrats in 2008 was nearly 2% below that of Republicans there were simply many more Democrats, both registered and voting. The Democrats' proportions for 2010 and 2012 were closer to what we would expect, which suggests 2008 was an outlier.

More generally, only No Party voters ever made up less than 25% of the distribution, as they did in 2002. That same year was the only time any of the parties had more than 40% when Republicans had 40.43%. Despite their larger registration numbers, No Party voters only had a higher proportion than either of the other two parties in 2000 and 2004 when they were more numerous than Democrats. Democrats only had a larger proportion than Republicans in 2008.

Iowa Voter Distribution by Gender

Figure 4 shows the voter distribution by gender. From the third paper in the series we learned that there have consistently been more women registered to vote in Iowa than men. Over the seven elections the difference averages 112,981 with an average of total voters just under two million. The turnout percentages for men and women have been very close to each other, though women tend to have slightly higher turnout percentages in presidential elections and men slightly higher in midterms. Thus, it is not surprising that the lines in Figure 4 are so flat, with little variation between midterm

⁹ See the first paper in the series for more details.

and presidential elections. In fact, with the exception of 2010, the percentages for men and women varied by no more than 1% over the other six elections.

Iowa Voter Distribution by Gender and Party

Figure 5 shows the proportion of the six subgroups formed by examining the data in terms of both gender and party. We can see in these six lines aspects of the individual figures for party and gender. Once again the patterns for men and women Republicans and No party voters have a closer, mirror image pattern. Excepting 2008, men and women Democrats have a pattern similar to Republicans, though with smaller changes between presidential and midterm years. We can also see the influence of gender in that women had a higher proportion than the men in their party for all seven elections for Democrats and No Party voters. The same was true for Republican women through 2006. In 2008, Republican men had a slightly higher proportion than the women of their party and increased that proportion in 2010 and 2012.

The intra-party lines are closest for Republicans. Over the seven elections the difference is never more than 0.87% and as little as 0.06%. The intra-party lines for No Party voters most closely reflect prior findings of women having higher turnout percentages than men in presidential years and lower in midterms. Although men No Party voters had slightly higher turnout percentages in midterm years, the larger number of registered women was sufficient to yield a higher proportion of women in these elections. The turnout percentages of men No Party voters increased dramatically in presidential years, but that of women increased even more resulting in an even larger gap. The intra-party lines for Democrats show the widest gap of any of the three parties. The gap is so large that for 2000, 2004, and 2012 women Democrats were the largest proportion of the voters while their male counterparts the smallest. Even though the gap between men and women Democrats was large, it was nearly as consistent as that of Republicans – meaning that there was little variation in the gap between midterm and presidential elections.

In terms of individual subgroups, women Democrats were the highest proportion of the voters in five of the seven elections. It was only in 2002 where men and women Republicans had a higher proportion and in 2010 where men Republicans were higher. Conversely, men Democrats had the smallest proportion in three of the four presidential years, but exceeded men and women No Party voters in all three midterm years. No Party women had a higher proportion than men and women Republicans in three of the four presidential years, the exception being 2012.

Iowa Voter Distribution by Age Group

Figure 6 shows the proportion of voters in the five age groups. As noted in previous papers, we must keep in mind that the age ranges for the groups are not equal. The 18-24 and 25-34 groups cover a smaller range of years and thus have a smaller number of registered voters. In addition, these two age groups have the lowest turnout percentages.¹⁰ Thus, it is no surprise that the 18-24 group had the smallest proportions of voters with the 25-34 group only a few percentage points higher. Notice for the 18-24 group that their proportion in two of the three midterm elections was below 5%. Although turnout improves in presidential years, this group only rose above 10% in 2004 and 2008. The 25-34 group had more registered voters and higher turnout percentages than the 18-24 group, so it is not surprising that its proportions averaged 4.37% above that of the younger group.

The overall pattern of the two youngest groups shows slightly lower proportions in midterm years. This is the opposite of the pattern for the two oldest groups, 50-64 and 65 & Over. The pattern for the oldest two groups shows higher proportions in midterms and slightly lower ones in presidential years. This is explained by the greater variation in the turnout of the two youngest groups in midterm versus presidential elections. The sharp drop in turnout percentages for the youngest groups means that their proportions of the overall distribution decline. Although there were slight decreases in the turnout percentages for the oldest two groups as well, they were fairly small, which left these two groups with higher proportions of the total voters in midterm years. Thus, the pattern of the lines for the two oldest groups is the reverse of that for the two youngest groups.

Of the two oldest groups, the 50-64 group had a higher proportion in all seven elections. In fact, the gap expands in nearly every succeeding election, growing from 1.09% in 2000 to 6.17% in 2012. This increase in proportions for the 50-64 group is largely explained by an increase in registration numbers during the period. In 2000, the 50-64 group had 11,278 more registered voters than the 65 & Over group. By 2012 that difference had grown to 123,556.

The line for the 35-49 group is the most unusual of the five in that it does not show a clear variation between midterm and presidential years. In addition, it shows a steady decline over the period. In terms of turnout percentages, the 35-49 group shows the same pattern of higher percentages in presidential years and lower percentages in midterms as the other age groups. The turnout percentages for this group are also clearly higher than those of the two youngest groups and below that of the two oldest groups. What explains the unusual pattern for this group is a steady decline in registration numbers. Over the period registrants in the 35-49 group went from 537,695

¹⁰ See the fourth paper in the series for more details on age group registration numbers (Figure 2) and turnout percentages (Figure 5).

in 2000 to 494,537 in 2012, a drop of 43,158. This was, in fact, the only group to have decreased registration numbers during the period. This decline in registrants caused the group to constitute a decreasing proportion of the voters over the course of the seven elections.

Iowa Voter Distribution by Age Group and Party

Figure 7 is divided into five parts, one for each of the age groups. Each part shows the distribution of voters of the three parties for those in that age group. A difference here from prior figures is that the combined proportions only represent the total of voters in that age group, not for voters as a whole. Thus, for example, in Figure 7a the three percentages for the 2000 election sum to 7.36%, which is the proportion of 18-24 voters from the 2000 election as shown in Figure 6 (with an allowance for rounding error).

There are two additional points worth noting before proceeding to the data. First, the vertical scale for each of the five parts is the same to make comparisons among age groups a bit easier. Second, given that I am dividing the voters into 15 subgroups in this figure (three parties and five age groups) we can expect that individual subgroup percentages will be relatively small.

Turning to Figure 7a we see that the proportion of voters in the 18-24 age group was quite small for Democrats and Republicans. The proportions for voters in both main parties were below 2% in all three midterms. Democrats and Republicans in this group rose above 2% in three of the four presidential elections, but only Democrats in 2008 were higher than 3%. In contrast, No Party voters were slightly above or very close to 2% in all three midterms and were above 4% in all four presidential elections (with a high of 5.31% for 2004).

That No Party voters had the highest proportion for this age group in all seven elections is not surprising. Although No Party voters in this group had greater variability in their turnout percentages than Democrats or Republicans, their registration numbers simply dominate this age group. Recall from Figure 3a of the fourth paper that the number of No Party registrants was larger than the sum of Democrats and Republicans in five of the seven elections. Thus, even with their lower turnout percentages, particularly in midterm years, No Party voters still had the largest proportion for this age group.

Figure 7b shows that the proportions for the 25-34 voters were a bit larger than those for the 18-24 group, though the overall pattern is similar. As with the younger group, although No Party voters have had lower turnout percentages, higher registration numbers allow them to have higher proportions, particularly in presidential years.

Figure 7c shows the proportions for the 35-49 age group. The first thing to notice is the general downward trend for all three lines. This is consistent with the downward trend for the line of this group in Figure 6. The patterns for Republicans and No Party voters are generally mirror images of each other, consistent with what we saw in Figure 3, but here the lines are mixed with No Party voters having a larger proportion in all four presidential years. No Party registrants did not dominate this age group as they did with the younger two, but they still had a higher proportion of voters than Democrats in six of the seven elections (all but 2002). Republicans had a larger proportion of the voters than Democrats in all seven elections. This is not surprising given that there were more Republican registrants than Democrats in six of the seven elections (all but 2008) and they have had higher turnout percentages.

In Figure 7d we see some differences from the general party pattern from Figure 3. For the 50-64 age group Democrats and Republicans show a very similar pattern of increased proportions in midterm elections and lower in presidential elections. In addition, the lines are mixed with Democrats having larger proportions for the middle three elections (2004, 2006, and 2008), but Republicans having larger proportions in the other four.

Unlike Figure 3, the pattern for No Party voters in Figure 7d does not closely mirror that of Republicans. The variation between midterm and presidential elections was very slight, producing a much straighter line. In addition, the proportion for No Party voters was decreased from the 35-49 group and was less than that of either Democrats or Republicans for all seven elections, though the differences were relatively small. It is for this age group that the registration numbers of the three parties are the closest to each other. Thus, it was the lower turnout percentages of No Party voters that caused their proportions to be smaller. In addition, and somewhat counter-intuitively, it is the variations in turnout between midterm and presidential years among the No Party voters that created the changes in the proportions for Democrats and Republicans.

Figure 7e shows the proportions for the 65 & Over group. The patterns here are similar to those of Figure 7d. The patterns for Democrats and Republicans are even more similar than for the 50-64 group. One difference is that we do not see a general upward trend of the lines as the number of registrants in this age group was relatively stable over the period. The proportions of No Party voters have again decreased and were even below that of 18-24 No Party voters for 2004 and 2008. A large part of the reason for the drop was that there were far fewer No Party voters in this age group. In terms of registrations, the smallest number of No Party registrants in the 18-24 age group occurred in 2010 with 122,490. In contrast, the largest number of No Party registrants in the 65 & Over group was in 2012 with 92,112. The No Party line is even flatter and straighter than for the 50-64 group.

Iowa Voter Distribution by Gender and Age Group

The 10 lines in Figure 8 represent the proportions of voters in the subgroups determined by gender and age group. It is not surprising that the patterns here are quite similar to those of Figure 6. Women consistently had a larger proportion of the voters for all five age groups. As noted in prior papers, women tend to have lower turnout percentages than men in midterm years and higher in presidential years, but Figure 2 from the fifth paper in the series showed that for the four younger age groups women made up roughly 51-52% of the registrants. The result, as we can see in this figure is the consistent gap between men and women regardless of age group. For the 65 & Over group there was a jump of roughly 5% in the percentage of registrants who are women. This increase is reflected in this figure in that the gap between men and women was the largest for the 65 & Over group.

Iowa Voter Distribution by Age Group, Gender, and Party

Figure 9 is divided into five parts, one for each of the age groups. Each part shows six lines for the subgroups based on party and gender. As with Figure 7, the percentages for each subgroup sum to the percentage for that age group among all voters. To use the 18-24 group as an example again, the percentages in the column for the 2000 election sum to 7.37%, which is the proportion of 18-24 voters shown in Figure 6 (with allowances for rounding error). Also, given that we are now looking at 30 subgroups (five age groups, three parties, and two genders) the proportion for any particular subgroup will be fairly small. As with Figure 7, the vertical scale of each part is the same to allow for easier comparisons across age groups.

In examining the parts of Figure 9 it is probably best to compare them with the parts of Figure 7 and then look for deviations from the expectation that the women of each party will have a slightly larger proportion than the men. Using this approach, the first deviation from the expectation occurs in Figure 9a for the 18-24 group. Here, although the proportions for Republican men and women were very close to each other – closer than for either Democrats or No party voters – the men actually had a slightly higher proportion in all seven elections.

In Figure 9b, the 25-34 group again shows Republicans had the closest intra-party lines, but men still had a larger proportion in all seven elections. The intra-party gender gap for Democrats and No Party voters was wider for this age group compared to the 18-24 group. The gap was fairly consistent for Democrats, but varied more for No Party voters based on the type of election: larger for presidential years, smaller for midterms.

Figure 9c shows the lines for the 35-49 group. Again, Republican men had a larger proportion of voters than their women counterparts. The gap between men and women

Democrats widened from the previous age group. The lines are fairly mixed among five of the six subgroups, with only men Democrats clearly below the others.

Figure 9d shows the lines for the 50-64 group. Once again, Republican men had a larger proportion of the voters than Republican women. The difference was very small in 2000, but grew during the period. The closest set of intra-party lines are now those of No Party voters. In addition to being quite close for all seven elections, we see a familiar pattern of No Party men having slightly higher proportions in midterm elections and women in presidential elections. Again, the gap between men and women Democrats was the widest of the three parties, though similar to the gap for the 35-49 group. The lines for men and women No Party voters have now fallen below those of the other two parties. As mentioned previously, it was for this age group that the number of registrants for each of the three parties was most even. The generally lower turnout percentages of No Party voters resulted in lower proportions for this age group.

Finally, Figure 9e shows the lines for the 65 & Over group. Here Republican women were at last a larger proportion of the voters than the men of their party. Moreover, the gap was nearly as large it was between men and women Democrats. In fact, the lines for the men of the two major parties were closer to each other than to the women of their respective parties (and similarly for the women). There was more of a gap between the lines for No Party voters, but both men and women were well below the proportions for the other four subgroups.

Concluding Comments

The distribution of voters for a particular election is determined by a combination of underlying voter registration numbers and the turnout percentages for various groups. Although it is important to examine voter registration numbers and turnout percentages of various groups and subgroups, it is also worth looking at the actual distributions those numbers and percentages produce. This is particularly true for the larger groups based on party, gender, and age group. Drilling down to the various subgroups can also be of interest to see the differences between them as the factors change.

In looking at the distribution by party it was interesting to see how the proportions for Republicans and No Party voters seemed to vary in lockstep. It was also interesting to see how there were actually more Republican voters in Iowa in six of the seven elections (all but 2008) and yet, Iowans voted for Democrats for president (2000) and governor (2002 and 2006) in three of those elections. This emphasizes the importance of No Party voters despite their often smaller proportions of the voters.

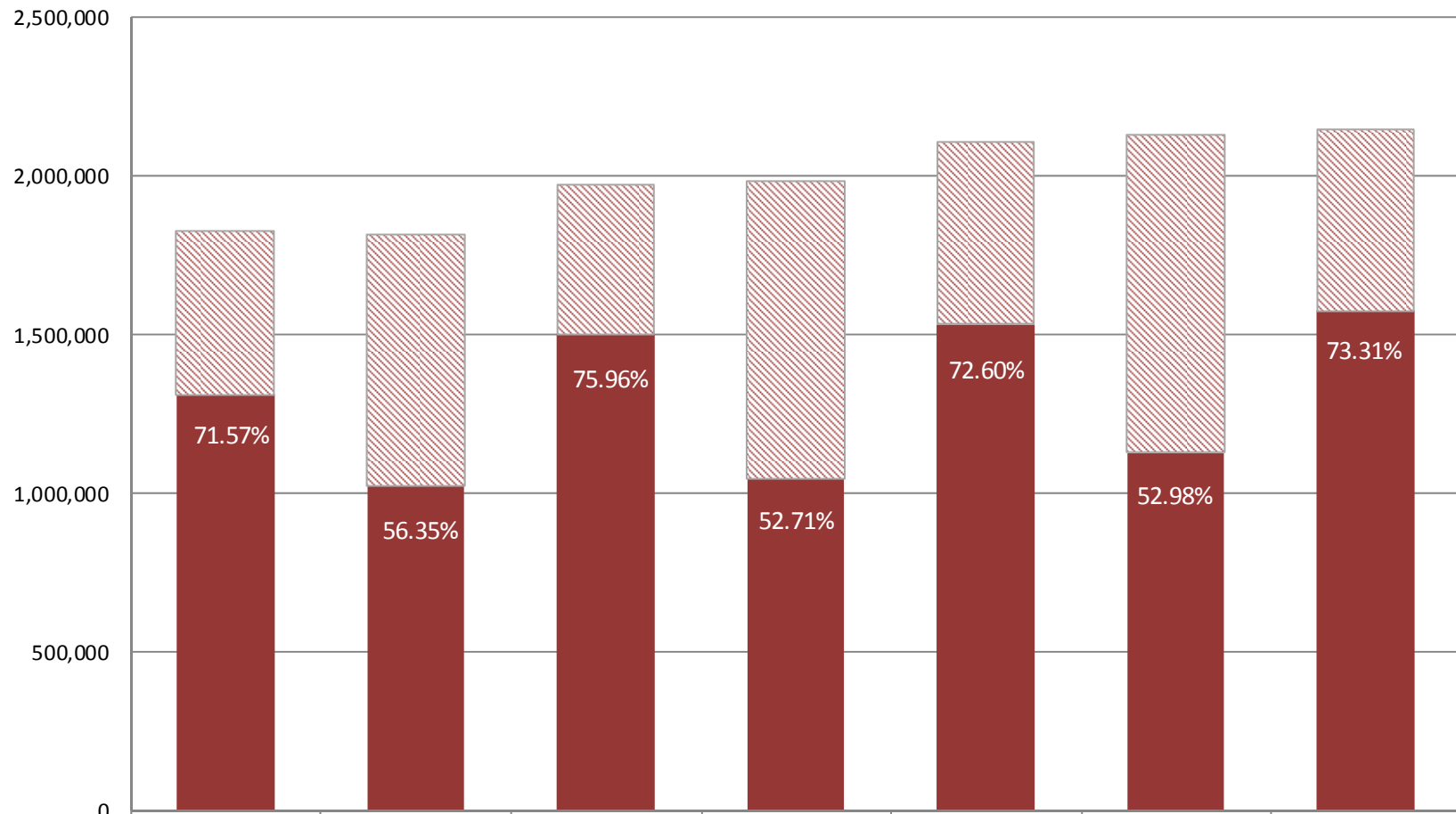
The larger number of women voters in the distributions is fairly consistent. It becomes interesting when combined with either party or age group divisions (or both). It is then we see the large gender gap for Democrats and the near parity for Republicans.

Distribution differences by age group are largely driven by registration numbers, particularly when also considering party affiliation. The two younger age groups have the lowest turnout percentages, but No Party registrants dominate these groups so their proportions of the distributions are larger than that of the two major parties. The turnout percentages increase for the older groups, but the substantial drop in the number of No Party registrants results in their having the lowest proportion for the oldest group.

Also of interest for the age groups was how the 35-49 group was the only one that became smaller during the period. The 50-64 group was the one that grew the most. This would make some sense as most of those in the 35-49 group at the start of the period in 2000 were in the 50-64 group by the end. Even so, the registration numbers for the two youngest groups also grew, so the replacement problem seemed to center on the 35-49 group.

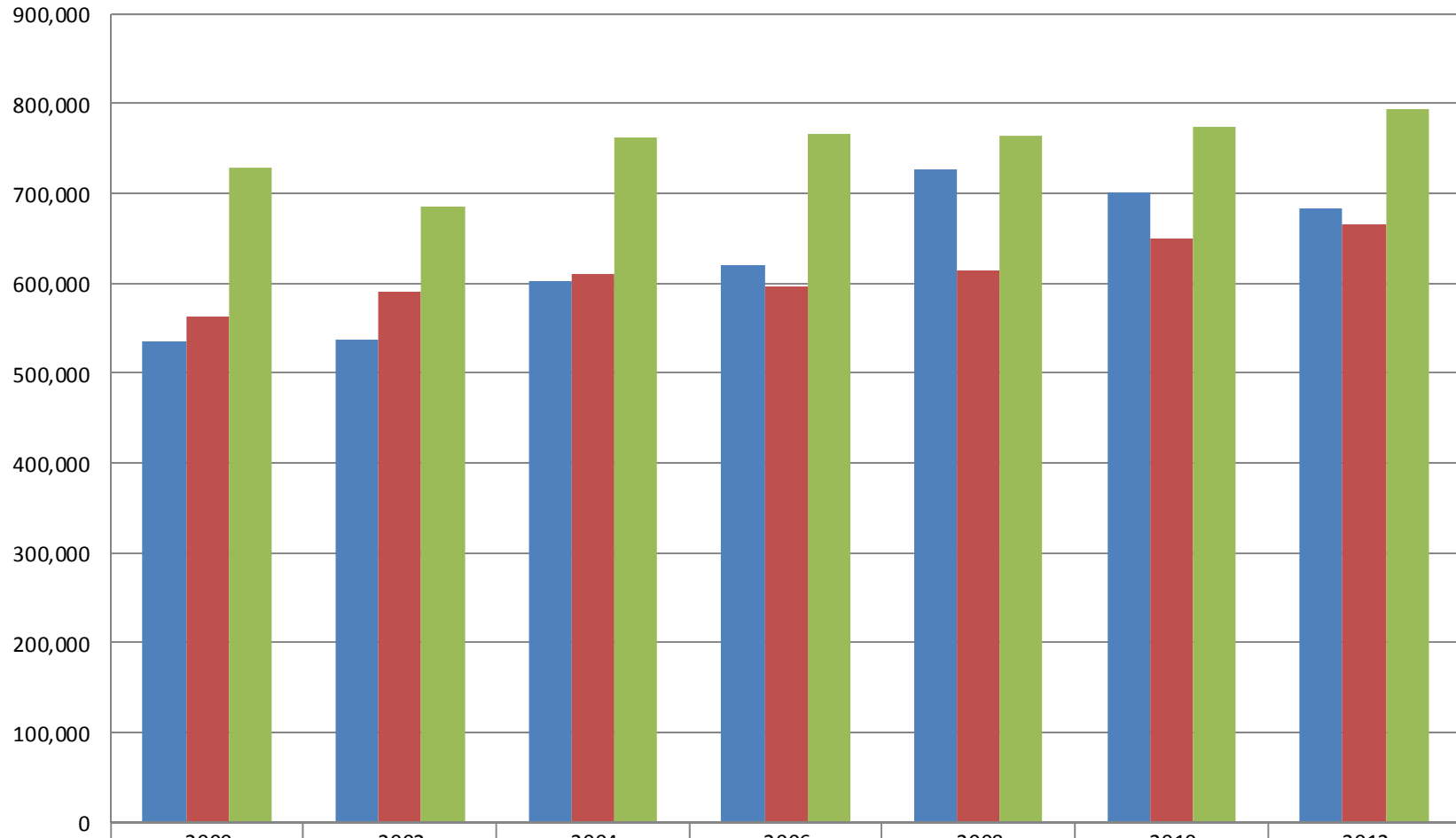
On the whole, examining voter distributions is a good reminder that neither registration numbers nor turnout percentages tells the whole story of an election.

Figure 1: Iowa Registered Voters, Number Voting, and Turnout Percentage 2000 Through 2012 Elections



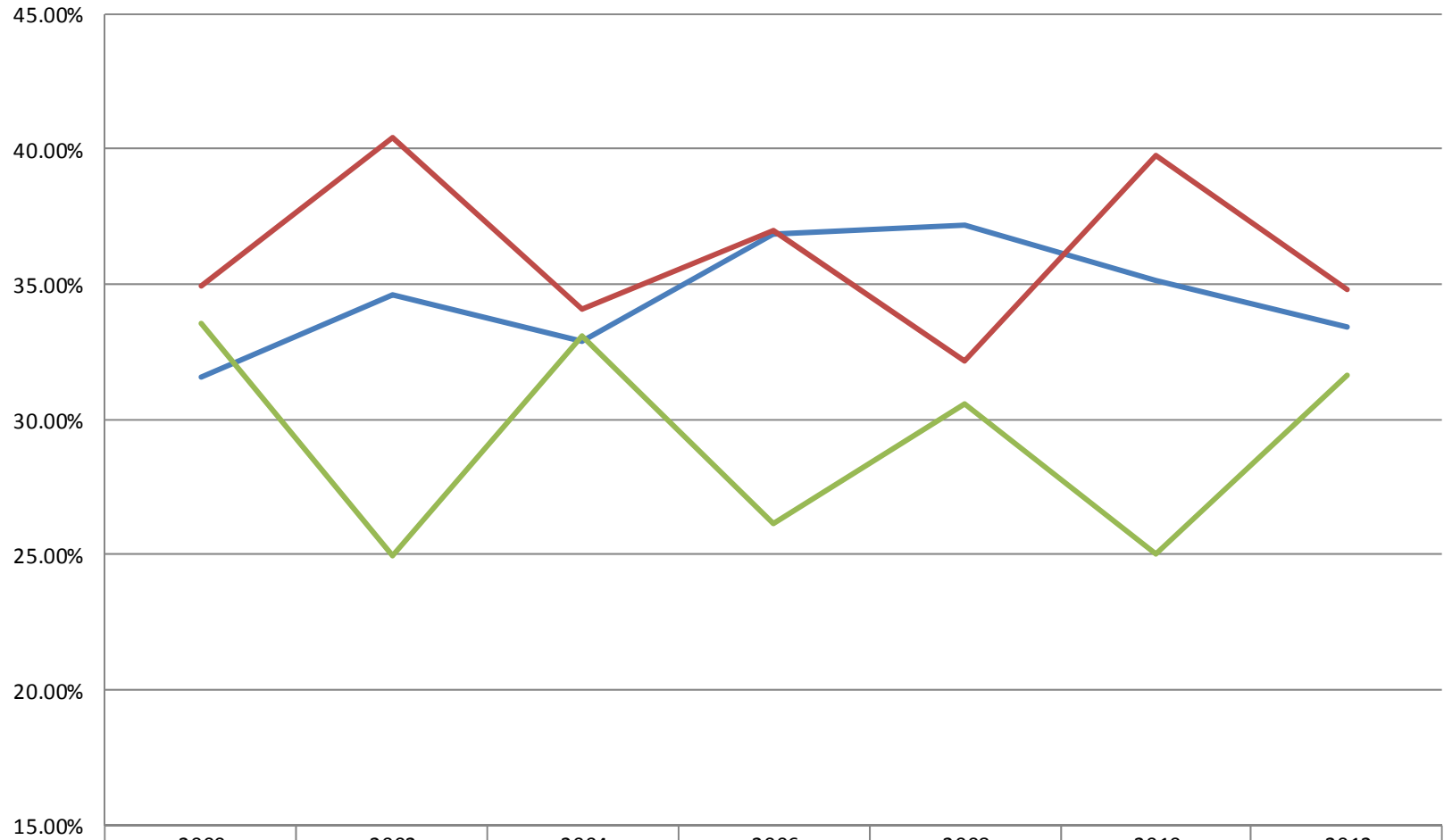
■ Did Not Vote	518,928	791,071	473,994	937,005	576,819	998,730	572,414
■ Voted	1,306,531	1,021,200	1,497,741	1,044,459	1,528,715	1,125,386	1,572,198

Figure 2: Iowa Registered Voters by Party in Election Years Since 2000



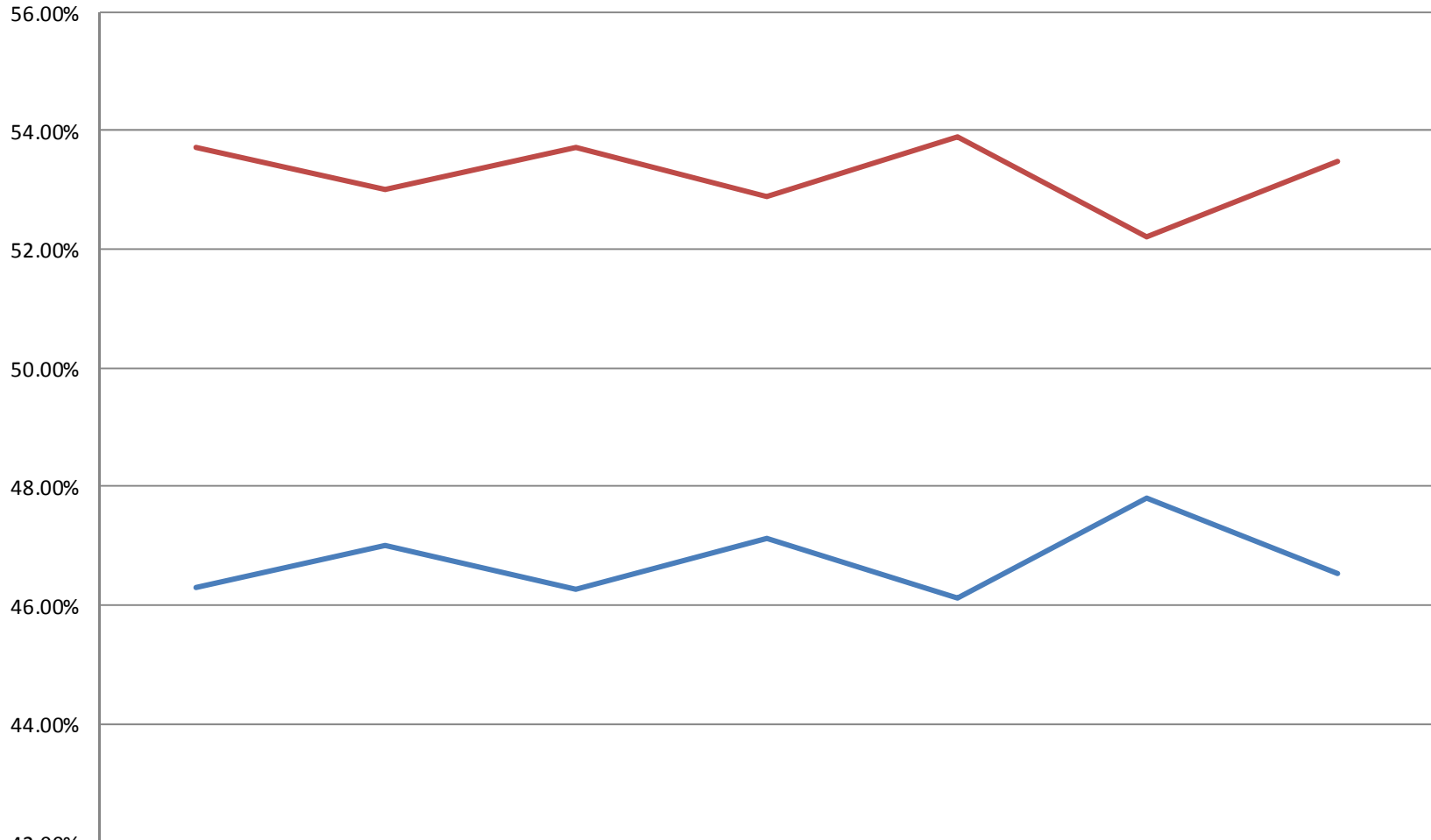
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Democrat	534,059	537,425	601,388	619,248	726,795	699,963	683,200
Republican	561,963	589,517	609,046	595,464	613,656	648,646	664,945
No Party	729,437	685,329	761,301	766,752	763,520	773,282	792,957

Figure 3: Iowa Voter Distribution by Party in Elections Since 2000



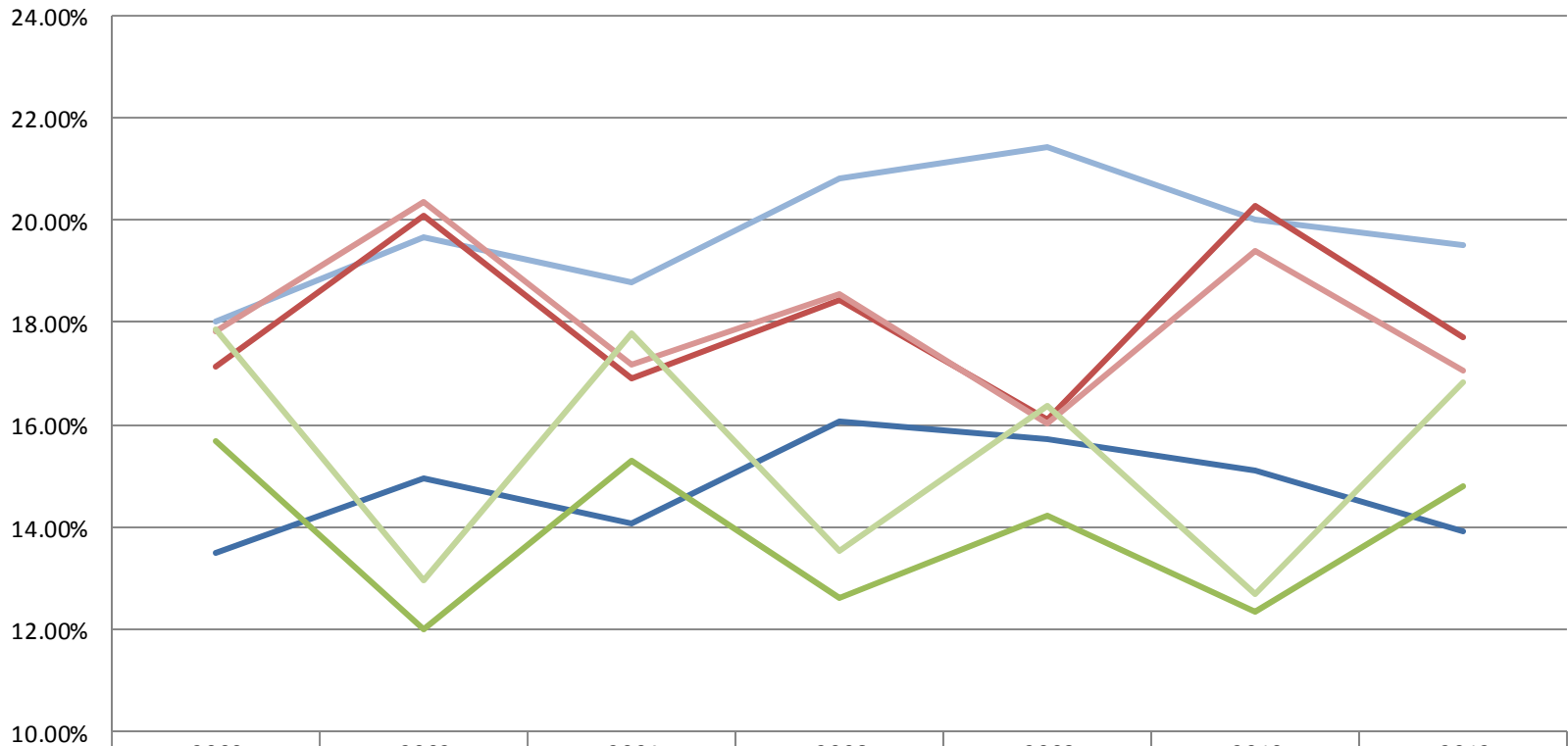
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Democrat	31.53%	34.62%	32.85%	36.86%	37.18%	35.13%	33.43%
Republican	34.95%	40.43%	34.07%	36.99%	32.14%	39.76%	34.77%
No Party	33.52%	24.95%	33.08%	26.15%	30.60%	25.02%	31.64%

Figure 4: Iowa Voter Distribution by Gender in Elections Since 2000



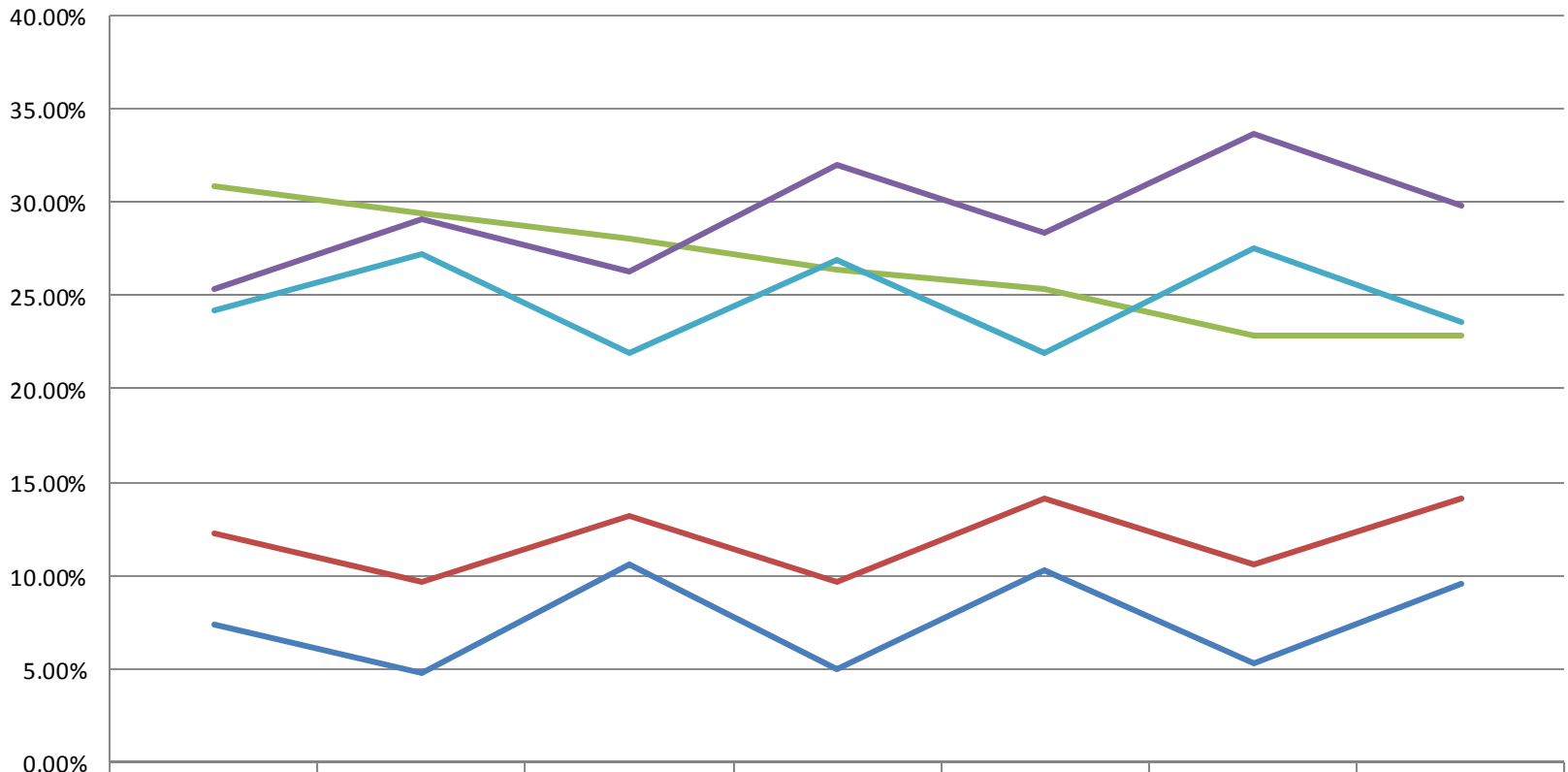
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Men	46.29%	47.01%	46.27%	47.12%	46.12%	47.79%	46.52%
Women	53.71%	52.99%	53.72%	52.88%	53.88%	52.21%	53.48%

Figure 5: Iowa Voter Distribution by Gender and Party in Elections Since 2000



	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
D-Men	13.50%	14.94%	14.09%	16.06%	15.74%	15.11%	13.91%
D-Women	18.02%	19.68%	18.76%	20.80%	21.44%	20.02%	19.53%
R-Men	17.12%	20.08%	16.89%	18.45%	16.10%	20.27%	17.72%
R-Women	17.83%	20.35%	17.17%	18.54%	16.04%	19.40%	17.06%
NP-Men	15.66%	11.98%	15.29%	12.61%	14.22%	12.34%	14.80%
NP-Women	17.86%	12.96%	17.78%	13.53%	16.37%	12.68%	16.85%

Figure 6: Iowa Voter Distribution by Age Group in Elections Since 2000



	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
18-24	7.37%	4.78%	10.63%	4.96%	10.33%	5.32%	9.60%
25-34	12.22%	9.67%	13.15%	9.67%	14.08%	10.62%	14.14%
35-49	30.87%	29.34%	28.04%	26.39%	25.39%	22.87%	22.85%
50-64	25.32%	29.05%	26.23%	32.04%	28.32%	33.62%	29.79%
65 & Over	24.23%	27.16%	21.95%	26.94%	21.88%	27.57%	23.62%

Figure 7a: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 18-24 by Party in Elections Since 2000

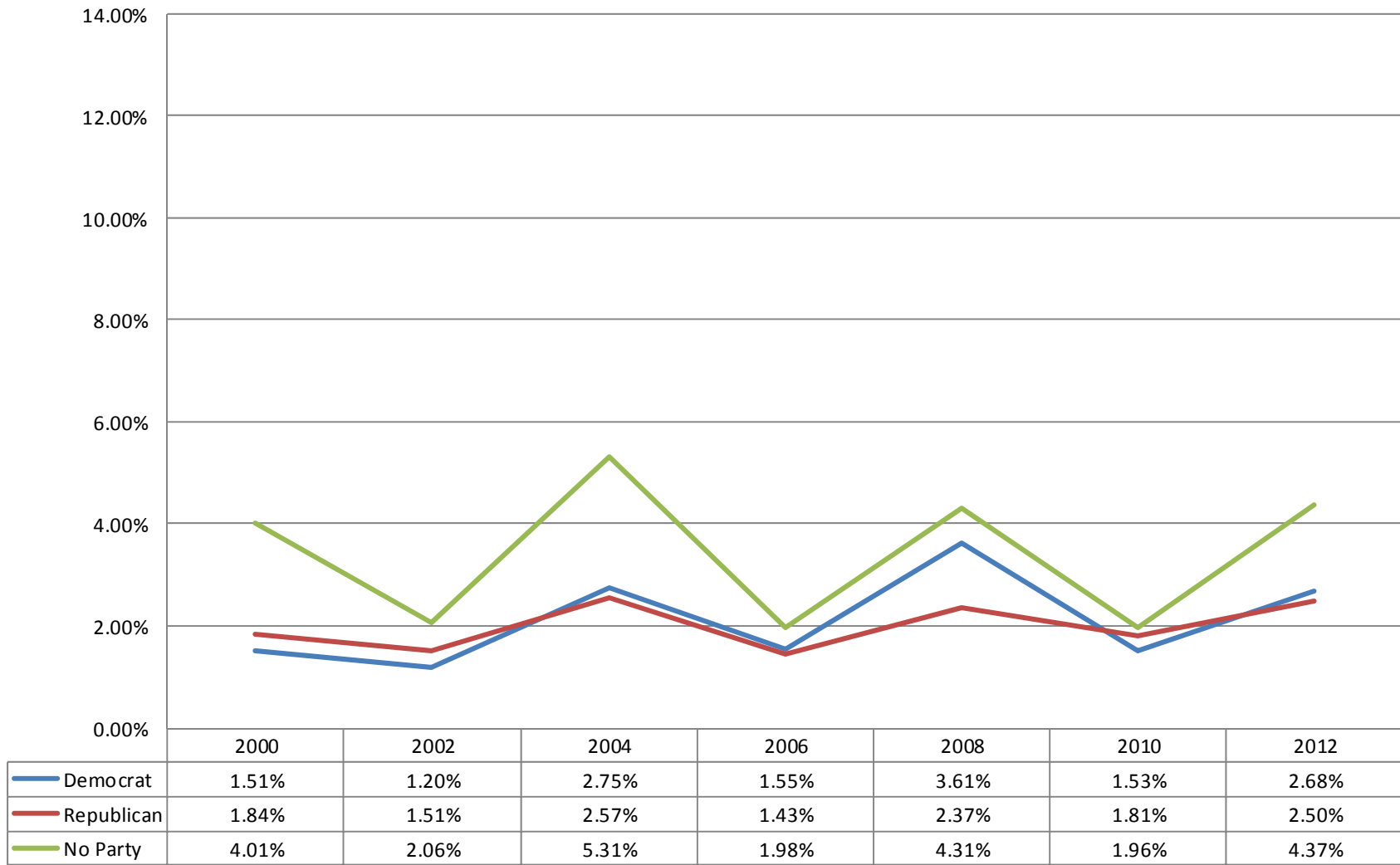


Figure 7b: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 25-34 by Party in Elections Since 2000

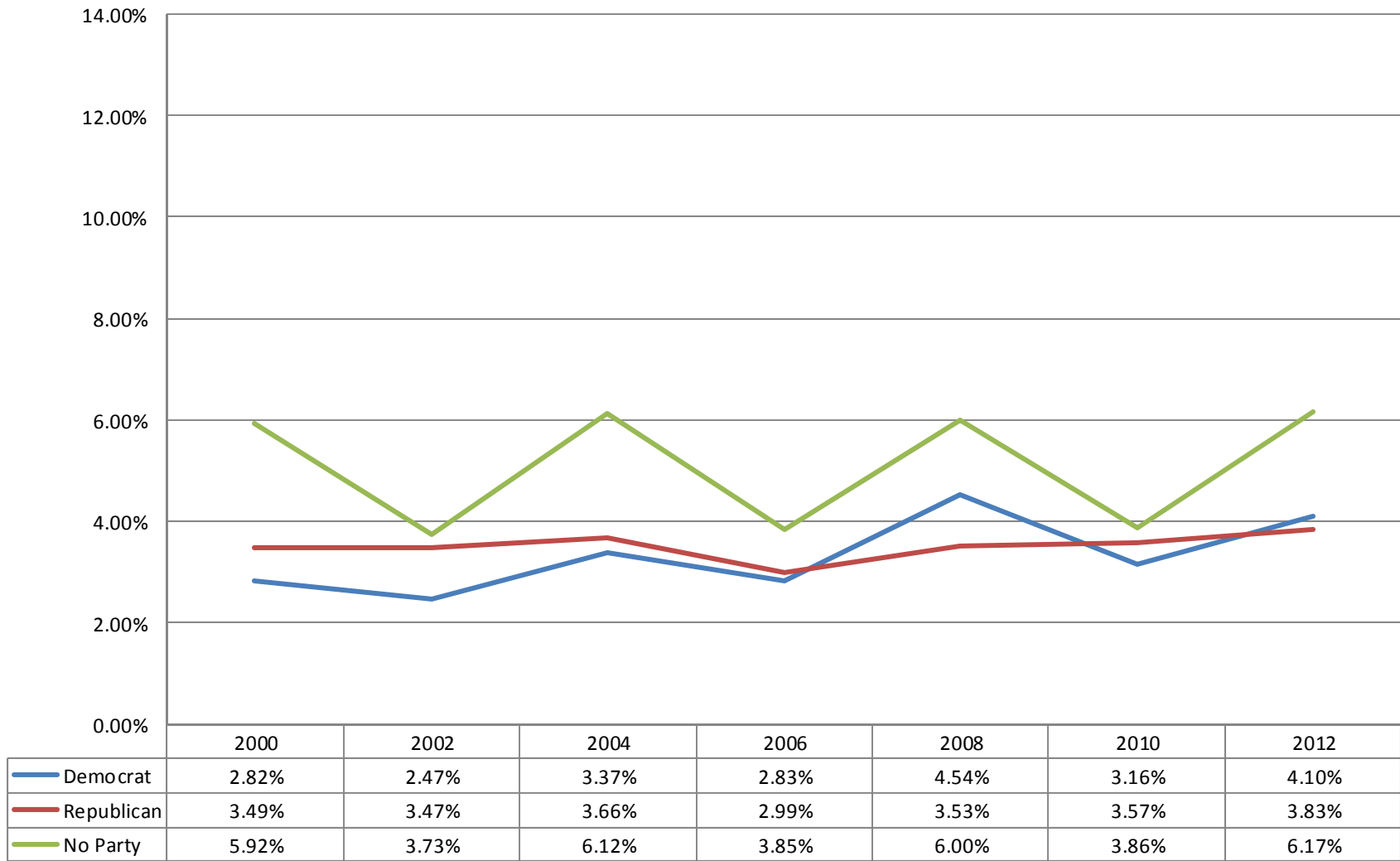
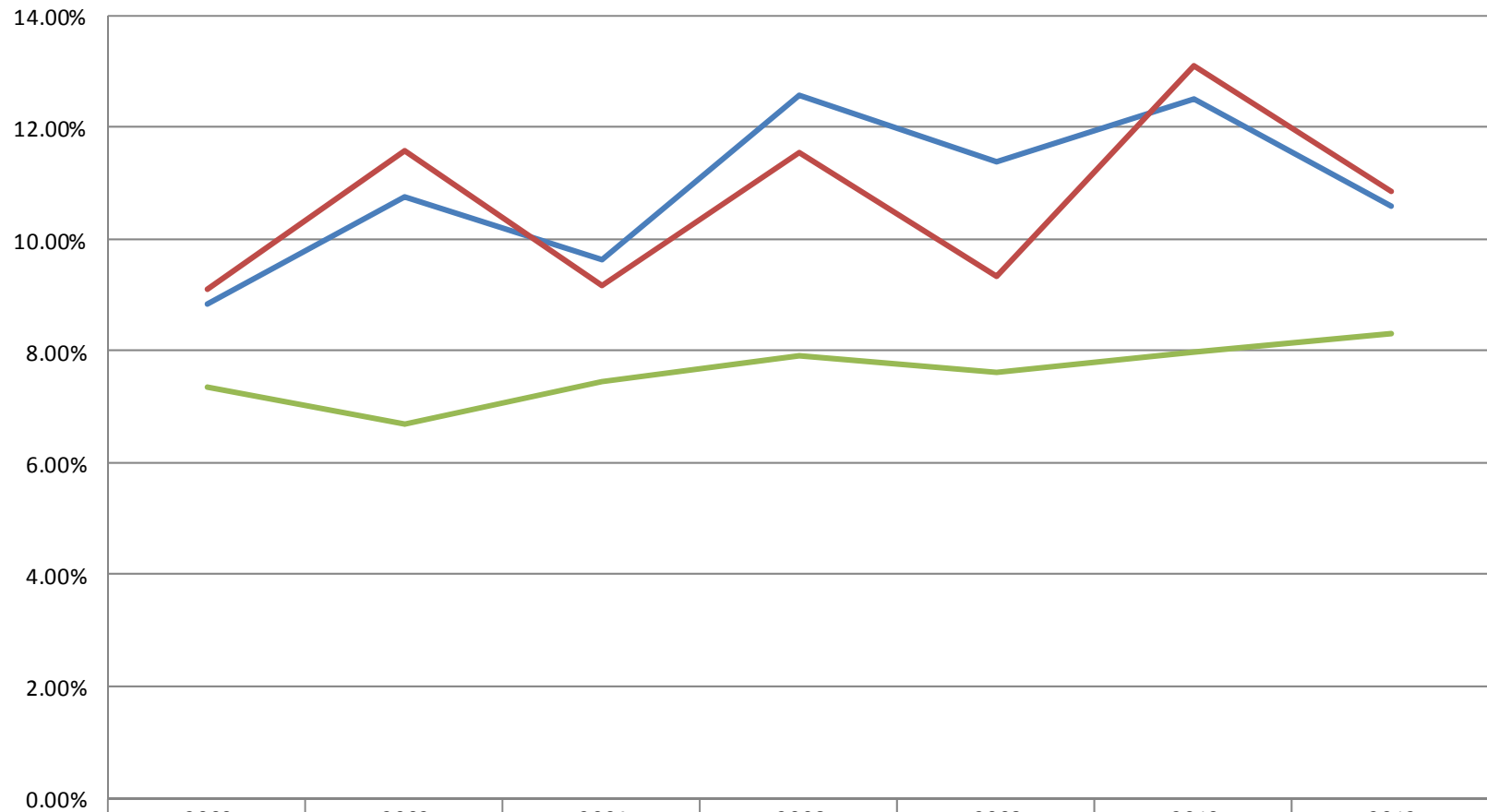


Figure 7c: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 35-49 by Party in Elections Since 2000



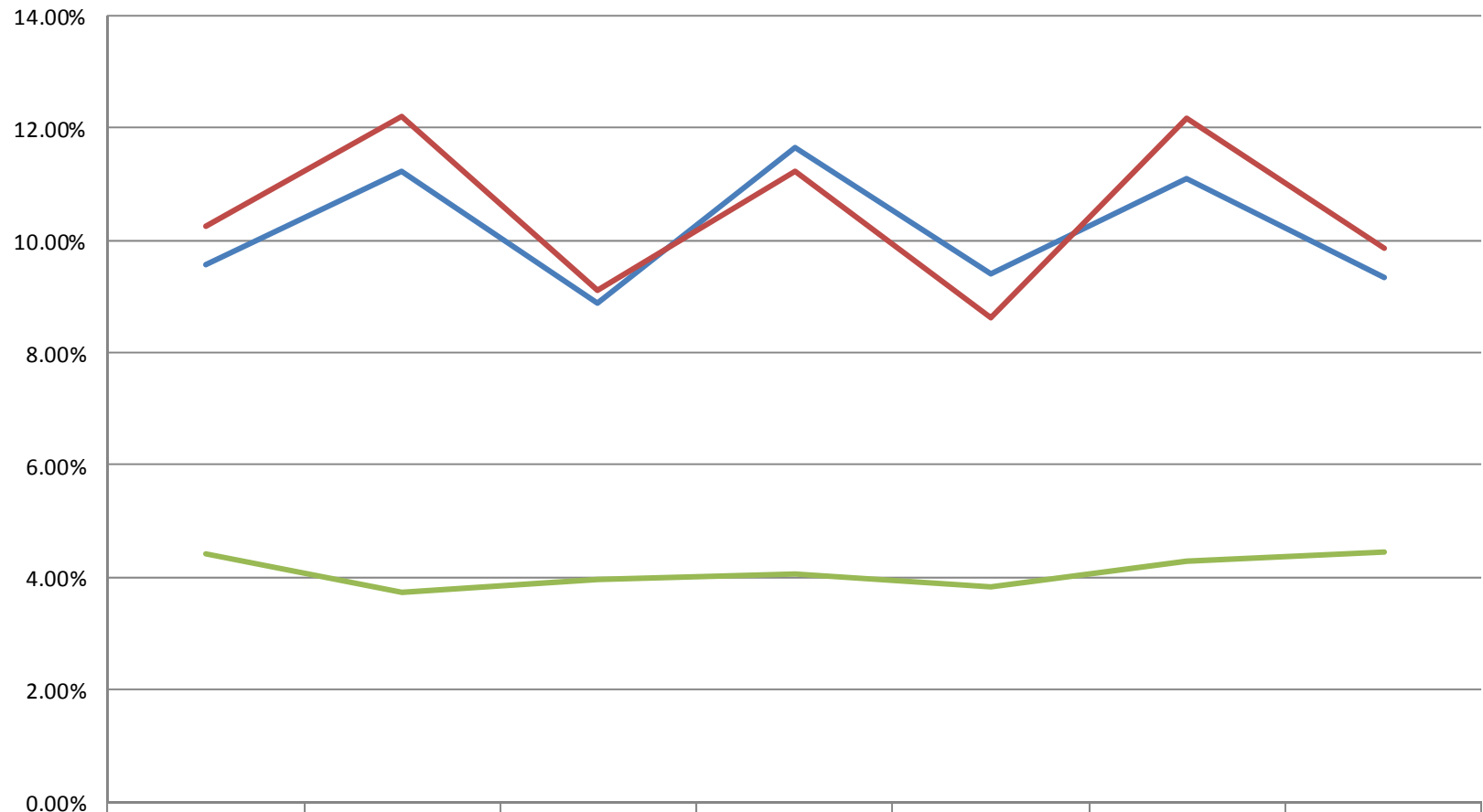
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Democrat	8.80%	8.95%	8.22%	8.26%	8.24%	6.83%	6.74%
Republican	10.26%	11.64%	9.56%	9.79%	8.28%	9.10%	7.74%
No Party	11.81%	8.75%	10.26%	8.33%	8.85%	6.92%	8.34%

Figure 7d: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 50-64 by Party in Elections Since 2000



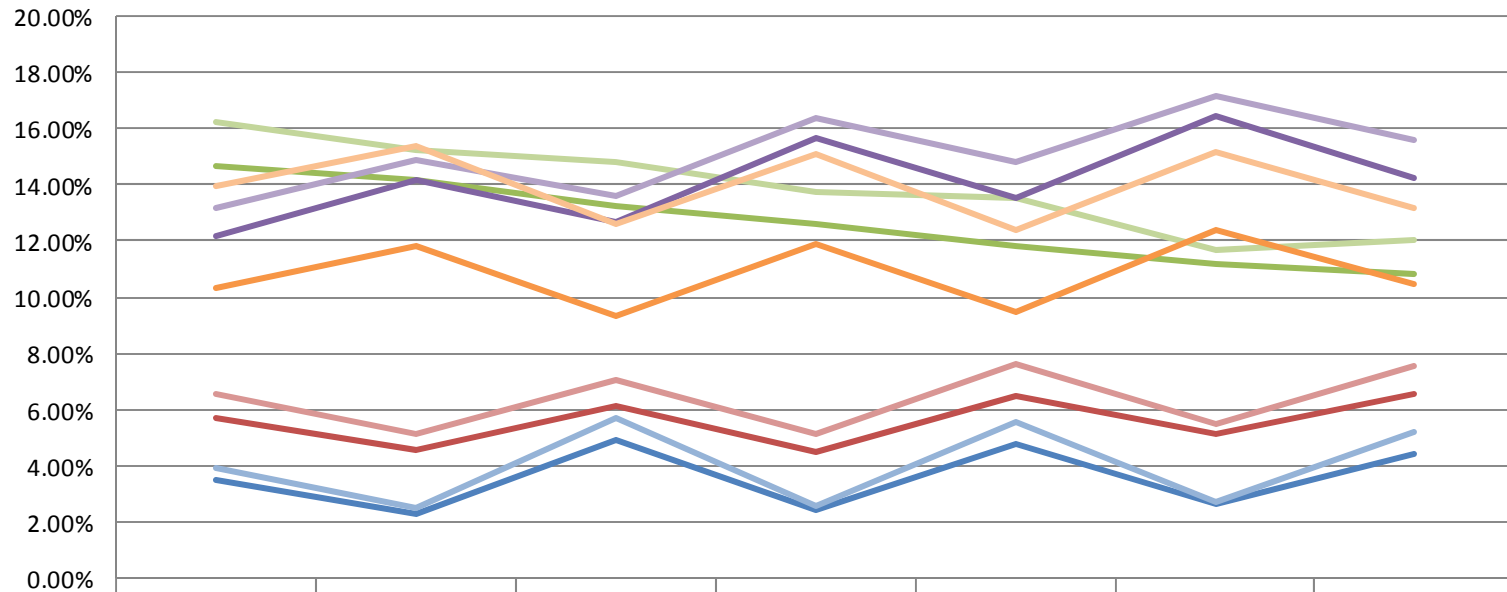
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Democrat	8.84%	10.76%	9.63%	12.57%	11.37%	12.51%	10.59%
Republican	9.11%	11.60%	9.16%	11.56%	9.33%	13.11%	10.85%
No Party	7.37%	6.69%	7.44%	7.91%	7.61%	7.98%	8.33%

Figure 7e: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 65 & Over by Party in Elections Since 2000



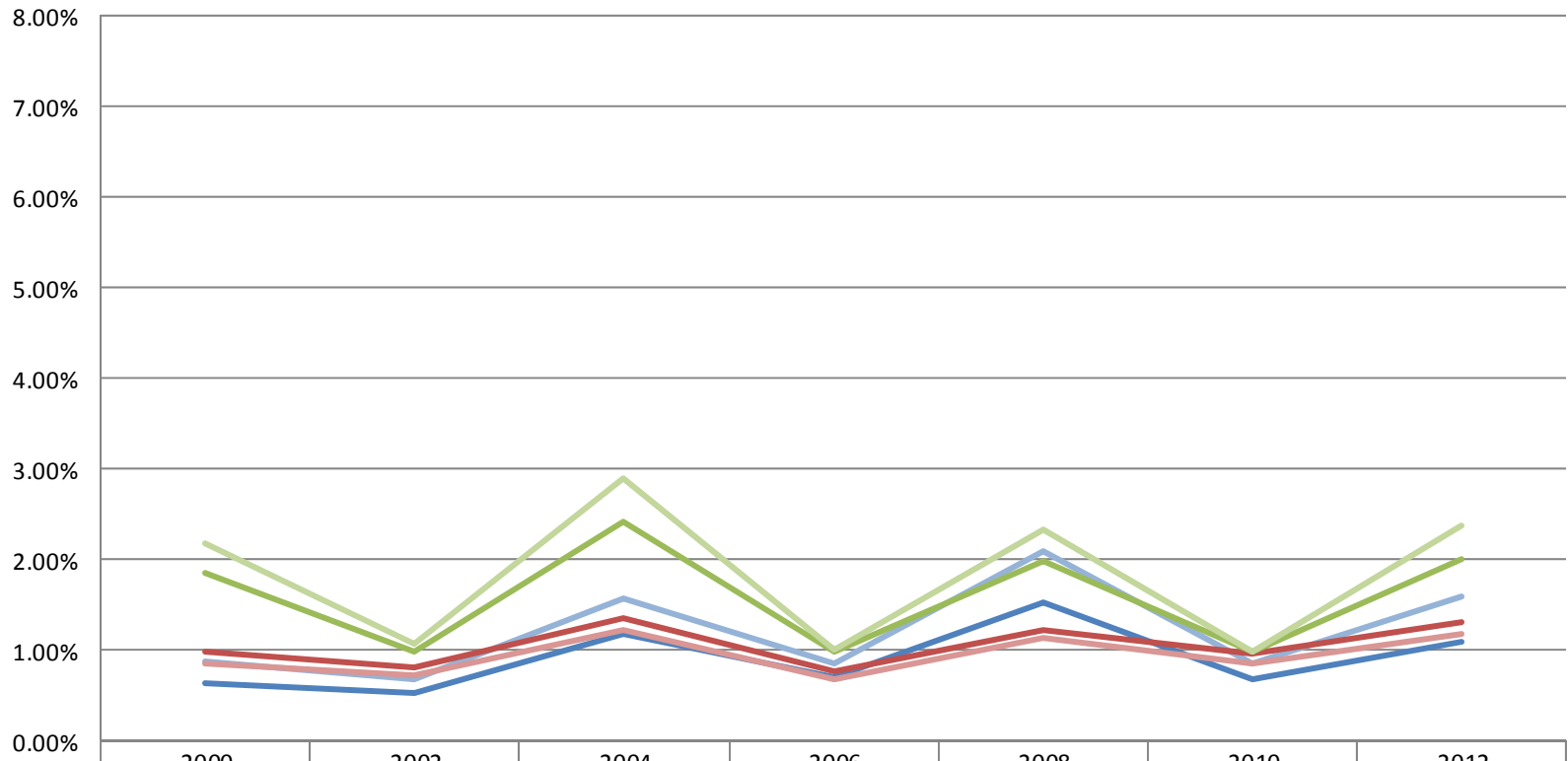
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Democrat	9.56%	11.24%	8.88%	11.65%	9.42%	11.10%	9.32%
Republican	10.25%	12.20%	9.12%	11.22%	8.63%	12.17%	9.86%
No Party	4.41%	3.72%	3.95%	4.07%	3.83%	4.30%	4.43%

Figure 8: Iowa Voter Distribution by Gender and Age Group in Elections Since 2000



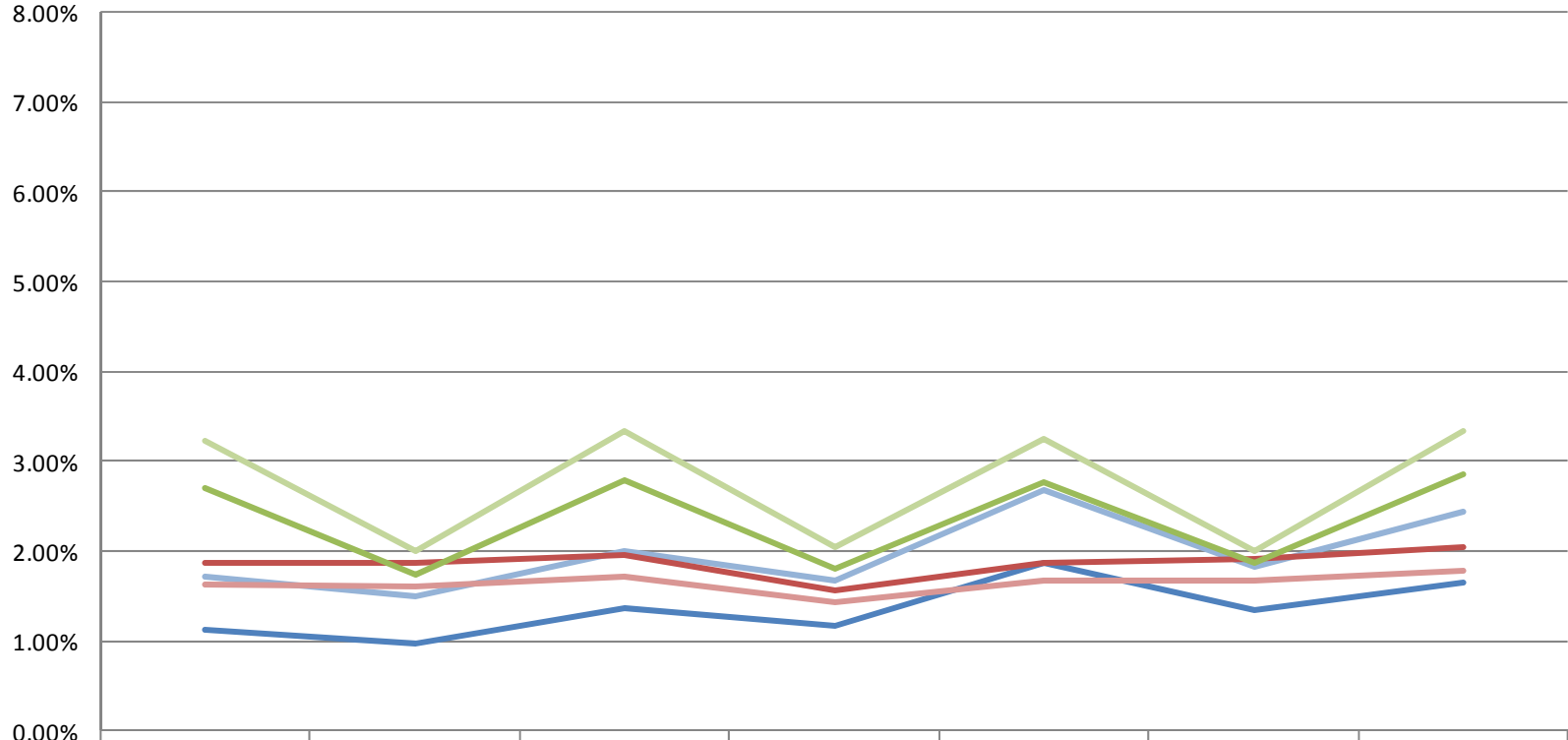
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
18-24 Men	3.46%	2.32%	4.94%	2.42%	4.76%	2.64%	4.44%
18-24 Women	3.91%	2.46%	5.68%	2.53%	5.56%	2.67%	5.17%
25-34 Men	5.67%	4.56%	6.11%	4.52%	6.49%	5.13%	6.57%
25-34 Women	6.55%	5.11%	7.04%	5.15%	7.59%	5.49%	7.57%
35-49 Men	14.66%	14.14%	13.21%	12.63%	11.83%	11.17%	10.82%
35-49 Women	16.21%	15.20%	14.83%	13.76%	13.56%	11.70%	12.04%
50-64 Men	12.19%	14.17%	12.66%	15.66%	13.54%	16.46%	14.23%
50-64 Women	13.13%	14.88%	13.57%	16.38%	14.79%	17.16%	15.56%
65 & Over Men	10.32%	11.82%	9.35%	11.89%	9.50%	12.39%	10.46%
65 & Over Women	13.91%	15.34%	12.60%	15.05%	12.39%	15.18%	13.15%

Figure 9a: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 18-24 by Gender and Party in Elections Since 2000



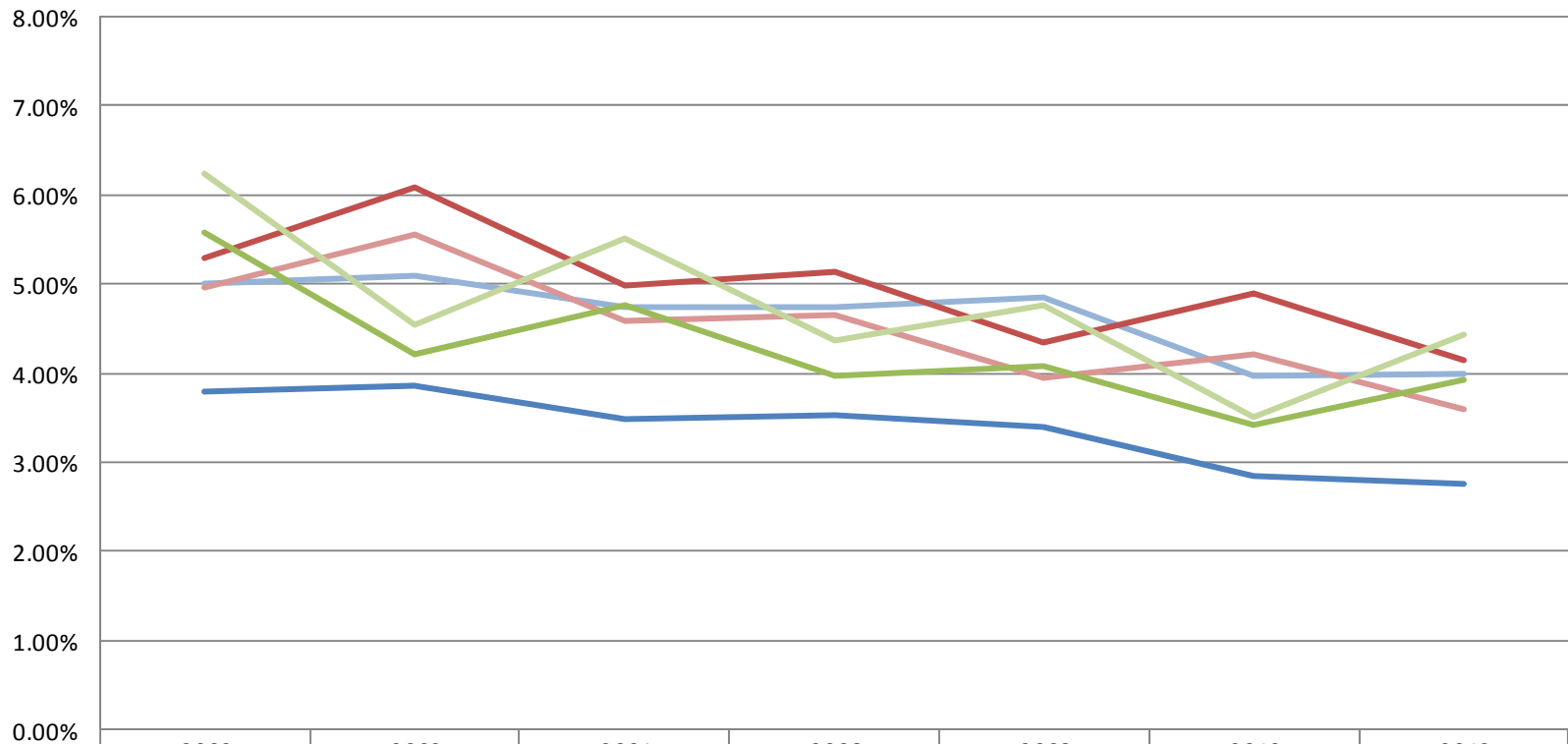
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
D-Men	0.63%	0.52%	1.18%	0.69%	1.52%	0.68%	1.09%
D-Women	0.88%	0.68%	1.57%	0.85%	2.09%	0.84%	1.60%
R-Men	0.98%	0.80%	1.34%	0.76%	1.23%	0.96%	1.32%
R-Women	0.86%	0.71%	1.22%	0.67%	1.14%	0.85%	1.18%
NP-Men	1.85%	0.99%	2.42%	0.97%	1.99%	0.98%	2.00%
NP-Women	2.17%	1.07%	2.89%	1.01%	2.32%	0.97%	2.37%

Figure 9b: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 25-34 by Gender and Party in Elections Since 2000



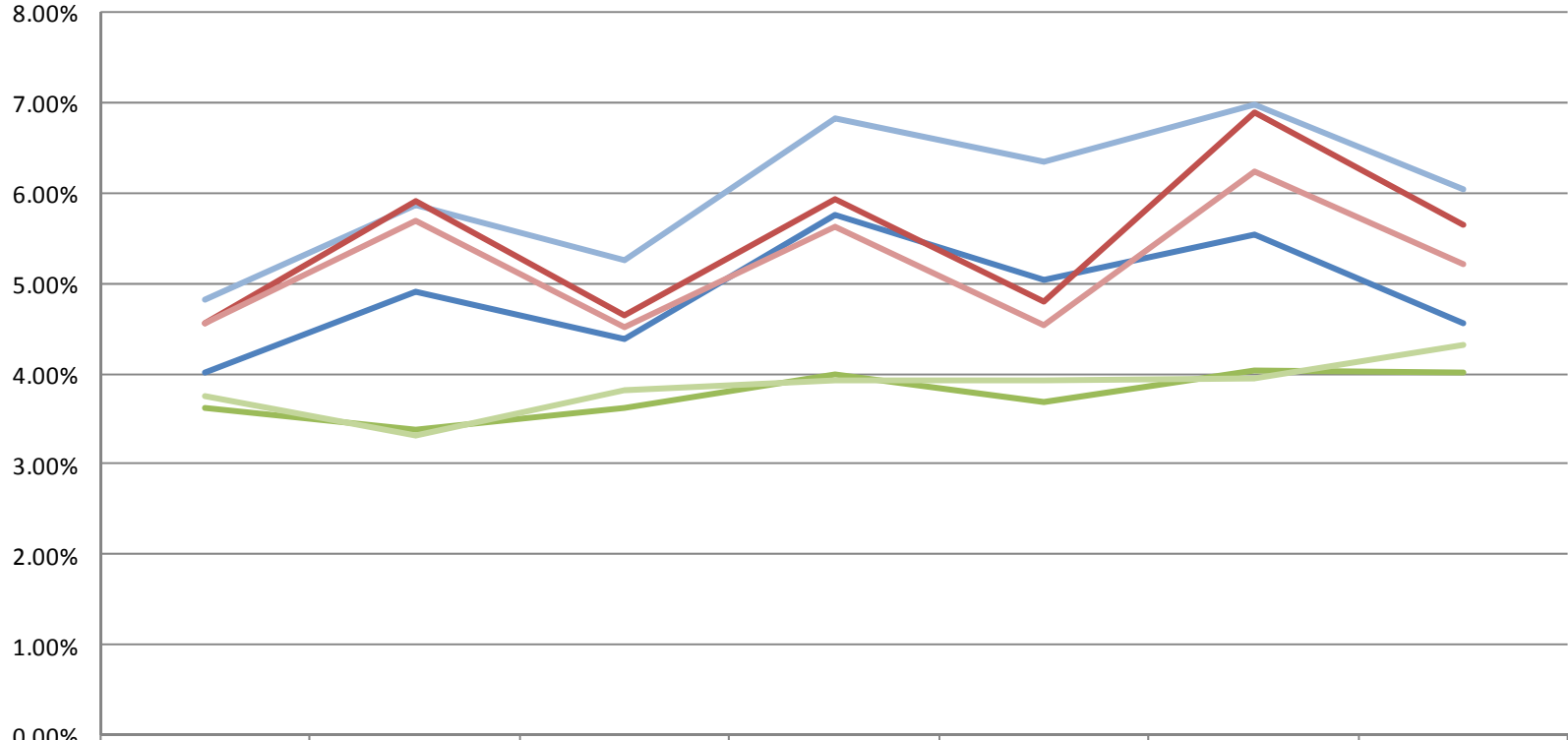
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
D-Men	1.12%	0.97%	1.37%	1.16%	1.86%	1.33%	1.65%
D-Women	1.70%	1.50%	2.00%	1.67%	2.67%	1.83%	2.45%
R-Men	1.87%	1.86%	1.94%	1.56%	1.86%	1.90%	2.04%
R-Women	1.62%	1.61%	1.72%	1.43%	1.67%	1.66%	1.79%
NP-Men	2.69%	1.73%	2.79%	1.80%	2.75%	1.87%	2.85%
NP-Women	3.22%	2.00%	3.32%	2.05%	3.25%	1.99%	3.32%

Figure 9c: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 35-49 by Gender and Party in Elections Since 2000



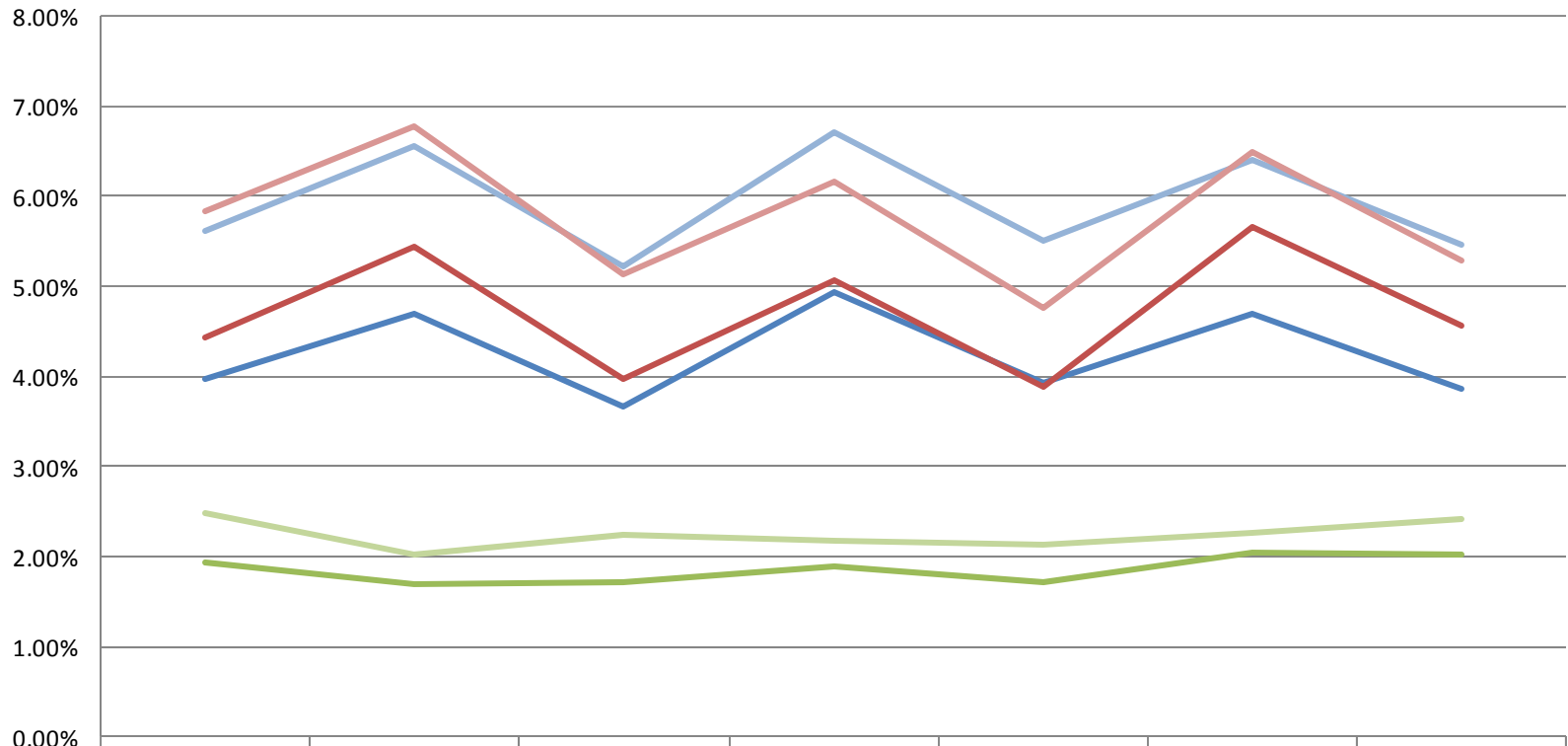
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
D-Men	3.79%	3.85%	3.48%	3.52%	3.40%	2.86%	2.75%
D-Women	5.01%	5.10%	4.74%	4.74%	4.84%	3.97%	4.00%
R-Men	5.30%	6.09%	4.98%	5.14%	4.34%	4.88%	4.13%
R-Women	4.97%	5.56%	4.58%	4.66%	3.94%	4.22%	3.60%
NP-Men	5.57%	4.20%	4.75%	3.97%	4.09%	3.42%	3.92%
NP-Women	6.23%	4.55%	5.51%	4.36%	4.76%	3.51%	4.43%

Figure 9d: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 50-64 by Gender and Party in Elections Since 2000



	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
D-Men	4.01%	4.90%	4.38%	5.75%	5.04%	5.54%	4.55%
D-Women	4.83%	5.86%	5.25%	6.82%	6.34%	6.97%	6.03%
R-Men	4.56%	5.90%	4.65%	5.94%	4.80%	6.88%	5.65%
R-Women	4.55%	5.69%	4.50%	5.63%	4.53%	6.24%	5.20%
NP-Men	3.61%	3.37%	3.63%	3.98%	3.69%	4.03%	4.01%
NP-Women	3.76%	3.32%	3.81%	3.93%	3.91%	3.95%	4.32%

Figure 9e: Iowa Voter Distribution for Age Group 65 & Over by Gender and Party in Elections Since 2000



	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
D-Men	3.96%	4.70%	3.67%	4.94%	3.92%	4.70%	3.86%
D-Women	5.60%	6.55%	5.21%	6.71%	5.50%	6.40%	5.46%
R-Men	4.42%	5.43%	3.98%	5.06%	3.88%	5.65%	4.57%
R-Women	5.83%	6.77%	5.14%	6.16%	4.76%	6.49%	5.29%
NP-Men	1.94%	1.69%	1.70%	1.89%	1.70%	2.03%	2.02%
NP-Women	2.48%	2.02%	2.25%	2.18%	2.13%	2.26%	2.41%