

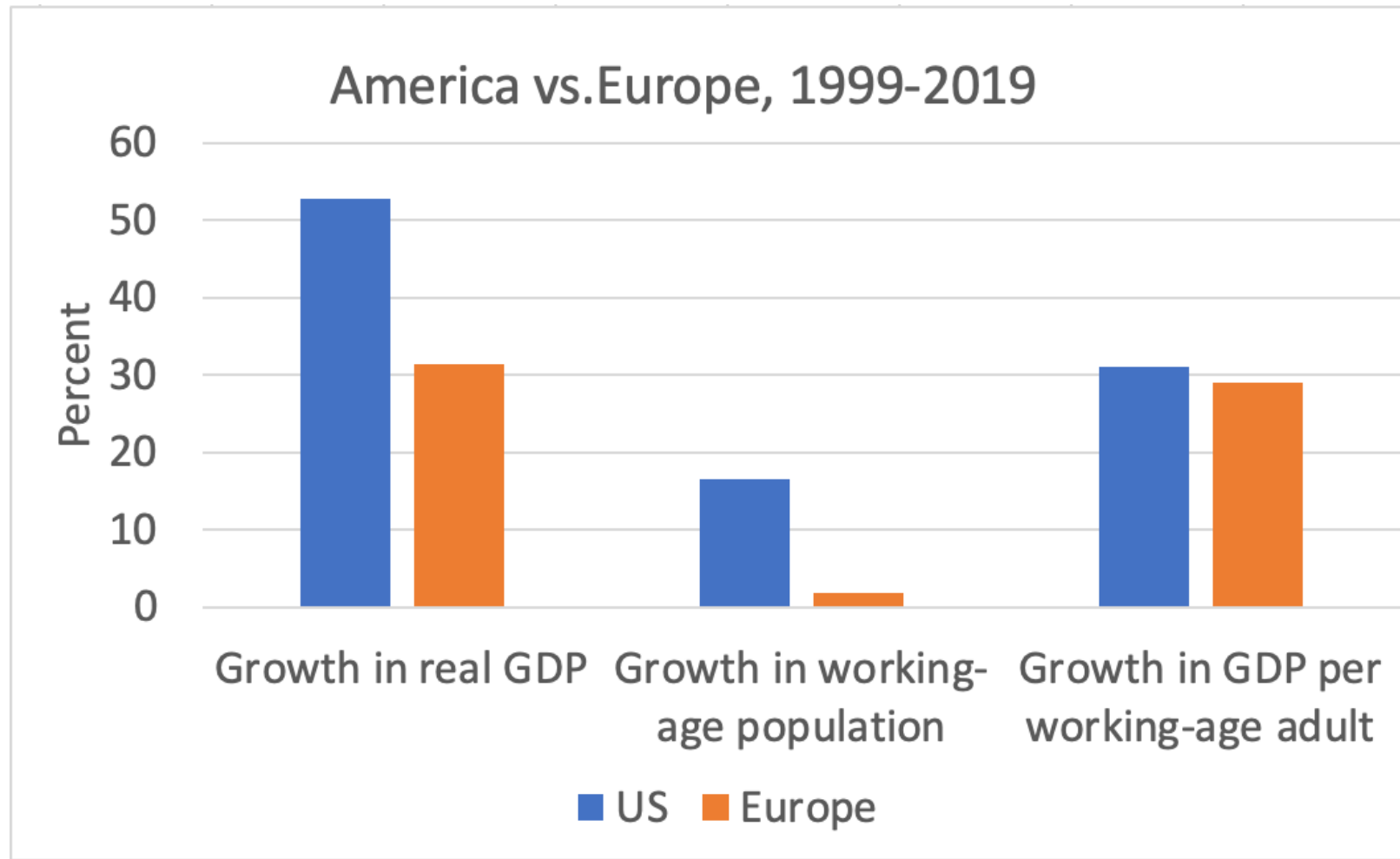


THE U.S.A. : ANATOMIE VAN DE DISFUNCTIE



AMERIKAANSE IDEOLOGIE: BOUWSTENEN

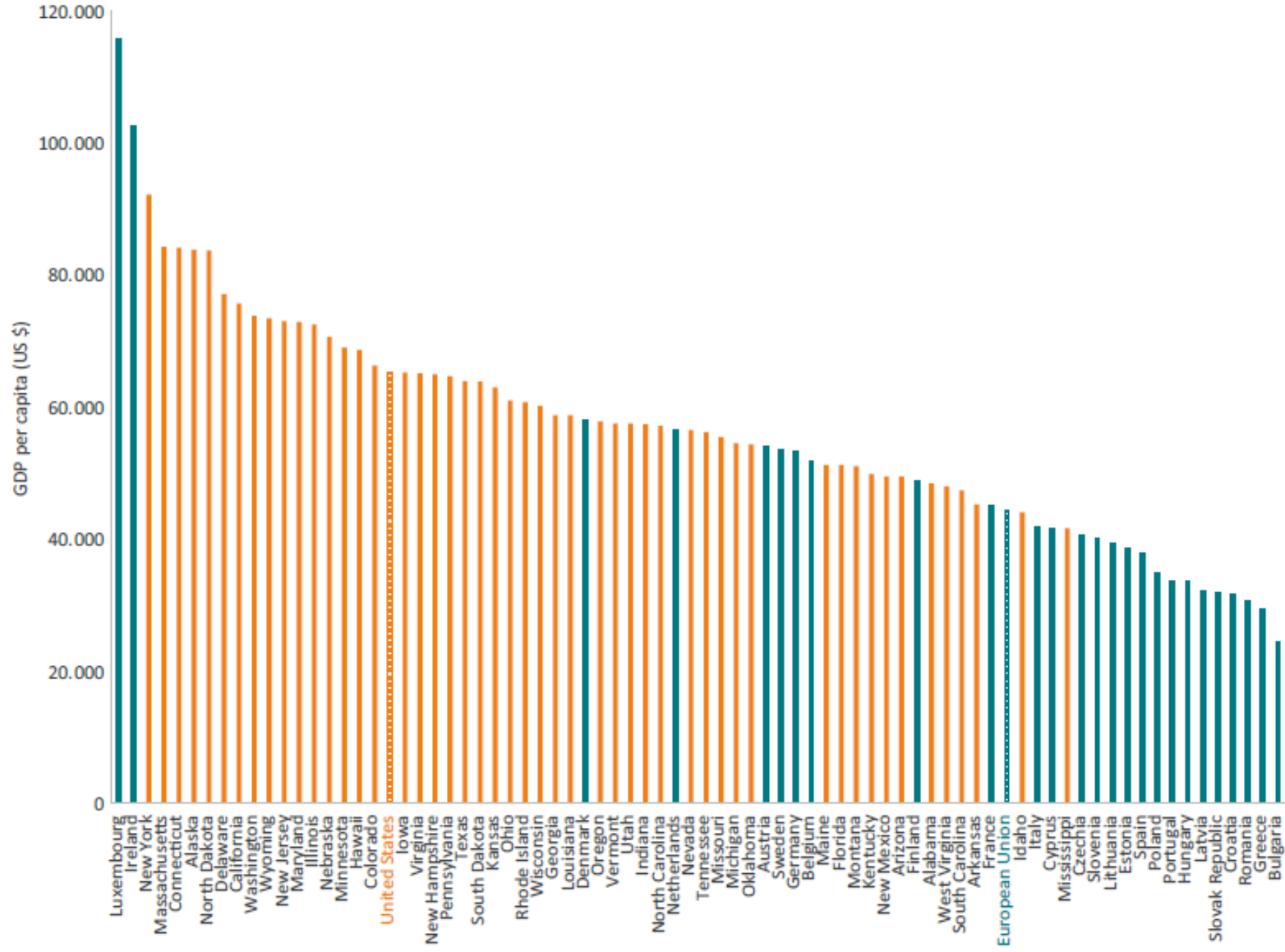
- 17^{de} eeuw: religieus utopianisme
- 18^{de} eeuw: rechtsstaat
emancipatorisch denken
- 19^{de} eeuw: a. pluralisme en tolerantie
b. veroveringsdrang (Manifest Destiny)
individualisme, can-do (Turner)
toxische masculiniteit



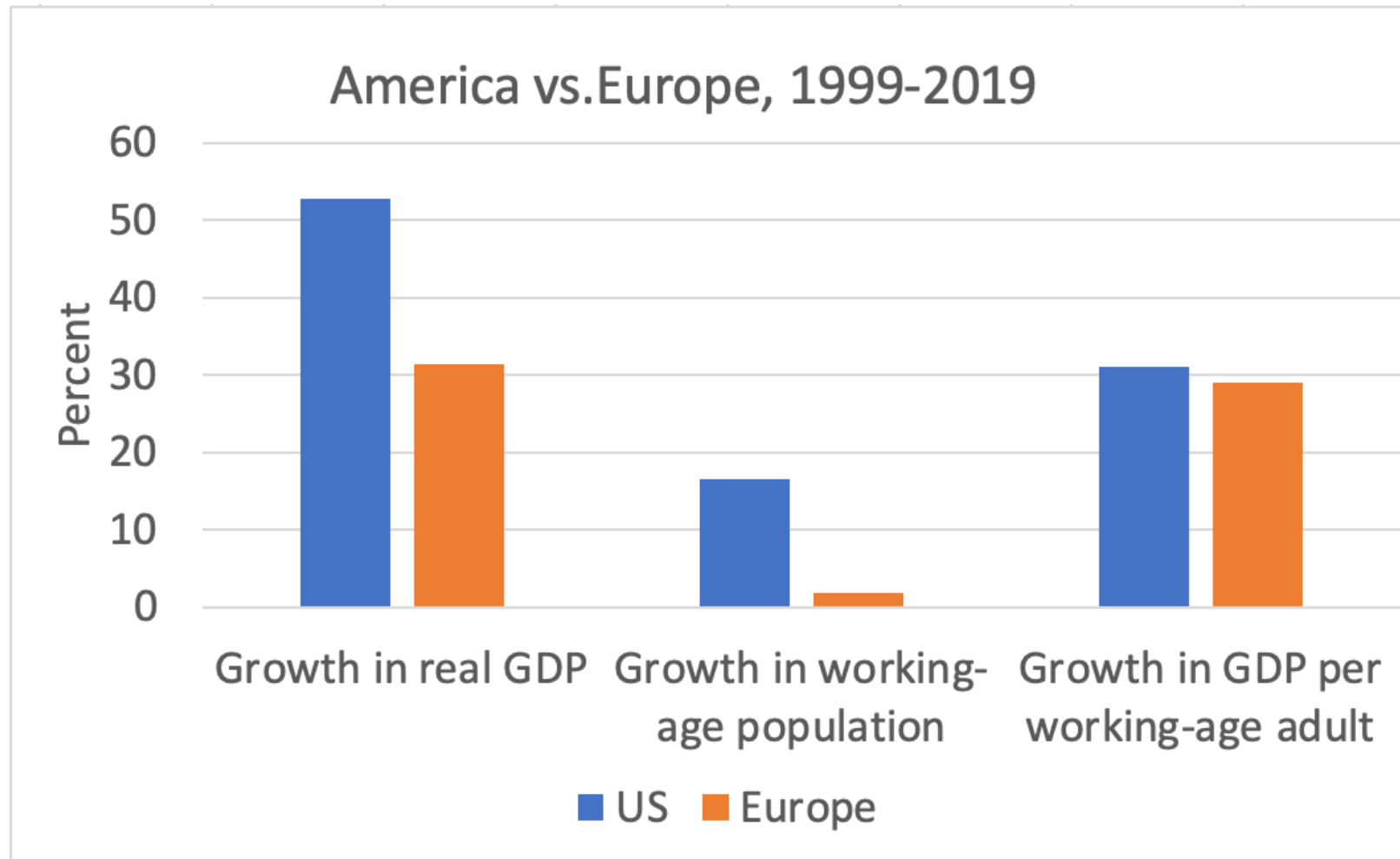
DE 10 GROOTSTE BEDRIJVEN TER WERELD

- Apple
- Microsoft
- Aramco
- Google
- Amazon
- Berkshire Hathaway
- UnitedHealth GRP
- Johnson&Johnson
- Tesla
- VISA

FIGURE 3: US STATES AND EU MEMBER STATES GDP PER CAPITA (2021)



Source: World Bank, US Census Bureau, US Bureau of Economic Analysis, author's calculations.



LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH IN YEARS, 2022

United States

77.5

Germany

80.7

United Kingdom

80.9

Austria

81.1

Canada

81.3

Netherlands

81.7

Belgium

81.8

France

82.3

Sweden

83.1

Verlichtingsidealen
(rechtstaat, rechten
van minderheden) en
tolerantie, diversiteit

Religieus
fundamentalisme en
de mythe van het
Westen (stoerheid,
individualisme,
afkeer van de staat)

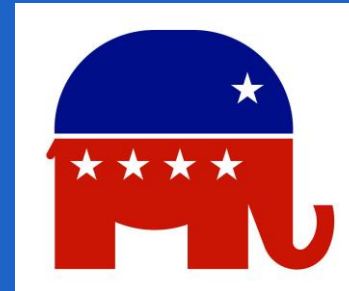
Verlichtingsidealen
(rechtstaat, rechten
van minderheden) en
tolerantie, diversiteit:

Democraten



Religieus
fundamentalisme en
de mythe van het
Westen (stoerheid,
individualisme,
afkeer van de staat):

Republikeinen



Coalition of resentment

ANATOMIE VAN DE DISFUNCTIE

1. Sociaal-economische
omstandigheden
2. Weeffouten in het staatsbestel
3. Donald Trump

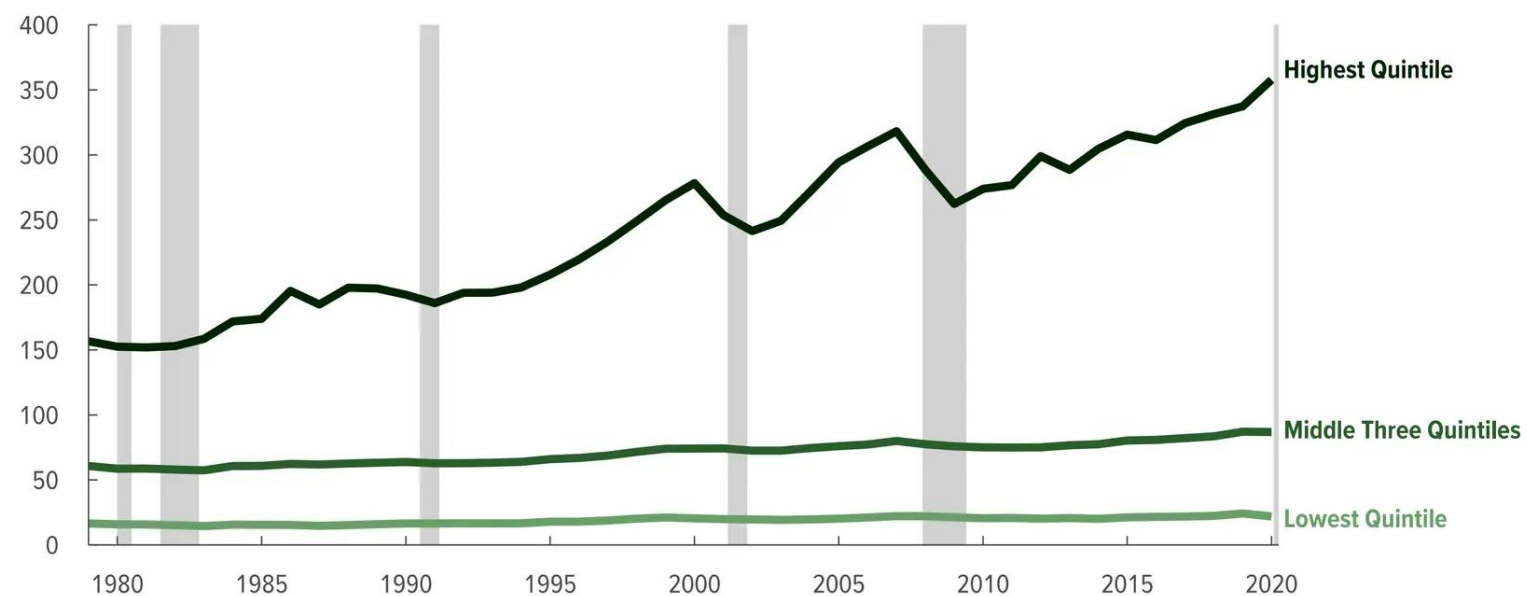
1. SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

a. sociale ongelijkheid



Average Income Before Transfers and Taxes, 1979 to 2020

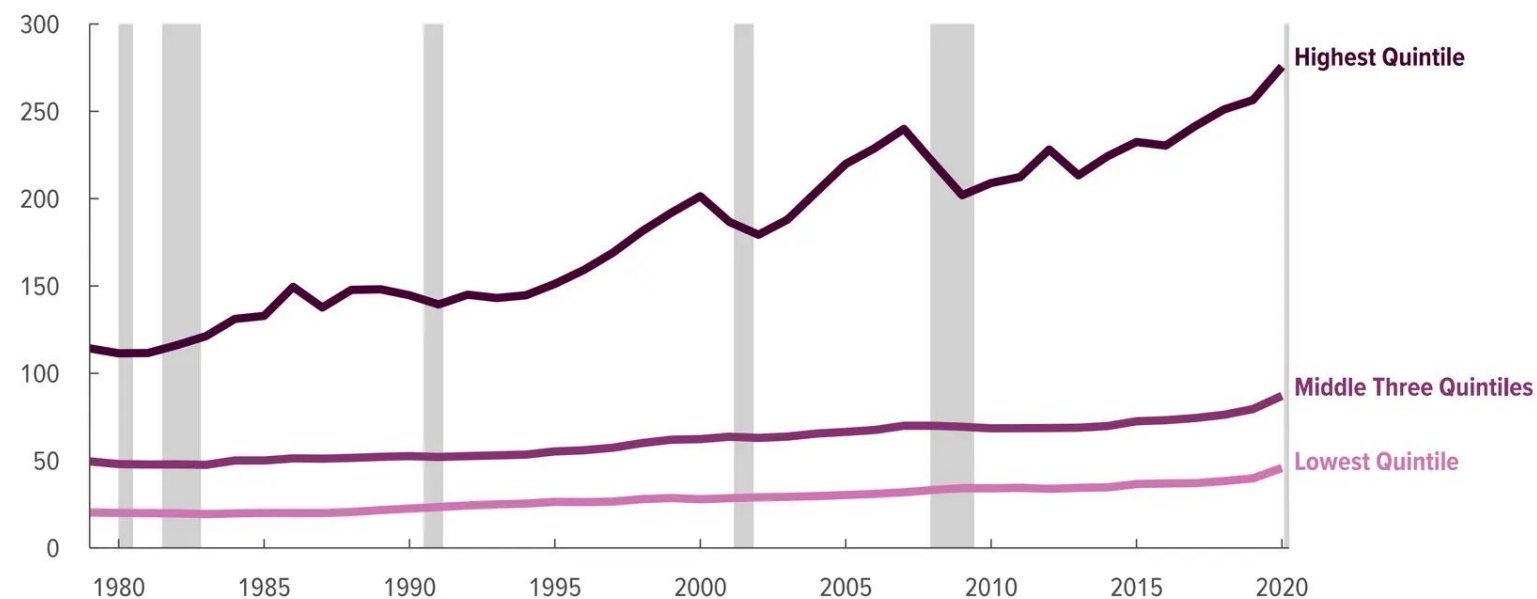
Thousands of 2020 dollars





Average Income After Transfers and Taxes, 1979 to 2020

Thousands of 2020 dollars



Share of Household Wealth	2023 (%)	2020 (%)	2010 (%)	2000 (%)	1990 (%)
Top 0.1%	14	13	11	10	9
99-99.9%	17	18	18	17	14
90-99%	36	38	40	36	37
50-90%	31	29	31	34	36
Bottom 50%	3	2	<1	3	4

1.SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

a. sociale ongelijkheid

- beperkt sociaal vangnet

1.SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

- a. sociale ongelijkheid
 - beperkt sociaal vangnet
 - geldadel

1.SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

1. sociale ongelijkheid

- beperkt sociaal vangnet
- geldadel
- conspicuous consumption

1.SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

1. sociale ongelijkheid

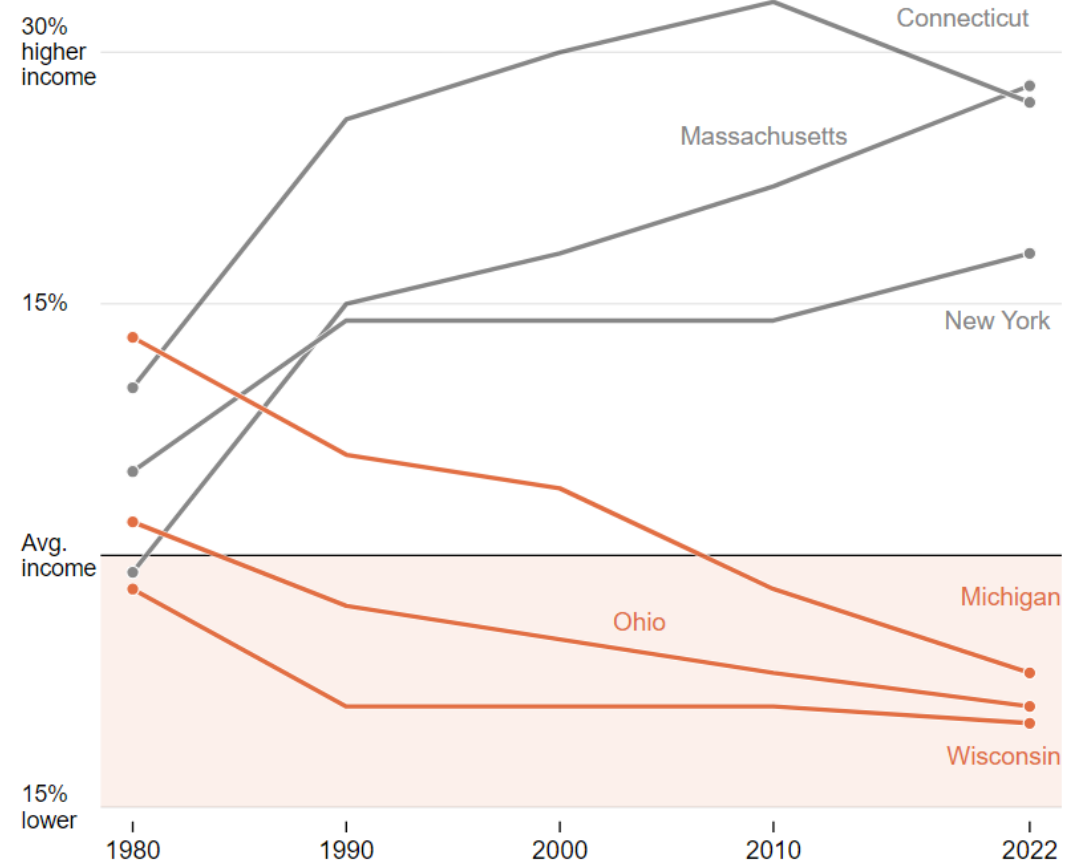
- beperkt sociaal vangnet
- geldadel
- conspicuous consumption
- de gebroken American Dream

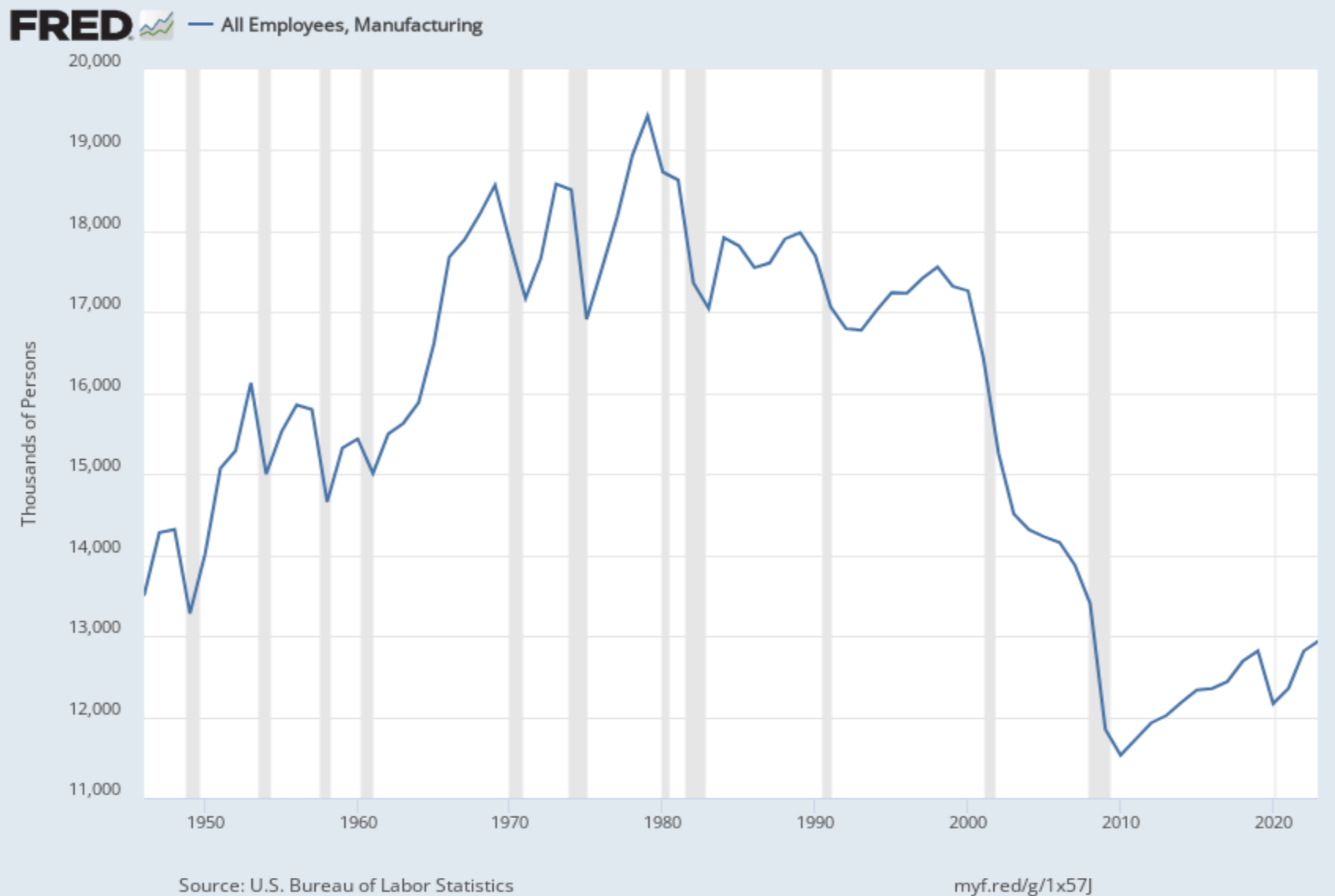
1.SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

1. sociale ongelijkheid

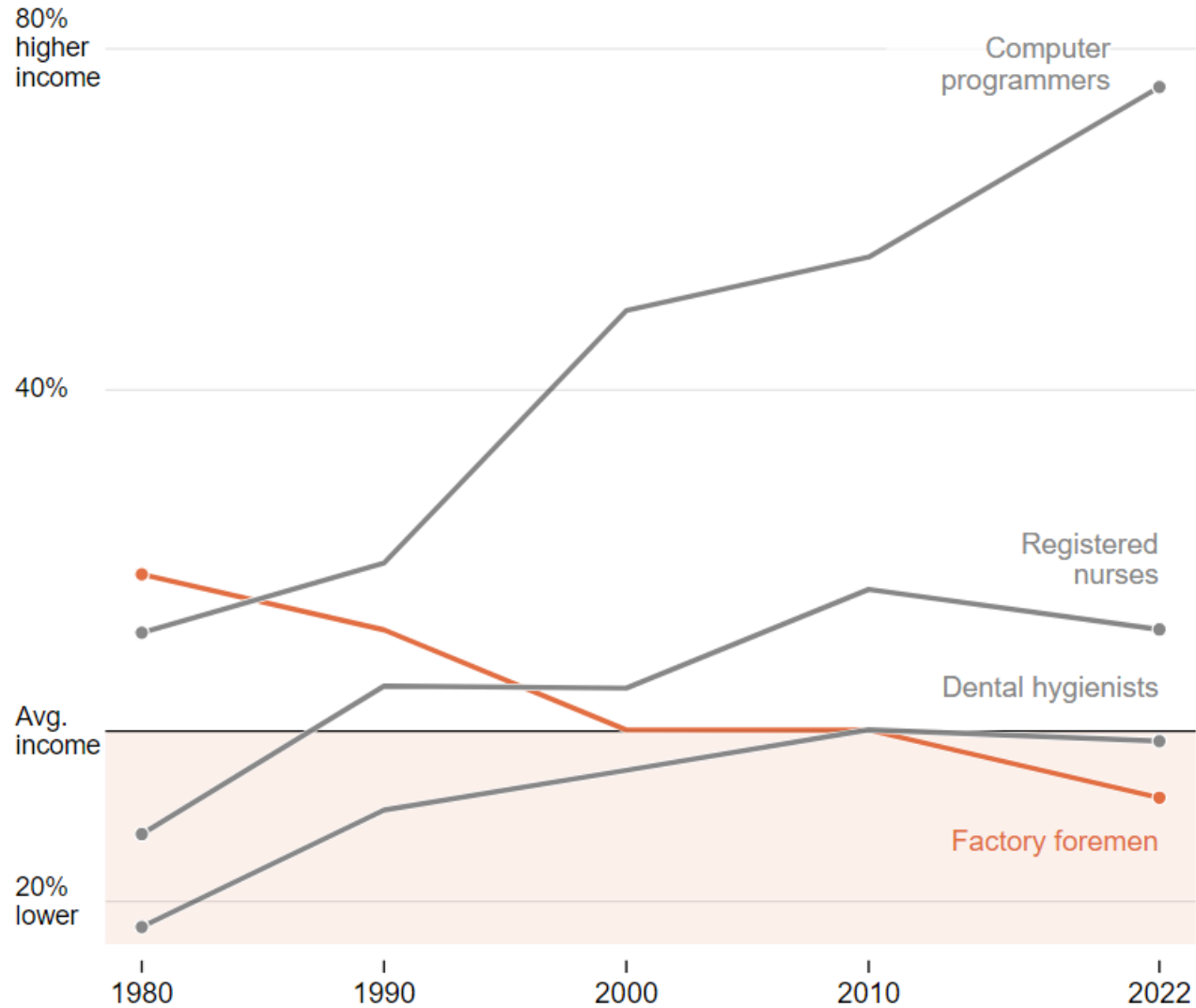
- beperkt sociaal vangnet
- geldadel
- conspicuous consumption
- de gebroken American Dream
- bankencrisis (2008), covid (2020-21)

Relative income of full-time U.S. workers

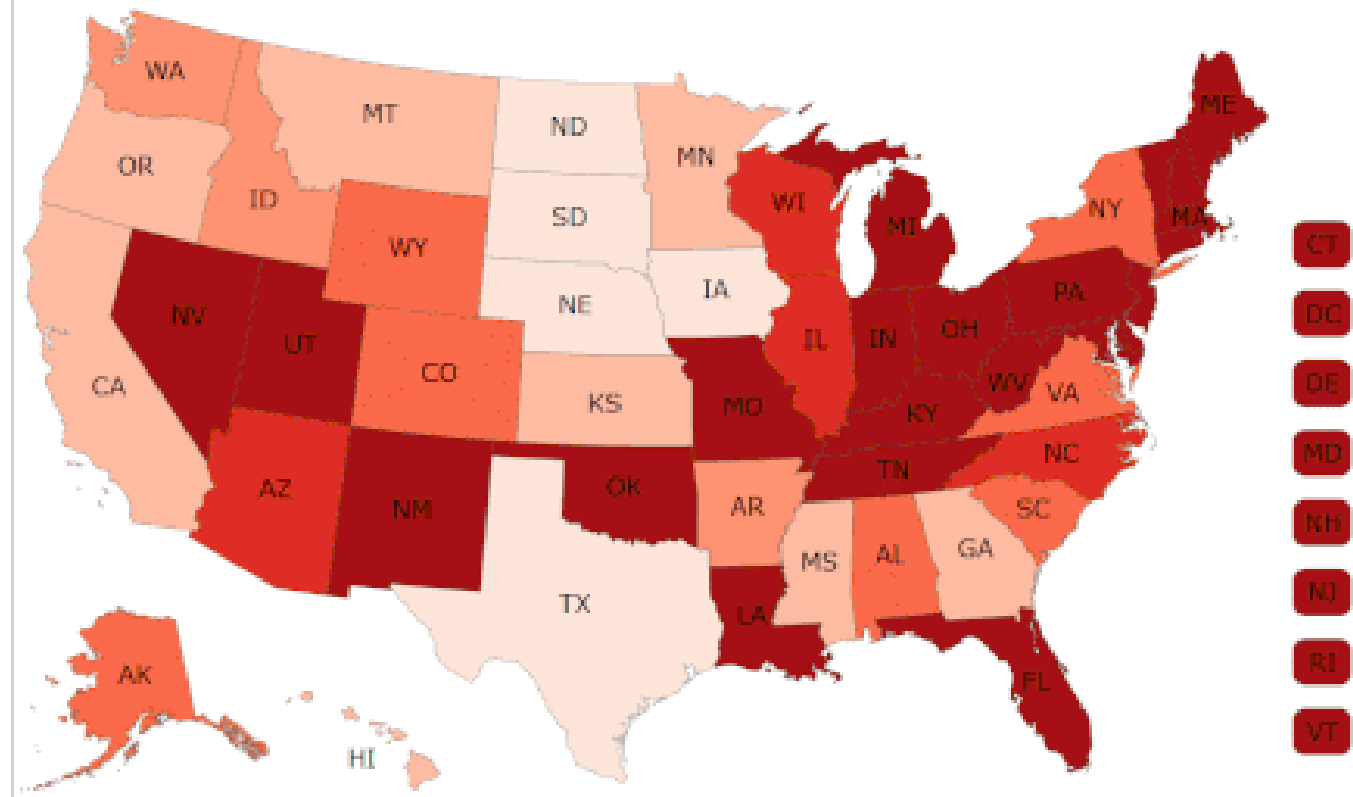


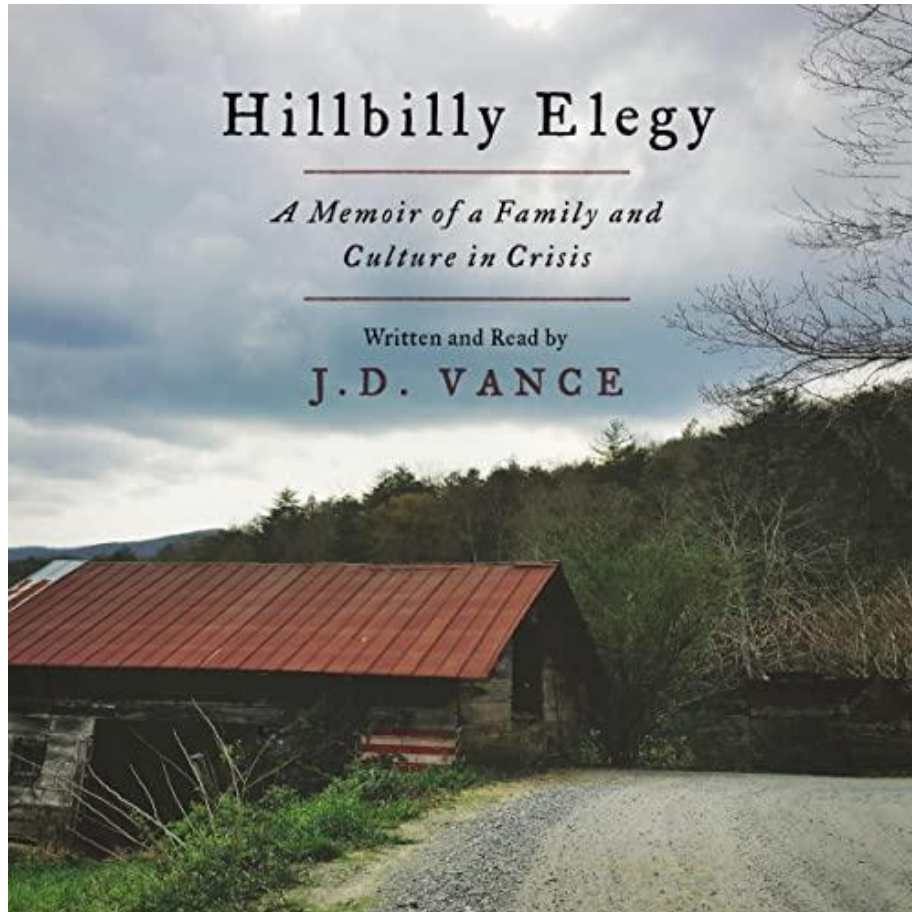


Relative income of full-time U.S. workers, by occupation



Drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population by state, US 2016.





- *Two American Families* (2013)
- https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/two-american-families/?campaign_id=20&emc=edit_wg_20240722&instance_id=129464&nl=watching®i_id=31381368&segment_id=172859&te=1&user_id=b0991fb48d5120df52e00766f637327b#video-2

Despite winning only 14% of counties, over 60% of the U.S. GDP came from the areas won by Harris

Counties candidates won and their share of the GDP in 2016, 2020, and 2024

YEAR	CANDIDATE	COUNTIES WON	TOTAL VOTES	AGGREGATE SHARE OF US GDP
2016	Hillary Clinton	472	65,853,625	64%
	Donald Trump	2,584	62,985,106	36%
2020	Joe Biden	512	80,074,447	71%
	Donald Trump	2,548	73,249,263	29%
2024	Kamala Harris	427	73,857,304	62%
	Donald Trump	2,633	76,264,661	38%

Source: Brookings Metro, Dec. 19, 2024

DOUG SOSNIK 18

1.SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

1. sociale ongelijkheid

- beperkt sociaal vangnet
- geldadel
- conspicuous consumption
- de gebroken American Dream
- bankencrisis (2008), covid (2020-21)
- geografische factor

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

ARLIE RUSSELL
HOCHSCHILD
**STRANGERS
IN THEIR
OWN LAND**

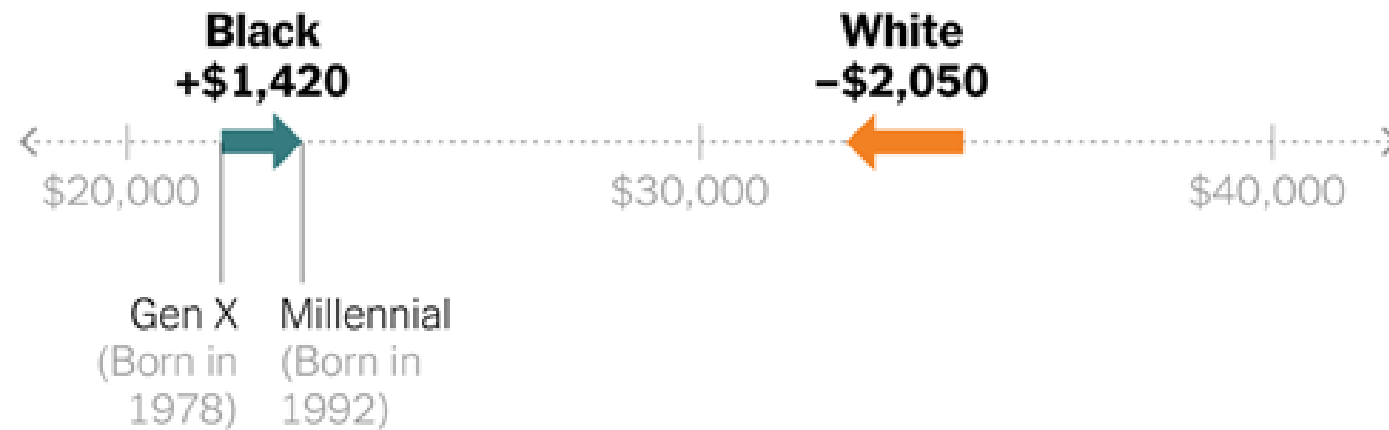


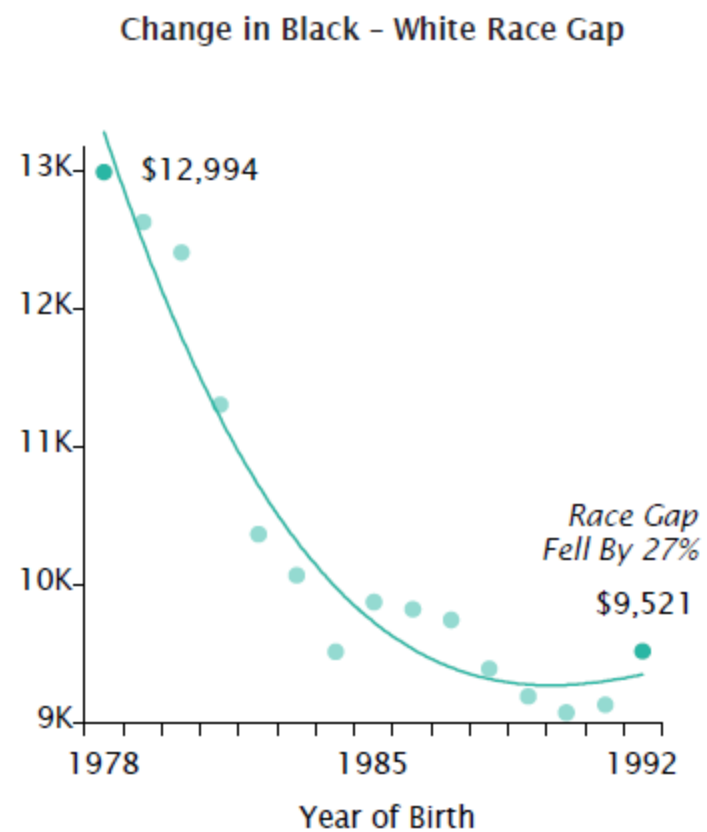
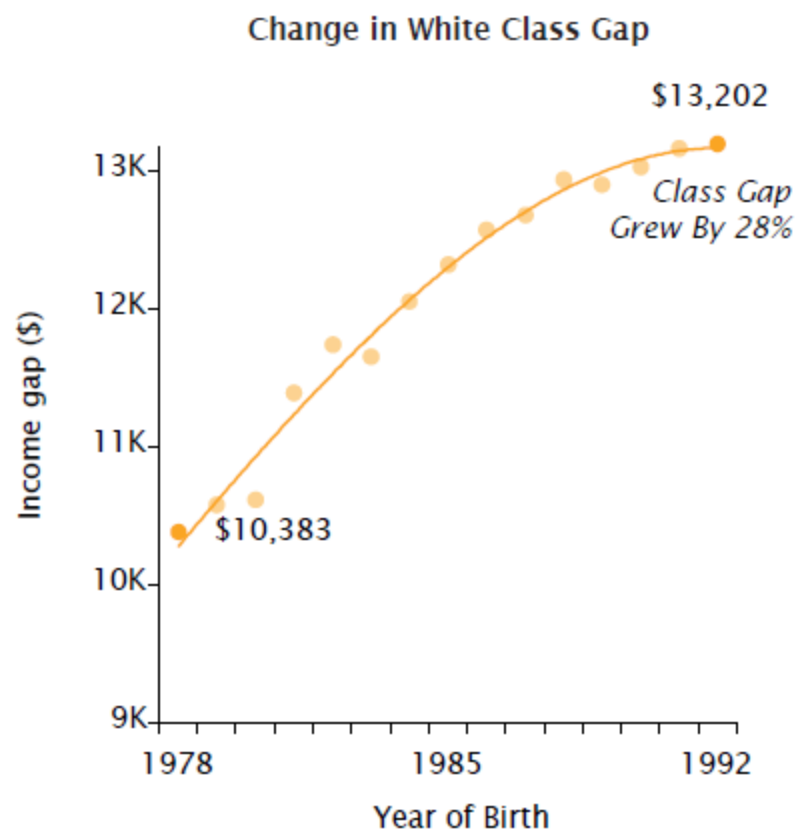
ANGER AND MOURNING ON THE AMERICAN RIGHT

“Masterly.” —Atul Gawande, *The New Yorker*

Change in expected income between generations

Income at age 27 of children who were born poor





1.SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

1. sociale ongelijkheid

- beperkt sociaal vangnet
- geldadel
- conspicuous consumption
- de gebroken American Dream
- bankencrisis (2008), covid (2020-21)
- geografische factor
- raciale factor

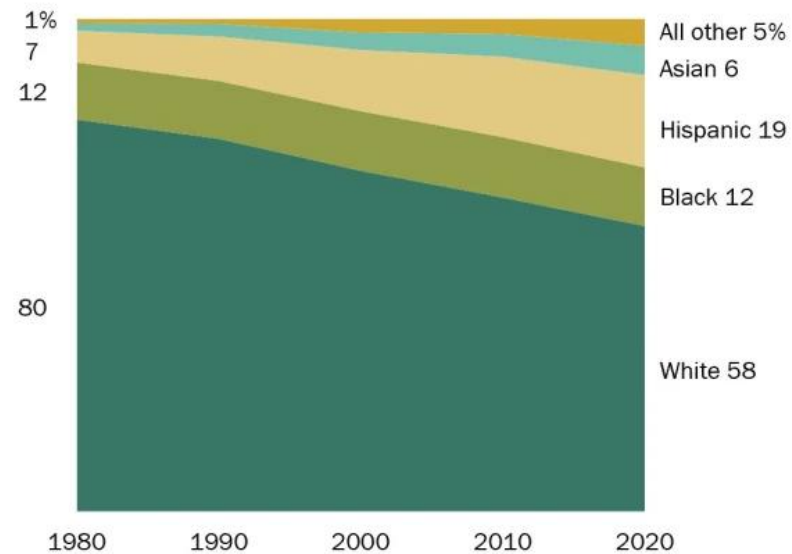
1. SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

Sociaal-economische omstandigheden

- a. sociale ongelijkheid
- b. “omvolking”

Share of the U.S. population that identifies as White has declined for several decades

% of U.S. population, by race and ethnicity



Notes: Race groups include non-Hispanics who report only one race for 2000-2020. Prior to 2000, decennial censuses allowed for only one race selection. "All other" includes people who are not Hispanic and are American Indian and Alaska Native, Pacific Islanders, Some Other Race and more than one race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of PL94-171 census data for 2000-2020, Census Bureau tabulations for 1990 and IPUMS 5% census data for 1980.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

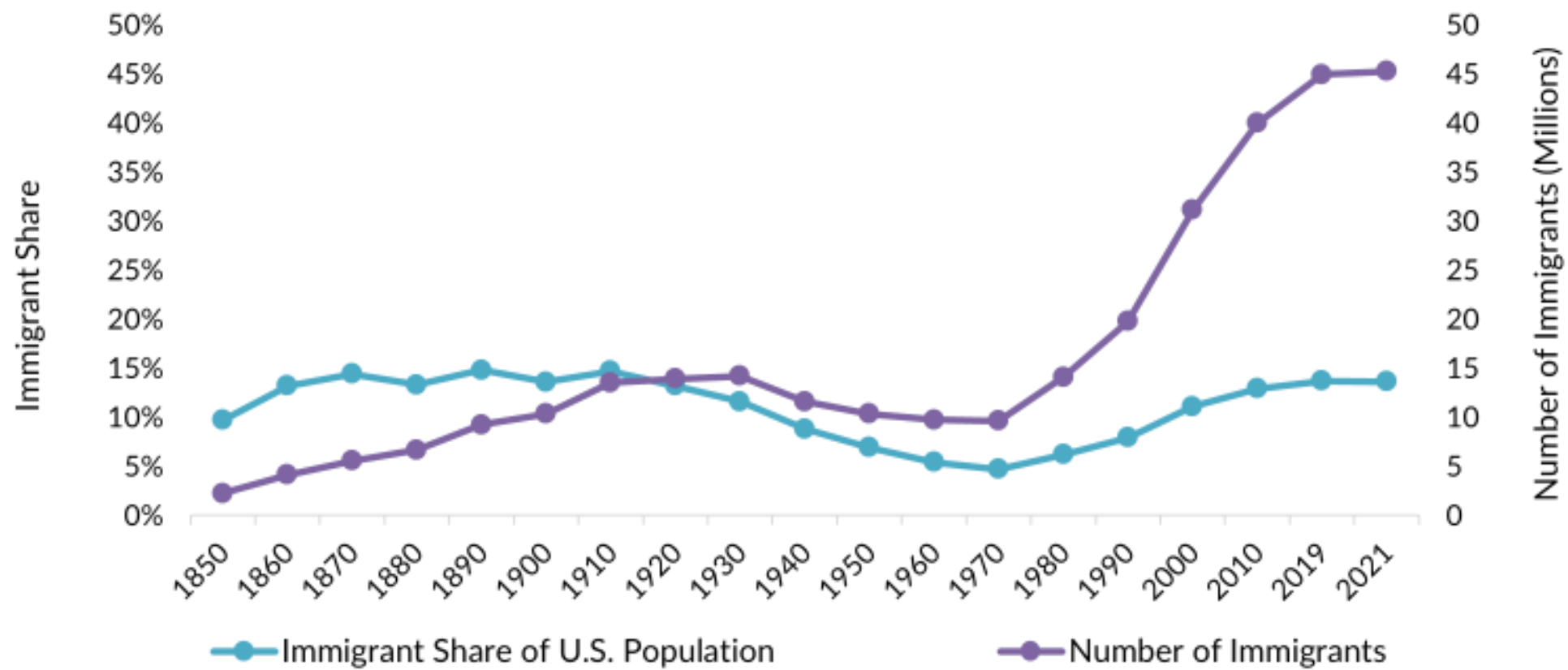


Table 1 U.S. Population, Actual and Projected: 2005 and 2050		
	2005	2050
Population (in millions)	296	438
Share of total		
Foreign born	12%	19%
Racial/Ethnic Groups		
White	67%	47%
Hispanic	14%	29%
Black	13%	13%
Asian	5%	9%
Age Groups		
Children (17 and younger)	25%	23%
Working age (18–64)	63%	58%
Elderly (65 and older)	12%	19%
Note: All races modified and not Hispanic; American Indian/ Alaska Native not shown. See "Methodology."		
Source: Pew Research Center, 2008		

1. SOCIAAL-ECONOMISCHE OMSTANDIGHEDEN

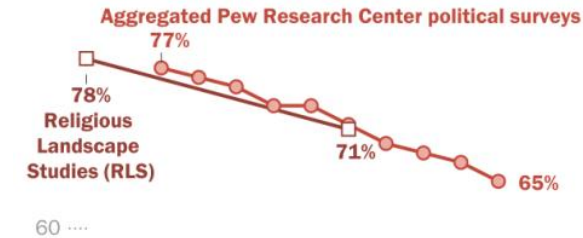
Sociaal-economische omstandigheden

- a. sociale ongelijkheid
- b. “omvolking”
- c. religie: Evangelical → Christian nationalism

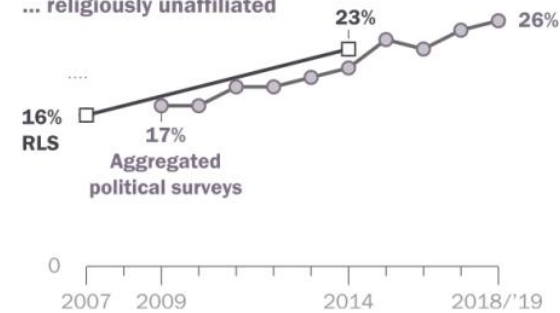
In U.S., smaller share of adults identify as Christians, while religious 'nones' have grown

% of U.S. adults who identify as ...

... Christian



... religiously unaffiliated



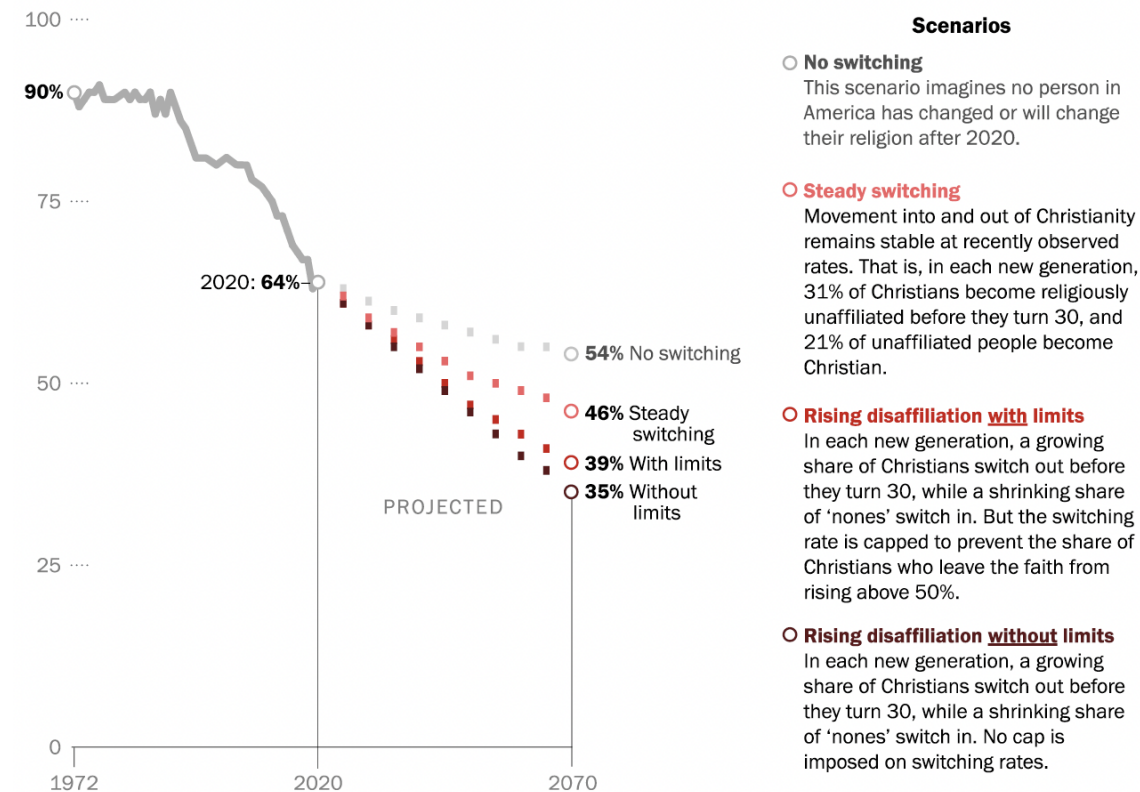
Source: Pew Research Center Religious Landscape Studies (2007 and 2014). Aggregated Pew Research Center political surveys conducted 2009-July 2019 on the telephone.

"In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

U.S. Christians projected to fall below 50% of population if recent trends continue

% of Americans who are Christian



Note: Historical data describes trends among U.S. adults based on surveys of adults. The 2020 estimate and subsequent projections show Americans of all ages. In 2020, we estimate that the religious composition of people of all ages roughly matches the adult composition. Sources: General Social Survey (1972-2006); Pew Research Center surveys (2007-2021); Pew Research Center projections (2020-2070). "Modeling the Future of Religion in America"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

BILLY GRAHAM (1918-2018)



JERRY FALWELL (1933-2007)



PAULA WHITE



PAULA WHITE



ANATOMIE VAN DE DISFUNCTIE

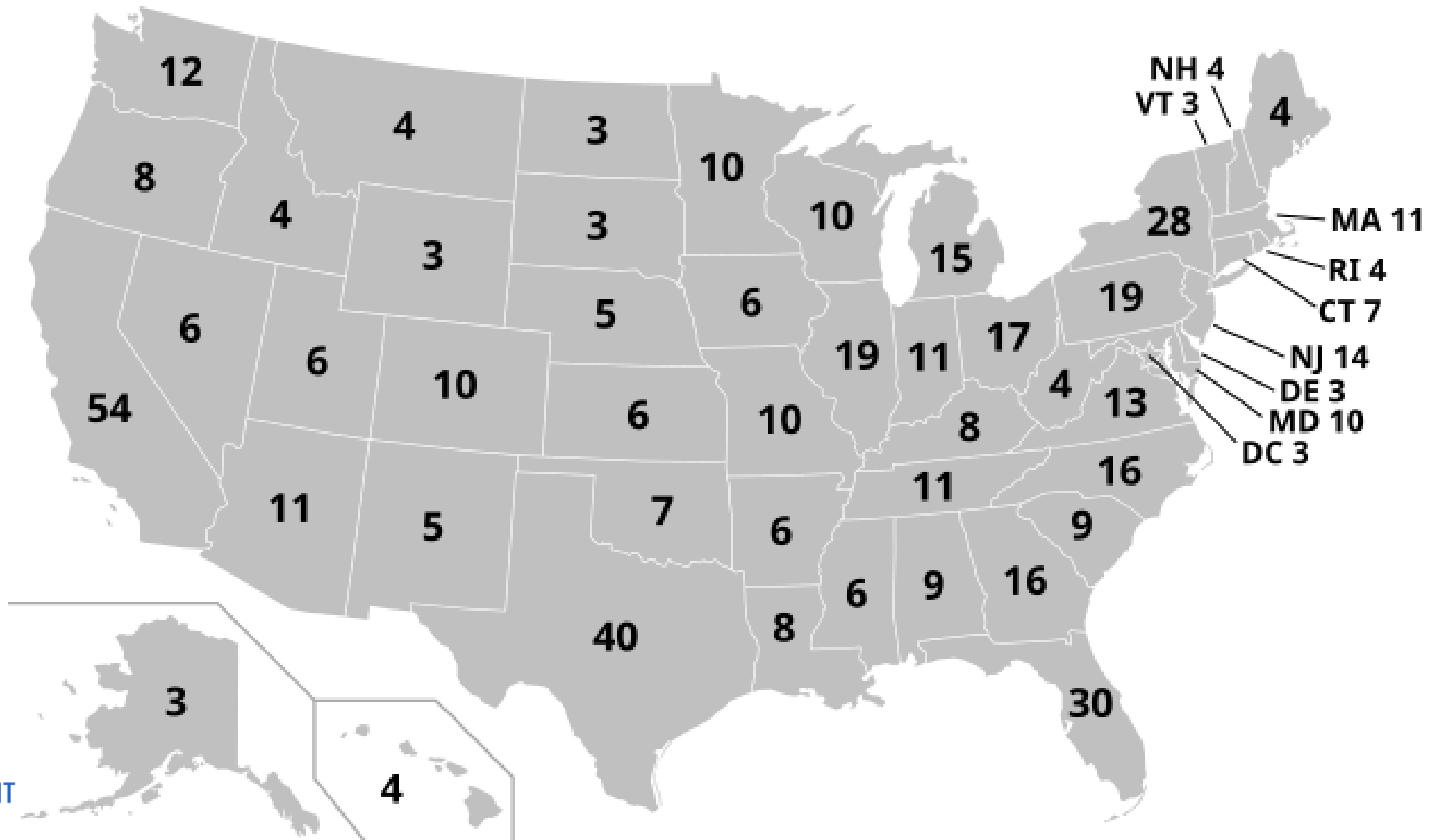
1.Sociaal-Economische omstandigheden

2.Staatsbestel

2.STAATSBESTEL

- a. Electoral college (kiescollege)

ELECTORAL COLLEGE



2.STAATSBESTEL

- a. Electoral college (kiescollege)
- b. Senaat

SAMENSTELLING SENAAT 2024

- Republikeinen: 53 zetels 155 miljoen
- Democraten: 47 zetels 179 miljoen
- Republikeinen: + 6 zetels -24 miljoen

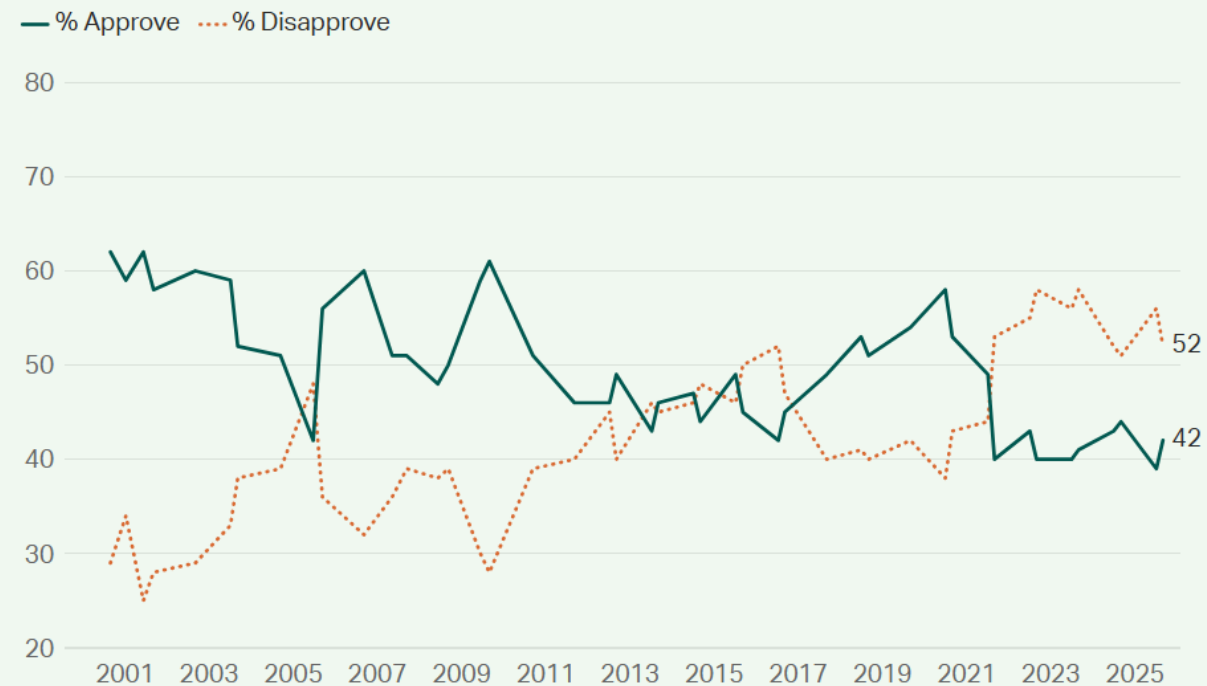
2.STAATSBESTEL

- a. Electoral college (kiescollege)
- b. Senaat
- c. Supreme Court



Supreme Court

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Supreme Court is handling its job?



2.STAATSBESTEL

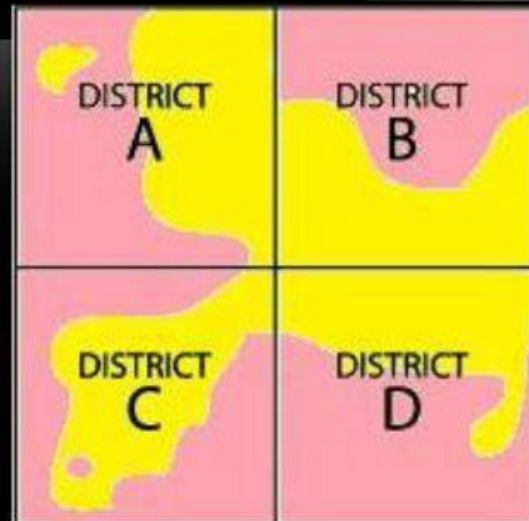
- a. Electoral college (kiescollege)
- b. Senaat
- c. Supreme Court
- d. Voter suppression

2.STAATSBESTEL

- a. Electoral college (kiescollege)
- b. Senaat
- c. Supreme Court
- d. Voter suppression
- e. Gerrymandering

WHAT IS GERRYMANDERING ?

Four evenly matched districts



All districts produce an even voting ratio for each party

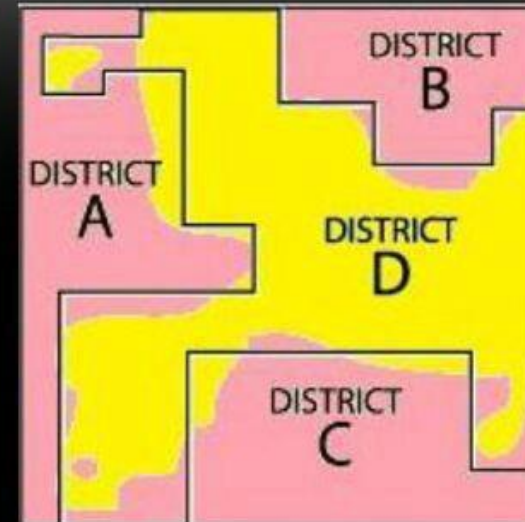


Party 1



Party 2

Redrawing of boundaries to give three-district advantage to Party 2



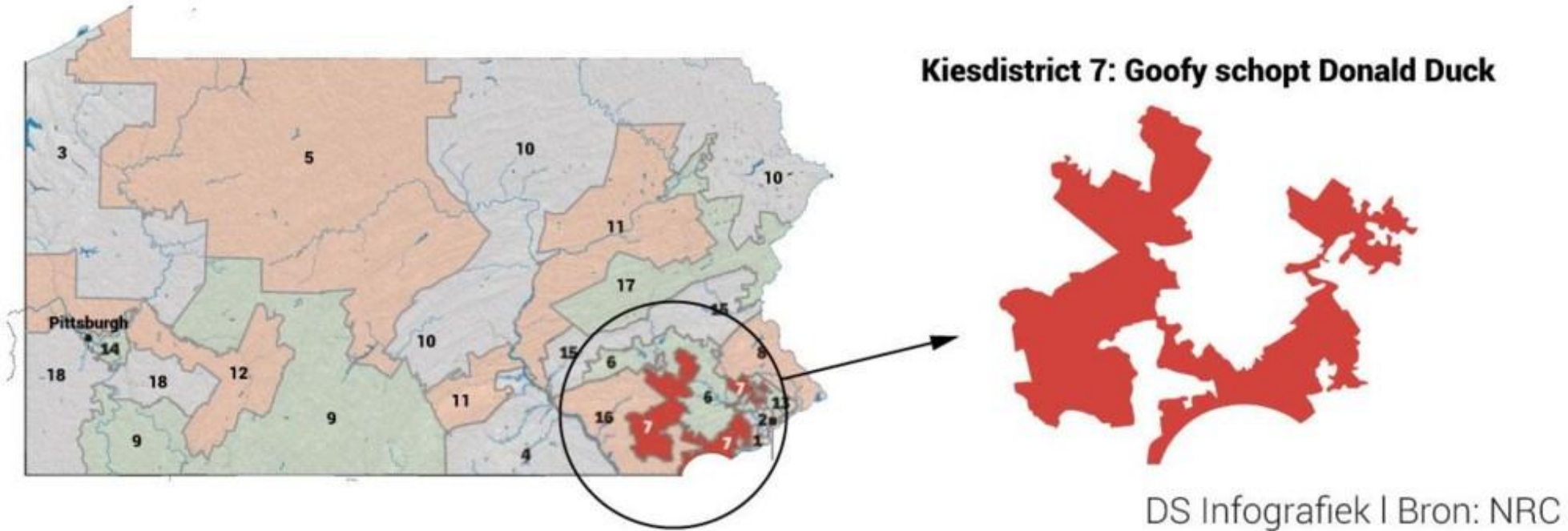
District A, B, C votes 90% for Party 2
District D votes 90% for Party 1

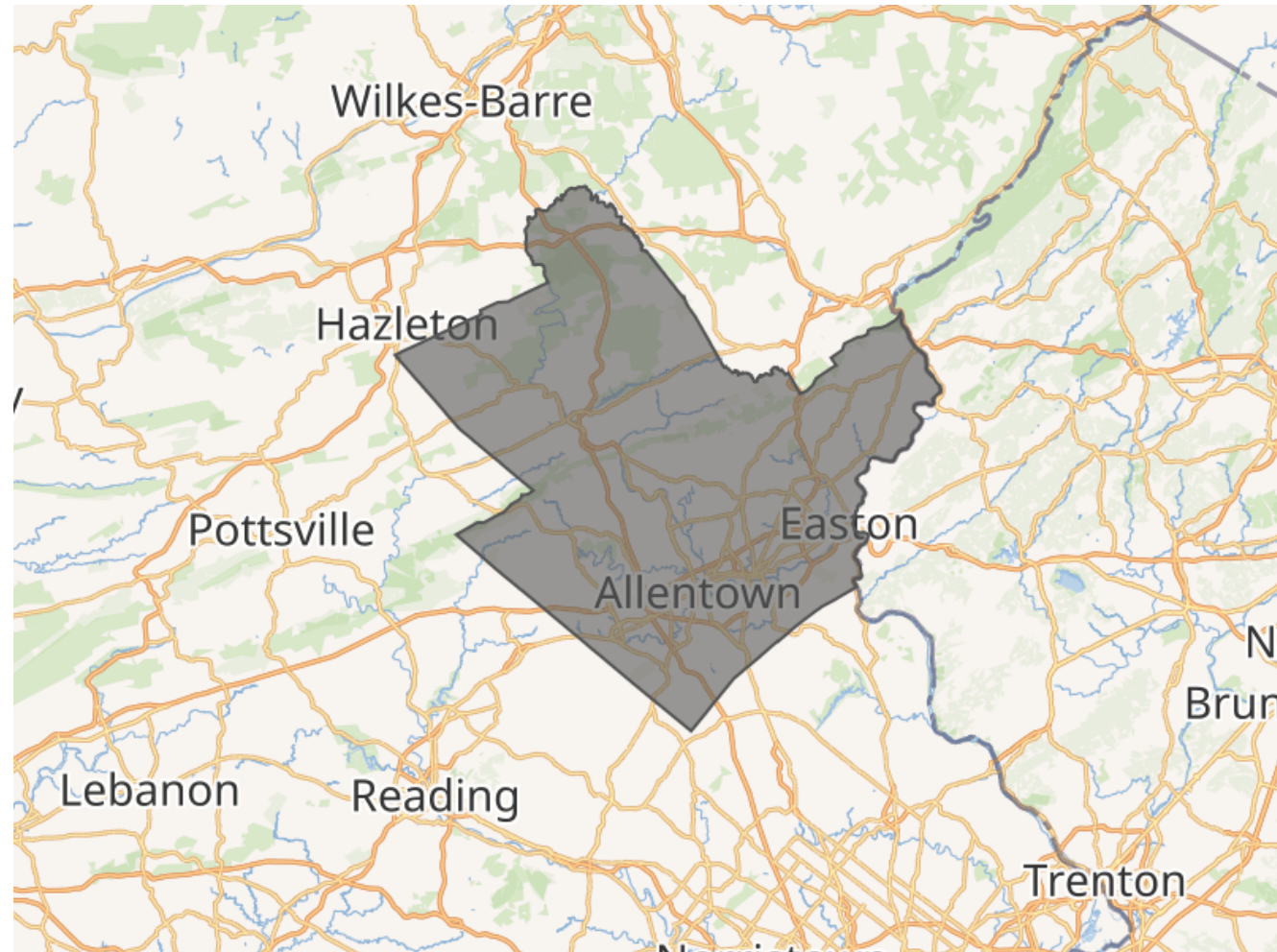
17

SOURCE: <http://www.comproffessor.com/2010/10/gerrymandering-through-comprote.html>

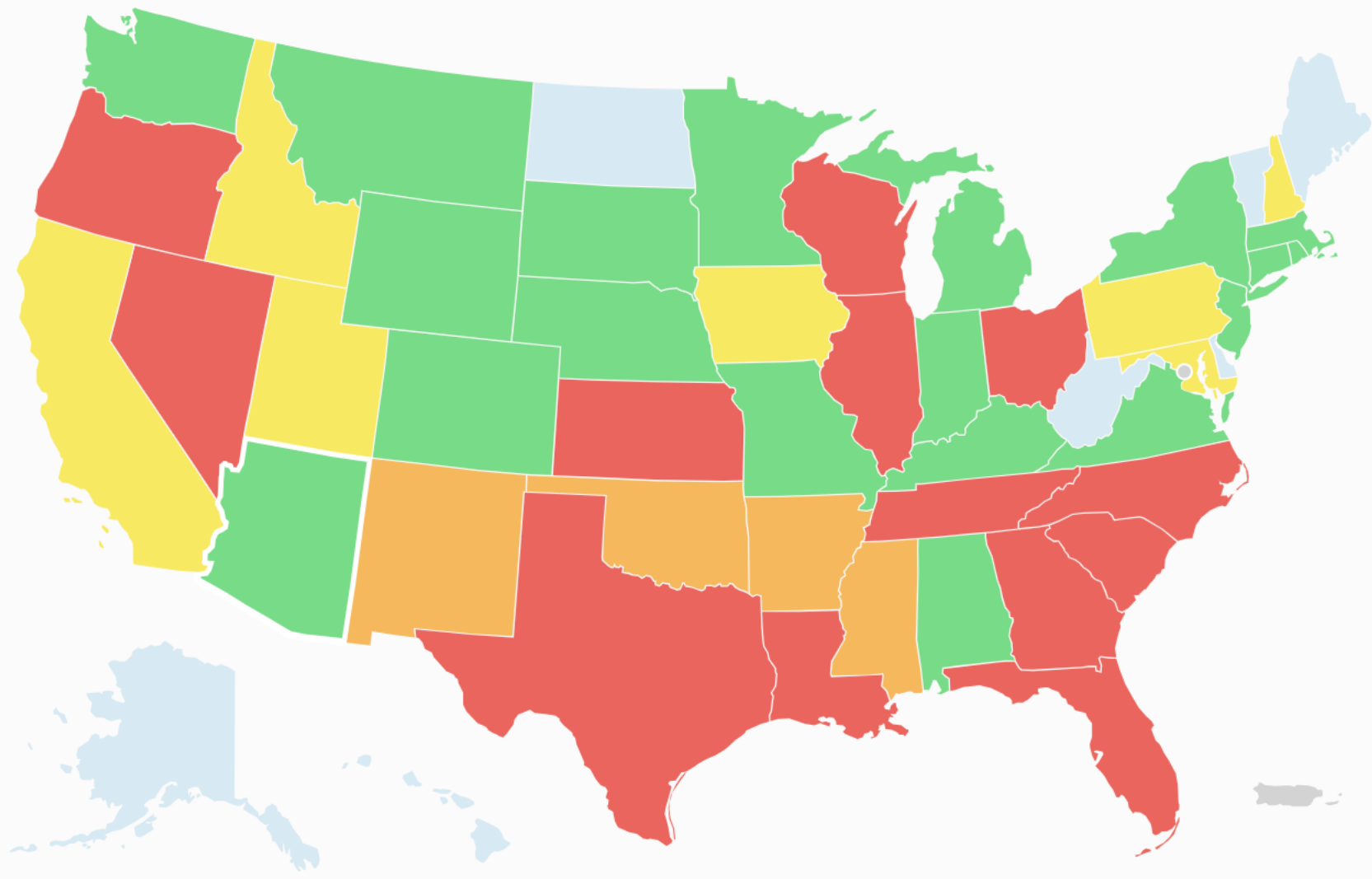
Districten met grillige vormen om de verkiezingsuitslag te manipuleren

De kiesdistricten van Pennsylvania





Redistricting Report Card



Redistricting efforts could favor Republicans

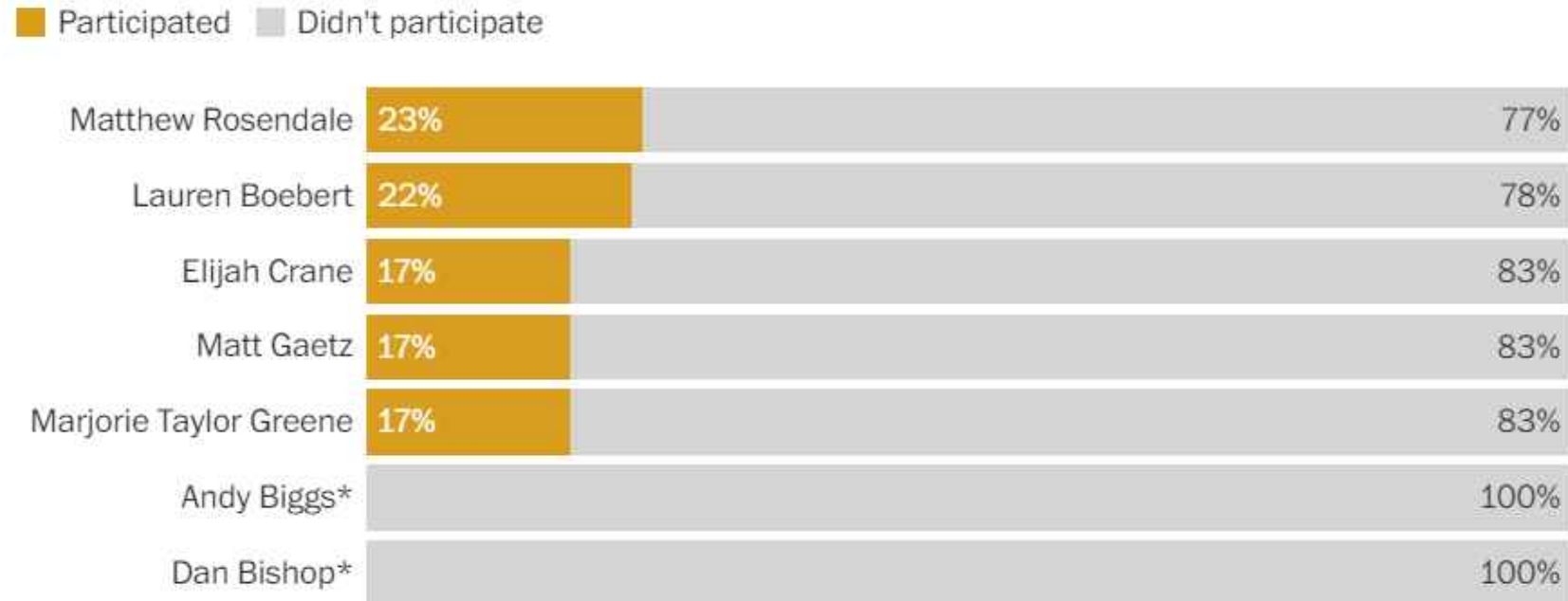
New maps signed into law	Possible change	Total seats
Texas	+5R 	+8-9R
Missouri	+1R 	
North Carolina	+1R 	
Ohio	+1-2R 	
Actions taken to redistrict		
Indiana	+1-2R 	+6-8D
New York	+1D 	
Virginia	+2-3D 	
California	+5D 	
Redistricting discussed		
Florida	+2-3R 	+2-3R
Kansas	+1R 	
Nebraska	+1R 	
Illinois	+1D 	
Maryland	+1D 	
Total possible seats		+2-6R

2.STAATSBESTEL

- a. Electoral college (kiescollege)
- b. Senaat
- c. Supreme Court
- d. Voter suppression
- e. Gerrymandering
- f. Primaries (voorverkiezingen)

In some races, a small group of voters decide who sits in the U.S. House

Registered voters who participated in the 2022 GOP primary in select districts



* Ran unopposed in the primary

Source: Unite America

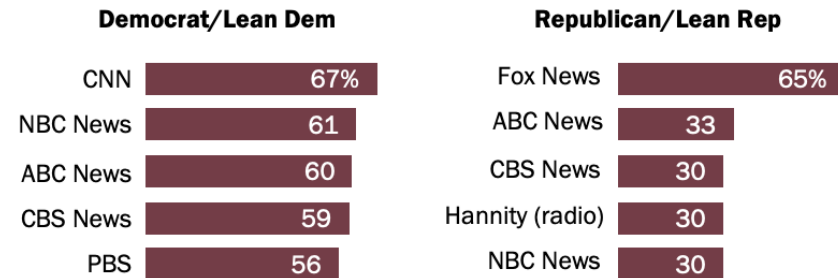
THE WASHINGTON POST

2.STAATSBESTEL

- a. Electoral college (kiescollege)
- b. Senaat
- c. Supreme Court
- d. Voter suppression
- e. Gerrymandering
- f. Primaries (voorverkiezingen)
- g. Pers

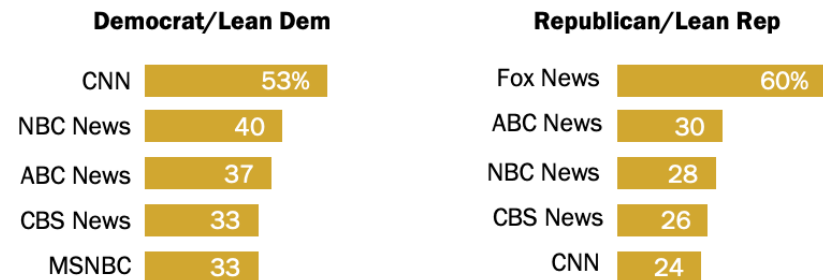
Republicans place trust in one source, Fox News, far more than any other ...

% who trust each source for political and election news (first 5 shown)



... and rely on Fox News far more for political news

% who got political and election news from each source in the past week (first 5 shown)



Note: Order of outlets does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.

"U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election: A Nation Divided"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

3. THE EMOTIVE PRESIDENCY

- Constitutional presidency

Art. 2 van de Grondwet: “The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States.”

3. THE EMOTIVE PRESIDENCY

- Constitutional presidency
- Interpretive presidency: Woodrow Wilson
- Rhetorical presidency: FDR, JFK, Nixon, Reagan

3. THE EMOTIVE PRESIDENCY

- Constitutional presidency
- Interpretive presidency: Woodrow Wilson
- Rhetorical presidency: FDR, JFK, Nixon, Reagan
- Emotive presidency: Obama, Trump

3. THE EMOTIVE PRESIDENCY

A seasoned entertainer, Trump unified his supporters by giving vent to their emotions. Employing cadences borrowed from stand-up comics and radio shock jocks, Trump transformed populist rage into a positive emotion: gleeful shared mockery of the politicians and elites who had betrayed the true Americans.

Michael Good & Philip Wallach in *National Affairs*

3. THE EMOTIVE PRESIDENCY

The base of the Republican Party fell in love with the Trump Show—with his “owning the libs” and willingness to validate conservatives’ grievances and resentments, his chaos-creating ways, and his capacity to shatter norms and channel hatreds. To his supporters, Trump is entertaining and cathartic, a “fighter,” a middle finger to an establishment they revile.

Peter Wehner in The Atlantic

**IMPEACHED. ARRESTED.
CONVICTED. SHOT.**



STILL STANDING



4. UNITARY EXECUTIVE

- Constitutional presidency
- Interpretive presidency: Woodrow Wilson
- Rhetorical presidency: FDR, JFK, Nixon, Reagan
- Emotive presidency: Obama, Trump I
- Unitary executive: Trump II

USA: ANATOMIE VAN DE DISFUNCTIONIE



1. Sociaal-Economische omstandigheden

Sociale ongelijkheid, omvolking, religie

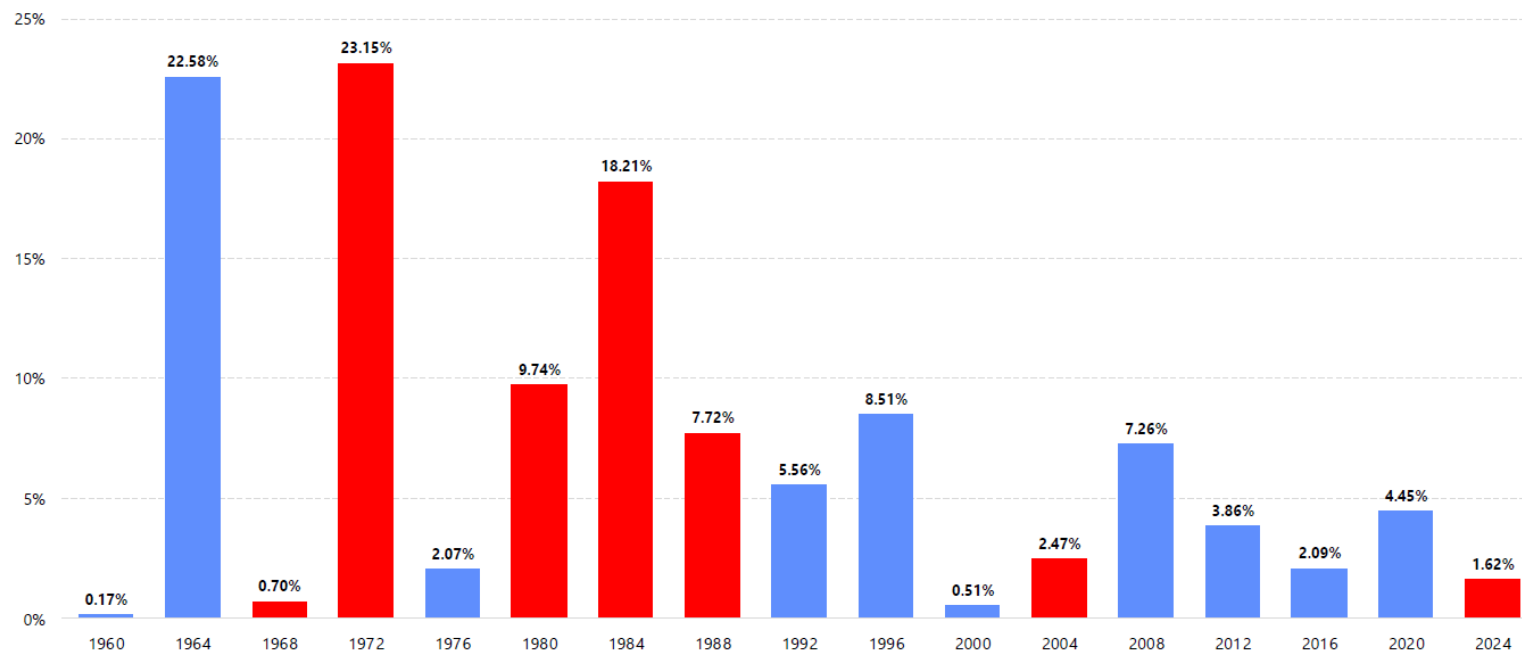
2. Staatsbestel

Senaat, Supreme Court, voter suppression, gerrymandering, primaries, pers

3. Emotive Presidency, Unitary Executive

Constitution → rhetorical → emotive presidency → unitary executive

On a percentage basis, Trump's winning margin of the popular vote was the fourth smallest since 1960



Sources: PolitiFact, Nov. 22, 2024

DOUG SOSNIK 24

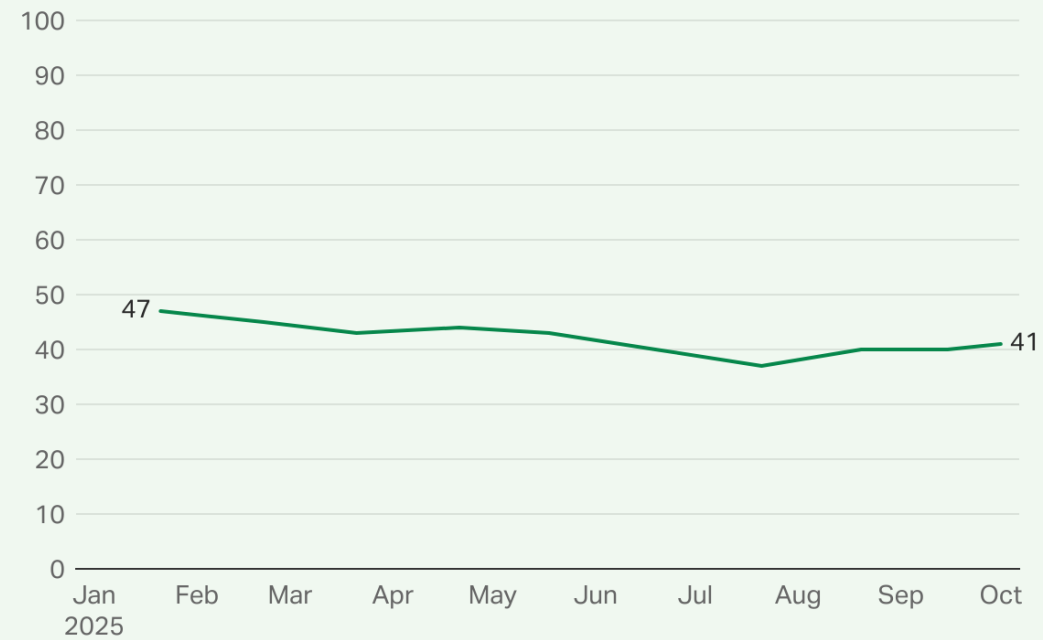
Donald Trump's Second-Term Job Approval Ratings Trend

% Approve

Use the buttons to view the two terms.

Term 2

Term 1



GALLUP®

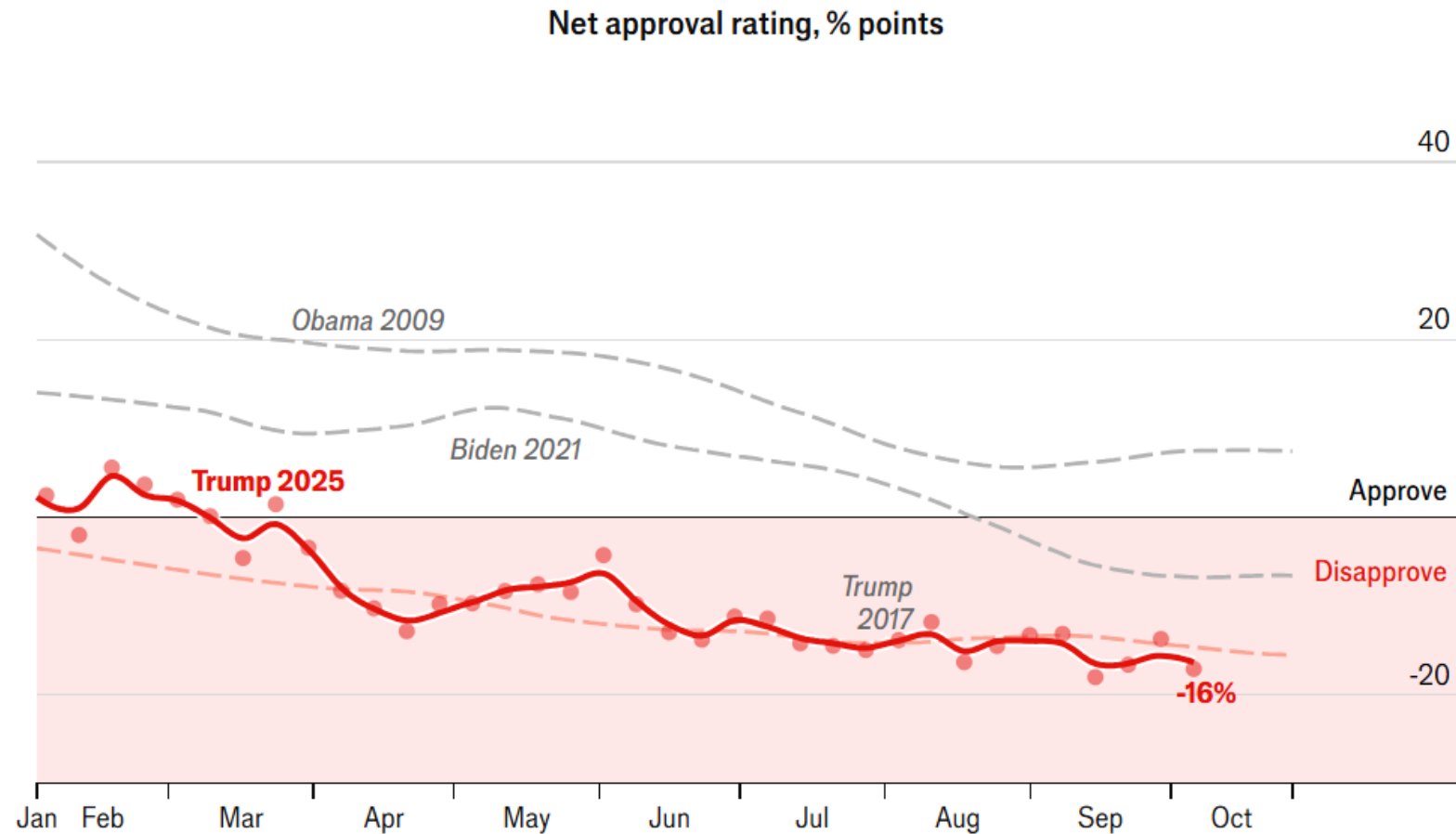
Donald Trump's Presidential Job Approval Ratings -- Historical Comparisons

President	% Approve	Polling dates
Average for U.S. presidents	52	1938-2025
Average for elected first term presidents' 4th quarter	59	various
Other elected presidents in October of first year		
Joe Biden	42	Oct 2021
Donald Trump (first term)	37	Oct 2017
Barack Obama	53	Oct 2009
George W. Bush	88	Oct 2001
Bill Clinton	48	Oct 1993
George H.W. Bush	68	Oct 1989
Ronald Reagan	55	Oct 1981
Jimmy Carter	55	Oct 1977
Richard Nixon	57	Oct 1969
John Kennedy	77	Oct 1961
Dwight Eisenhower	65	Oct 1953
Other two-term presidents in October of first year of second term		
Barack Obama	43	Oct 2013
George W. Bush	41	Oct 2005
Bill Clinton	57	Oct 1997
Ronald Reagan	63	Oct 1985
Richard Nixon	29	Oct 1973
Lyndon Johnson	66	Oct 1965
Dwight Eisenhower	57	Oct 1957
Harry Truman	50	Oct 1949

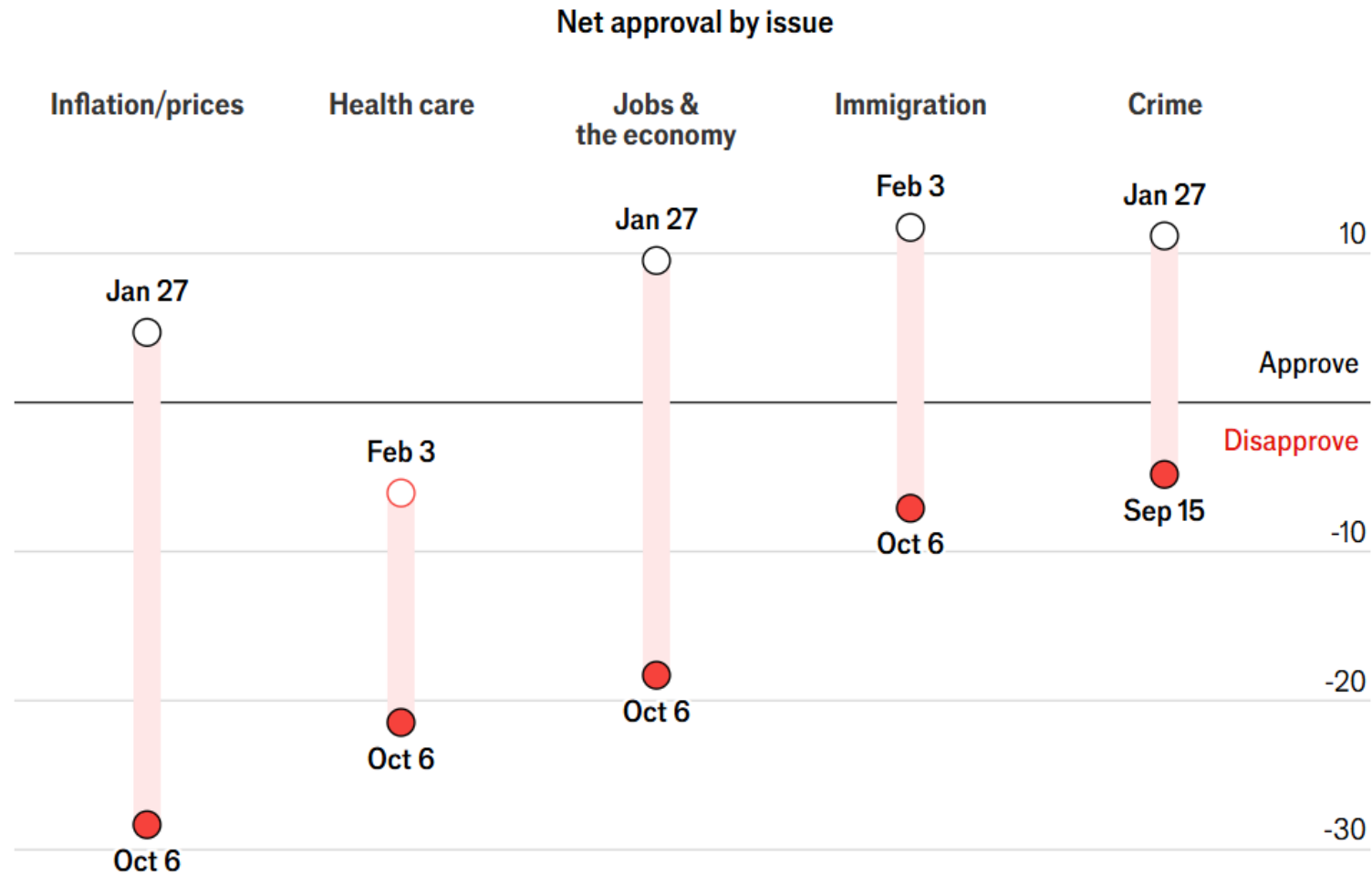
GALLUP

POPULARITY TRUMP

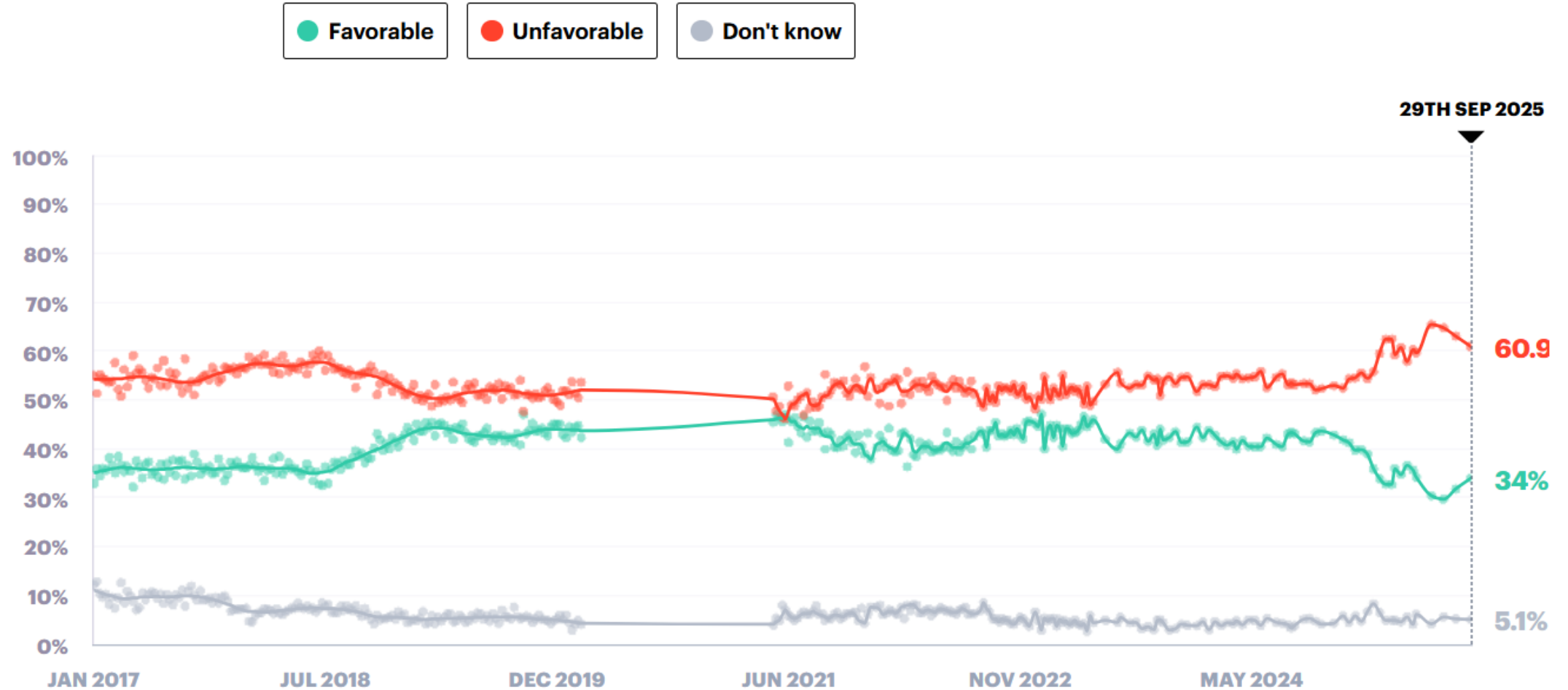
Last updated on October 12th 2025



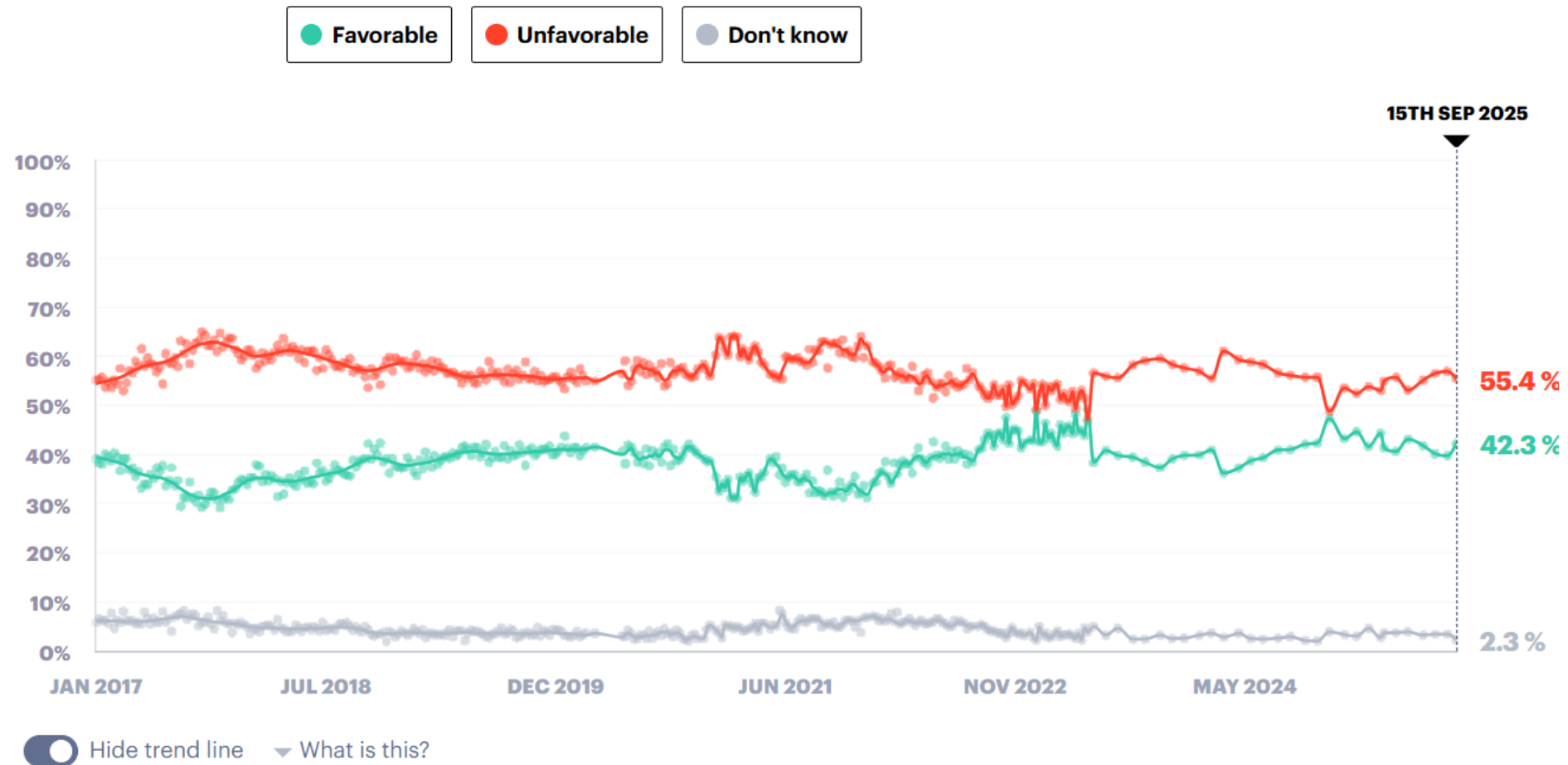
POPULARITY TRUMP



DEMOCRATIC PARTY FAVORABILITY



REPUBLICAN PARTY FAVORABILITY





**UNIVERSITEIT
GENT**