GENERAL SESSION: HOW WILL SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS IMPACT POLITICS AND ELECTIONS?



ROBERT GRIFFIN, PHD RESEARCH DIRECTOR DEMOCRACY FUND VOTER STUDY GROUP

SPONSORED BY:

Steptoe

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE

States of Change

Robert Griffin, PhD



democracy fund VOTER STUDY GROUP



Research collaborative created to better understand the American electorate



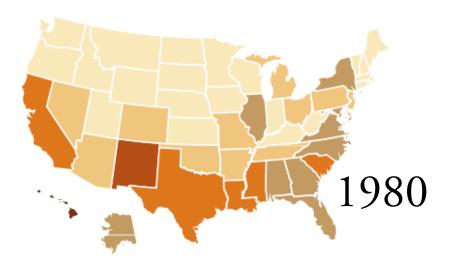


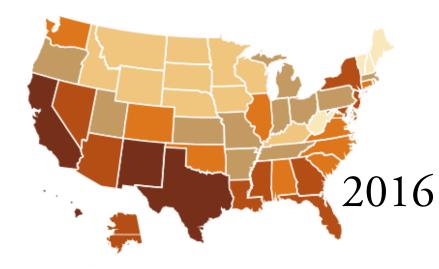






The country is undergoing significant demographic changes.





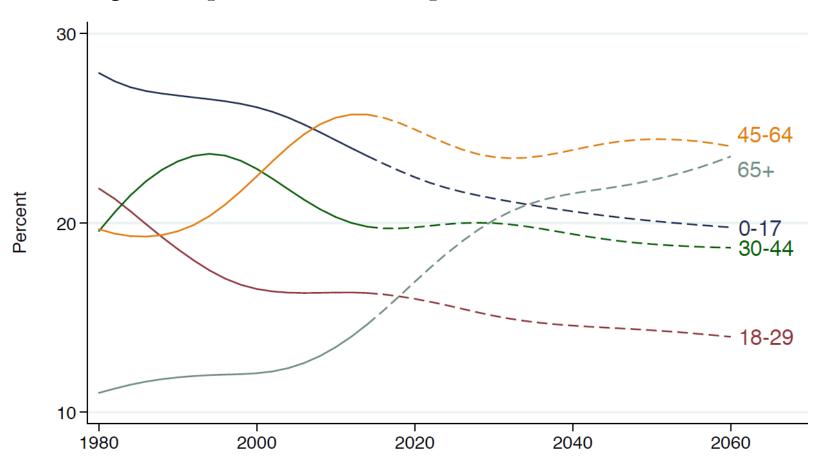


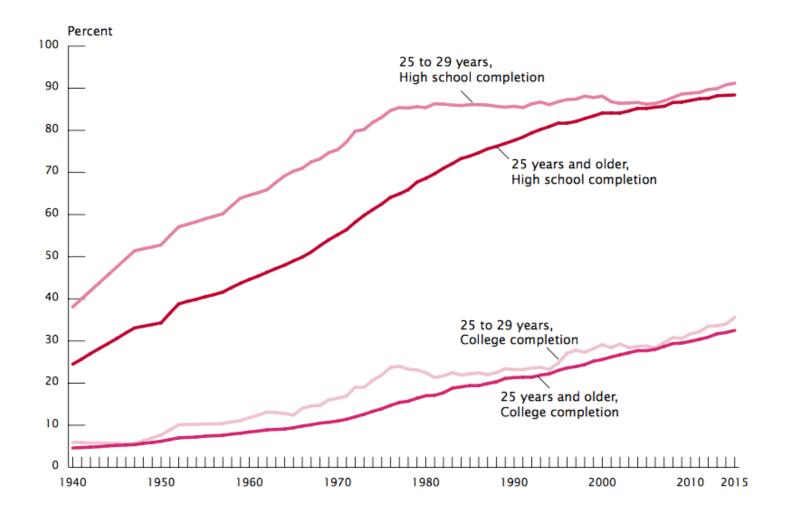
Percent people of color





Age Composition of US Population, 1980 - 2060

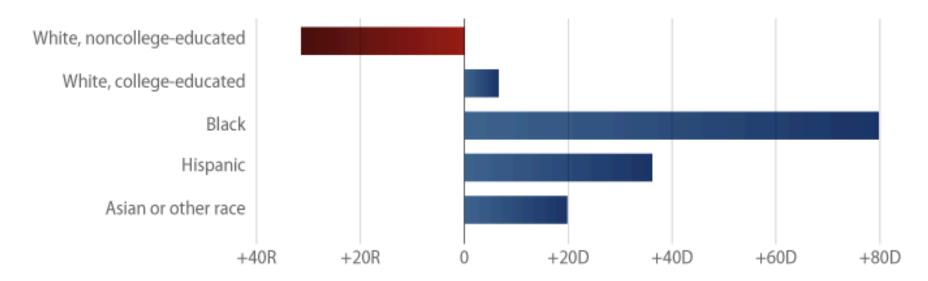


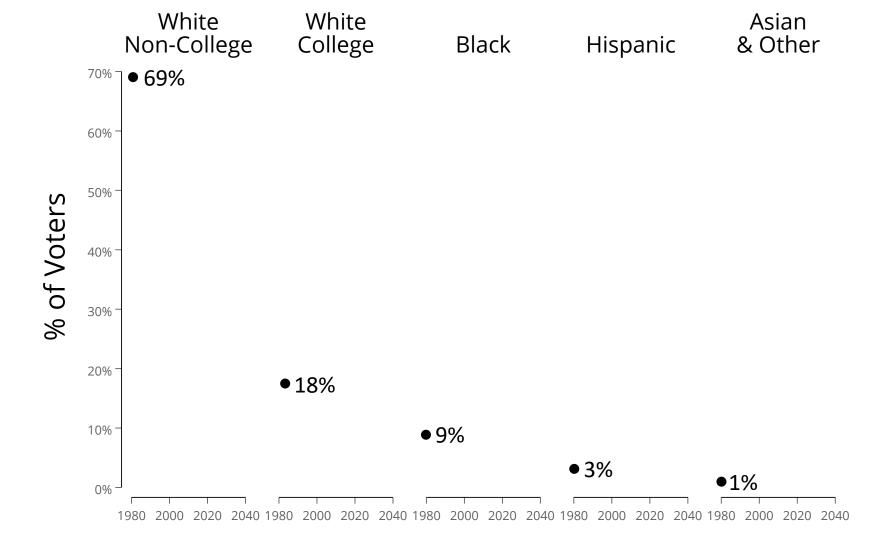


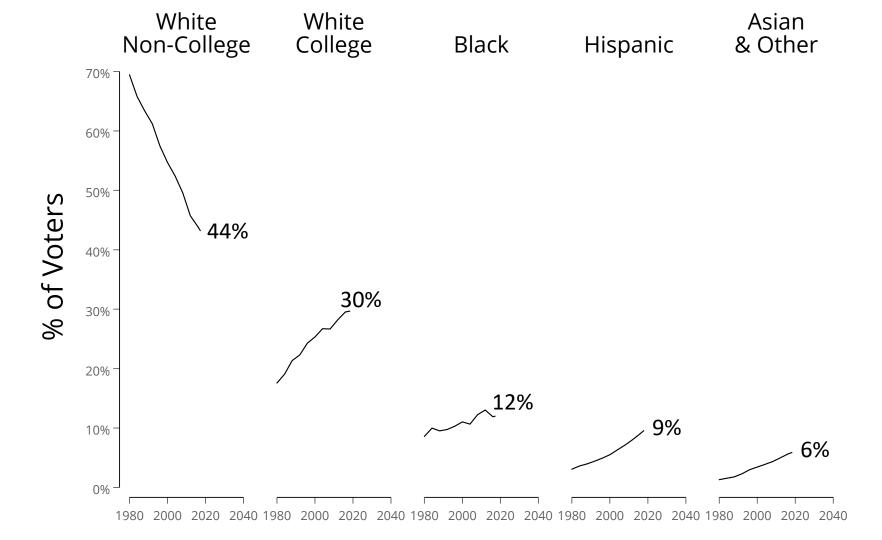
How have these changes influenced the composition of the electorate?

Examine these changes using five groups: White non-college White college Black Hispanic Asian and other racial groups

Support rates by race and education Vote margins, 2016



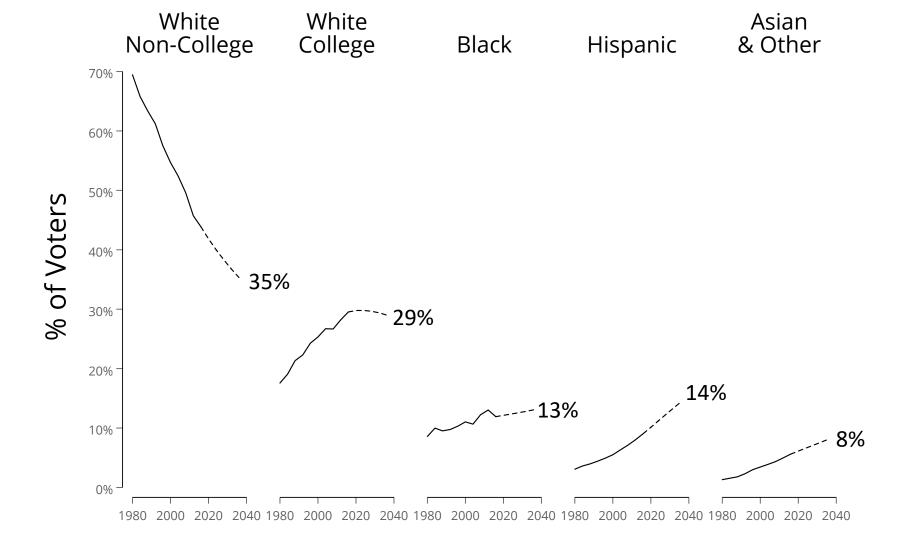




What about the future?

Assumptions <u>Turnout</u> stays the same <u>Demographics</u> keep changing

Simulations ≠ Predictions These are baselines for thinking about the future.

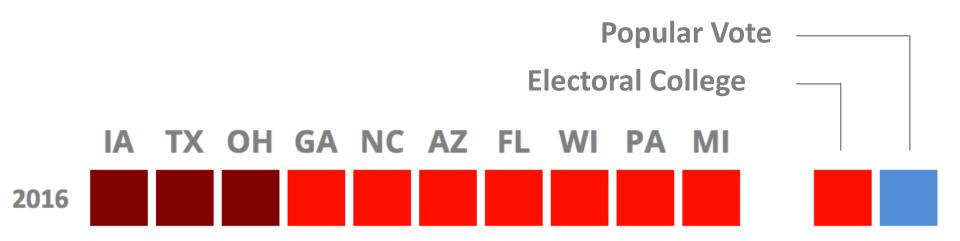


What does demographic change mean for future elections?

Simulation #1

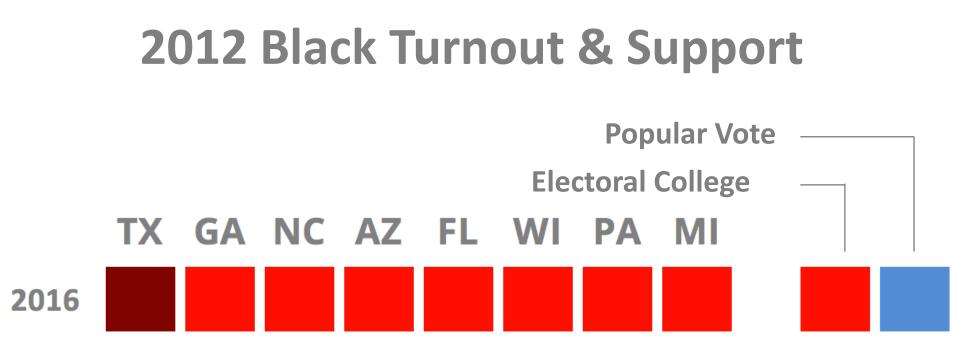
Turnout rates stays the same as 2016Support rates stay the same as 2016

2016 Forward



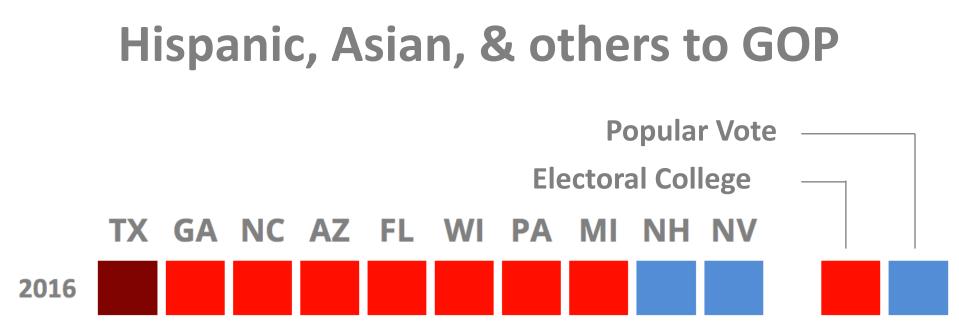
Simulation #2

- Black turnout and support rates return to 2012 levels.
- All other groups stay the same as 2016.



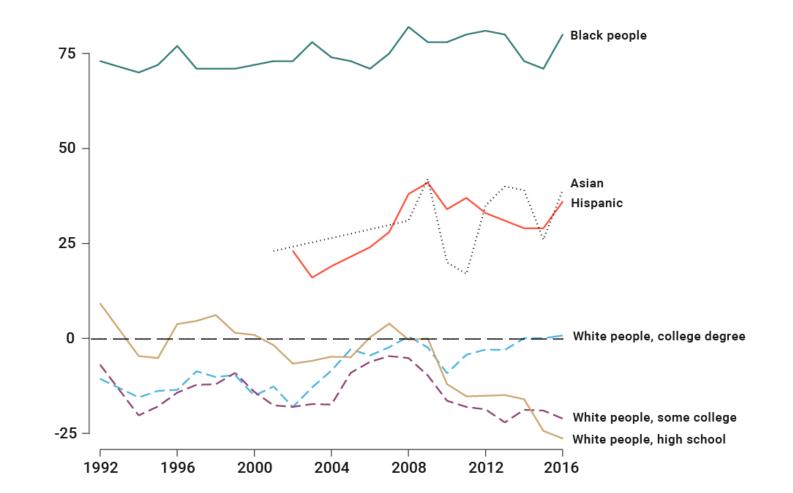
Simulation #3

- Hispanics, API, and other racial groups swing towards GOP (+7.5)
- All other groups stay the same as 2016.

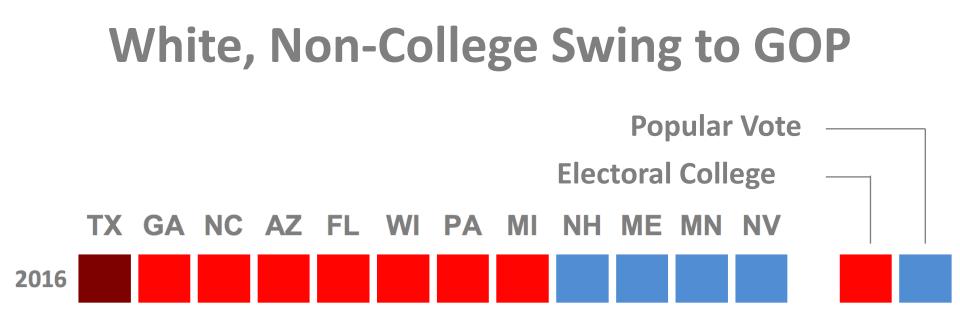




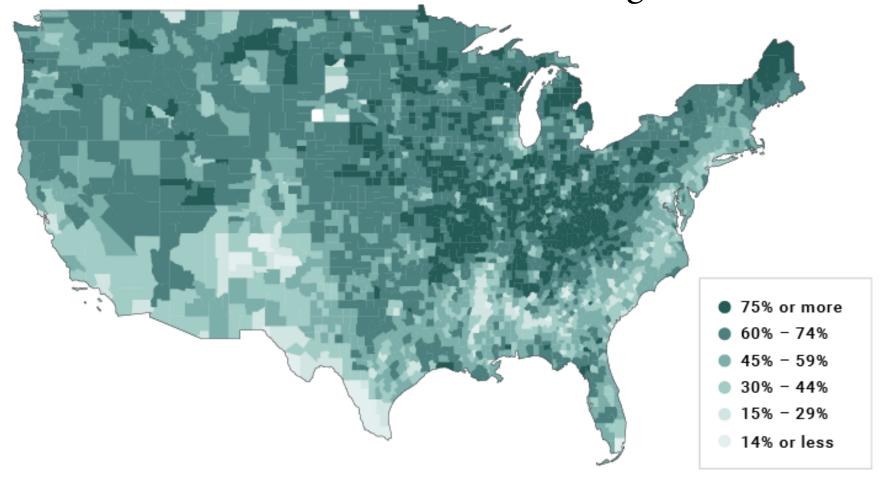
- White, non-college swing to GOP (+5)
- All other groups stay the same as 2016.

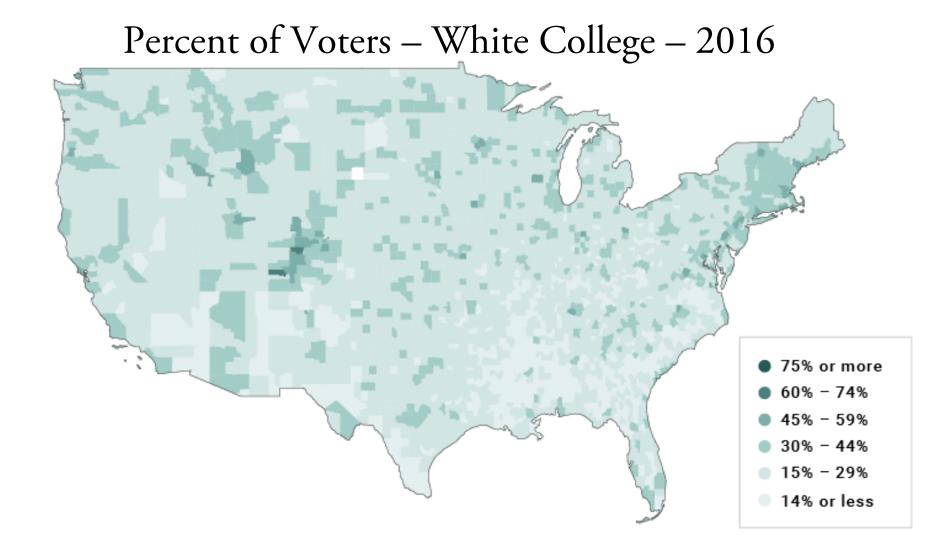


Democratic Advantage in Partisanship, by Race and Education, 1992-2016

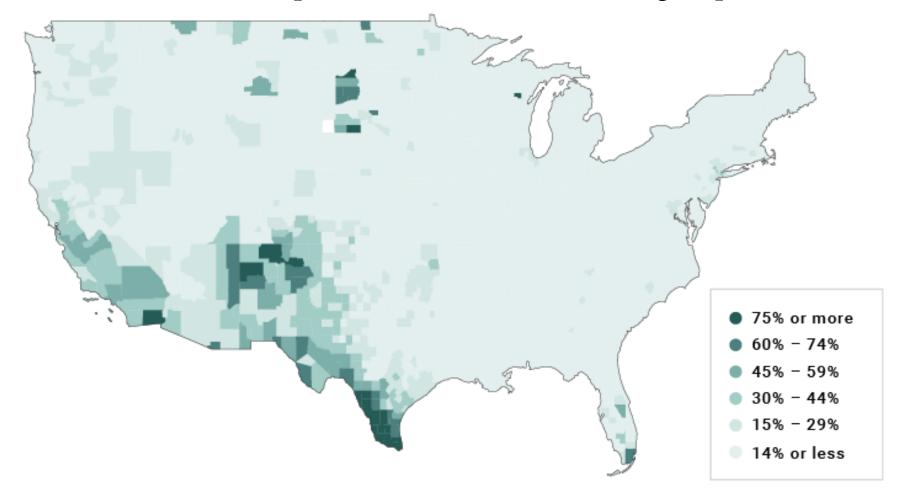


Percent of Voters – White Non-College – 2016





Percent of Voters - Hispanic, API, and other racial groups - 2016

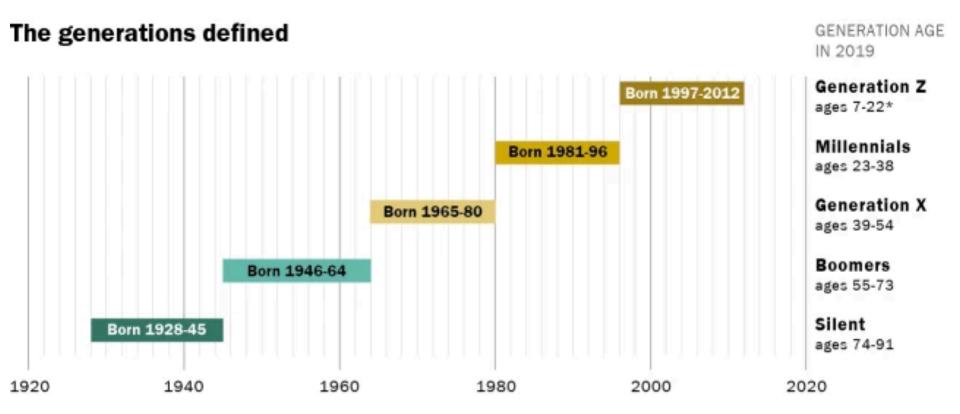


This has electoral consequences that go well beyond the presidency.



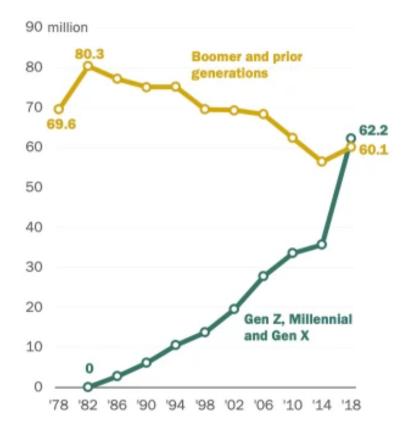
The country is changing in other ways that create headwinds for Republicans.

Generational Replacement



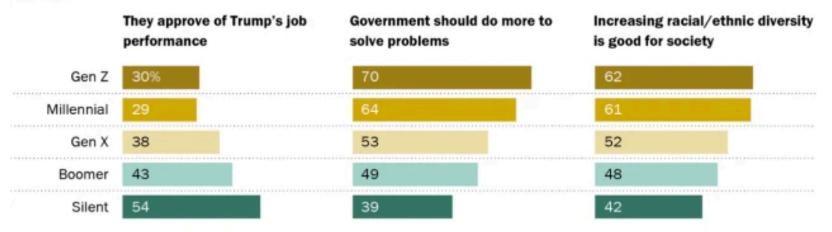
Younger generations outvoted Boomer and prior generations in 2018

Reported votes cast in midterm elections, in millions



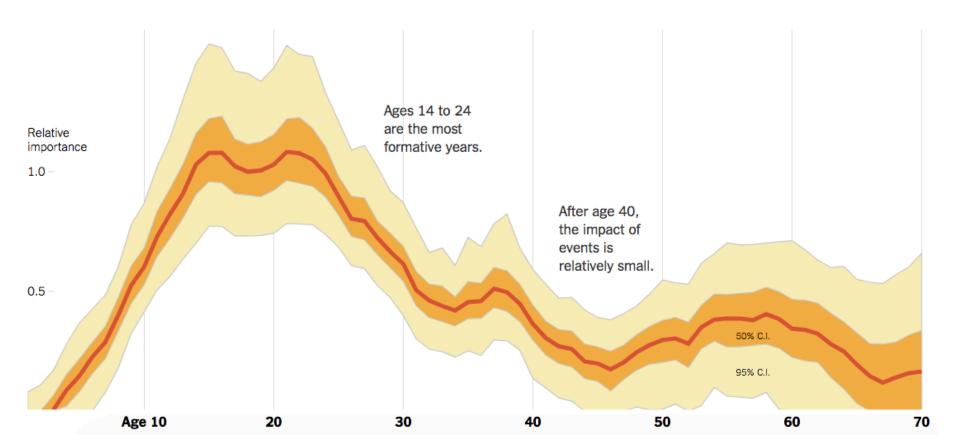
Millennials + Gen Z are notably Democratic leaning & Liberal

% saying ...

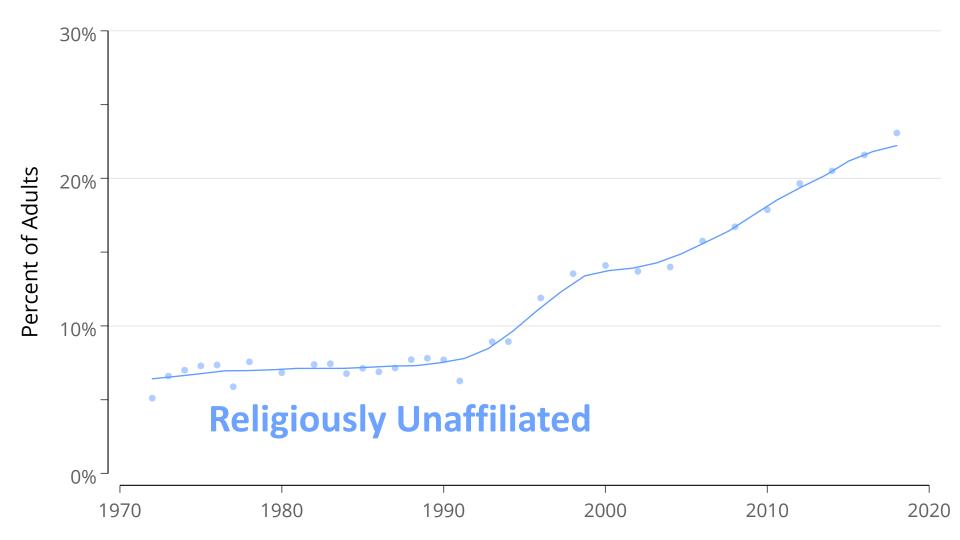


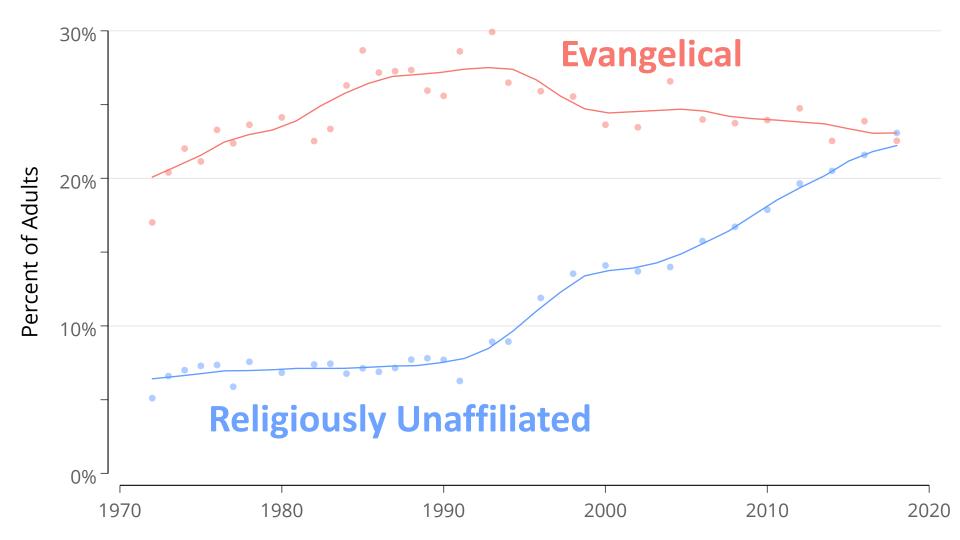
The most formative years

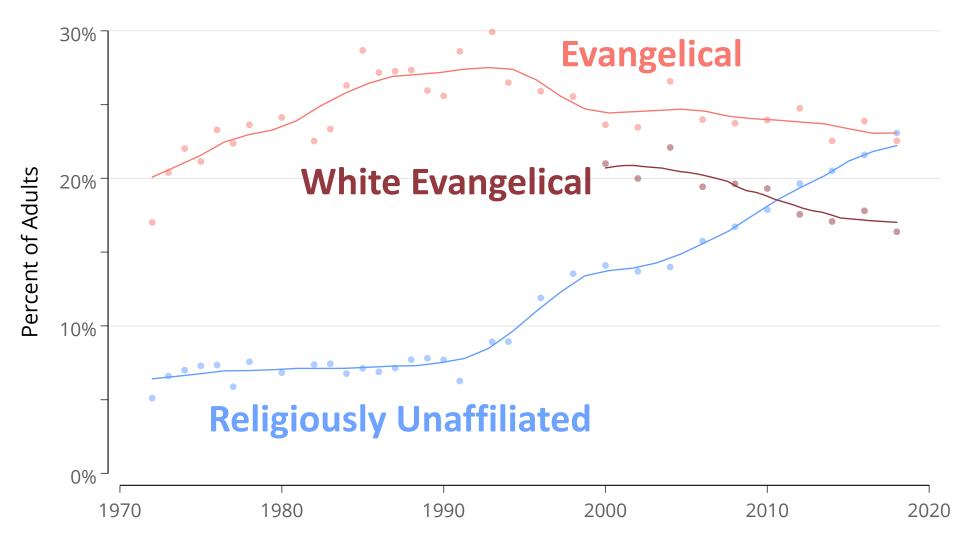
Events at age 18 are about three times as powerful as those at age 40, according to the model.



A rising number of Americans do not affiliate with any religion.







Questions?

Robert Griffin, PhD

