

# Elections & Voting Behavior

## Chapter 10

# Review of Election Stuff

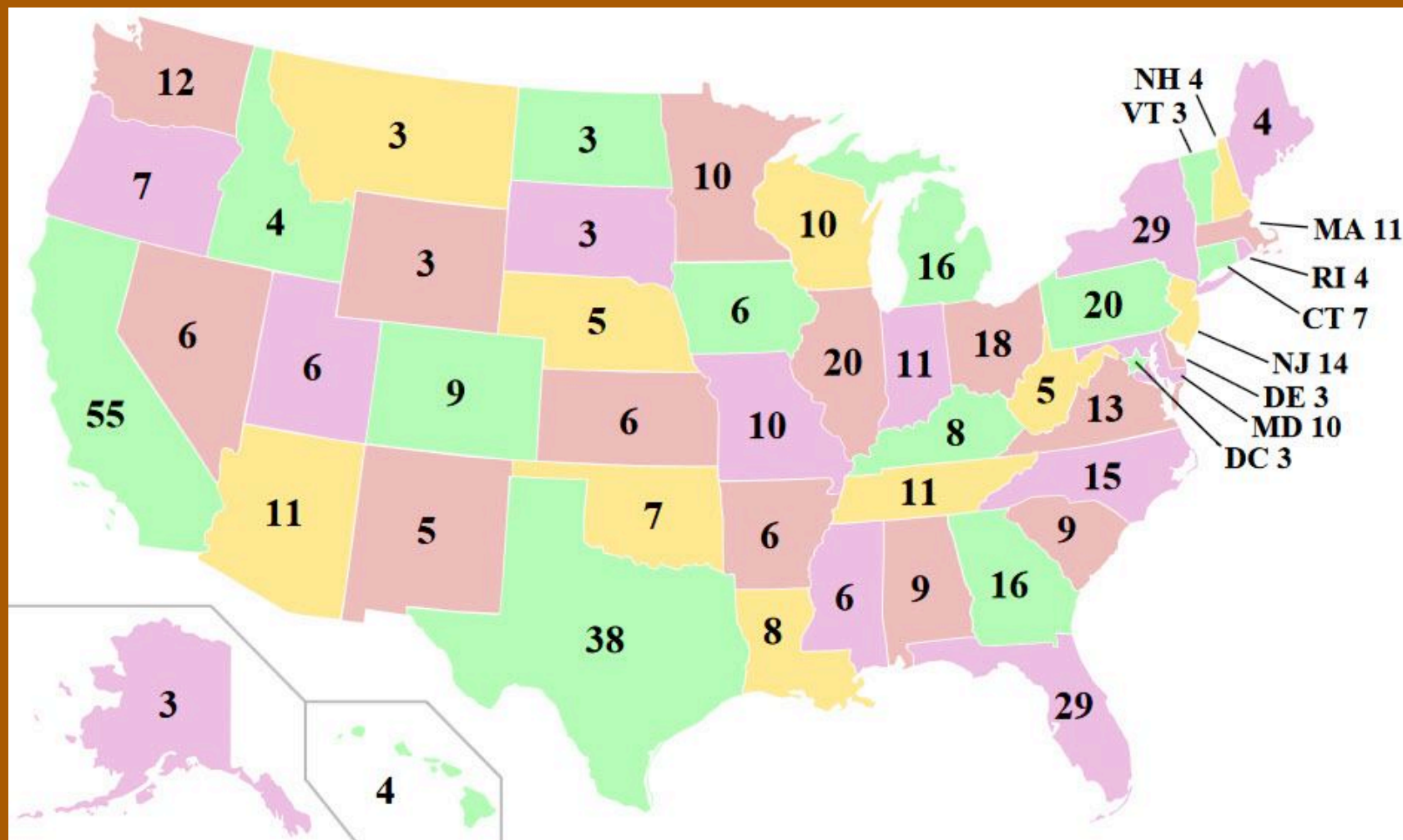
Three types of elections:

- (1) Party nominations (or run-offs) = primary elections
- (2) Selection of office holders (general election in November)
- (3) Selection of policy preferences: Referendum vs. Initiative
- Referendum = response to legislation initiated by the legislature (approve or reject)
- Initiative = initiated by citizens; signatures gathered = issue put on the ballot

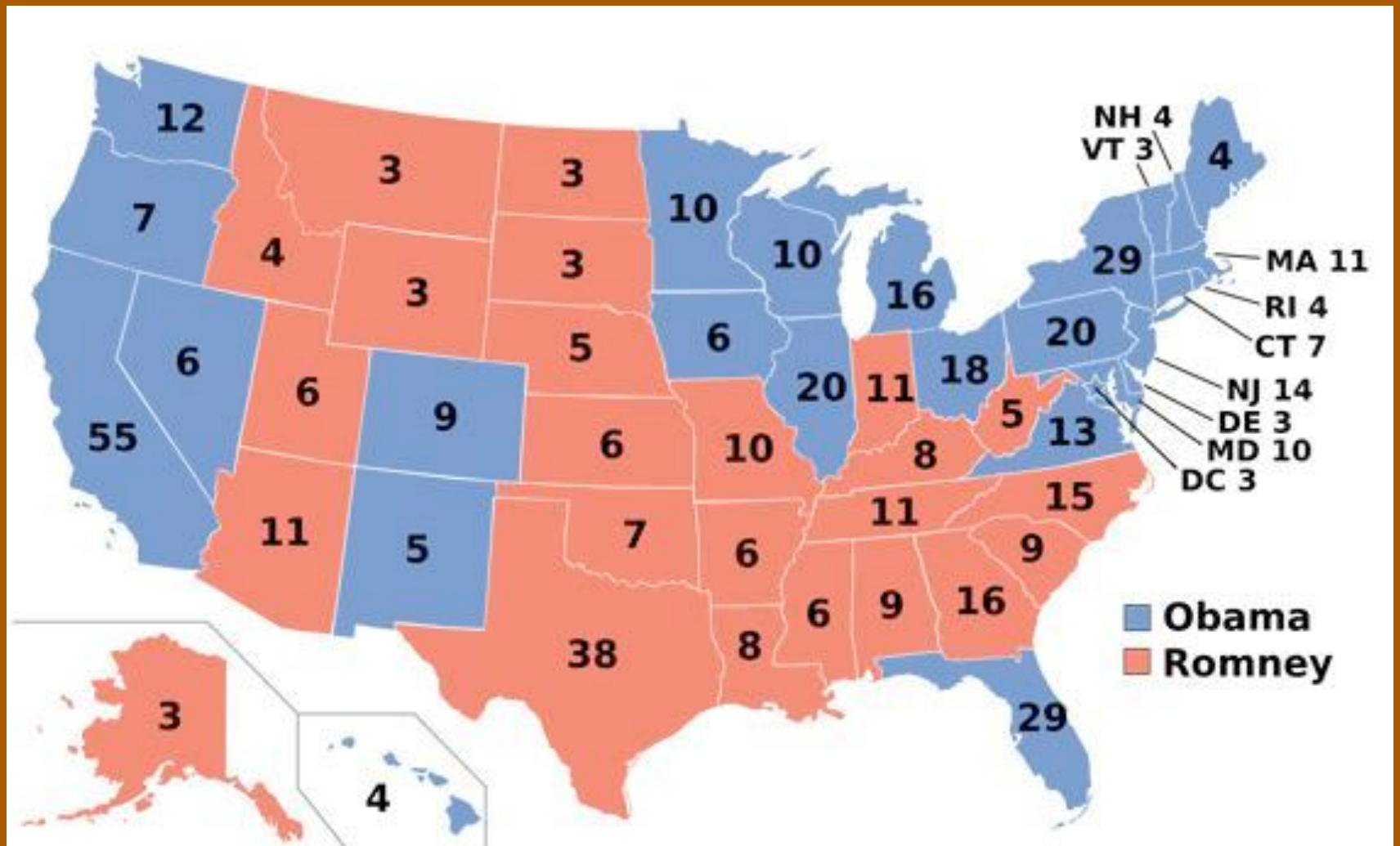
# The Electoral College

- 48 out of 50 states have a winner-take-all system
- Only Maine and Nebraska use proportional distribution
- Initially = state legislatures chose the electors
- As time passes = political parties choose the electors
- 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment = Separate ballots for President & VP
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Amendment = Gives DC three electoral votes (which is the minimum)

# Electoral Map



# 2012 Election

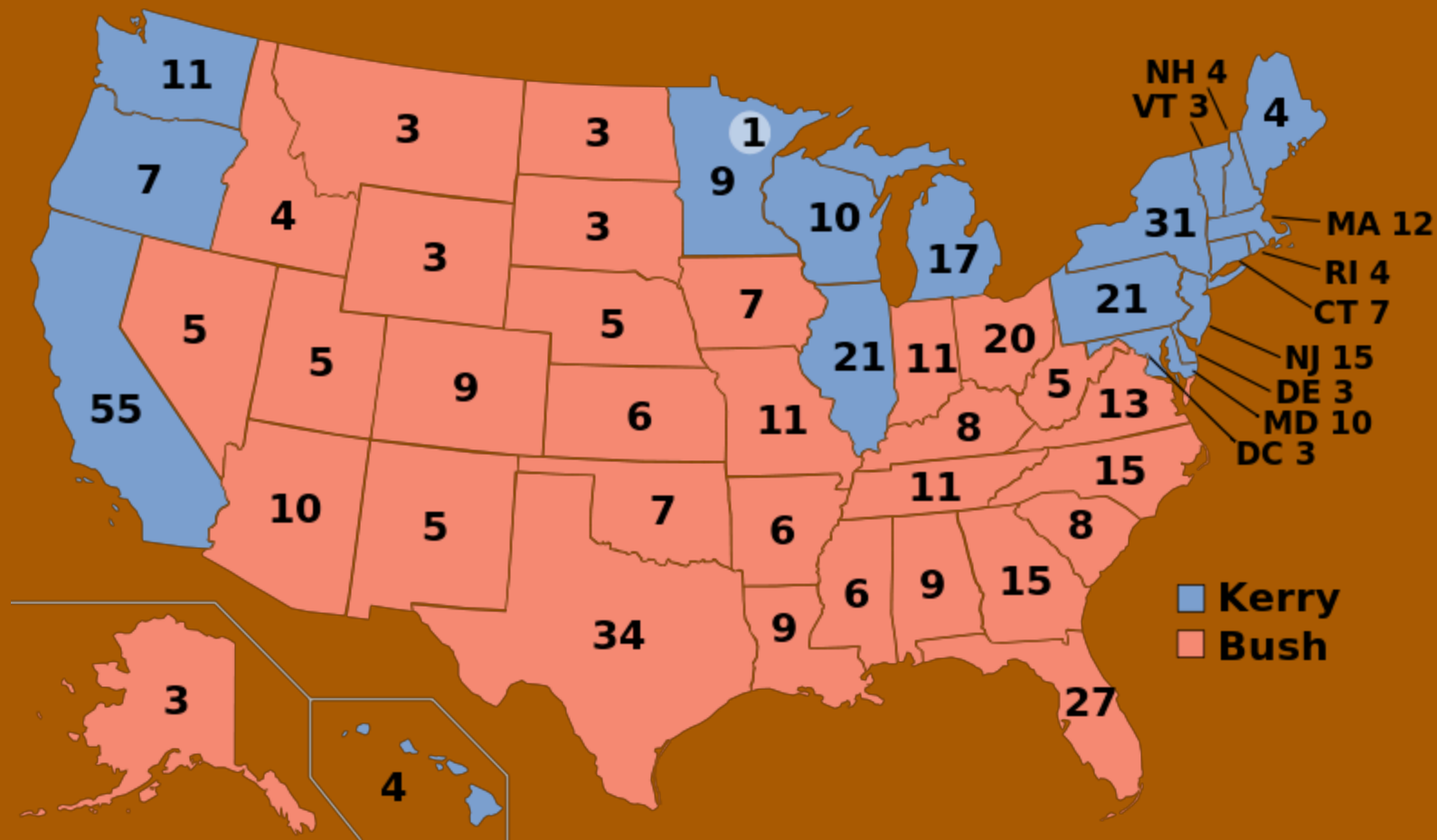


# 2008 Election

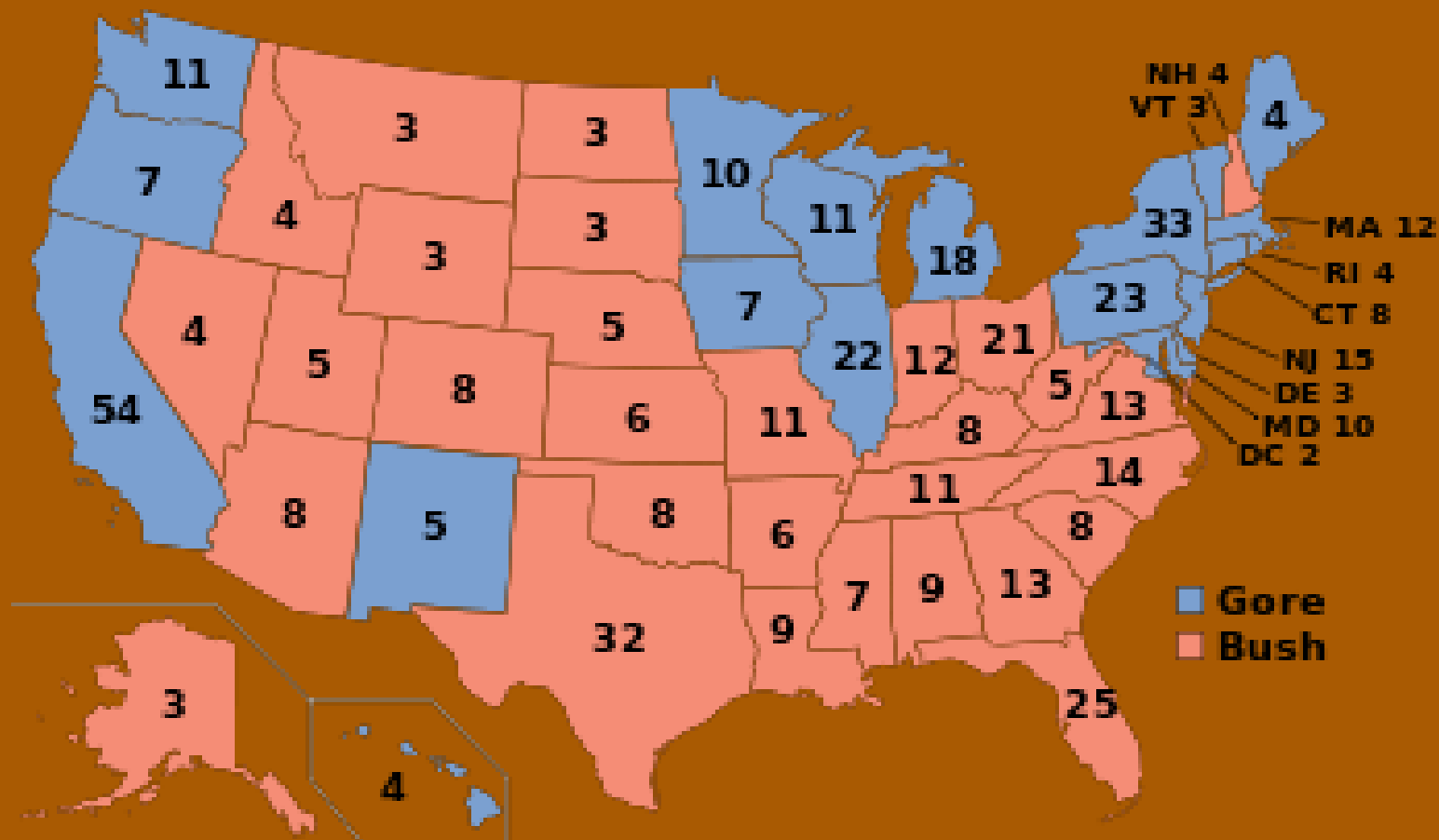
4President.us



# 2004 Election



# 2000 Election





Florida! Florida! Florida!



# HAVA 2002

- Help America Vote Act
- Eliminate punch cards & old voting machines
- Replace with scan-tron technology
- Voter registration must be able to be done over the internet
- By 2006 electronic (computerized) voting machines
- Only exemption is vote by mail
- Electoral Assistance Commission

# Who can vote?

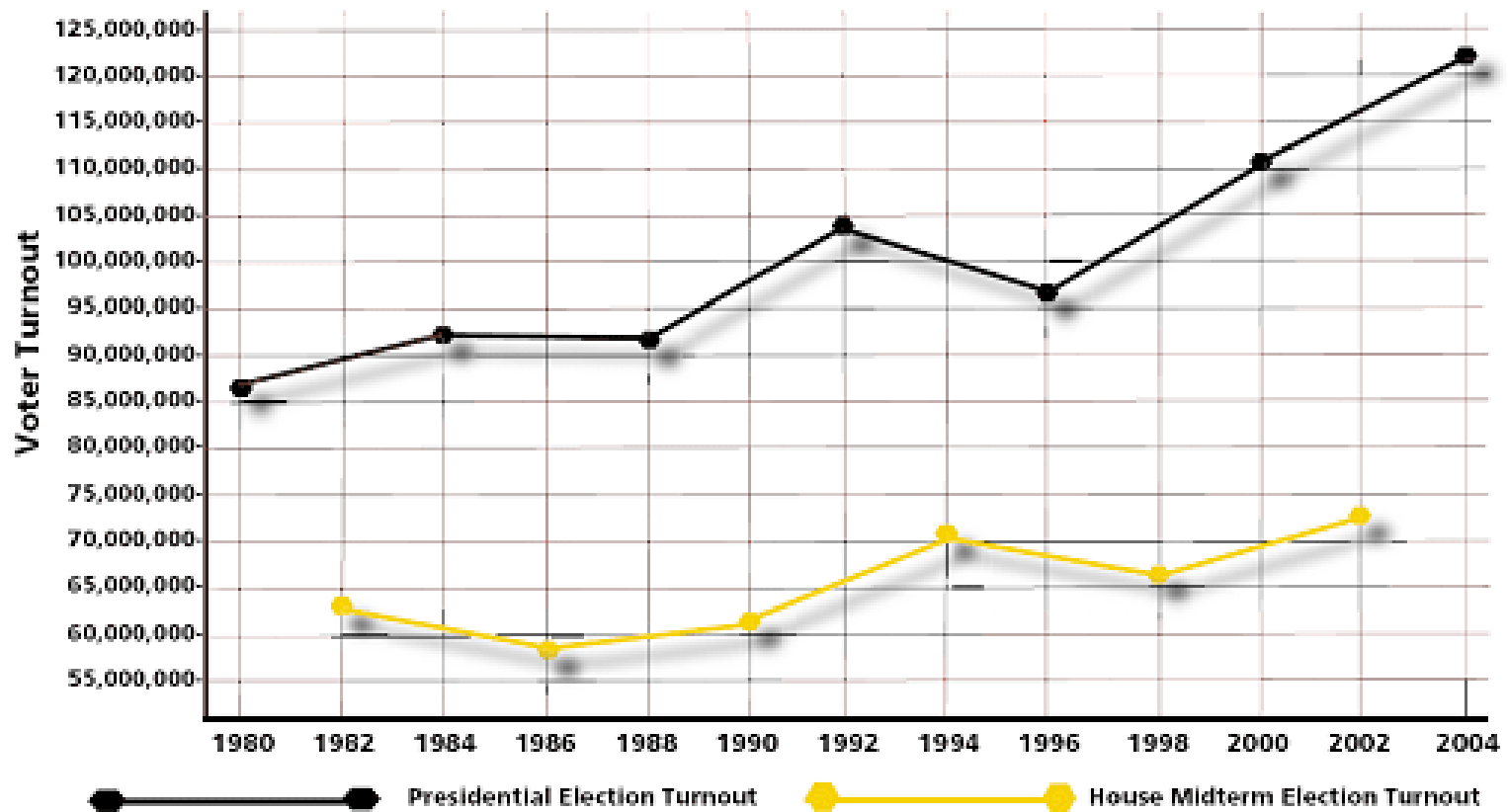
- US Citizen
- 18 years old or older
- Registered voter in your state
- Different states have different residency requirements

# So Who Votes?

- Education = Most important factor; people who have more education are more likely to vote
- Age = the older you are the more likely you are to vote
- Race = Caucasians, but this is changing
- Gender = Females are more likely to vote
- \*Presidential election year = highest voter turnout

# Mid-Terms vs. Presidential Year

## A Comparison of Presidential and Midterm House Turnouts Since 1980



# What motivates people to vote?

- Awareness
- Seeing policy differences
- Major events
- Pocket books!