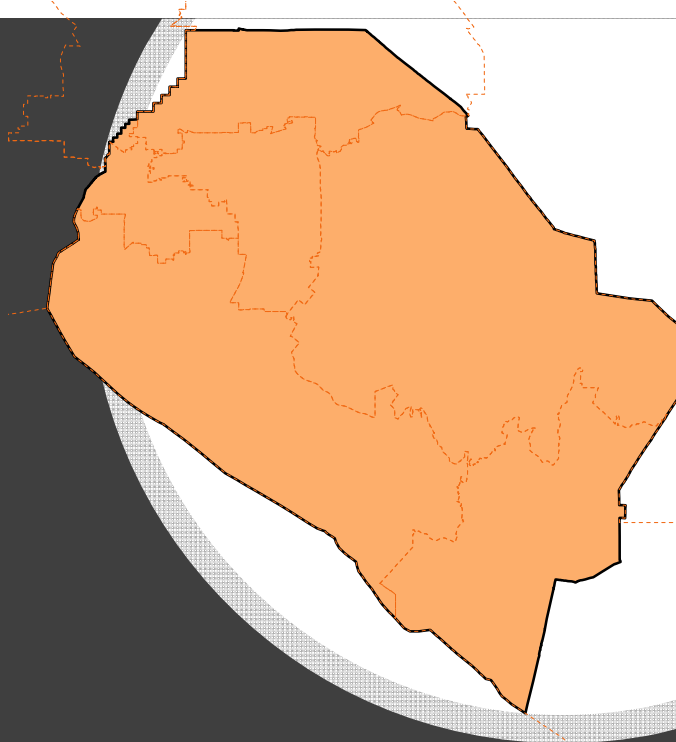


UC Irvine



Jonathan R. Cervas
Ph.D Candidate, Political Science

What's the Matter with the OC?

[Click Here for Most Recent Version](#) 12/13/2018

After 2016

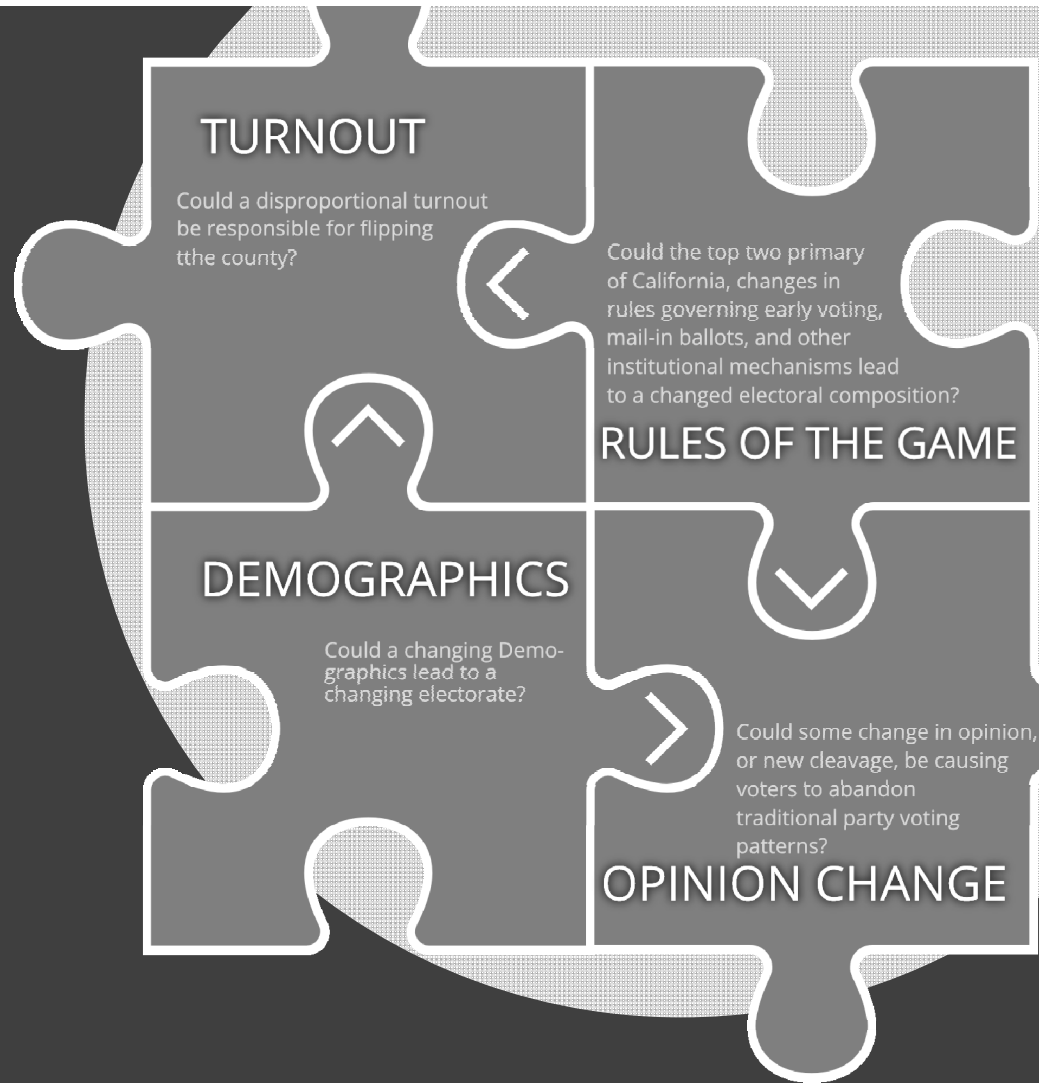
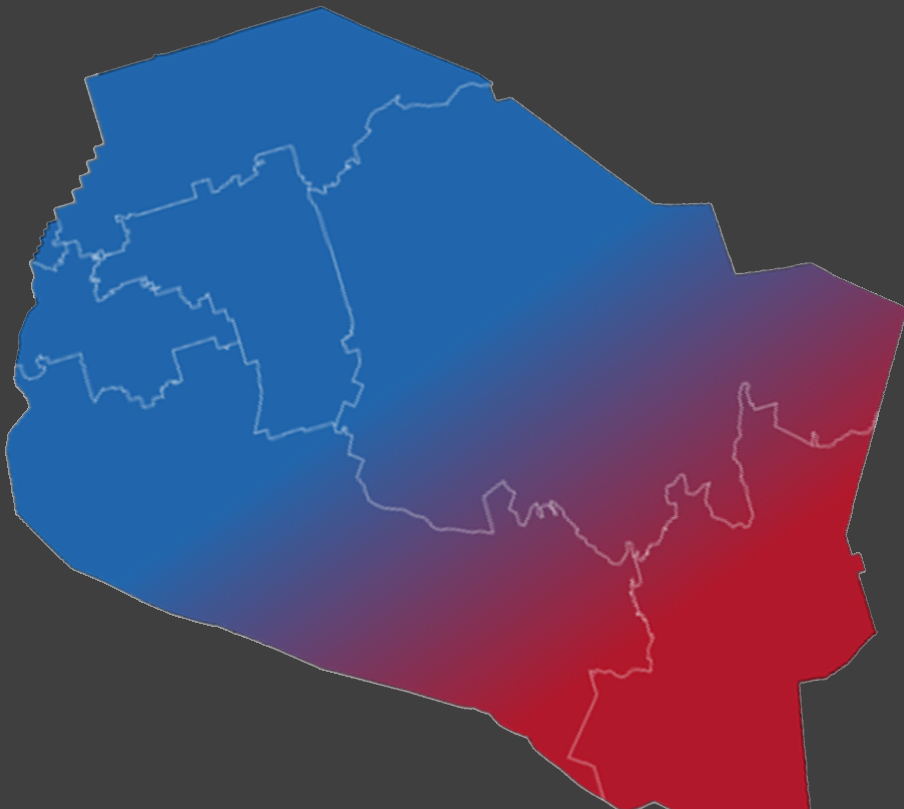
Clinton first Democrat to win plurality of vote in Orange County in nearly a century.

Republicans won 4 out of 7 Congressional races, even though Hillary Clinton had outperformed the Democratic candidates in those districts

Democrats saw an opening to flip seats in Orange County and made districts there key to the blue wave strategy in 2018

So how did that work out?

The Puzzle of Political Transformation



Turnout

2014

- Registered voters:
 - 1,424,216
- Ballots cast:
 - 640,358 (45%)
- Early
 - (0%)
- Vote by mail
 - (39%)
- At precinct
 - (61%)

2018

- Registered voters:
 - 1,558,988
- Ballots cast:
 - 1,106,729 (70.1%)
- Early
 - (21%)
- Vote by mail
 - (62%)
- At precinct
 - (35%)

Orange County Demographics

- Population has increased by nearly 200,000 (6.7%) residents since 2010 census
- Estimated 3.2 million residents in Orange County – 6th largest county in the country
- 2010 –
 - White – **43.9%**
 - Hispanic – **33.8%**
- 2017 –
 - White – **40.4%**
 - Hispanic – **34.2%**



Rules of the
Game

California Top-
Two Primary

arly affected

Opinion
Change

Vote Choice (county-wide congressional vote)

	Democrats	Republicans
2014	45%	55%
2018	54%	46%

To what extent can we explain changing patterns of voting in OC to the election of Donald Trump, controlling for changes in turnout, the rules of the game, and demographic change?

?

Governor's Race

- 2014

- Jerry Brown –
275,707 (44%)
- Neel Kashkari –
344,817 (56%)

Statewide: Brown 60%, Kashkari 40%

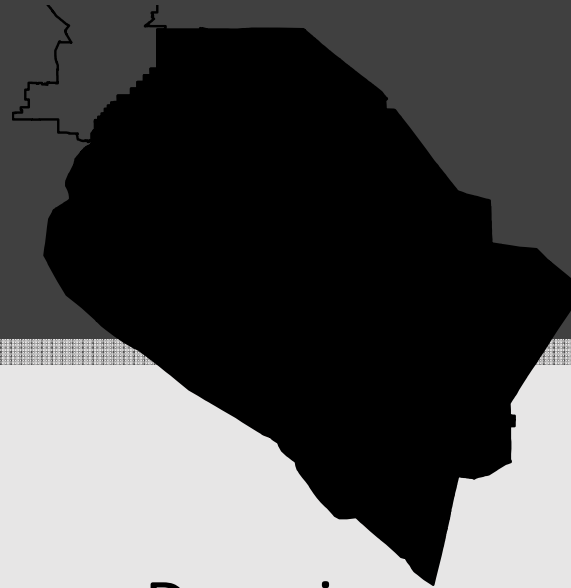
- 2018

- Gavin Newsom* -
543,047 (50.1%)
- John Cox -
539,951 (49.9%)

- * Running for Lt Gov in 2014,
Gavin received just 41.3% of
the two-party vote!

Statewide: Newsom 62%, Cox 38%

CD 38



2014

2018

Campos,
Benjamin

1,988 56.8% **REP**

Downing,
Ryan

2,587 46.4%

* Sanchez,
Linda T.

1,512 43.2% **DEM**

* Sanchez,
Linda T.

2,990 53.6%

CD 39



2014

2018

*Royce, Ed

63,346 70.8% REP

Kim, Young 80,123

Anderson,
Peter

26,184 29.2% DEM

Cisneros, Gil 78,059

2014				2018		
Walters, Mimi	106,083	65.1%	REP	* Walters, Mimi	146,383	47.9%
Leavens, Drew	56,819	34.9%	DEM	Porter, Katie	158,906	52.1%



CD 45



Demographic Profile

Total Pop:	777,871
White:	472,558 (61%)
Hispanic:	141,853 (18%)
Black:	15,666 (2%)
Asian:	199,942 (26%)
Foreign-born:	226,899 (29%)
Median Household Income:	\$102,040
Unemployment:	4%
Percent w/ Bachelors:	55%

Data: 2017 Census ACS 1-year Estimates

UC Irvine

- CD45 - UCI Campus precincts
 - Turnout – 65.9% (CD45 avg. 73.89%)
 - Porter – 5,229 (91.8%!)
 - Walters – 464

CD 46



2014

2018

Nick,
Adam

33,577 40.3% **REP**

Lambert,
Rene

45,638

Sanchez,
Loretta

49,738 59.7% **DEM**

Correa, Lou

102,278

CD 47



2014

2018

Whallon,
Andy

28,761 53.1%

REP

Briscoe,
John

40,085

*Lowenthal,
Alan

25,376 46.9%

DEM

*Lowenthal,
Alan

46,241

CD 48



2014

2018

Rohrbacher,
Dana

112,082 64.1% **REP**

*Rohrabacher,
Dana

136,899 54%

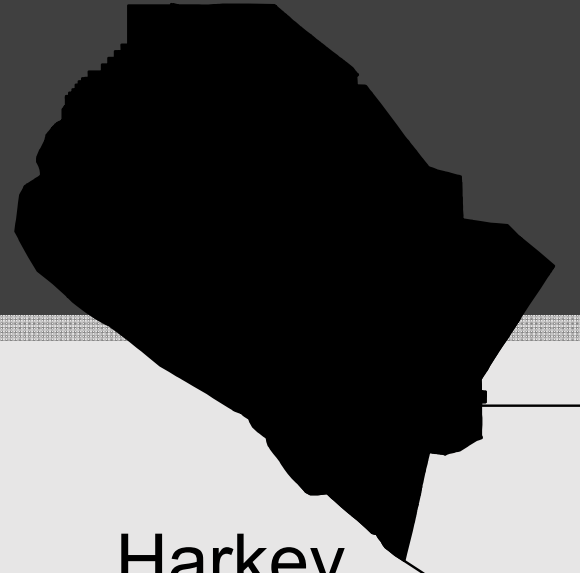
Savary,
Suzanne

62,713 35.9% **DEM**

Rouda, Harley

157,837 46%

CD 49



2014

2018

* Issa,
Darrell

28,410 68.8% REP

Harkey,
Diane L.

40,325

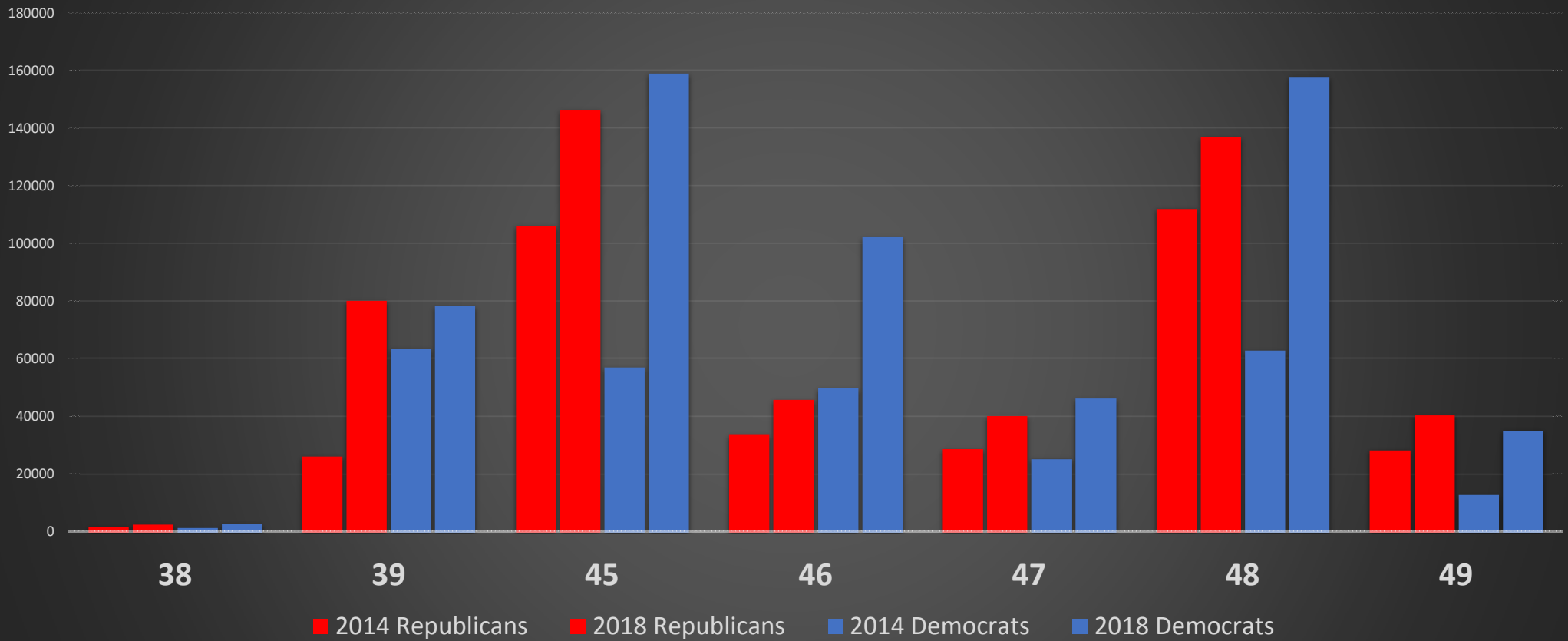
Peiser,
Dave

12,892 31.2% DEM

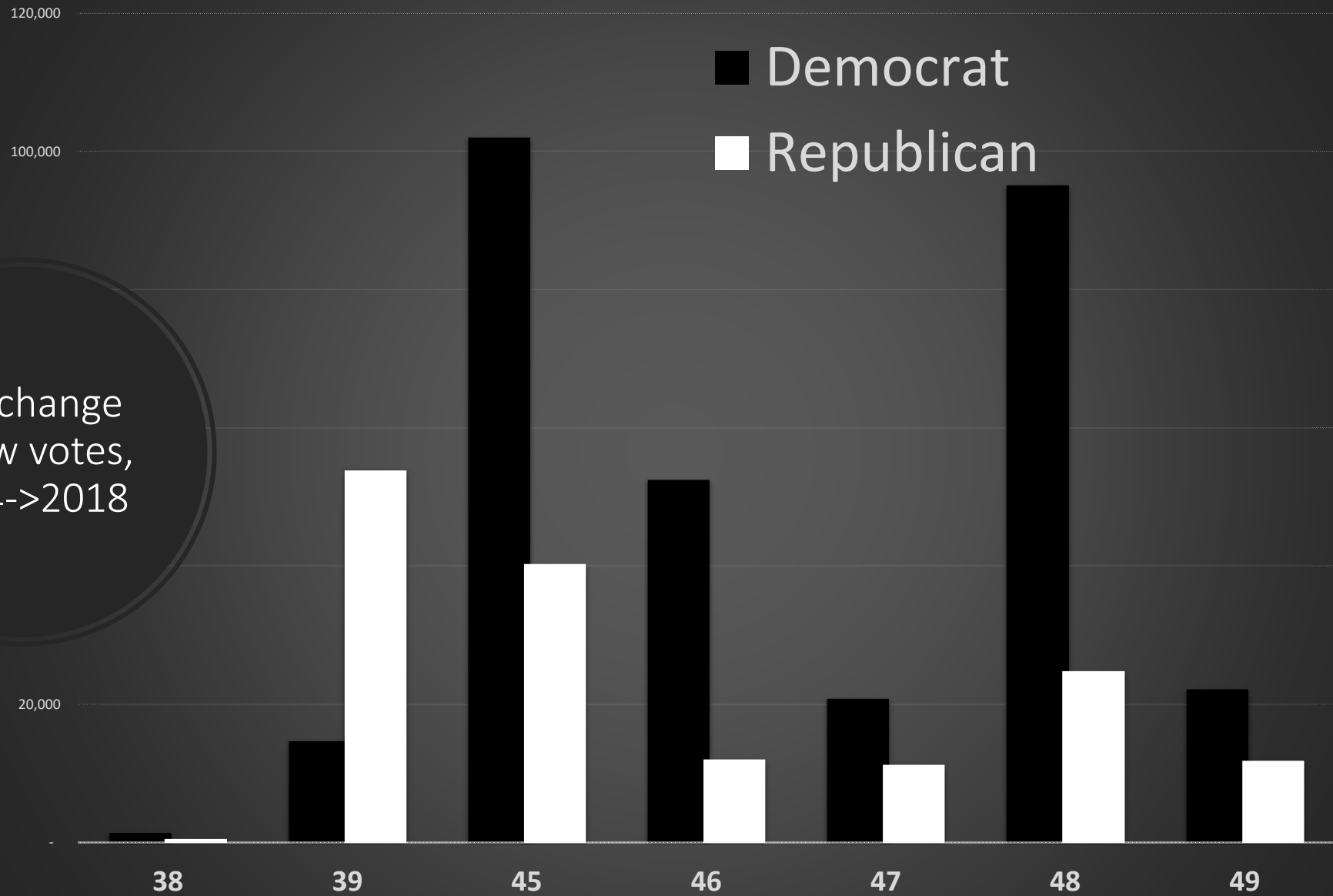
Levin, Mike

35,124

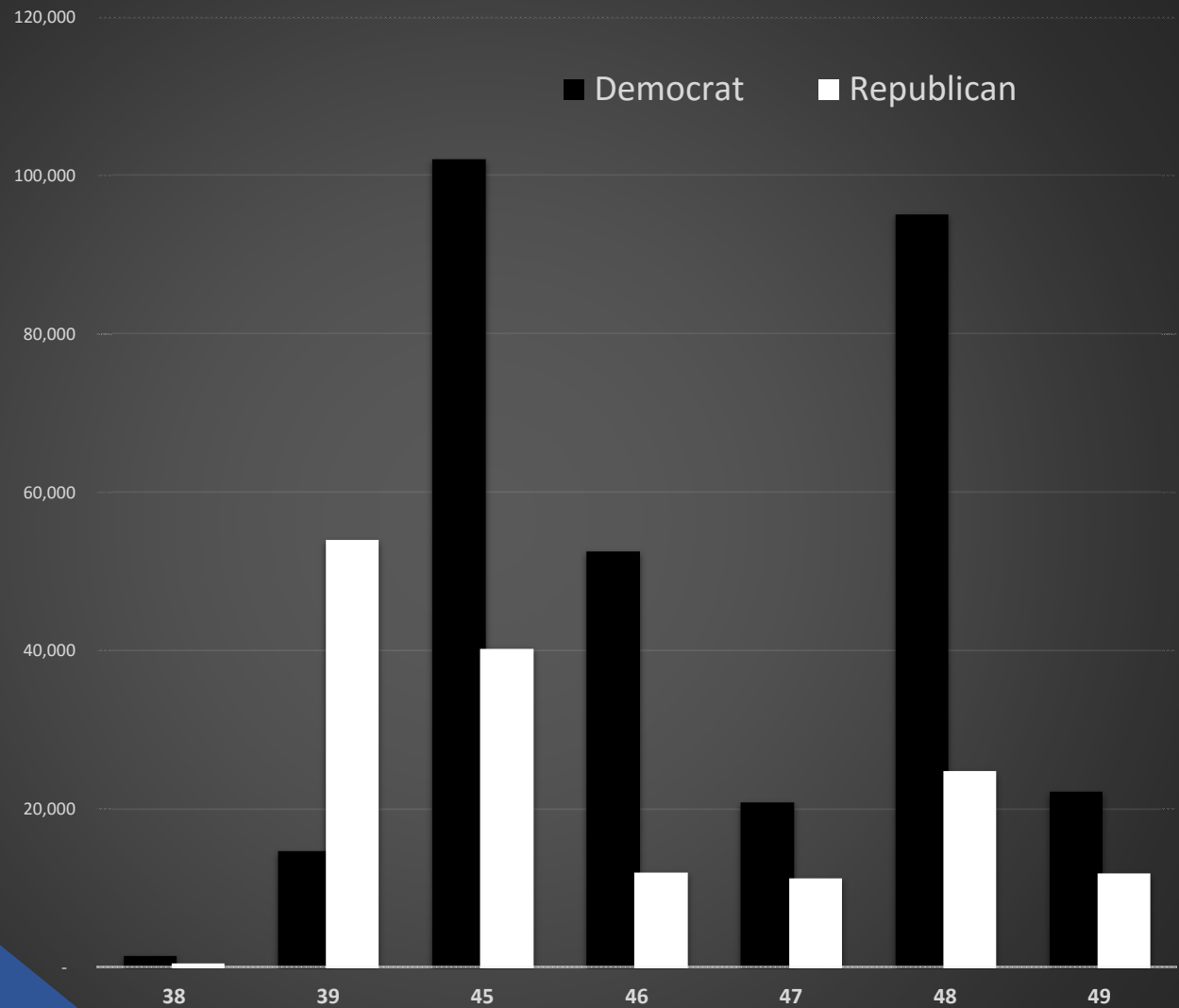
RAW VOTES IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, ORANGE COUNTY ONLY



Net change
in raw votes,
2014->2018



Percentage Change in votes 2014->2018





Conclusions

- Democrats now hold all 7 of the Orange County congressional districts
- Clinton (2016) and Newsome (2018) won the county-wide vote
- Democrats has a 113% increase in votes in 2018 compared to 2014; Republicans increased just 46%.
- 2020 – No Governor’s race, US Senate race, and Presidential race unlikely to be competitive in CA.
- Republicans hold just 7 (13.2%) Congressional Districts in ALL of California
- More investigation is needed to parse what is happening, especially in terms of my puzzle.