



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

American South 2012: Trends and Politics

Ferrel Guillory

Director, Program on Public Life

School of Journalism and Mass Communication

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Southern Eras

Old South

- Racial Segregation
- Poverty
- Agrarian/Small-town industry
- 1939 - Roosevelt Report: The South is nation's number one economic problem

Disruption

- 1954: Brown v. Board of Education
- 1960s: Rise of Research Triangle Park
- 1961: Founding of Christian Broadcast Network
- 1965: Voting Rights Act

Gilded Age

- South joins Sunbelt
- South joins metro America
- 1980-2000 South gained 15 million jobs; outpaced nation in population and job growth

Divided

- Outer South
 - Fast growth
 - Economic diversification
- Inner South
 - Slower growth in population and economy



Waves of Change

Democratic Solid
South
1900-1960

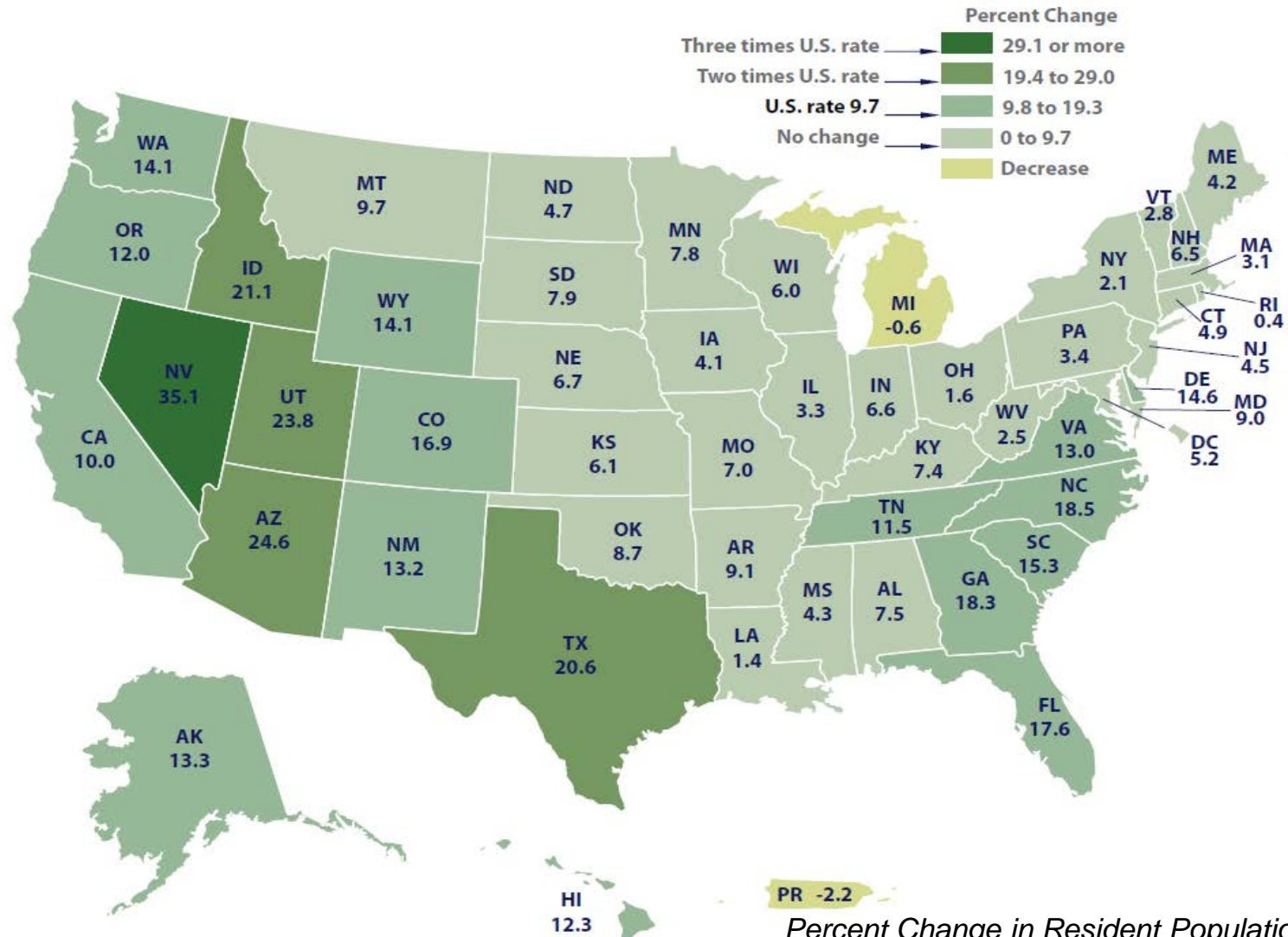
Republican Southern
Strategy vs. New
South Governors
1960-1980

Republican Lock on
the South
1980-2004

Red States and
Purple States
2008-

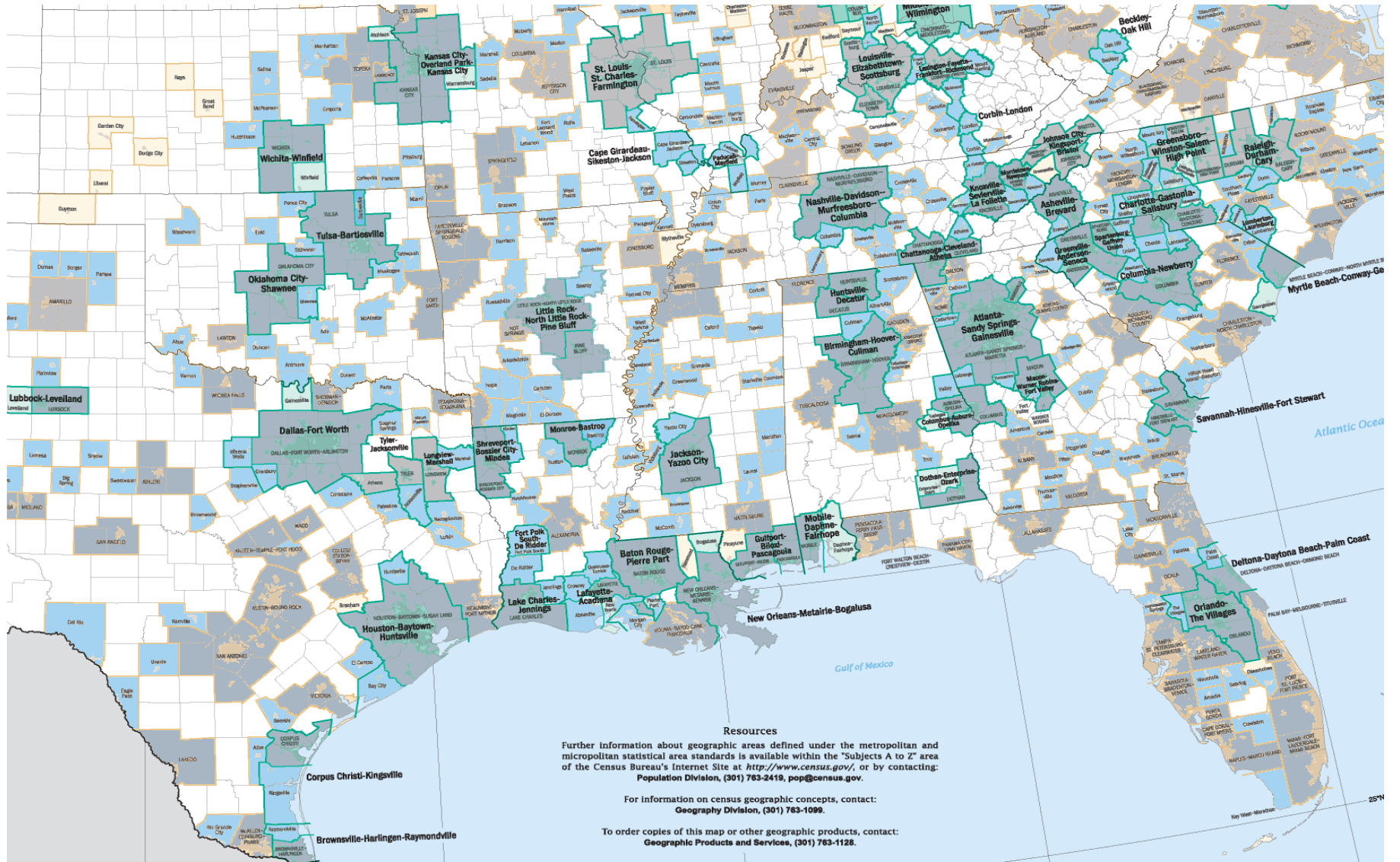


Population Growth – Fast and Slow

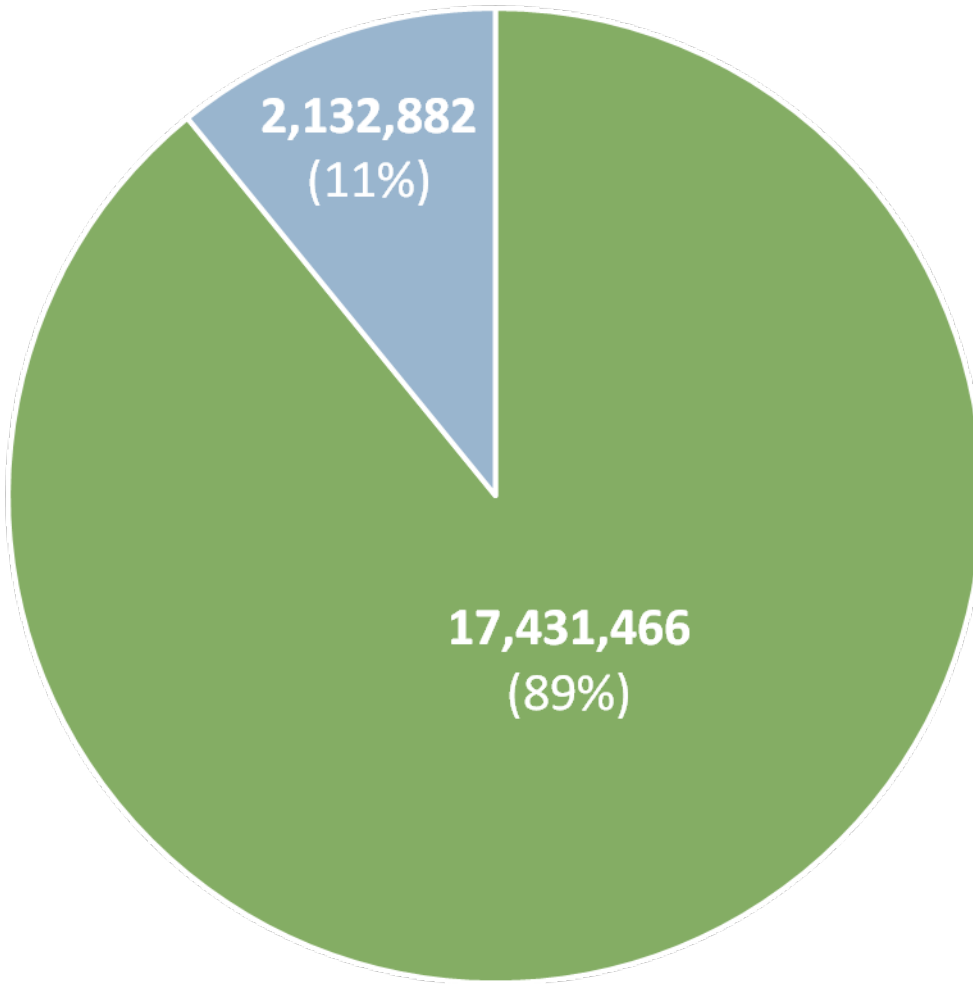


Percent Change in Resident Population 2000-2010
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

A More Metropolitan South



Metro-Rural Gap



- Total Metro Increase
- Total Non-metro Increase

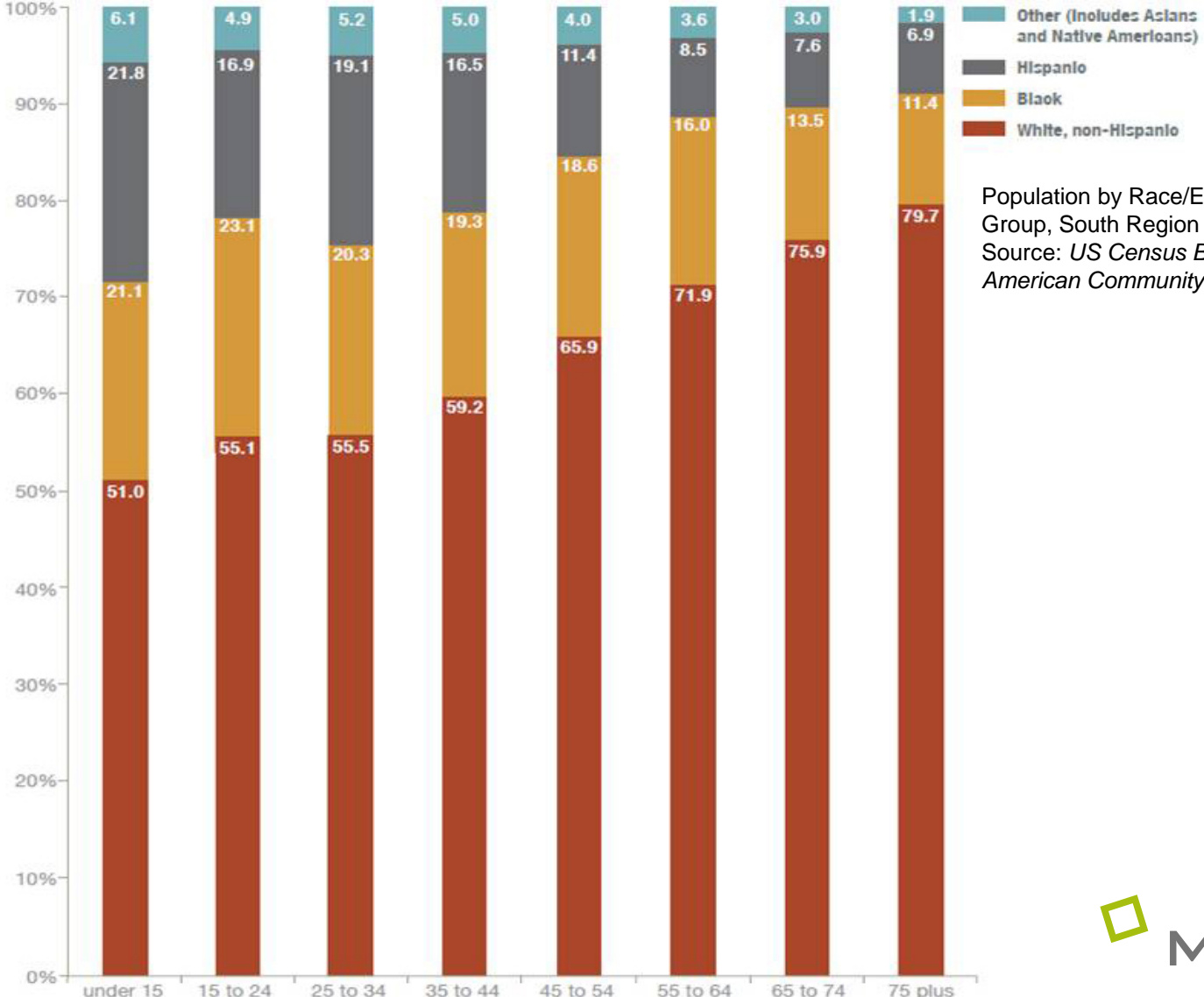


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Increase in Jobs in the South, 1987-2008
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

From White-Black to Multi-ethnic



Population by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group, South Region 2009
 Source: US Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

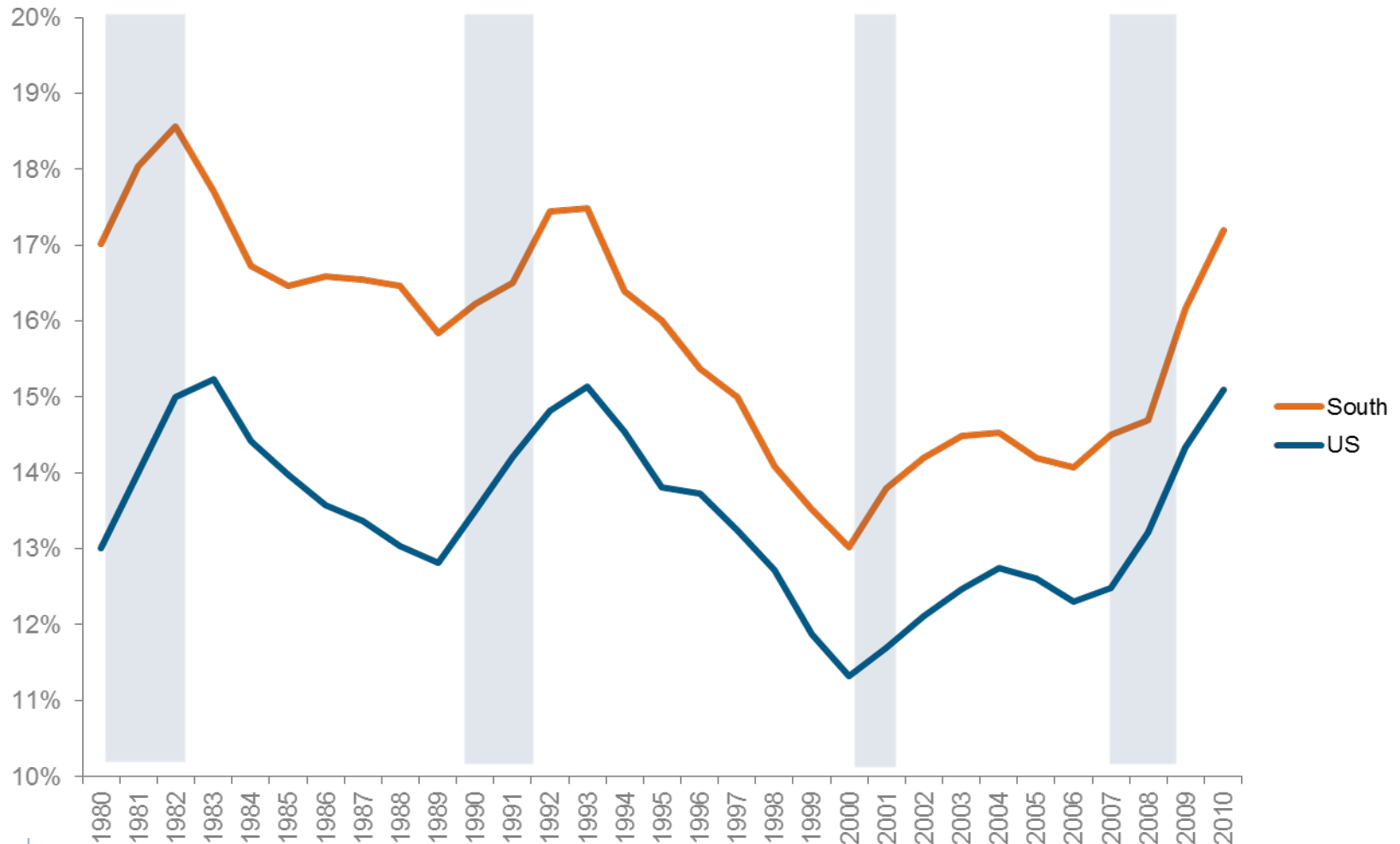


Recession Hurt Lingers

Virginia	5.9%
Texas	7.2%
Arkansas	7.3%
West Virginia	7.4%
Louisiana	7.6%
Alabama	8.3%
Kentucky	8.3%
United States	8.3%
Tennessee	8.4%
Florida	8.8%
Mississippi	9.1%
Georgia	9.3%
North Carolina	9.6%
South Carolina	9.6%



Poverty Rate Plummet, Then Rises Again



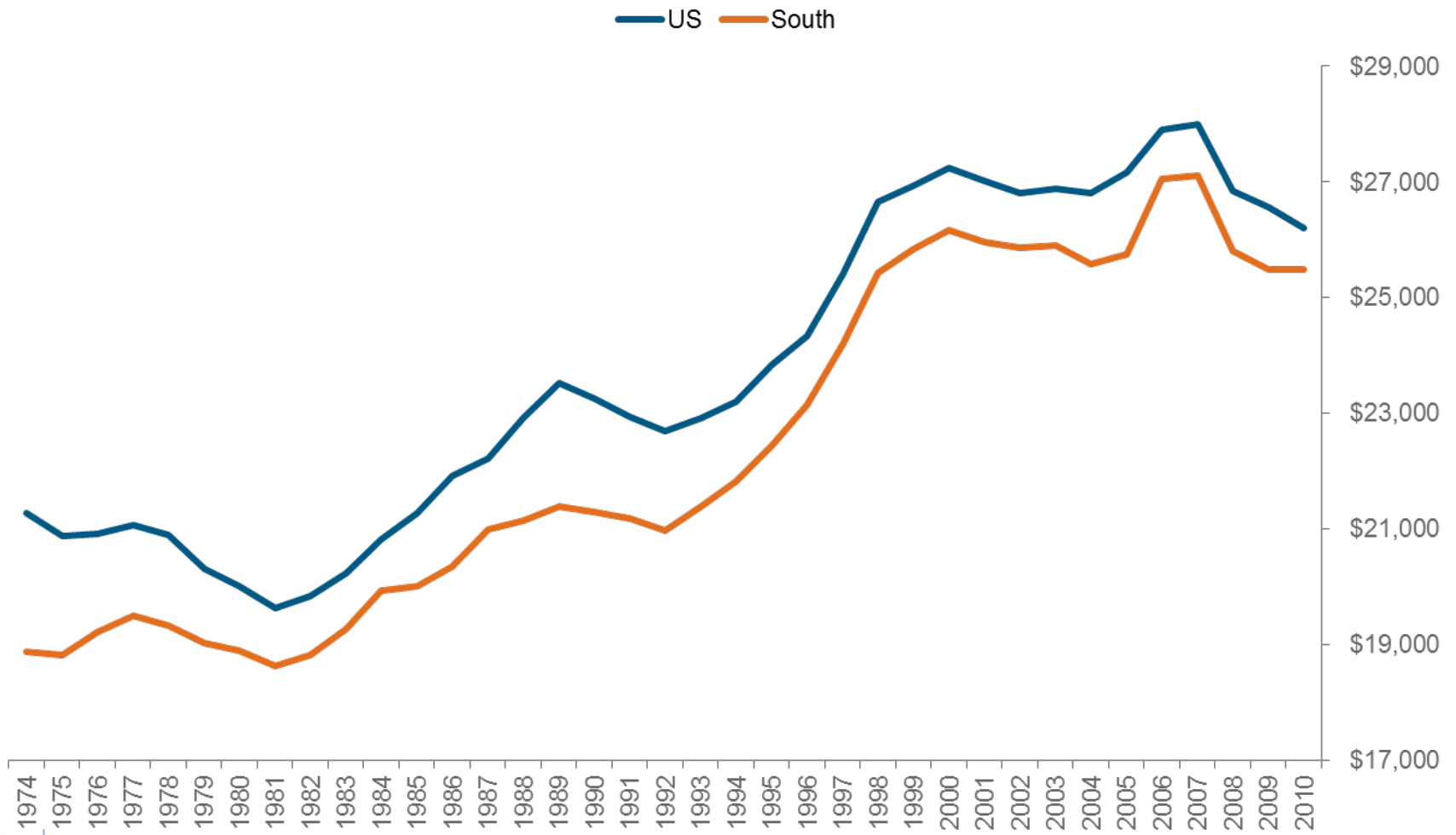
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Share of Persons Below the Poverty Level, South and United States: 1980-2010

Source: Current Population Survey

South's Income Rises, Doesn't Catch Up

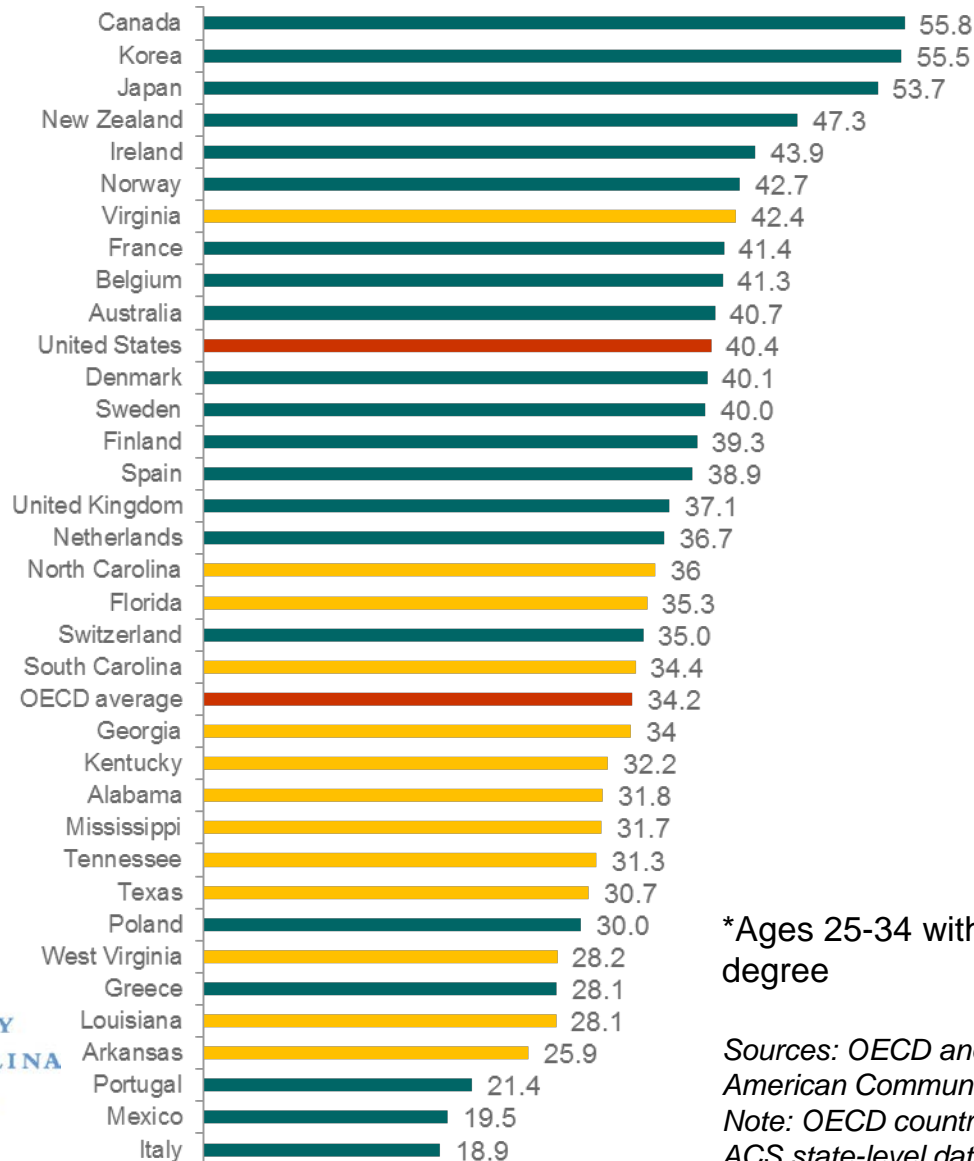


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Median Income, South and US 1990-2010
Source: US Census Bureau
Note: In 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars



The South in the Postsecondary World



*Ages 25-34 with at least a two-year degree

Sources: OECD and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
 Note: OECD country-level data is for 2008, while ACS state-level data is from 2009.



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Current Republican Dominance

State Legislatures

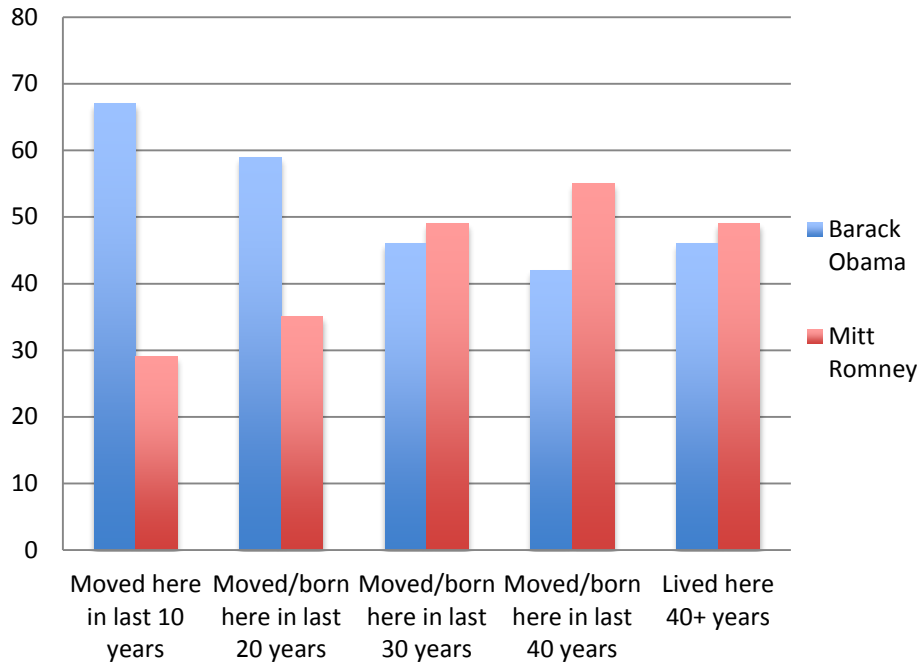
US Congress

	Governors	Senate Dem	Senate Rep	Senate Total	House Dem	House Rep	House Total	Senate Dem	Senate Rep	House Dem	House Rep	House Total
Alabama	R	12	22	35*	40	64	105*	0	2	1	6	7
Arkansas	D	20	15	35	54	46	100	1	1	1	3	4
Florida	R	12	28	40	38	81	120*	1	1	6	19	25
Georgia	R	20	36	56	63	116	180*	0	2	5	8	13
Kentucky	D	14	22	38*	59	41	100	0	2	2	4	6
Louisiana	R	15	24	39	46	57	105*	1	1	1	6	7
Mississippi	R	23	28	52*	59	63	122	0	2	1	3	4
North Carolina	D	19	31	50	52	66	120*	1	1	7	6	13
South Carolina	R	19	26	46	48	76	124	0	2	1	5	6
Tennessee	R	13	20	33	34	64	99*	0	2	2	7	9
Texas	R	12	19	31	48	100	150*	0	2	9	23	32
Virginia	R	19	20	40*	32	67	100*	2	0	3	8	11
West Virginia	D	28	6	34	65	35	100	2	0	1	2	3
Total	9R, 4D	236	297	529	638	876	1525	8	18	40	100	140

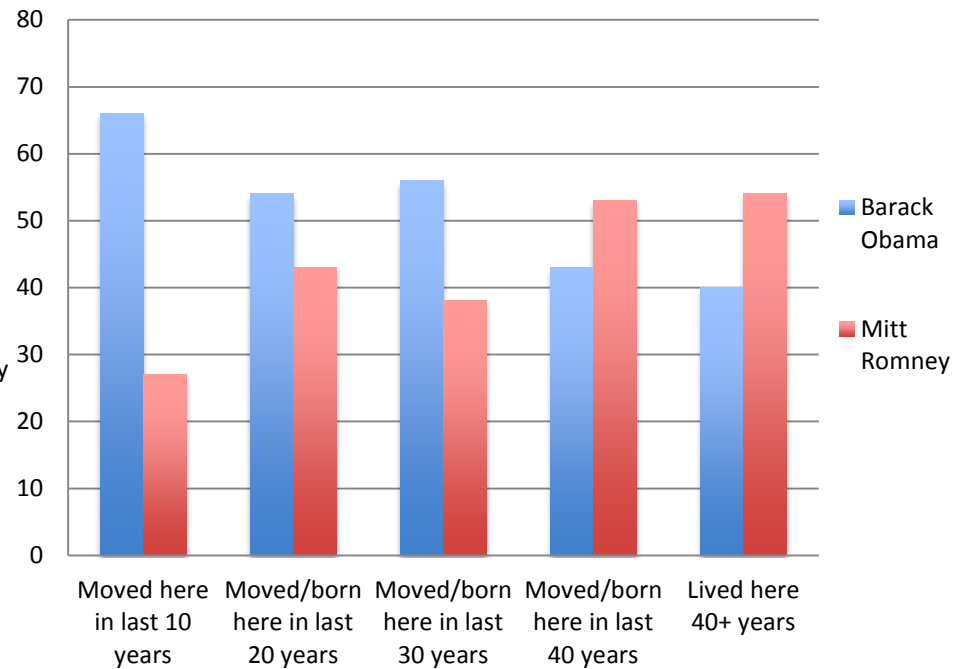
*Includes Independents and vacancies

Obama Lifted by Newcomers

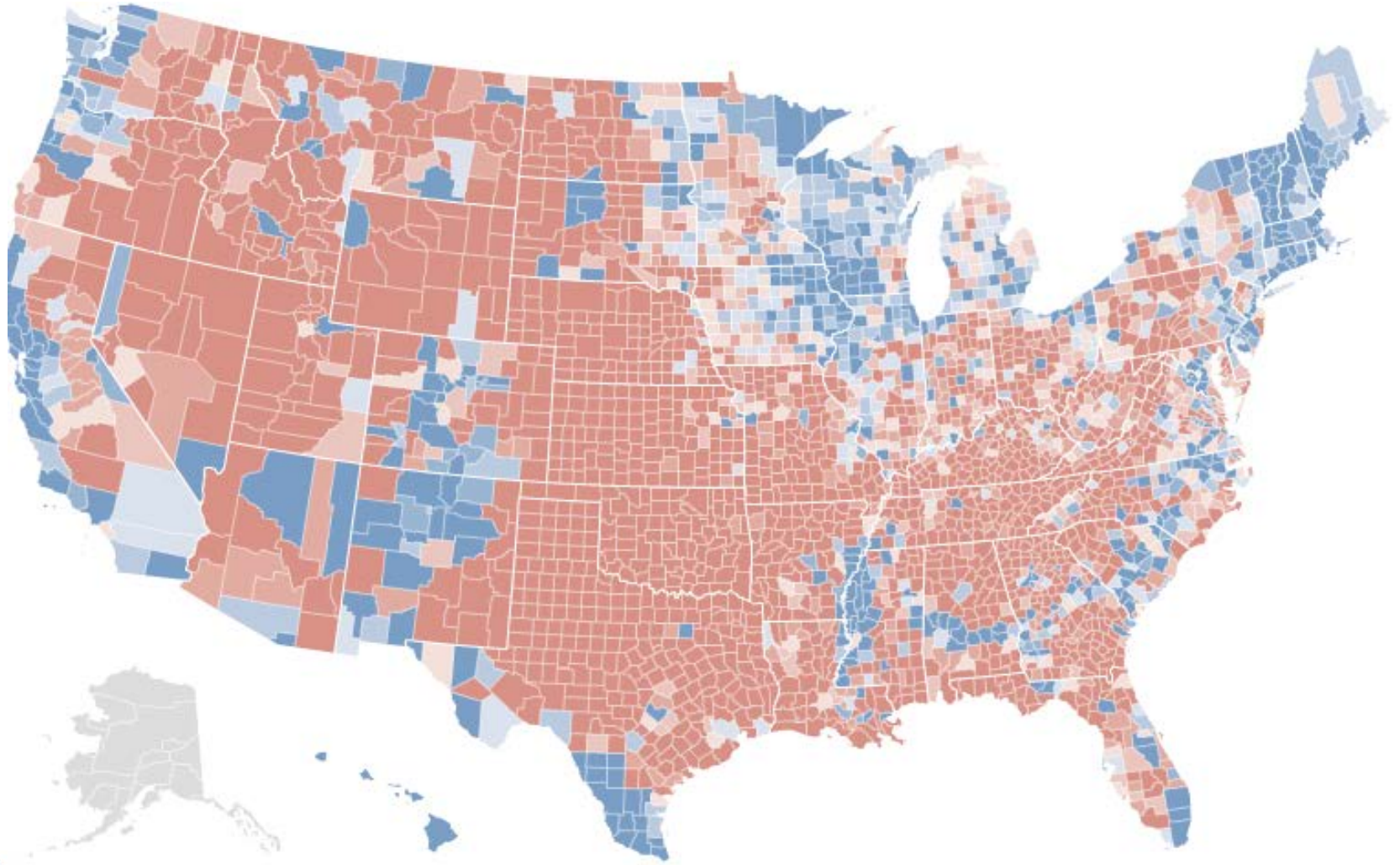
Likely Voters In Virginia



Likely Voters in North Carolina

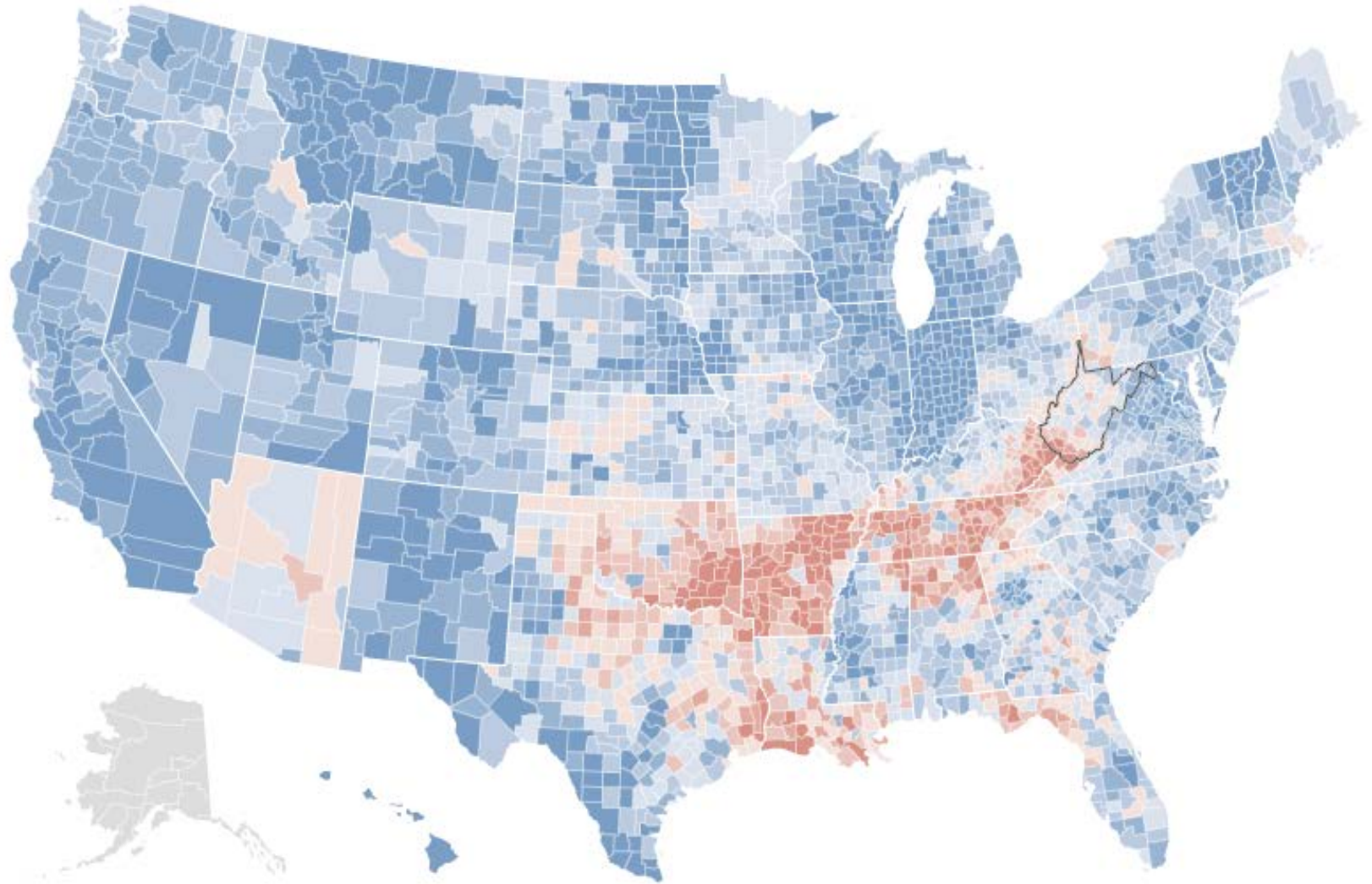


Awash in Red Counties



Source: *New York Times*

A Shifting Electorate



Source: New York Times

School of Journalism and Mass Communication

UNC-Chapel Hill

CB# 3365

Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Phone: (919) 962-5936

Email: guillory@unc.edu

www.southnow.org

Ferrel Guillory, Professor of the practice of journalism (guillory@unc.edu)

