



The New Suburban Politics:

An Analysis of Metropolitan Voting Trends Since 2000

Robert Lang, Tom Sanchez, & Alan Berube

**The Future of Red, Blue, and Purple America:
Election Demographics, 2008 and Beyond
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What's in this Talk?

- **The New Suburban Geography**
- **The New Suburban Politics**
- **Case Analysis of DC Metro**
- **Micropolitan Area Versus
Megapolitan Area Vote**
- **The 2008 Vote and Beyond**

[The New Suburban Geography]

- **Brookings-MI County Typology**
 - **Is Based on Commuting Patterns, Land Uses, and Growth Rates**
 - **Uses Five Categories and Classifies 417 Counties**
 - **Covers the 50 Most Populous U.S. Metropolitan Areas**

[Some Examples Around the U.S.]

- **Core—Cook, IL**
- **Inner Suburb—De Kalb, GA**
- **Mature Suburb—Fairfax, VA**
- **Emerging Suburb—Douglas, CO**
- **Exurb—Pinal, AZ**

U.S. Counties By Location

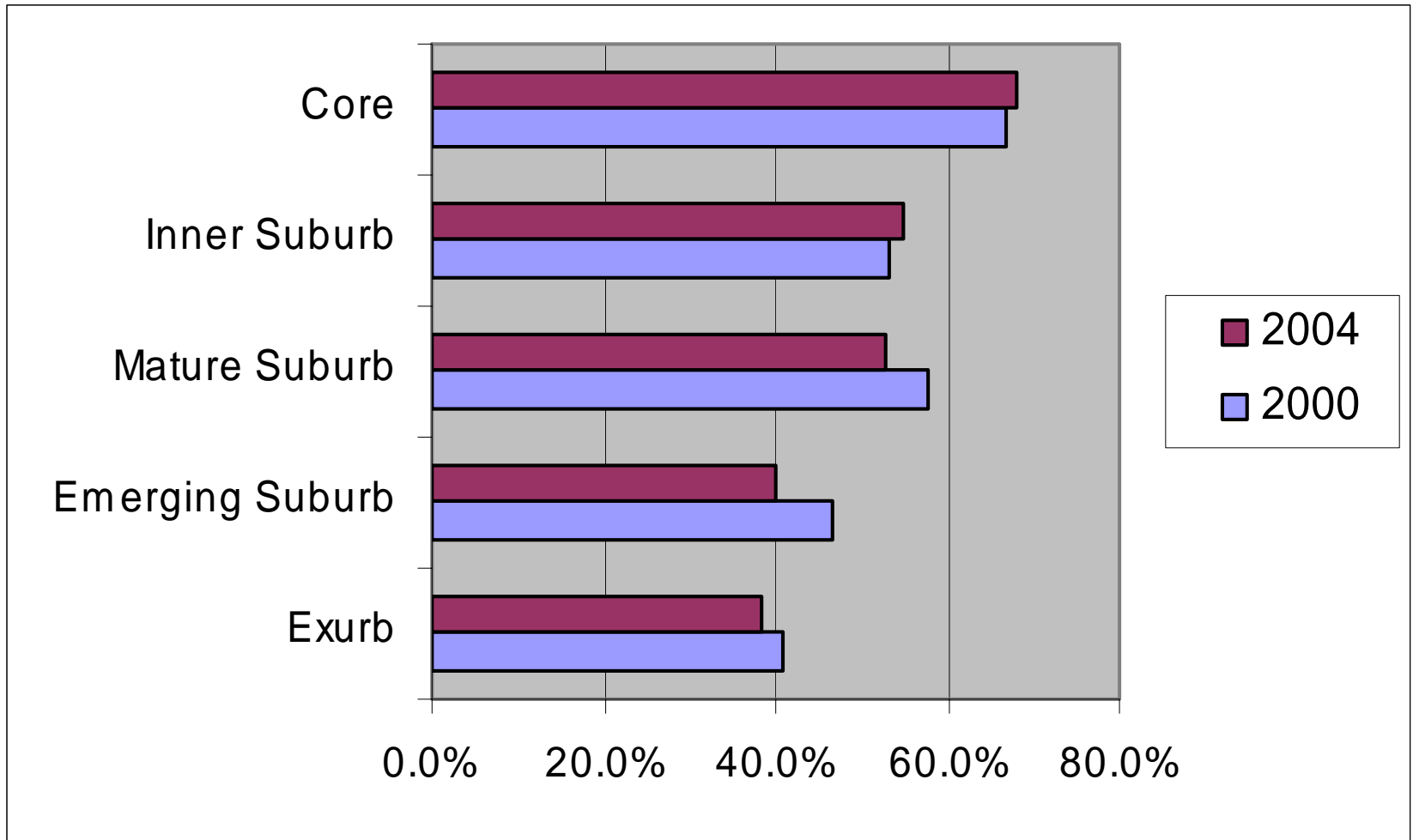
Location Type	# of Counties	% of US Pop.
Top 50 Metro Counties	417	53.4%
Cores	25	9.7%
Inner Suburbs	36	18.8%
Mature Suburbs	84	16.1%
Emerging Suburbs	103	6.7%
Exurbs	169	2.6%
Other Metro Areas	674	29.4%
Micropolitan Areas	674	10.3%
Non-Core Area Counties	1,301	7.0%
Total	3,066	100.0%

County Characteristics

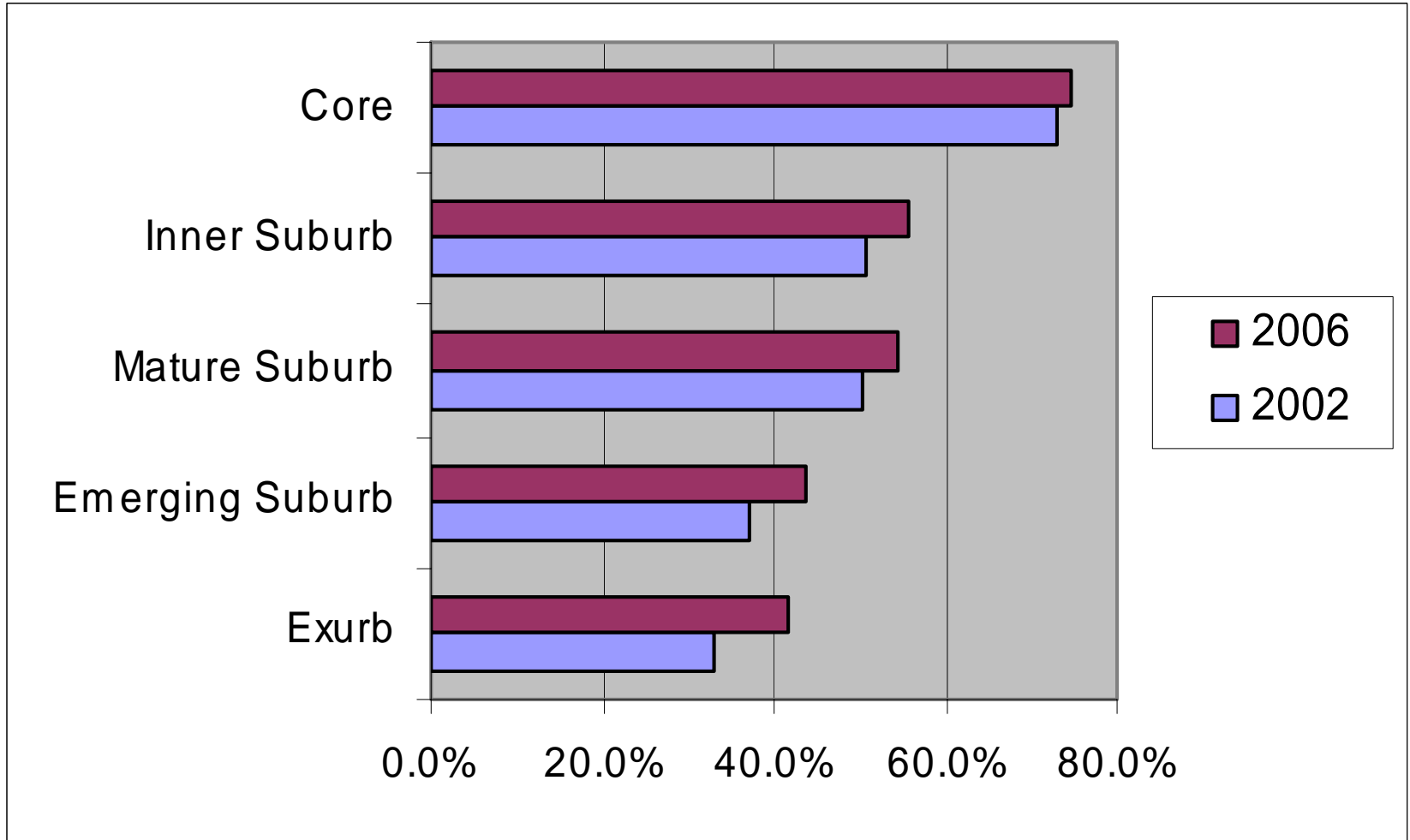
County Type	Percent Urbanized (2000)	Population Density (2006)	Percent White (2006)	Population Growth 2000-2006
Cores	100.0	7,722.3	45.9	-1.3
Inner Suburbs	97.3	1,382.5	58.8	4.6
Mature Suburbs	95.5	1,333.1	71.1	3.6
Emerging Suburbs	66.6	354.2	84.6	17.4
Exurbs	0.0	80.6	88.5	9.7
Top 50 Metros	63.8	460.2	79.5	8.6

Note: All figures are for median values of counties within the category.

Gore vs. Kerry Vote 2000/2004



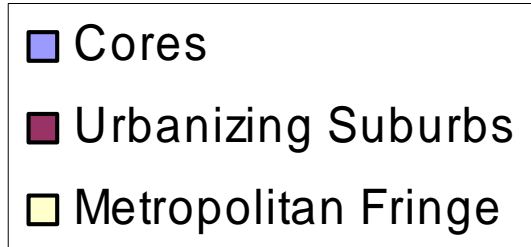
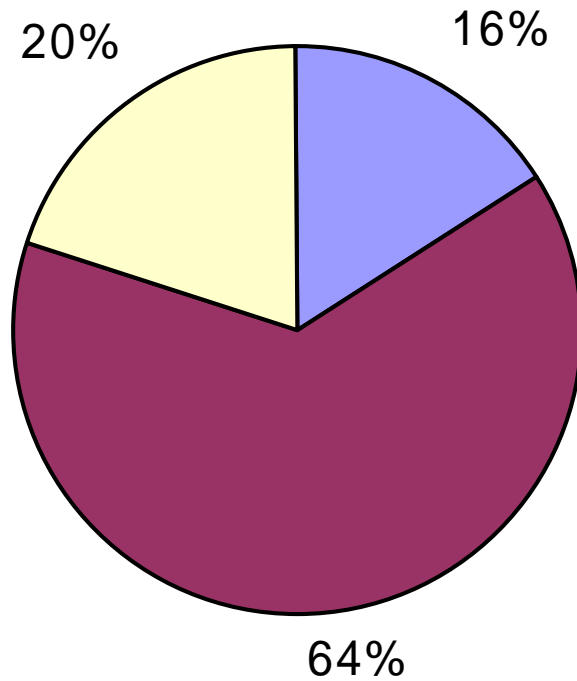
House Vote for Democrats 02/06



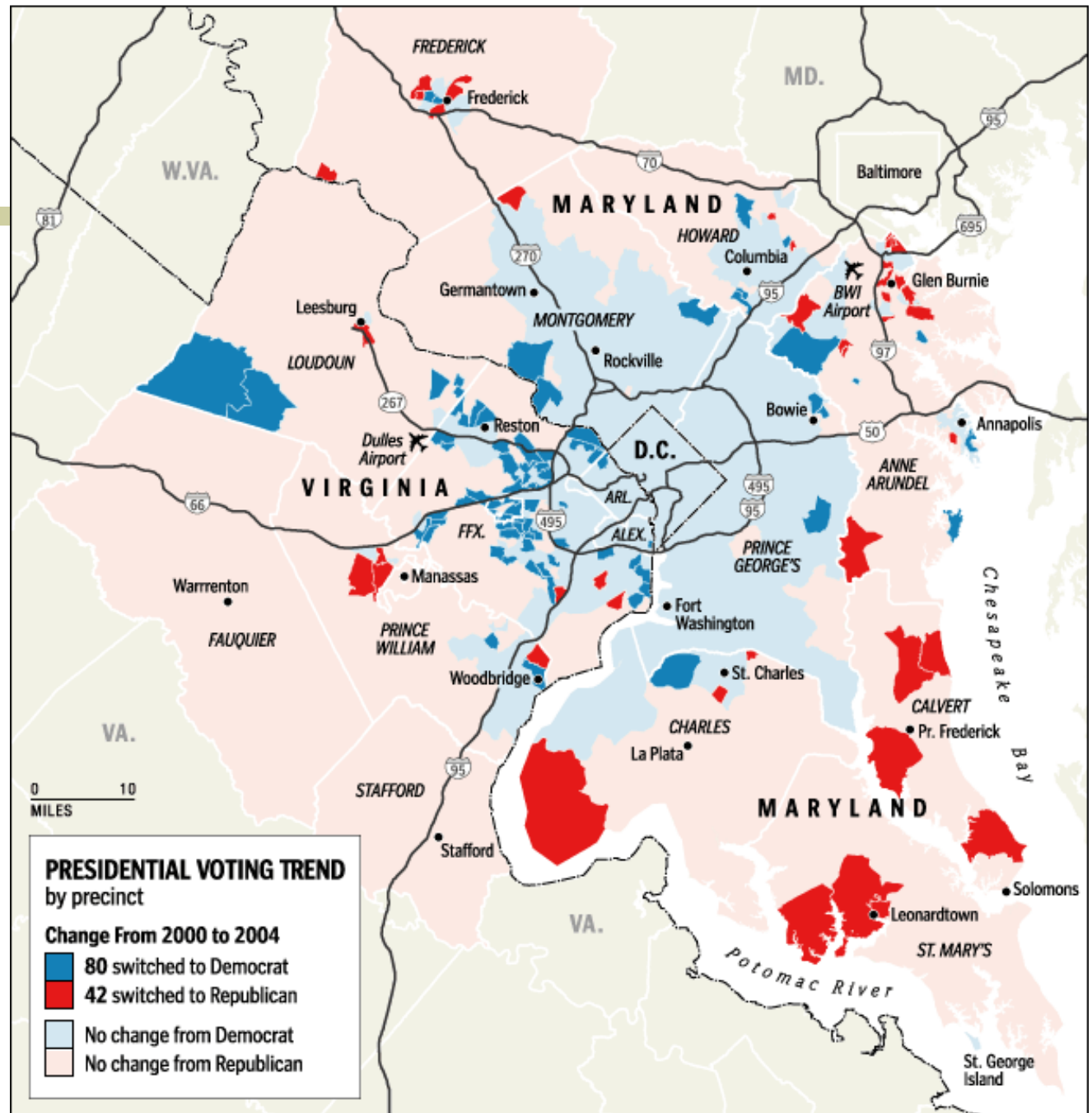
Three Parts to the Metropolis

- **Cores** (Which have long been solidly Democratic areas)
- ***Urbanizing Suburbs***—Inner and Mature Suburbs (Which are transitioning to the Democrats)
- ***Metropolitan Fringe***—Emerging Suburbs and Exurbs (Which still vote for Republicans)

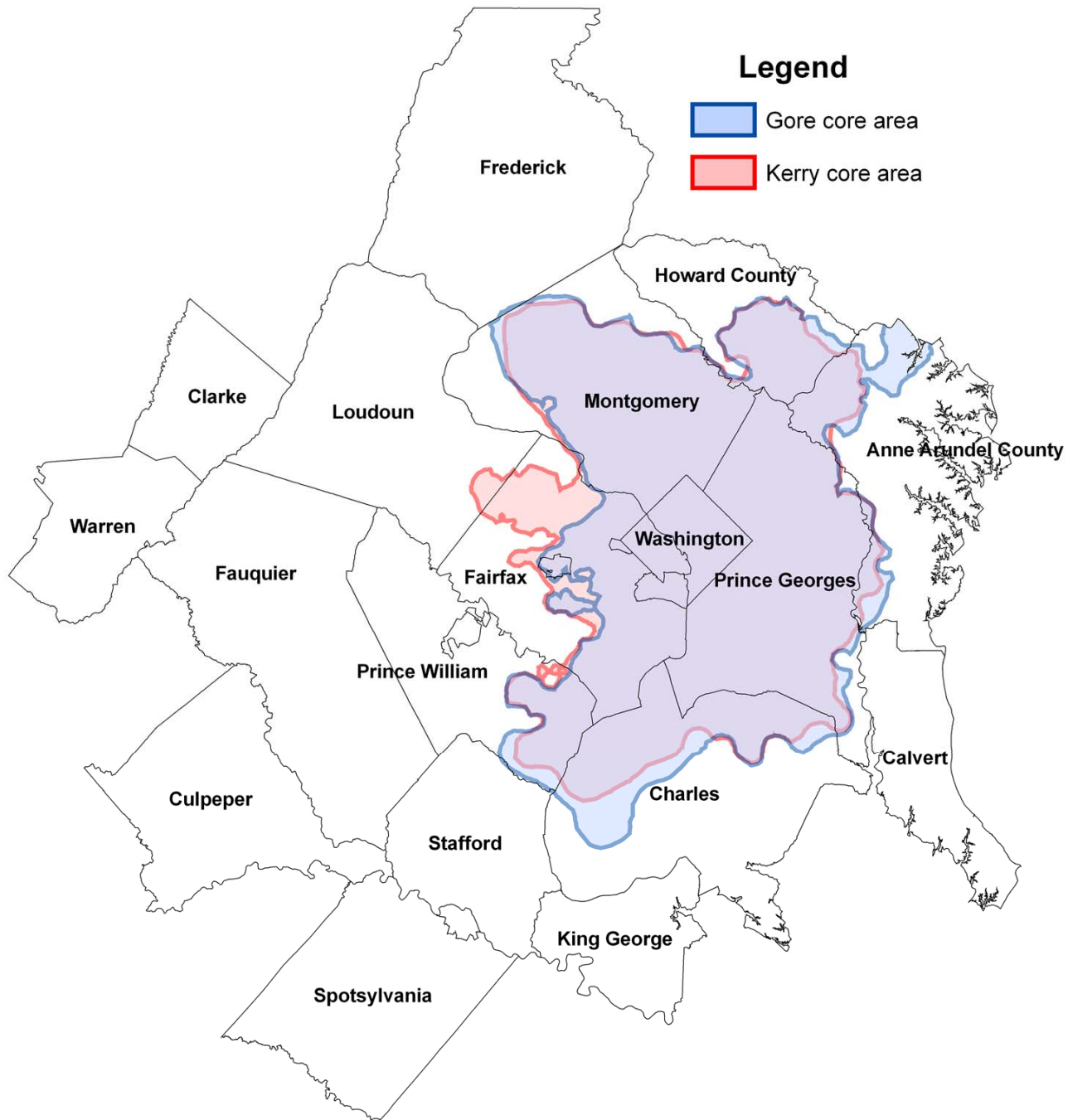
[The Urbanizing Suburbs are Key]



Washington Metro Vote 2000 v. 2004

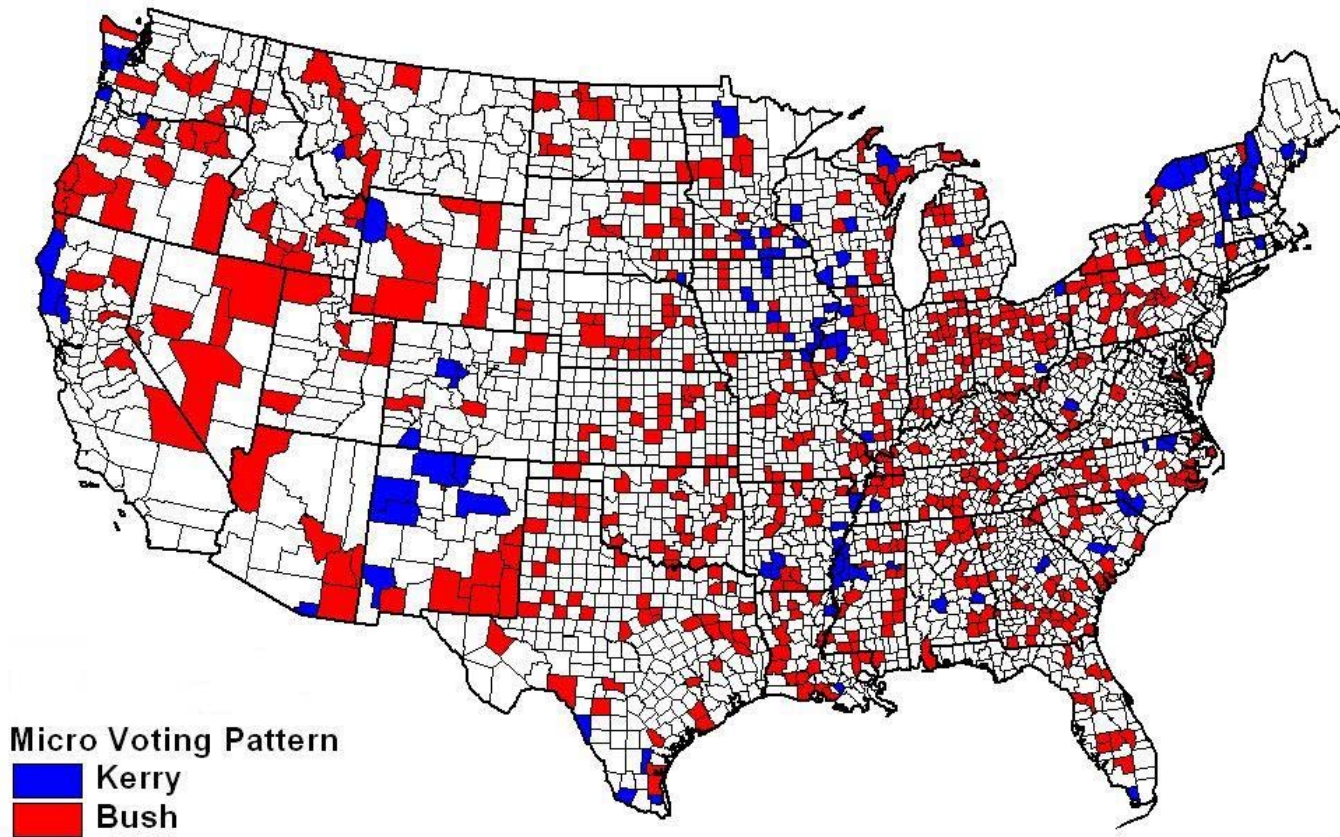


The 2004 Kerry Surge Into Western Fairfax County, VA

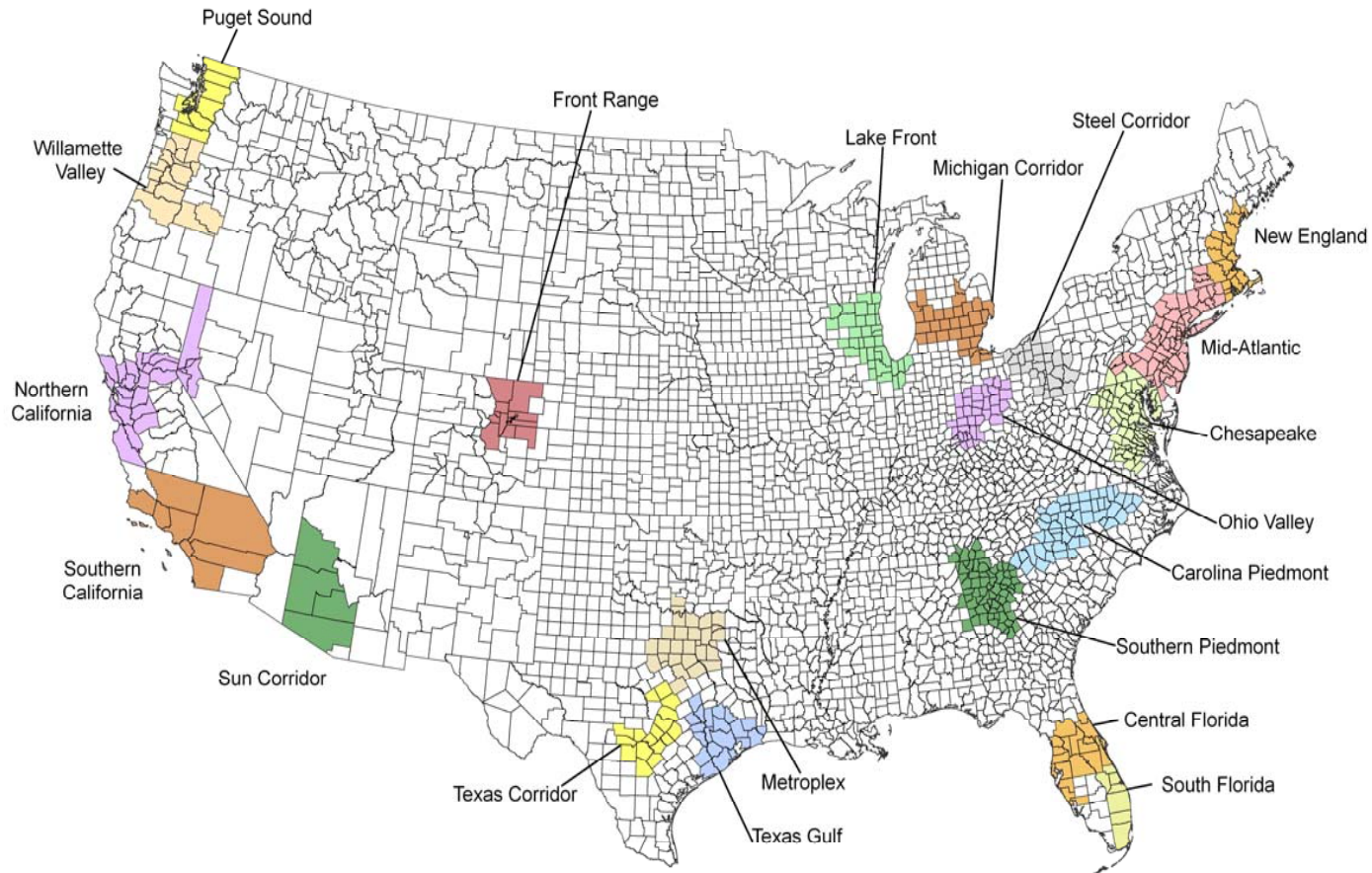


['04 Bush V. Kerry 60/40 Split

The US Vote by Micropolitan Area



Megapolitans Go for Democrats



2008 Suburban Politics

- **If the Democrats Hold the 2006 Gains Made in Urbanizing Suburbs and Stay Competitive in the Metropolitan Fringe the Party will Win the 2008 Election**
- **The Keys to Victory are Counties Such as Fairfax and Loudoun in Virginia—Their Border is the Swing**

America Just Keeps Growing

U.S. Census Projections 2000 Census Baseline

Year	High* Series	Mid* Series
2000	275	275
2010	311	300
2030	391	351
2050	553	404
2070	749	464
2090	1,017	534

* In Millions

And Grows Ever More Diverse

Table 1

U.S. Population, Actual and Projected:
2005 and 2050

	2005	2050
Population (in millions)	296	<i>438</i>
Share of total		
Foreign born	12%	<i>19%</i>
Racial/Ethnic Groups		
White	67%	<i>47%</i>
Hispanic	14%	<i>29%</i>
Black	13%	<i>13%</i>
Asian	5%	<i>9%</i>
Age Groups		
Children (17 and younger)	25%	<i>23%</i>
Working age (18–64)	63%	<i>58%</i>
Elderly (65 and older)	12%	<i>19%</i>

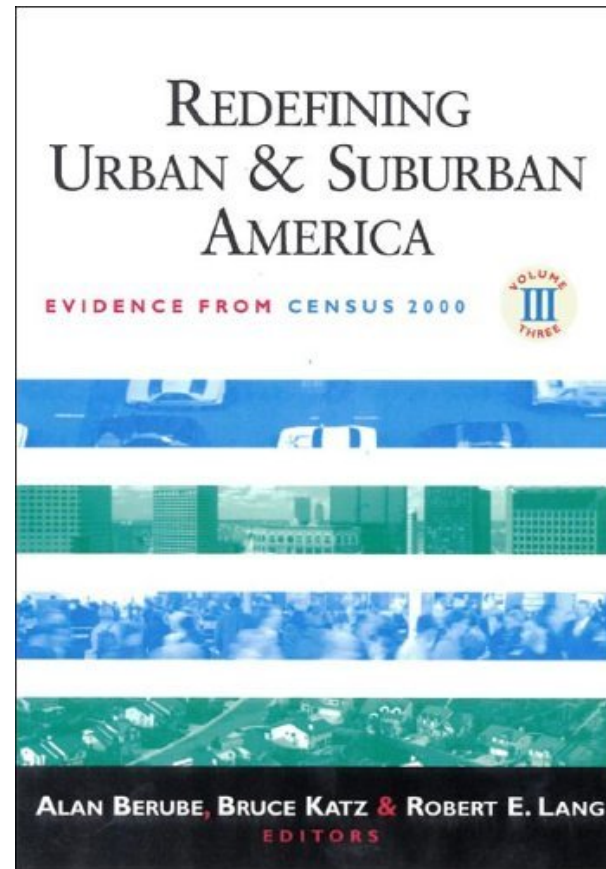
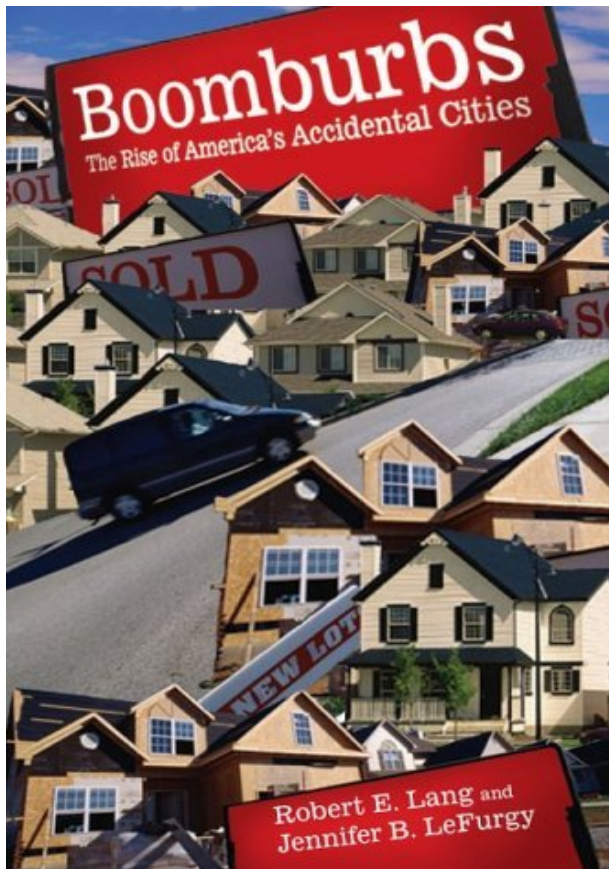
Note: All races modified and not Hispanic; American Indian/
Alaska Native not shown. See "Methodology."

Source: Pew Research Center, 2008

Conclusions

- **Density = Democrats**
- **Nearly All Population Gains to Mid Century are in Metropolitan Areas**
- **A Greater Share of Metropolitan Growth Will Occur in Built Up Areas**
- **Republican Rural and Exurban Vote Cannot Offset The Democrats Gains in Urbanizing Suburbs Much Longer**

From the Brookings Press





Thank You!