

# Making Young Voters: Policy Reforms to Increase Youth Voter Turnout



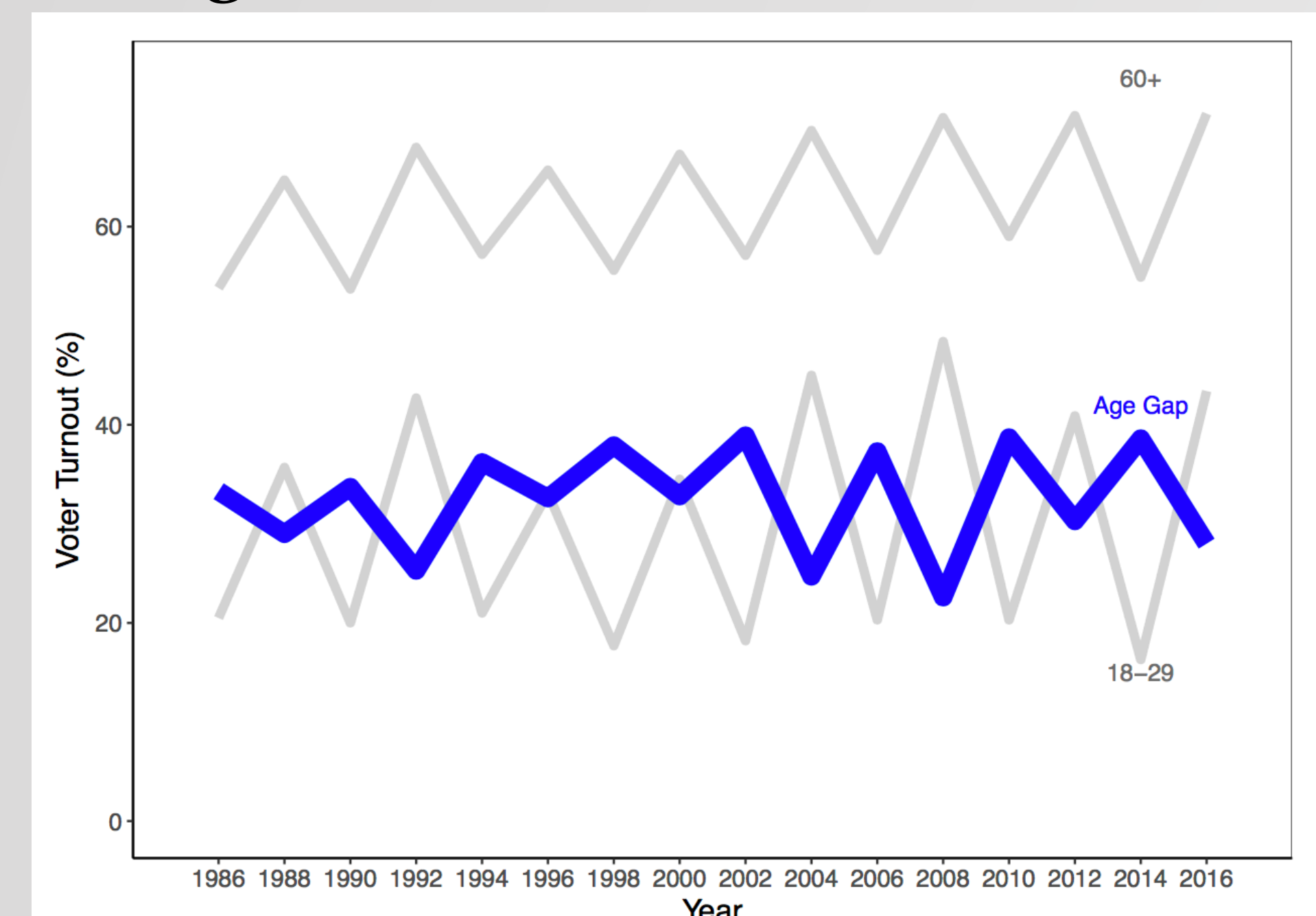
BASS CONNECTIONS

Sarah Ali, Samuel Ditesheim, Noah Eckberg, Donghun Lee, James Chenyang Wang, and Sakiko Nishida

Bass Connections in Education & Human Development

## Introduction

- Voter turnout among young Americans is dismal
- 20-30 percentage points lower than among older citizens.

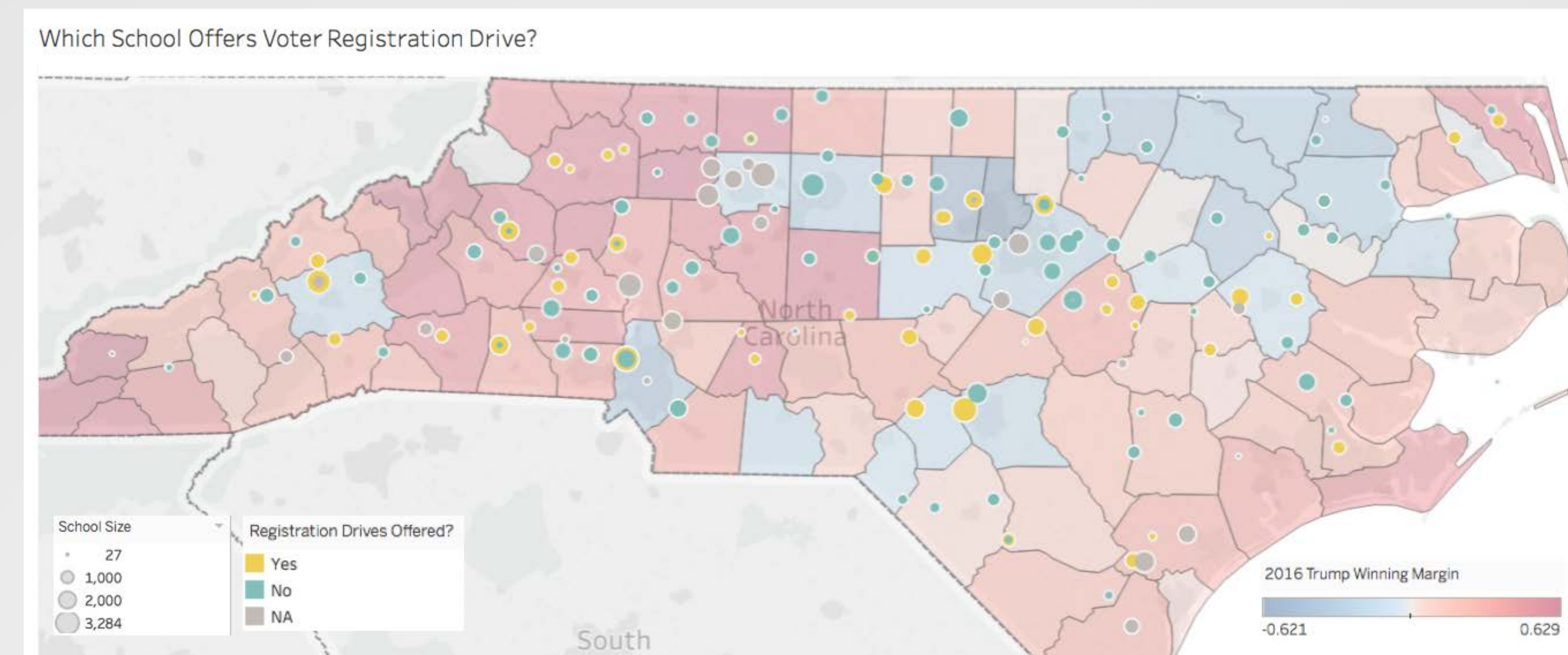


- These levels may not reflect lack of civic mindedness, but rather may be the consequence of a combination of institutional and motivational obstacles that get in the way of people participating in politics.

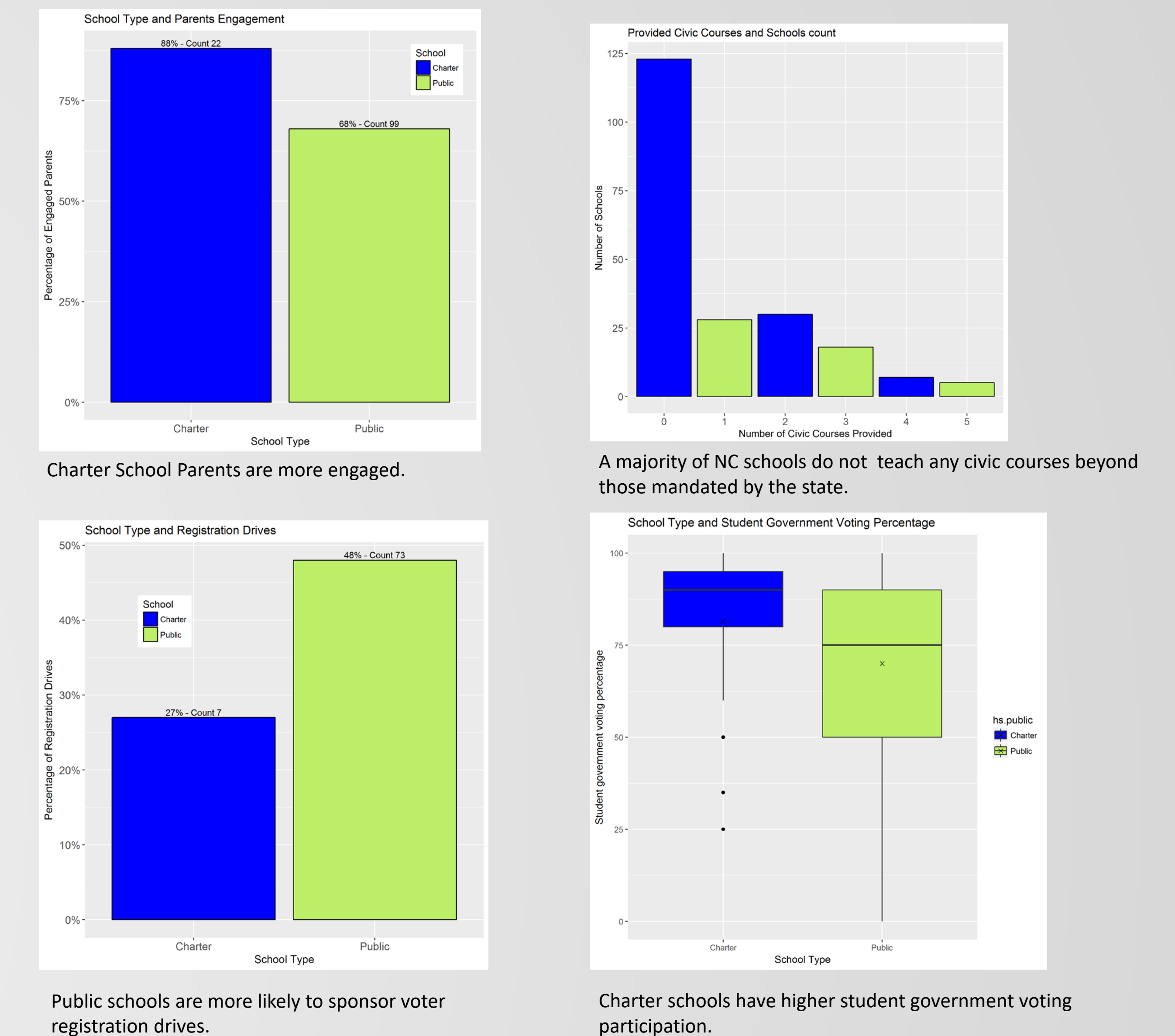
## Data and Methods

- Conduct qualitative interviews with NC civic teachers about problem
- Survey NC high schools to assess current civic programming
  - 40% Response rate (235/581 schools)
- Conduct in-class voter registration and preregistration drives with Wake County Public School System (WCPSS)

## School Survey Results



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## Teacher Interviews

"This isn't about just knowledge. We just need to give them the ability to engage with the world."

"Civics is the most practical skill that they can learn high school."

Teacher Testimonials

"A lot of students feel victimized by government policy and don't think that they can affect change. I need to help them understand the role that they can play in democracy."

"My goal as a social studies teacher is to help students understand that democracy depends on them."

## Conclusion & Next Steps

- In the coming weeks, we will conduct voter registration drives and accompanying lessons on the importance of voting in classrooms across Wake County.

