Duke UNIVERSITY | BASS CONNECTIONS

Faculty: David Schanzer, Asher Hildebrand, Deondra Rose, Kristin Goss
TAs: Alicia Blanco, Allyson Barkley
Students: James Gao, Paul Finkelstein, Mac Hoeve, Clara Bonzi Teixeira, Olivia Smith, Saralyn Carcy, Yadira Paz-Martinez, Victoria Hernandez, Darshan Vijaykumar, Karam Oubari, Eric Gim

Executive Summary

Our team chose to measure inequality in democracy across U.S. states by analyzing disparities in voter turnout for each of four different demographic categories: **race, disability status, age, and educational attainment**.

To roughly identify the best and worst performing states from a quantitative perspective, we calculated **differences in 2020 turnout** between advantaged and disadvantaged groups in each of our four metrics. This form of analysis captured **observed differences** that were further explored by **policy input analysis**, which can be seen on the right hand side of the poster.

To further strengthen our results, we modeled **a series of logistic regressions using weighted survey data across the six most recent election cycles.** We compared our model's predictions for turnout likelihood across fifty states along our four dimensions of inequality. By measuring the variance within each state, we roughly approximated how "unequal" their historic turnout trends were. Visualizations from our model can be seen below.

Team A: Race/Ethnicity

Most Equal	Least Equal
Maryland	Wisconsin
Pennsylvania	Massachusetts
New York	Iowa

Relevant Indicators: Voter ID Laws, Felony Disenfranchisement, Bilingual Ballots

Team B: Disability

Most Equal	Least Equal
Florida	Maryland
Vermont	Tennessee
Colorado	Wisconsin

Relevant Indicators: All-Mail Voting, Curbside Voting, No-excuse Mail-in Voting

Team C: Age

Most Equal	Least Equal
Maryland	Nevada
Maine	Oklahoma
New Jersey	Indiana

Relevant Indicators: Absentee Voting, Early Voting, Mail-in ballots sent automatically, Online Voter Registration, Same-day Registration
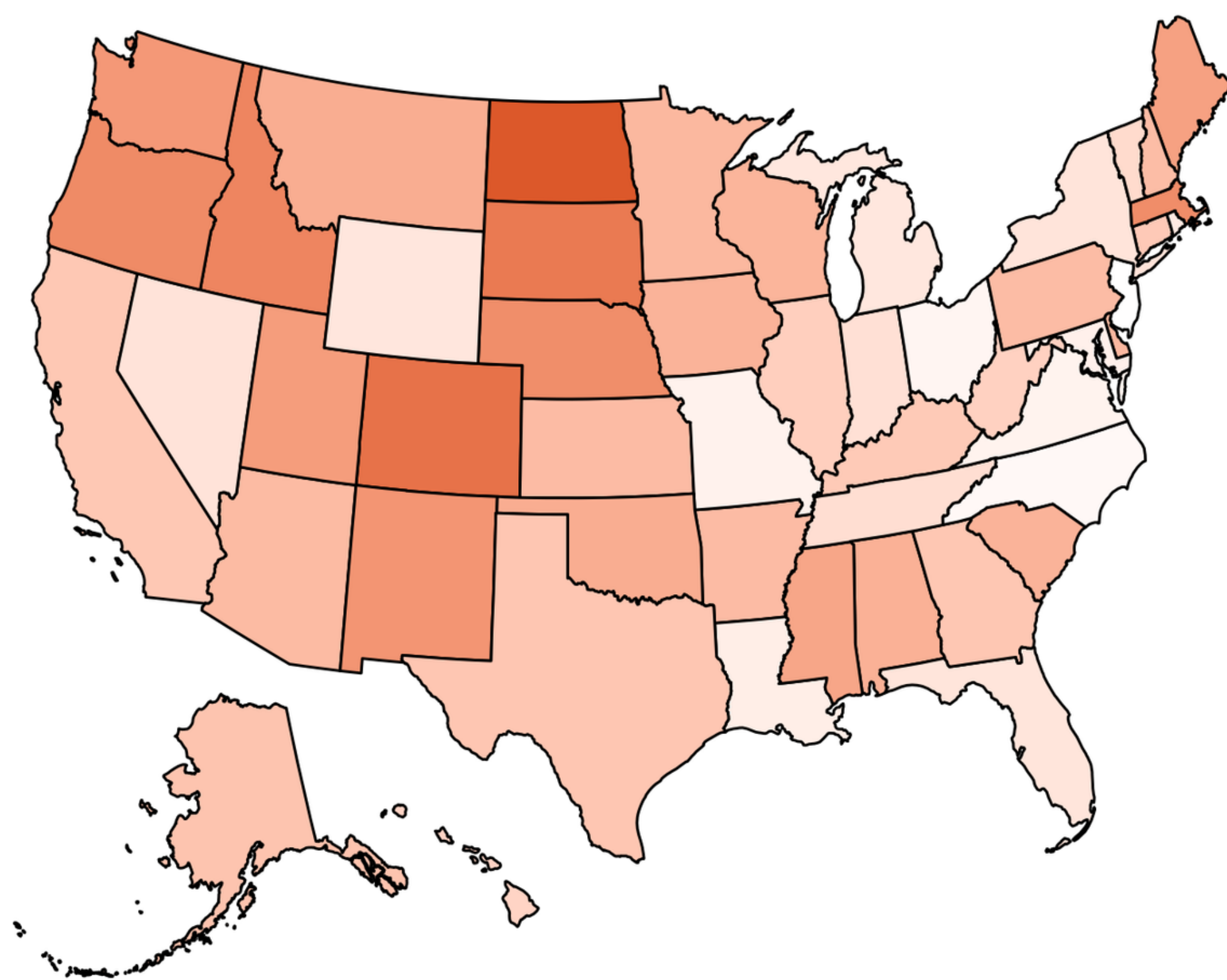
Team D: Educational Attainment

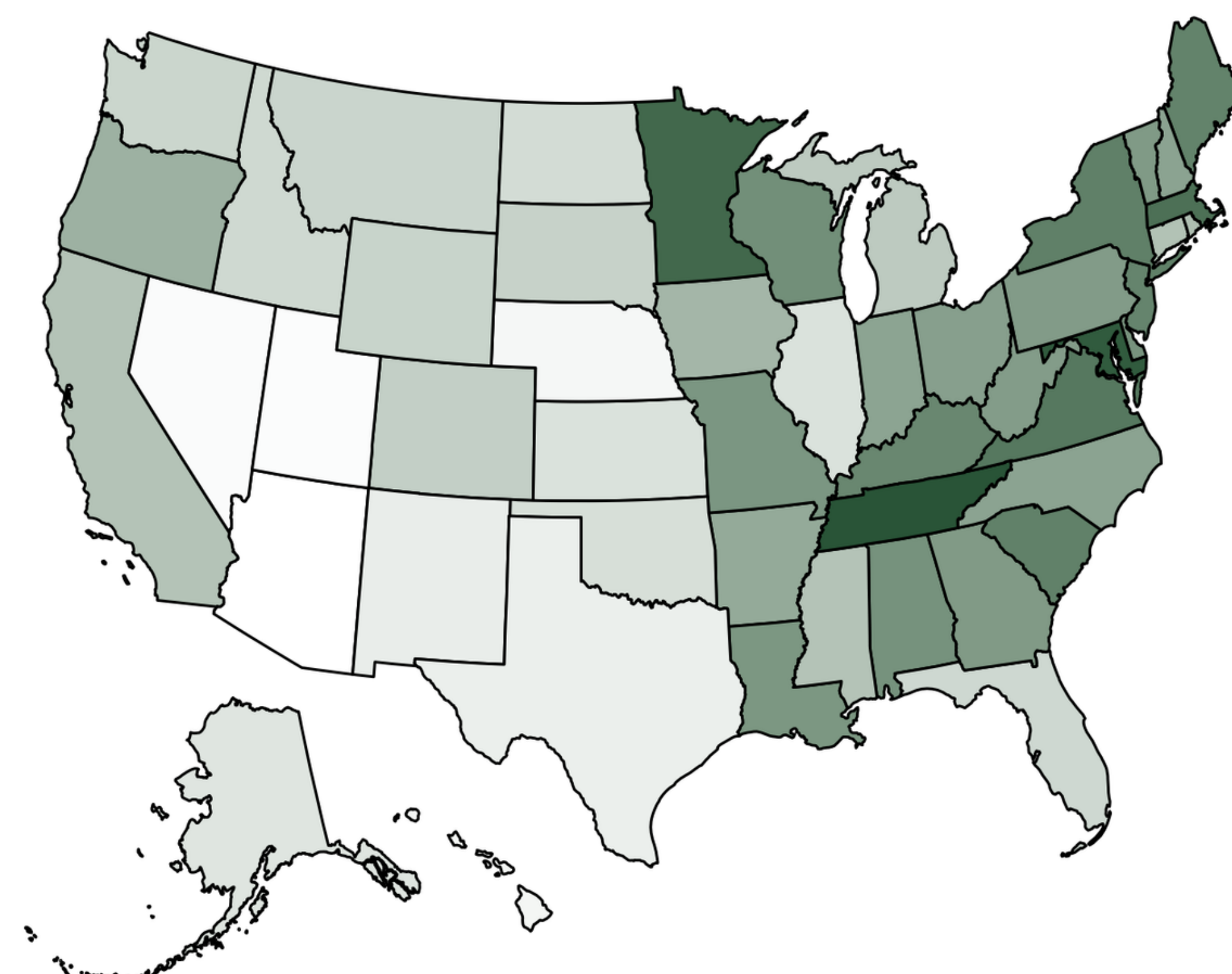| Most Equal	Least Equal
D.C.	New Mexico
Maryland	Idaho
Wisconsin	Rhode Island

Relevant Indicators: Early Voting Flexibility/Period Length, No-excuse Mail-in Voting, Availability of Voting Centers

Visualizations

Darker colors represent higher variance in turnout (greater inequality) between advantaged and disadvantaged groups
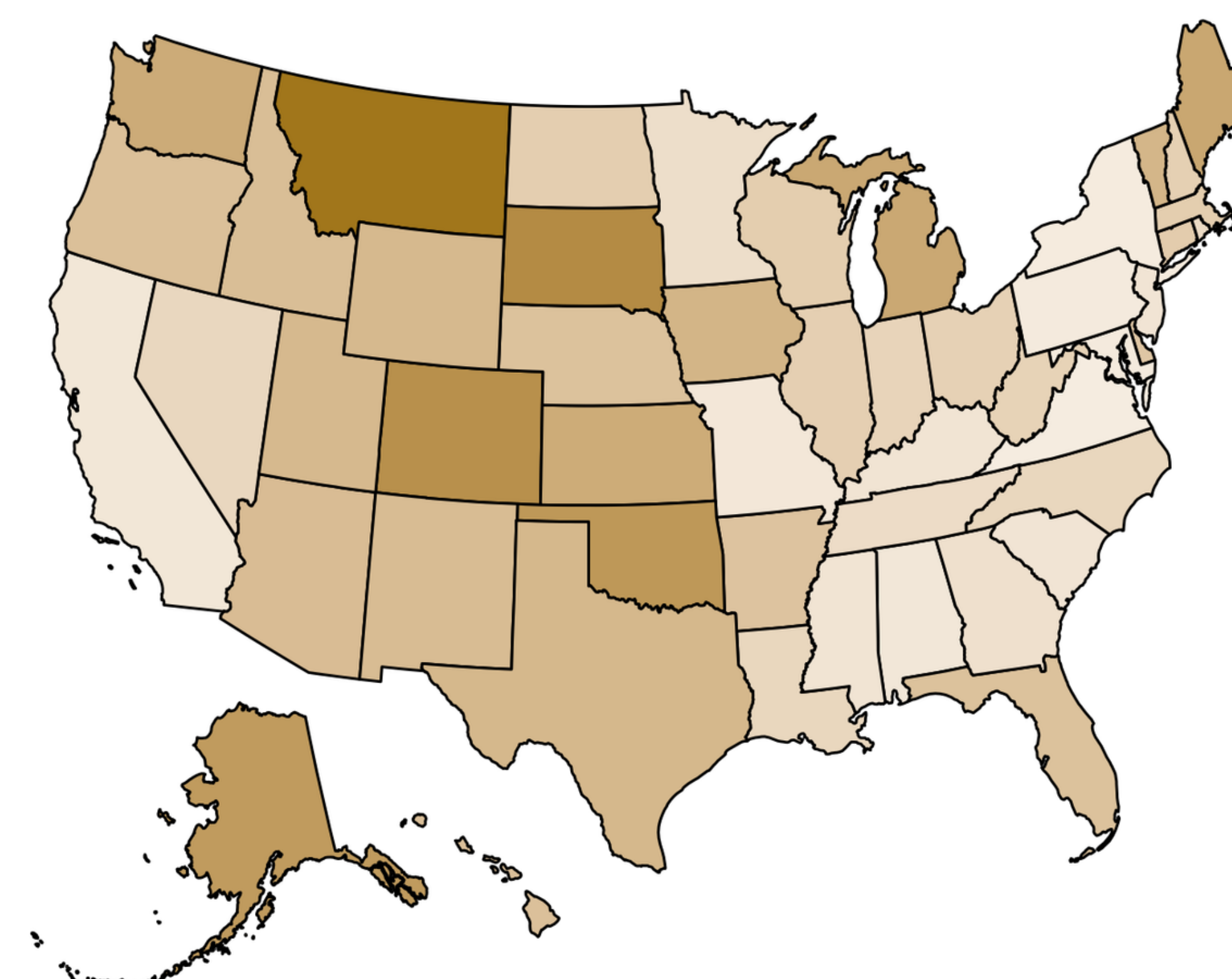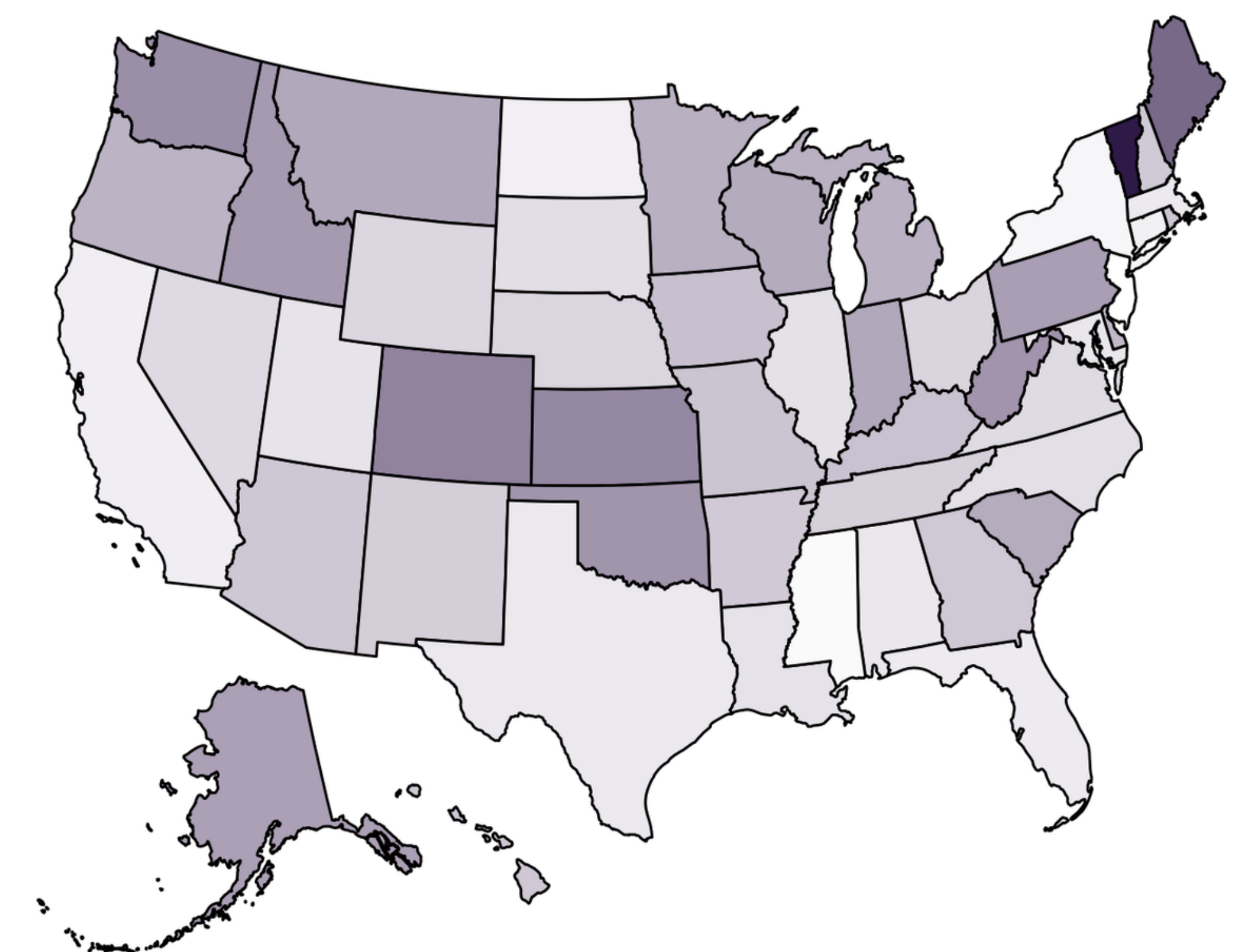
Race/Ethnicity: Differences in intrastate turnout

Disability: Differences in intrastate turnout

Age: Differences in intrastate turnout

Education: Differences in intrastate turnout

Data from 2010 through 2020 CPS Voting Supplement datasets