The Metropolitan Structure of National Politics:

An Examination of The Detroit Region

Richard C. Sauerzopf, Ph. D.

Visiting Research Associate

Global Urban Studies Program
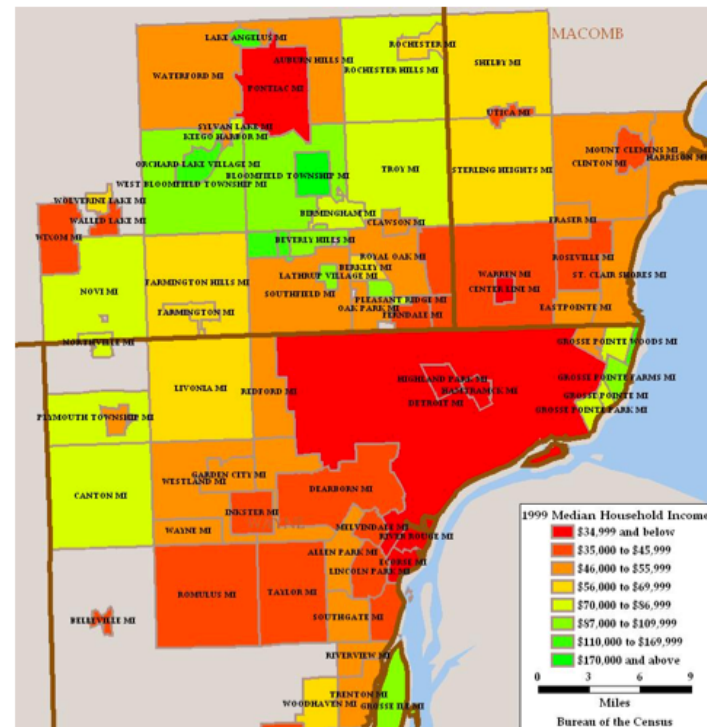Michigan State University

February 4, 2010

The Social and Economic Geography of Metropolitan Detroit

Detroit Area Places

Richard Sauerzopf, 2009

2000 Median Household Incomes
In Metropolitan Detroit Places

Richard Sauerzopf, 2009

1999 Median Specified Owner Occupied House Values
In Detroit Metropolitan Places

MACOMB

LAKE ANGELUS MI
ROCHESTER MI
AUBURN HILLS MI
SHELBY MI
WATERFORD MI
ROCHESTER HILLS MI
PONTIAC MI
UTICA MI
SYLVAN LAKE MI
KEEGO HARBOR MI
MOUNT CLEMENS MI
HARRISON
ORCHARD LAKE VILLAGE MI
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP MI
TROY MI
STERLING HEIGHTS MI
CLINTON MI
WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP MI
WOLVERINE LAKE MI
BIRMINGHAM MI
WALLED LAKE MI
CLAWSON MI
FRASER MI
WIXOM MI
BEVERLY HILLS MI
ROYAL OAK MI
ROSEVILLE MI
FARMINGTON HILLS MI
BERKLEY MI
LATHRUP VILLAGE MI
WARREN MI
ST. CLAIR SHORES MI
NOVI MI
SOUTHFIELD MI
CENTER LINE MI
FARMINGTON MI
PLEASANT RIDGE MI
OAK PARK MI
EASTPOINTE MI
NORTHVILLE MI
GROSSE POINTE WOODS MI
LIVONIA MI
REDFORD MI
HIGHLAND PARK MI
GROSSE POINTE FARMS MI
HAMTRAMCK MI
GROSSE POINTE MI
PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP MI
DETROIT MI
GROSSE POINTE PARK MI
WESTLAND MI
DEARBORN MI
CANTON MI
INKSTER MI
MELVINDALE MI
WAYNE MI
RIVER ROUGE MI
WAYNE
ALLEN PARK MI
ECORSE MI
LINCOLN PARK MI
ROMULUS MI
TAYLOR MI
BELLEVILLE MI
SOUTHGATE MI
RIVERVIEW MI
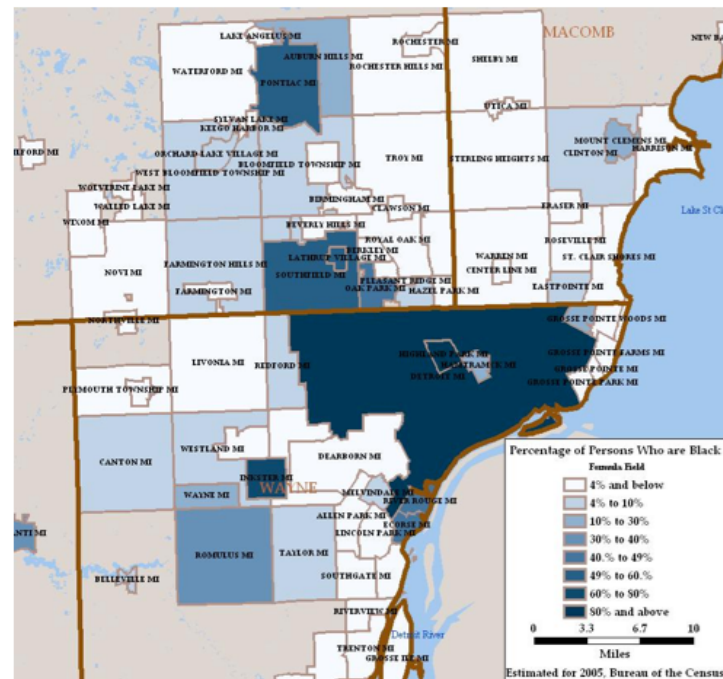Detroit River
TRENTON MI
GROSSE ILE MI

2000 Median House Values

- $59,999 and below
- $90,000 to $136,999
- $137,000 to $159,999
- $190,000 to $259,999
- $260,000 to $349,999
- $350,000 to $499,999
- $500,000 to $799,999
- $800,000 and above

0   2.5   5   7.5
Miles

Bureau of the Census

Richard Sauerzopf.2009

Percentage of Persons Who are Black
In Detroit Metropolitan Places

Richard Sauerzopf.2009

The Political Geography of Metropolitan Detroit

Geopolitical Cross-Pressures in Metropolitan Detroit

Distressed Central Cities

- Social Racial Pressures ⬅
- Economic Pressures ⬅

Threatened Suburbs

- Social Racial Pressures ➡
- Economic Pressures ⬅

Advantaged Suburbs

- Social Racial Pressures ➡
- Economic Pressures ➡

Selection Criteria
For Detroit Area Geopolitical Categories

Primary Categories:

	1990 Municipal median house-hold income as percentage of MSA	1990 Municipal median specified owner-occupied house value as percentage of MSA (Relative Market Position)	1980-1990 change in relative market position	1990 Percentage of residents that are black persons	1990 Municipal poverty rate for all persons	Municipal modal housing construction decade
Distressed Central Urban Places	Below 75%	Below 75%	Decline	Greater than 15%	Greater than 20%	Earlier than 1950s
Threatened White Working-Class Places	75% - 110%	75% - 110%	Decline	Less than 15%	Less than 20%	1950s
Middle-Class Places	Greater than 110% less than 145%	Greater than 110% less than 145%	Increase	Less than 10%	Less than 5%	1950s or later
Wealthy Places	Equal to or greater than 145%	Equal to or greater than 145%	Increase	Less than 10%	Less than 5%	Not specified

Secondary / Residual Categories:

Distressed White Places:

These places meet the criteria for *Distressed Central Urban Places* except that their percentage of residents that are black persons is less than 15%. (Only Hamtramck fits this category.)

Threatened Transitional Places:

These places meet the criteria for *Threatened White Working-Class Places* except that their percentage of residents that are black persons is greater than 15%. (Mount Clemens, Oak Park, and Romulus fit this category.)

Middle-Class Transitional Places:

These places meet the criteria for *Middle-Class Places* except that their percentage of residents that are black persons is greater than 10%. (Only Southfield fits this category.)
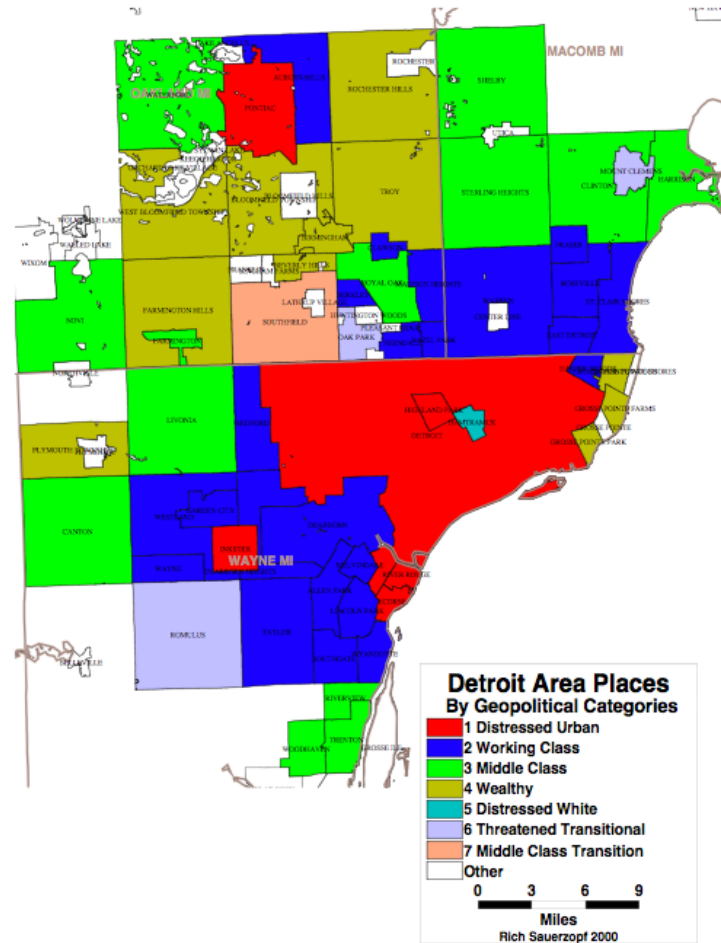
Notes:

For a place to be defined by one of the primary categories, it may fail to meet one of the specified criteria except *percentage of residents that are black persons*.

The same standard is applied to the residual categories. That is, while they failed to meet the *percentage of residents that are black persons* criterion for their respective primary category, they may have failed to meet another primary criterion also.

For some municipalities, change in *relative market position* figures are unavailable. This is generally the case for the "new" fast growing cities and townships on the metropolitan area's edge. Most of these places are categorized as *middle-class* or *wealthy* places based on other criteria with the assumption that their *relative market position* increased during that decade.
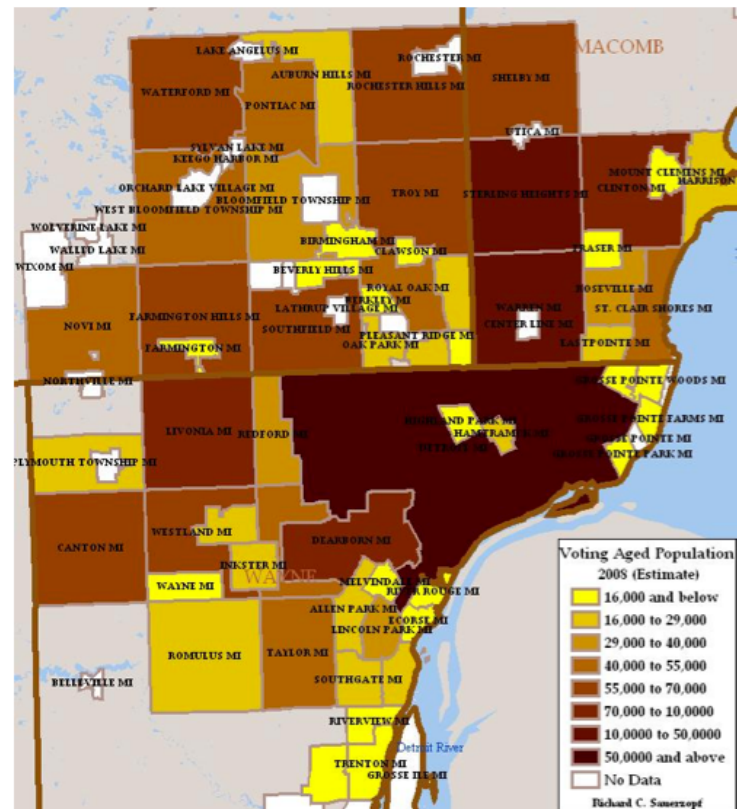
Richard Sauerzopf, 2009

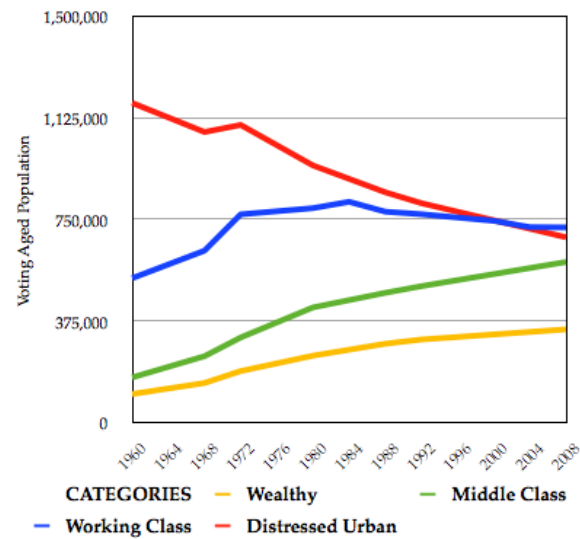Detroit Area Places
By Geopolitical Category

Detroit Area Places
By Geopolitical Categories
1 Distressed Urban
2 Working Class
3 Middle Class
4 Wealthy
5 Distressed White
6 Threatened Transitional
7 Middle Class Transition
Other

0   3   6   9
Miles

Rich Sauerzopf 2000

Detroit Area Electorates

Potential Electorates
Total Voting Aged Populations, Estimated for Selected Places
2008

MACOMB

LAKE ANGELUS MI
ROCHESTER MI
AUBURN HILLS MI
ROCHESTER HILLS MI
SHELBY MI
WATERFORD MI
PONTIAC MI
UTICA MI
SYLVAN LAKE MI
KEEGO HARBOR MI
MOUNT CLEMENS MI
HARRISON
ORCHARD LAKE VILLAGE MI
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP MI
TROY MI
STERLING HEIGHTS MI
CLINTON MI
WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP MI
WOLVERINE LAKE MI
WALLED LAKE MI
BIRMINGHAM MI
CLAWSON MI
FRASER MI
WIXOM MI
BEVERLY HILLS MI
ROYAL OAK MI
BERKLEY MI
ROSEVILLE MI
LATHRUP VILLAGE MI
NOVI MI
FARMINGTON HILLS MI
WARREN MI
ST. CLAIR SHORES MI
SOUTHFIELD MI
CENTER LINE MI
FARMINGTON MI
PLEASANT RIDGE MI
OAK PARK MI
EASTPOINTE MI
NORTHVILLE MI
GROSSE POINTE WOODS MI
HIGHLAND PARK MI
GROSSE POINTE FARMS MI
LIVONIA MI
REDFORD MI
HAMTRAMCK MI
GROSSE POINTE MI
DETROIT MI
GROSSE POINTE PARK MI
PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP MI
WESTLAND MI
CANTON MI
DEARBORN MI
INKSTER MI
WAYNE
MELVINDALE MI
RIVER ROUGE MI
WAYNE MI
ALLEN PARK MI
ECORSE MI
LINCOLN PARK MI
ROMULUS MI
TAYLOR MI
SOUTHGATE MI
BELLEVILLE MI
RIVERVIEW MI
Detroit River
TRENTON MI
GROSSE ILE MI

Voting Aged Population
2008 (Estimate)

- 16,000 and below
- 16,000 to 29,000
- 29,000 to 40,000
- 40,000 to 55,000
- 55,000 to 70,000
- 70,000 to 10,0000
- 10,0000 to 50,0000
- 50,0000 and above
- No Data

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Potential Electorates
Total Voting Aged Populations for Sample places, By Category, By Election

CATEGORIES — Wealthy — Middle Class — Working Class — Distressed Urban

Note: Top figure illustrates total voting aged population figures for selected Detroit area places, by election, summed by category. The lower figure compares these same totals as they are proportional to the total potential electorate for all sample places defined by the above (major) categories. Voting aged population figures are based on linear extrapolations of data between decennial Census reports. Voting aged population figures for 2004 and 2008 are estimated by continuing the 1990-2000 projection.

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Actual Electorates

Total Presidential Electorates for Sample places, By Category, By Election
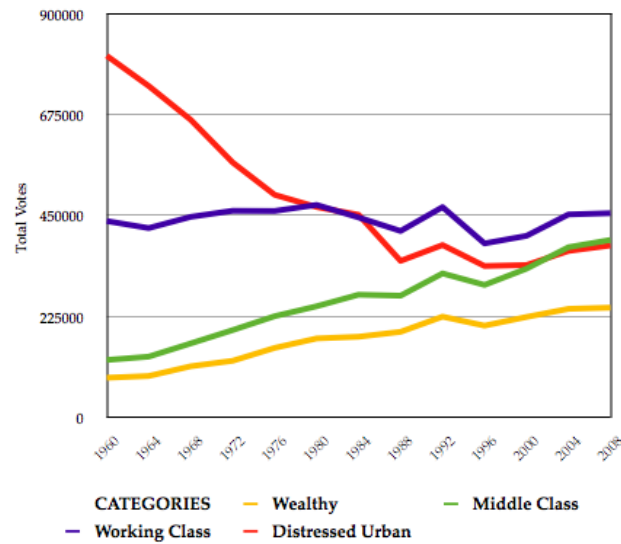
Note: Top figure illustrates total votes for presidential candidates from selected Detroit-area places, by election, summed by each of the major geopolitical categories. The lower figure compares these same totals as they are proportional to the total number of votes for presidential candidates summed for all sample places defined by the above (major) categories.

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Comparative Electorates
Comparative Potential and Actual Presidential Electorates
for Selected Detroit Area Places, By Category
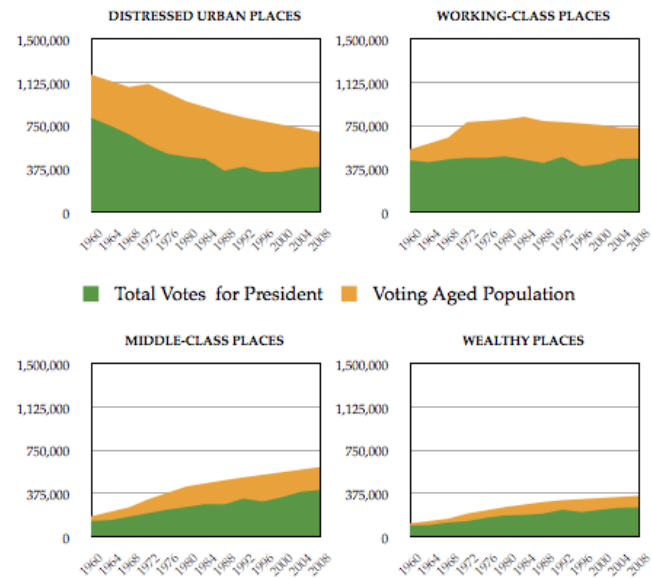
Note: These four figures illustrate potential electorates (voting aged populations) in comparison to actual presidential electorates (total votes for president) for selected Detroit-area places, summed by the four primary geopolitical categories. Voting aged population figures are based on linear extrapolations between data from decennial Census reports. Voting aged population figures for 2004 and 2008 are estimated by continuing the 1990-2000 projection.

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Voter Turnout
Presidential Voter Turnout for Selected Detroit Area Places
2008
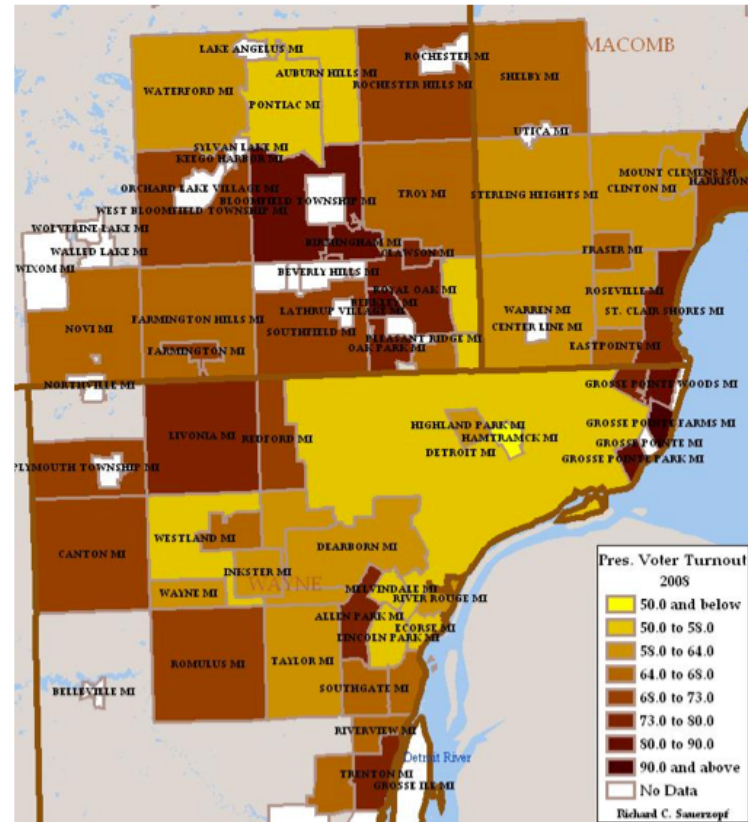
Voter Turnout

Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections for Selected Detroit Area Places, By Category
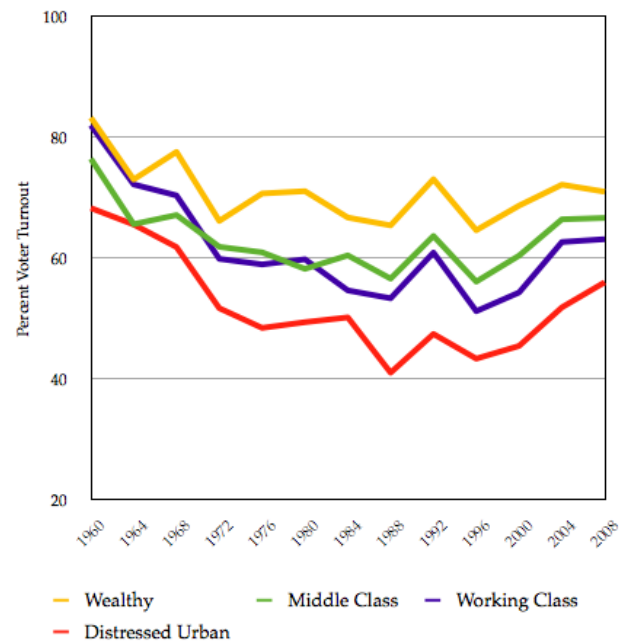
Note: Figure illustrates voter turnout rates for Detroit area places by category. Turnouts are calculated with pooled statistics for each category. Voting aged population figures are based on linear extrapolations between data from decennial Census reports. Voting aged population figures for 2004 and 2008 are estimated by continuing the 1990-2000 projection.

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Adjusted Voter Turnout

Voter Turnout in Presidential elections for Selected Detroit Area Places, By Category, Shown Proportional to Michigan State Voter Turnouts.

Legend:
- Wealthy
- Middle Class
- Working Class
- Distressed Urban
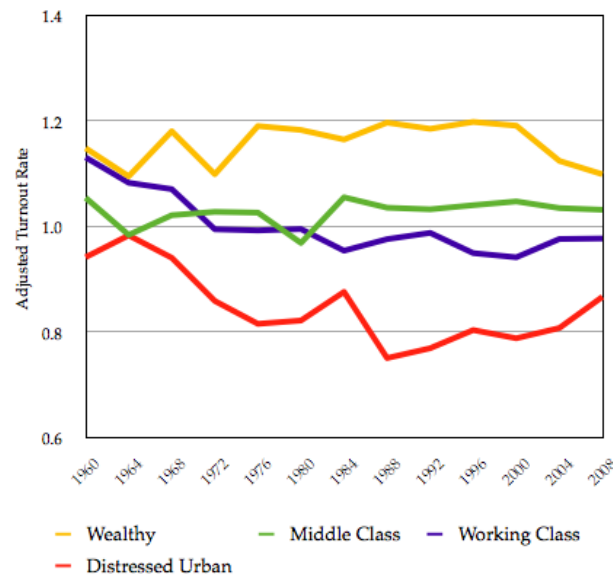
Note: Figure illustrates voter turnout rates for selected Detroit area places, pooled by category and calculated as they are proportional to Michigan turnout rates. Here, the base figure for the adjusted turnout rate is 1. A category turnout for a given year greater than 1 indicates that voters from places in that category voted at a higher rate than Michigan's voters as a whole while an adjusted turnout of less than one means the opposite. Turnouts are calculated with pooled statistics for each category that compare total votes for president as percentages of voting aged population estimates. Voting aged population figures are based on linear extrapolations between data from decennial Census reports. Voting aged population figures for 2004 and 2008 are estimated by continuing the 1990-2000 projection. The Adjusted Voter Turnout Rate for a pooled category constituency can be reduced to the following:

$$\frac{\text{Category Voter Turnout}}{\text{Michigan State Voter Turnout}}$$

Nardulli, Dalager, and Greco use a similar measure. Nardulli et al, 1996.

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The Partisan Geography of Metropolitan Detroit

Votes for Presidential Candidates
Total Votes for Presidential Candidates, by Party, for Selected Detroit Area Places, by Category

Note: Third party totals are for Wallace in 1968, Perot in 1992 and 1996, and Nader in 2000, 2004, 2008. Votes for Anderson in 1980 were not separated in the data base from votes for "other" candidates.

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Presidential Party Pluralities
For Selected Detroit Area Places
2008
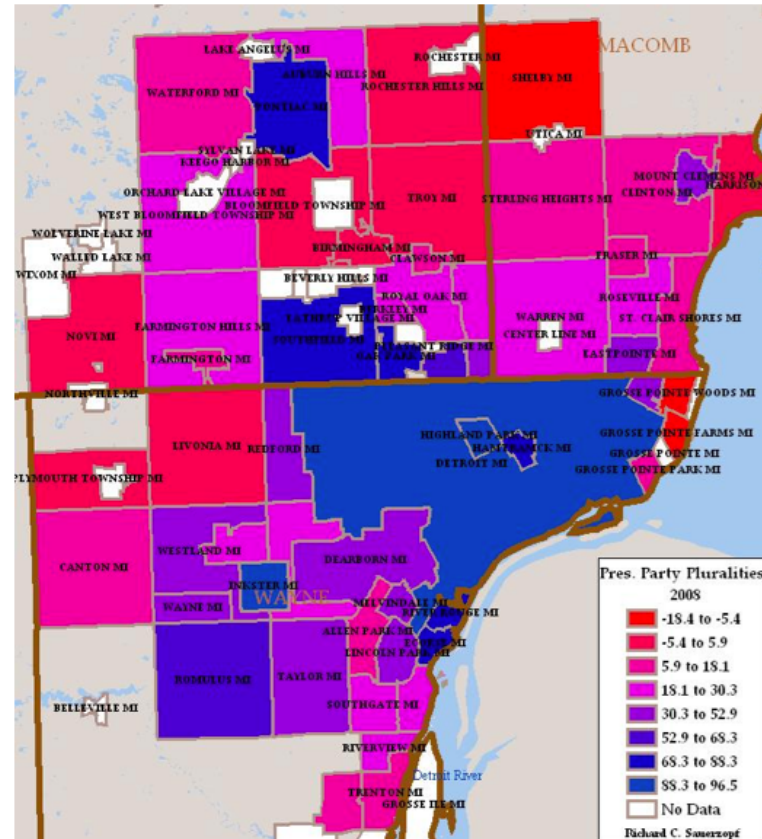
Party Percent of Major Party Votes

Partisan Percentage of Major Party (Democratic and Republican) Votes for Presidential Candidates for Selected Detroit Area Places, by Category

DISTRESSED URBAN PLACES

WORKING-CLASS PLACES

■ Democratic % Major Party Vote   ■ Repulican % Major Party Vote

MIDDLE-CLASS PLACES

WEALTHY PLACES

Richard Sauerzopf, 2009
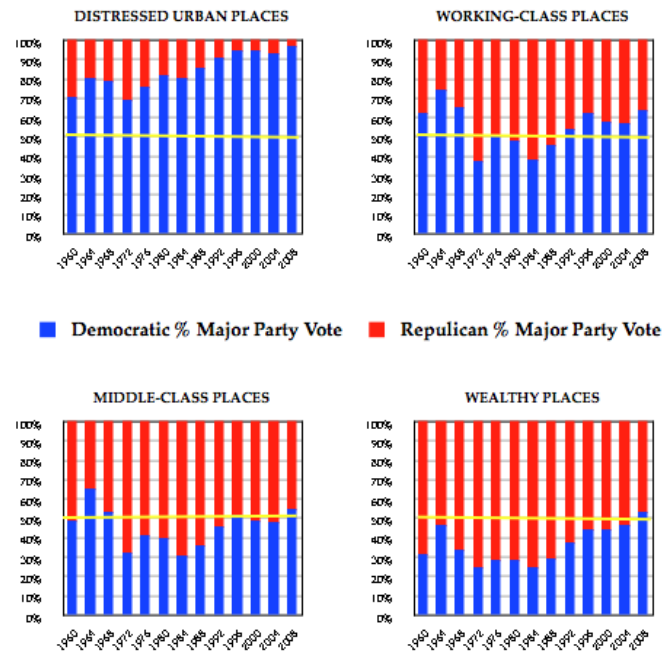
Presidential Party Pluralities
Percentage Party Pluralities for Selected Detroit Area Places, By Category
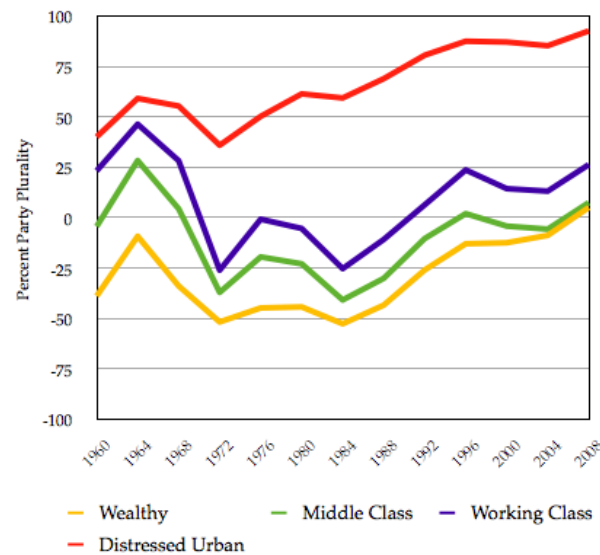
Note: Percentage presidential party pluralities are calculated for pooled category constituencies. That is, votes for president from selected sample places are summed by category, then percent party plurality figures for each category are determined from pooled statistics. Percent party plurality is calculated as the percentage of the total major party votes for president (all votes for the Democratic and Republican candidates) that went to the Democratic candidate minus those that went for the Republican candidate. Therefore, positive figures on the graph represent a margin of Democratic support from a given pooled constituency whereas negative figures represent a margin of support for Republican candidates. As such, the graph indicates the direction and intensity of support for candidates by party over time.

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The Stability of Eccentricity, the Volatility of Centrality

Index of Volatility

Index of Volatility for Selected Detroit Area Places, Pooled and Averaged by Category

$$\sqrt{\left((X_{year} \% D - X_{year} \% R) - (Y_{year} \% D - Y_{year} \% R)\right)^2}$$

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Index of Potential Effective Volatility
Index of Potential Effective Volatility for Selected Detroit Area Places, By Category

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Index of Difference

Index of Difference for Selected Detroit Area Places, By Category, in
Relation to the Detroit Region Tri-County Area and the State of Michigan
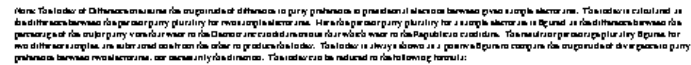
Richard Sauerzopf, 2009

The Future: The Reconciliation or Balkanization of American Political Space