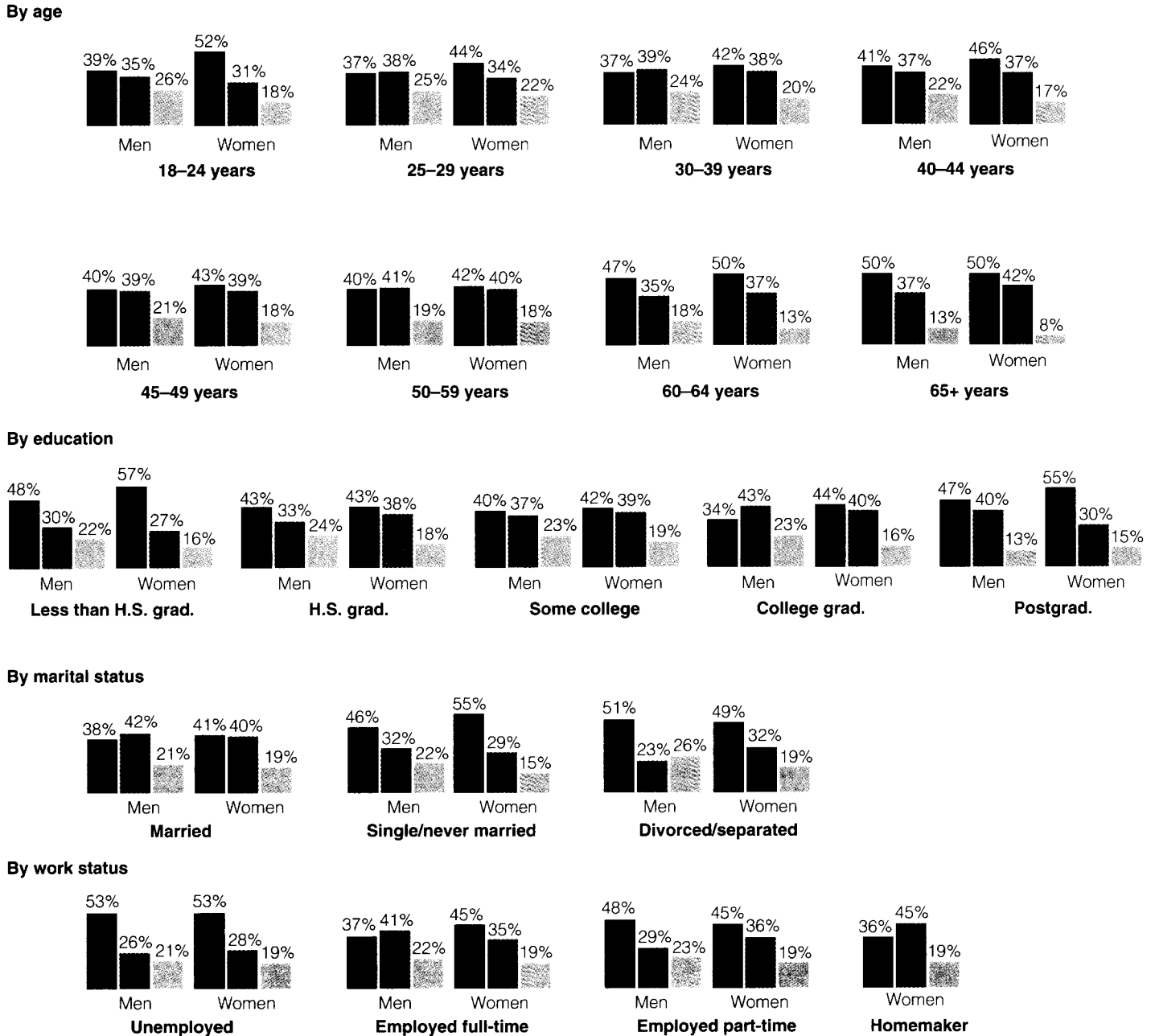


# The Gender Gap

The gender gap in presidential voting was smaller this year than in recent contests. This gap appears to be largest among the young. In most age and education groups, women are more Democratic than men. Single voters and women who work full- or part-time are more Democratic than married voters and homemakers.

## Presidential vote

■ Voted for Bill Clinton ■ George Bush ■ Ross Perot



**Note:** Responses of full-time students and retirees are not shown. The samples of widows and widowers and male homemakers were too small to analyze.  
**Source:** Survey conducted November 3, 1992, by Voter Research & Surveys, a consortium of ABC News, CBS News, CNN, and NBC News.

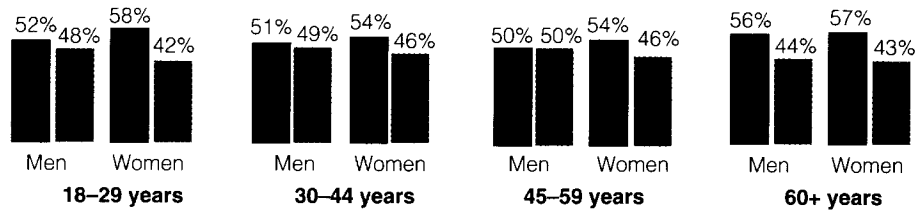
In House voting and in party identification, women are typically more Democratic than are men—though not very much so. Women at both ends of the education spectrum are more Democratic than other groups.

## House vote

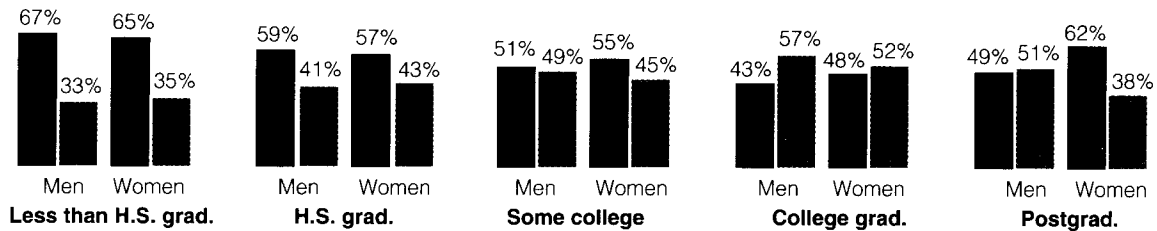
(52% of men voted for the Democratic candidate, 48% for the Republican; 55% of women voted for the Democrat, 45% for the Republican)

■ Voted for Democratic candidate ■ Republican

### By age



### By education

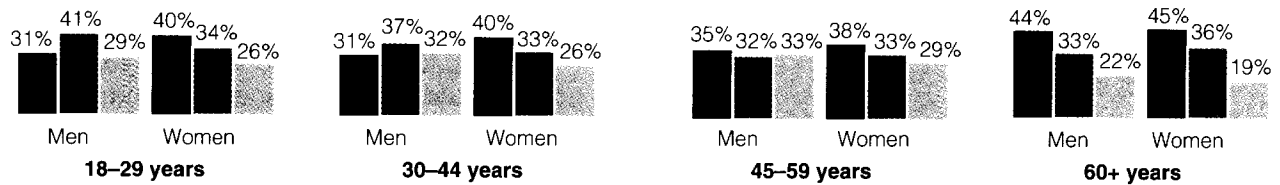


## Party identification of voters

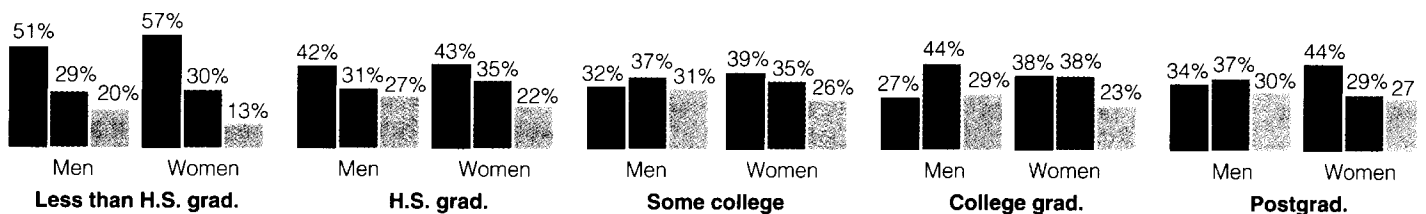
(Men=34 D, 36 R, 30 I; Women=41 D, 34 R, 26 I)

■ Think of self as a Democrat ■ Republican ▨ Independent/other

### By age



### By education



Source: Survey conducted November 3, 1992, by Voter Research & Surveys, a consortium of ABC News, CBS News, CNN, and NBC News.

# The Gender Gap At the State Level

The gender gap in Senate contests involving women ranged from 3 points in Arizona to 27–28 in the two California races. In contests where two men faced each other, the largest gender gap was in Oregon where Senator Robert Packwood received 58 percent of the votes of the men compared to 39 percent of the votes of women. The percentages were virtually reversed for Les AuCoin.

		Men	Women	Gender gap*
<b>Senate races involving women</b>				
Arizona	Claire Sargent (D)	31%	33%	3
	John McCain (R)	57	56	
	Evan Mecham (I)	11	10	
California	Barbara Boxer (D)	43	57	28
	Bruce Herschensohn (R)	51	37	
	Dianne Feinstein (D)	50	64	27
	John Seymour (R)	46	33	
Illinois	Carol Moseley Braun (D)	50	57	14
	Richard Williamson (R)	47	40	
Iowa	Jean Lloyd-Jones (D)	22	34	24
	Charles Grassley (R)	78	66	
Kansas	Gloria O'Dell (D)	29	35	13
	Robert Dole (R)	67	60	
Maryland	Barbara Mikulski (D)	66	74	18
	Alan Keyes (R)	34	24	
Missouri	Geri Rothman-Serot (D)	39	48	17
	Christopher Bond (R)	58	50	
Pennsylvania	Lynn Yeakel (D)	42	52	19
	Arlen Specter (R)	54	45	
South Dakota	Tom Daschle (D)	69	63	13
	Charlene Haar (R)	28	35	
Washington	Patty Murray (D)	51	58	15
	Rod Chandler (R)	49	41	
<b>Selected Senate races not involving women</b>				
Georgia	Wyche Fowler (D)	47	54	14
	Paul Coverdell (R)	53	46	
New York	Robert Abrams (D)	43	52	18
	Alfonse D'Amato (R)	54	45	
Oregon	Les AuCoin (D)	39	55	31
	Robert Packwood (R)	58	43	
<b>Gubernatorial races involving women</b>				
Montana	Dorothy Bradley (D)	47	50	6
	Mark Racicot (R)	52	49	
New Hampshire	Deborah Arnie Arnesen (D)	35	44	16
	Steve Merrill (R)	59	52	
Rhode Island	Bruce Sundlun (D)	63	61	5
	Elizabeth Ann Leonard (R)	34	37	

In the July/August 1992 issue, we looked at whether women were voting for women candidates. We examined all the Senate and gubernatorial races for which exit poll data existed from 1980–1992. We concluded that there was not consistent evidence that women were voting for women in significantly greater numbers than men (significant was defined as a ten percentage point difference between the percentage of women voting for the woman and the percentage of men voting for the woman: e.g., sixty percent of women voted for Madeleine Kunin for Governor of Vermont in 1988 compared to 47 percent of men for a significant difference of 13). Tom Smith of the National Opinion Research Center examined the data and drew different conclusions. He argued that gender differences of ten percentage points or more appeared in eight of thirty-five races covered, and that in another five races the differences were less than ten points, but in those contests a plurality of women backed the female candidate while a plurality of men supported the male candidate. Smith also pointed to evidence that women were voting for Democratic women and not GOP women. We can now reexamine our conclusions using additional 1992 data.

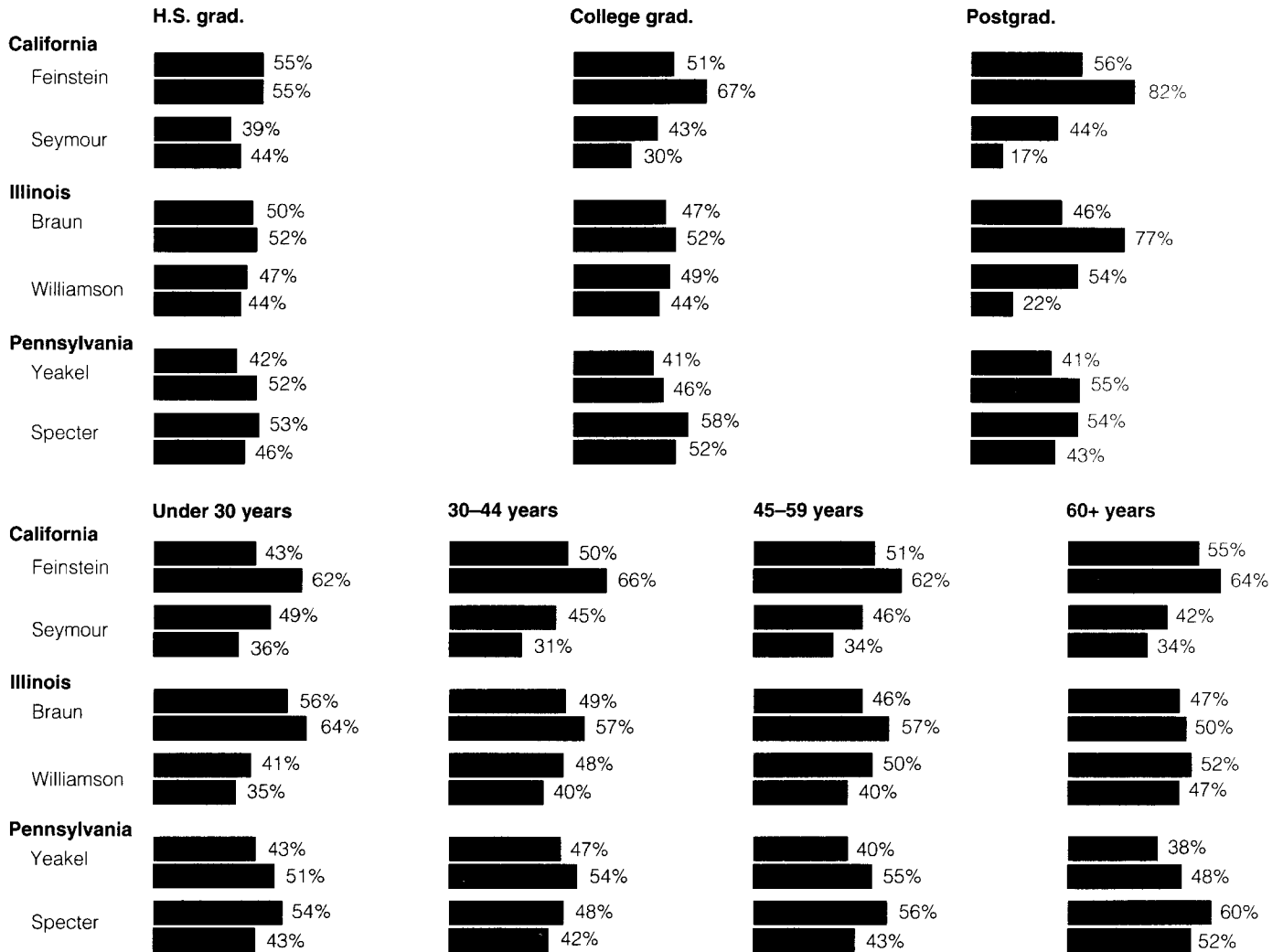
Four of the eleven 1992 Senate races met the test of significance. None of the three gubernatorial races did. Tom Smith's point about women voting for Democratic women is supported by these data. In the two races involving Republican women (one Senate, one gubernatorial), gender differences did not exceed seven points. But of the contests involving Democratic women (ten Senate, two gubernatorial), four have gaps of at least ten, two have gaps of nine. Much of the margin of support that women candidates got among women voters in 1992 as compared to among men voters seemingly resulted from the general inclination of women voters to give more backing than men to Democratic candidates.

**Note:** \*The gender gap is the difference between the margin of support women gave women candidates and their opponents and the margin of support men gave women candidates and their opponents.

Looking at men and women by education and age in three key Senate contests involving women, we find that women were almost always more supportive of the Democratic woman candidate. In these three states, far more women than men said it was very important that more women be elected to the U.S. Senate.

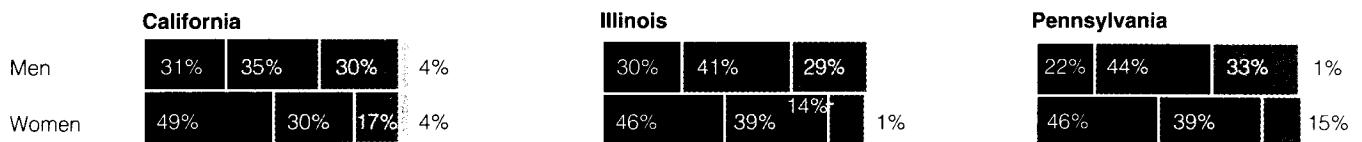
**Selected Senate races involving women**

■ Men ■ Women



Question: **How important is it that more women be elected to the U.S. Senate?**

■ Very important ■ Somewhat important ■ Not important ■ Don't know/no answer



Source: Surveys conducted November 3, 1992, by Voter Research & Surveys, a consortium of ABC News, CBS News, CNN, and NBC News.