



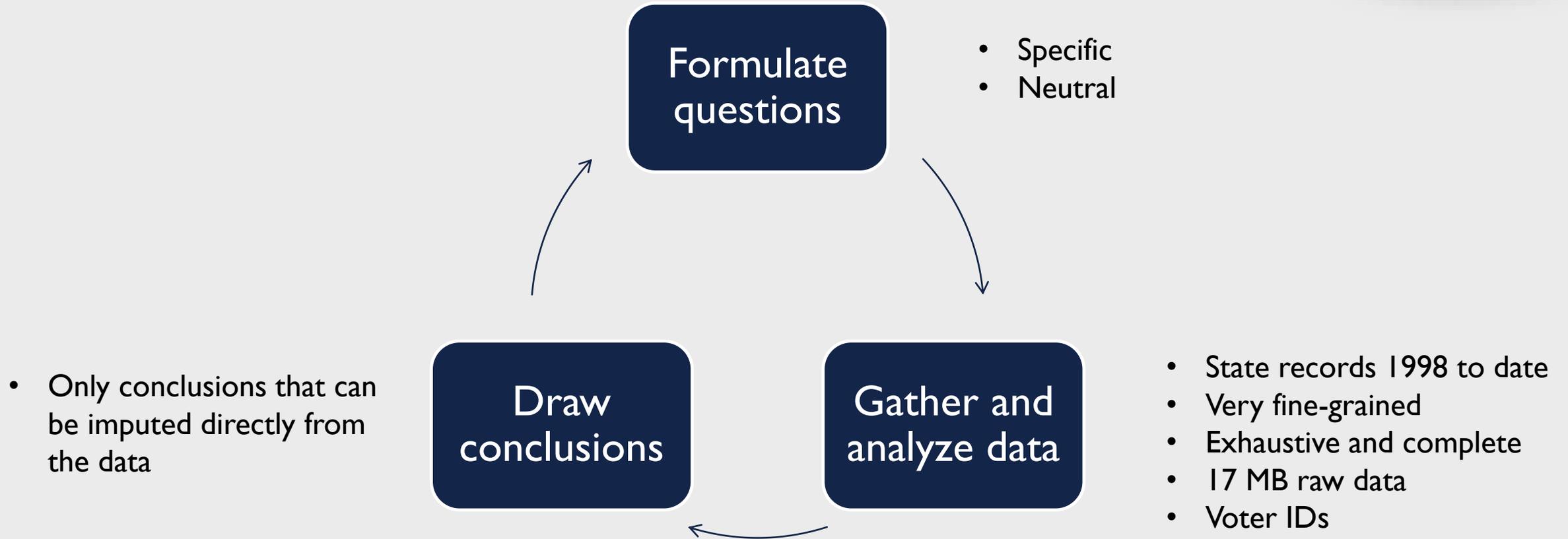
Quantitative Analysis of Resident Participation in Andover's Government

May 20, 2020

1. Methodology

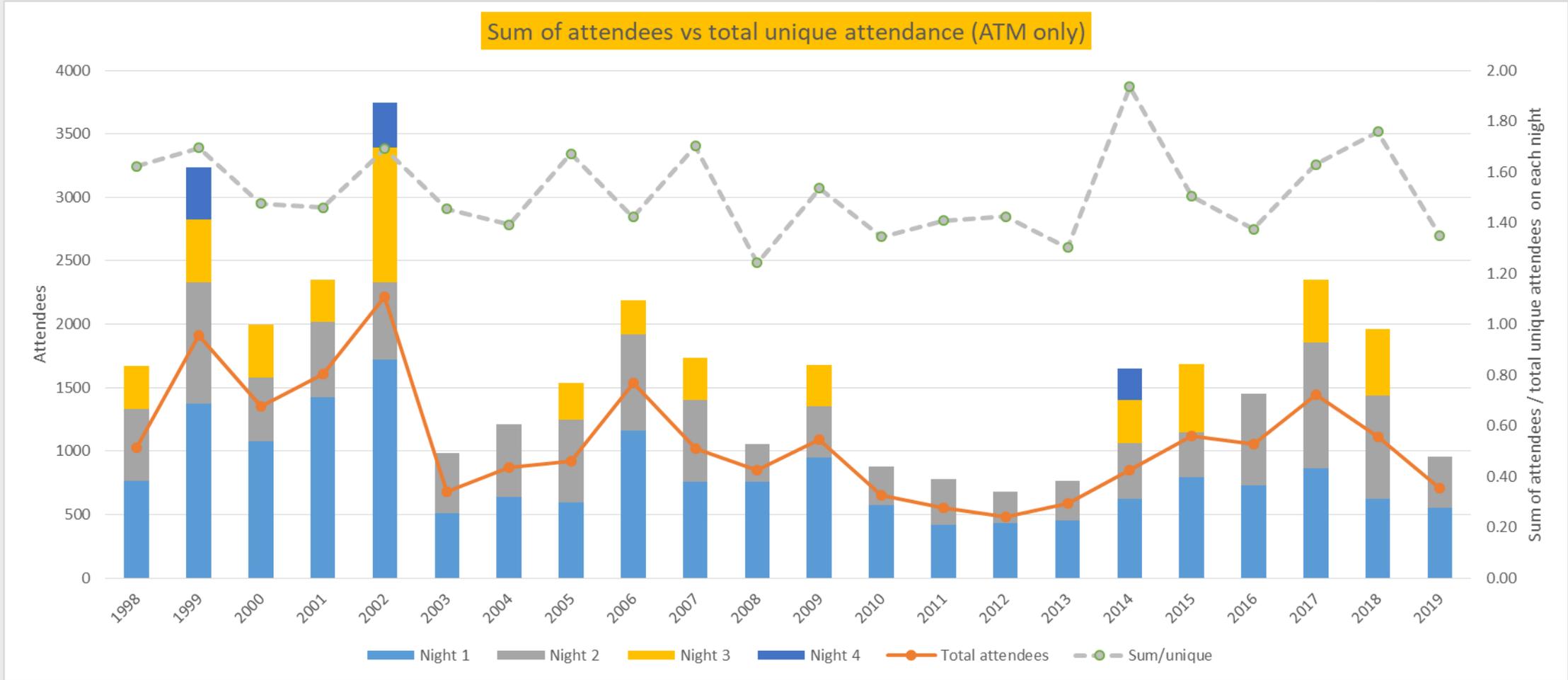
2. Overview of Election and Town Meeting participation, frequency and duration
3. Election and Town Meeting turnout
4. Town Meeting attendance patterns
5. Town Meeting attendance – individuals' behaviors
6. Town Meeting participation by precinct and demographic groups
7. Main Findings

METHODOLOGY

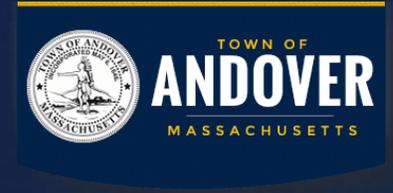


21 Town Elections, 71 nights of 32 Town Meetings, 53864 individuals, | 100s of man-hours

UNIQUE VOTERS VS SUM OF VOTERS



TOPICS



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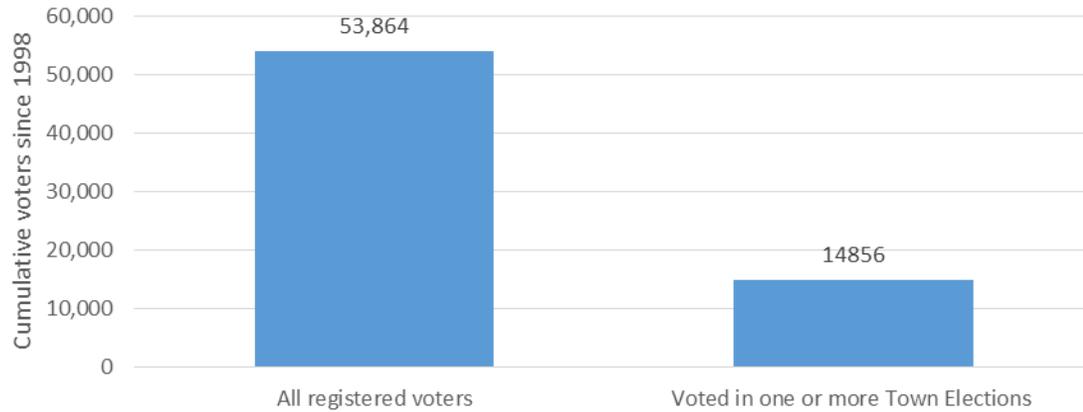
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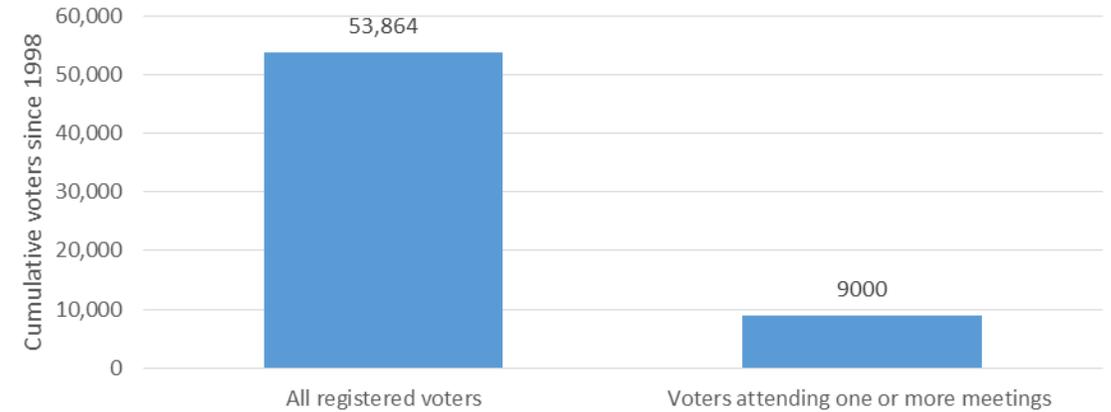
OVERALL ENGAGEMENT



27.6% of registered voters have voted in one or more Town Elections



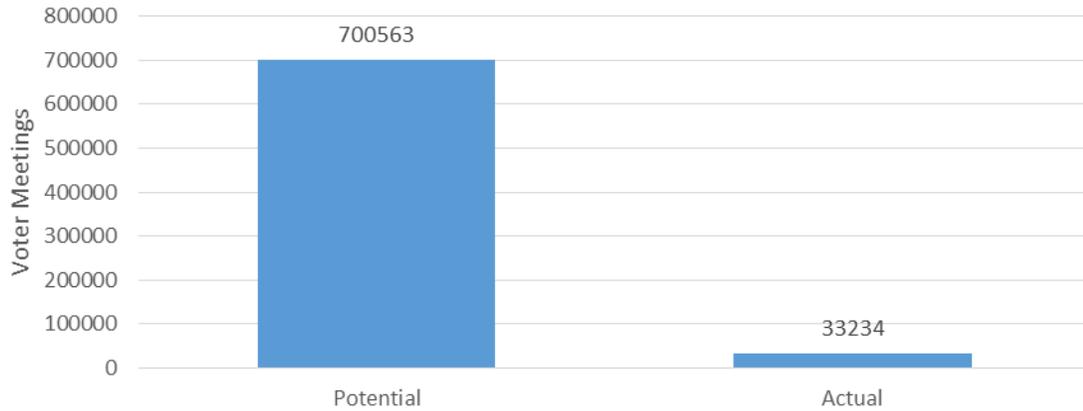
16.7% of registered voters have attended one or more Meetings



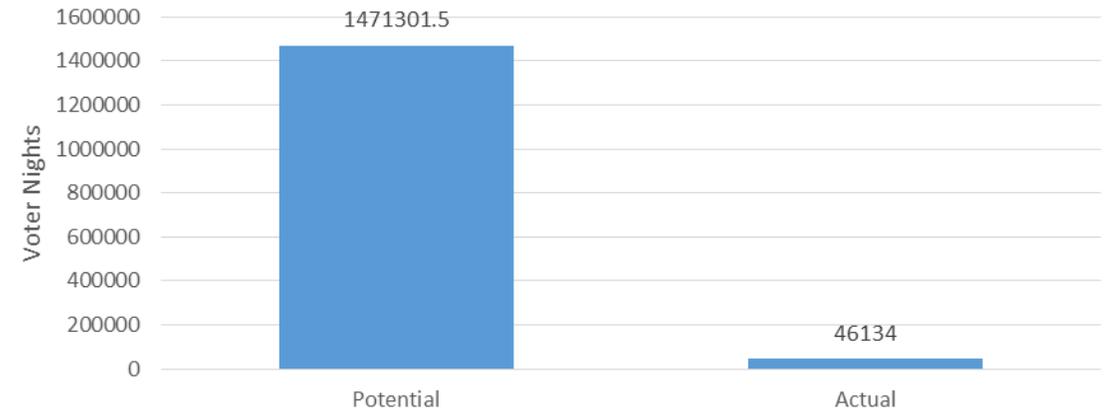
OVERALL ENGAGEMENT – TOWN MEETING ANNUAL AND SPECIAL COMBINED



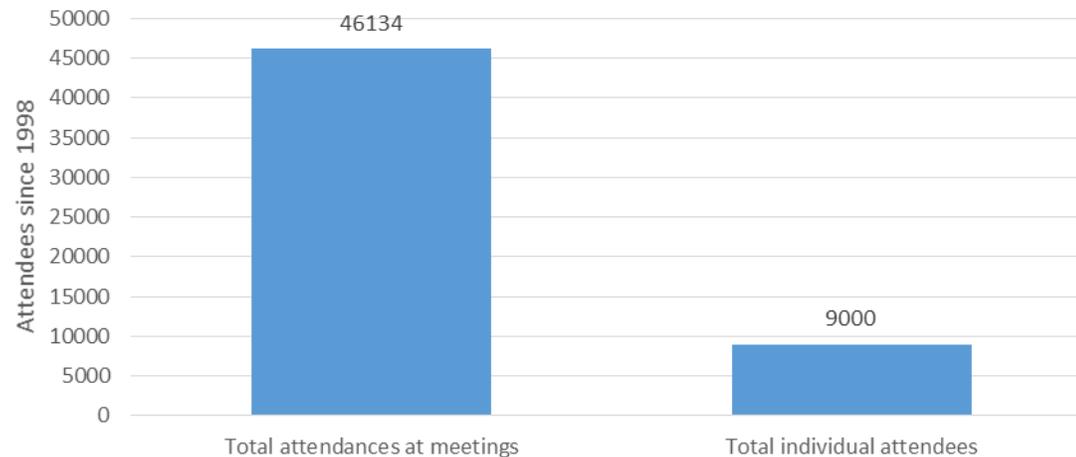
Cumulative attendance equivalent to 4.7% of every voter attending every meeting



Cumulative attendance equivalent to 3.1% of every voter attending every night



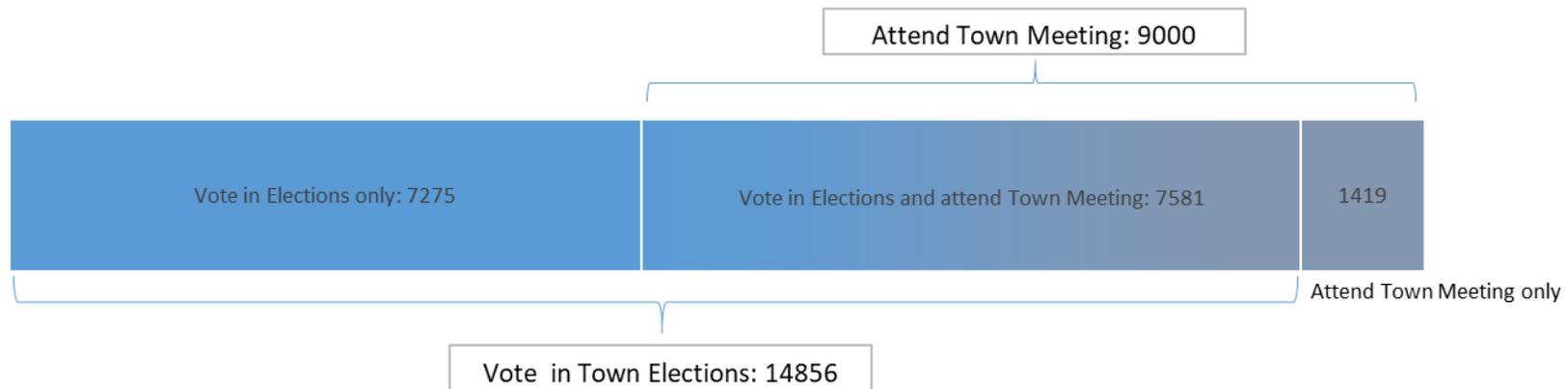
Town Meeting attendees attend 5.1 meetings on average



TOTAL TURNOUT TOWN ELECTIONS AND ALL TOWN MEETINGS



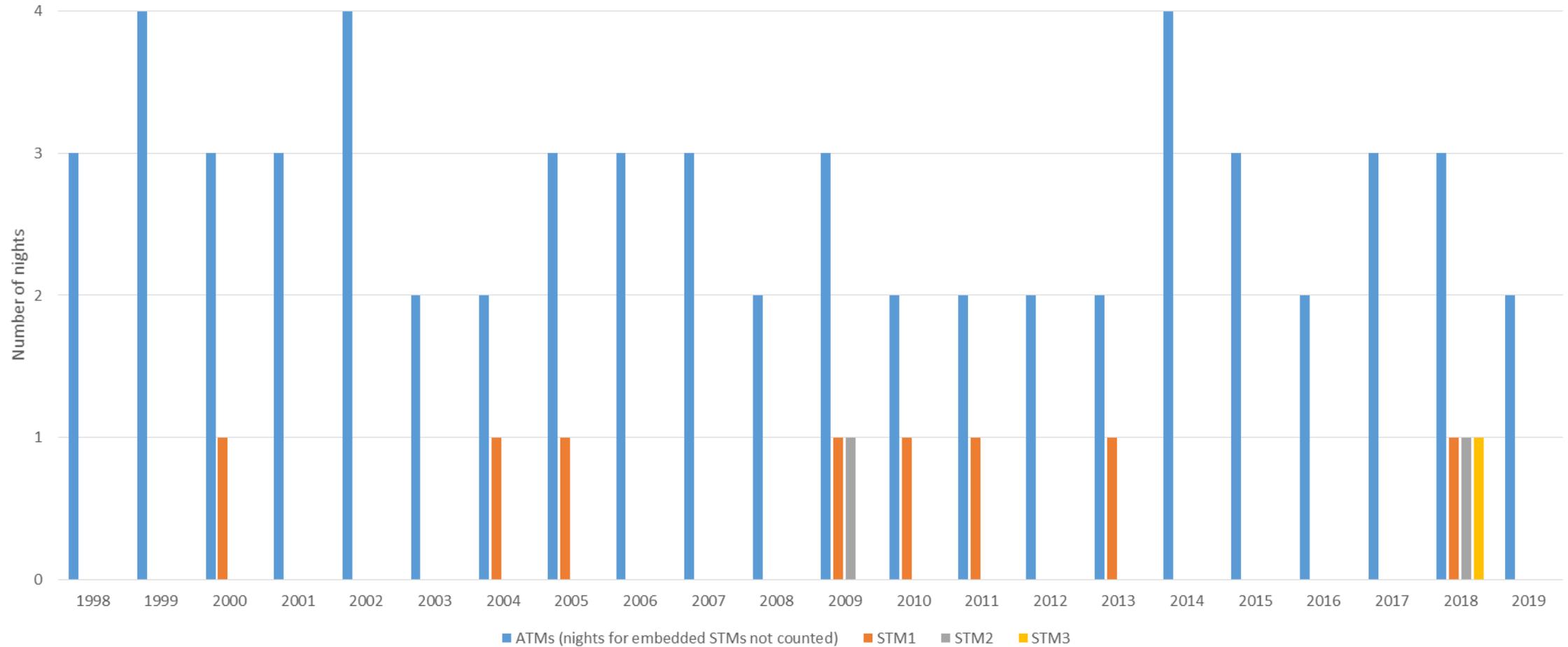
Overlap of voters in elections and Town Meeting attendees
Some Town Meeting attendees do not vote in Town elections



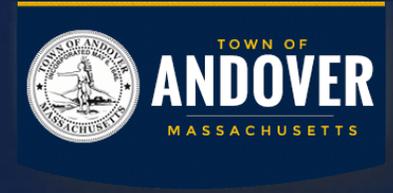
FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF TOWN MEETING



Number of nights per meeting and number of STMs per year



TOPICS



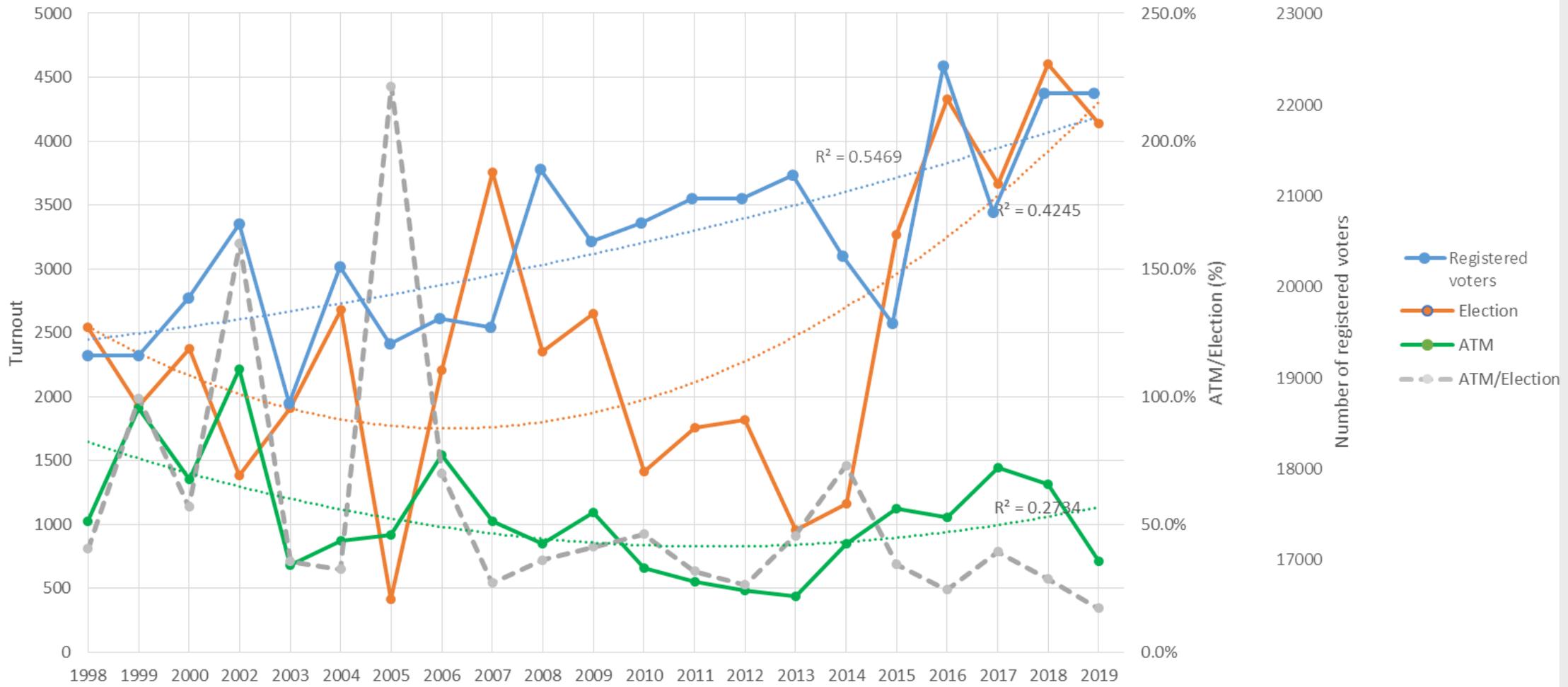
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TURNOUT

TOWN ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



Election turnout and ATM attendance
 Election and ATM declined, recovered. ATM sometimes exceeds Election. No correlation with total registered voters

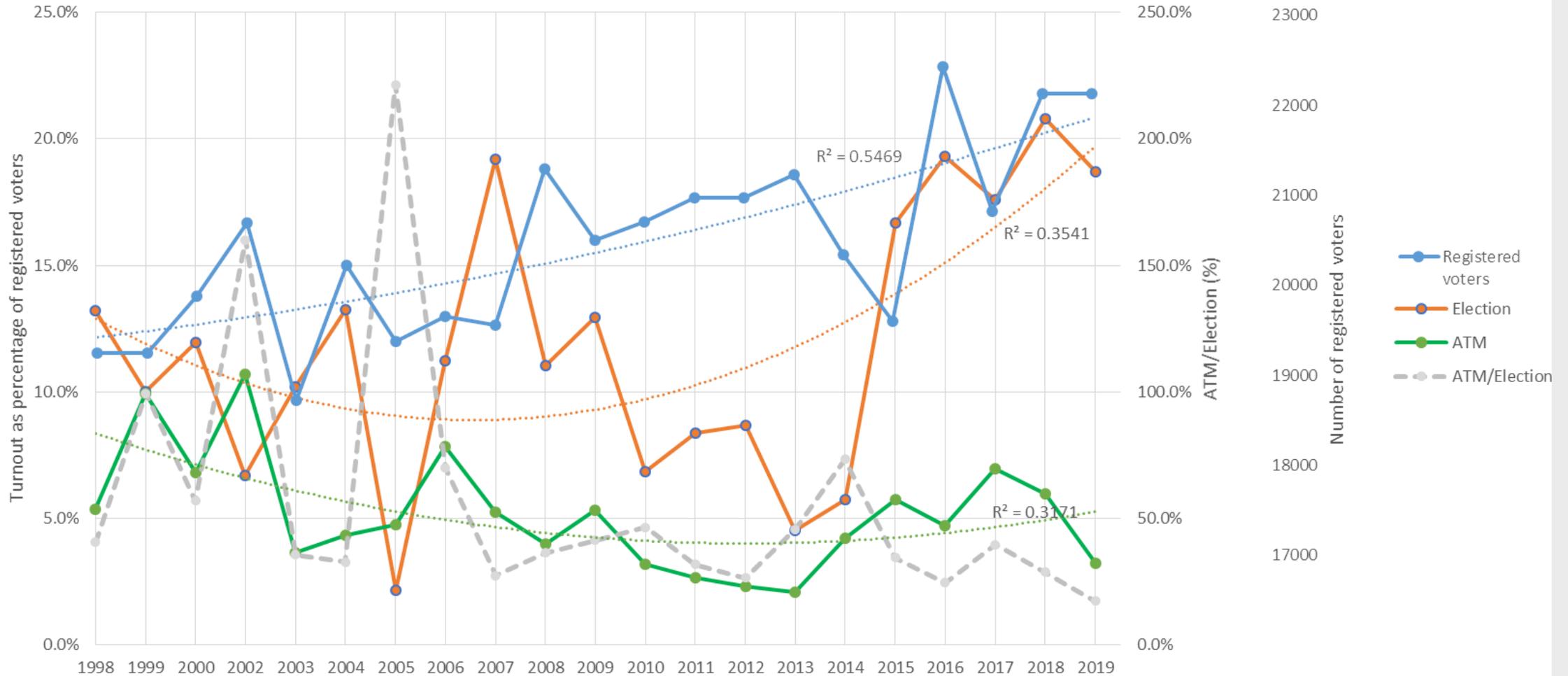


TURNOUT AS PROPORTION OF REGISTERED VOTERS

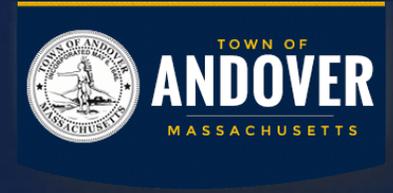
TOWN ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



Election turnout and ATM attendance as percentage of total registered voters
 Election and ATM declined, recovered. ATM sometimes exceeds Election. No correlation with total registered voters

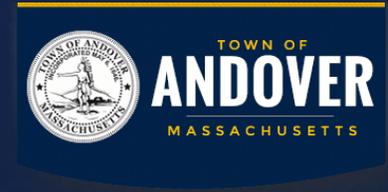


TOPICS

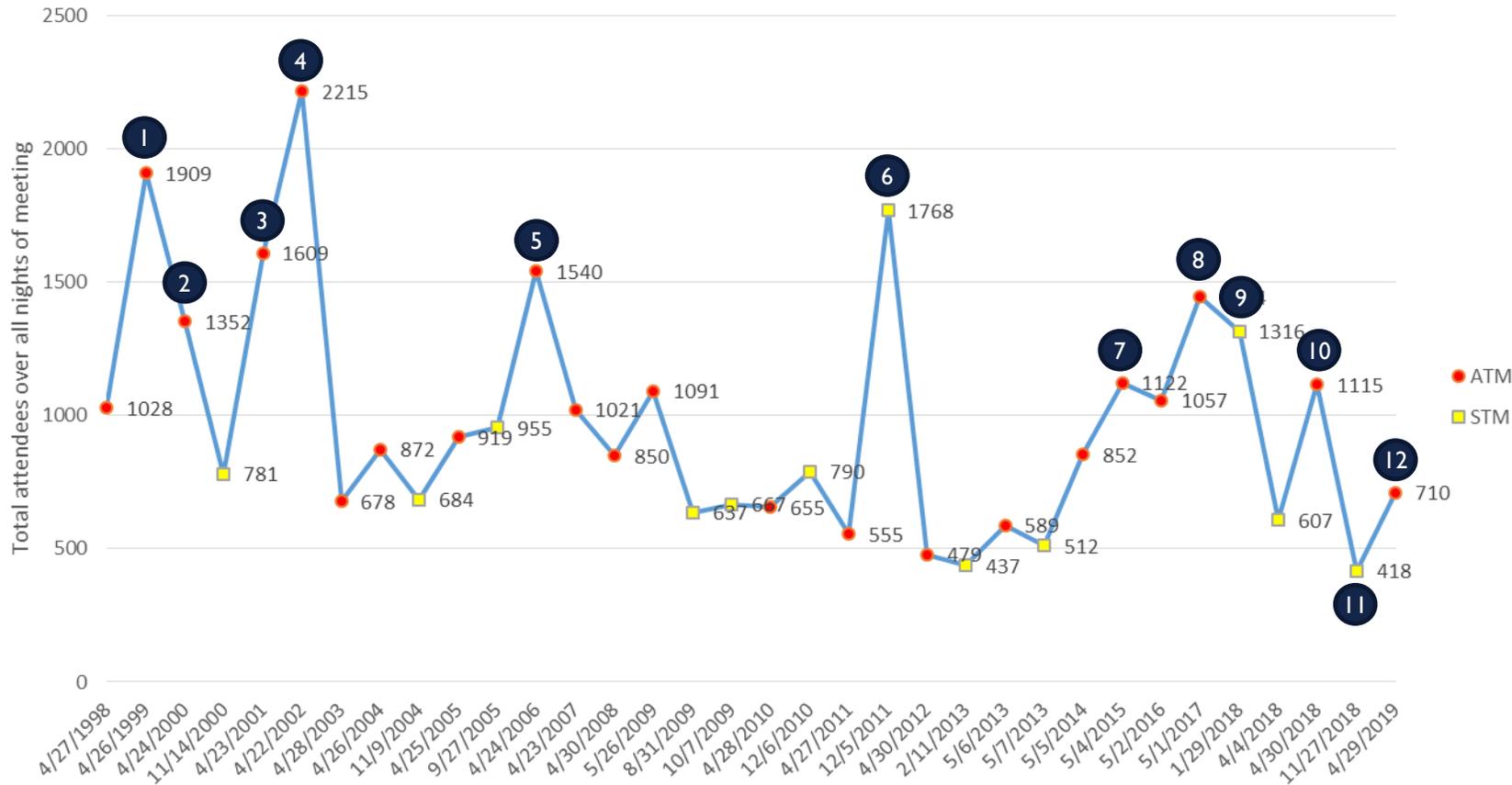


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TOWN MEETING ATTENDANCE IMPACT OF ARTICLES



Town Meeting Attendance (Annual and Special)
Attendance is high for meetings with big-ticket Articles



1. Public Safety Center Override / Community Preservation Act / Cross-districting
2. Middle school construction
3. Zoning Recodification
4. School Override/Zoning bylaws/Playing Fields
5. School budget/Wetlands
6. Youth Center
7. School budget/Zoning bylaws
8. School budget/Zoning bylaws/Dogs
9. Marijuana/Dascombe Road
10. N. Reading water / Marijuana
11. (Ballardvale Fire Station)
12. Senior Center / Select Board name

Key:

Large capital projects

Zoning bylaws

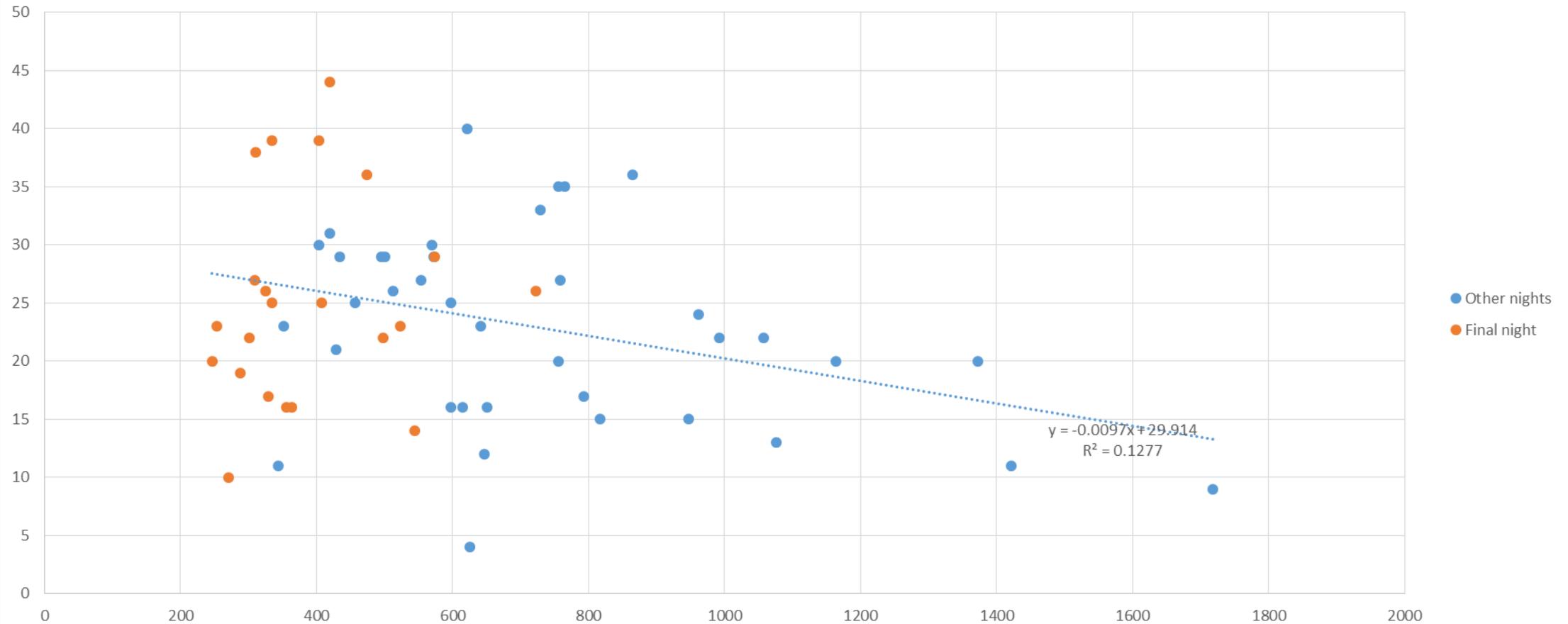
School Operating Budget

Emotive issues

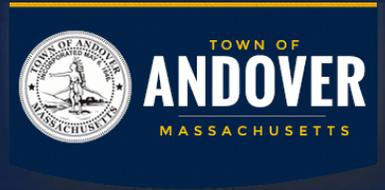
ARTICLES PER NIGHT COMPARED TO ATTENDANCE



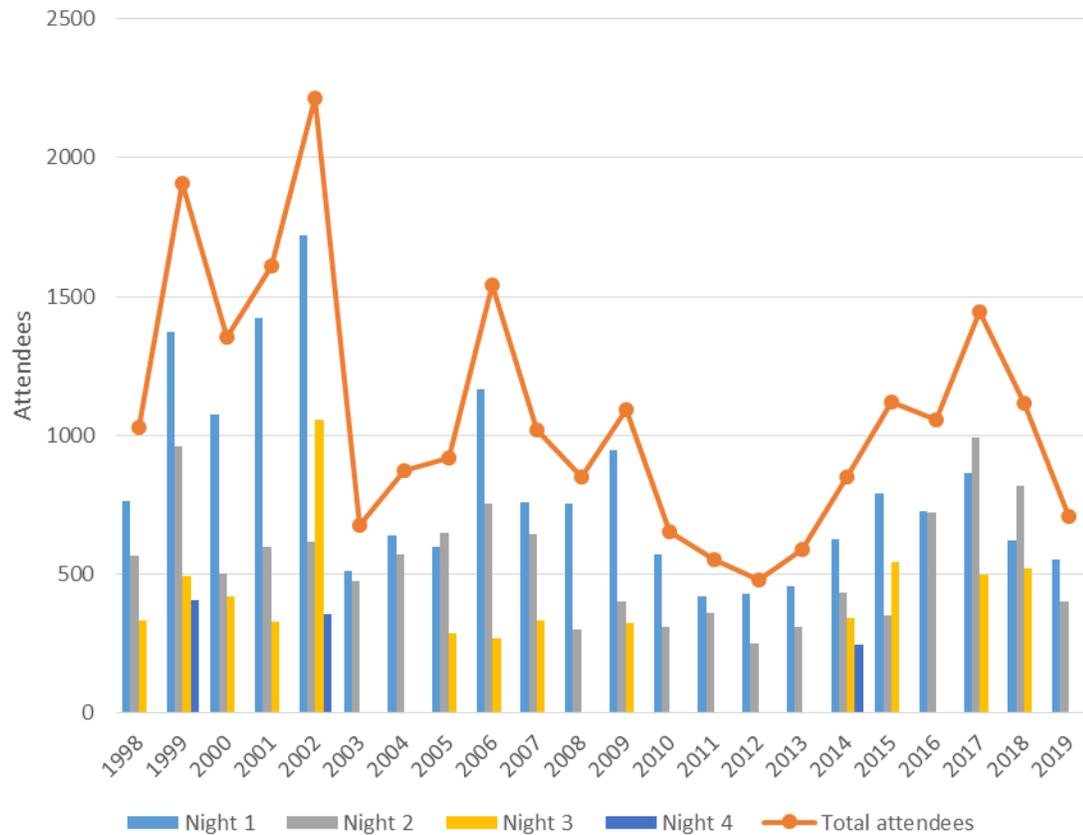
Articles processed per night of ATMs
Fewer articles are processed on nights when more voters are present



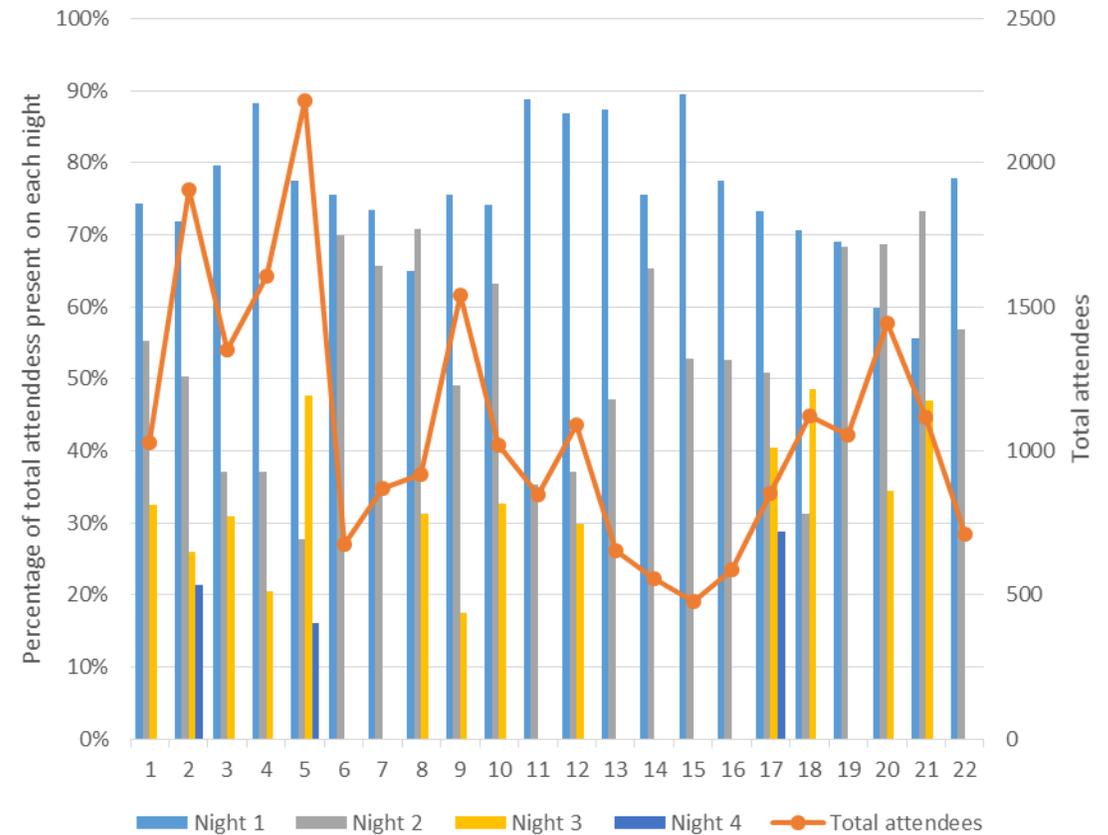
ATTENDANCE ON EACH NIGHT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ONLY



Attendance on each night
(ATM only)



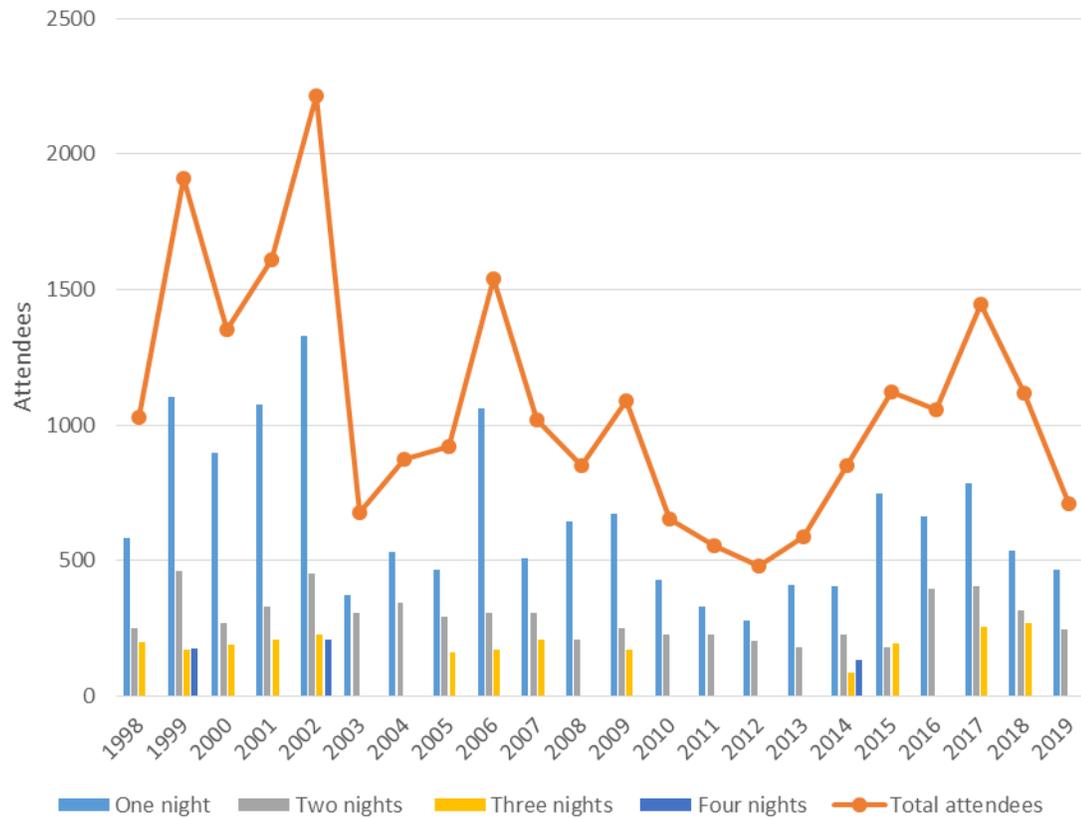
%age of total unique attendees attending each night
(ATM only)



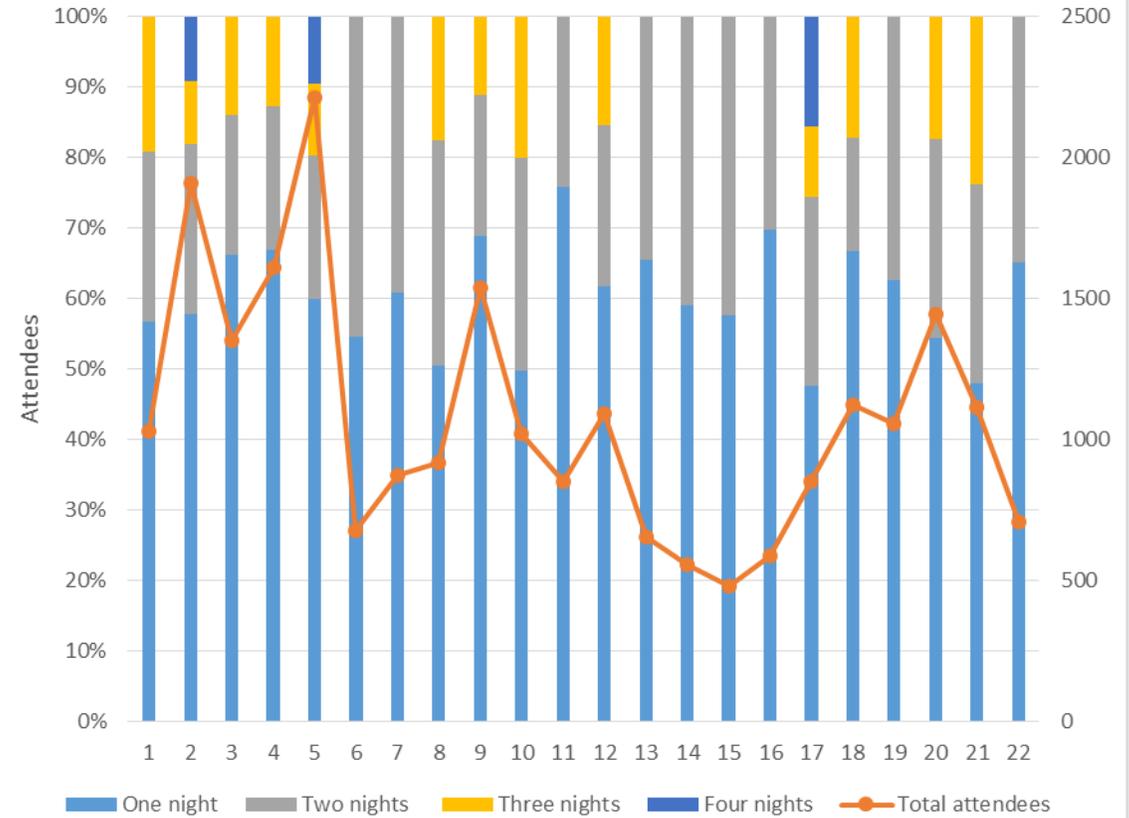
NUMBER OF NIGHTS ATTENDED PER MEETING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ONLY



Count of attendees attending one, two, three or four nights (ATM only)

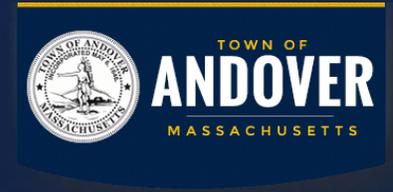


%age of attendees attending one, two, three or four nights (ATM only)

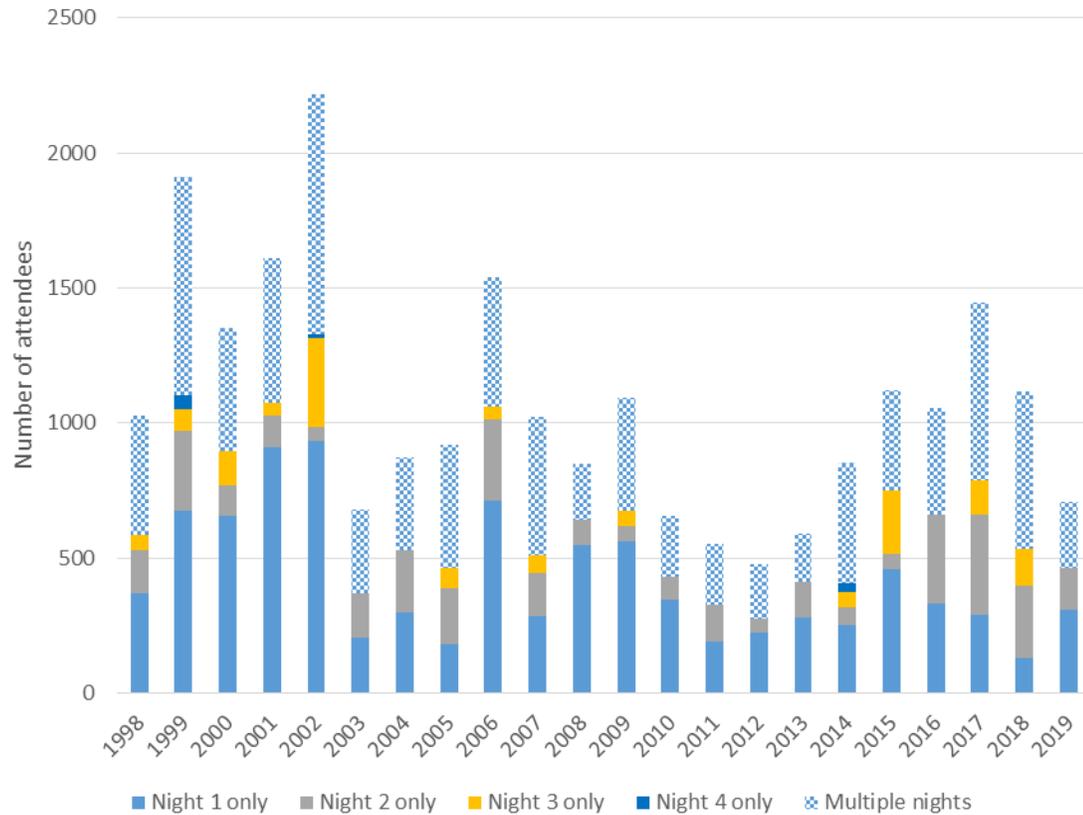


NUMBER OF NIGHTS ATTENDED PER MEETING

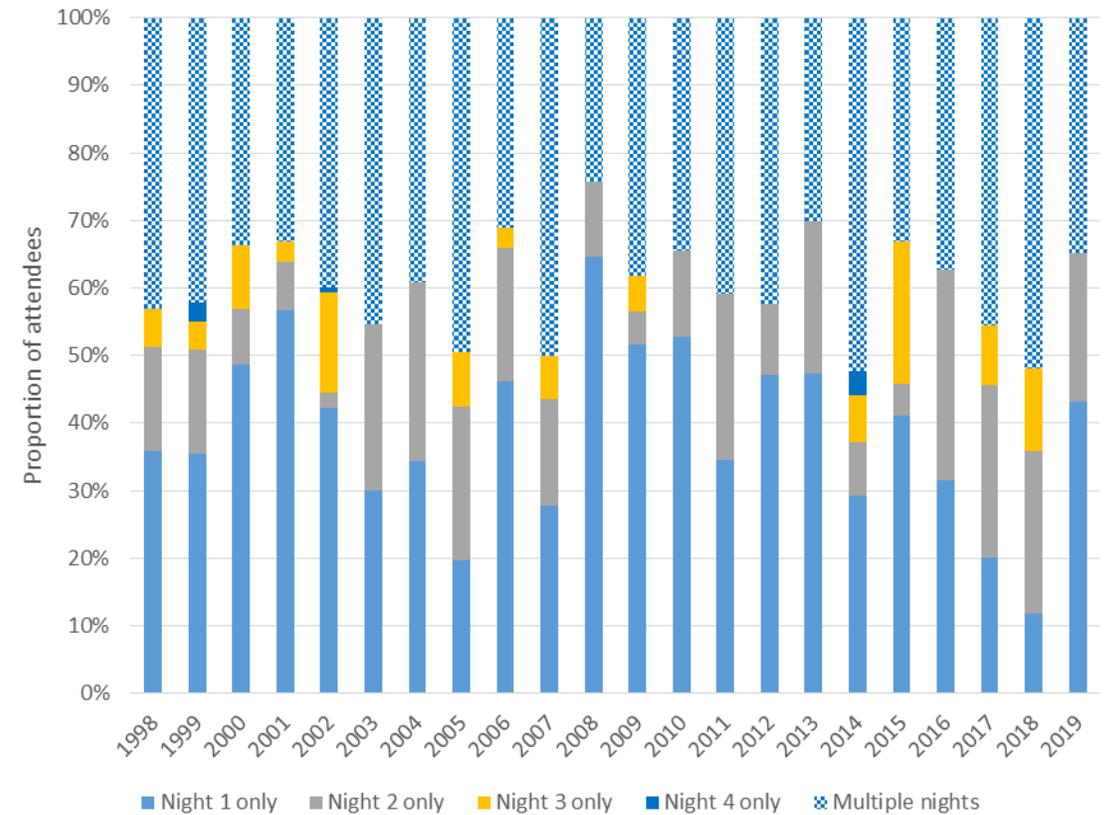
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ONLY



Number attending each of nights 1 - 4 only or multiple nights (ATM only)



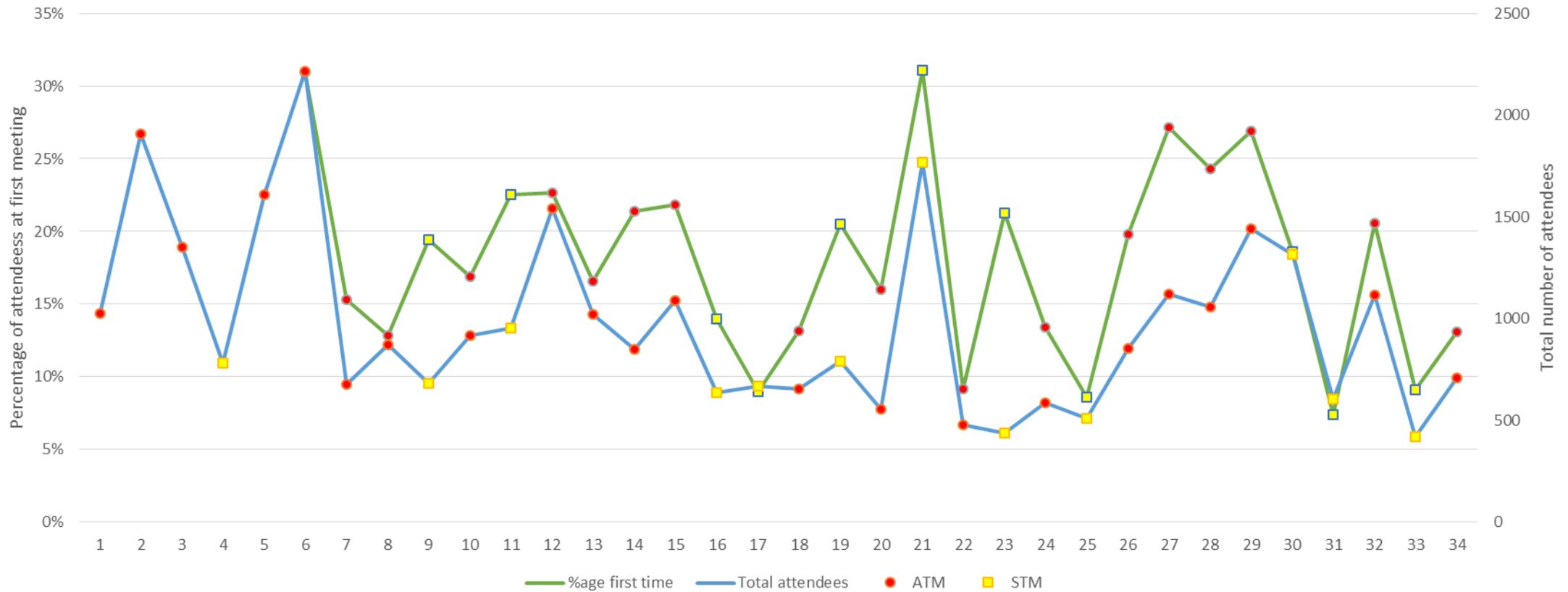
%age attending each of nights 1 - 4 only or multiple nights (ATM only)



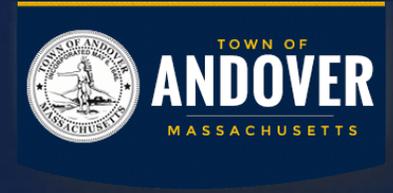
FIRST-TIME ATTENDANCE



%age of attendees at each meeting attending their first meeting
Meetings with higher turnout include a higher proportion of first-time attendees



TOPICS



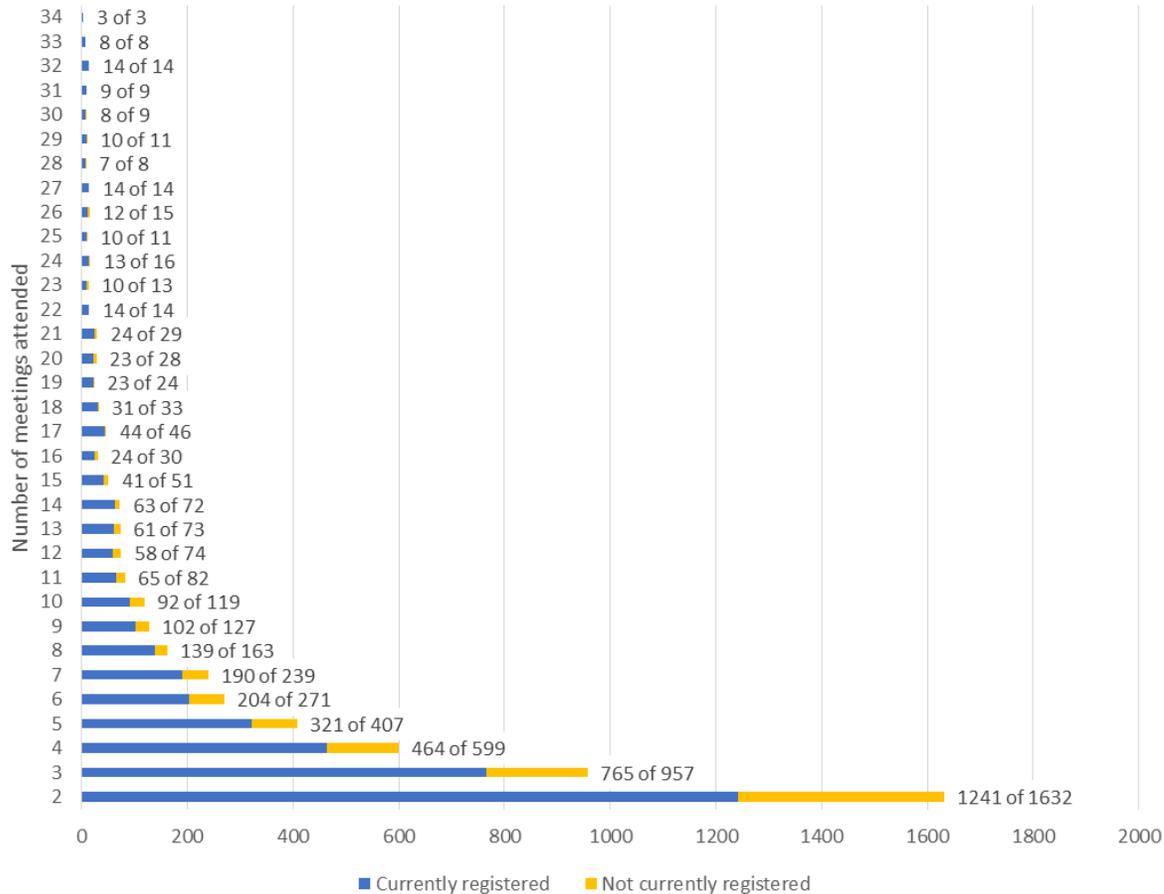
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TOWN MEETING ATTENDANCE AND EXPERIENCE

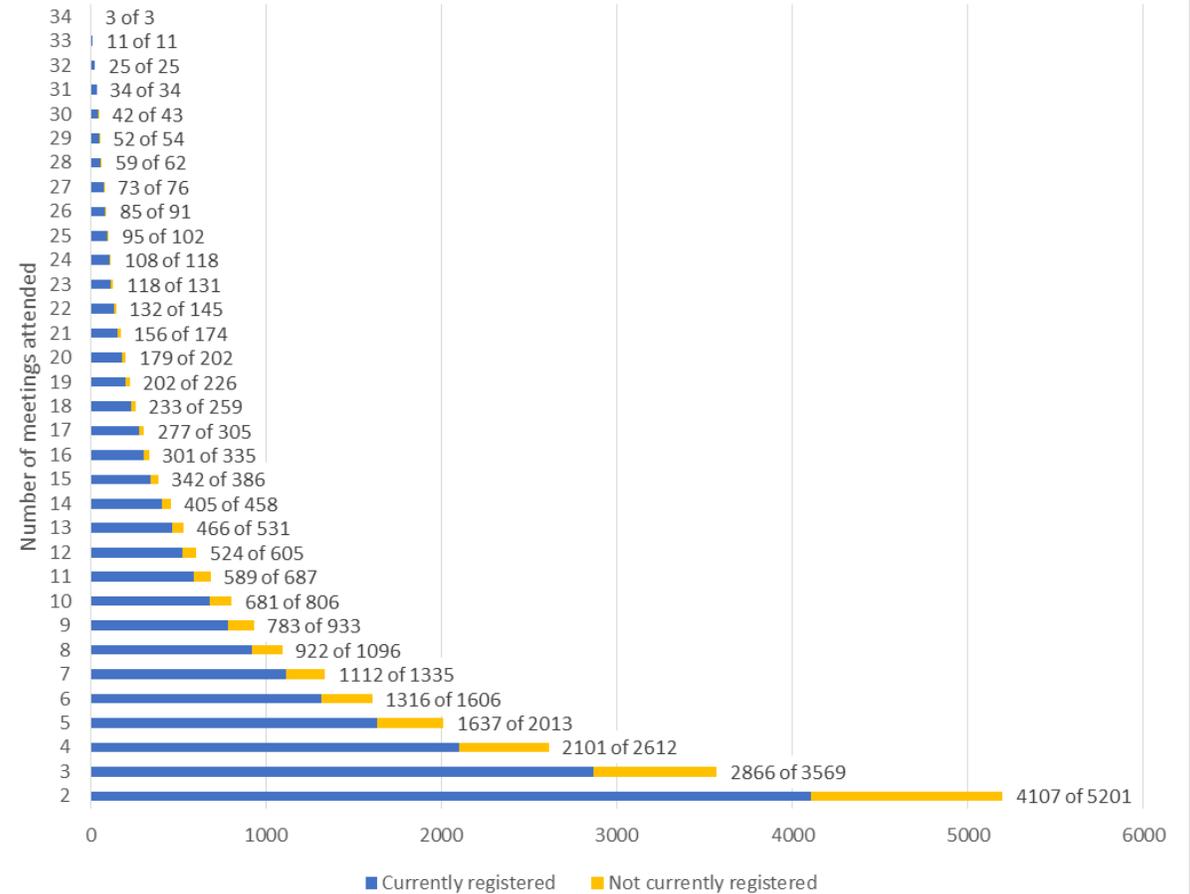
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING



Count of people who attended given number of meetings
(Line for attended one meeting, 2746 of 3799, not shown)

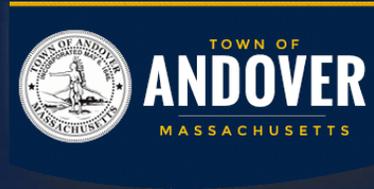


Count of people who attended given number of meetings or more
(Line for attended one meeting, 6853 of 9000, not shown)

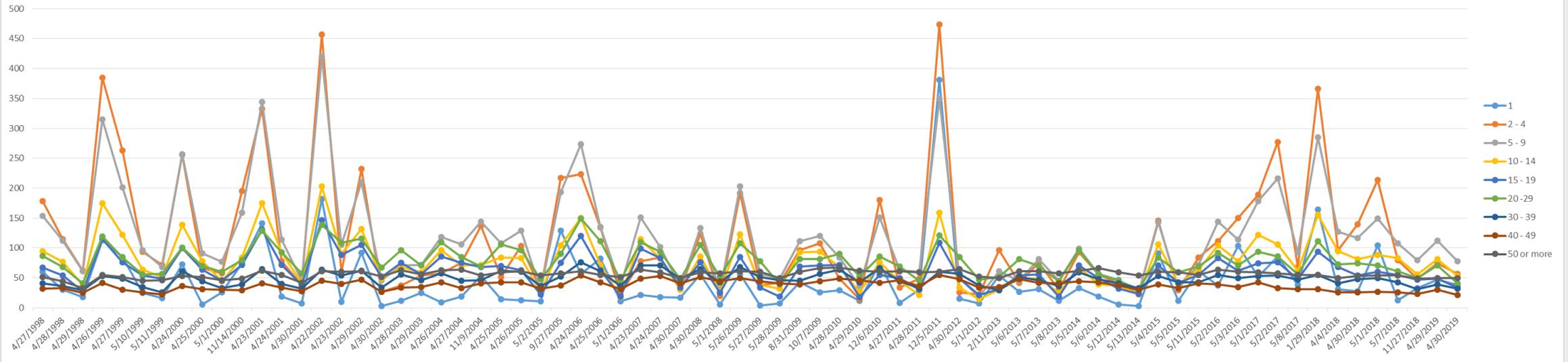


EXPERIENCE IN DETAIL

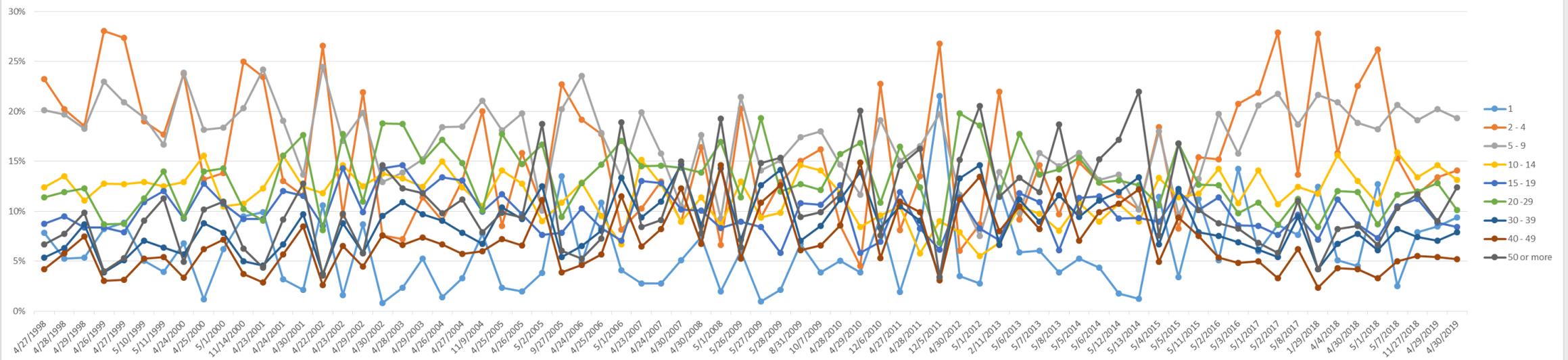
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING



Number on each night who have attended given number of nights



%age on each night who have attended given number of nights

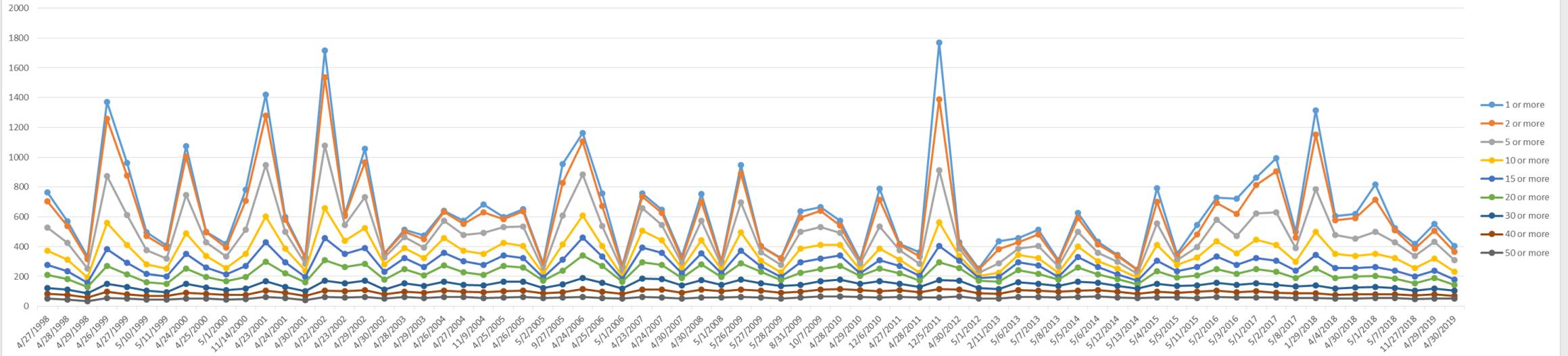


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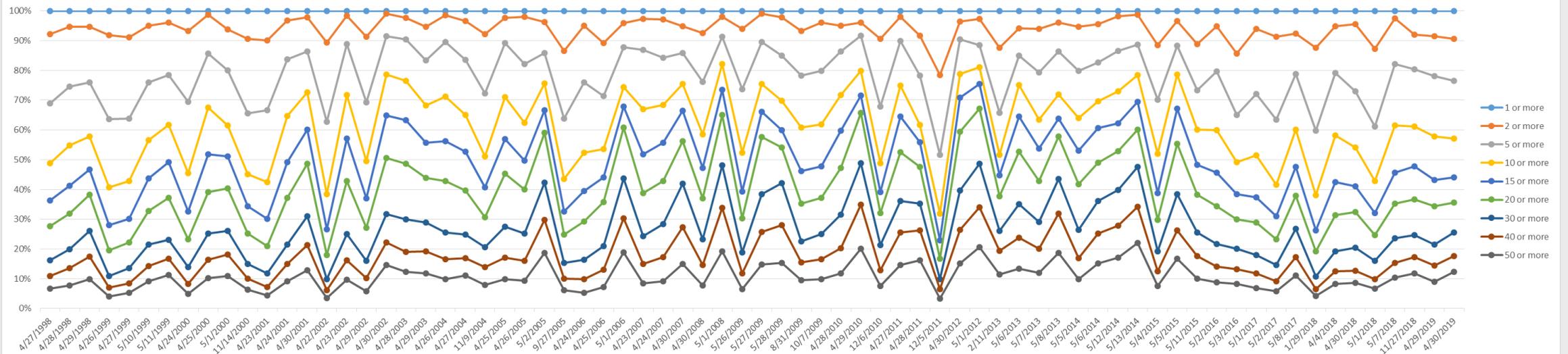
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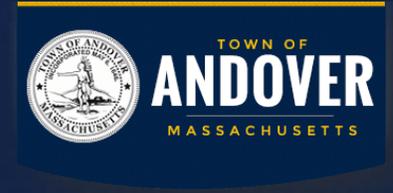
Number on each night who have attended given number of nights or more



%age on each night who have attended given number of nights or more

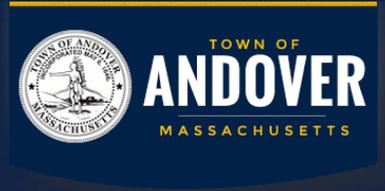


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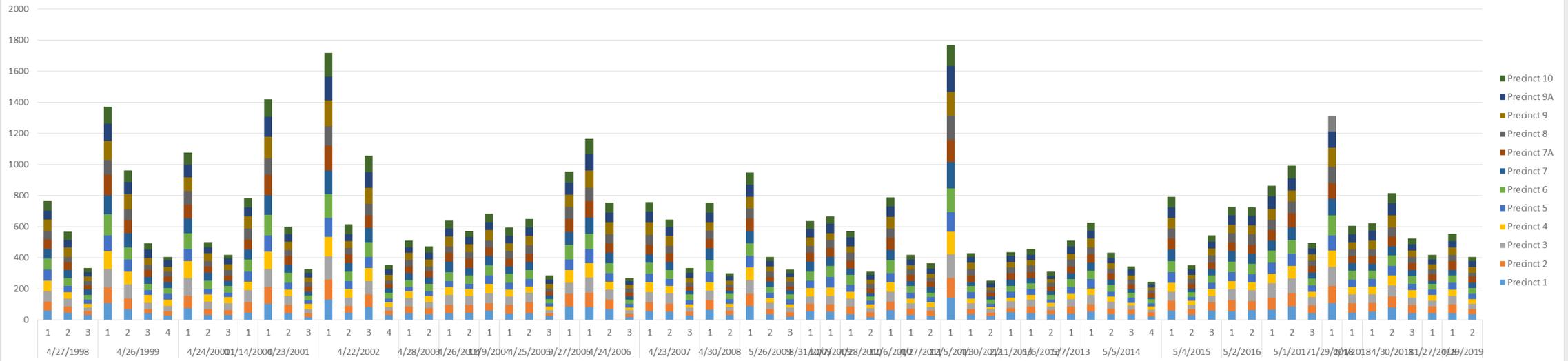


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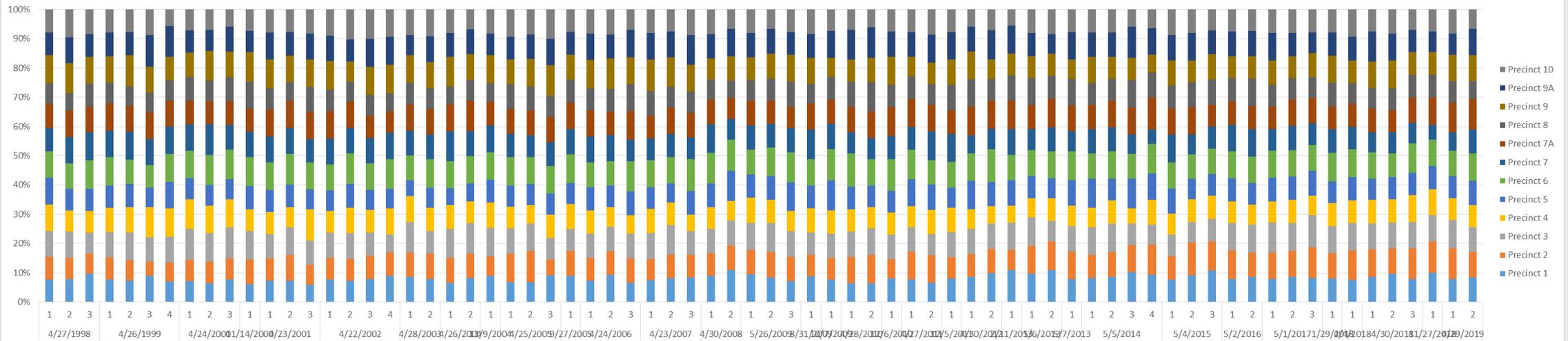
TOWN MEETING GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATIVENESS



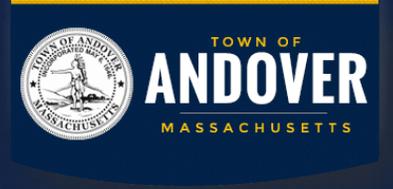
Voters attending by Precinct



Percentage of attendees on each night from each Precinct
Each precinct is approximately equally represented on every night



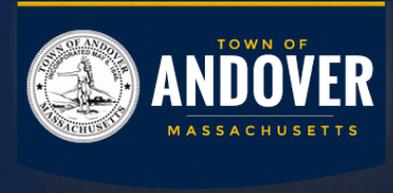
TOWN MEETING DEMOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATIVENESS



- Precincts are created to be similar in number of voters. Demographics are not considered
- In Andover, Precincts represent substantially different mixes of demographic constituencies
 - For example: No high-density housing in Precinct 7; only recently been constructed in Precinct 5
- We can therefore consider Precincts to be proxies for different demographic mixes
- Precincts are equally represented at Town Meeting (geographic representativeness)

- This suggests that different mixes of demographic constituencies are also equally represented

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MAIN FINDINGS



- Data covered 1998 through 2019, with 21 Town Elections and 34 Town Meetings (Annual and Special).
- 53864 individuals have been registered to vote in Andover in this period. 14856 (27.6%) have voted in one or more Town Elections. 9000 (16.7%) have attended one or more Town Meetings
- Total attendance across all nights of each Town Meeting ranges from 500 (5% - 6% of electorate) to 2215 people (10.7%)
- Attendance is high at Town Meetings (and even on nights) when “big ticket” Articles are considered, and falls to the 500 baseline if not. Taking this into consideration, attendance is stable year on year in both absolute numbers and proportion of registered voters
- Those attending a Town Meeting have attended 5.1 Town Meetings on average. 800 individuals have attended 10 or more, which equates to about 250 highly experienced attendees at each meeting.
- 3799 voters have only ever attended one Town Meeting. We need to understand why
- The level of representation, as measured by turnout or attendance as the proportion of voters registered, has increased for Town Elections and been stable for Town Meetings as the number of voters registered in Andover has increased
- All precincts are equally represented at Town Meetings, meeting after meeting. Town Meeting is geographically representative. There is no evidence of parochial behavior
- Three people have attended all 34 Town Meetings since 1998. One of these has attended every night (71 in total)

QUESTIONS?



TOWN OF
ANDOVER
MASSACHUSETTS

