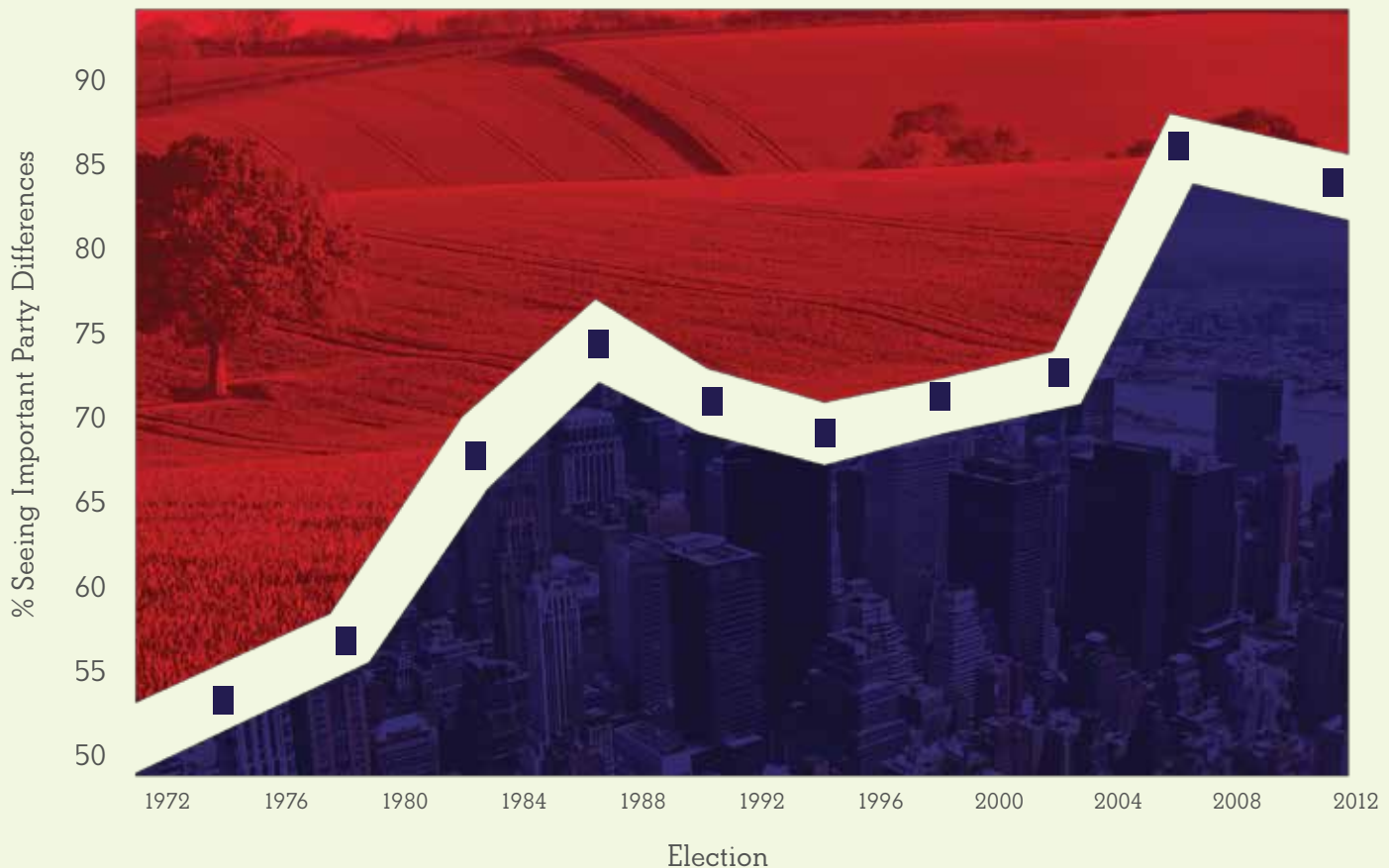


# CIVICS IN A PARTISAN AGE:

## Media Literacy and the Challenge of Misinformation

Percentage of Voters Perceiving Important Party Differences, 1972-2012



Source: American National Election Studies Cumulative File

### Partisanship On The Rise

The percentage of voters who perceive important party differences has grown from about 54% in 1972 to nearly 85% in 2012, according to the American National Election Studies Cumulative File.

**What does this mean for America?**

## Partisanship Shapes Opinions, Belief In Facts

Partisanship bias effects both liberals and conservatives.



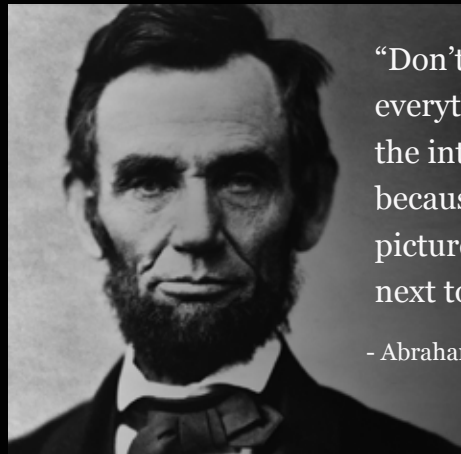
When shown a wildly inaccurate claim that **ALIGNED** with their policy perspective on income inequality and taxes, 58% said it was accurate.



When shown a wildly inaccurate claim that **DID NOT ALIGN** with their policy perspective on income inequality and taxes, only 37% said it was accurate.

## Judging Accuracy is More Difficult in the Digital Age

The Internet makes it easier to create and share inaccurate claims, and harder to tell what websites are credible. Thus, the need for media literacy in the digital age is greater than ever.



“Don’t believe everything you read on the internet just because there is a picture with a quote next to it.”

- Abraham Lincoln

## Study Finds Media Literacy Education Can Help

According to a Youth and Participatory Politics survey, youth with no civic media literacy learning were just as likely to judge inaccurate posts as accurate as they were posts that used factually accurate evidence.



The survey found that 84% of young people would like to learn how to tell if online news and information is trustworthy.



Young people who received civic media literacy learning opportunities were 26% more likely to judge an evidence-based post as “accurate” than they were to judge an inaccurate post as “accurate,” even when both posts aligned with their perspective on an issue.

## Two Key Goals for Media Literacy Education



### 1. Cultivate concern for whether content is accurate.

Example: Educators might stress the need to carefully assess the credibility of varied political claims and highlight why circulation of inaccurate claims undermines our ability to solve particular problems, trust those with whom we may disagree, and value democratic institutions.



### 2. Provide skills and strategies for assessing the accuracy of truth claims.

Example: Educators might highlight reliable source-checking websites, practice finding out background information on groups making varied claims, and practice doing online research and locating high quality sources of information on varied issues.

#### CREDITS

Source: Kahne, J. & Bowyer, B.T. (2016). "Civic Education in a Partisan Age: Confronting the Challenges of Motivated Reasoning and Misinformation." American Educational Research Journal.

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