Nationalization & the 2022 Michigan Election

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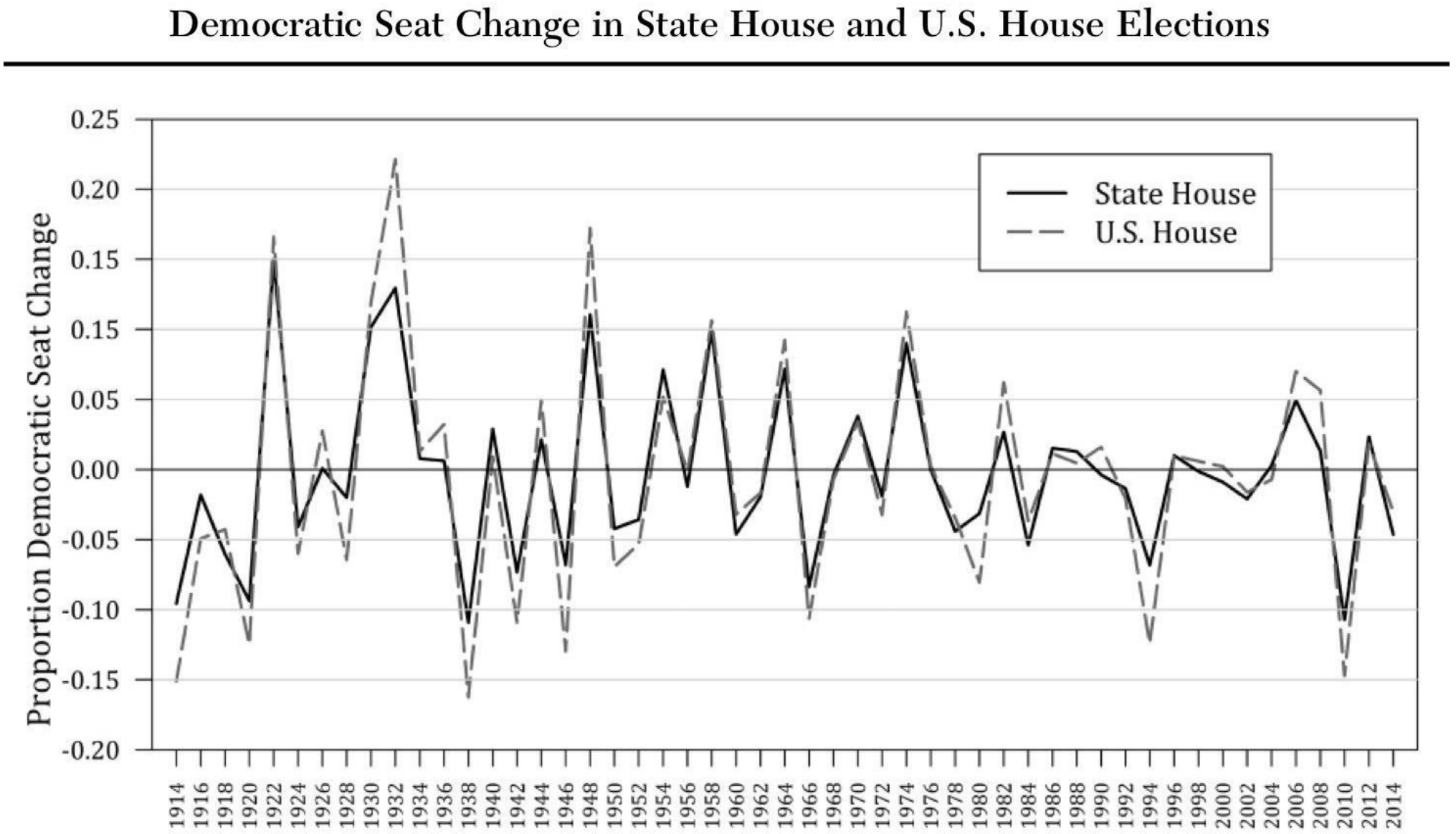
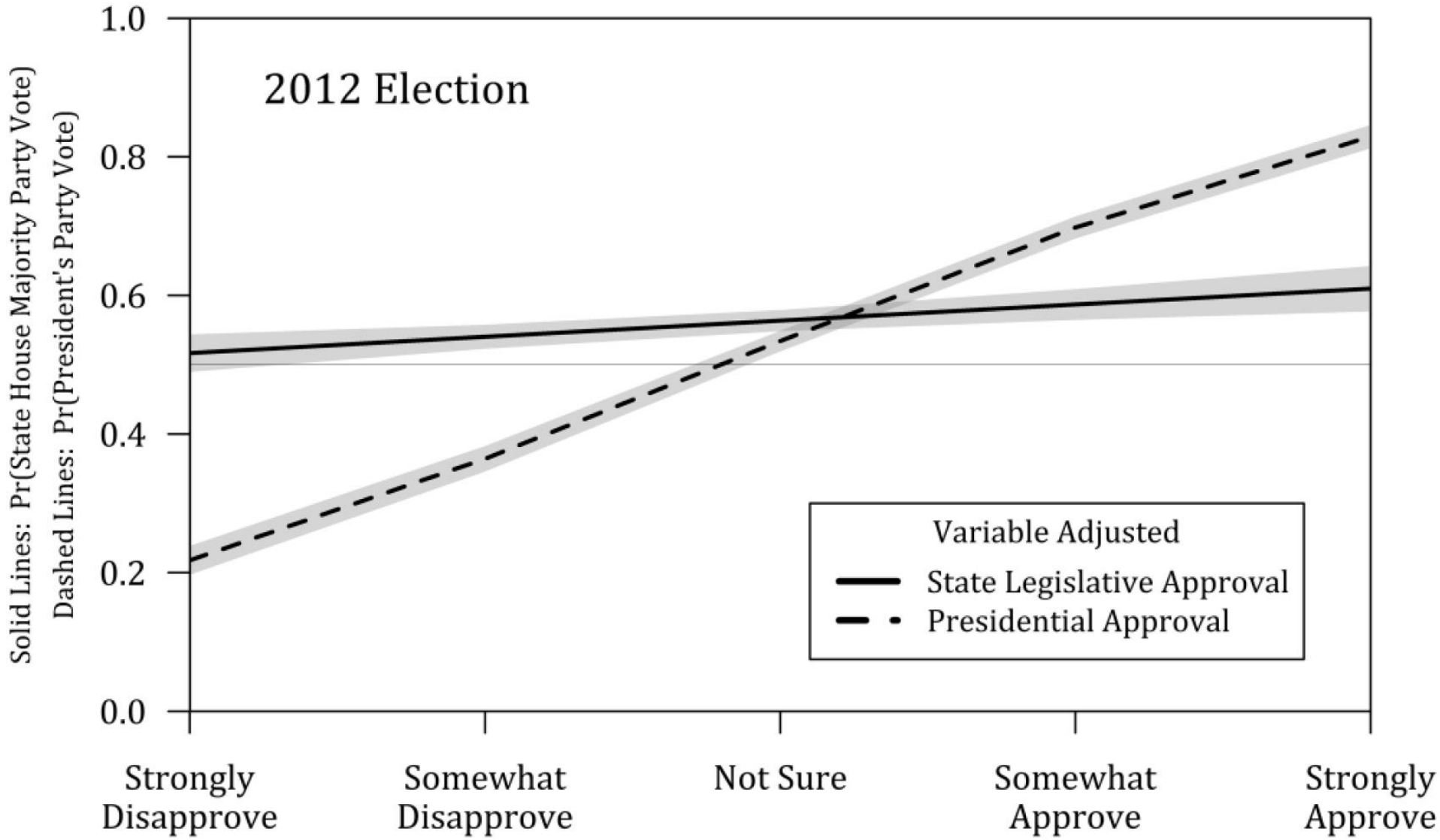
Michigan Political Leadership Program

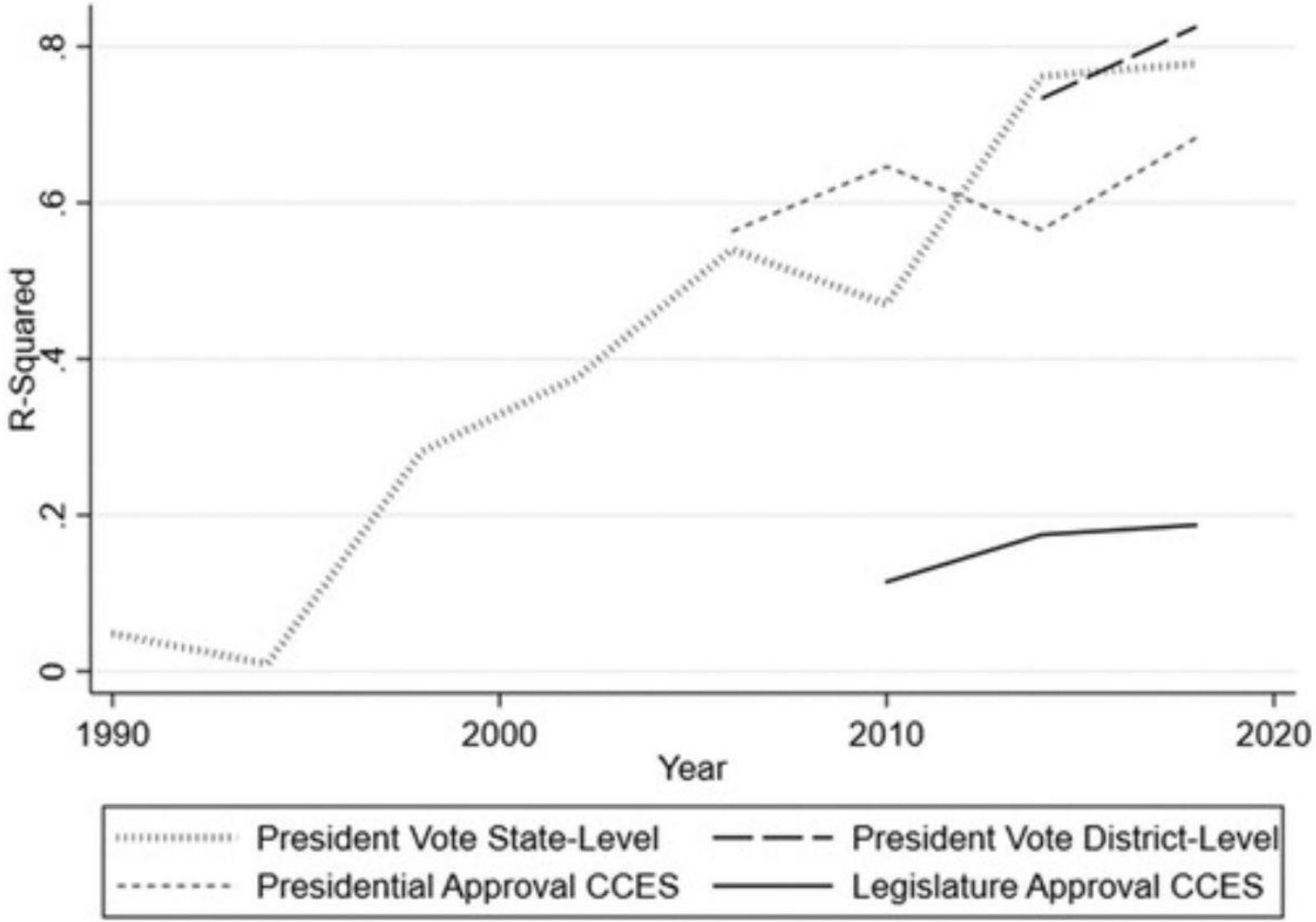
Partisan Elections and Partisan Change



State Legislative Votes & Presidential Approval



Nationalization in State Legislatures



Nationalization of Governor Elections

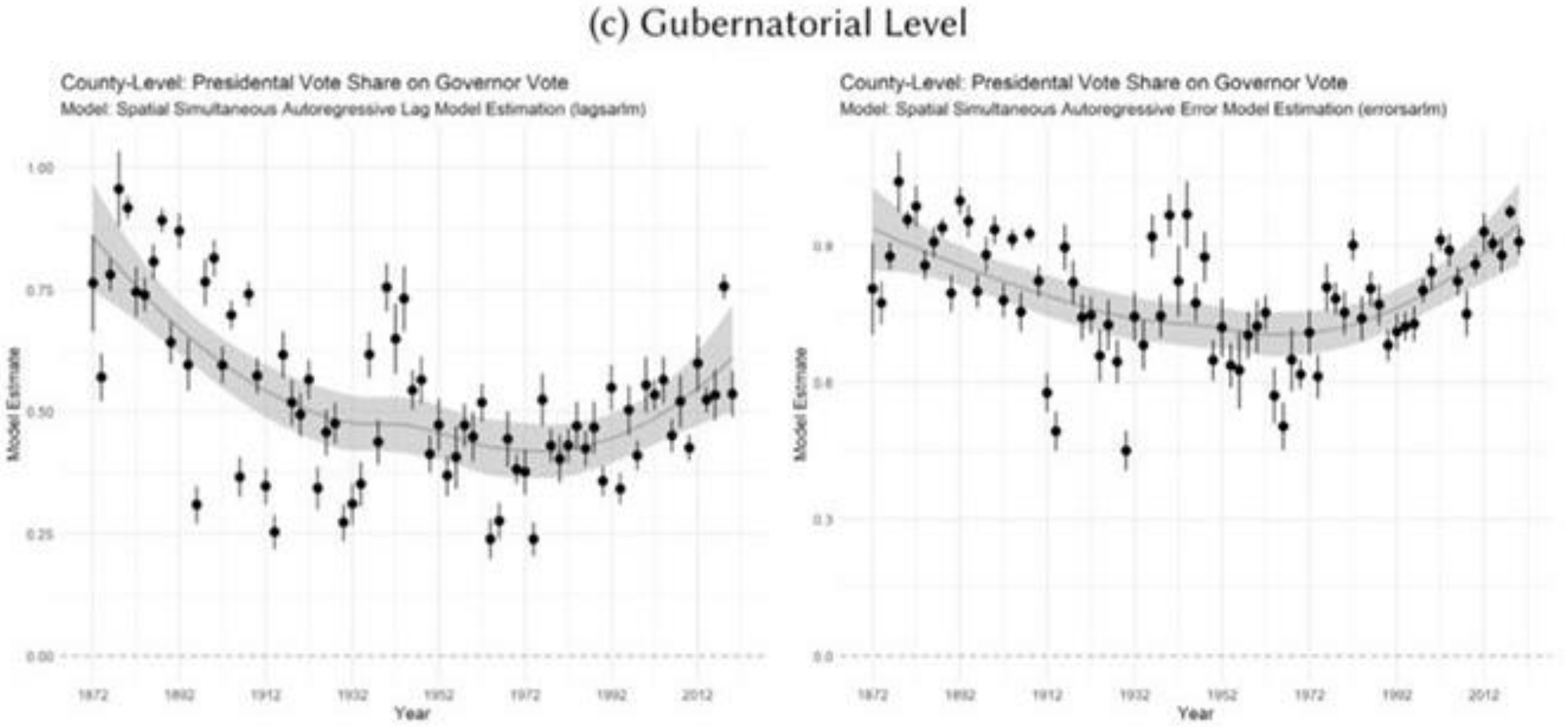


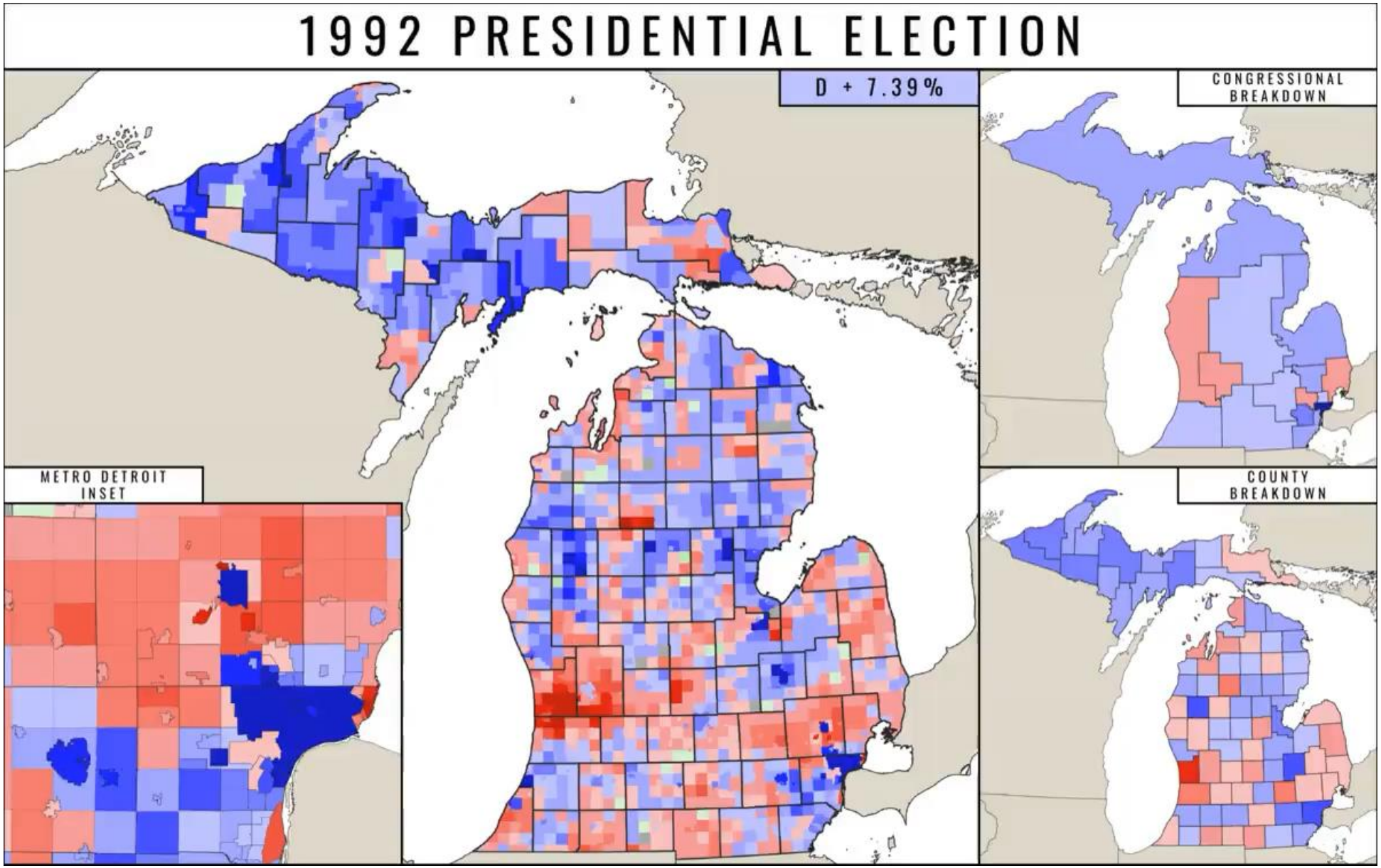
Fig. 3. Spatial models of Nationalization in Presidential, Senatorial & Gubernatorial Elections, 1872–2020.

Party Out of Presidency Does Better

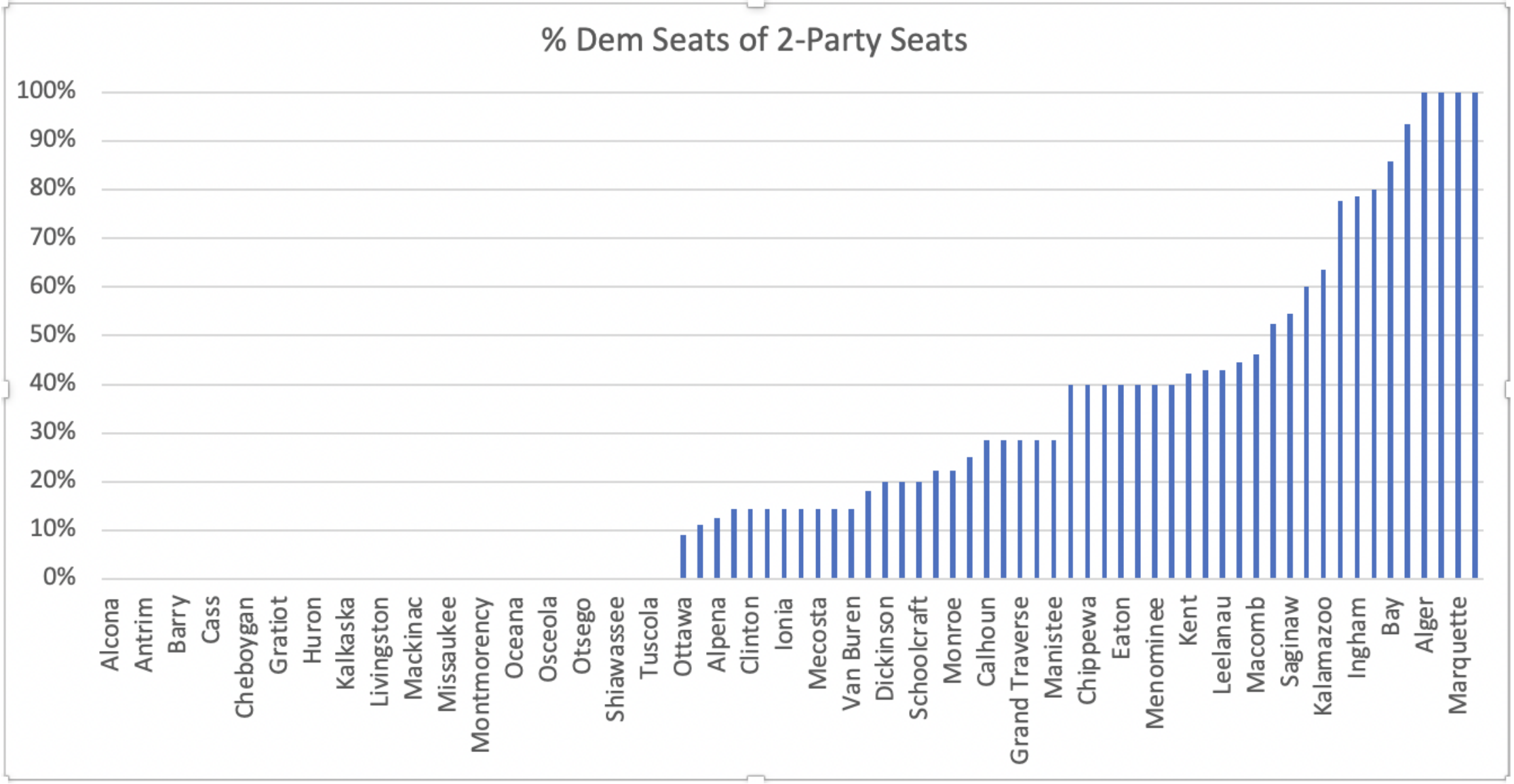
Party Performance in Michigan Midterm Elections

		Gubernatorial Elections		Legislative Gains	
	President	Winner	Margin	Senate	House
2014	Obama	Snyder	4.1%	R+1	R+4
2010	Obama	Snyder	18.2%	R+5	R+20
2006	W. Bush	Granholm	14.0%	D+1	D+6
2002	W. Bush	Granholm	4.0%	D+1	R+5
1998	Clinton	Engler	24.4%	R+1	R+6
1994	Clinton	Engler	23.0%	R+2	R+1
1990	H. W. Bush	Engler	0.7%	0	0
1986	Reagan	Blanchard	36.7%	R+2	D+7
1982	Reagan	Blanchard	6.3%	R+4	R+1
1978	Carter	Milliken	13.6%	0	D+2
1974	Ford	Milliken	4.3%	D+5	D+6
1970	Nixon	Milliken	1.7%	D+1	D+1
1966	Johnson	Romney	21.4%	R+5	R+17
1962	Kennedy	Romney	2.9%	R+1	R+2
1958	Eisenhower	Williams	6.4%	D+1	D+6
1954	Eisenhower	Williams	11.5%	D+3	D+17
1950	Truman	Williams	0.1%	R+2	R+5
1946	Truman	Sigler	21.6%	R+4	R+29
1942	Roosevelt	Kelly	5.9%	R+3	R+6
1938	Roosevelt	Fitzgerald	5.8%	R+8	R+33
1934	Roosevelt	Fitzgerald	6.6%	R+6	R+6

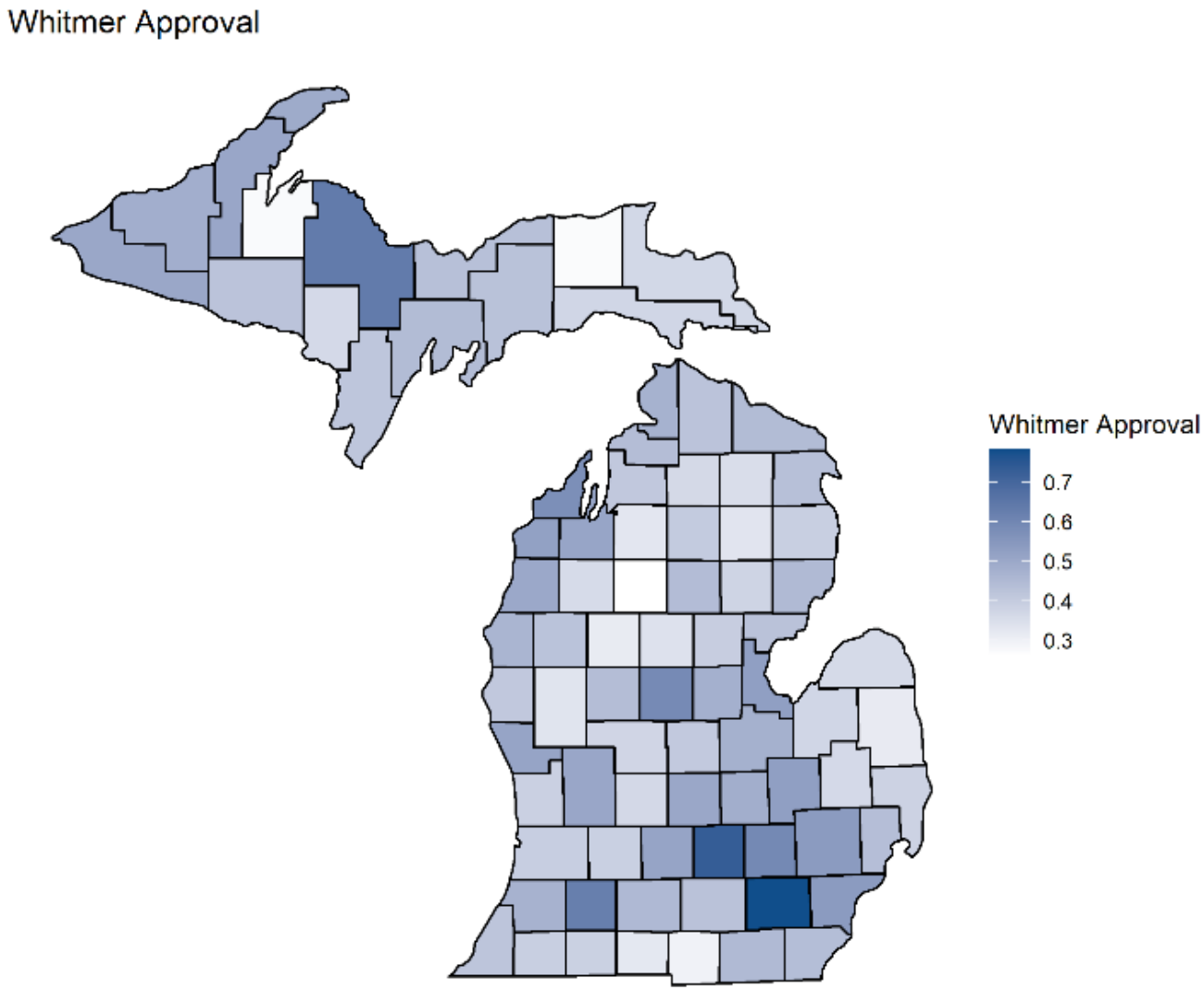
Geographic Change in Michigan



County Board Partisanship



County Opinions of Whitmer



2022 Michigan Among Most Competitive

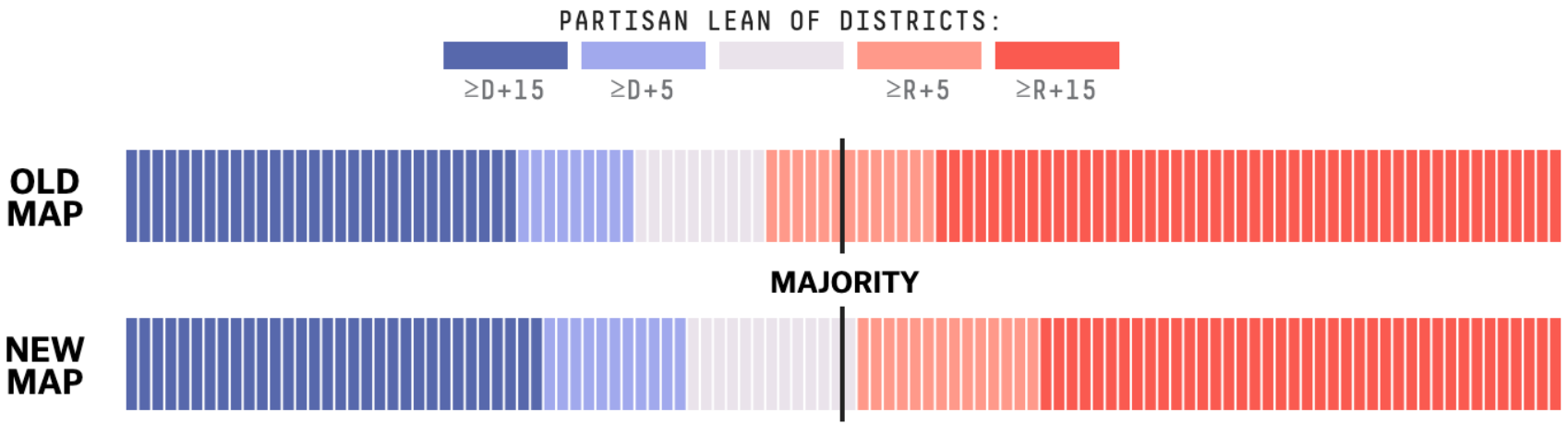
Rating	R-held	D-held	Total
Leans R	2 (MI-HOUSE, MN-SEN)	1 (AK-HOUSE)	3
Toss-up	1 (MI-SEN)	3 (ME-HOUSE, ME-SEN, MN-HOUSE)	4
Leans D	0	3 (CO-SEN, NV-SEN, OR-SEN)	3
Total	**3**	**7**	**10**

LEAN D	TOSS UP
ME-Mills	KS-Kelly
NM-Lujan Grisham	MI-Whitmer
PA-Open	NV-Sisolak
	WI-Evers

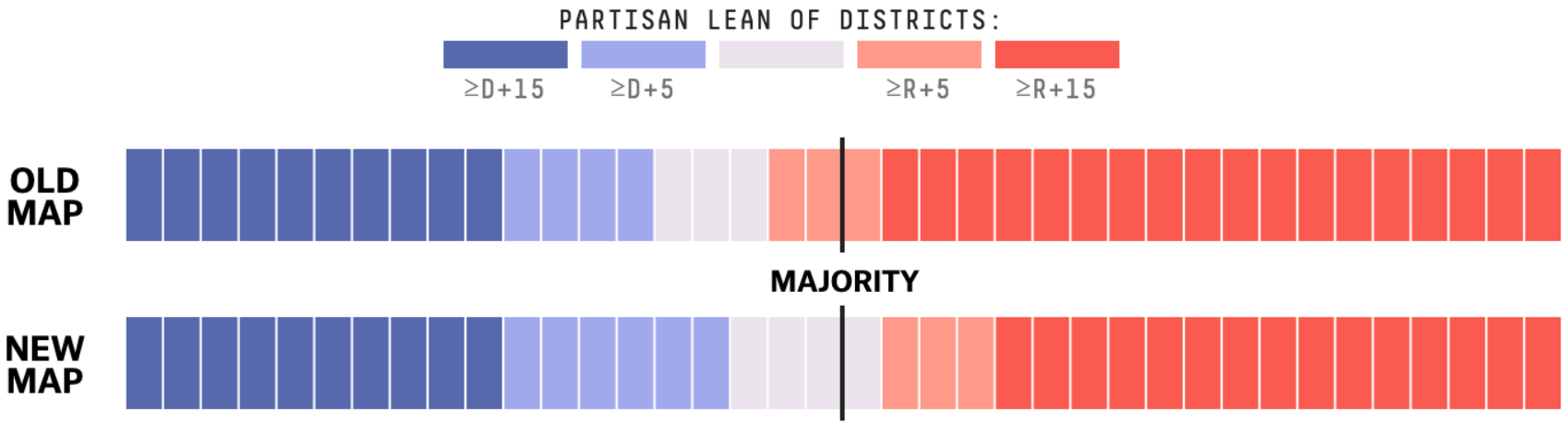
LEAN D	TOSS UP
MD-Open	AZ-Open
	GA-Kemp

Michigan Redistricting

The partisan breakdown of Michigan's new state House map



The partisan breakdown of Michigan's new state Senate map



Partisan Fairness in Michigan

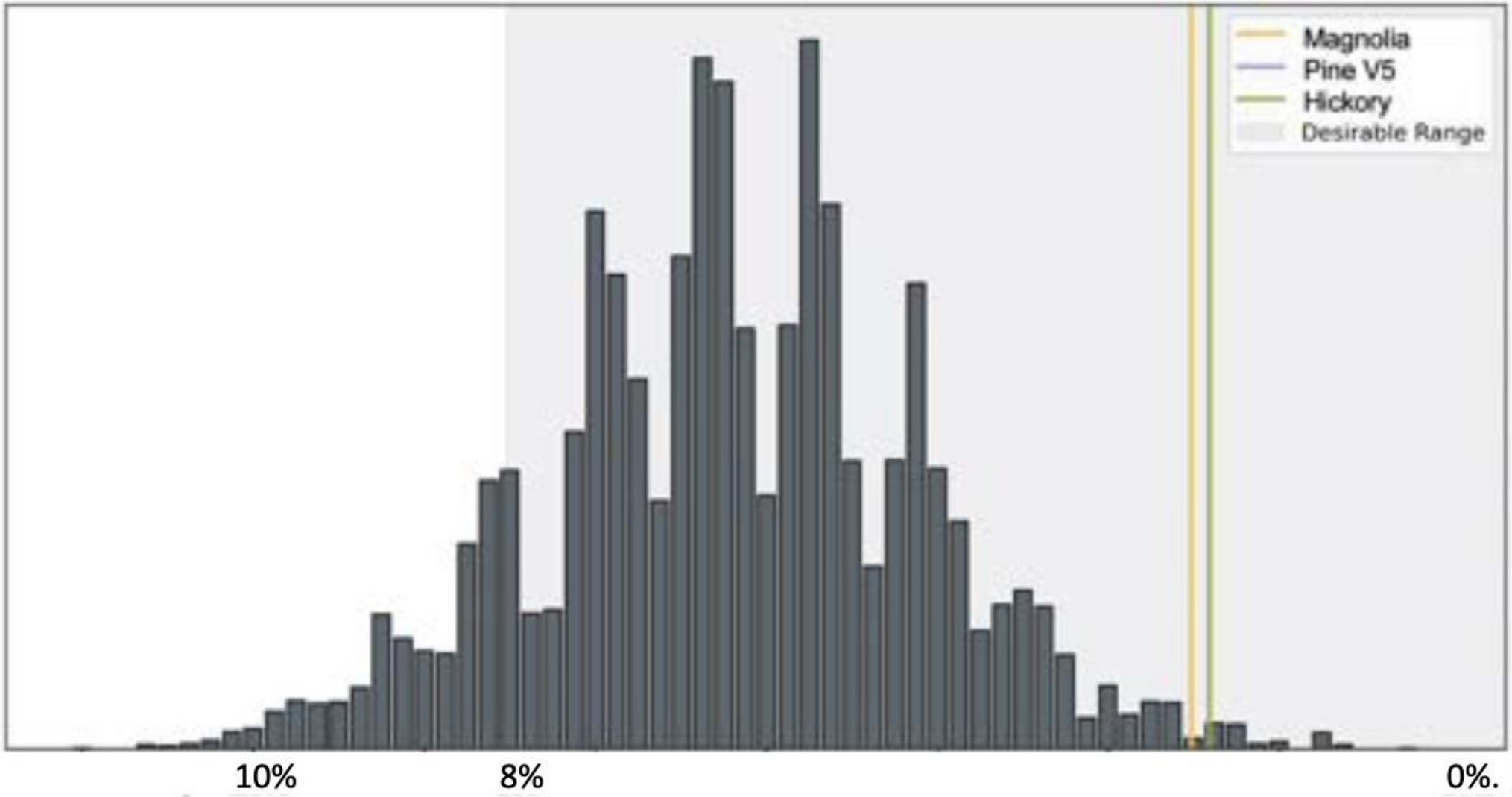
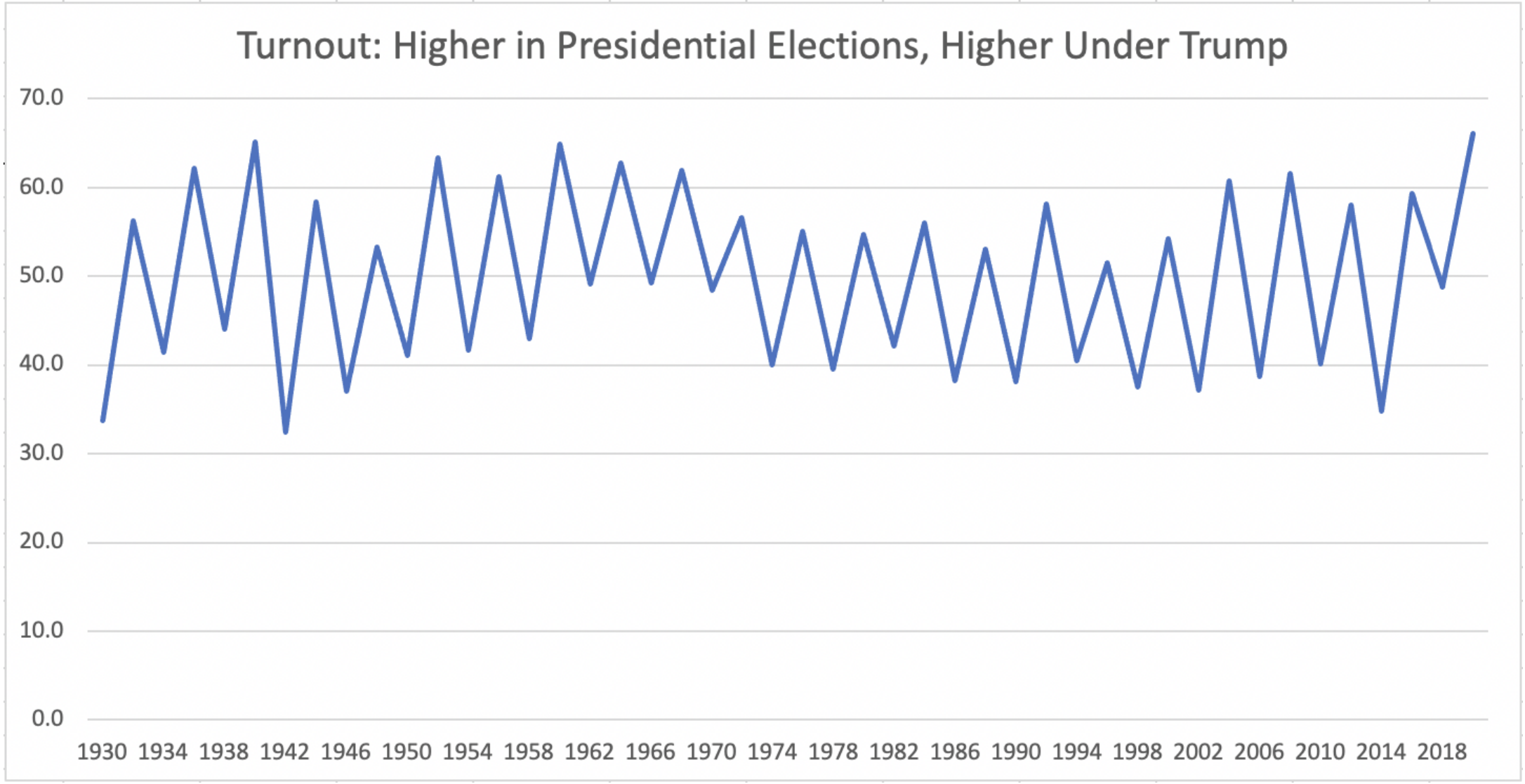


Figure 41. Efficiency Gap given 2018 US Senate Election Results

2018 & 2020: High Turnout



But Turnout Doesn't Change Partisanship

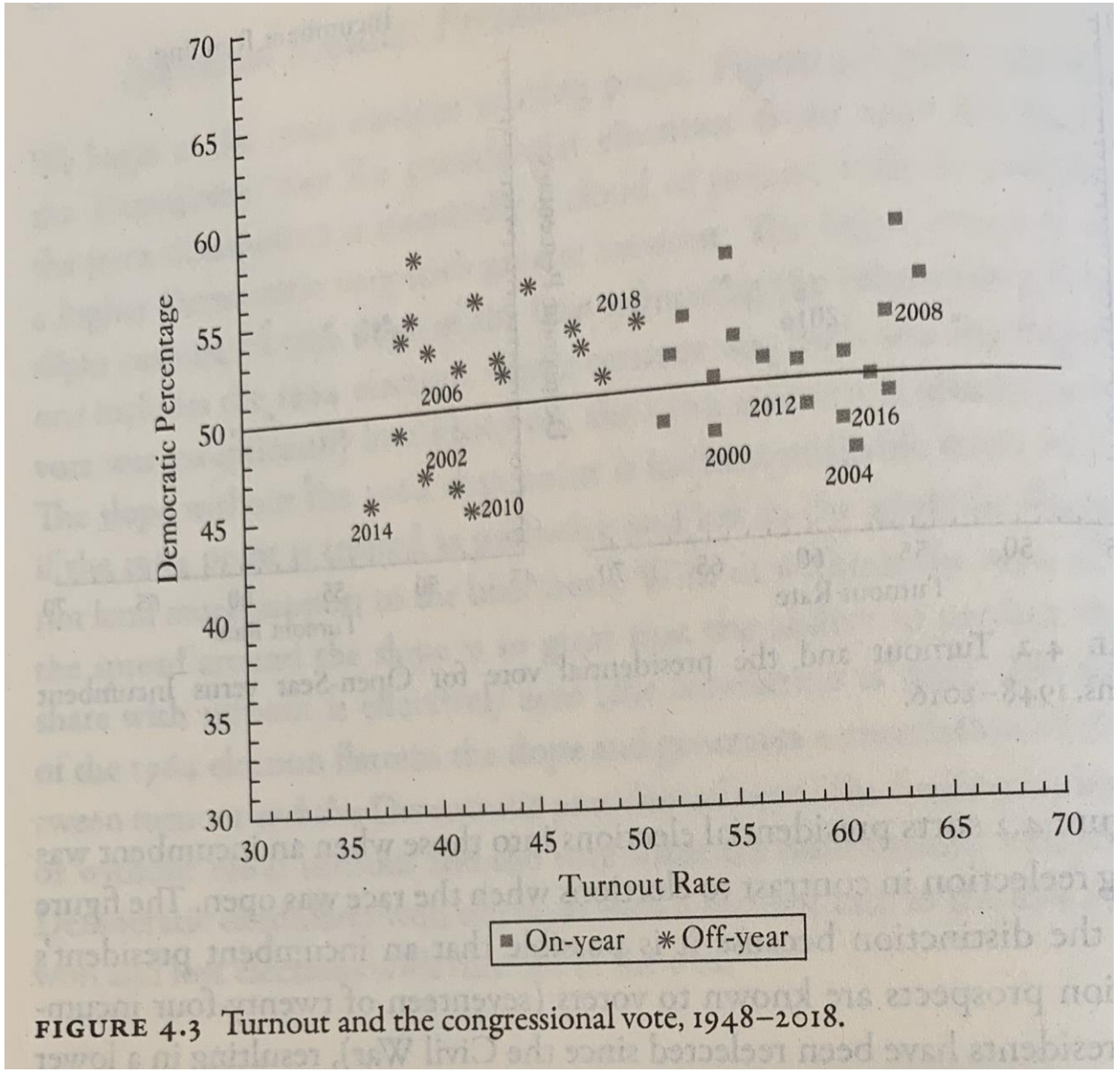
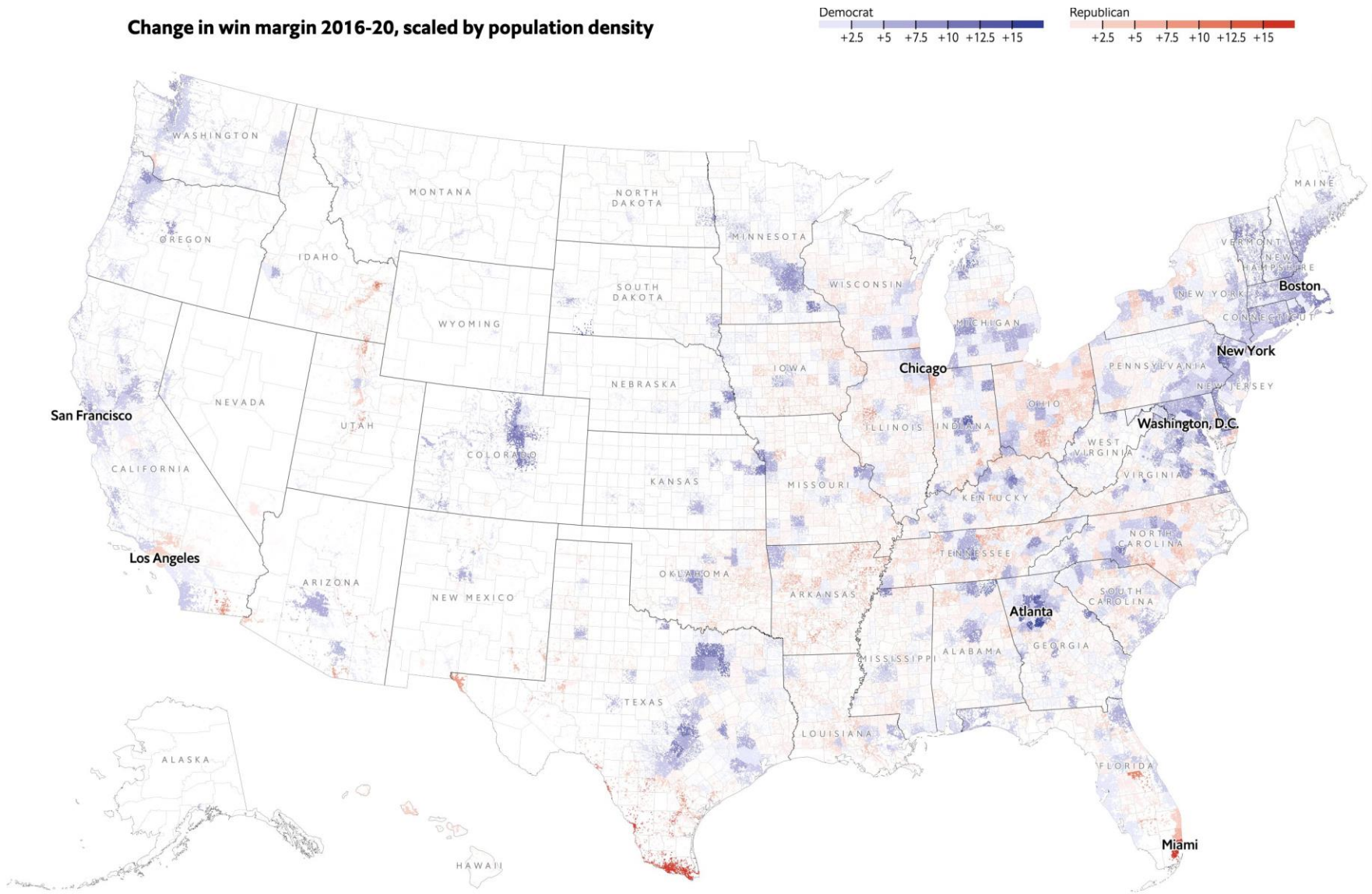


FIGURE 4.3 Turnout and the congressional vote, 1948–2018.

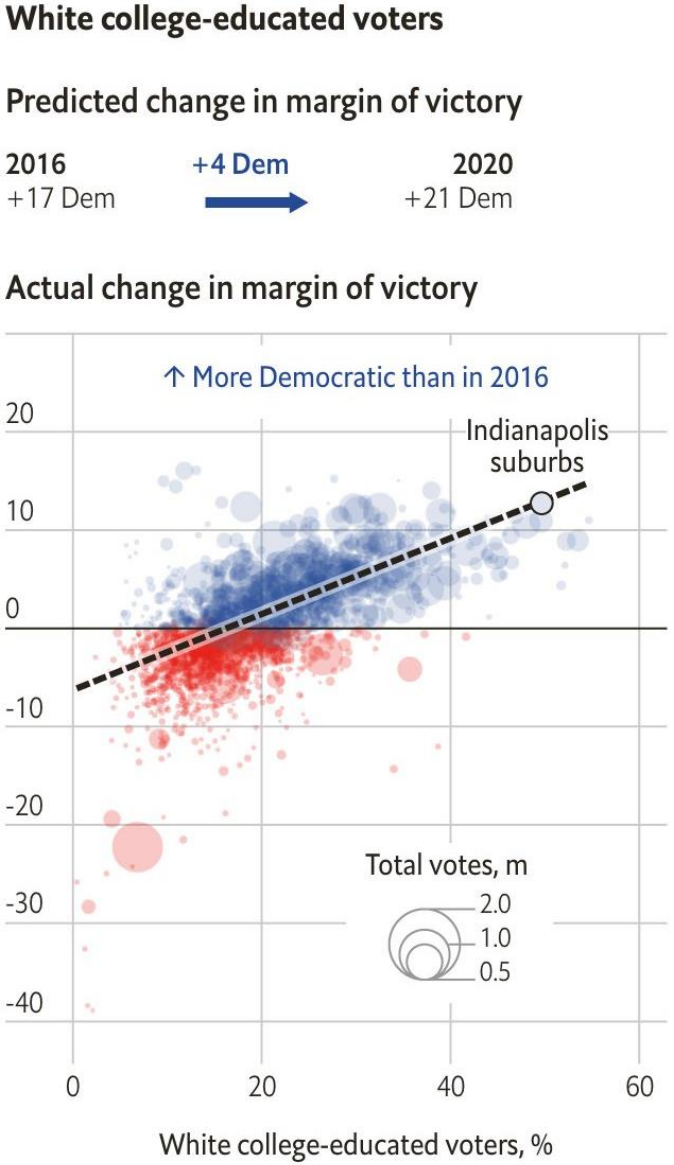
Presidential Shift 2016 to 2020 (but r =.99)

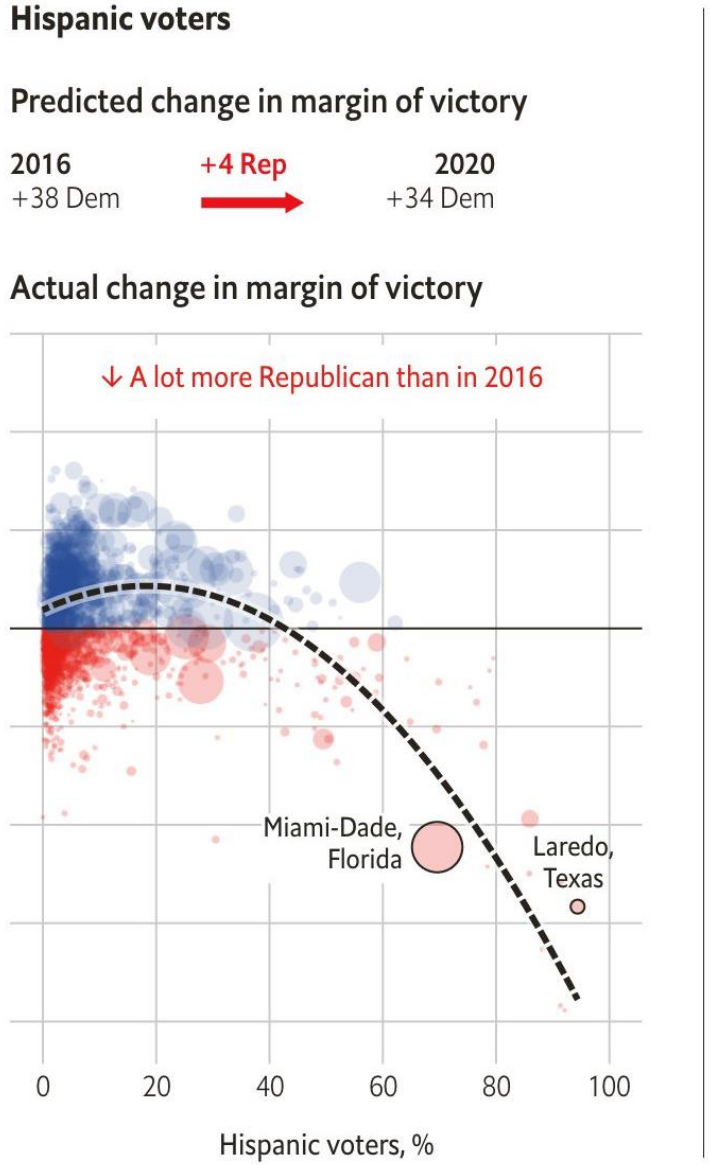


Estimated margin for counties with less than 95% of votes reported

Elliott Morris,
The Economist

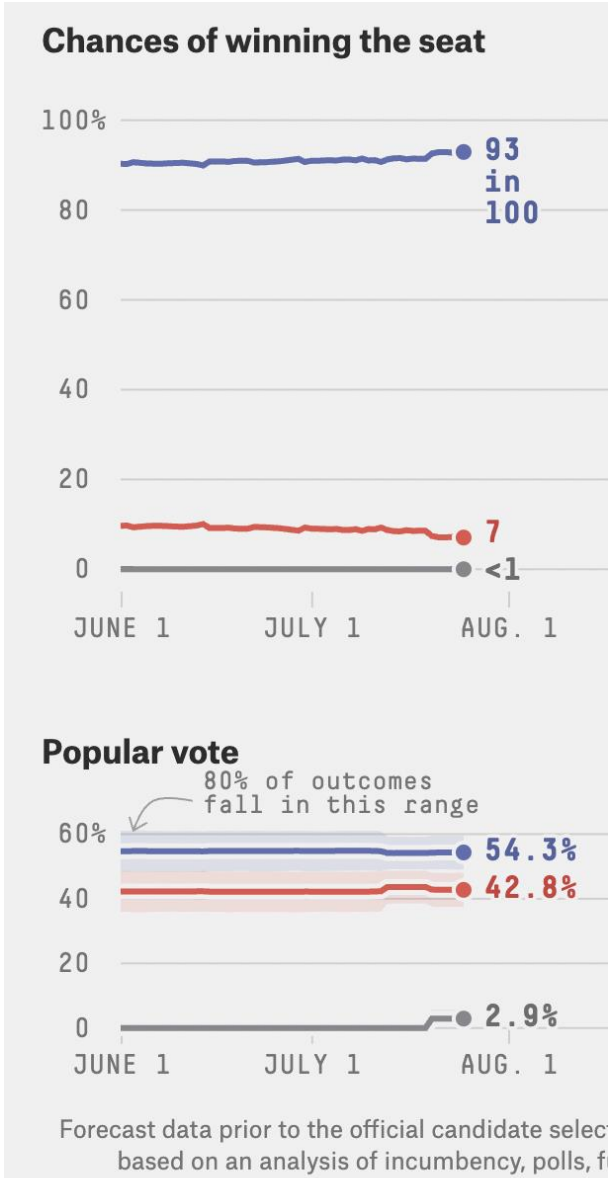
Hispanics & White Educated Voters Moved





Elliott Morris,
The Economist

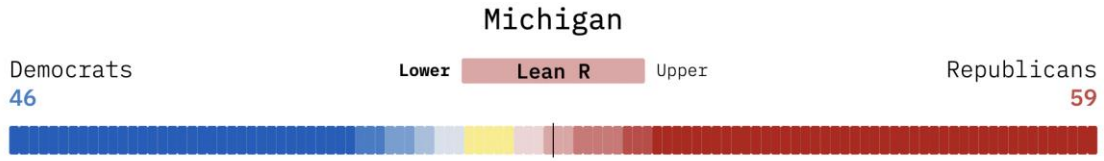
2022 Models

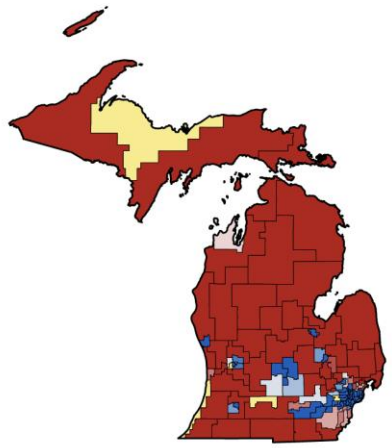


Which polls are influencing the forecast for Michigan?

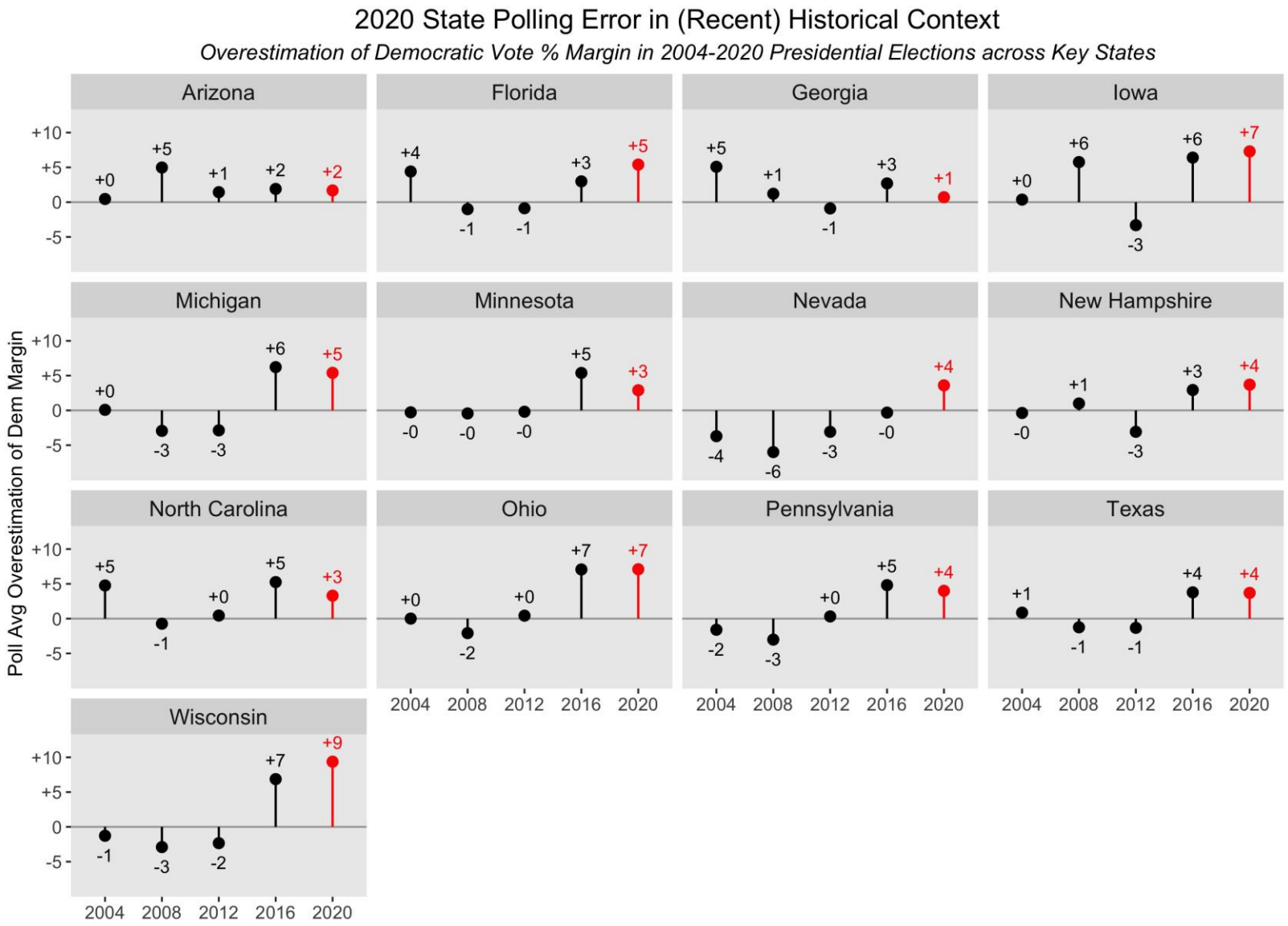
These polls have the biggest impact on the forecast for this race. Polls are weighted by recency, sample size and pollster rating.

POLLSTER	RATING		DIXON	WHITMER	LEADER	
Glengariff Group	B/C	July 5-8	40%	51%	Whitmer	+10
Target Insyght	C/D	May 26-27	21%	58%	Whitmer	+37
Glengariff Group	B/C	Jan. 3-7	31%	50%	Whitmer	+19





Polling Error



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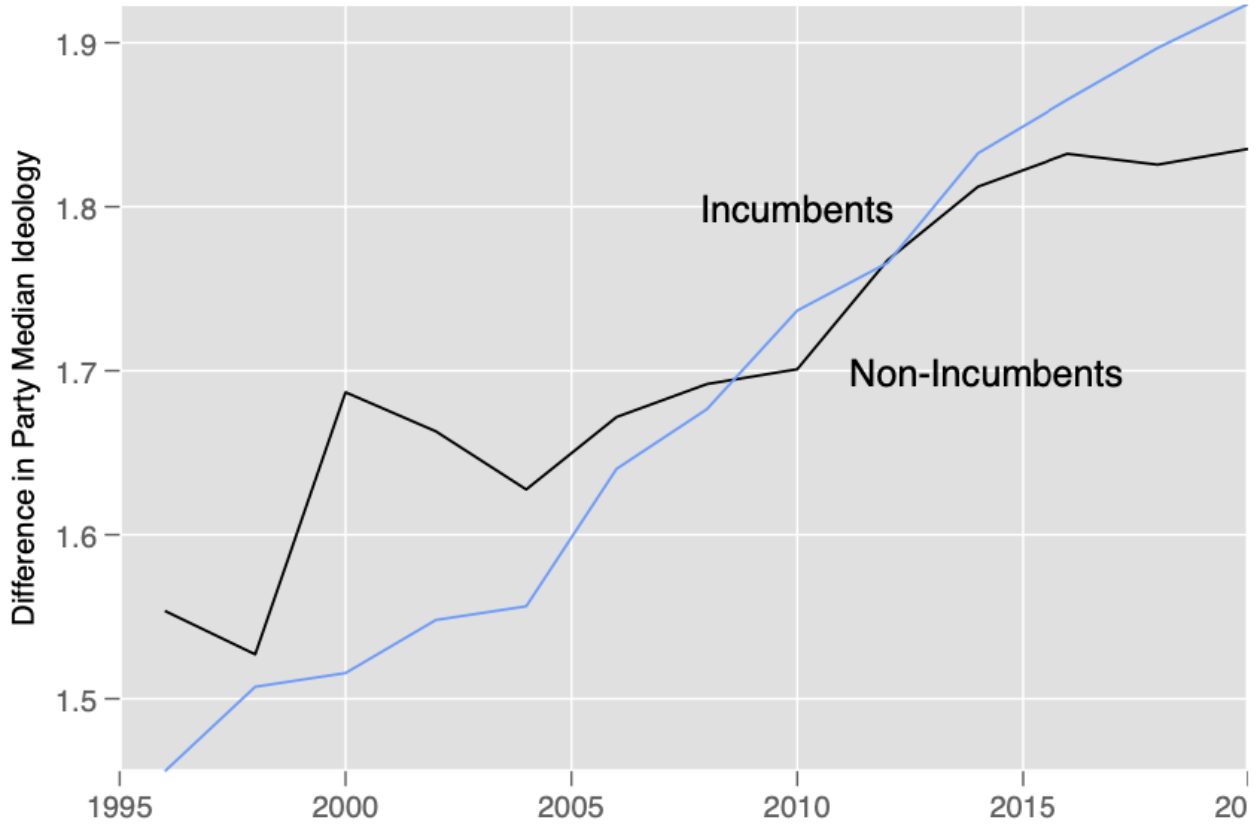
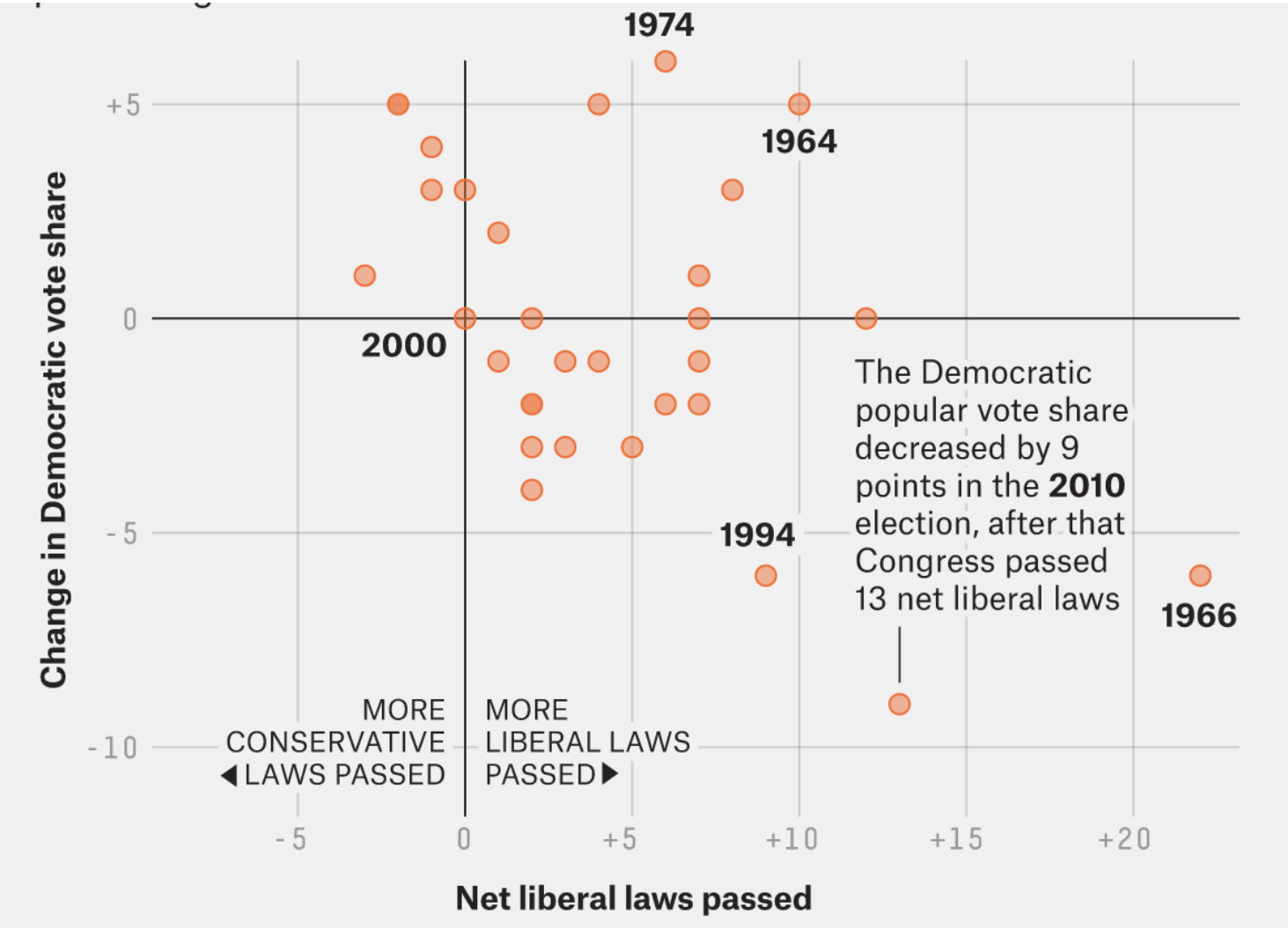
Polarization

Figure 4 – Polarization of the Candidate Pool in State Legislatures Over Time, 1996-2020. Plots the absolute difference between each party's median incumbent legislator (blue line) and between each party's median non-incumbent candidate (black line), across all states, by year. Non-incumbent includes both challengers and open-seat candidates.



More Liberal Laws -> Conservative Backlash

Democrats Gain



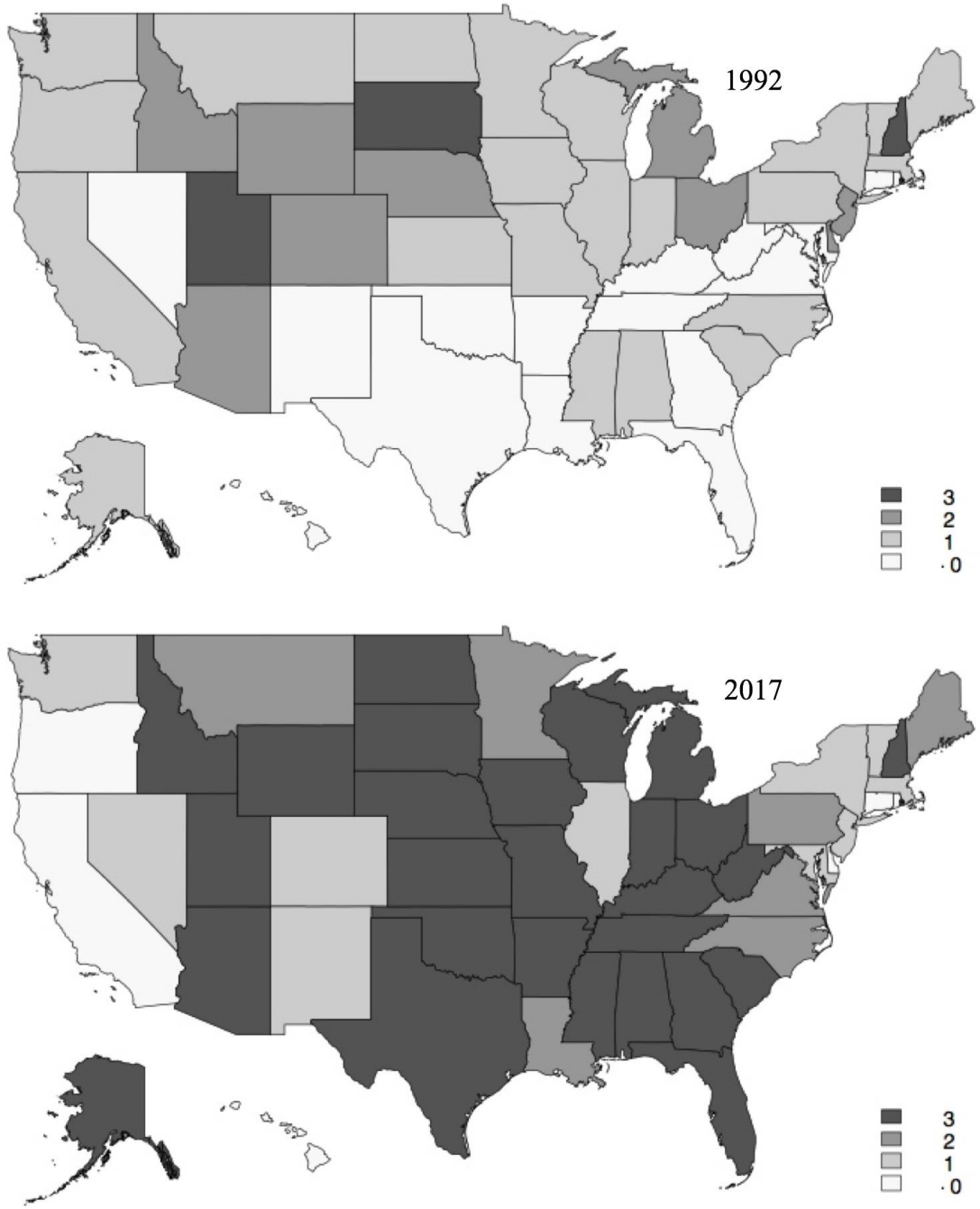
Republicans Gain

More conservative laws

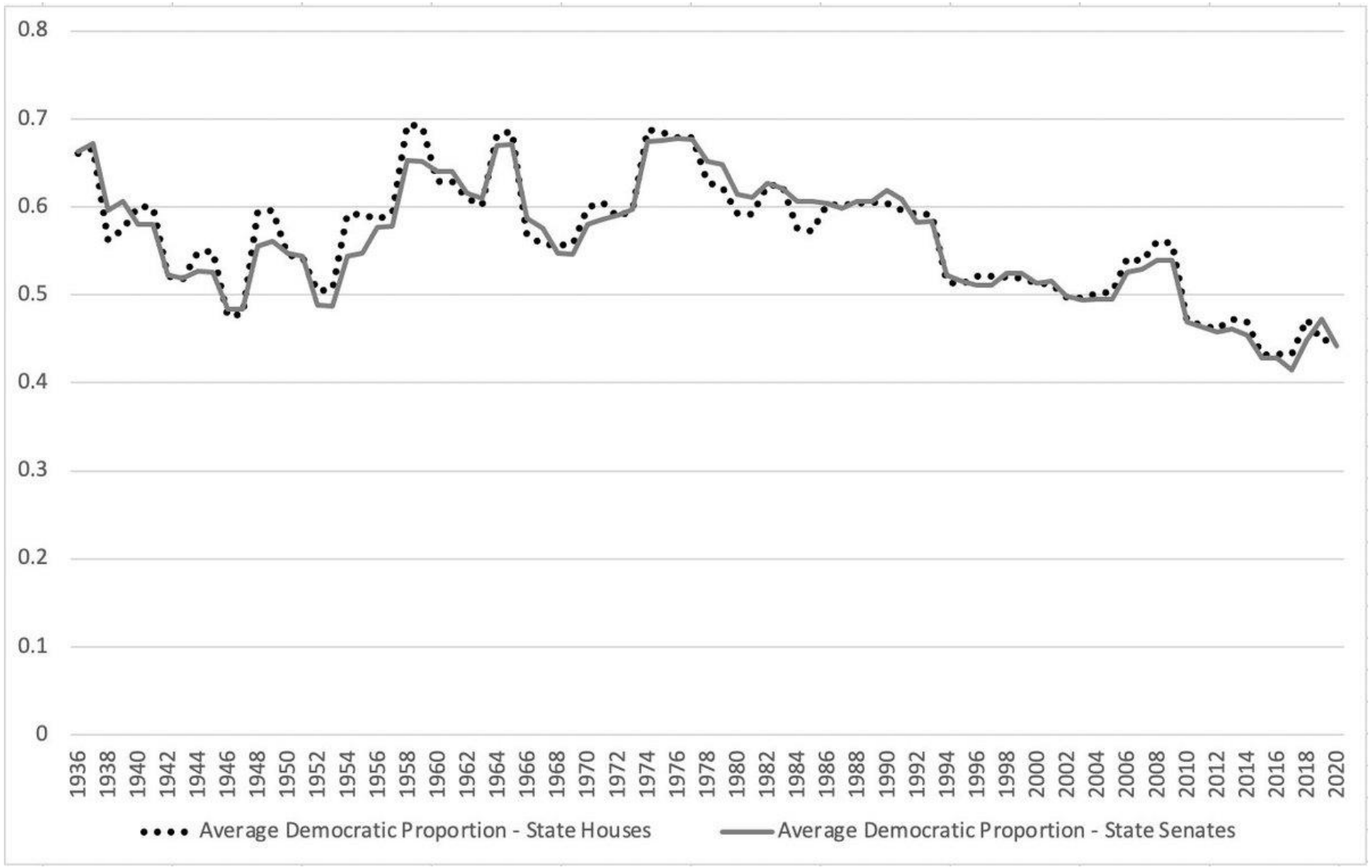
More liberal laws

State Politics: America Turned Red, 1992-2017

Figure 1: Republican Control of State Legislative Chambers and Governorships, 1992 and 2017

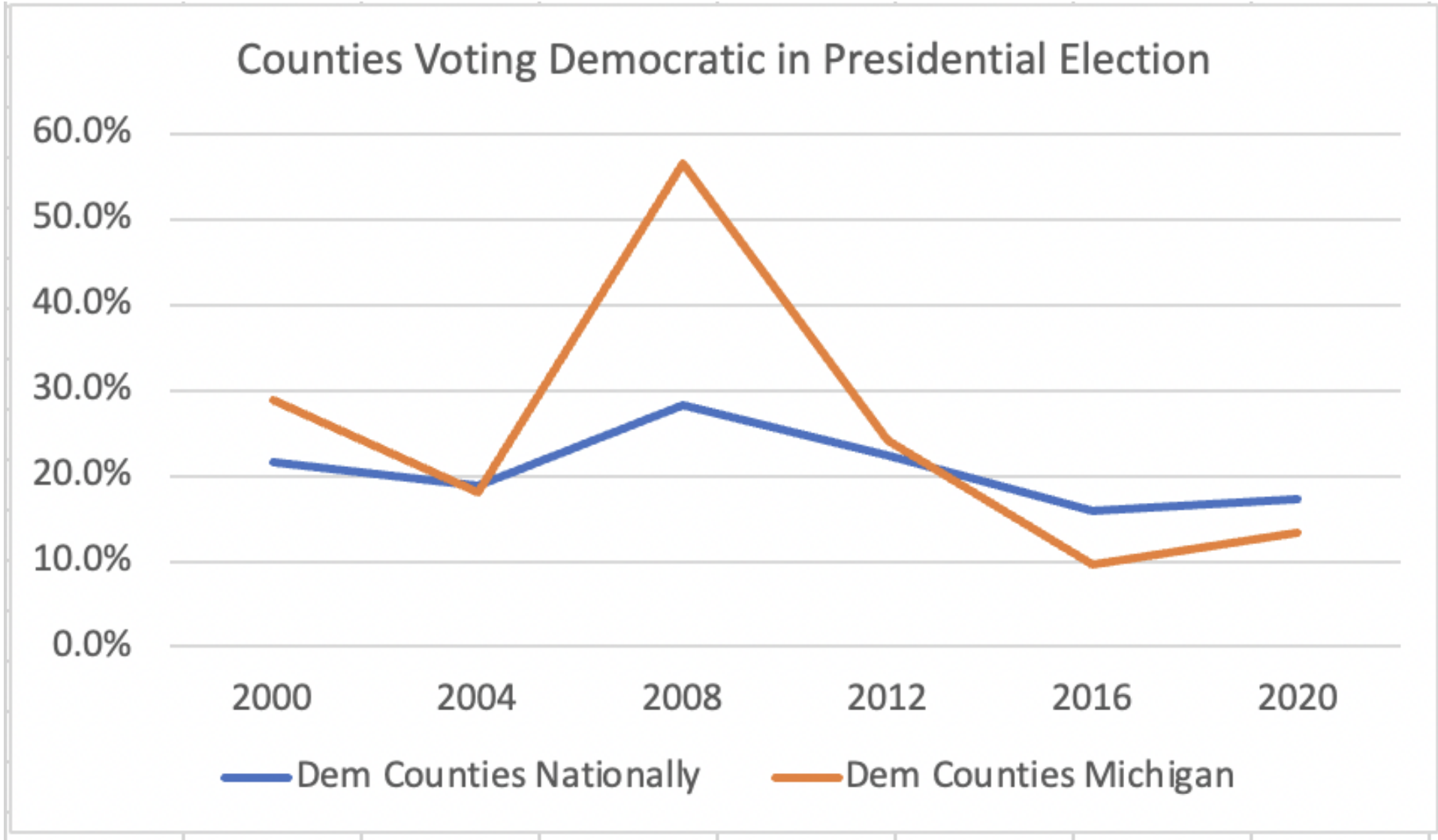


Democrats Not Regaining Ground in States



Red State Blues, updated

Democrats Not Regaining Ground in Counties



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