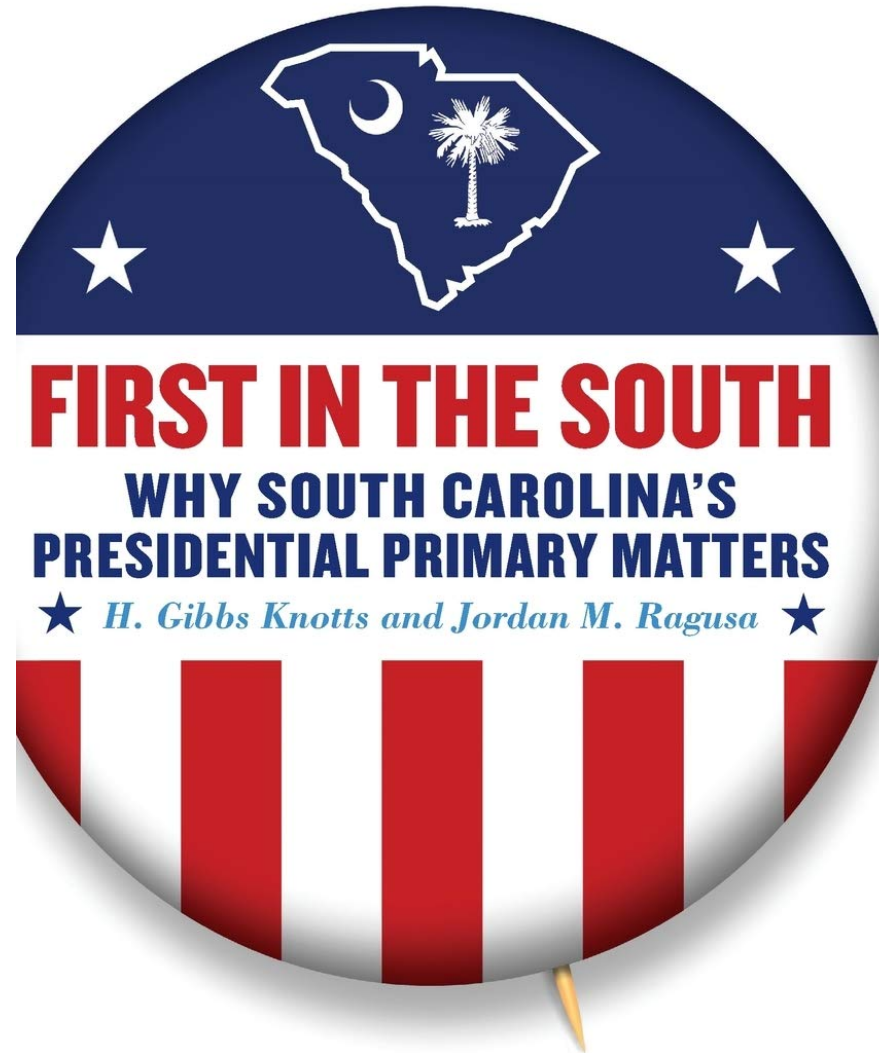




A Primer on South Carolina's Primaries

Gibbs Knotts
Department of Political Science
College of Charleston



Agenda

- A Brief History of Primaries
- Alternatives to Primaries
- Who Votes in Primaries?
- SC's Demographic Balance in Presidential Primaries
- The Future of Primaries
- Questions/Comments

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION



"WHICH BALLOT WOULD YOU LIKE? DEMOCRAT? REPUBLICAN?
INDEPENDENT...OR I DON'T GIVE A DAMN?"

Why do we have primaries?



How did the current system emerge?



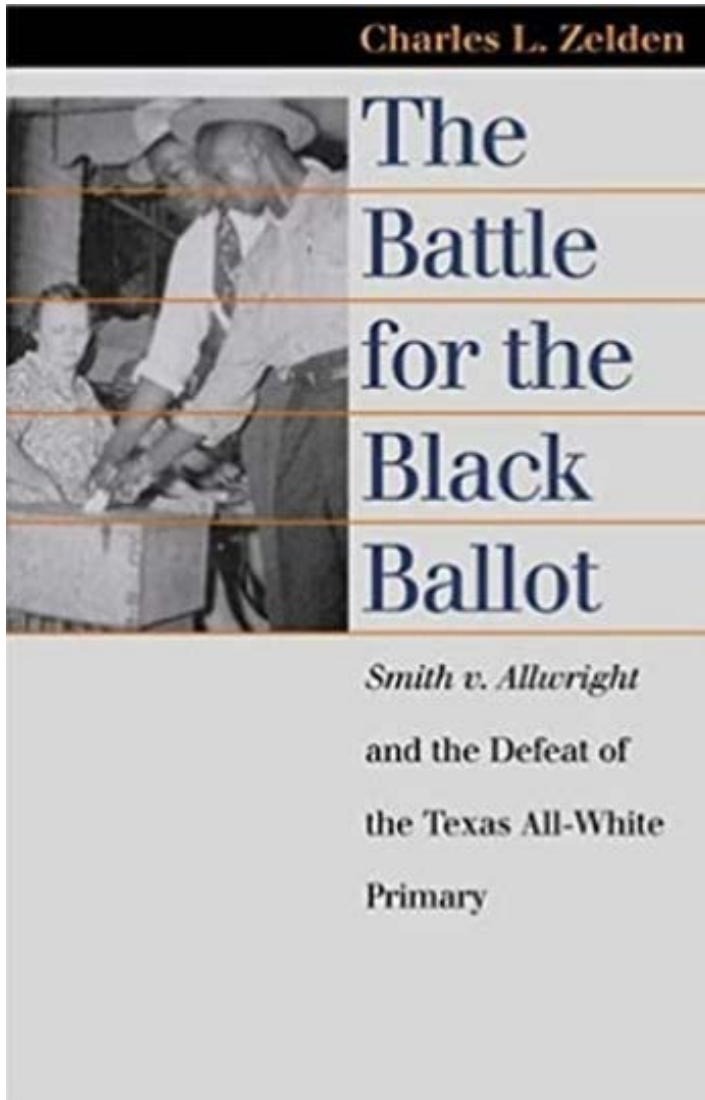
How did the current system emerge?



How did the current system emerge?



How did the current system emerge?



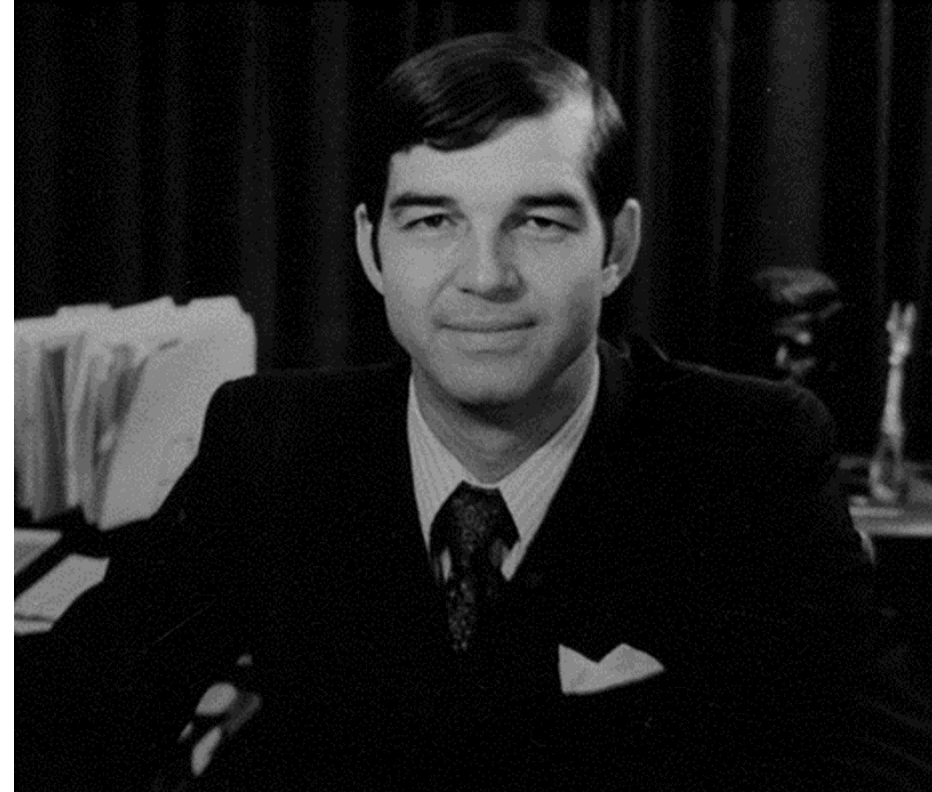
How did the current system emerge?



The Modern Presidential Primary System



The South Carolina Presidential Primary



The South Carolina Presidential Primary



The South Carolina Presidential Primary

The South Carolina Republican

The South Carolina Republican is concerned about the world in which he lives.

The South Carolina Republican is tired of the runaway growth and cost of government and its resulting rising food prices, higher utility bills, ever-increasing taxes, choking regulations and paperwork.

The South Carolina Republican comes from all walks of life: husbands, housewives, secretaries, businessmen, salespeople, laborers, executives; attorneys, farmers, doctors, teachers, retirees - you name it.

The South Carolina Republican wants to have the opportunity to realize the American Dream, but sees that opportunity slipping away because of growing government regulations, taxes, and less control over his own life.

South Carolina Republicans work to make things better because they care about the future. They work for better quality in the school system and their children's education. South Carolina Republicans care about the unemployed and handicapped person.

South Carolina Republicans care about these and other problems because they are important to everyone's lives. And what's more, South Carolina Republicans work to do something about them.

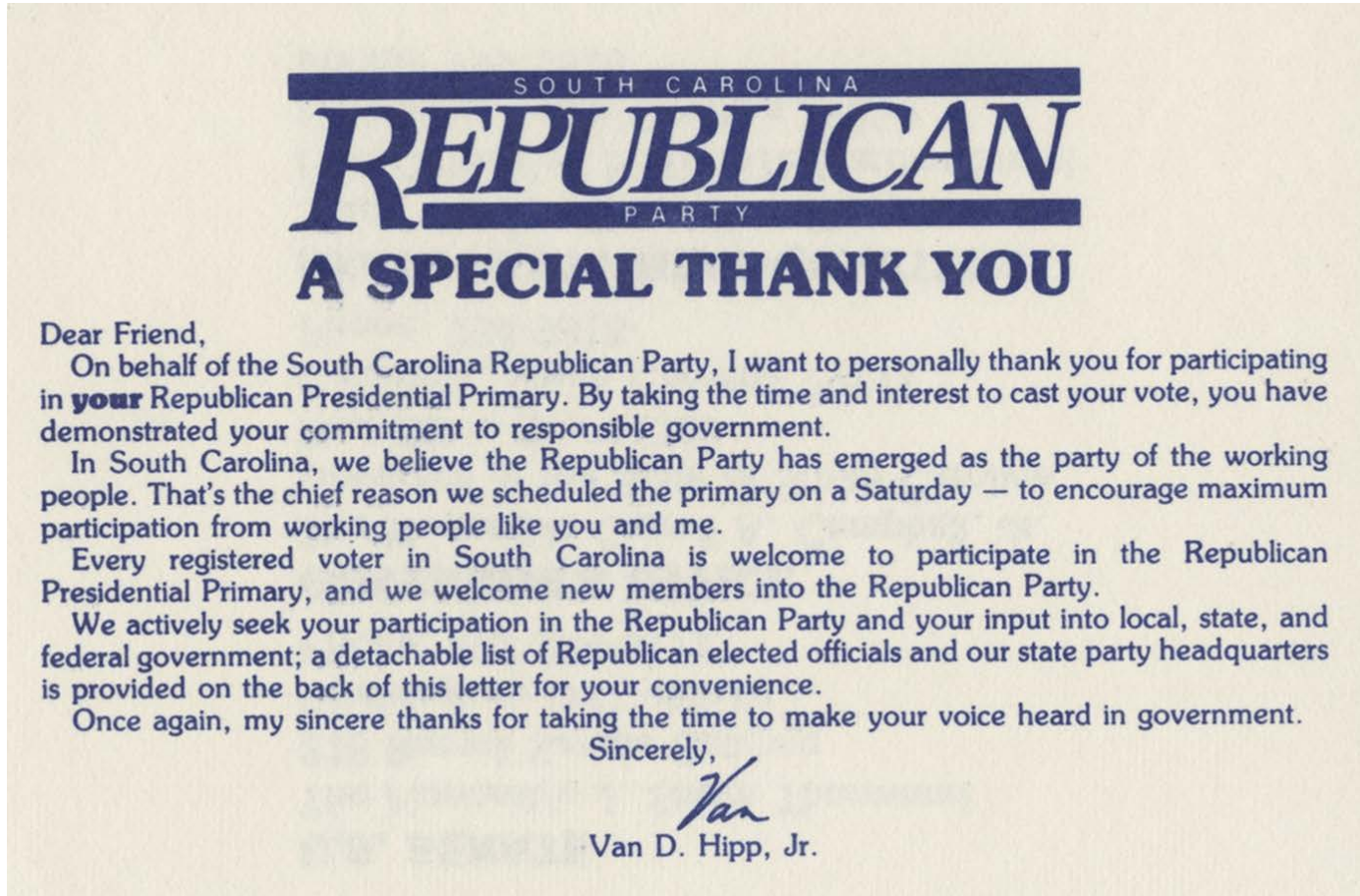
Take a few minutes to look over this brochure, and see what the Republican Party is all about. And, if the party fits, wear it.

The South Carolina
Republican Party
P.O. Box 5247
Columbia, S.C. 29250

- ☐ I would like to get involved with The S.C. Republican Party.
- ☐ I would like to contribute to the S.C. Republican Party. Please send me more information.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

The South Carolina Presidential Primary



Types of Primaries

- Open Primaries
- Closed Primaries
- Semi-Closed Primaries

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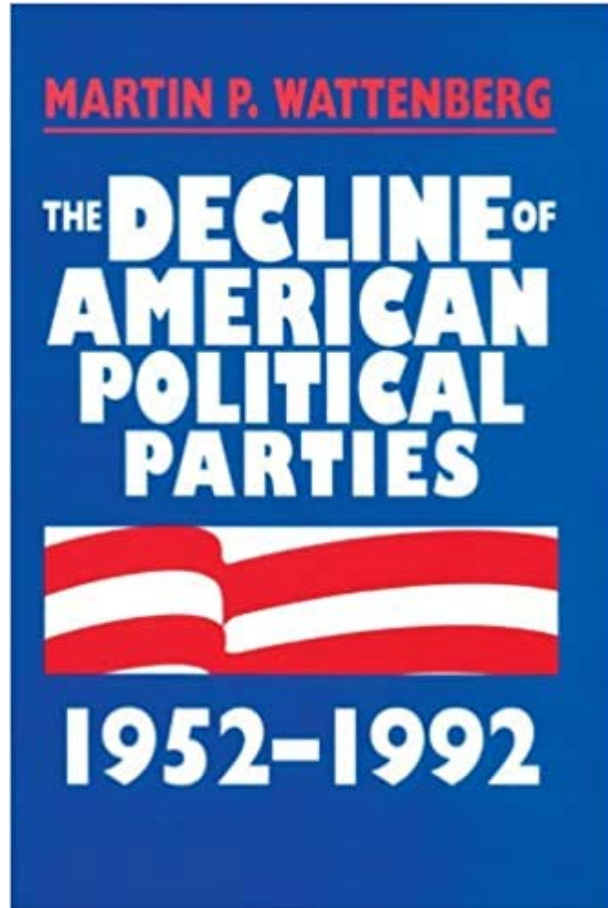
Caucuses



Political Conventions



Political Science and Primaries



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General Characteristics of Primary Voters

- Less representative
- More ideological extreme
- More politically engaged

The 2018 Primaries Project

REPORT

The 2018 Primaries Project: The demographics of primary voters

Elaine Kamarck and Alexander R. Podkul · Tuesday, October 23, 2018

REPORT

The 2018 Primaries Project: The ideology of primary voters

Elaine Kamarck and Alexander R. Podkul · Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Figure 3: Primary electorate racial/ethnic composition, by party primary

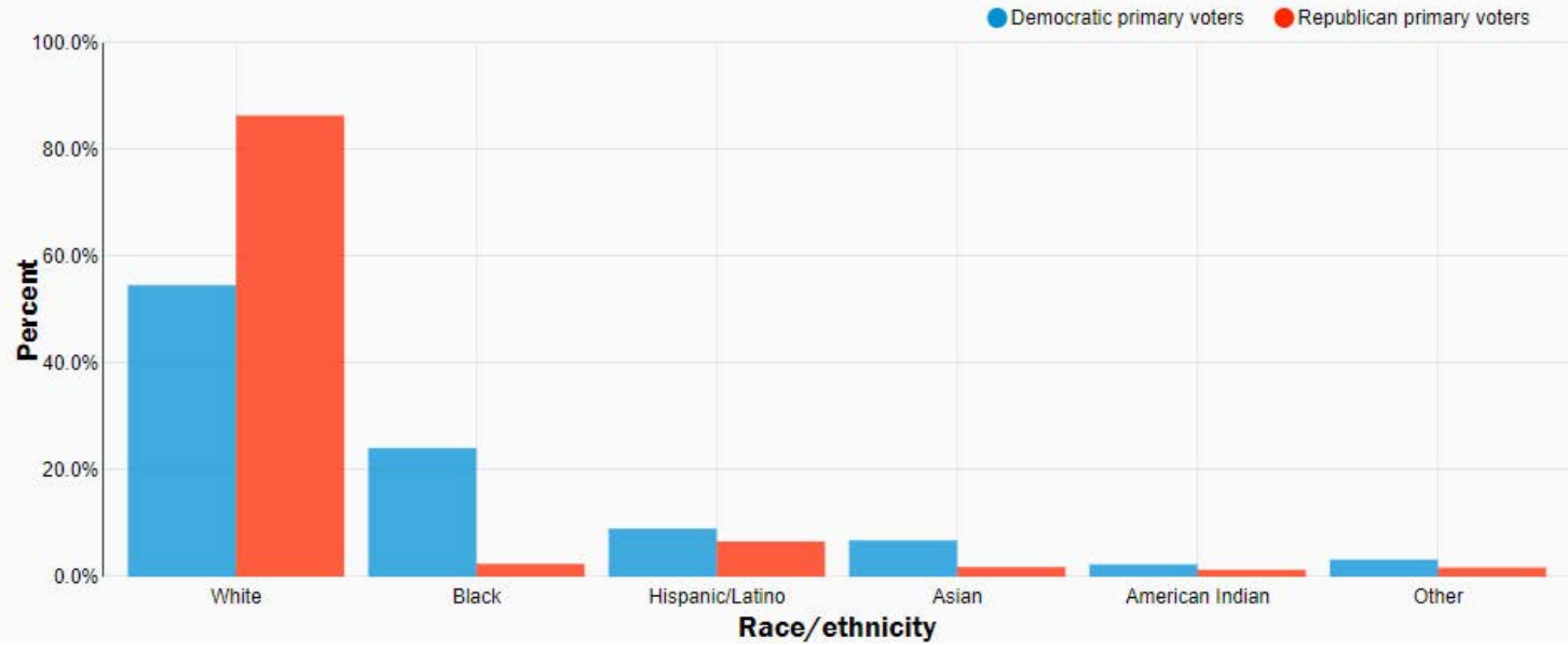


Figure 5: Primary electorate 2017 household income, by party primary

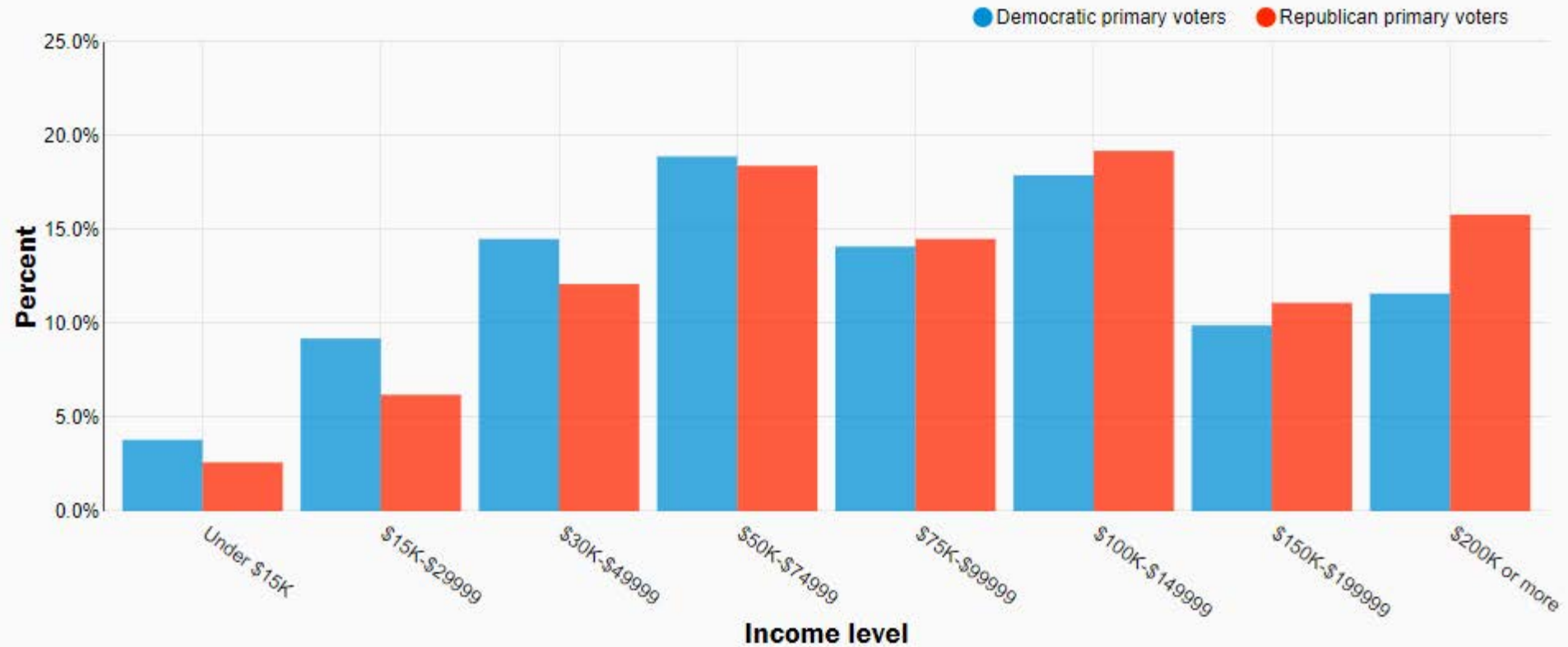


Figure 8: How often do you attend religious services?, by party primary

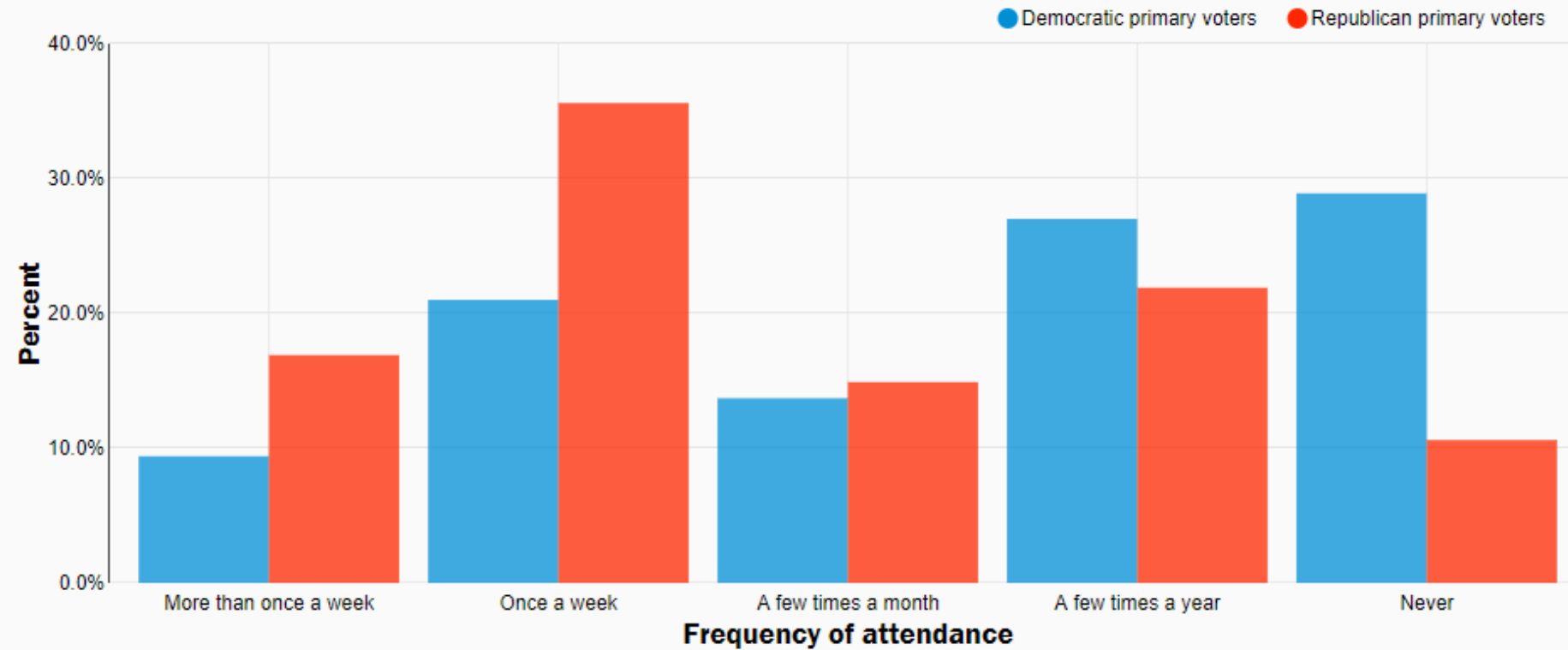


Figure 11: Partisan self-identification, by party primary

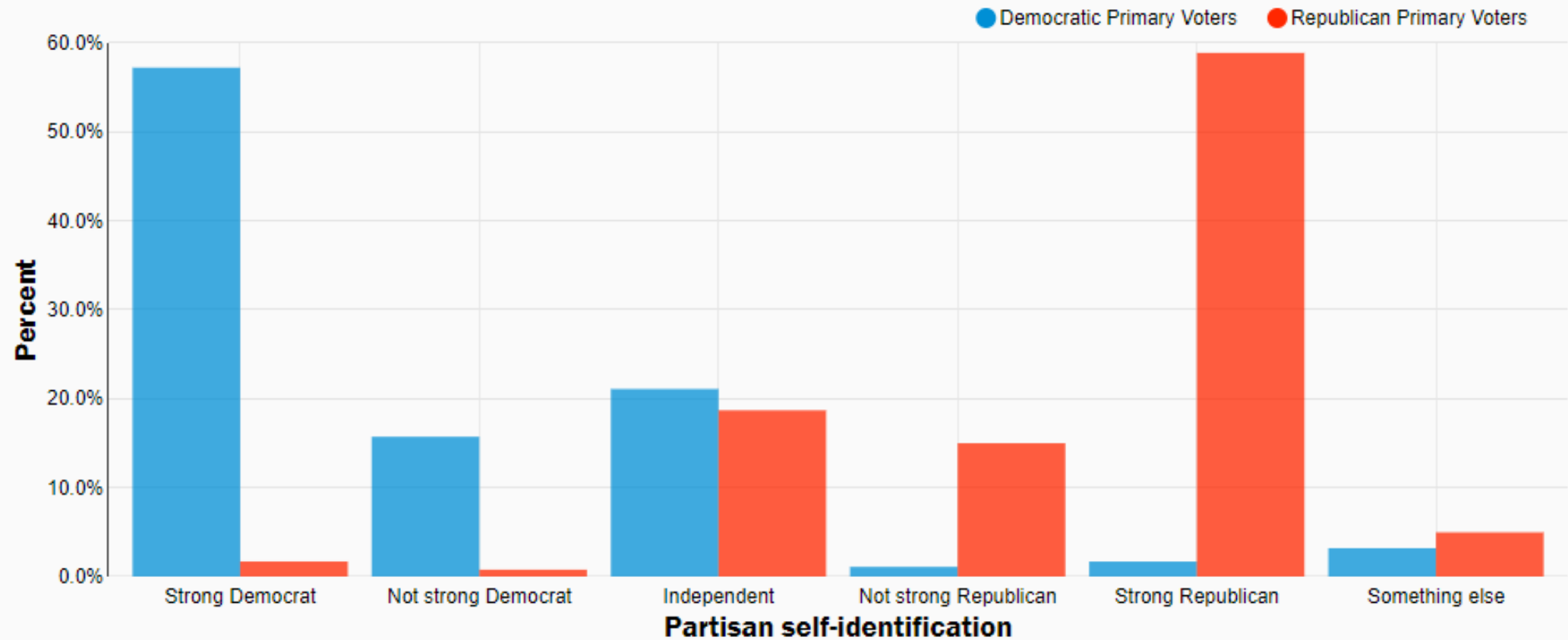
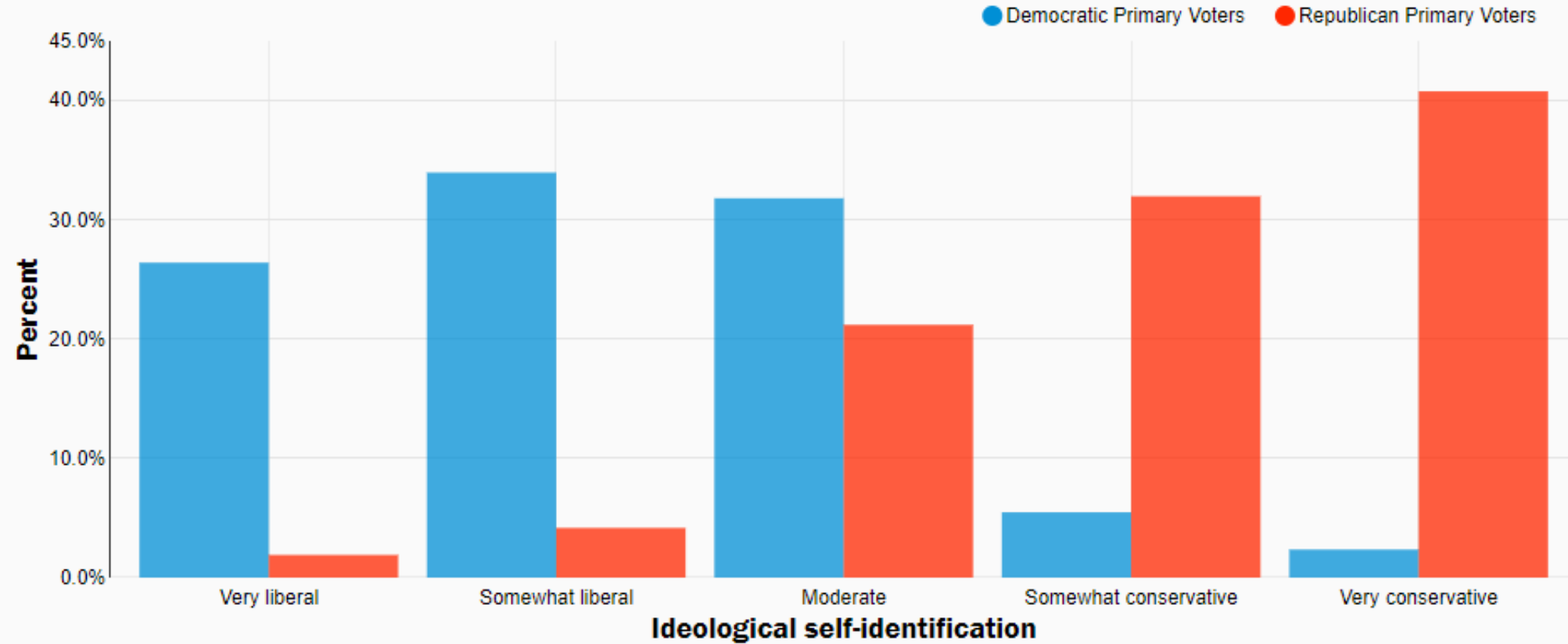


Figure 12: Ideological self-identification, by party primary



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Assessing Presidential Primaries

- Predictive ability
- Representativeness

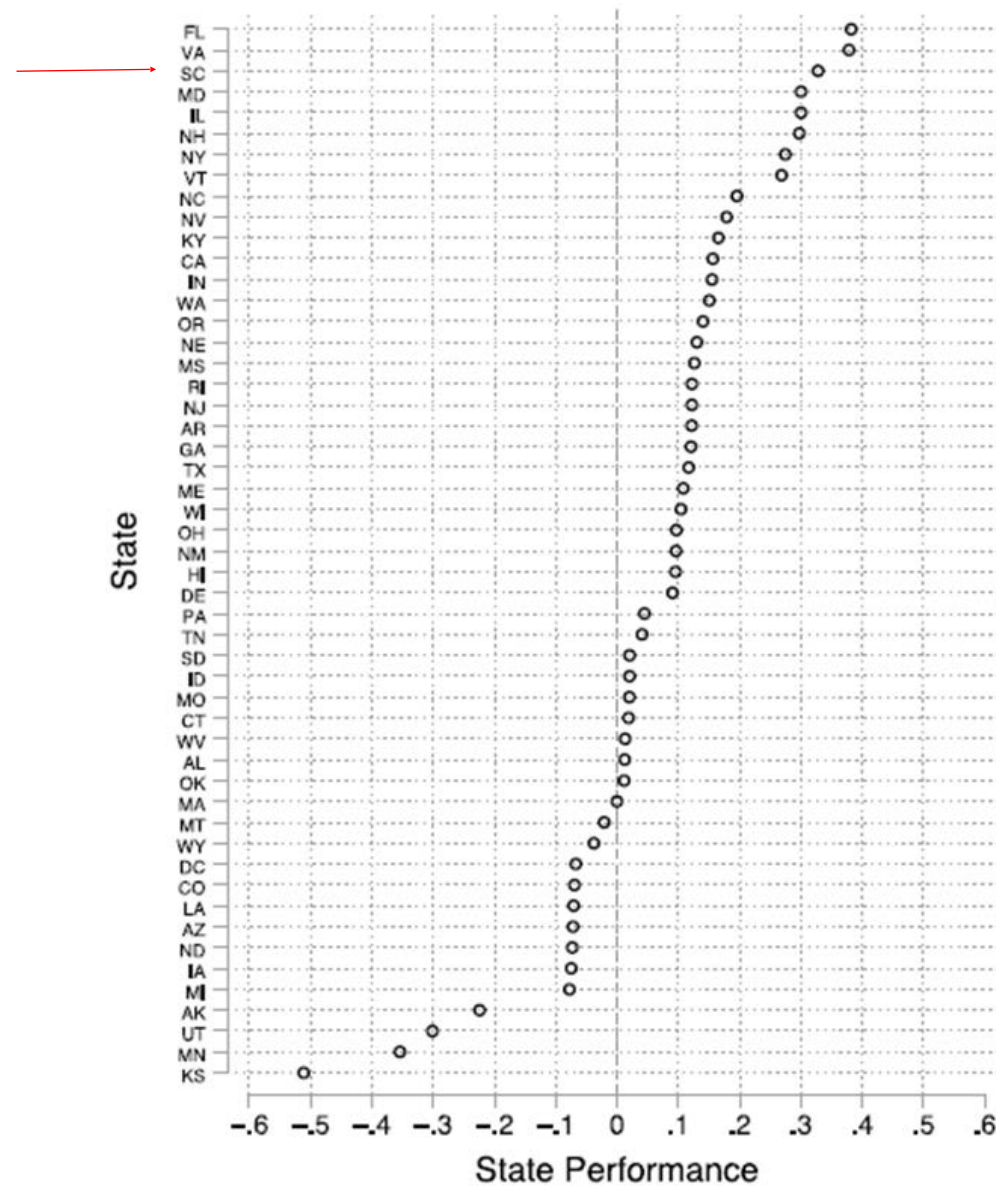


FIGURE 3.3. State Performance in Republican Contests

Source: various, compiled by authors

State

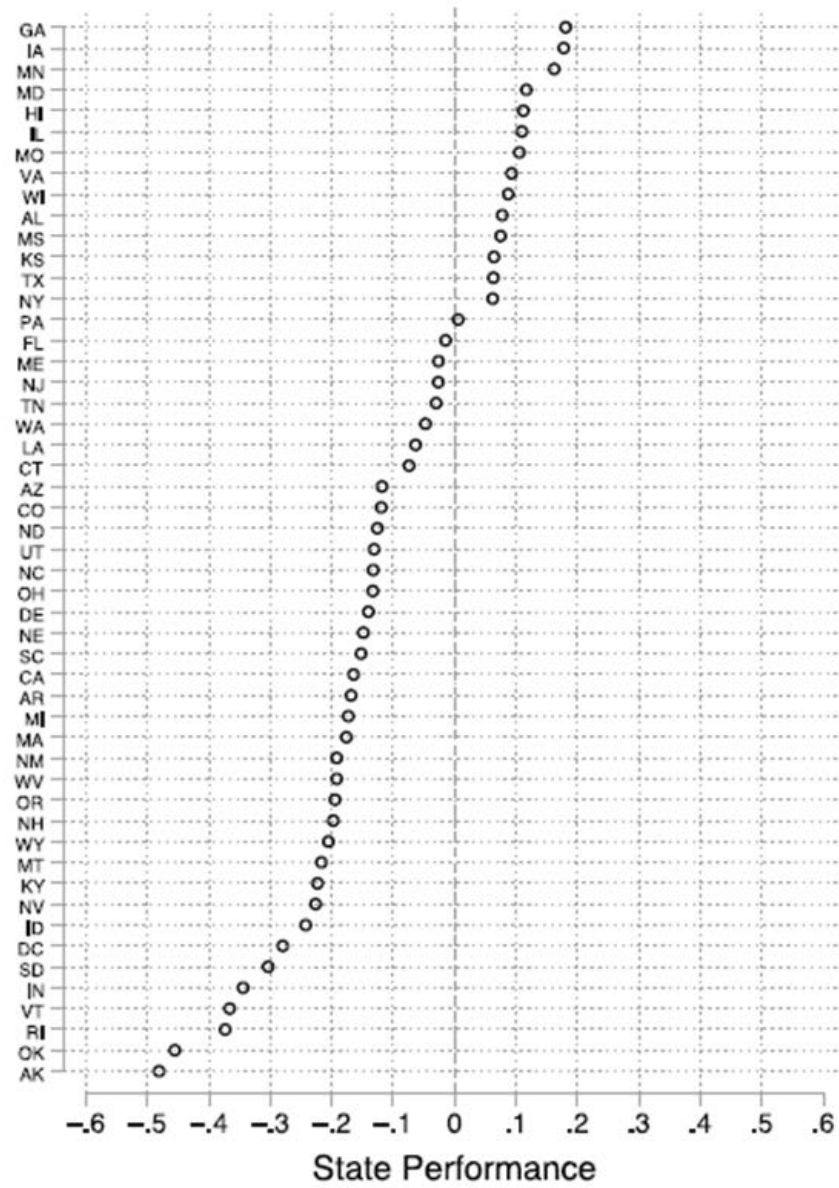


FIGURE 3.4. State Performance in Democratic Contests

Source: various, compiled by authors

50 First in the South

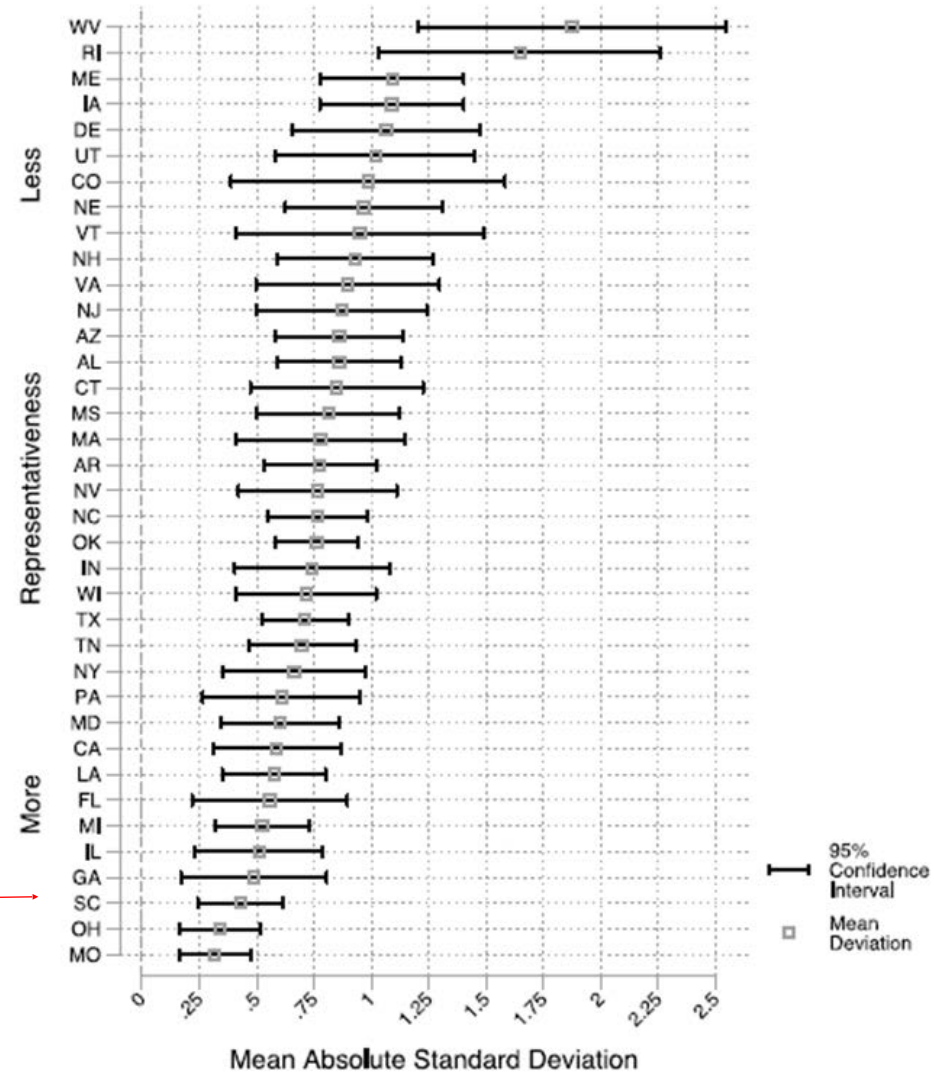


FIGURE 3.5. Index of Republican Representativeness by State

Source: NEP Exit Polls

Source: Knotts and Ragusa
2020

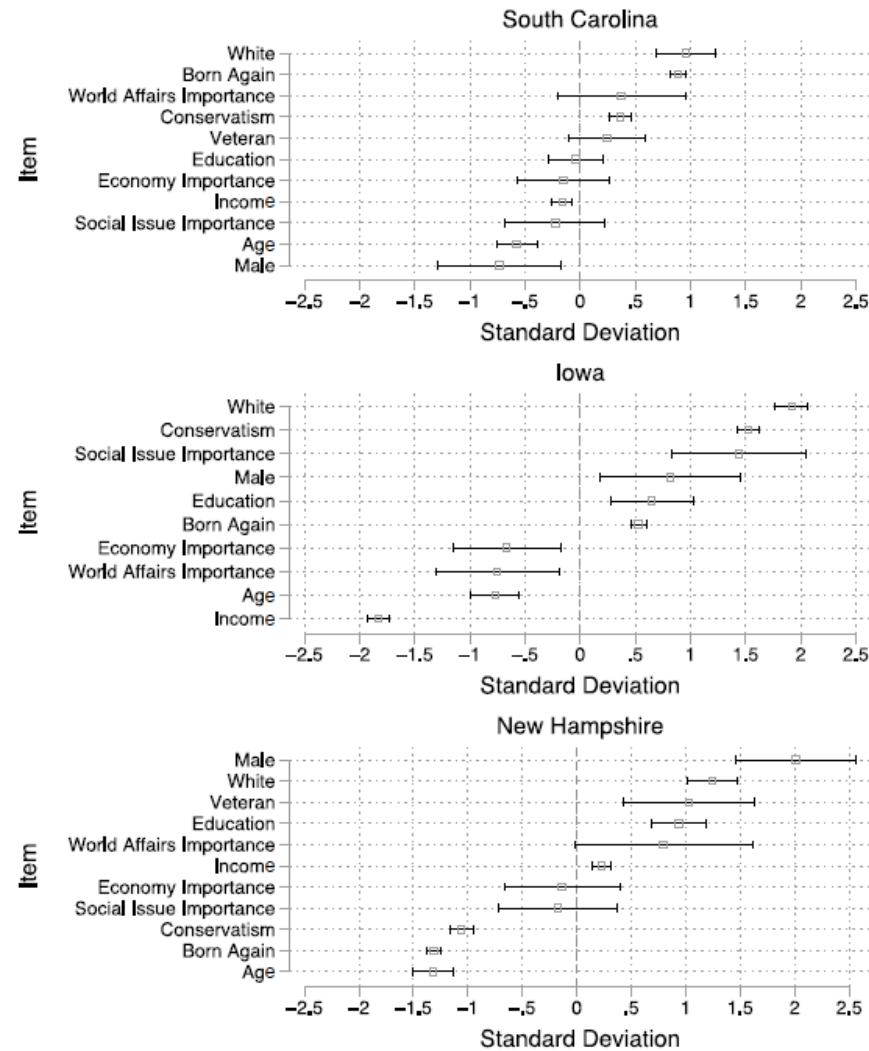
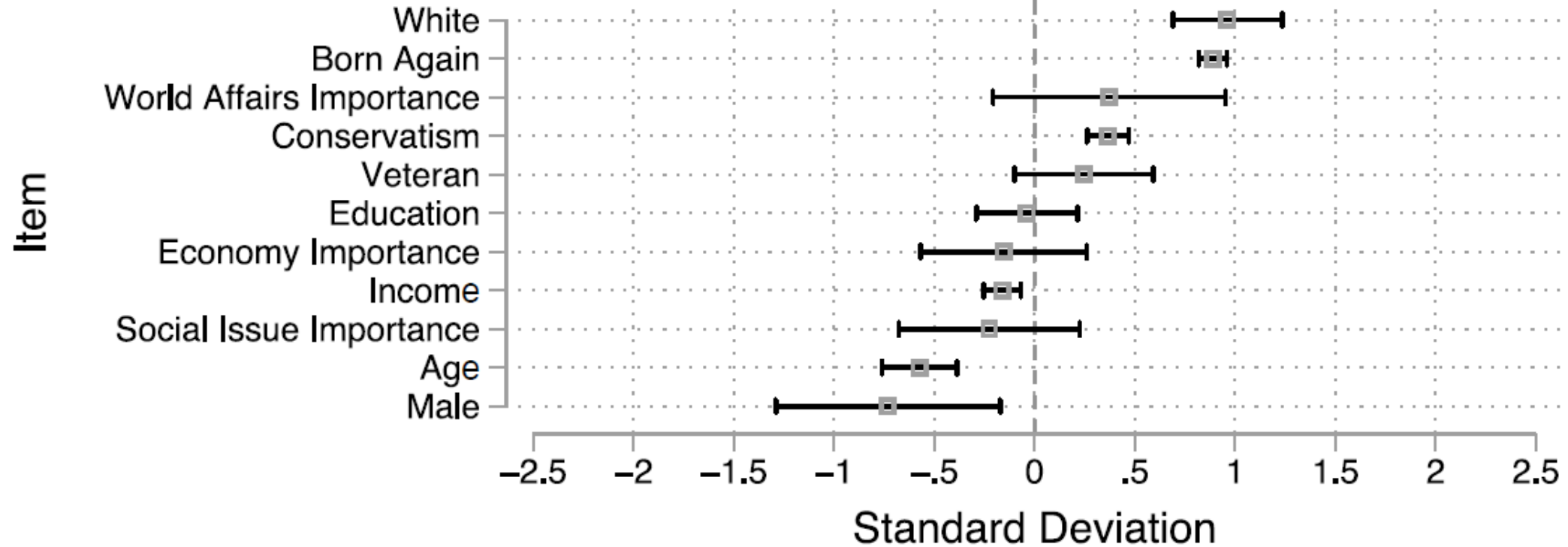


FIGURE 3.6. Republican Representativeness by Item in SC, IA, and NH

Source: NEP Exit Polls

South Carolina



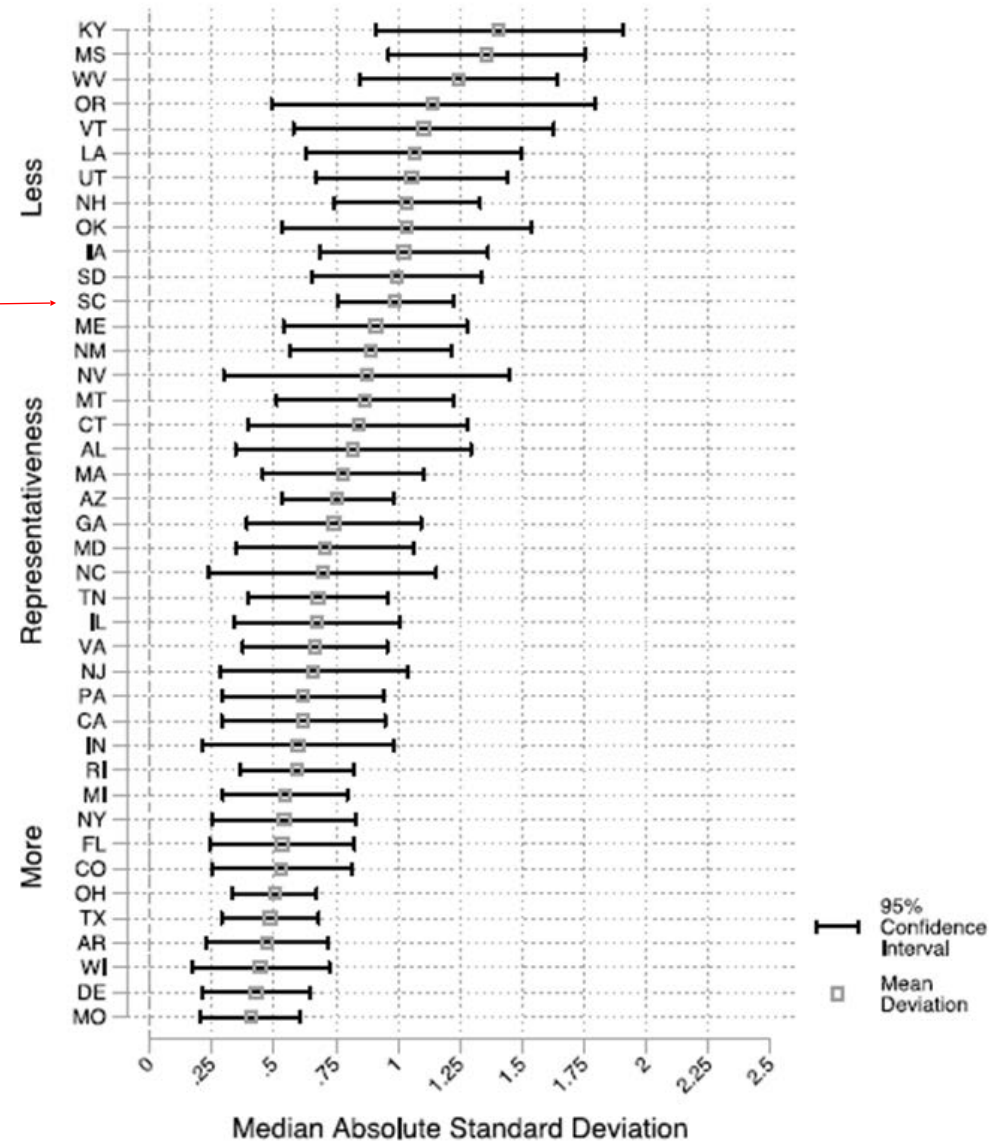


FIGURE 3.7. Index of Democratic Representativeness by State

Source: NEP Exit Polls

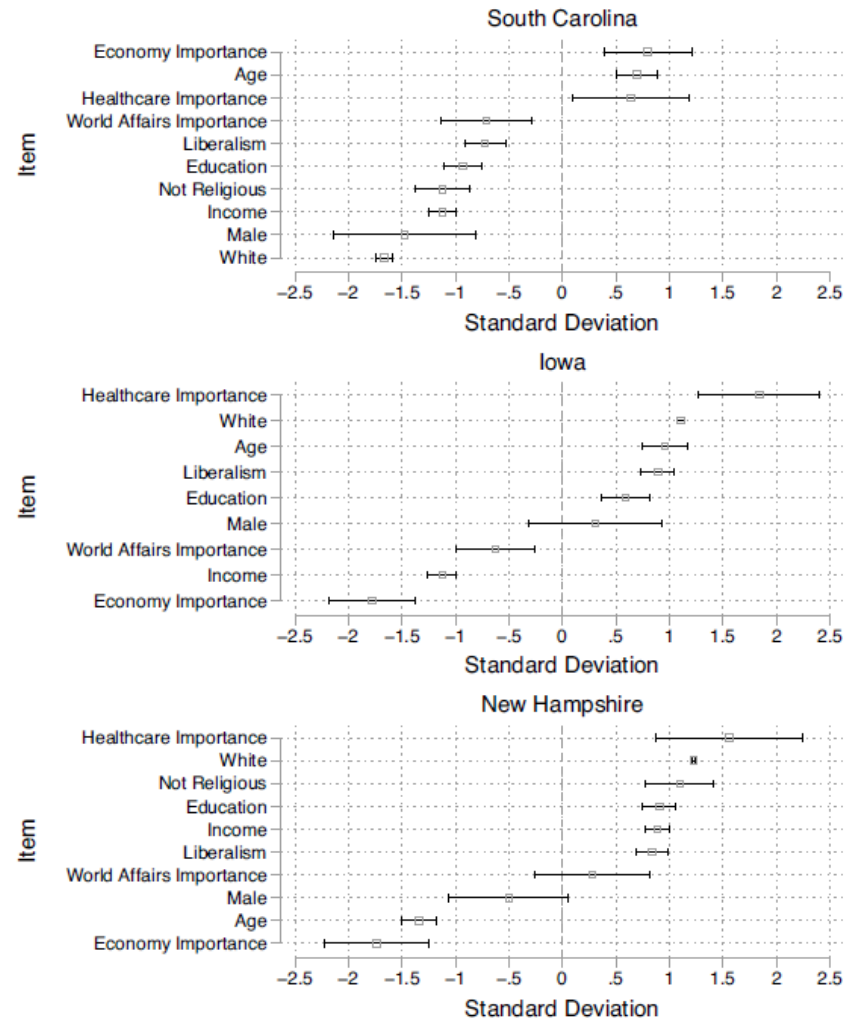
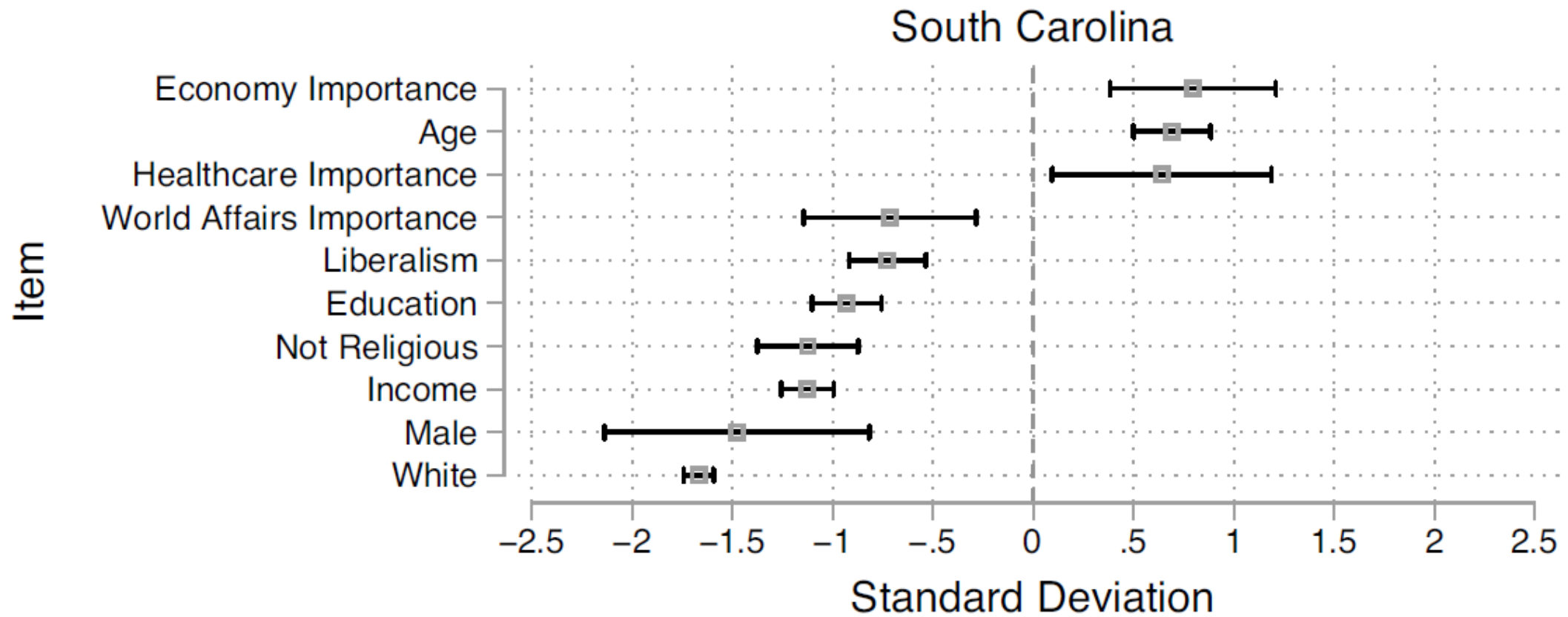


FIGURE 3.8. Democratic Representativeness by Item in SC, IA, and NH

Source: NEP Exit Polls

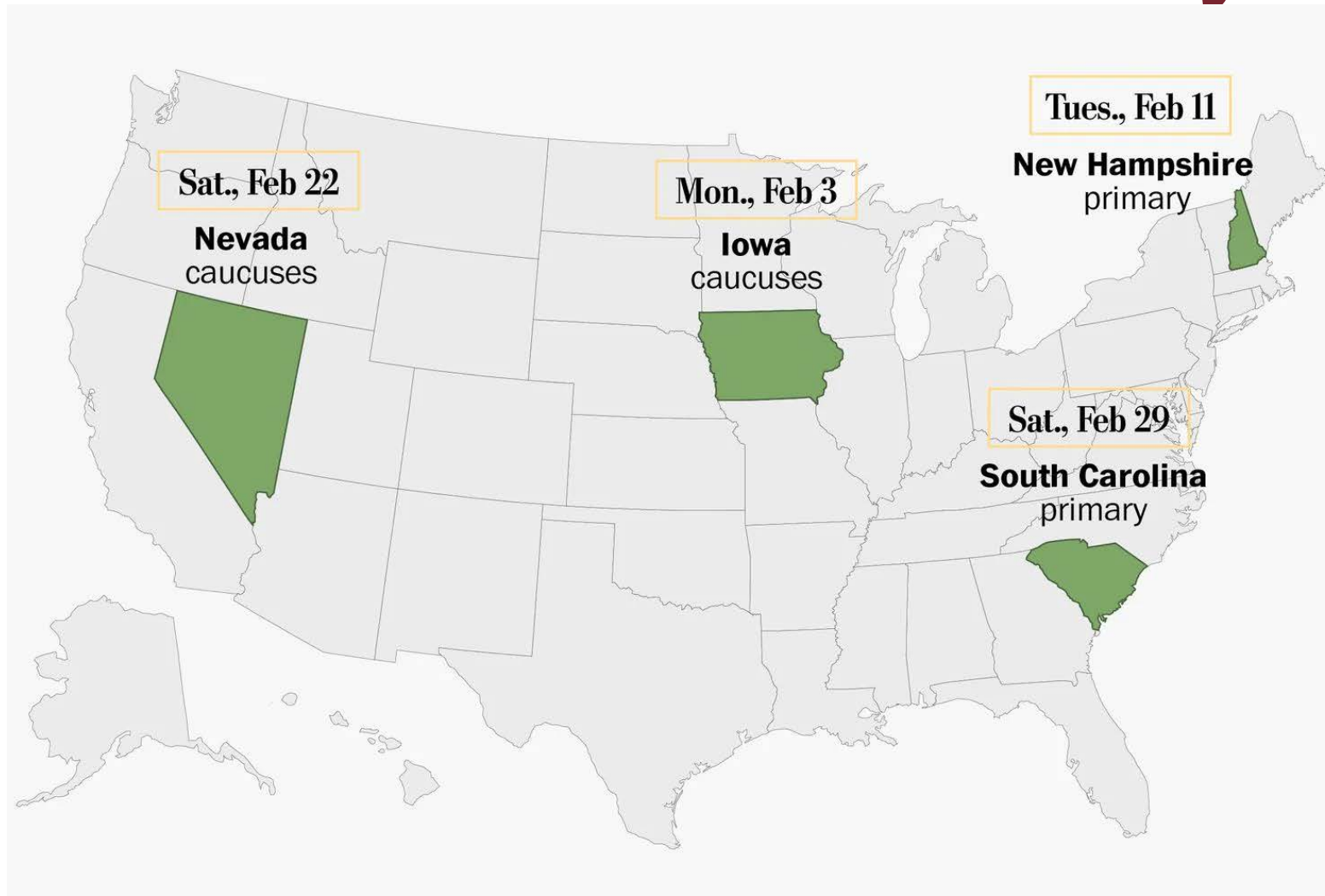


Source: Knotts and Ragusa 2020

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The Current Presidential Primary System



Positives of the Current System

- Predictability
- Boost to underdog candidates
- Appeal to a diverse array of voters
- Assesses a candidate's viability and electability

Positives of South Carolina

- Counterweight to Iowa and New Hampshire
- GOP electorate is among most representative
- Democratic electorate brings needed diversity
- Open primaries
- Barometer for subsequent states

The Future of the South Carolina Primary

- Strong support in South Carolina
- Endorsement from both national parties
- Difficulty of reforming the system

**A RESOLUTION OF
THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF CLOSED PRIMARIES**

Passed by the State Executive Committee – January 24, 2015

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Republican Party is made up of citizens who share values of limited government, balanced budgets, lower taxes and free enterprise, and wish to choose candidates who reflect those values; and

WHEREAS, the current South Carolina election laws permit any citizen to vote in the primary election of any political party; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Republican Party, as the majority party, is vulnerable to those who wish to assume affiliation with the Republican party to run for office, but do not support its principles; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Republican Party supports efforts to promote the integrity of the election process; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Republican Party supports allowing voters to designate a political party on their voter registration application; and

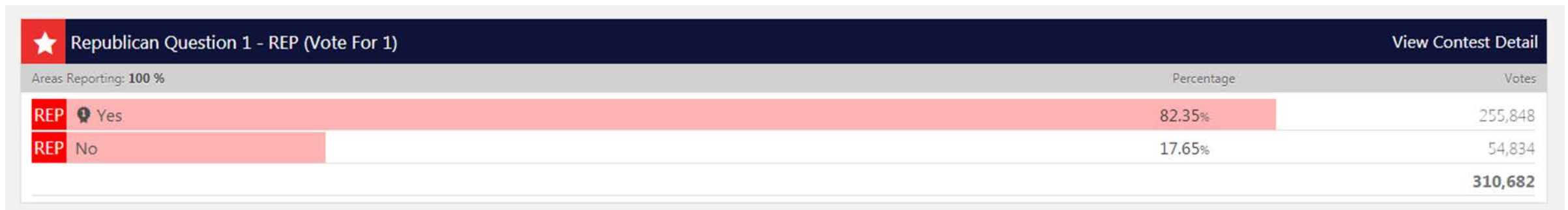
WHEREAS, the South Carolina Republican Party believes political parties have the right to choose their own nominees; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Republican Party supports primaries that are open only to registered voters of that political party; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Republican Party Executive Committee calls on Republican State Legislators to file and support legislation in the 121st General Assembly, beginning January 2015 and ending June 2016, that provides for the registration of voters by the political party of their choice; and for those voters to participate only in the primary elections of the party for which they are registered. Additionally, we call on Governor Nikki Haley to sign the aforementioned party registration and closed primary legislation into law.

2018 GOP Primary Advisory Question

- Do you believe that voters should have the option to choose to affiliate with a political party when they register to vote or change their voter registration in South Carolina?



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Comments/Questions