

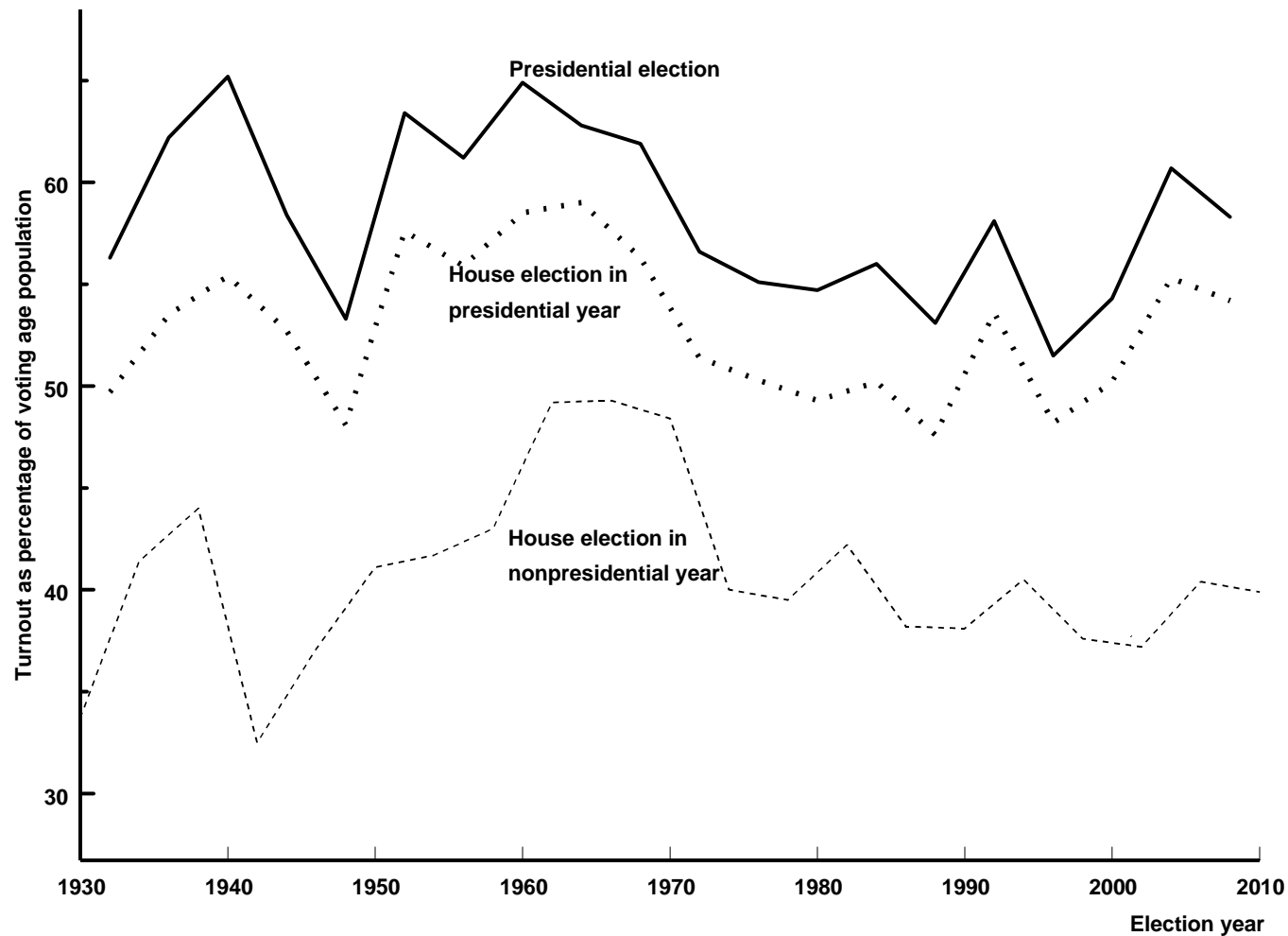
Congressional Voters

17.251/252

Fall 2010

Turnout

(Figure 5.1 updated)



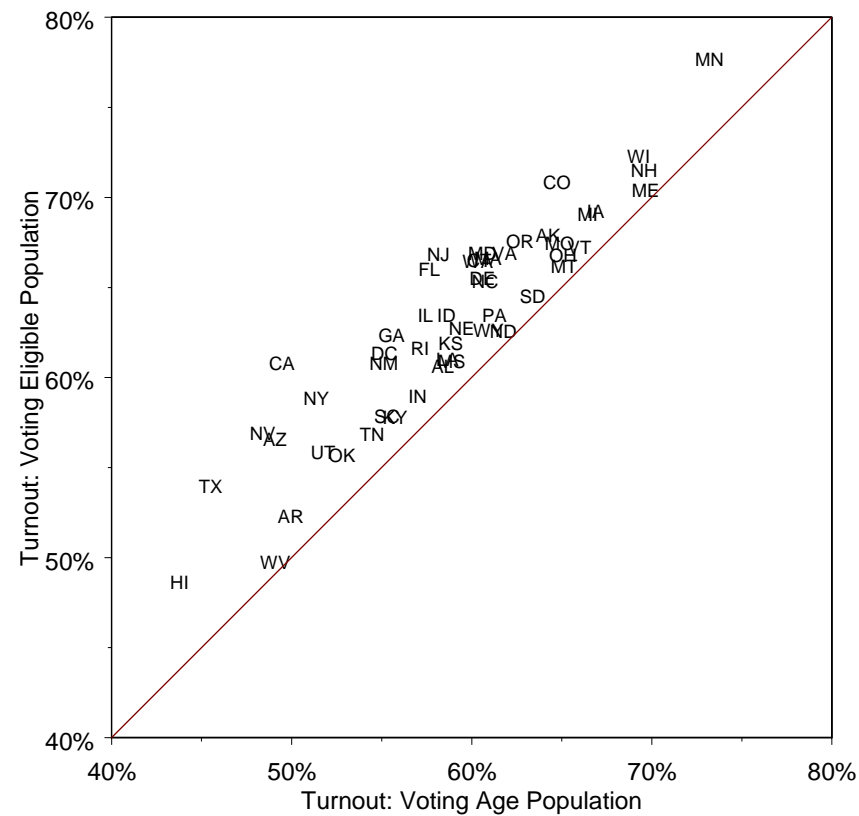
How to Calculate Turnout Pct.

- Turnout Pct. = Turnout / VAP

not

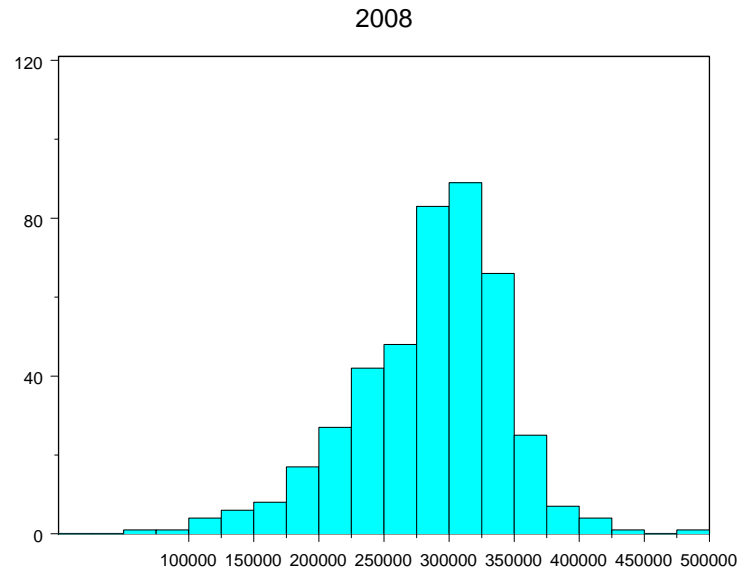
- Turnout / Registered
- New measure: Turnout / Voting eligible population

Turnout/VEP vs. Turnout/VAP 2008

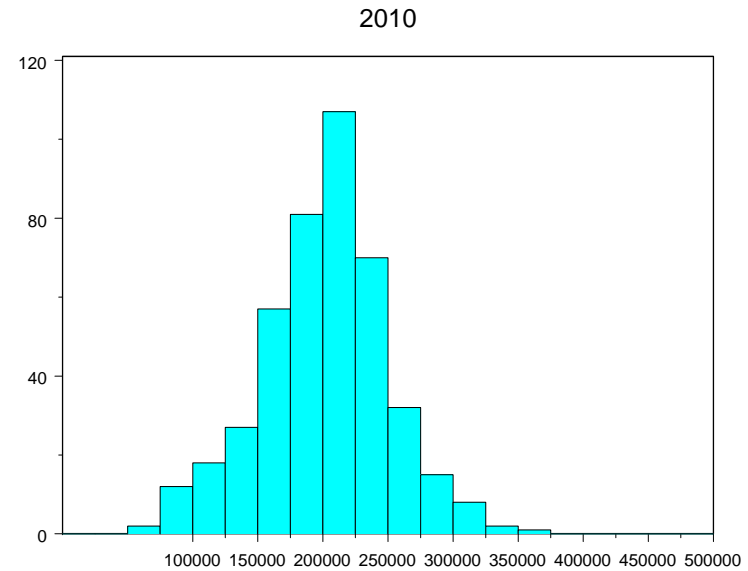


Variation in Turnout

2008 & 2010 (c.f. Fig 5.2)



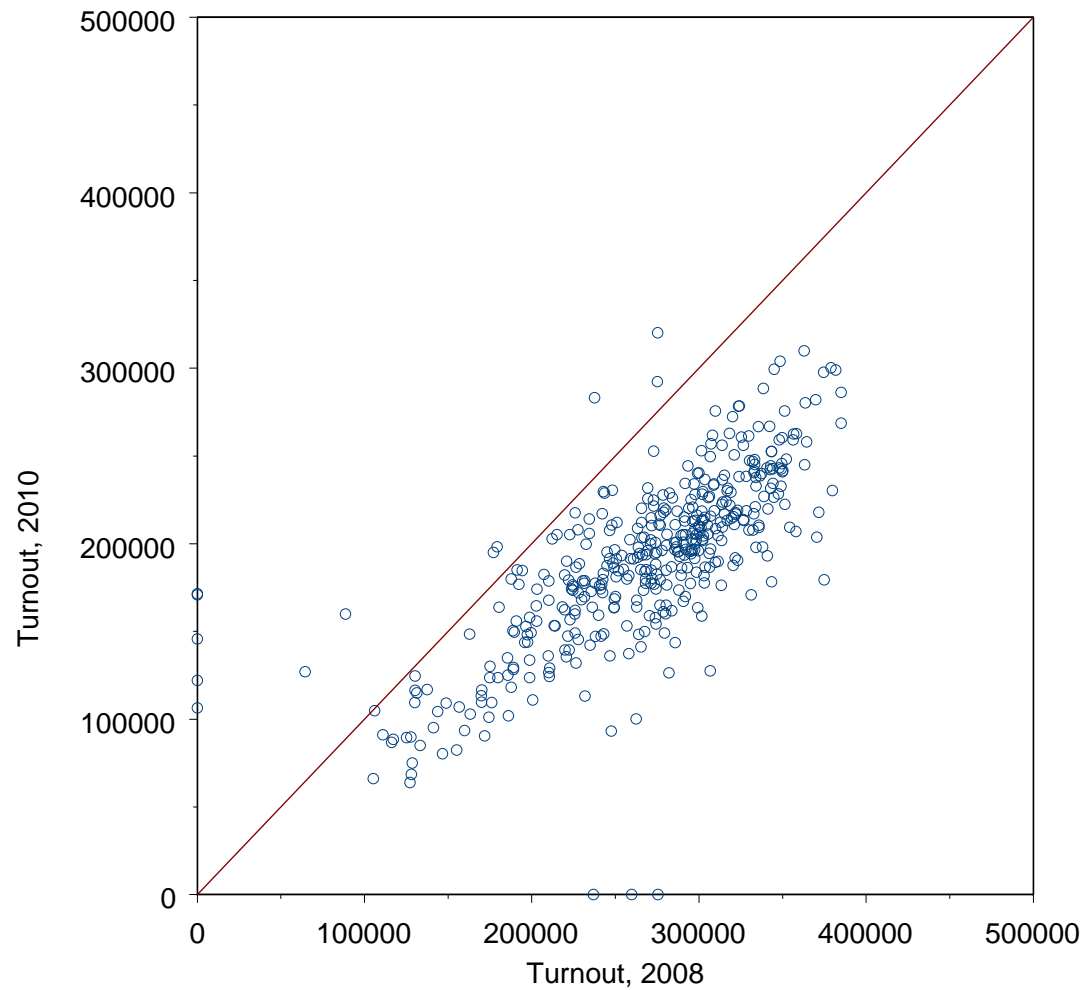
Mean = 285,084



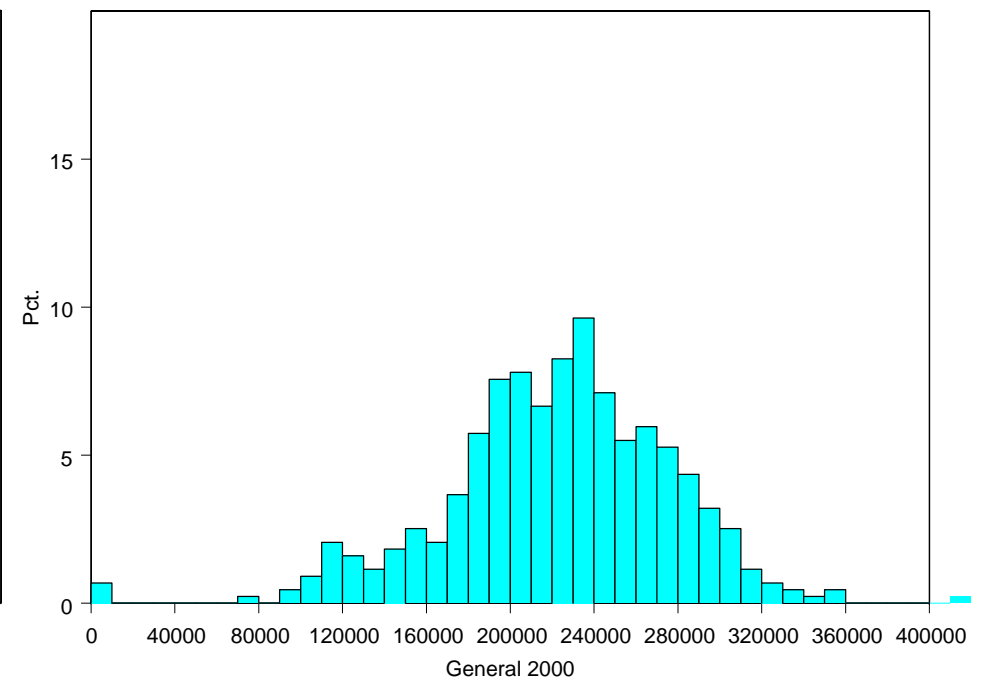
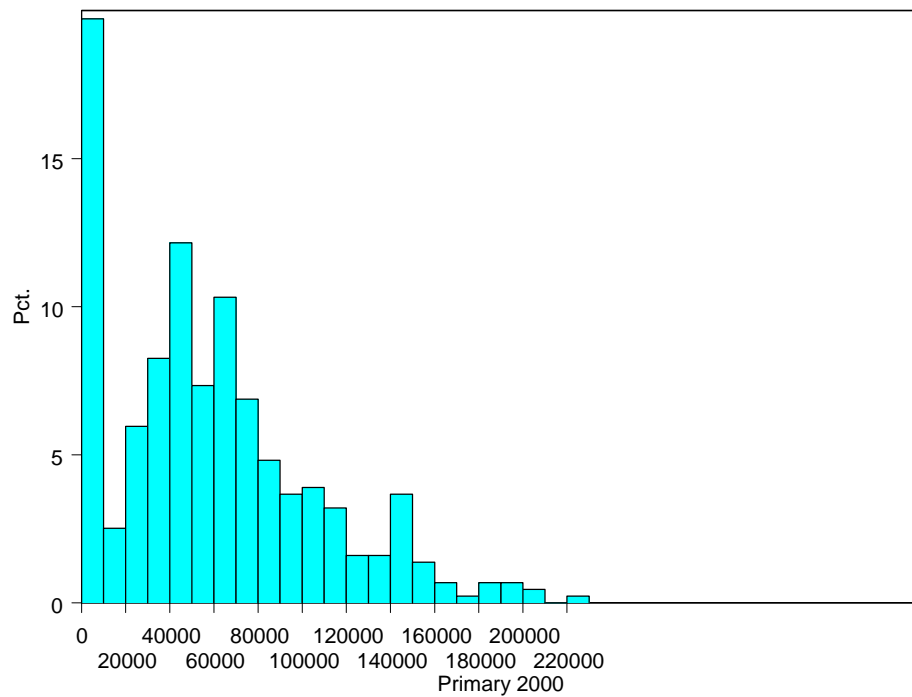
Mean = 200,891

Correlation in Turnout

2008 to 2010



Primary & General Election Turnout, 2000



Explaining (Non-)Voting

- Expected value of voting =
 - Benefit the individual receives as a consequence of the election outcome
 - Minus the cost of voting

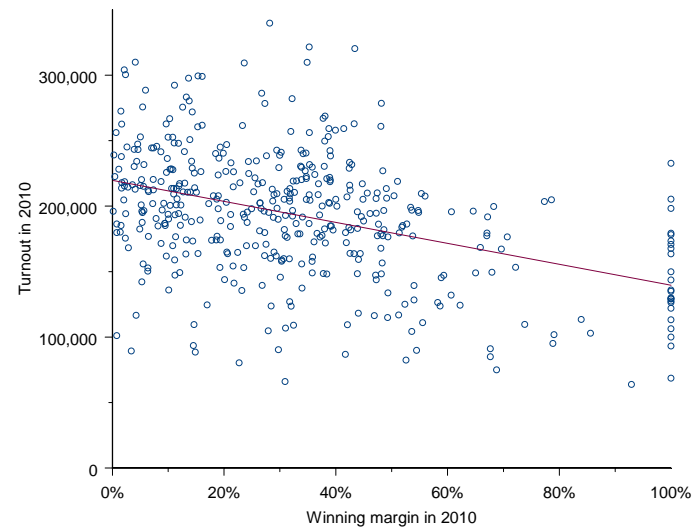
Explaining (Non-)Voting

State of the World w/out Citizen's Vote	Net Benefit if Citizen Abstains	Net Benefit if Citizen Votes	Condition under which Citizen Should Vote
D wins by more than 1 vote	B^D_{Citizen}	$B^D_{\text{Citizen}} - c$	Never
D wins by exactly 1 vote	B^D_{Citizen}	$B^D_{\text{Citizen}} - c$	Never
D and R tie	$(B^D_{\text{Citizen}} + B^R_{\text{Citizen}})/2$	$B^D_{\text{Citizen}} - c$	$(B^D_{\text{Citizen}} - B^R_{\text{Citizen}})/2 > c$
R wins by exactly 1 vote	B^R_{Citizen}	$(B^D_{\text{Citizen}} + B^R_{\text{Citizen}})/2 - c$	$(B^D_{\text{Citizen}} - B^R_{\text{Citizen}})/2 > c$
R wins by more than 1 vote	B^R_{Citizen}	$B^R_{\text{Citizen}} - c$	Never

Salvaging the Calculus

- Citizen duty
- Think about it probabilistically, not deterministically
 - Candidate differential
 - Costs of voting
 - Closeness of election
 - Voter attention
 - GOTV

Update of Fig. 5.3

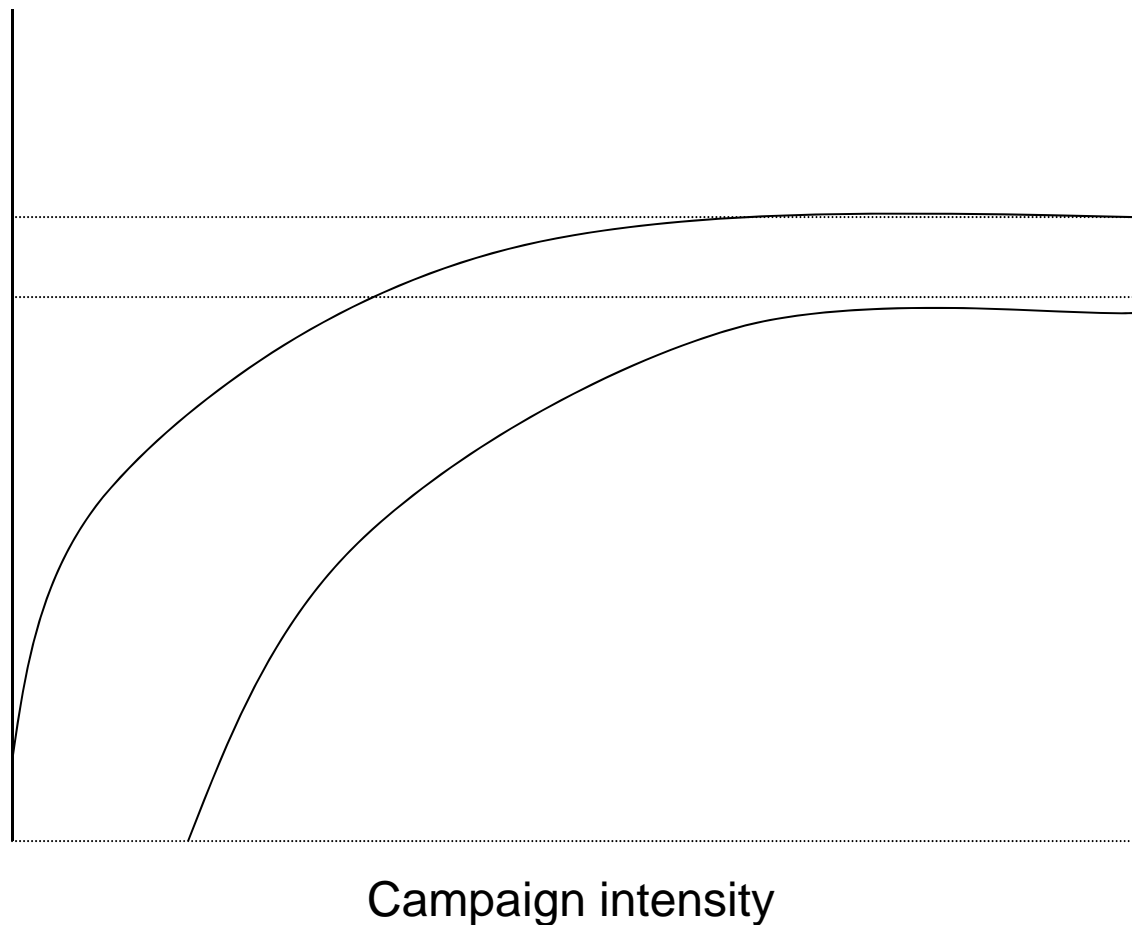


Who is hurt/helped by turnout

- Naïve view: Dems helped by turnout

Who is hurt/helped by turnout

- District view: the “out party”



Deciding whom to support

- Ideology
 - Downsian logic directly
- Party ID
 - Downsian logic by proxy

PID x IDEO in 2010

	Rep.	Ind.	Dem.	Missing	Total
Conserv.	11,493	7,968	2,166	1,856	26,483
Moderate	1,191	4,515	3,961	809	10,476
Liberal	286	3,406	12,189	493	16,374
Missing	267	471	690	639	2,067
Total	16,237	16,360	19,006	3,797	55,400

Source: 2010 Cooperative Congressional Election Study

Party and Ideology Distance as Explanatory Factors in 2010 Cong'l Elections

House	Ideology of voter			
Party ID	Con.	Mod.	Lib.	Total
Rep.	.03	.19	.26	.06
Ind.	.12	.53	.90	.40
Dem.	.82	.88	.97	.93
Total	.14	.63	.94	.48

Source: 2010 CCES

Senate	Ideology of voter			
Party ID	Con.	Mod.	Lib.	Total
Rep.	.03	.21	.25	.05
Ind.	.09	.52	.91	.38
Dem.	.82	.90	.97	.93
Total	.12	.64	.94	.49

Overall voting effect, 2010 House election

Party identification	Effect of changing from an Ind. to a Dem.	0.273 (0.002)
Ideology	Effect of changing from a mod. To a lib.	0.221 (0.002)
Democratic incumbent	Effect of changing from a open seat race to a Dem. Inc.	0.067 (0.002)
Constant		0.499 (0.002)
R ²		.64
N		39,066

A Word about Primaries

- Party not a useful cue
- Not much research, but.....
 - Primary voters are different from general election voters
 - Primary voters are more ideologically extreme, but
 - Primary voters are more strategically sophisticated than general election voters
 - Don't underestimate the “friends and neighbors” effect

Voting rates in 2010 House primary

	Didn't vote	Voted in Dem. pri.	Voted in Rep. pri.	Voted in another pri.	Don't recall
Rep.	32.6%	2.6%	59.2%	0.6%	5.0%
Ind.	57.3%	12.4%	21.1%	3.0%	6.2%
Dem.	42.2%	49.1%	1.1%	0.7%	7.0%
Total	44.5%	23.7%	24.2%	1.4%	6.2%

Source: Cooperative Congressional Election Study, 2010

Average ideology of primary voters, 2010

	Didn't vote	Voted in Dem. pri.	Voted in Rep. pri.	Voted in another pri.	Don't recall	Total
Rep.	1.41	1.16	1.86	1.42	1.20	1.66
Ind.	0.15	-0.19	1.33	0.59	0.27	0.39
Dem.	-0.80	-0.91	-0.62	-0.97	-0.59	-0.84
Total	0.07	-0.71	1.66	0.44	0.14	0.29

-3 = strong liberal

0 = moderate

+3 = strong conservative

Std. dev., ideology of primary voters, 2010

	Didn't vote	Voted in Dem. pri.	Voted in Rep. pri.	Voted in another pri.	Don't recall	Total
Rep.	1.14	1.42	1.01	1.25	1.28	1.11
Ind.	1.36	1.37	1.17	1.48	1.40	1.43
Dem.	1.45	1.45	1.42	1.82	1.51	1.46
Total	1.58	1.50	1.14	1.66	1.58	1.69

-3 = strong liberal

0 = moderate

+3 = strong conservative