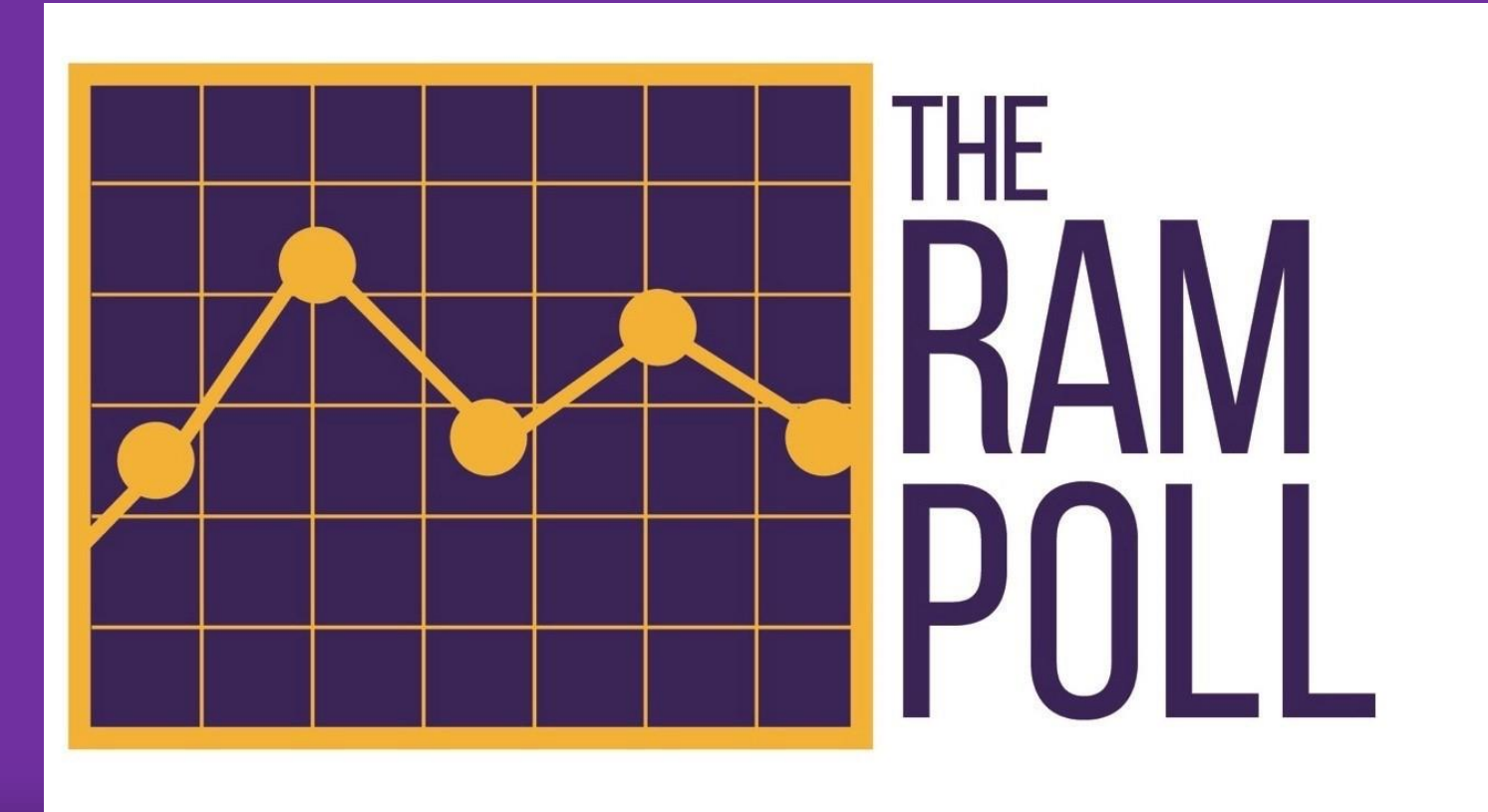


Race vs Vote Choice

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Abstract

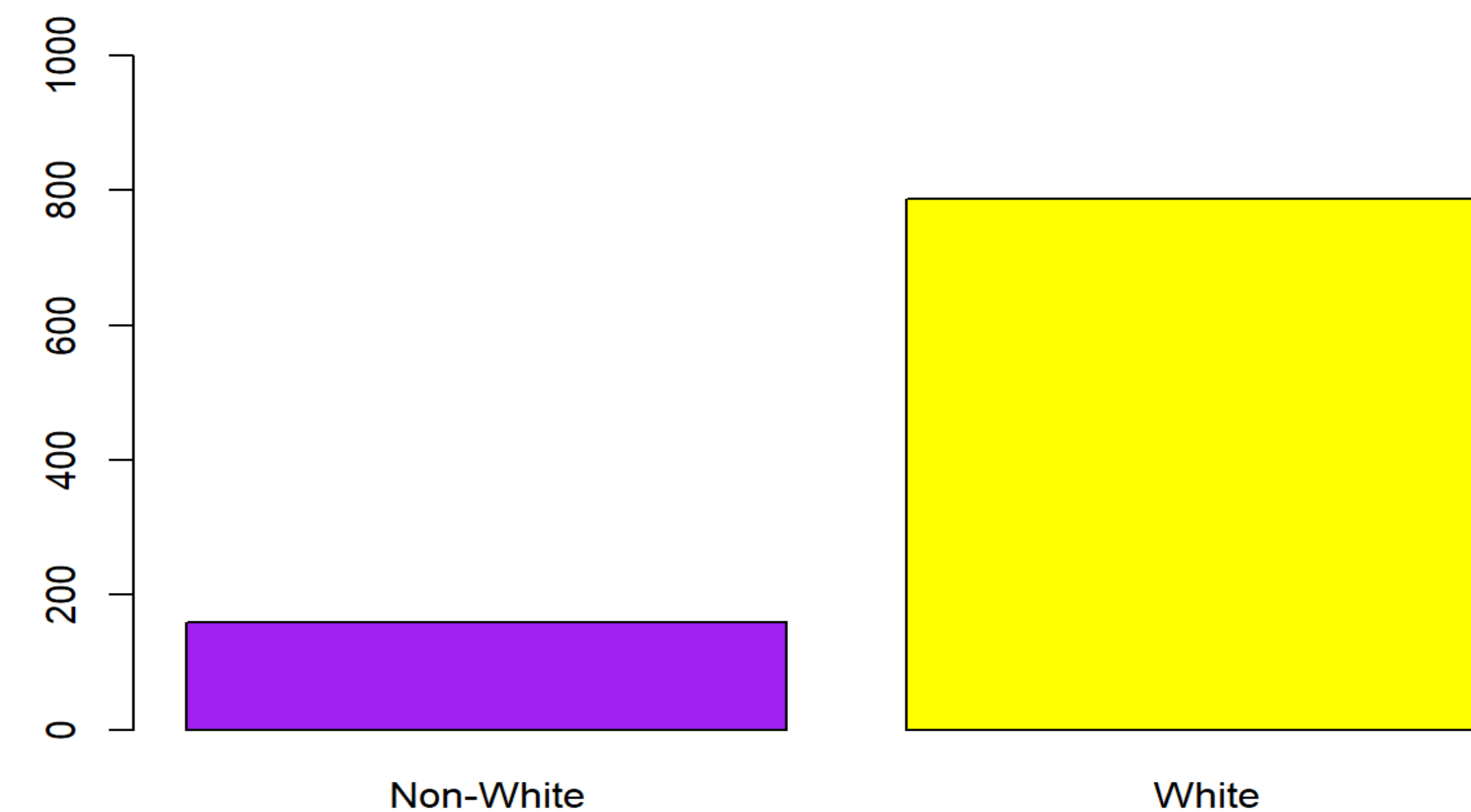
The Ram Poll is a poll that goes out every two years to students that go to schools belonging to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). This Poll is designed to get an idea of how college students will vote, as well as gauge how they feel about various topics, such as abortion, cost of living, and gun control. This year, in 2022, the poll went out to 10 out of the 11 PASSHE universities and received a total of 948 responses. My hypothesis is that a person's race does affect who they choose to vote for. To test this hypothesis, two chi-square tests of independence with a second order Rao and Scott adjustment were used to determine if a person's race influenced their choice for both Pennsylvania governor and US Senator. Race was a influencing factor in both choices for governor and senator. Nonwhite people preferred the Democratic candidates in both races, while white people preferred the Republican candidates.

Methodology

The survey was sent out via email to PASSHE students on October 13th. Students were asked what their racial or ethnic background is (White, Black, Asian, Hispanic, or other), and which candidate they would vote for in both the gubernatorial and senate races in Pennsylvania. These responses were collected via Qualtrics until the survey closed on October 19th. Once all the responses were collected, they were exported into an excel spreadsheet, and that data was analyzed with R. The race variable was recoded into white vs. non-white, according to what racial/ethnic background they reported, before analysis was done.

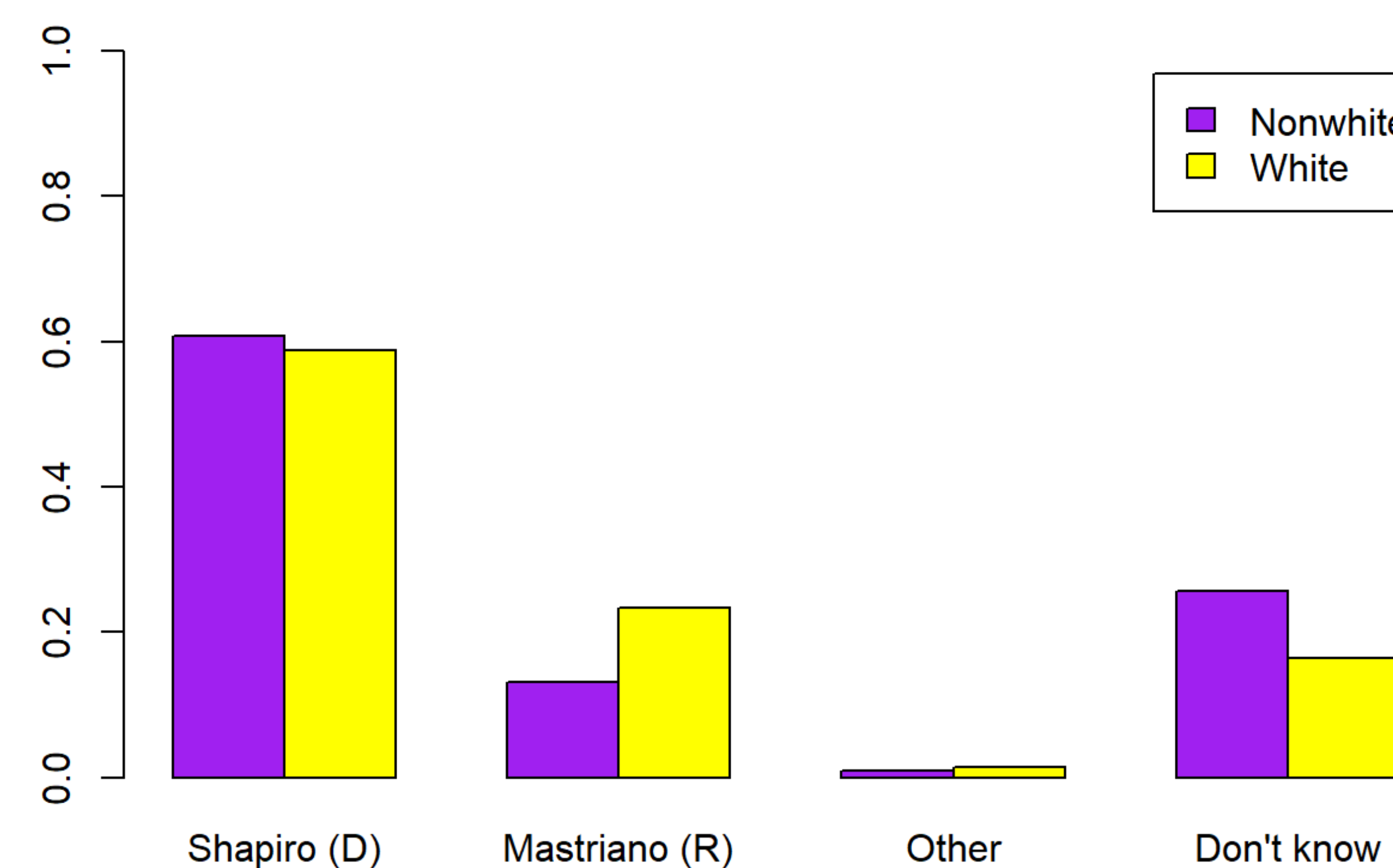
We received 948 responses, with 822 students reporting that they were registered to vote.

Total Voter Count by Race

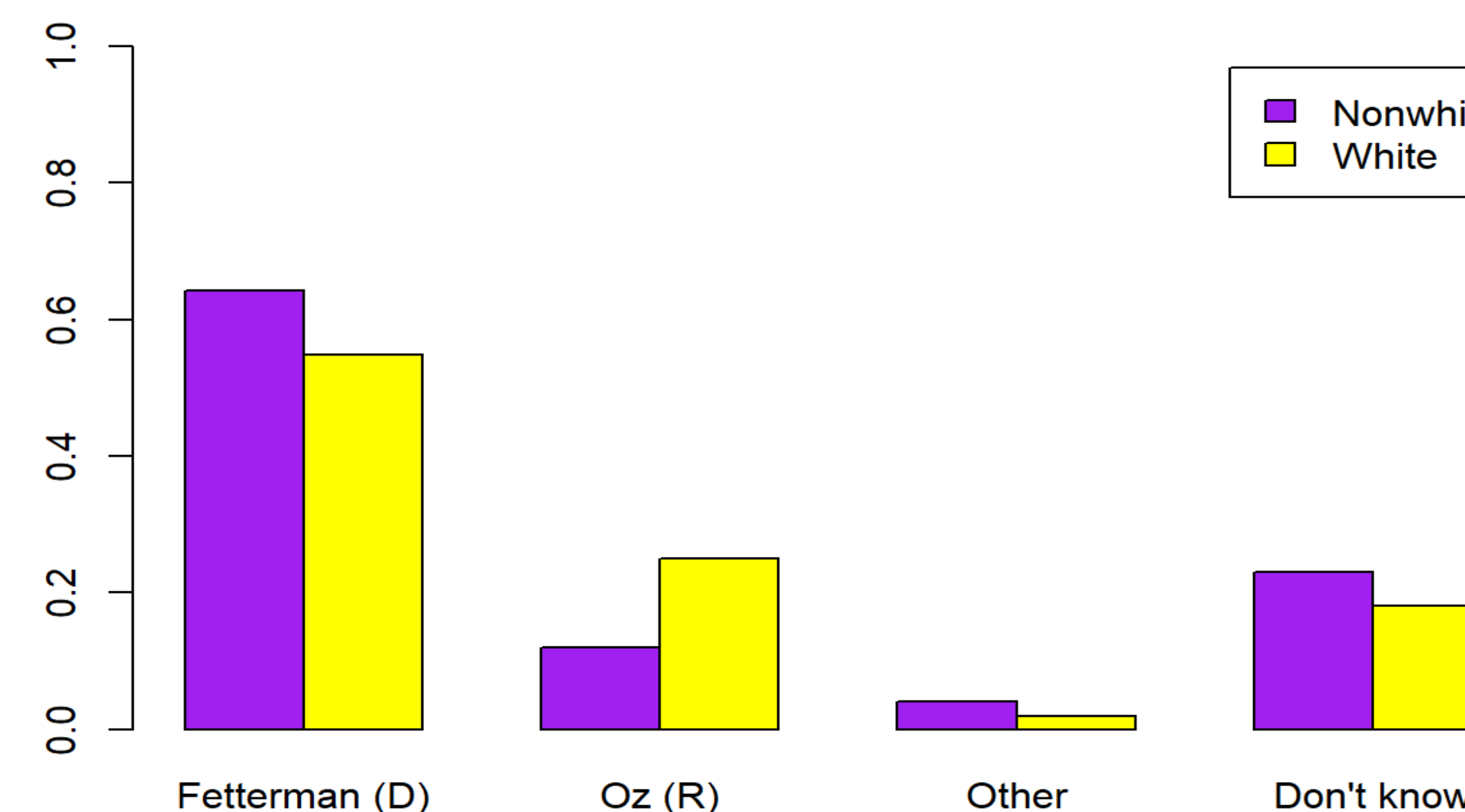


N = 948

Governor by Race



Senator by Race



Analysis and Results

I hypothesize that there does exist a relationship between a student's race and who they will vote for. More specifically, I hypothesize that white students will prefer the republican candidates at higher rates and non-white students will prefer the democratic candidates at higher rates. In order to test my hypothesis, two chi-square tests of independence with a second order Rao and Scott adjustment were used. There exists a relationship between a voter's race and their choice of candidate in both the gubernatorial race ($F = 3.716$, $p < 0.05$) and the senate race ($F = 3.2189$, $p < 0.05$). This can be interpreted in two ways.

In terms of race by vote choice, In the gubernatorial race, about 13% of nonwhite students and about 23% of white students chose Republican Doug Mastriano, while about 61% of nonwhite students and 59% of white students chose Democrat Josh Shapiro. In the senate race, about 12% of nonwhite students and about 25% of white students chose Republican Mehmet Oz, and about 61% of nonwhite students and about 55% of white students chose Democrat John Fetterman.

In contrast, the total amount of votes each candidate received can be broken down by race. For the gubernatorial vote, Doug Mastriano received 172 votes, with 15% coming from nonwhite students and 85% coming from white students. Josh Shapiro received 496 votes, with 25% coming from nonwhite students, and 75% coming from white students. For the Senate vote, Mehmet Oz received 181 votes, with 14% coming from nonwhite students and 86% coming from white students. John Fetterman received 471 votes, with 26% coming from nonwhite students and 74% coming from white students.

Discussion

Results came as expected. White people tend to vote republican in elections, while nonwhite people tend to vote Democrat. And with the issues surrounding this election being racialized (Abortion, Inflation, gun control issues/policies affect nonwhite people at higher levels across the country), it is logical that the racial groups are voting the way that they are.

Citations

Neff, J., VanWright, I., Gorr, J., Lafrance, G., McKee, C., Seravello, E., Weber, K., Yeakel, V., & Pyott, L. (2022). (rep.). Retrieved from <https://www.wcupa.edu/sciences-mathematics/mathematics/documents/Ram%20Poll%20Report%202022.pdf>.

Melillo, G. (2022, November 11). Researchers say 2022 election had second highest young voter turnout in last 30 years. The Hill. <https://thehill.com/changing-america/respect/diversity-inclusion/3730922-researchers-say-2022-election-had-second-highest-young-voter-turnout-in-last-30-years/>