Politics of the professoriate:

Longitudinal evidence from a state public university system's universe of faculty

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Abstract

Ovesr the past decade, Democrats and Republicans have grown increasingly polarized in their views of American higher education. Republicans in particular have become far more critical of the political and social views of faculty. In this paper, we thus investigate whether the commonly held belief of a politically liberal professoriate is true for the universe of faculty employed by an entire state's public university system. Using administrative data that allows us to identify with precision the political behaviors over time for professors overall and by key institutional and individual characteristics, we provide novel evidence on the politics of faculty. Though professors are civically engaged and more likely to be registered Democrats, substantial variation exists in partisanship by department of affiliation, with lower rates of Democratic affiliation observed for those working in the bench sciences. Furthermore, analyses of over a decade of data reveal that faculty are becoming less partisan over time, with greater rates of disaffiliation from the Democratic party. We document that faculty diverge from other voters in the state; those living in the most educated zip codes, while less Democratic than professors, have left the party at much lower rates over the same time period. All together, our results reveal far more nuance in the partisan alignment of faculty, which has implications for the coverage of politics in higher education by popular media and its potential impact on government efforts to expand political control over postsecondary institutions and challenge their independent governance.

Keywords: civic engagement, higher education, political ideology, professors, voting

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1. Introduction

The American public has grown increasingly polarized in their views of higher education. More and more adults now believe that colleges and universities negatively affect the U.S., but this shift over the past decade is driven almost entirely by the perspectives of Republicans (Parker, 2019). Attitudes regarding faculty may partially explain this partisan divide: 83% of Democratic adults believe that professors act in the public interest, compared to 48% of Republicans. In fact, Republicans are over 60 percentage points more likely than Democrats to say that higher education is headed in the wrong direction specifically because of the political and social views of faculty (Parker, 2019). With both popular media portraying and academic research finding a liberal leaning professoriate, it is potentially unsurprising then that conservative government officials across the U.S. have sought to expand political control over institutions of higher education and challenge their independent governance—for example, through the passage of legislation that weakens tenure protections for professors or restricts what they teach in classrooms, to the punitive cancellation of federal research grants and contracts with colleges and universities.

The growing salience regarding faculty's partisanship has further led many institutions located in conservative-leaning states, particularly public ones, to advocate for "institutional neutrality", at least as their publicly facing position (Moody, 2024; Poliakoff, 2022). But some on the political right believe this stance merely serves as a cover for liberal leaning colleges to evade rising scrutiny of their activities (Wood, 2024). At the same time, revived concerns on the

political left that institutional neutrality signals a retreat from longstanding commitments to academic freedom have only intensified (Ginsburg, 2023; Kalven Committee, 1969; Post, 2023; Thorp, 2025). Because both concerns can animate popular and governmental distrust of academia, one might assume that politics in the workplace is bad for teaching and research.

Yet the extent to which the presumably liberal politics of faculty affect their teaching and research is uncertain. Before even determining whether professors influence student beliefs, a question itself subject to substantial self-selection threats (e.g., of students into higher education, specific fields of study, or peer groups)[1], obstacles remain that complicate the identification of the political ideology of faculty and their partisanship. Many studies of the politics of the professoriate draw on individual university or college cases, raising generalizability concerns. Alternatively, investigations will rely on data collected from a sample of professors across institutions, which helps with external validity—at least when samples are drawn randomly, and survey response rates are high—but hinders more nuanced assessment of the politics of specific subgroups of professors. Finally, we do not know whether the threats to higher education themselves (or other contemporaneous ideological trends, such as diverging partisan attitudes towards science; Furnas et al., 2025) have changed the demand and supply of faculty by their politics over time: postsecondary hiring practices may have subsequently shifted, or academics may increasingly sort into institutions based on their political ideology or partisanship. In this paper, we thus address these gaps in understanding by answering the following research questions:

1) What are professors' political behaviors, including for rates of voter registration, voting in general elections, and party registration? How do these outcomes vary by key

[1] See Havey and Her (2024) for a concise overview of research challenging arguments of "brainwashing" by professors in higher education.

institutional and individual characteristics, such as the type of postsecondary institution of employment, or professors' professional position and department of affiliation?

2) How have these political behaviors changed over time? To what extent are observed changes in party registration over time explained by within-individual shifts in partisanship versus shifts in the partisanship of those who enter and exit the professoriate?
3) How do the political behaviors of the professoriate compare to those of a broader population, such as individuals of traditional college-going age (i.e., 18- to 23-year-olds) or others with relatively higher levels of educational attainment?

To answer these questions, we use data on political behaviors collected for the universe of faculty from the entire public university system of a single state, collated biennially from 2014 through 2024. Over this decade, unversities across this state, which serve over 80% of students in the state's broader higher education system, were the target (like many others across the U.S.) of elected officials' efforts to weaken academic tenure, abolish diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, and challenge independent system governance (Das Acevedo, 2025). Under this motivating political backdrop, we thus conduct simple descriptive analyses of the data, exploring both overall and heterogeneous rates of voter registration, general election voting, and party registration, for professors over time. We focus on these particular measures because of their data availability, use in past research, and because partisanship arguably proxies (though imperfectly) for political ideology, while registration and voting capture the extent to which professors are politically engaged (with more engaged professors potentially more likely to transmit their politics through their work).

We document three main findings. First, faculty demonstrate high levels of civic engagement, based on rates of voter registration (generally over 75%) and general election voting (upwards of 90% during presidential year elections for those registered). In terms of partisan alignment in 2024, professors are overall most likely to be registered with the Democratic party (45%) or with neither major political party (42%). While these patterns replicate across key characteristics such as position (e.g., lecturers vs. tenured full professors) and institution (e.g., Minority Serving Institutions [MSIs] vs. flagships), we document far more heterogeneity by departmental affiliation. Though Republican registration never exceeds one-fifth of professors from the state public university system's largest department groups, Democratic affiliation ranges from 29% of a department's faculty (Computer Science & Technology) to 58% (Social Work). A second stark pattern made visible through our unique longitudinal data is that more and more professors over our decadal panel are not registered with either the Democratic or Republican party. Not only are declines greater for Democrats overall—they are greater for nearly all subgroup configurations, signaling weakening "enthusiasm" across the professoriate for the traditionally more liberal party in particular. The changing partisanship of new entrants and leavers to the profession appears to primarily drive these patterns, though by tracking faculty over time in the voter data we reveal cases where within-individual political realignment accounts for less (i.e., professors at MSIs) or more (i.e., professors at institutions that are not flagships, MSIs, or R1 or R2s—largely regional public universities) of temporal shifts. Finally, we document that trends in party registration are largely replicated for other populations in the state. Though professors are more likely to be registered Democrats than others, by 2024 they exhibit similar rates of Republican affiliation to individuals of traditional college-going age and to those living in geographies with relatively higher levels of educational

attainment. Notably, decadal declines in Democratic (Republican) affiliation are bigger (smaller) for the professoriate than those observed for individuals living in the top percentile of zip codes in terms of advanced degree rates.

All together our findings speak to three bodies of research. Most directly, we build on extant work on the politics of the professoriate, which as mentioned earlier has received considerable attention in public discourse, despite limitations of the empirical evidence. Two primary approaches have been used in this literature by researchers to evaluate faculty. The first includes designs where smaller samples of individuals across a set of universities and colleges (or, in some cases, a larger sample from a single higher education system, institution, or department) complete survey items that identify their politics (e.g., Gross & Simmons, 2007; Honeycutt et al., 2023; Honeycutt & Freberg, 2017; Klein & Stern, 2004; Rothman et al., 2005). A second approach eschews primary data collection in favor of analyzing existing administrative or large-scale data on voter registration and political ideology linked to separate datasets that identify faculty at institutions of higher education (e.g., Klein & Western, 2004; Langbert & Stevens, 2021; Langbert, 2018; Langbert et al., 2016). These studies, for example, evaluate partisanship based on social media posts (Havey & Her, 2024) or party registration information tied to publicly available employment records for professors (e.g., LinkedIn; Kagan et al., 2025).

We rely on the second approach to measure the politics of the professoriate. Consequently, our findings are less susceptible to concerns regarding generalizability, low survey response rates, and self-report bias, and our ability to analyze data collated from a larger sample of faculty allows us to precisely document heterogeneity across key subgroups (e.g., gender, race, department, institution type). We also improve on prior work leveraging secondary data through the representativeness of our faculty sample (e.g., the universe of faculty of an

entire state's public university system across ten years, as opposed to the self-selecting subset that have online employee profiles or who use social media) and through our match rates for voter data to lists of professors (demonstrated by our higher voter registration rates for professors relative to those found by other scholars; e.g., Klein & Western, 2004; Langbert & Stevens, 2021; Langbert, 2018; Langbert et al., 2016). Like past work, we do continue to find that faculty tend to associate with the Democratic party, but our unique data and research design allows us to add nuance to this conclusion. Specifically, we document that: (1) substantial variation in partisanship exists on certain axes (i.e., professors' departmental affiliation); (2) simple cross-sectional analyses miss key longitudinal trends in party disassociation; (3) temporal trends largely reflect compositional shifts in the politics of those who enter and exit the professoriate; and (4) professors are actually less likely to be Democratic over time when compared to other comparable populations, i.e., those from geographies with highly educated populations.

Our research next draws on two literatures that, when connected to the aforementioned studies portraying a politically liberal professoriate, potentially motivate the concerns expressed by Republicans regarding faculty beliefs and the trajectory of higher education. First, scholars demonstrate that K-12 schools causally impact the educational and labor market outcomes of students, and that the most important school-based contributor of these effects are teachers (e.g., Angrist et al., 2024; Chetty et al., 2014; Jackson et al., 2014); a parallel line of work focused on higher education has grown in recent years that arrives at a similar conclusion (e.g., Mountjoy & Hickman, 2021; Shi, 2024). The potential for students' educational experiences to influence their political outcomes is also supported by research that finds civic returns to education more broadly (e.g., Dee, 2004). In fact, individual schools at both the K-12 (Cohodes & Feigenbaum, 2021; Gill et al., 2020; Mumma, 2024) and postsecondary (Bell et al., 2024; Firoozi, 2023) levels

vary in terms of their impacts on voting outcomes, with scholars proposing and evaluating several mechanisms for effects (e.g., civic education and programming; Andolina & Conklin, 2020; Syvertsen et al., 2009). With respect to partisanship in particular, educational attainment itself has been linked to increased right-wing identification (Meyer, 2017) and exposure to specific targeted curricula does in fact shape political ideologies (e.g., Cantoni et al., 2017; Hammock et al., 2016), though school-based interventions and programs in other settings have also been shown to expand affiliation with the Democratic party and more liberal beliefs (i.e., compulsory schooling; school diversity and integration; Billings et al., 2021; Cavaille & Marshall, 2018; Chin, 2024; Kaplan et al., 2025). In toto, this body of literature highlights at the very least that schools are sites where civic and political outcomes can be shaped. Subsequently, professors are in a unique position to transmit their politics to students, especially as we show that faculty demonstrate high levels of civic engagement.

Supporting this conclusion are findings from separate investigations that document how individuals' political ideologies matter for their employer's professional outcomes as well as their own. Kagan et al. (2025) succinctly summarize this work, highlighting how the politics of both organizational leaders and staff more generally can have spillover effects, for example, into compensation and turnover. With respect to academia in particular, researchers' political ideology correlates with their academic writing practices (Jelveh et al., 2024) and may matter for their topics of study and approaches to investigation (e.g., Duarte et al., 2015), and research from different fields appear to exhibit ideological slants, based at least on the partisan leanings of the varied think tanks that differentially cite studies from accounting, economics, finance, political science, and sociology (Furnas et al., 2025; Ringgenberg et al., 2023). Our findings similarly document substantial heterogeneity in professors' partisanship—distinguishing party affiliation

across 20 distinct departments—and notably highlight how professors in the bench sciences and fields with stronger positivist epistemologies tend to exhibit relatively lower levels of Democratic affiliation. This variation of course has implications for the politics being transmitted to university and college students (i.e., it depends, based on field of study)—if in fact this transmission is happening.

We next describe the method of our investigation into the politics of the professoriate that allow us to contribute to this extant work, before describing in more detail our findings and considering the implications of this work for future research and public discourse.

2. Method

2.1 Data

To answer our research questions and describe the politics of the professoriate we primarily rely on data merged from two sources. The first source is official proprietary data furnished by all public universities from a single state on their faculty, which includes information on faculty's: school of employment, primary departmental affiliation, and position. These data are quarterly snapshots of the professoriate documented biennially at the end of each year starting in 2014 and ending in 2024, which closely coincides with the timing of each major federal election of the past decade (i.e., November 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024).

For this state university system, the faculty position specifically describes those who devote a majority of their time to teaching and conducting research as opposed to performing administrative duties for their institution (i.e., those who are arguably most affected by political efforts to influence topics of research and instruction, as well as weakening tenure protections). The data also allow us to further separate faculty into tenure-track roles (i.e., full, associate, and assistant professors), non-tenure-track roles (i.e., lecturers), and instructors (i.e., individuals who

will start on the tenure track after completion of their terminal degree). We then classify professors based on their departmental affiliations using a combination of both inductive and deductive coding. One research team member first identified across universities and for each individual institution the 10 largest departments based on numbers of affiliated faculty. Next, considering face validity, the categorizations used by prior research and by the U.S. Department of Education, and existing university groupings, the team member combined and recoded these departments into 20 broader classifications: Art & Design; Biology; Business & Economics; Chemistry; Communications & Media; Computer Science & Technology; Criminal Justice; Engineering; English, Languages, & Literature; Environmental, Agricultural, & Geographic Sciences; Health & Medical Sciences; History; Law; Mathematics; Philosophy & Religion; Physics; Political Science; Psychology, Education, & Human Development; Social Work; and Sociology & Anthropology. The remaining faculty in smaller departments were then assigned to each of these 20 classifications as best as possible; some received multiple categorizations based on department names and some received none. To ensure reliability, all such decisions were reviewed and approved by a second research team member. Lastly, we grouped faculty across universities by key institutional characteristics, specifically by whether individuals were employed by a flagship university in the state, a Minority Institution (MSI), or, based on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions, another doctoral degree-granting institution with high research spending (i.e., R1 and R2 universities).

Professors were then linked using exact matching on name, birth information, and snapshot timing to official proprietary data describing the voter registration and history for individuals in the state.[2] These snapshots were taken on the first day of each year following key

[2] Using fuzzy merge algorithms for names increased the total number of professors reasonably linked to political behaviors by approximately two percentage points. In Appendix Table A4, we show that our findings do not

federal election cycles (i.e., January 1st of 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023, and 2025)[3] to align temporally with the university data. Key fields from this source allow us to identify at the time of the snapshot for university faculty members: voter registration status, the party of registration (i.e., Democratic, Republican, or some other party, most often "unaffiliated"), county of registration, and voting history—including in both general and primary elections. For subgroup analyses, we also consider additional available fields capturing key sociodemographic characteristics, including age, sex, and race.

Finally, to benchmark professors' political behaviors against a broader population—and to provide initial evidence on whether faculty influence the partisanship of students—we first collate the same voter data for individuals of college-going age (i.e., 18- to 23-year-olds) who are registered to vote in the counties where the state's public universities are located. Though not all such registrants are necessarily enrolled in postsecondary education, prior work highlights how individuals with more educational attainment—especially among those who are younger—are more likely to turnout to vote (Frega & Holbein, 2020).[4] Furthermore, studies note that the majority of students matriculate into postsecondary institutions within 20 miles of their home address (Hillman, 2016; Sponsler & Hillman, 2016). For the particular state under investigation, the importance of proximity in determining college or university of enrollment is relevant, as

qualitatively change when prioritizing fuzzy merged data. With exact matching, some name-age-snapshot professor observations are merged to multiple rows in the voter data. But overall, only about 8% of observations are assigned multiple parties of registration as a result and even fewer are affiliated with multiple voting history outcomes.

[3] The voter history data is not available for the 2015 snapshot.

[4] To help justify this comparison, with data from the 2015-2019 5-year American Community Survey we show that across the state, 32% of individuals ages 18 through 24 are enrolled in postsecondary education and that the largest proportion of all enrollees in higher education are 18-to-24-year-olds in a public institution specifically (46%; next largest group includes private college and university enrollees of all ages at 21%). For counties housing one of the state's public universities (covering 62% of all postsecondary students in the state), 42% of individuals ages 18 through 24 are enrolled in postsecondary education, and the largest proportion of all enrollees in higher education are again 18-to-24-year-olds in a public institution specifically (51%; next largest group includes private college and university enrollees of all ages at 20%).

registrants must vote in their county of residence (though they can choose any co-located precinct to vote at).

Importantly, with our access to data on the universe of registered voters for the entire state, we are able to document partisanship separately for groups of individuals across years of age from 18 to 23—and by election year—without concern for noisy estimates. Comparisons of outcomes for 21-to-23- versus 18-to-20-year-olds, for example, can thus provide suggestive insight on whether more potential exposure (i.e., with additional years of age) to faculty's politics matters. Finally, we perform these same benchmarking exercises for professors against registered voters living in the most educated geographies in the state. We specifically use available information from the most recent 5-year American Community Survey for each voter data snapshot to identify those living in the top 1% of zip codes in the state each year in terms of individuals with at least a master's degree.[5] Motivating this investigation is our interest in determining whether any dynamic shifts observed in partisanship are unique to professors or also true for a broader population of individuals exhibiting relatively higher levels of education.

2.2 Sample

In Appendix Table A1, we provide summary statistics of the data described above for the universe of professors employed by the state public university system; each year includes approximately 17000 professors. Approximately 40 percent of faculty are employed by a flagship university in the state, another 40 percent work at another R1 or R2 university, and between 10 to 12 percent are affiliated with an MSI. There is a relatively even distribution across tenure-line faculty, with assistant, associate, and full professors each accounting for between 26 to 30 precent of the professoriate in any given year. Across the 20 biggest departmental

[5] This criterion results in an average zip code where 40% of the population have at least a master's degree and 9% have at least a doctorate.

classifications, professors are most likely to be affiliated with Health & Medical Sciences (27 to 30 percent), followed by Psych, Education, & Human Development (10 percent) and Business & Economics (nine percent). The next biggest groups (before a slight drop off) each constitute between six to eight percent of faculty and include: Art & Design; Biology; and English, Languages, & Literature. Finally, for registered voters, for which we have additional sociodemographic data, we find that the professoriate is getting younger, and that White (male) faculty outnumber non-White (female) faculty overall, though these gaps have diminished slightly over time (but by race in particular remain substantial).

2.3 Empirical Methodology

Our exploration of the politics of the professoriate is purely descriptive. As such, to answer our research questions, we largely rely on simple longitudinal averages of political outcomes overall and by different subgroups of faculty, based on key institutional and individual characteristics. However, to assess the statistical significance of temporal shifts in these measures, we estimate variants of the OLS regression model represented by the following equation:

$$Y_{it} = \sum_T \beta_T(\mathbf{1}(t = T)) + \varepsilon_{it} \qquad (1)$$

Where political outcome, Y_{it}, for professor i is predicted by a vector of dummy variables indicating the snapshot year of data t. To further examine whether longitudinal differences are attributable to within-individual changes as opposed to changes to the partisanship of who enters and exits the professoriate, we investigate the extent to which the betas on the time dummies, β_T, attenuate after including voter (i.e., professor) fixed effects, μ_i, into the model:

$$Y_{it} = \sum_T \beta_T(\mathbf{1}(t = T)) + \mu_i + \varepsilon_{it} \qquad (2)$$

3. Results

In Appendix Table A2, we first present year-on-year averages for voter registration and general election voting rates for professors in the state public university system by different key individual and institutional characteristics. We also calculate a "long difference", which captures the change in these outcomes from 2014 to 2024. The first main result this table depicts is that all subgroups of professors are civically engaged, both consistently over time and at high levels. Rates of voter registration are lowest for assistant professors in 2014 (74.5% percent) but otherwise upwards of 80%. Unsurprisingly, professors are less likely to vote in off-cycle elections during the panel (i.e., 2018 and 2022), but even these rates are extremely high (i.e., greater than 71 percent of registered instructors, even higher for other groups).

[Insert Figure 1 about here.]

In terms of partisanship, Figure 1 shows that registered professors in 2024 overall are most likely to be registered with the Democratic party (45%) or are affiliated with no political party (41%). We find some variation in these outcomes across subgroups when considering the sociodemographic characteristics of voters, type of institution of employment, and position. Male professors are 14 percentage points less likely to be Democrats than female professors, and White faculty members are 10 percentage points less likely to be Democrats than non-White faculty members. However, when looking, for example, at professors both on the tenure track and not on the tenure track, those working at flagships versus MSIs versus other R1 or R2 institutions, or just those that voted in the most recent November election (i.e., perhaps the most enthusiastic or engaged voters), we tend to find similar levels of partisan lean—between 40 to 47 percent are affiliated with the Democratic party, and 11 to 19 percent with the Republican party.

In contrast, we document more noticeable evidence of variability in party registration rates by departmental affiliation. Across the 20 biggest departmental groups of the state public

university system, Democratic association ranges from 29% of faculty (Computer Science & Technology) to 58% (Social Work). Notably, the departments more weakly affiliated with the party traditionally tied to more liberal politics prima facie appear to be those categorizable as a bench science or to have stronger positivist epistemologies, i.e., Comp Science & Technology; Engineering; Business & Economics; Math; Physics; Chemistry; Environmental, Agricultural, and Geographic Sciences; and Health & Medical Sciences. Faculty with these affiliations also tend to have slightly higher rates of registration with the Republican party, as well—at least relative to the rest of the professoriate.

[Insert Table 1 about here.]

Focusing on party registration, we next investigate the extent to which partisanship among faculty has changed over our decade of data. Though initial results highlight an average Democratic lean for professors, we document stark patterns in Table 1 for party registration rates between 2014 and 2024: Over time, professors overall have become less likely to be Democratic and Republican (long differences of -6.8 and -4 percentage points, respectively), and 10.6 percentage points more likely to be an unaffiliated registrant. To the extent that shifting institutional priorities continue to favor the development and support of faculty in STEM-related fields over those in the humanities and the social sciences, we might have expected these observed concurrent shifts in faculty partisanship. With our data, we cannot directly assess whether the academic-focus association with faculty partisanship is or could become a motivating selection factor in changing institutional priorities. But, even if our observations are the function of a spillover effect, they at the very least suggest that we might ask different questions within departments than we might holistically across a given institution.

At the same time, the trends away from Democratic party affiliation are notable and markedly consistent across subgroups: Essentially all configurations of faculty are less likely to associate with either major political party in the present day than they were a decade ago, and long differences are bigger for Democrats in nearly all cases, even if variation in the magnitude of these shifts is substantial (e.g., a decadal decrease of 1.9 percentage points versus 14.8 percentage points for Art & Design and Political Science professors, respectively).

[Insert Figure 2 here.]

Figure 2, a paired-coordinate plot capturing within-group changes from 2014 to 2024, highlights how focusing on heterogeneity in the magnitude of Democratic or Republican party disaffiliation, however, can mask baseline differences across subgroups of professors. For example, Political Science faculty members exhibited the largest decrease in Democratic lean (14.8 percentage points) across the decade, but they were also ranked seventh among subgroups at the beginning of the panel in terms of association with the party. Contrast that with Physics professors, whose Democratic party registration rate dropped 3.5 percentage points (fourth smallest) over this time frame, but who also started out among the least associated of the professoriate. Perhaps most notable are the party registration results for non-White professors. The only group we found to have increased in their partisanship over time actually expanded their affiliation with Republicans—however, these faculty members in 2024 remain by far the least likely to be registered with the traditionally more conservative party.

[Insert Table 2 about here.]

In Table 2, we present OLS regression results from estimation of the models represented by Equations (1) and (2) to investigate the extent to which shifts in professors' party registration outcomes are explained by within-individual changes. Comparing beta coefficients on the time

dummies (relative to the baseline year of 2014) across models with and without voter fixed effects, we show that the shift away from party politics appear to be explained by a disproportionate representation of faculty who choose to enter and stay in the profession that are unaffiliated registrants. This is made evident as inclusion of voter fixed effects into the regression models (which constrains temporal variation to be identified from only within-individual changes) attenuates the point estimates on time by more than half of their original magnitudes. In Appendix Table A3 we share that similar results emerge for subgroups of professors (focusing analyses on immutable individual or institutional characteristics), with some notable exceptions. For professors at MSIs and non-White faculty, relative to the overall sample, a much smaller proportion of the shifts over time away from the Democratic party appear to be explained by within-individual disaffiliation. In contrast, for professors employed by regional public institutions of higher education, including voter fixed effects in some cases actually increases the disaffiliation rate from Democrats over time—and substantially attenuates observed decreases in Republican registration rates. Put differently, for this subgroup of the professoriate, we document that changes in partisanship could be largely explained by realignment of individual faculty from one party to the other. Unfortunately, though our data uniquely allow us to tease out these within-individual shifts in party association, we are unable to distinguish between the myriad explanatory mechanisms for observed trends, such as recruitment or faculty-yield selection effects, or even a chilling effect on faculty willingness to publicly identify with the Democratic (or any) party.

Given the decreasing rates of partisanship, as evidenced by lower registration rates over time for nearly all groups of professors of the state public university system with both the Democratic and Republican parties, we conducted additional analyses to assess whether

unaffiliated registrants still exhibited any partisan leanings. In Appendix Figure A1, we first show results from our exploration of faculty's voting history in electoral primaries. In the state under investigation, primary voting is open, meaning that individuals can participate in only one party's primary, but which primary is not dependent on individuals' party of registration. As the figure shows, registered Republicans and Democrats are voting at expected rates in Democratic primaries (almost zero and 100 percent, respectively). Professors unaffiliated with either party appear to lean Democratic, as when they do vote in a primary, they tend to participate in the Democratic one as opposed to the Republican one—though this partisan participation rate peaks in 2022 and has declined since. Furthermore, we highlight that overall primary participation rates for unaffiliated registrants are lower than those for Democratic registrants, reinforcing our conclusion that partisan resorting overall reflects lower enthusiasm for party politics, in particular for Democrats.[6]

We complement these findings on unaffiliated voters with information from Stanford's Database on Ideology, Money in Politics, and Elections (DIME) (Bonica, 2024). These data contain millions of records that catalog political donations made by individuals and organizations to local, state, and federal elections. For individuals, DIME includes names and addresses along with the contribution amount and the recipient's party. The data also collects information on occupation and employer titles; however, these are not as consistently populated as the contributor's name and address. One limitation of these campaign donation data, not present in our voter registration data, is that we do not have an individual's age. Thus, we leverage an

[6] It is further worth stressing that another benefit of studying political behaviors of professors in this particular context is the open primary system. This system arguably reduces the "cost" to voters for registering as not affiliated with either major political party, as one can still participate in the process of choosing partisan representatives. The fact that we observe that professors disaffiliate from both the Democratic and Republican parties over our panel—when the open primary system has not changed at all—further reinforces the possibility that partisan realignment (itself supported by results shown in Figure A1) may be occurring in response to political pressures in higher education, as opposed to external factors that govern elections.

individual's name and address to construct a merge with our political behavior data. We then follow Bonica et al. (2019) strategy when linking DIME with lists of names in other professions by restricting the merges to individuals whose listed occupation in DIME lists professor, lecturer, or related occupation, or whose place of employment is one of the universities in the state we focus on. Appendix Figure A2 plots the total contributions from unaffiliated, Republican, and Democratic voters in this subsample from our politics data to candidates from Republican, Democratic, and other parties. In all years, unaffiliated voters have contributed more to Democratic candidates. Relative to 2014, unaffiliated voters made large contributions to Democrats in 2020. However, this trend reverses in 2024 where, although at a lower level, relative to 2014, unaffiliated voters contribute more dollars to Republicans. In 2020, unaffiliated voters contributed more towards Democrats and Republicans. Conversely, in 2024, the total contributions for Democrats decreased while campaign donations to Republicans increased. Importantly, overall raw total contributions to Democrats from unaffiliated professors are lower than those observed from Democratic professors. These results again lend some support to our conclusion that professors not registered with either major political party can be viewed as having weaker partisanship than those who are.

[Insert Figure 3 about here.]

Finally, in Figure 3 we present the findings from our benchmarking of political behaviors of the professoriate to those collected for (1) individuals of traditional college-going age who live in the counties where the state's public universities are located and (2) those living in the state's most educated zip codes. We again specifically focus on party registration differences, given Republicans' specific concerns regarding the trajectory of higher education vis-à-vis the political ideologies of faculty relative to the broader population as a whole. The paired-

coordinate plot once more depicts the long difference in rates between 2014 and 2024, with subgroups of voter registrants (e.g., professors vs. 18- through 23-year-olds) rank-ordered by their 2014 levels. Overall, we witness the unique liberal partisanship of faculty, as professors are the group most likely to be registered as a Democrat, though by 2024 faculty are similar to college-aged individuals and those from relatively higher educated geographies in terms of Republican party affiliation.

However, our longitudinal analyses allow us to add additional nuance to this conclusion. Specifically, we show that though the professoriate is more Democratic, disaffiliation among faculty from the traditionally liberal party is in fact much smaller than that observed for voters living in the top percentile of zip codes in terms of advanced degree holding (i.e., a 6.8 percentage point decline versus a 1.75 percentage point decline). This indicates that from 2014 to 2024, professors are unique in their decreasing association with these politics in the state—at least relative to other highly educated populations. Of course, we also show that shrinking enthusiasm for party politics for faculty is mirrored by similar trends for college-aged individuals. Interestingly, by 2024, for party registration we document a gradient by age: Older college-aged individuals are more likely to be registered Democrats than younger ones. As those who are older are theoretically exposed to university professors for more time (if they are enrolled in one of the state's public universities or colleges), some may interpret this trend to indicate transfers of political ideology from faculty to students. Our research design, however, is purely descriptive and cannot make such a causal claim. Furthermore, we note that the age gradient for Republican affiliation is reversed, such that younger college-aged individuals at the end of the time panel are in fact more similar to professors than older ones, in terms of association with the traditionally conservative party.

4. Discussion

In this study, we describe for the universe of faculty of an entire state's public university system rates of voter registration, voting in general elections, and party of registration. We find that professors in general are more Democratic (based on party registration) overall and also relative to other registrants—specifically, college-aged individuals living in the counties where public universities are located and those living in highly educated geographies. However, substantial heterogeneity in political affiliation exists by professors' departmental affiliations, and simple cross-sectional analyses mask key temporal trends that document decreasing enthusiasm for Democratic party politics in particular.

Future research can build on our work through several channels. First, though we can compare political behaviors of professors to populations that can theoretically be their students, we cannot know for certain which individuals in the voter registration data are actually enrolled in a public college or university. Furthermore, our research is purely descriptive, so all together we are hesitant to make any conclusion regarding the causal transmission of faculty's political ideologies through their classroom instruction. Another dataset may be able to address this shortcoming. Next, though we document the longitudinal shifts in partisanship among faculty of this state's public university system alongside political threats to weaken tenure protections, abolish diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, monitor topics of instruction and research, and weaken institutional independence, we cannot make the claim that these attacks caused the weakening enthusiasm for Democratic politics in particular—nor can we disclaim such a link without better information. A future quasi-experimental investigation might use specific legislative activities that target institutions of higher education to identify their causal impacts on faculty and their political ideologies. Thirdly, though our study holds more external validity than

many other existing studies on the politics of the professoriate—by leveraging data from all faculty of an entire university system—we are of course constrained from generalizing beyond the specific state context under investigation. Finally, here we rely on administrative data on voters and proxy for professors' political ideology with information from this source on party registration. Though we believe that whether individuals choose to affiliate with one of the major political parties as a strong indicator of their partisan leaning, this measure is coarse and does not directly assess the strength of professors' embrace of liberal or conservative beliefs—a limitation that future survey-based studies may be able to remedy.

But all together, our results bring new evidence on the changing politics of the professoriate during a time where political incursions threaten the academic freedom of faculty and independent governance of universities and colleges. Given the public discourse on the politics of the professoriate, the generalizability and nuance of our findings are key to bringing a stronger empirical base to bear on efforts to understand the increasingly polarized ways that Americans view the value and trajectory of higher education.

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Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest: none.

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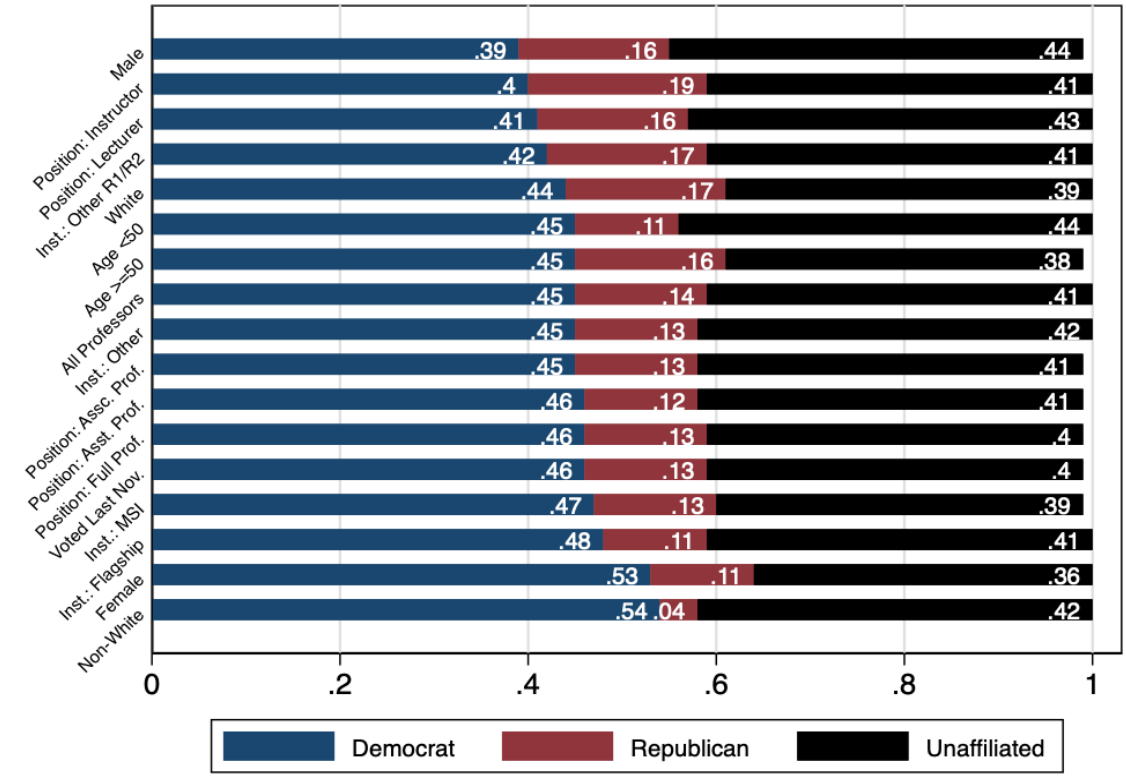
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Position: Instructor
Position: Lecturer
Inst.: Other R1/R2
White
Age <50
Age >=50
All Professors
Inst.: Other
Position: Assc. Prof.
Position: Asst. Prof.
Position: Full Prof.
Voted Last Nov.
Inst.: MSI
Inst.: Flagship
Female
Non-White
.39 .16 .44
.4 .19 .41
.41 .16 .43
.42 .17 .41
.44 .17 .39
.45 .11 .44
.45 .16 .38
.45 .14 .41
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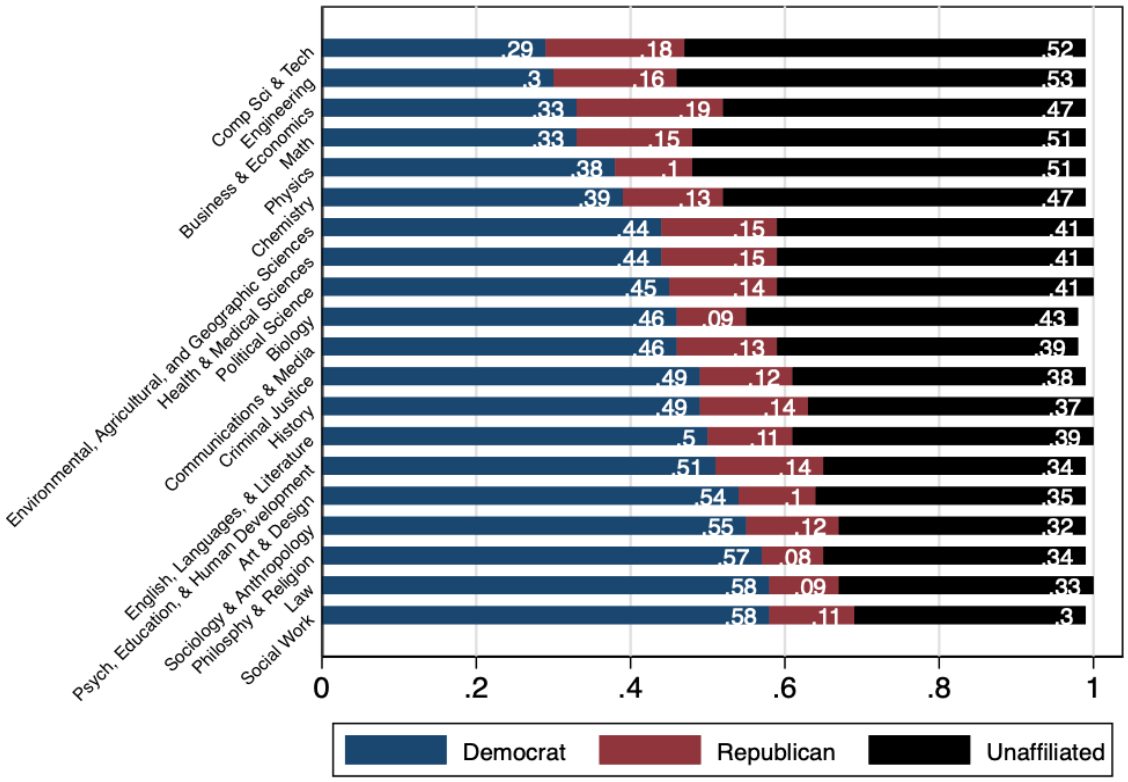
.45 .13 .41
.46 .12 .41
.46 .13 .4
.46 .13 .4
.47 .13 .39
.48 .11 .41
.53 .11 .36
.54 .04 .42
0 .2 .4 .6 .8 1
Democrat
Republican
Unaffiliated


Comp Sci & Tech
Engineering
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Math
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Health & Medical Sciences
Political Science
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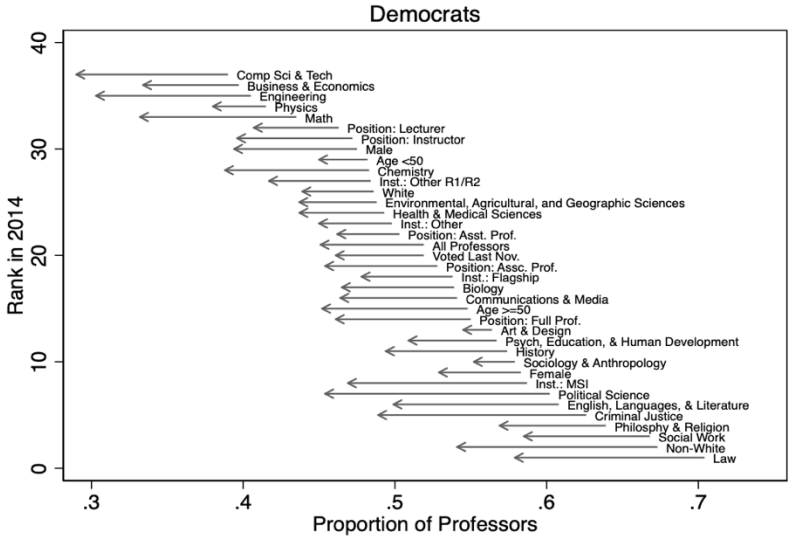
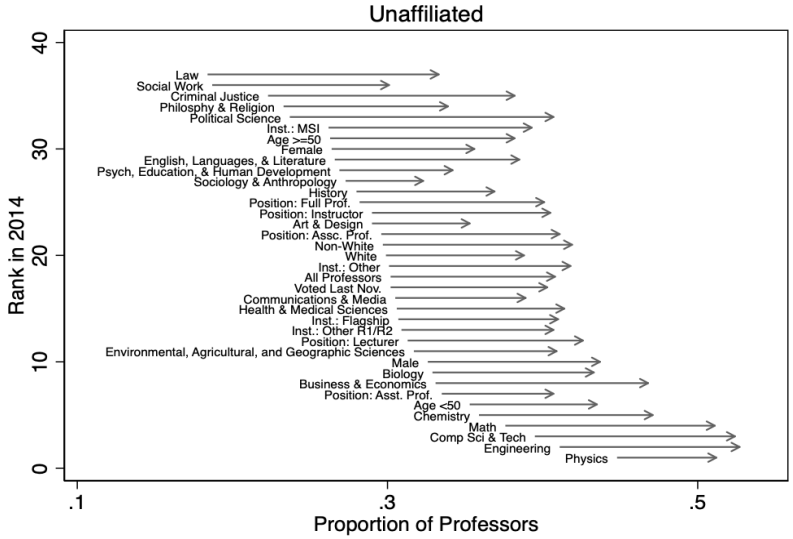
Criminal Justice
History
English, Languages, & Literature
Psych, Education, & Human Development
Art & Design
Sociology & Anthropology
Philosphy & Religion
Law
Social Work
.29 .18 .52
.3 .16 .53
.33 .19 .47
.33 .15 .51
.38 .1 .51
.39 .13 .47
.44 .15 .41
.44 .15 .41
.45 .14 .41
.46 .09 .43
.46 .13 .39
.49 .12 .38
.49 .14 .37
.5 .11 .39
.51 .14 .34
.54 .1 .35
.55 .12 .32
.57 .08 .34
.58 .09 .33
.58 .11 .3
0 .2 .4 .6 .8 1
Democrat
Republican
Unaffiliated

Figure 1. Stacked bar graph depicting party registration rates for different groups of professors who are registered to vote in 2024

Notes Groups of professors are sorted on the y-axis based on their rank in Democratic party registration rates in 2024. The bottom figure specifically groups professors by departmental affiliation. Inst.=Institution; Prof.=Professor; Assc.=Associate; Asst.=Assistant; Nov.=November.


Democrats
Rank in 2014
0
10
20
30
40
.3
.4
.5
.6
.7
Proportion of Professors
Comp Sci & Tech
Business & Economics
Engineering
Physics
Math
Position: Lecturer
Position: Instructor
Male
Age <50
Chemistry
Inst.: Other R1/R2
White
Environmental, Agricultural, and Geographic Sciences
Health & Medical Sciences
Inst.: Other
Position: Asst. Prof.
All Professors
Voted Last Nov.
Position: Assc. Prof.
Inst.: Flagship
Biology
Communications & Media
Age >=50
Position: Full Prof.
Art & Design
Psych, Education, & Human Development
History
Sociology & Anthropology
Female
Inst.: MSI
Political Science
English, Languages, & Literature
Criminal Justice
Philosphy & Religion
Social Work
Non-White
Law


Unaffiliated
Rank in 2014
0
10
20
30
40
.1
.3
.5
Proportion of Professors
Law
Social Work
Criminal Justice
Philosphy & Religion
Political Science
Inst.: MSI
Age >=50
Female
English, Languages, & Literature
Psych, Education, & Human Development
Sociology & Anthropology
History
Position: Full Prof.
Position: Instructor
Art & Design
Position: Assc. Prof.
Non-White
White
Inst.: Other
All Professors
Voted Last Nov.
Communications & Media
Health & Medical Sciences
Inst.: Flagship
Inst.: Other R1/R2
Position: Lecturer
Environmental, Agricultural, and Geographic Sciences
Male
Biology
Business & Economics
Position: Asst. Prof.
Age <50
Chemistry
Math
Comp Sci & Tech
Engineering
Physics

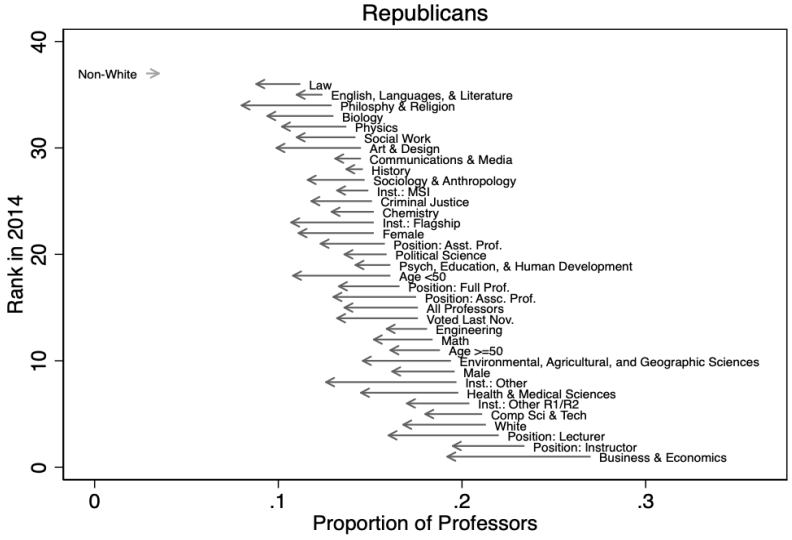
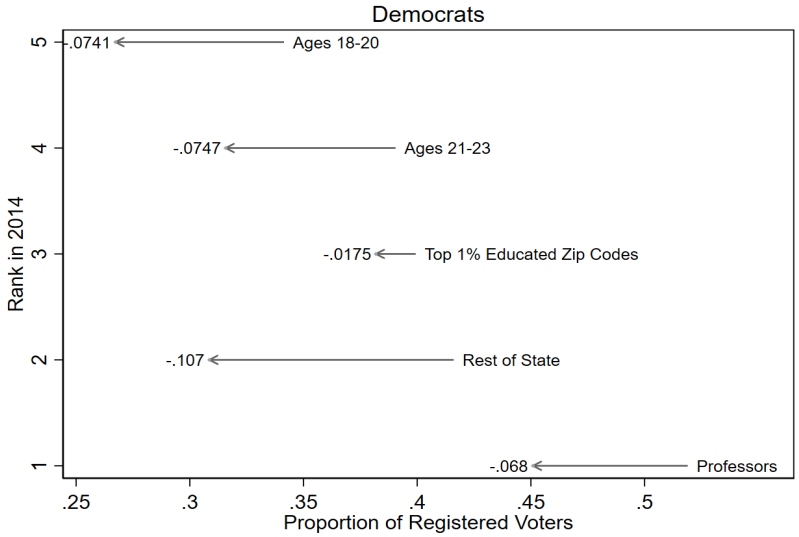
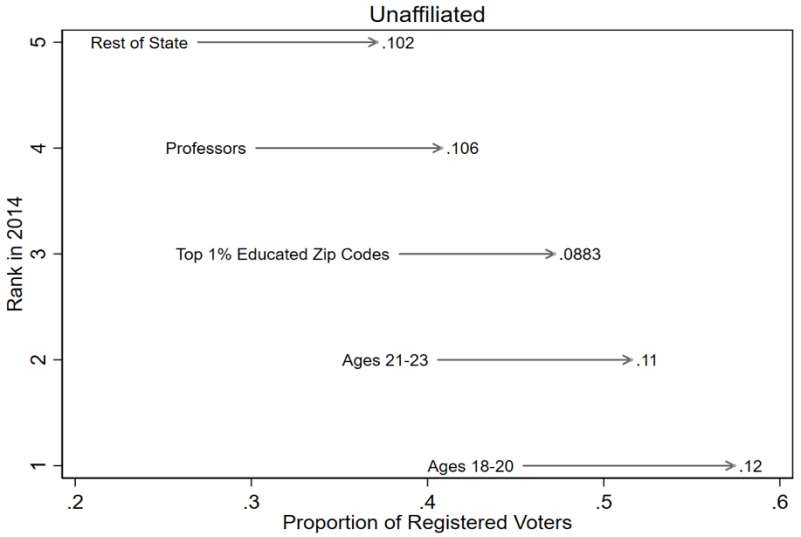

Republicans
Rank in 2014
0
10
20
30
40
0
.1
.2
.3
Proportion of Professors
Non-White
Law
English, Languages, & Literature
Philosphy & Religion
Biology
Physics
Social Work
Art & Design
Communications & Media
History
Sociology & Anthropology
Inst.: MSI
Criminal Justice
Chemistry
Inst.: Flagship
Female
Position: Asst. Prof.
Political Science
Psych, Education, & Human Development
Age <50
Position: Full Prof.
Position: Assc. Prof.
All Professors
Voted Last Nov.
Engineering
Math
Age >=50
Environmental, Agricultural, and Geographic Sciences
Male
Inst.: Other
Health & Medical Sciences
Inst.: Other R1/R2
Comp Sci & Tech
White
Position: Lecturer
Position: Instructor
Business & Economics

Figure 2. Paired-coordinate plot depicting change from 2014 to 2024 in party registration rates for different groups of professors who are registered to vote

Notes: Groups of professors are sorted on the y-axis based on their rank in party registration rates in 2014. The beginning of the arrow indicates the rate in 2014. The tip of the arrow indicates the rate in 2024. Inst.=Institution; Prof.=Professor; Assc.=Associate; Asst.=Assistant; Nov.=November.


Democrats
-.0741
Ages 18-20
-.0747
Ages 21-23
-.0175
Top 1% Educated Zip Codes
-.107
Rest of State
-.068
Professors
Rank in 2014
Proportion of Registered Voters


Unaffiliated
Rest of State
.102
Professors
.106
Top 1% Educated Zip Codes
.0883
Ages 21-23
.11
Ages 18-20
.12
Rank in 2014
Proportion of Registered Voters

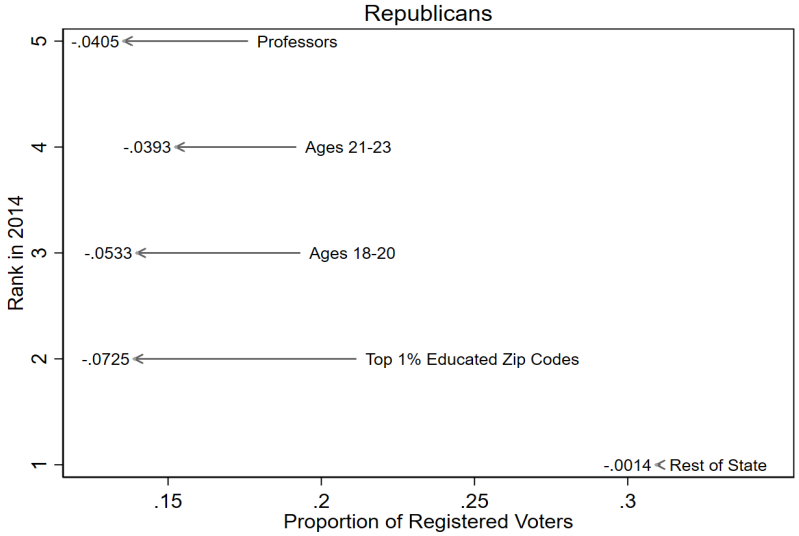

Republicans
-.0405
Professors
-.0393
Ages 21-23
-.0533
Ages 18-20
-.0725
Top 1% Educated Zip Codes
-.0014
Rest of State
Rank in 2014
Proportion of Registered Voters

Figure 3. Paired-coordinate plot depicting change from 2014 to 2024 in party registration rates for different groups of individuals who are registered to vote

Notes: Registered voters in the Top 1% Educated Zip Codes group are those living in zip codes with the highest proportion of individuals with at least a master's degree, based on data from the most recent 5-year American Community Survey (relative to the year of data). Groups of individuals are sorted on the y-axis based on their rank in party registration rates in 2014. The beginning of the arrow indicates the rate in 2014. The tip of the arrow indicates the rate in 2024.

Table 1. Party registration rates for different groups of professors who are registered to vote over time

	Democrats			Republicans			Unaffiliated			
	2014	2024	Long Diff	2014	2024	Long Diff	2014	2024	Long Diff	Larger Decline
Political Science	0.602	0.454	-0.148	0.159	0.136	-0.023	0.237	0.407	0.170	Democrat
Criminal Justice	0.626	0.489	-0.137	0.151	0.118	-0.033	0.223	0.382	0.159	Democrat
Non-White	0.673	0.541	-0.132	0.028	0.035	0.007	0.297	0.419	0.122	Democrat
Law	0.704	0.579	-0.125	0.112	0.088	-0.024	0.184	0.333	0.149	Democrat
Inst.: MSI	0.587	0.469	-0.118	0.149	0.132	-0.017	0.262	0.393	0.131	Democrat
English, Languages, & Literature	0.608	0.499	-0.109	0.124	0.110	-0.014	0.266	0.385	0.119	Democrat
Math	0.435	0.332	-0.103	0.184	0.152	-0.032	0.376	0.511	0.135	Democrat
Engineering	0.405	0.303	-0.102	0.181	0.159	-0.022	0.411	0.527	0.116	Democrat
Comp Sci & Tech	0.390	0.290	-0.100	0.211	0.180	-0.031	0.395	0.524	0.129	Democrat
Age >=50	0.548	0.452	-0.096	0.188	0.161	-0.027	0.263	0.382	0.119	Democrat
Chemistry	0.483	0.388	-0.095	0.152	0.129	-0.023	0.359	0.471	0.112	Democrat
Position: Full Prof.	0.550	0.461	-0.089	0.166	0.133	-0.033	0.282	0.401	0.119	Democrat
Social Work	0.668	0.585	-0.083	0.142	0.110	-0.032	0.187	0.301	0.114	Democrat
Male	0.475	0.394	-0.081	0.196	0.162	-0.034	0.326	0.437	0.111	Democrat
History	0.574	0.494	-0.080	0.146	0.137	-0.009	0.280	0.369	0.089	Democrat
Communications & Media	0.541	0.464	-0.077	0.145	0.131	-0.014	0.305	0.389	0.084	Democrat
Position: Instructor	0.472	0.396	-0.076	0.234	0.195	-0.039	0.290	0.405	0.115	Democrat
Position: Assc. Prof.	0.528	0.454	-0.074	0.175	0.130	-0.045	0.296	0.411	0.115	Democrat
Biology	0.539	0.465	-0.074	0.130	0.094	-0.036	0.329	0.433	0.104	Democrat
Philosophy & Religion	0.639	0.569	-0.070	0.129	0.080	-0.049	0.233	0.339	0.106	Democrat
All Professors	0.519	0.451	-0.068	0.176	0.136	-0.040	0.302	0.408	0.106	Democrat
Inst.: Other R1/R2	0.484	0.417	-0.067	0.204	0.170	-0.034	0.309	0.407	0.098	Democrat
Business & Economics	0.397	0.334	-0.063	0.270	0.192	-0.078	0.331	0.468	0.137	Republican
Inst.: Flagship	0.538	0.478	-0.060	0.152	0.107	-0.045	0.307	0.410	0.103	Democrat
Voted Last Nov.	0.519	0.461	-0.058	0.176	0.132	-0.044	0.302	0.403	0.101	Democrat
Psych, Education, & Human Development	0.567	0.509	-0.058	0.161	0.142	-0.019	0.269	0.342	0.073	Democrat
Position: Lecturer	0.463	0.407	-0.056	0.220	0.160	-0.060	0.313	0.426	0.113	Republican
Health & Medical Sciences	0.493	0.437	-0.056	0.198	0.145	-0.053	0.306	0.414	0.108	Democrat
Female	0.583	0.529	-0.054	0.152	0.111	-0.041	0.264	0.356	0.092	Democrat

Environmental, Agricultural, and Geographic Sciences	0.488	0.437	-0.051	0.194	0.146	-0.048	0.317	0.409	0.092	Democrat
Inst.: Other	0.498	0.450	-0.048	0.197	0.126	-0.071	0.301	0.418	0.117	Republican
White	0.486	0.439	-0.047	0.213	0.168	-0.045	0.299	0.388	0.089	Democrat
Position: Asst. Prof.	0.503	0.462	-0.041	0.158	0.123	-0.035	0.335	0.407	0.072	Democrat
Physics	0.415	0.380	-0.035	0.137	0.102	-0.035	0.448	0.512	0.064	Republican
Age <50	0.482	0.450	-0.032	0.161	0.108	-0.053	0.353	0.435	0.082	Republican
Sociology & Anthropology	0.579	0.552	-0.027	0.147	0.116	-0.031	0.273	0.323	0.050	Republican
Art & Design	0.564	0.545	-0.019	0.145	0.099	-0.046	0.290	0.353	0.063	Republican

Notes: Groups of professors are sorted based on the Long Diff for Democratic party registration rates. Long Diff=Change from 2014 (or 2016, for the Voted Last Nov. group of professors) to 2024; Inst.=Institution; Prof.=Professor; Assc.=Associate; Asst.=Assistant; Nov.=November.

Table 2. OLS regression results predicting party registration rates for all professors who are registered to vote by time

	Democrats		Republicans		Unaffiliated	
	No Voter FE	Voter FE	No Voter FE	Voter FE	No Voter FE	Voter FE
2016	-0.0124**	-0.00378**	-0.0117***	-0.00176	0.0237***	0.00592***
	(0.00594)	(0.00187)	(0.00427)	(0.00146)	(0.00568)	(0.00211)
2018	-0.0257***	-0.0100***	-0.0228***	-0.00653***	0.0473***	0.0166***
	(0.00593)	(0.00193)	(0.00426)	(0.00151)	(0.00568)	(0.00218)
2020	-0.0382***	-0.00931***	-0.0266***	-0.0112***	0.0625***	0.0199***
	(0.00586)	(0.00196)	(0.00421)	(0.00153)	(0.00561)	(0.00221)
2022	-0.0455***	-0.0136***	-0.0405***	-0.0184***	0.0847***	0.0325***
	(0.00592)	(0.00203)	(0.00425)	(0.00158)	(0.00566)	(0.00229)
2022	-0.0680***	-0.0255***	-0.0405***	-0.0169***	0.106***	0.0421***
	(0.00588)	(0.00211)	(0.00423)	(0.00164)	(0.00563)	(0.00238)
Reference Year (2014)	0.519***	0.497***	0.176***	0.161***	0.302***	0.337***
	(0.00423)	(0.00143)	(0.00304)	(0.00111)	(0.00404)	(0.00161)
N	87,231	87,231	87,231	87,231	87,231	87,231

Notes: Values in each cell within column capture the point estimates from estimation of the model represented by Equations (1) and (2), with column titles indicating both the party registration outcome and the model variant. FE=fixed effects. *$p<.1$, **$p<.05$, ***$p<.01$.

Online Appendix

Appendix A. Additional Tables and Figures

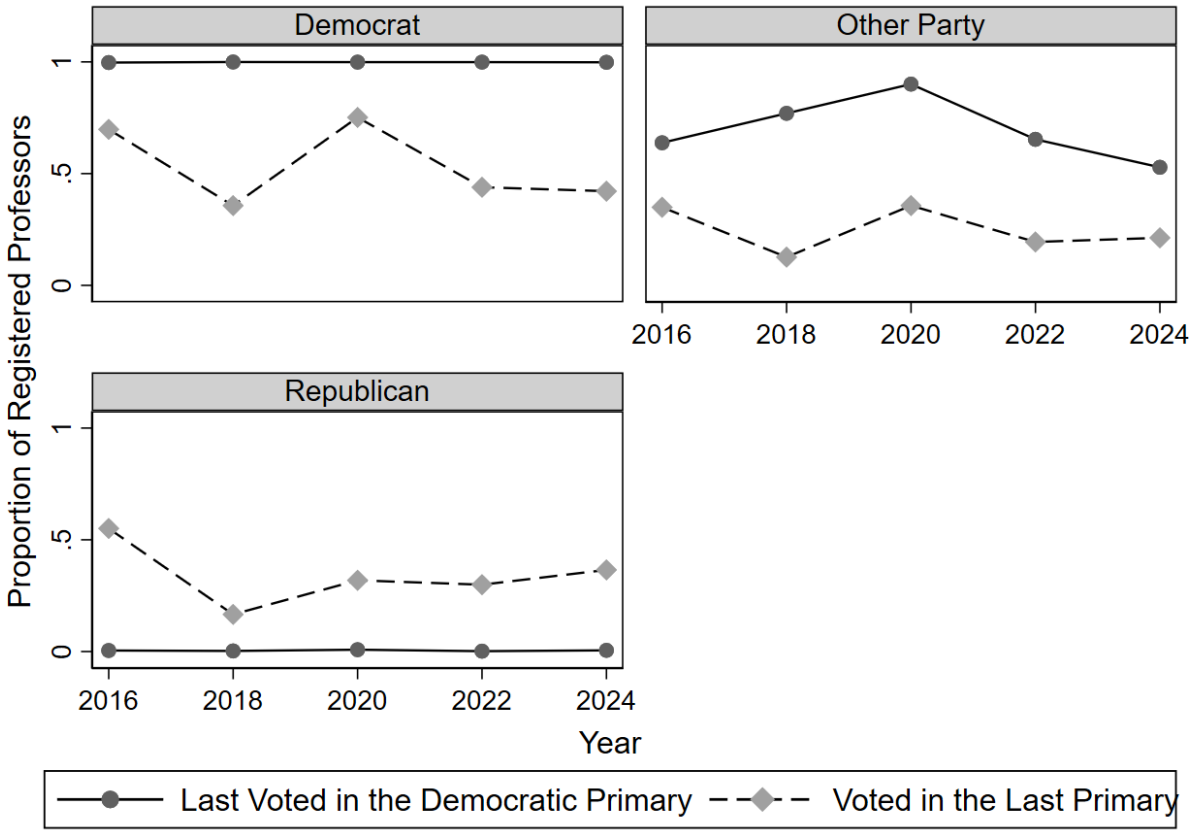


Figure A1. Connected line plot depicting the primary voting dispositions for professors by party of voter registration

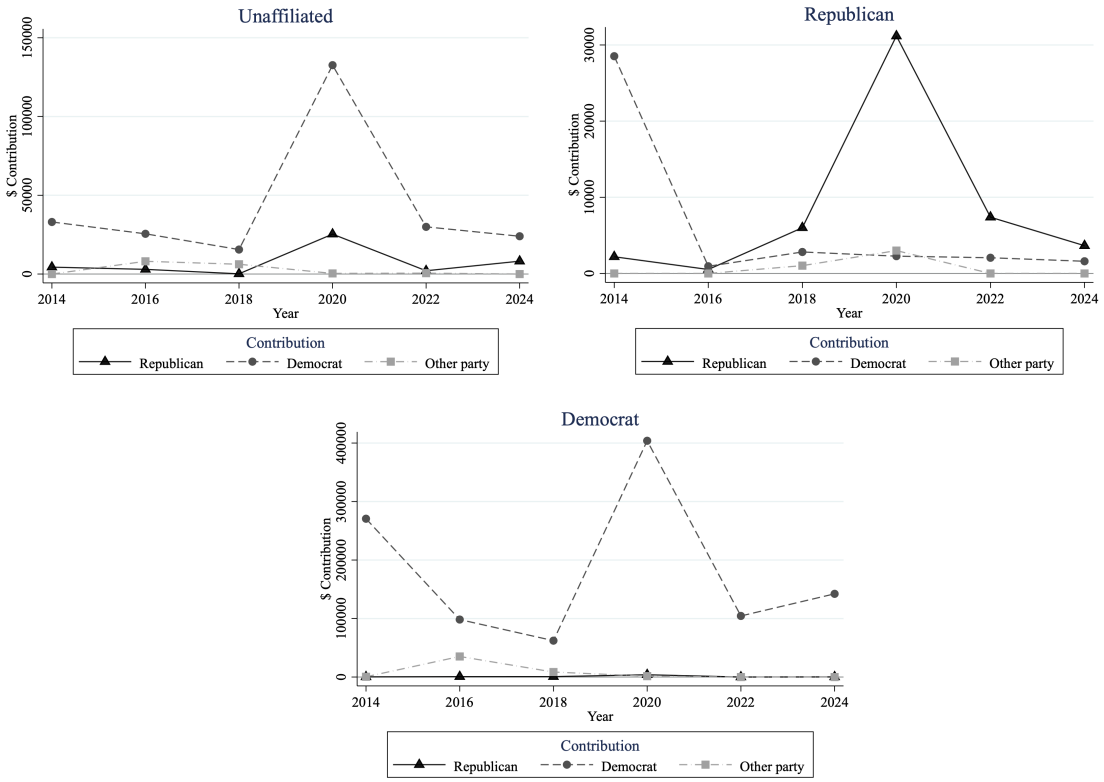


Figure A2. Connected line plot depicting total campaign contributions by professors to Republican, Democrat, and Other Party candidates by party of voter registration

Table A1. Summary statistics for professors over time

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
N	16828	16748	17014	17550	17117	17625
Department						
Art & Design	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.075	0.073
Biology	0.072	0.078	0.077	0.075	0.073	0.074
Business & Economics	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.091
Chemistry	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	0.032
Communications & Media	0.025	0.024	0.026	0.025	0.026	0.027
Comp Sci & Tech	0.047	0.032	0.034	0.037	0.038	0.041
Criminal Justice	0.012	0.012	0.013	0.013	0.011	0.012
Engineering	0.048	0.050	0.051	0.057	0.057	0.057
English, Languages, & Literature	0.075	0.074	0.072	0.070	0.067	0.063
Environmental, Agricultural, and Geographic Sciences	0.053	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.044
Health & Medical Sciences	0.265	0.274	0.285	0.292	0.295	0.299
History	0.028	0.027	0.029	0.028	0.028	0.030
Law	0.008	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.007	0.010
Math	0.042	0.040	0.038	0.041	0.039	0.042
Philosophy & Religion	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.012	0.011
Physics	0.020	0.020	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.020
Political Science	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022
Psych, Education, & Human Development	0.102	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.093
Social Work	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.019	0.018
Sociology & Anthropology	0.029	0.032	0.031	0.031	0.030	0.028
Position						
Assistant Professor	0.261	0.259	0.270	0.273	0.288	0.290
Associate Professor	0.303	0.293	0.282	0.275	0.272	0.266
Full Professor	0.281	0.290	0.285	0.290	0.301	0.304

Instructor	0.048	0.048	0.051	0.052	0.048	0.046
Lecturer	0.106	0.109	0.111	0.109	0.092	0.094
Institution						
Flagship	0.399	0.409	0.407	0.416	0.422	0.428
MSI	0.120	0.112	0.108	0.104	0.101	0.102
Other	0.091	0.090	0.087	0.087	0.085	0.084
Other R1/R2	0.390	0.389	0.398	0.393	0.393	0.386
Professor Data - Sociodemographics						
Age <50	0.473	0.485	0.507	0.498	0.503	0.510
Age >=50	0.527	0.515	0.493	0.502	0.497	0.490
Voter Registration Data - Outcomes and Sociodemographics						
Registered	0.830	0.854	0.846	0.862	0.849	0.845
Registered Democrat	0.519	0.507	0.493	0.481	0.473	0.451
Registered Republican	0.176	0.164	0.153	0.150	0.136	0.136
Registered Unaffiliated	0.302	0.326	0.350	0.365	0.387	0.408
Voted Last November		0.941	0.861	0.955	0.832	0.947
White	0.793	0.781	0.770	0.731	0.736	0.717
Non-White	0.186	0.192	0.192	0.187	0.196	0.206
Male	0.568	0.549	0.524	0.491	0.485	0.477
Female	0.420	0.433	0.450	0.441	0.451	0.446

Notes: Values in each cell represent proportions, except for those in the first row of the table.

Table A2. Voter registration and general election voting rates for groups of professors over time

Year	Lecturers	Instructors	Assistant Professors	Associate Professors	Full Professors	Flagship	MSI	Other R1/R2	Other Institutions
				Panel A: Registered Voter					
2014	0.846	0.867	0.745	0.843	0.881	0.832	0.792	0.836	0.841
2016	0.876	0.898	0.782	0.860	0.897	0.858	0.822	0.855	0.869
2018	0.871	0.889	0.762	0.861	0.893	0.852	0.814	0.845	0.862
2020	0.885	0.918	0.785	0.876	0.904	0.865	0.831	0.866	0.872
2022	0.880	0.907	0.773	0.856	0.899	0.853	0.813	0.853	0.856
2024	0.878	0.912	0.765	0.850	0.898	0.852	0.799	0.847	0.859
Long Diff.	0.032	0.045	0.020	0.007	0.017	0.020	0.007	0.011	0.018
				Panel B: Registered: Voted Last November					
2016	0.925	0.944	0.931	0.946	0.950	0.951	0.931	0.937	0.929
2018	0.850	0.815	0.828	0.866	0.896	0.875	0.838	0.851	0.869
2020	0.946	0.925	0.947	0.957	0.969	0.962	0.949	0.949	0.956
2022	0.804	0.791	0.804	0.838	0.866	0.854	0.809	0.816	0.829
2024	0.940	0.931	0.948	0.945	0.953	0.958	0.927	0.943	0.936
Long Diff.	0.015	-0.014	0.017	0.000	0.002	0.007	-0.004	0.006	0.007

Notes: Values in each cell represent proportions. Long Diff.=Within column changes from 2014 (or 2016) to 2024.

Table A3. OLS regression results predicting party registration rates for subgroups of professors who are registered to vote by time

	Democrats		Republicans		Unaffiliated	
	No Voter FE	Voter FE	No Voter FE	Voter FE	No Voter FE	Voter FE
			Panel A: MSI Professors			
2016	-0.0218	-0.000263	-0.00555	-0.00139	0.0253	0.00152
	(0.0178)	(0.00553)	(0.0123)	(0.00408)	(0.0166)	(0.00624)
2018	-0.0341*	0.00196	-0.0149	-0.00466	0.0468***	0.00239
	(0.0179)	(0.00577)	(0.0124)	(0.00425)	(0.0168)	(0.00651)
2020	-0.0647***	1.51e-05	-0.0116	-0.00277	0.0735***	0.000210
	(0.0179)	(0.00590)	(0.0123)	(0.00435)	(0.0167)	(0.00665)
2022	-0.0862***	-0.0105*	-0.0239*	-0.00622	0.109***	0.0162**
	(0.0182)	(0.00618)	(0.0126)	(0.00455)	(0.0171)	(0.00697)
2024	-0.117***	-0.0214***	-0.0166	-0.00187	0.130***	0.0221***
	(0.0181)	(0.00648)	(0.0125)	(0.00477)	(0.0170)	(0.00730)
Reference Year (2014)	0.587***	0.539***	0.149***	0.140***	0.262***	0.318***
	(0.0125)	(0.00418)	(0.00861)	(0.00308)	(0.0117)	(0.00471)
N	8,985	8,985	8,985	8,985	8,985	8,985
			Panel B: Flagship Professors			
2016	-0.0113	-0.000185	-0.0131**	-0.00137	0.0247***	0.00212
	(0.00933)	(0.00293)	(0.00619)	(0.00212)	(0.00895)	(0.00328)
2018	-0.0247***	-0.00859***	-0.0241***	-0.00721***	0.0488***	0.0167***
	(0.00932)	(0.00302)	(0.00618)	(0.00219)	(0.00895)	(0.00338)
2020	-0.0350***	-0.00660**	-0.0278***	-0.0128***	0.0626***	0.0202***
	(0.00917)	(0.00306)	(0.00608)	(0.00221)	(0.00880)	(0.00343)
2022	-0.0386***	-0.00920***	-0.0428***	-0.0200***	0.0811***	0.0305***

	(0.00923)	(0.00315)	(0.00612)	(0.00228)	(0.00886)	(0.00353)
2024	-0.0605***	-0.0198***	-0.0443***	-0.0200***	0.103***	0.0408***
	(0.00913)	(0.00326)	(0.00606)	(0.00236)	(0.00877)	(0.00365)
Reference Year (2014)	0.538***	0.517***	0.152***	0.136***	0.307***	0.343***
	(0.00668)	(0.00225)	(0.00443)	(0.00163)	(0.00641)	(0.00252)
N	36,279	36,279	36,279	36,279	36,279	36,279
Panel C: Other R1/R2 Professors						
2016	-0.0167*	-0.00775***	-0.00839	-0.00311	0.0246***	0.0111***
	(0.00946)	(0.00297)	(0.00736)	(0.00249)	(0.00911)	(0.00339)
2018	-0.0300***	-0.0156***	-0.0182**	-0.00675***	0.0463***	0.0215***
	(0.00940)	(0.00306)	(0.00731)	(0.00256)	(0.00905)	(0.00349)
2020	-0.0367***	-0.0132***	-0.0234***	-0.0127***	0.0563***	0.0243***
	(0.00930)	(0.00311)	(0.00723)	(0.00260)	(0.00896)	(0.00355)
2022	-0.0411***	-0.0159***	-0.0371***	-0.0224***	0.0755***	0.0380***
	(0.00939)	(0.00322)	(0.00731)	(0.00269)	(0.00904)	(0.00367)
2024	-0.0677***	-0.0281***	-0.0341***	-0.0213***	0.0976***	0.0481***
	(0.00938)	(0.00336)	(0.00730)	(0.00281)	(0.00903)	(0.00383)
Reference Year (2014)	0.484***	0.465***	0.204***	0.195***	0.309***	0.336***
	(0.00672)	(0.00227)	(0.00522)	(0.00190)	(0.00647)	(0.00259)
N	34,252	34,252	34,252	34,252	34,252	34,252
Panel D: Other Institution Professors						
2016	0.0131	-0.00859	-0.0246*	0.00185	0.00998	0.00759
	(0.0196)	(0.00634)	(0.0142)	(0.00519)	(0.0188)	(0.00702)
2018	0.00585	-0.00851	-0.0473***	-0.00508	0.0398**	0.0138*
	(0.0197)	(0.00661)	(0.0142)	(0.00541)	(0.0188)	(0.00732)

2020	-0.0235	-0.0195***	-0.0513***	-0.00774	0.0705***	0.0261***
	(0.0195)	(0.00673)	(0.0141)	(0.00550)	(0.0186)	(0.00745)
2022	-0.0460**	-0.0316***	-0.0619***	-0.00720	0.107***	0.0403***
	(0.0198)	(0.00702)	(0.0144)	(0.00574)	(0.0190)	(0.00778)
2024	-0.0486**	-0.0517***	-0.0711***	0.00220	0.117***	0.0476***
	(0.0197)	(0.00732)	(0.0143)	(0.00599)	(0.0189)	(0.00811)
Reference Year (2014)	0.498***	0.502***	0.197***	0.158***	0.301***	0.336***
	(0.0139)	(0.00485)	(0.0100)	(0.00397)	(0.0133)	(0.00538)
N	7,715	7,715	7,715	7,715	7,715	7,715
Panel E: Female Professors						
2016	-0.00665	-0.00323	-0.0153**	-0.00398*	0.0225***	0.00796***
	(0.00906)	(0.00282)	(0.00609)	(0.00209)	(0.00844)	(0.00309)
2018	-0.0198**	-0.00911***	-0.0197***	-0.00829***	0.0389***	0.0174***
	(0.00896)	(0.00289)	(0.00602)	(0.00214)	(0.00835)	(0.00317)
2020	-0.0259***	-0.00694**	-0.0266***	-0.0136***	0.0512***	0.0196***
	(0.00890)	(0.00294)	(0.00598)	(0.00218)	(0.00829)	(0.00323)
2022	-0.0341***	-0.00972***	-0.0400***	-0.0192***	0.0736***	0.0293***
	(0.00893)	(0.00304)	(0.00600)	(0.00225)	(0.00832)	(0.00333)
2024	-0.0535***	-0.0236***	-0.0405***	-0.0178***	0.0923***	0.0409***
	(0.00891)	(0.00317)	(0.00598)	(0.00235)	(0.00830)	(0.00347)
Reference Year (2014)	0.583***	0.568***	0.152***	0.138***	0.264***	0.292***
	(0.00649)	(0.00217)	(0.00436)	(0.00161)	(0.00605)	(0.00238)
N	38,272	38,272	38,272	38,272	38,272	38,272
Panel E: Male Professors						
2016	-0.0176**	-0.00350	-0.00768	-0.000117	0.0241***	0.00371

	(0.00787)	(0.00242)	(0.00605)	(0.00202)	(0.00770)	(0.00279)
2018	-0.0344***	-0.00943***	-0.0208***	-0.00535**	0.0534***	0.0150***
	(0.00795)	(0.00252)	(0.00612)	(0.00210)	(0.00778)	(0.00290)
2020	-0.0482***	-0.0117***	-0.0221***	-0.00922***	0.0675***	0.0209***
	(0.00798)	(0.00259)	(0.00614)	(0.00215)	(0.00781)	(0.00298)
2022	-0.0619***	-0.0179***	-0.0344***	-0.0165***	0.0942***	0.0350***
	(0.00809)	(0.00268)	(0.00623)	(0.00223)	(0.00792)	(0.00309)
2024	-0.0815***	-0.0294***	-0.0337***	-0.0151***	0.112***	0.0443***
	(0.00807)	(0.00280)	(0.00621)	(0.00233)	(0.00790)	(0.00322)
Reference Year (2014)	0.475***	0.447***	0.196***	0.184***	0.326***	0.363***
	(0.00555)	(0.00182)	(0.00427)	(0.00151)	(0.00543)	(0.00209)
N	45,087	45,087	45,087	45,087	45,087	45,087
Panel F: White Professors						
2016	-0.00354	-0.00325	-0.0141***	-0.00261	0.0172***	0.00615***
	(0.00668)	(0.00203)	(0.00520)	(0.00174)	(0.00634)	(0.00233)
2018	-0.0138**	-0.00853***	-0.0262***	-0.00793***	0.0388***	0.0163***
	(0.00669)	(0.00210)	(0.00521)	(0.00180)	(0.00635)	(0.00242)
2020	-0.0191***	-0.00789***	-0.0319***	-0.0141***	0.0488***	0.0213***
	(0.00669)	(0.00215)	(0.00521)	(0.00184)	(0.00636)	(0.00247)
2022	-0.0265***	-0.0114***	-0.0461***	-0.0221***	0.0712***	0.0340***
	(0.00675)	(0.00223)	(0.00525)	(0.00190)	(0.00641)	(0.00256)
2024	-0.0462***	-0.0234***	-0.0450***	-0.0217***	0.0891***	0.0449***
	(0.00675)	(0.00232)	(0.00526)	(0.00198)	(0.00641)	(0.00267)
Reference Year (2014)	0.486***	0.477***	0.213***	0.197***	0.299***	0.322***
	(0.00473)	(0.00154)	(0.00369)	(0.00131)	(0.00449)	(0.00177)
N	66,021	66,021	66,021	66,021	66,021	66,021

Panel G: Non-White Professors						
2016	-0.0485***	-0.00726*	0.00611	0.00112	0.0417***	0.00630
	(0.0134)	(0.00438)	(0.00487)	(0.00211)	(0.0132)	(0.00450)
2018	-0.0677***	-0.0146***	0.00472	0.000593	0.0624***	0.0145***
	(0.0134)	(0.00453)	(0.00486)	(0.00218)	(0.0132)	(0.00465)
2020	-0.0859***	-0.0153***	0.00549	0.000568	0.0791***	0.0146***
	(0.0133)	(0.00463)	(0.00484)	(0.00223)	(0.0131)	(0.00475)
2022	-0.108***	-0.0252***	0.000819	-0.00127	0.105***	0.0274***
	(0.0133)	(0.00478)	(0.00484)	(0.00230)	(0.0131)	(0.00491)
2024	-0.133***	-0.0403***	0.00673	0.00525**	0.122***	0.0358***
	(0.0131)	(0.00496)	(0.00476)	(0.00238)	(0.0129)	(0.00509)
Reference Year (2014)	0.673***	0.615***	0.0284***	0.0313***	0.297***	0.350***
	(0.00964)	(0.00339)	(0.00349)	(0.00163)	(0.00947)	(0.00348)
N	16,672	16,672	16,672	16,672	16,672	16,672

Notes: Values in each cell within column capture the point estimates from estimation of the model represented by Equations (1) and (2), with column titles indicating both the party registration outcome and the model variant. FE=fixed effects. *$p<.1$, **$p<.05$, ***$p<.01$.

Table A4. OLS regression results predicting party registration rates for subgroups of professors who are registered to vote by time, including those linked to voter data using fuzzy merges

	Democrats		Republicans		Unaffiliated	
	No Voter FE	Voter FE	No Voter FE	Voter FE	No Voter FE	Voter FE
			Panel A: All Professors			
2016	-0.0127**	-0.00372**	-0.0120***	-0.00160	0.0242***	0.00570***
	(0.00589)	(0.00186)	(0.00423)	(0.00144)	(0.00564)	(0.00210)
2018	-0.0272***	-0.0100***	-0.0224***	-0.00632***	0.0484***	0.0163***
	(0.00588)	(0.00192)	(0.00422)	(0.00149)	(0.00563)	(0.00217)
2020	-0.0392***	-0.00941***	-0.0263***	-0.0110***	0.0632***	0.0198***
	(0.00581)	(0.00195)	(0.00417)	(0.00151)	(0.00557)	(0.00220)
2022	-0.0465***	-0.0137***	-0.0402***	-0.0182***	0.0853***	0.0324***
	(0.00587)	(0.00202)	(0.00421)	(0.00156)	(0.00562)	(0.00228)
2024	-0.0692***	-0.0255***	-0.0402***	-0.0167***	0.106***	0.0418***
	(0.00583)	(0.00210)	(0.00419)	(0.00163)	(0.00559)	(0.00237)
Reference Year (2014)	0.519***	0.497***	0.175***	0.161***	0.303***	0.338***
	(0.00419)	(0.00142)	(0.00301)	(0.00110)	(0.00401)	(0.00160)
N	88,591	88,591	88,591	88,591	88,591	88,591
			Panel B: MSI Professors			
2016	-0.0211	0.00118	-0.00591	-0.00158	0.0250	0.000270
	(0.0175)	(0.00547)	(0.0121)	(0.00398)	(0.0164)	(0.00616)
2018	-0.0371**	0.00208	-0.0142	-0.00472	0.0491***	0.00235
	(0.0177)	(0.00572)	(0.0122)	(0.00416)	(0.0166)	(0.00644)
2020	-0.0676***	-0.00128	-0.0111	-0.00259	0.0761***	0.00140

	(0.0176)	(0.00584)	(0.0121)	(0.00425)	(0.0165)	(0.00658)
2022	-0.0883***	-0.0119*	-0.0233*	-0.00587	0.111***	0.0172**
	(0.0180)	(0.00612)	(0.0124)	(0.00445)	(0.0168)	(0.00688)
2024	-0.120***	-0.0236***	-0.0142	-0.00104	0.131***	0.0234***
	(0.0178)	(0.00641)	(0.0123)	(0.00466)	(0.0167)	(0.00722)
Reference Year (2014)	0.589***	0.540***	0.147***	0.138***	0.262***	0.319***
	(0.0123)	(0.00414)	(0.00846)	(0.00301)	(0.0115)	(0.00466)
N	9,230	9,230	9,230	9,230	9,230	9,230
Panel C: Flagship Professors						
2016	-0.0117	-0.00102	-0.0130**	-0.000814	0.0250***	0.00240
	(0.00926)	(0.00292)	(0.00615)	(0.00211)	(0.00889)	(0.00327)
2018	-0.0264***	-0.00956***	-0.0235***	-0.00649***	0.0498***	0.0170***
	(0.00926)	(0.00301)	(0.00614)	(0.00218)	(0.00889)	(0.00337)
2020	-0.0359***	-0.00720**	-0.0275***	-0.0123***	0.0632***	0.0204***
	(0.00910)	(0.00305)	(0.00604)	(0.00220)	(0.00874)	(0.00341)
2022	-0.0395***	-0.00962***	-0.0424***	-0.0195***	0.0816***	0.0303***
	(0.00916)	(0.00314)	(0.00608)	(0.00227)	(0.00880)	(0.00351)
2024	-0.0612***	-0.0199***	-0.0439***	-0.0195***	0.103***	0.0404***
	(0.00907)	(0.00325)	(0.00602)	(0.00235)	(0.00871)	(0.00364)
Reference Year (2014)	0.538***	0.516***	0.152***	0.136***	0.308***	0.344***
	(0.00663)	(0.00224)	(0.00440)	(0.00162)	(0.00636)	(0.00250)
N	36,769	36,769	36,769	36,769	36,769	36,769
Panel D: Other R1/R2 Professors						
2016	-0.0173*	-0.00763***	-0.00900	-0.00317	0.0258***	0.0110***
	(0.00940)	(0.00296)	(0.00728)	(0.00246)	(0.00906)	(0.00337)

2018	-0.0311***	-0.0153***	-0.0184**	-0.00692***	0.0474***	0.0213***
	(0.00933)	(0.00304)	(0.00723)	(0.00253)	(0.00900)	(0.00346)
2020	-0.0368***	-0.0130***	-0.0236***	-0.0128***	0.0565***	0.0242***
	(0.00924)	(0.00310)	(0.00716)	(0.00258)	(0.00891)	(0.00352)
2022	-0.0412***	-0.0157***	-0.0373***	-0.0225***	0.0757***	0.0380***
	(0.00932)	(0.00320)	(0.00723)	(0.00266)	(0.00899)	(0.00364)
2024	-0.0681***	-0.0276***	-0.0347***	-0.0214***	0.0987***	0.0478***
	(0.00931)	(0.00334)	(0.00722)	(0.00278)	(0.00897)	(0.00380)
Reference Year (2014)	0.485***	0.466***	0.203***	0.193***	0.310***	0.337***
	(0.00667)	(0.00226)	(0.00517)	(0.00188)	(0.00643)	(0.00257)
N	34,746	34,746	34,746	34,746	34,746	34,746

Panel E: Other Institution Professors

2016	0.0136	-0.00643	-0.0248*	0.00183	0.00967	0.00543
	(0.0194)	(0.00636)	(0.0141)	(0.00509)	(0.0186)	(0.00702)
2018	0.00537	-0.00581	-0.0467***	-0.00497	0.0398**	0.0110
	(0.0195)	(0.00662)	(0.0141)	(0.00531)	(0.0186)	(0.00731)
2020	-0.0251	-0.0175***	-0.0500***	-0.00759	0.0708***	0.0240***
	(0.0193)	(0.00674)	(0.0140)	(0.00540)	(0.0185)	(0.00744)
2022	-0.0488**	-0.0304***	-0.0606***	-0.00705	0.109***	0.0388***
	(0.0197)	(0.00703)	(0.0142)	(0.00563)	(0.0188)	(0.00776)
2024	-0.0509***	-0.0506***	-0.0706***	0.00219	0.119***	0.0466***
	(0.0196)	(0.00734)	(0.0142)	(0.00588)	(0.0187)	(0.00810)
Reference Year (2014)	0.500***	0.501***	0.197***	0.158***	0.300***	0.337***
	(0.0137)	(0.00486)	(0.00995)	(0.00389)	(0.0131)	(0.00536)
N	7,846	7,846	7,846	7,846	7,846	7,846

Panel F: Female Professors

2016	-0.00705	-0.00334	-0.0159***	-0.00368*	0.0235***	0.00776**
	(0.00897)	(0.00280)	(0.00602)	(0.00206)	(0.00836)	(0.00306)
2018	-0.0224**	-0.00945***	-0.0191***	-0.00805***	0.0409***	0.0175***
	(0.00887)	(0.00287)	(0.00595)	(0.00211)	(0.00827)	(0.00314)
2020	-0.0278***	-0.00730**	-0.0264***	-0.0135***	0.0527***	0.0199***
	(0.00881)	(0.00292)	(0.00591)	(0.00215)	(0.00822)	(0.00320)
2022	-0.0351***	-0.0103***	-0.0396***	-0.0190***	0.0741***	0.0297***
	(0.00885)	(0.00302)	(0.00593)	(0.00222)	(0.00825)	(0.00330)
2024	-0.0549***	-0.0235***	-0.0400***	-0.0177***	0.0931***	0.0406***
	(0.00882)	(0.00315)	(0.00591)	(0.00232)	(0.00822)	(0.00344)
Reference Year (2014)	0.583***	0.567***	0.151***	0.138***	0.264***	0.293***
	(0.00642)	(0.00216)	(0.00431)	(0.00159)	(0.00599)	(0.00236)
N	39,002	39,002	39,002	39,002	39,002	39,002

Panel G: Male Professors

2016	-0.0178**	-0.00355	-0.00765	3.81e-05	0.0242***	0.00359
	(0.00782)	(0.00241)	(0.00601)	(0.00200)	(0.00765)	(0.00278)
2018	-0.0351***	-0.00933***	-0.0207***	-0.00504**	0.0540***	0.0146***
	(0.00790)	(0.00251)	(0.00607)	(0.00208)	(0.00773)	(0.00289)
2020	-0.0483***	-0.0117***	-0.0219***	-0.00888***	0.0674***	0.0205***
	(0.00793)	(0.00258)	(0.00609)	(0.00214)	(0.00776)	(0.00297)
2022	-0.0623***	-0.0179***	-0.0341***	-0.0162***	0.0943***	0.0347***
	(0.00804)	(0.00267)	(0.00618)	(0.00222)	(0.00787)	(0.00308)
2024	-0.0816***	-0.0295***	-0.0336***	-0.0146***	0.112***	0.0440***
	(0.00802)	(0.00279)	(0.00616)	(0.00231)	(0.00785)	(0.00321)
Reference Year (2014)	0.475***	0.447***	0.195***	0.183***	0.326***	0.364***
	(0.00551)	(0.00181)	(0.00424)	(0.00150)	(0.00540)	(0.00209)

N	45,640	45,640	45,640	45,640	45,640	45,640
			Panel H: White Professors			
2016	-0.00391	-0.00342*	-0.0144***	-0.00240	0.0179***	0.00611***
	(0.00663)	(0.00202)	(0.00516)	(0.00172)	(0.00630)	(0.00232)
2018	-0.0151**	-0.00870***	-0.0259***	-0.00768***	0.0397***	0.0162***
	(0.00665)	(0.00209)	(0.00517)	(0.00178)	(0.00631)	(0.00240)
2020	-0.0199***	-0.00815***	-0.0320***	-0.0141***	0.0495***	0.0216***
	(0.00665)	(0.00215)	(0.00518)	(0.00183)	(0.00632)	(0.00246)
2022	-0.0272***	-0.0117***	-0.0459***	-0.0221***	0.0716***	0.0342***
	(0.00671)	(0.00222)	(0.00522)	(0.00189)	(0.00637)	(0.00254)
2024	-0.0469***	-0.0234***	-0.0449***	-0.0216***	0.0897***	0.0448***
	(0.00671)	(0.00231)	(0.00522)	(0.00197)	(0.00637)	(0.00266)
Reference Year (2014)	0.486***	0.477***	0.212***	0.196***	0.299***	0.323***
	(0.00470)	(0.00153)	(0.00366)	(0.00130)	(0.00446)	(0.00176)
N	66,818	66,818	66,818	66,818	66,818	66,818
			Panel I: Non-White Professors			
2016	-0.0482***	-0.00682	0.00597	0.00118	0.0416***	0.00579
	(0.0133)	(0.00432)	(0.00486)	(0.00209)	(0.0131)	(0.00445)
2018	-0.0699***	-0.0142***	0.00501	0.000763	0.0643***	0.0139***
	(0.0133)	(0.00447)	(0.00485)	(0.00217)	(0.0130)	(0.00460)
2020	-0.0873***	-0.0152***	0.00745	0.00133	0.0786***	0.0137***
	(0.0132)	(0.00457)	(0.00483)	(0.00221)	(0.0130)	(0.00470)
2022	-0.108***	-0.0251***	0.00277	-0.000472	0.104***	0.0265***
	(0.0132)	(0.00471)	(0.00482)	(0.00228)	(0.0130)	(0.00485)
2024	-0.135***	-0.0403***	0.00885*	0.00619***	0.122***	0.0348***

	(0.0129)	(0.00489)	(0.00474)	(0.00237)	(0.0127)	(0.00503)
Reference Year (2014)	0.672***	0.613***	0.0281***	0.0316***	0.298***	0.352***
	(0.00952)	(0.00335)	(0.00349)	(0.00162)	(0.00936)	(0.00344)
N	17,120	17,120	17,120	17,120	17,120	17,120

Notes: Values in each cell within column capture the point estimates from estimation of the model represented by Equations (1) and (2), with column titles indicating both the party registration outcome and the model variant. FE=fixed effects. *$p<.1$, **$p<.05$, ***$p<.01$.