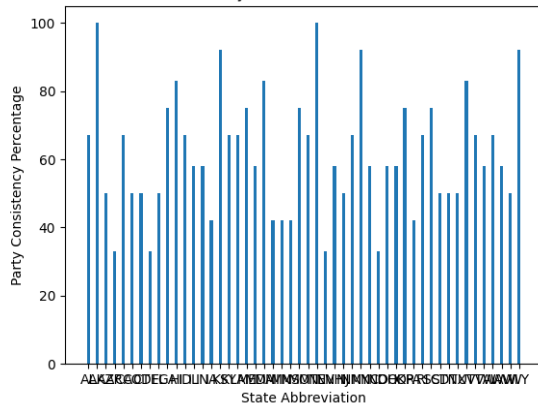


## Are American Voters Loyal to Political Parties?

The United States is a country whose federal government is deeply divided along partisan lines. In our final project, we looked at United States House and Presidential elections results from 1976 through 2022 to assess whether states consistently voted for the same party in federal elections, be it Democrat or Republican. The House and President were analyzed because their elections take place every 2 or 4 years and the entire country votes for them in each election. The United States Senate was excluded because only  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the country votes for Senators in elections every 2 years, making comparison more difficult. We centered our project around three definitions of consistency for House and Presidential elections.

The first definition of consistency refers to whether, during general elections (every 4 years), voters elect House majorities and Presidents of the same party. We awarded one point to

Does State Vote the Same Party for House and President in General Elections:

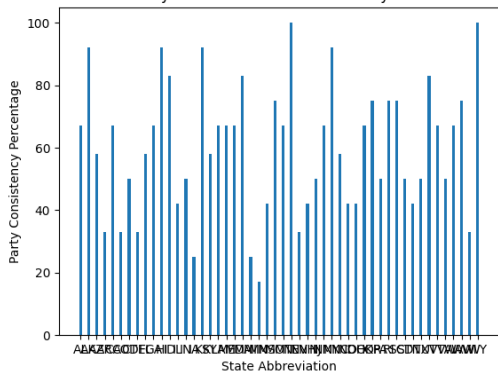


each state every time they elected a House majority and President of the same party, and no points if there was a mismatch or tie in the House. Each state's score was put as a percentage out of the twelve general elections in this period. States such as Pennsylvania and Nevada had percentages lower than 50% due

to ties in their elections to the House and mismatches, while states like Alaska and Wyoming were perfectly consistent. Overall, many states were inconsistent, huddled around 50%. The results have two explanations. Either those with lower scores are more divided along party lines, or voters in those states choose the best candidates for them, regardless of party, which leads to members of both parties being elected to House and President.

During midterm elections ( 2 years after every general election), a state that votes for a House majority of the same party that it voted for President in the general election fits the second

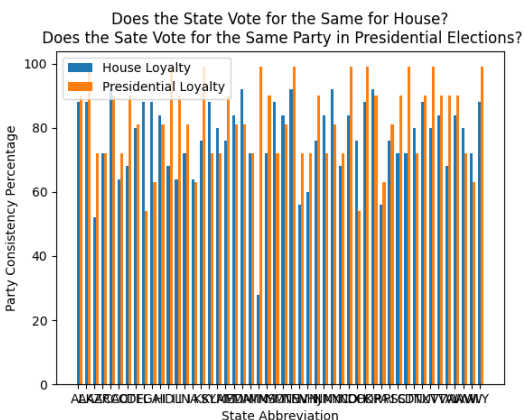
Vote for the Same Party in Mid-term Elections as they did in Previous Preside



definition of consistency. We awarded one point if this condition was met, and no points if there was a mismatch or tie in the House. Each state's score was put as a percentage out of the twelve midterm elections in this period. States such as Iowa and Minnesota had percentages around 20% due to ties in their elections to the House and mismatches,

while states like INSERT NAME and Wyoming were perfectly consistent. Some states were much more inconsistent in this graph, likely due to the dissatisfaction with the party they selected in the general election now 2 years into the President's term.

As for the third definition, it tackles the question of how consistent states are in the long term for the House and President separately. We awarded one point for every election in which



the party that previously dominated the state retained the majority of the states' votes in the House out of 23, while giving one point for every presidential election in which the state voted for a candidate of the same party as it had in the presidential election immediately prior out of 11.

Most states, such as INSERT NAME, INSERT NAME and INSERT NAME, tended to have better consistency for presidential elections than House elections; nevertheless, nearly every single state consistently voted for candidates of the

same party to US House and President year after year after year in the long term. These results indicate that party affiliation influences voters in presidential elections more than it does for elections to the US House; still, in elections to both offices, party holds sway over the American people.

Overall, our findings demonstrate a weak correlation between states voting for US House and presidential candidates of the same party in general and that is even weaker in midterm elections. In the long run, however, states tend to vote for the same party as the election prior for US House and President. These findings obscure the fact that, in the past fifty years, Democrat and Republican party platforms have changed drastically. There has also been redistricting and migration to or from certain states that may make US House and/or Presidential elections easier to win for certain parties in a given state. Further research may include data on the US Senate, as well as conduct randomized experiments to prove loyalty to parties as causation for different trends.