Macro Roundup Article

Headline: Democrats Have Been Winning Big In Special Elections

Article Link: https://abcnews.go.com/538/democrats-winning-big-special-elections/story?id=103315703

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Publication	ABC News
Publication Date	September 21, 2023

Tweet: Democrats have been outperforming in special elections in 2023; their margins have been 11pp higher than the district's partisan margins in the last two presidential elections. @baseballot

Summary: Democrats have been posting special-election overperformances of that magnitude all year long, in all kinds of districts. And on average, they have won by margins 11 points higher than the weighted relative partisanship of their districts. The types of people who vote in low-turnout special elections tend to be different from the types of people who vote in regularly scheduled elections: Lower turnout generally means a more college-educated electorate, and college graduates have gotten more Democratic in recent years. That could be why special-election overperformance has consistently been a couple of points more Democratic than the House popular vote over the past three cycles. However, college graduates were disproportionately Democratic in 2020 and 2022 too, and Democrats didn't consistently do this well in special elections in those cycles. So something seems to be different this time that the education realignment doesn't fully explain.

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