Me Too: An Analysis of Predatory Candidate Support by Party Affiliation

**Research Questions:**

1. Is support for a predatory candidate similar across party affiliation?

2. Will party members vote for a moderate of the other party over one of their own with a sexual misconduct allegation?

3. Is there an association between the degree of comfort to support a candidate and their degree of support for the #MeToo campaign?

4. Does support for #MeToo moderate the association between a participant’s political affiliation and their degree of comfort voting for the candidate accused of sexual misconduct?

6. Participants who choose the moderate candidate will feel better about their vote than participants who choose the party line candidate within both the conservative and liberal groups?

5. EXPLORATORY: Is there a sex discrepancy in this data?

6. EXPLORATORY: Can I ask about sexual assault?

Ex. I have experienced sexual assault

I have not experienced sexual assault

I prefer not to answer either way

Maybe don’t ask but also don’t exclude? It’s a more ecologically valid study. Statistically 1/5 women (and probably a large portion of men) are victims of sexual assault so maybe excluding that number isn’t useful? Might be interesting to see if there are differences between people who experienced it versus people who didn’t just as an exploratory factor?

**Hypotheses:**

1. There will be a statistically significant difference in the proportion of self-described liberals who vote for the Democratic candidate with a sexual assault charge compared to the proportion of self-described liberals who vote for the Republican candidate without the sexual assault charge.

2. There will be a statistically significant difference in the proportion of self-described conservatives who vote for the Republican candidate with a sexual assault charge compared to the proportion of self-described conservatives who vote for the Democratic candidate without the sexual assault charge.

3. Liberals and Conservatives will not differ between groups in their decision to vote for candidates of their own party with a sexual misconduct allegation

**Variables:**

Party Affiliation (Nominal and Interval-Ratio):

* Measured as a composite of the Conservatism Scale score
* “Liberal” defined as anyone scoring between 0-58 on the CS
* “Conservative” defined as anyone scoring between 82-140 on the CS

Candidate Comfortable Vote (Interval-Ratio)

* Degree of comfort from the participant for their voting choice
* Measured on a slider from (0-100)
  + 0 meaning “Not very comfortable” to 100 of “Very comfortable

Candidate Choice (Nominal)

* Yes or No vote

MeToo Support (Interval-Ratio)

* Degree of support for the MeToo movement
* Measured as a slider
  + 0 meaning “No Support” to 100 of “Full Support”

Political Ideology Fundamentalism (Interval-Ratio)

* Composite scores of CS recoded in same direction
  + A 0 (liberal) score is the same as a 140 (conservative) score
  + A 58 (liberal) score is the same as an 82 (conservative) score

**Analyses:**

Hypothesis 1

* + One sample t test

Hypothesis 2

* + Two sample t test

Hypothesis 3

* + Pearson’s R

Hypothesis 4

* + Pearson’s R with moderation analysis

554545

Liberal Options (Both Moderate Candidates)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| John William (D) | Tom Stevens (I) |
| Passionately supports his party’s stances on social issues | Attends church every Saturday |
| Attends church every Sunday | Coached his daughter’s basketball team |
| Coached his son’s soccer team | Was Captain of the Debate Club at Yale |
| Valedictorian of his prep high school | Graduated Summa Cum Laude at Yale Law School |
| Graduated Summa Cum Laude at Harvard Law School | Salutatorian of his prep high school |
| Has 2 children | Passionately supports a more moderate political platform on social issues |
| Happily married to his college sweetheart | Has 4 children |
| Was Captain of the Debate Club at Harvard | Happily married to his college sweetheart |
| This candidate has a history of making undesired sexually suggestive comments towards many women | This candidate has a history of making undesired sexually suggestive comments towards many women |

**Conservative Options (Both Moderate)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| John William (R) | Tom Stevens (I) |
| Passionately supports his party’s stances on social issues | Attends church every Saturday |
| Attends church every Sunday | Coached his daughter’s basketball team |
| Coached his son’s soccer team | Was Captain of the Debate Club at Yale |
| Valedictorian of his prep high school | Graduated Summa Cum Laude at Yale Law School |
| Graduated Summa Cum Laude at Harvard Law School | Salutatorian of his prep high school |
| Has 2 children | Passionately supports a more moderate political platform on social issues |
| Happily married to his college sweetheart | Has 4 children |
| Was Captain of the Debate Club at Harvard | Happily married to his college sweetheart |
| This candidate has a history of making undesired sexually suggestive comments towards many women | This candidate has a history of making undesired sexually suggestive comments towards many women |

**Demographic Survey Information**

1. What year of college are you in? (Freshman, Sophomore, Etc.)
2. What is your favorite activity outside of class? (Sports, Video Games, Etc.)
3. What is your academic major and minor?
4. When was the last time you voted in a federal or state election?
5. What is your favorite animal?
6. What are your plans after graduation?
7. What is your sex? (Interesting exploratory data point for differences between males and females)

**Scales and Measures**

Conservatism Scale

* Asks for participants degree of support for the following items:
  + Abortion, Welfare Benefits, Taxes, Immigration, Military/National Security, Religion, Gun ownership, Traditional Marriage, Traditional Values, Fiscal Responsibility, Business, The Family Unit and Patriotism

Candidate Comfortable Vote (Interval-Ratio)

* Degree of comfort from the participant for their voting choice
* “How comfortable are you with your voting choice?”
* Measured on a slider from (0-100)
  + 0 meaning “Not very comfortable” to 100 of “Very comfortable

Candidate Choice (Nominal)

* “Which candidate would you vote for given these two options?”
* Yes or No vote

MeToo Support (Interval-Ratio)

* Degree of support for the MeToo movement
* “To what degree do you support the MeToo movement?”
* Measured as a slider
  + 0 meaning “No Support” to 100 of “Full Support”

Political Ideology Fundamentalism (Interval-Ratio)

* Composite scores of CS recoded in same direction
  + A 0 (liberal) score is the same as a 140 (conservative) score
  + A 58 (liberal) score is the same as an 82 (conservative) score

Manipulation Check

* Which candidate was accused of sexual assault?
  + Liberal Candidate
  + Conservative Candidate

