Paper II

POLI 100: American Democracy in Changing Times

This paper asks you to assess a House race in the 2022 election. There is a list at the end of this document that has your name and a race you were randomly assigned to analyze. In this paper, you will examine the race you are assigned from a political science point of view.

TIMELINE

- April 6th: Submit your sources to Canvas by 5 PM using the template.
- April 17th: Submit your paper outline to Canvas by 5 PM using the template.
- April 28th: Paper due on Canvas by 5 PM.

ASSIGNMENT

Your paper should address the following points/questions, making an argument justifying your expectation for who would win the election and explaining the outcome. For each section (the district, campaign, and fundamentals) you will find a series of questions asking about empirical evidence related to the section. You do not need to answer all of these questions, as they are meant to be guiding questions for what you should be researching. You do, however, always need to provide an argument related to the last question in each section. You need to address all parts of the prompt related to the actual election outcome section.

The District
- Who are the candidates? Is either an incumbent? If so, how long have they served? Do the candidates have previous political experience?
- Describe the district or state. Where is it? Is it urban or rural? What are the demographics of the district or state? How did the district vote in the 2020 presidential election? Is there a dominant industry or employer in the district?
- Based on this section of evidence alone, who would you expect to win the election and why? Use both the evidence presented and theories we have discussed in class.

The Campaign
- How well-funded was each campaign? What groups/industries supported each candidate? Do you see a connection between sources of funding and the issues being raised by the campaigns?
- Was there polling in this race? If so, describe it. Have the polls been stable? How did the polls compare to the final outcome?
- Did either of the candidates receive endorsements from any national political figures? How have they tied or distanced themselves from any national-level issues?
- Based on this section of evidence alone, who would you expect to win the election and why? Use both the evidence presented and theories we have discussed in class.

The Fundamentals
- How was President Biden's approval at the time of the 2022 election? How about the economy – was the economy generally strong (e.g. low unemployment, high wage growth) or weak?
- Based on this section of evidence alone, who would you expect to win the election and why? Use both the evidence presented and theories we have discussed in class.

The Outcome
- Taking all of the evidence into account throughout your paper, and theories we discussed in class, who would you have expected to win and why? Are there certain parts of the campaign that would have been more compelling than others?
- Who won the election? What was the final vote outcome?
- Did the actual outcome go as you expected? Speculate on why or why not (there is no penalty for having expectation be incorrect; even professional election forecasters make incorrect predictions)

REQUIREMENTS

Be sure your paper does the following: 1) presents a simple argument that organizes your thoughts at the beginning of the paper; 2) answers the questions above directly; 3) draws upon relevant readings from the class and other sources; 4) minimizes typographical and grammatical errors. For both your sources and outline, please use the templates on Canvas and follow the instructions there.

FORMAT AND REFERENCES

Submit your paper via the "assignments" tab on Canvas by 11:55pm on Friday, April 28th at 5:00 PM. Late assignments will penalized one full letter grade per day late. The paper should be 6–8 pages in length (this does not include the references). It should be double spaced, in a 12-point font, with one-inch margins. *All ideas that are not entirely your own must be cited in the text.* Any phrases that you choose to quote directly also must be placed in quotation marks and cited in the text. Please include both an in-text citations and a references list. You may use any citation format, but please do so throughout. In place of your name, include only your PID – please do not include any other identifying information.

GRADING

Grading of the final paper will be based on the quality and thoroughness of your argument, use of evidence to support the argument, and writing clarity, mechanics, formatting, and documentation. Recitation of facts and figures, alone, does not constitute "analysis." This is a paper in which your grade is very likely to reflect the amount of both work and thought that you put into the assignment. A paper that mostly repackages facts with a cursory argument will be a "C" paper at the very best. "A" and "B" papers will go significantly beyond the facts to explain your argument in an original way based on course concepts.

Name	District
Avlua, Trisha	CA-13
Barbee, Mary Margaret	IL-17
Blakely, Aiden	IN-01
Bourdelais, Rex	KS-03
Busch, Graham	ME-02
Dhar, Rohit	MI-07
Faucette, Jaclyn	MN-02
Filly, Hannah	NH-01
Finn, Alexis	NV-01
Flack, Kevin	NV-03
Fleury Mendible, Diego	NY-19
Fried, Eli	OH-13
Garcia, Daisey	OR-05
Golden, Ben	PA-07
Groves, Quinn	PA-08
Gustafson, Cole	PA-17
Hampel, Lucy	RI-02
Heath, Anna	VA-02
Kryshtalowych, Andrew	WA-08
Lee, David	AZ-01
Liu, Hongzheng	CA-27
Magnum, Landis	CA-22
Martin, Max	NC-13
Massey, Annie	NE-02
Smith, Anna-Carter	NM-02
Morris, Ethan	NY-22
Nguyen, Matt	OH-01
Norvell, Cameron	AZ-02
Odiorne, Ashton	AZ-06
Owen, Sophie	CA-41
Phillips, Sarah Lynn	CA-45
Pikiell, Olvia	FL-27
Powell, Cohen	IA-01
Qualls, Hunt	IA-03
Redwine, Lucy	NJ-07
Schulterbrandt, Sydney	NY-01
Siddiqui, Farhan	WA-03
Stephenson, Ellie	WI-03
Stewart, Regan	IL-13
Tenold, Cade	MI-03
Tobias, Alaisha	CA-47
Watson, Kayla	CT-05
Zau, Matseoi	NY-18
Zink, Lindsay	MI-10