

Reply to Reviews

Reviewer 1

Thank you for your constructive feedback and suggestions. We appreciate your insights and have made the following revisions to our manuscript based on your comments:

Audience Adjustment: We have revised the introduction to include journalism/media students as a key audience for our paper, acknowledging their crucial role in public education.

Updates and Clarifications:

P. 3: Updated to reflect the outcomes of the 2022 election.

Pp. 4-5: Long footnotes have been either shortened or integrated into the main text. Footnote 5 is now presented in a box format.

P. 7: Terminology changed to “small” and “large” population. Clarified the discussion on county population size and reordered the argument as suggested.

P. 10 & p. 32: Modified the note and sentence for clarity.

P. 20 & p. 27: Suggestions on wording and hypothesis repetition have been incorporated.

P. 31: We did not add a graph illustrating negative/positive presidential coattails over time due to space.

Footnotes: Relevant footnotes have been incorporated into the main text or presented in boxes.

Minor Adjustments:

P. 35: Clarified the context regarding Biden’s incumbency.

P. 45: Removed the word “even” to avoid patronizing tone.

Reviewer 2

We are grateful for your detailed and insightful feedback. Following your recommendations, we have made the following revisions:

Abstract & Introduction: Adjusted the language as suggested to reflect the current status and audience of the paper.

Footnote Revision: Reduced the number of footnotes by incorporating essential information into the main text.

Data Presentation: Simplified the presentation of data with the inclusion of tables and clearer wording.

Statistical Clarifications: Added explanations and clarifications where needed, especially regarding hypotheses and statistical significance.

Minor Corrections: Made all suggested grammatical and terminological corrections.

Reviewer 3

Thank you for your encouraging words and valuable feedback. We have implemented the following changes:

Section I & Abstract: Added a note regarding the distinction between genuine belief and rhetorical claims in the context of the Dominion Voting case against Fox News.

Clarifications: Updated the text on p. 3 as per election outcomes and added explanations on p. 18 and p. 24 as suggested.

The content of footnote 32 has been integrated into the main text to give it the necessary emphasis.

Reviewer 4

We appreciate your thoughtful comments and have made the following adjustments:

Presentation Improvements: Revised for better readability and clarity, especially in the sections you highlighted.

Content Adjustments: Updated the content to reflect past and current political contexts accurately.

Partisan Bias Acknowledgment: Included a discussion on potential statistical misinterpretations across political spectrums, acknowledging that such issues are not exclusive to any single party.

We believe these revisions enhance the clarity, accuracy, and comprehensiveness of our paper. We thank all reviewers for their valuable input.