Table 1 Sample Demographics at Each Wave of Data Collection

Wave 1 Wave 2 Wave 3

Age *M* (*SD*) 46.61 (16.27) 50.03 (15.75) 51.19 (15.55)

Male 985 (49%) 522 (52%) 435 (54%)

White/Caucasian 1392 (69%) 719 (72%) 580 (72%)

African American 242 (12%) 114 (11%) 93 (12%)

Latinx 262 (13%) 104 (10%) 80 (10%)

Asian 78 (4%) 45 (5%) 36 (5%)

College Educated 983 (49%) 480 (48%) 386 (48%)

Below $40,000 699 (35%) 362 (36%) 299 (37%)

$40,000 - $80,000 723 (36%) 347 (35%) 278 (35%)

Above $80,000 501 (25%) 251 (25%) 195 (24%)

Born Again 574 (29%) 284 (28%) 226 (28%)

Partisanship *M* (*SD*) 3.52 (1.86) 3.64 (1.90) 3.70 (1.92)

Ideology *M* (*SD*) 3.84 (1.75) 4.00 (1.76) 4.04 (1.78)

Political Interest *M* (*SD*) 3.62 (1.11) 3.64 (1.12) 3.69 (1.10)

Note: All values represent responses recorded at Time 1. Changes are thus indicative of panel attrition and not changes in response. Income categories are self-reported total annual household income; 4-5% of respondents declined to report an income. Born again indicates a self-identified born again evangelical Christian. Partisanship was measured on a 7-point scale from 1=strong Democrat to 7=strong Republican. Ideology was measured on a 7-point scale form 1=extremely liberal to 7=extremely conservative. Political interest was measured on a 1-5 agreement scale by asking respondents the extent to which they agreed with the statement “I am interested in politics.”

Table 2 Model Fit for Latent Variable Cross-Lagged Panel Models

RMSEA TLI/

Model χ*2 (df) Δ*χ*2 (Δdf)* RMSEA 90% CI NNFI CFI ΔCFI Result

Study 1 – Talk and Media

Null 10413.92 (177) --- --- --- ---- --- --- --- ---

Configural 219.16 (102) --- --- .038 .032;.044 .980 .989 --- PASS

Loading 226.77 (110) 7.61 (8) .036 .030;.042 .982 .989 < .000 PASS

Intercept 301.82 (118) 75.04 (8) .044 .038;.050 .973 .982 .006 PASS

Study 2 – Talk, Media, and Social Media

Null 15455.49 (475) --- --- --- ---- --- --- --- ---

Configural 624.08 (339) --- --- .037 .033;.041 .973 .981 --- PASS

Loading 642.73 (353) 18.64 (14) .036 .030;.042 .974 .981 < .000 PASS

Intercept 730.95 (376) 88.23 (23) .040 .036;.048 .970 .976 .004 PASS

RMSEA = Root Mean Squared Error of Approximation. CI = confidence interval. TLI/NNFI = Tucker-Lewis/Non-Normed Fit Index. CFI = Comparative Fit Index. TLI/NNFI and CFI are calculated with reference to the longitudinal null model (cf. Little, 2013).

Table 3 SEM Paths for XXXXXXXXXXXX

Unstd. Std. Unstd. Std.

Path Coef. (SE) Coef. Coef. (SE) Coef.

October News Use Political Talk

Age -.011 (.003) -.150\*\*\* -.002 (.002) -.035

Female -.204 (.083) -.090\* .138 (.056) .071\*

African Amer. .056 (.149) .044 -.048 (.094) -.016

Asian .267 (.237) .049 -.331 (.115) -.071\*\*

Latinx -.745 (.436) -.197 .264 (.248) .082

Other (non-white) .826 (.426) .233 -.241 (.242) -.080

Education .112 (.039) .104\*\* .018 (.031) .019

Income .031 (.015) .081\* .025 (.011) .076\*

Born Again .200 (.101) .079\* .034 (.062) .016

Conservative -.088 (.027) -.139\*\*\* -.005 (.016) -.009

Strong Partisan .086 (.040) .079\* .100 (.028) .107\*\*\*

Political Interest .439 (.037) .425\*\*\* .540 (.029) .617\*\*\*

November

News Use (Oct.) .884 (.059) .823\*\*\* .043 (.028) .049

Political Talk (Oct.) .133 (.050) .105\*\* .859 (.029) .837\*\*\*

December

News Use (Nov.) .875 (.059) .888\*\*\* .069 (.029) .089\*

Political Talk (Nov.) .031 (.042) .025 .780 (.031) .809\*\*\*

Note: All estimates were produced in structural equation modeling using a robust maximum likelihood estimator (MLR) with Lavaan. Model fit for the structural model was adequate: χ2(314) = 824.71, *p* < .001, RMSEA = .048 (.044-.052), CFI = .956, NNFI/TLI = .948, SRMR = .024. \* *p* < .05; \*\**p* < .01; \*\*\**p* < .001.

Table 4 SEM Paths for XXXXXXXXXXXX

Unstd. Std. Unstd. Std.

Path Coef. (SE) Coef. Coef. (SE) Coef.

October News Use Political Talk Social Media

Age -.014 (.003) -.183\*\*\* -.003 (.002) -.046 -.007 (.003) -.104\*\*

Female -.239 (.098) -.099\* .103 (.062) .055 -.238 (.082) -.110\*\*

African Amer. .163 (.183) .044 .043 (.087) .015 .009 (.139) .003

Asian .064 (.246) .012 -.370 (.122) -.088\*\* -.088 (.172) -.018

Latinx -.702 (.459) -.178 .219 (.270) .072 -.165 (.279) -.047

Other (non-white) .717 (.440) .196 -.291 (.262) -.103 .304 (.256) .093

Education .085 (.047) .074 -.001 (.034) -.002 -.056 (.042) -.054

Income .035 (.017) .083\* .016 (.012) .049 -.011 (.015) -.029

Born Again .289 (.120) .109\* -.025 (.066) -.012 .225 (.096) .095\*

Conservative -.065 (.030) -.096\* .002 (.017) .004 -.029 (.026) -.048

Strong Partisan .115 (.047) .097\* .091 (.032) .099\*\* .150 (.042) .141\*\*\*

Political Interest .441 (.042) .401\*\*\* .540 (.033) .637\*\*\* .346 (.035) .353\*\*\*

November

News Use (Oct.) .823 (.062) .801\*\*\* .007 (.031) .009 .029 (.040) .031

Political Talk (Oct.) .123 (.051) .092\* .863 (.034) .838\*\*\* .067 (.042) .056

Social Media (Oct.) .067 (.050) .058 .039 (.032) .044 .834 (.042) .801\*\*\*

December

News Use (Nov.) .874 (.071) .870\*\*\* .070 (.032) .092\* .124 (.048) .145\*\*

Political Talk (Nov.) .024 (.045) .018 .774 (.035) .792\*\*\* .046 (.038) .042

Social Media (Nov.) .016 (.052) .014 .025 (.032) .030 .677 (.043) .715\*\*\*

Note: All estimates were produced in structural equation modeling using a robust maximum likelihood estimator (MLR) with Lavaan. Model fit for the structural model was adequate: χ2(700) = 1364.63, *p* < .001, RMSEA = .041 (.038-.044), CFI = .962, NNFI/TLI = .957, SRMR = .045. \* *p* < .05; \*\**p* < .01; \*\*\**p* < .001.