

Assignment 2

Fundraising and Competition

P SC 3143

Instructions

For this assignment, you are expected to read an article recently published in the *American Political Science Review* on a topic related to Congressional fundraising. You should read the article carefully, making sure to take note of the core elements of a scholarly paper: the research question, theory, methods, results, and conclusion. You should then answer the questions provided below.

Article Citation

Thomsen, Danielle M. 2023. [“Competition in Congressional Elections: Money versus Votes.”](#) *American Political Science Review*. 117(2): 675-691. (Available on Canvas)

Reading Questions

1. What is the central problem the researcher is addressing? Briefly mention two of the reasons given in the article about why this is a problem.
2. Why does the researcher choose a 57.5% threshold for competitiveness? Why is (or isn't) this a reasonable choice?
3. How is partisan balance measured? (*Answer in your own phrasing, but the language will/should be similar to that used by the author.*)
4. Interpret Figure 3. Be sure to discuss each panel.
5. In your own words, what is the author's conclusion of the paper?

Credit Attribution

You should respond to the questions above with your own insights and voice. For that reason, you should refrain from providing direct quotes except where absolutely necessary; in those cases, you should attempt to include a minimal quote that enhances the effectiveness of your response.

In all cases, you should include references to article page numbers when you rely on specific information, whether using a direct quote or a paraphrase. Because this assignment only covers a single article, you are permitted to only use page numbers for in-text references. You are neither required nor expected to use outside resources for this assignment; however, if you choose to do so, you must provide in-text and full citations where appropriate using a recognizable citation format (preferably Chicago; APA and MLA also accepted).

The use of generative A.I. (e.g. ChatGPT, etc.) is strictly prohibited for this assignment. Please refer to the syllabus for more information.

Submission Details

This assignment submission should contain a single word document (.doc, .docx, .pdf) with your responses to the above questions.

The submission deadline is Friday, September 13th, at 6:00pm CT. A hefty late penalty will be assessed afterwards (refer to syllabus).