

WRAPPING UP

Data Analysis for Journalism and Political Communication
(Fall 2024)

Prof. Bell

THINK-PAIR-SHARE

- ① What are the most important ideas that you will take away from this class?
- ② What burning questions do you still have about data analysis?

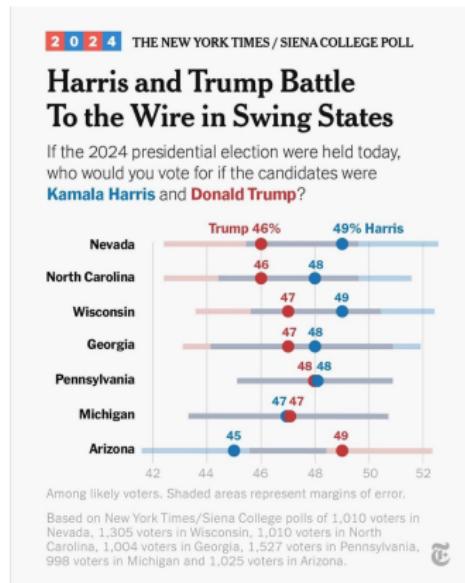
CHALABI: 3 WAYS TO SPOT A BAD STATISTIC



- ① Can you see uncertainty?
- ② Can we look beyond the averages?
- ③ How was the data collected?

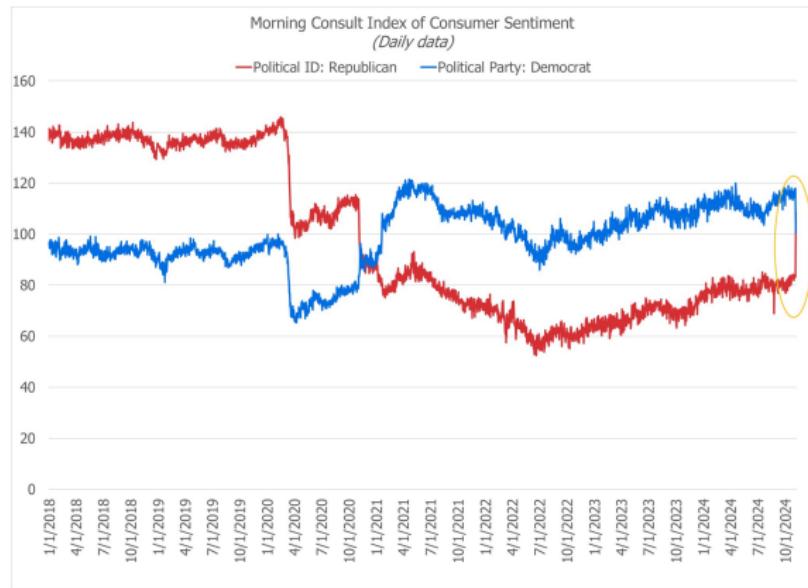
CAN YOU SEE THE UNCERTAINTY?

- Whenever we take a sample and try to make inferences about a population, there is uncertainty



CAN YOU SEE THE UNCERTAINTY?

- Whenever we take a sample and try to make inferences about a population, there is uncertainty
- There is also uncertainty when making causal claims

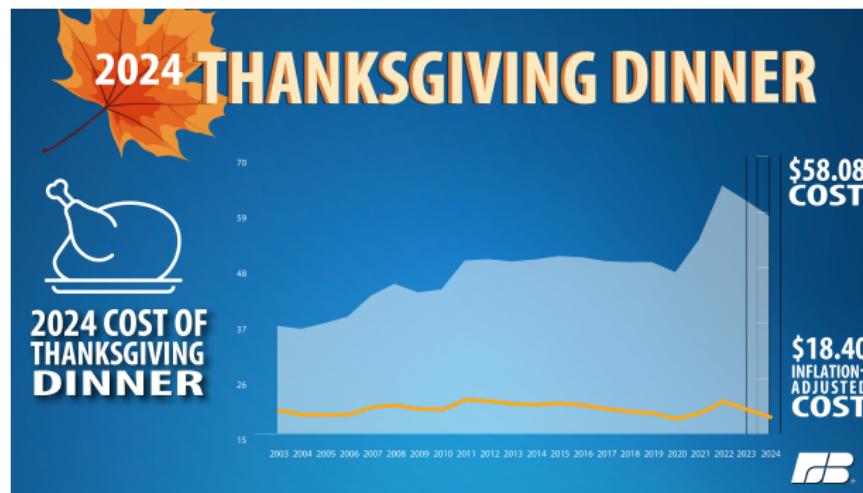


CAN WE LOOK BEYOND THE AVERAGES?

- We have to be conscious of researcher degrees of freedom.

CAN WE LOOK BEYOND THE AVERAGES?

- We have to be conscious of researcher degrees of freedom.
- There is both a science and an art to accurately communicating about data using data visualizations.



HOW WAS THE DATA COLLECTED?



Raphael Nishimura
@rnishimura

...

Had Selzer weighted by 2020 recall vote, she would have got Trump 50 Harris 44. And I think that could have been further improved if they also weighted non-voters accordingly (she says they assign a weight of 1.0 for those cases).
Weighting by recall vote works, folks!

PRESIDENTIAL HORSERACE, TOP PREFERENCE PLUS LEANING

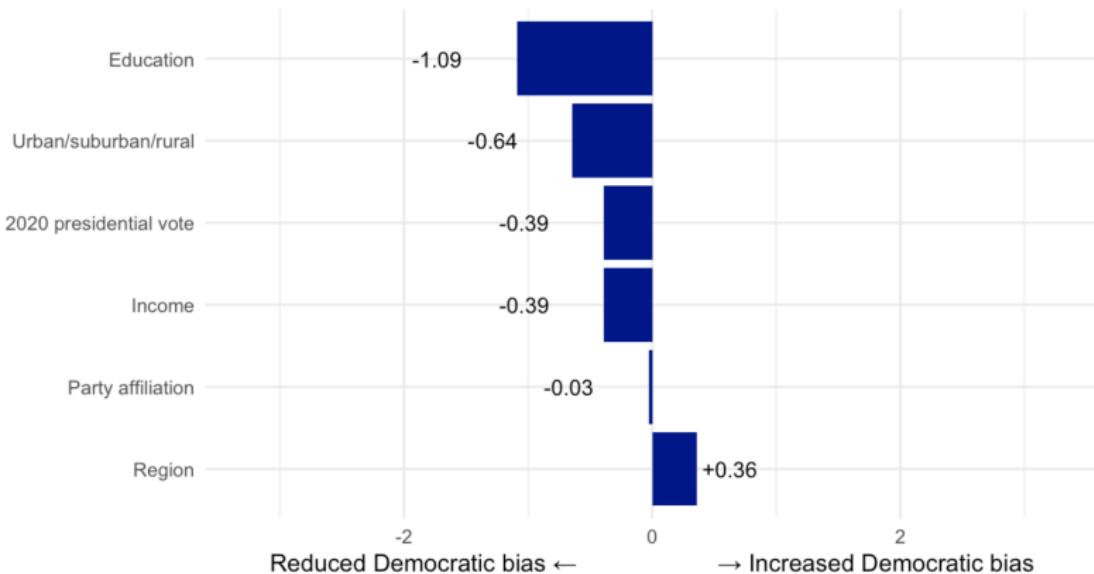
	Count	%
HARRIS	357	44%
TRUMP	401	50%
RFK JR	18	2%
OLIVER	1	0%
SOMEONE ELSE	8	1%
WOULDNT VOTE	1	0%
NS/DONT REMEMBER	12	2%
DON'T WANT TO TELL (ALR ONLY)	10	1%

808 WGTTEST2
656 Total Unweighted

2:59 PM · Nov 17, 2024 · 6,501 Views

HOW WAS THE DATA COLLECTED?

Polls that weighted to education, income, and past vote had less Democratic bias in 2024
Effect of each weighting factor on polling error (in percentage points)



Analysis of survey weights used in 2024 national pre-election polling from October 15, 2024 to November 5, 2024.
Graph by Brian Schaffner and Caroline Soler.

HOW WAS THE DATA COLLECTED?

Support for mass deportation varies depending on how the question is asked

A sample of different questions asked about deportation this year show significant variation in levels of support — sometimes, even within the same survey

Pollster	Wording	Support deportations	Do not support deportations
CBS News/YouGov Registered voters, June 5-7	Would you favor or oppose the U.S. government starting a new national program to deport all undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. illegally?	62%	38%
Marquette Law School Registered voters, October 1-10	Do you favor or oppose deporting immigrants who are living in the United States illegally back to their home countries?	58%	42%
ABC/ipsos US adults, October 4-8	There are at least 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States. Would you support or oppose an effort by the federal government to deport all these undocumented immigrants and send them back to their home countries?	56%	43%
CNN US adults, January 25-30	If Donald Trump becomes president again, would you favor or oppose him trying to...detain and deport millions of undocumented immigrants?	48%	52%
Gallup US adults, June 3-23	Please tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following proposals...Deporting all immigrants who are living in the United States illegally back to their home country	47%	51%
Marquette Law School Registered voters, October 1-10	Do you favor or oppose deporting immigrants who are living in the United States illegally back to their home countries even if they have lived here for a number of years, have jobs and no criminal record?	40%	60%
Pew Research US adults, April 8-14	Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are now living in the U.S.? (They should not be allowed to stay in the country legally/There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met) If "not be allowed: "Do you think there should be a national law enforcement effort to deport all immigrants who are now living in the U.S. illegally?"	33%	67%

("Support" percentage includes those who say there should be a national deportation effort; "do not support" includes all others)

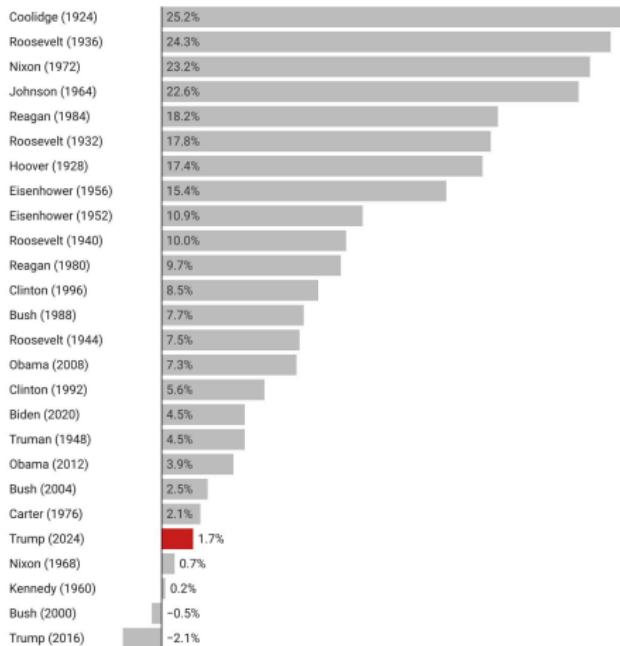
You LEARNED R!

- Make charts for 3+ variables
- Load data
- Filter data
- Create and change data
- Summarize data
- Pivot data (tidy data)
- Join data
- Work with dates
- Work with strings
- Work with factors
- Analyze poll data
- Make maps
- Conduct t-tests
- Run regressions
- Create reports

How DID THE POLLS DO IN 2024?

Trump's win in 2024 was no landslide

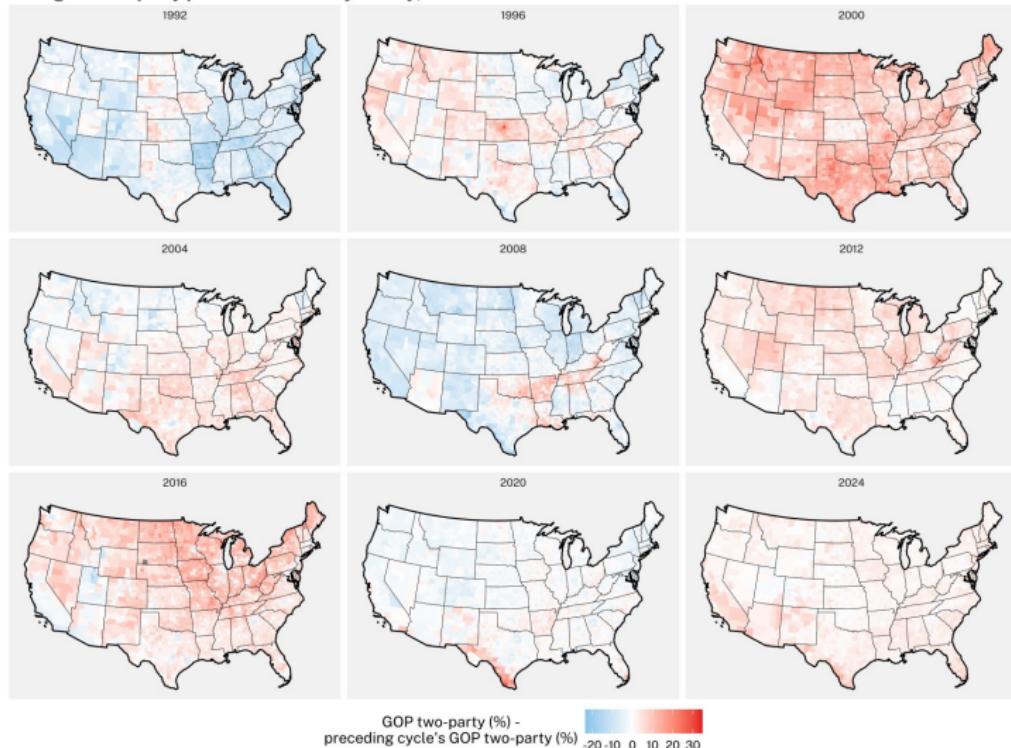
Trump won the popular vote by the smallest amount since 2000. His margin of victory was one of the smallest in the last 100 years.



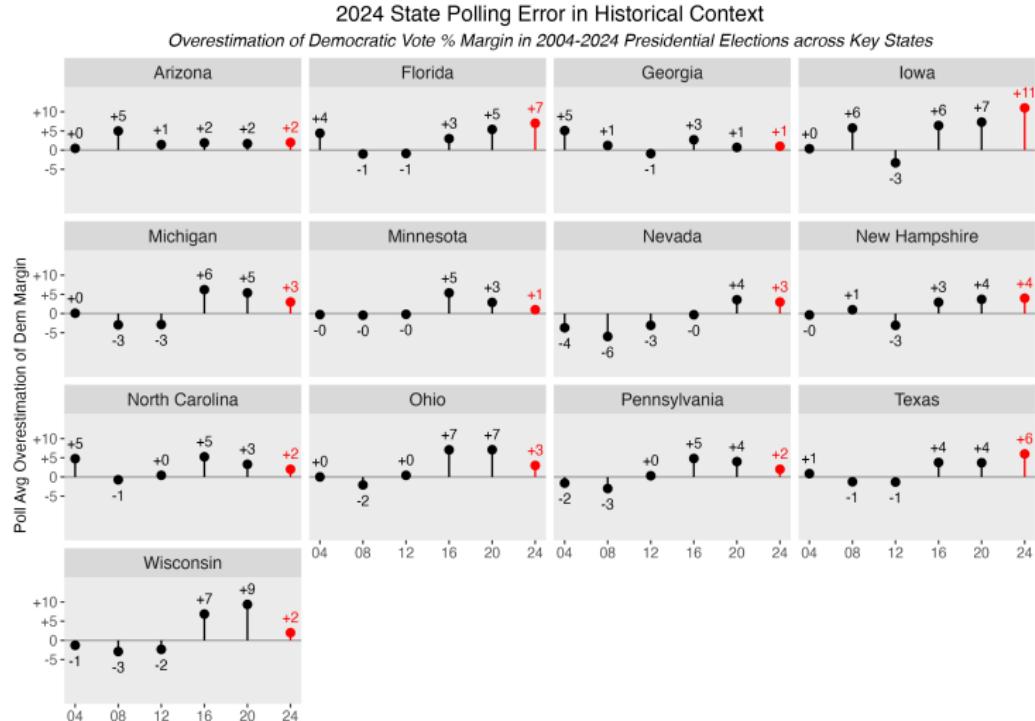
Created with Datawrapper

How DID THE POLLS DO IN 2024?

Change in two-party presidential vote by county, 1992-2024



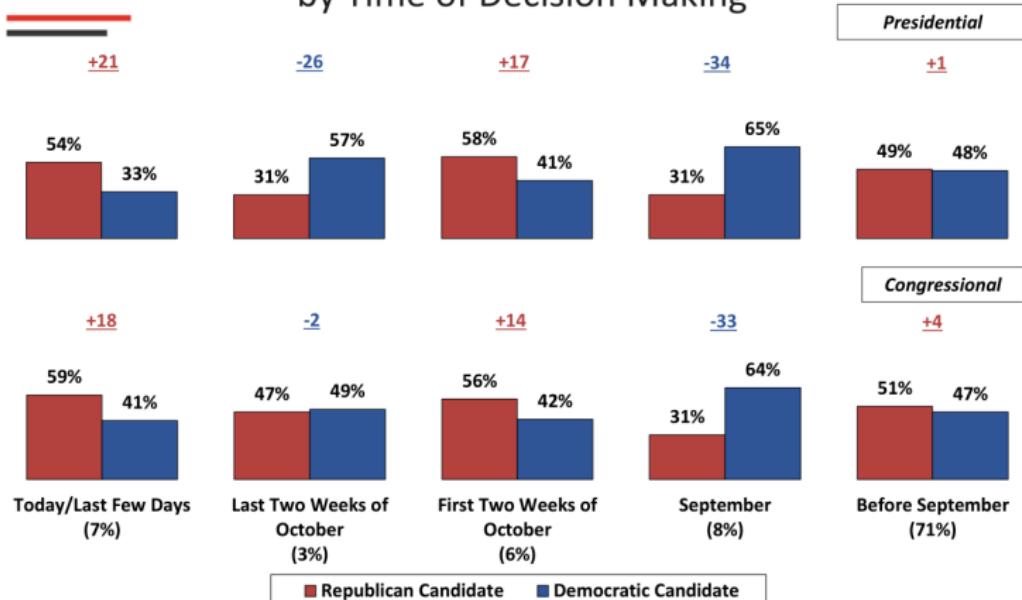
How DID THE POLLS DO IN 2024?



Alexander Agadjanyan | Data sources: actual results from NYT and Leip Election Atlas, poll averages from various aggregators.
Overestimation = $(D\%_{poll} - R\%_{poll}) - (D\%_{actual} - R\%_{actual})$. Poll averages from NYT (2020, 2024), HuffPost (2012-16), and RCP (2004-08).
Note: 2024 polling error uses incomplete returns in AZ (63%) and NV (86%).

How DID THE POLLS DO IN 2024?

Presidential and Congressional Ballots by Time of Decision Making



How DID THE POLLS DO IN 2024?

Presidential & Senate polling accuracy by state

All polls released within a month of election. States are included if more than 5 public polls available.

