Appendix to

Misusing Polls in the Media:
The Consequences of Survey Clickbait
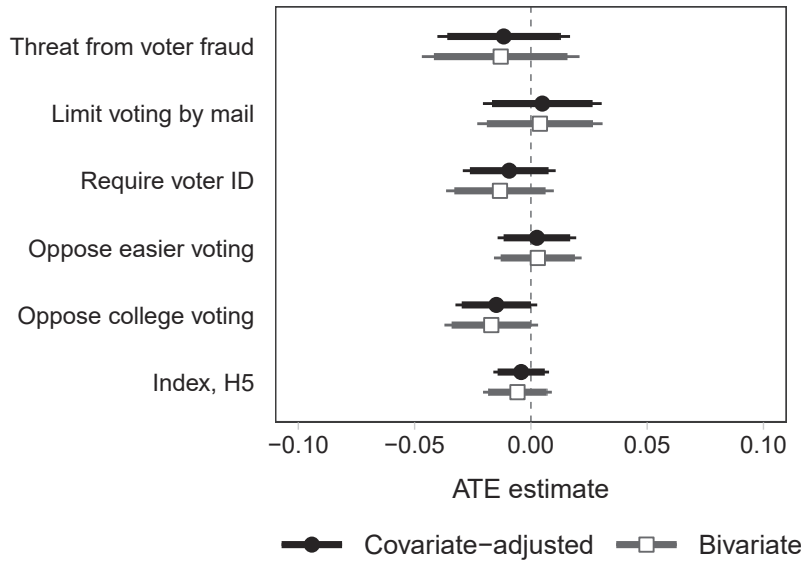
Contents

A   Supplemental Figures

Figures A.1 through A.3 compare the treatment group to the placebo condition. These figures are otherwise identical to Figures 4 through 6.

Figure A.1: Comparison to Placebo Conditions, H4.

Note: This figure is identical to main text Figure 4, but with treatment effects estimated relative to the placebo condition.

Figure A.2: Comparison to Placebo Conditions, H5.
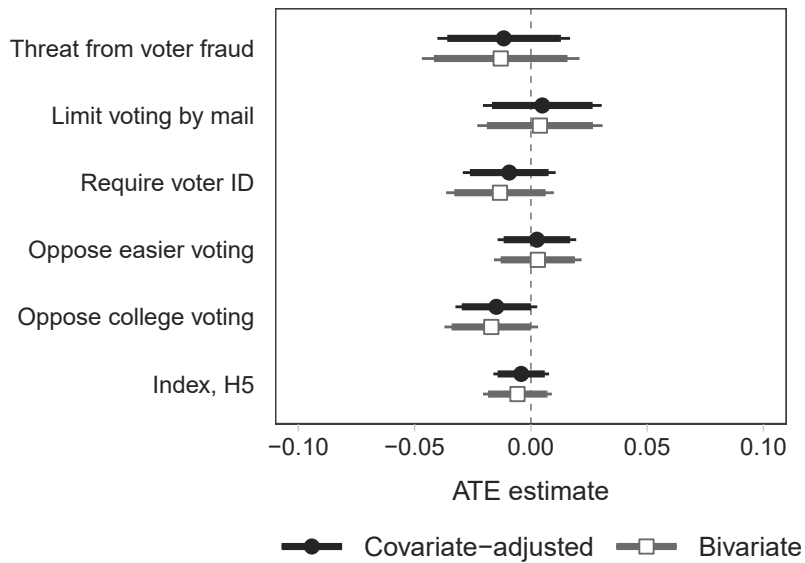
Note: This figure is identical to main text Figure 4, but with treatment effects estimated relative to the placebo condition.

Figure A.3: Comparison to Placebo Conditions, H6 and H7.

Note: This figure is identical to main text Figure 4, but with treatment effects estimated relative to the placebo condition.

B Regression Tables

This section contains regression tables for all estimates plotted in the main text and Appendix A. For all analyses, we use listwise deletion in the event of item non-response.

- *First-order harms (H1-H3):* Tables B.1 through B.6 compare the treatment and control groups (plotted in Figure 2). Tables B.7 through B.12 compare the treatment and placebo groups (plotted in Figure 3). Tables B.23 and B.24 present the within-subject estimates.

- *Support for voting restrictions (H4-H5):* Tables B.13 through B.15 compare the treatment and control groups (plotted in Figures 4 and 5). Tables B.16 through B.18 compare the treatment and placebo groups (plotted in Figures A.1 and A.2).

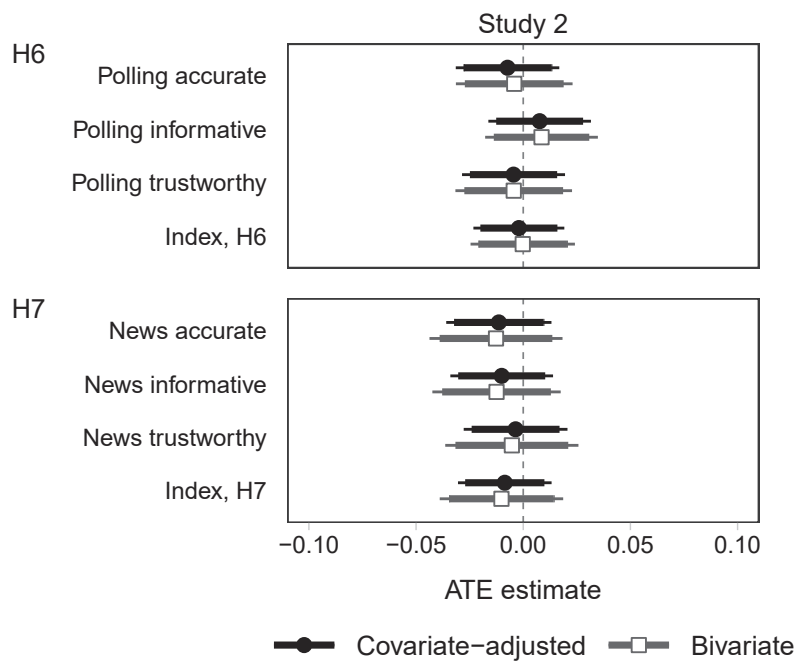- *Reputation of journalists and pollsters (H6-H7):* Tables B.19 and B.20 compare the treatment and control groups (plotted in Figure 6). Tables B.21 and B.22 compare the treatment and placebo groups (plotted in Figure A.3).

In each table,

- the title notes the study, hypothesis number, and comparison group (control or placebo).

- each pair of columns presents the estimates without and with covariate adjustment.

- the labels above each pair of columns note the dependent variable. The order matches the order of the main text figure.

- HC1 robust standard errors appear in parentheses.

- one-sided p-values are denoted as follows: $^*p < 0.05$, $^{**}p < 0.01$. These notations only appear in the rows containing the treatment effect estimates (i.e., they are omitted from the intercept and the covariates used for adjustment).

In the covariate-adjusted models, the covariates were selected using the following, preregistered procedure. We committed to this procedure because it is a principled way to identify all of the prognostic covariates after data collection.

- Subset the data to the control group.

- Select the optimal penalty for LASSO using cross-validation.

- Using the optimal penalty, run LASSO and store all covariates that are retained.

- Use this set of covariates in the covariate-adjusted estimates.

- Repeat this procedure for every dependent variable.

B.1 Hypotheses 1-3 (first-order harms)

Table B.1: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 1, vs. control group.

	Public informed		Copartisan informed		Outpartisan informed	
Constant	0.513 (0.008)	0.130 (0.027)	0.656 (0.007)	0.279 (0.030)	0.430 (0.008)	0.138 (0.028)
Treatment	−0.071 (0.011) $p=0.000$	−0.068 (0.009) $p=0.000$	−0.021 (0.010) $p=0.014$	−0.018 (0.008) $p=0.016$	−0.024 (0.012) $p=0.023$	−0.027 (0.009) $p=0.002$
Attention to politics		0.110 (0.024)		0.036 (0.021)		−0.025 (0.025)
Social media: Facebook				0.013 (0.011)		0.006 (0.013)
Social media: Twitter		0.031 (0.010)		−0.010 (0.009)		
Social media: Instagram				−0.002 (0.010)		0.016 (0.010)
Social media: Youtube		−0.017 (0.017)		0.007 (0.017)		
Social media: Tiktok		0.001 (0.010)		0.011 (0.010)		
Social media: Snapchat						0.020 (0.011)
Social media: Doromojo		0.113 (0.021)		0.027 (0.024)		0.060 (0.024)
Informed: You		−0.101 (0.026)		0.020 (0.024)		−0.051 (0.027)
Informed: Young people		0.042 (0.019)		−0.029 (0.018)		0.044 (0.021)
Informed: Voters		0.292 (0.027)		0.070 (0.023)		0.079 (0.027)
Informed: Republicans		0.095 (0.034)				0.432 (0.025)
Informed: Democrats		0.060 (0.034)				0.372 (0.034)
Informed: Copartisans		−0.024 (0.037)		0.429 (0.025)		−0.537 (0.038)
Informed: Outpartisans		0.015 (0.035)		−0.146 (0.018)		
Confidence: Democracy		0.111 (0.021)		0.007 (0.019)		0.105 (0.021)
Confidence: Small business				0.058 (0.021)		0.004 (0.024)
Confidence: Education		0.086 (0.020)		0.070 (0.019)		0.081 (0.022)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.093 (0.017)		0.032 (0.017)		0.117 (0.018)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.044 (0.021)		0.002 (0.019)		0.072 (0.021)
News days per week		−0.008 (0.003)				−0.006 (0.003)
Party ID (7-point)				−0.001 (0.002)		−0.002 (0.003)
Adj. R^2	0.015	0.367	0.002	0.256	0.001	0.410
Num. obs.	2674	2674	2395	2395	2395	2395

Table B.2: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 2, vs. control group.

	Cast informed votes		Qualified to vote		Index, H2	
Constant	0.524	0.091	0.584	0.281	0.554	0.186
	(0.007)	(0.030)	(0.007)	(0.030)	(0.006)	(0.025)
Treatment	−0.035	−0.034	−0.035	−0.034	−0.035	−0.034
	(0.010)	(0.008)	(0.010)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.007)
	$p=0$	$p=0$	$p=0$	$p=0$	$p=0$	$p=0$
Attention to politics		0.113		0.075		0.094
		(0.021)		(0.023)		(0.018)
Social media: Facebook		0.030		−0.003		0.013
		(0.011)		(0.013)		(0.010)
Social media: Twitter		0.031		0.015		0.023
		(0.009)		(0.010)		(0.008)
Social media: Instagram		0.022		0.012		0.016
		(0.010)		(0.011)		(0.008)
Social media: Youtube		−0.005		−0.020		−0.013
		(0.016)		(0.016)		(0.013)
Social media: Tiktok		−0.011		−0.013		−0.013
		(0.010)		(0.010)		(0.008)
Social media: Snapchat		−0.001				0.003
		(0.010)				(0.009)
Social media: Doromojo		0.124		0.096		0.109
		(0.020)		(0.019)		(0.016)
Informed: You		−0.047		−0.067		−0.056
		(0.023)		(0.024)		(0.019)
Informed: Young people		0.038		0.023		0.030
		(0.018)		(0.019)		(0.015)
Informed: Voters		0.171		0.184		0.177
		(0.024)		(0.025)		(0.020)
Informed: Republicans		0.069		0.012		0.041
		(0.030)		(0.038)		(0.028)
Informed: Democrats		0.062		0.024		0.044
		(0.031)		(0.039)		(0.029)
Informed: Copartisans		−0.074		−0.045		−0.060
		(0.032)		(0.041)		(0.030)
Informed: Outpartisans		−0.014		0.072		0.029
		(0.030)		(0.038)		(0.028)
Confidence: Democracy		0.182		0.120		0.151
		(0.019)		(0.020)		(0.016)
Confidence: Small business		−0.006		−0.027		−0.017
		(0.021)		(0.023)		(0.018)
Confidence: Education		0.108		0.106		0.107
		(0.019)		(0.022)		(0.017)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.125		0.074		0.099
		(0.016)		(0.017)		(0.013)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.032		0.029		0.030
		(0.018)		(0.020)		(0.016)
News days per week		−0.006		−0.004		−0.005
		(0.002)		(0.003)		(0.002)
Party ID (7-point)		0.006		0.010		0.008
		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)
Adj. R^2	0.004	0.369	0.004	0.239	0.005	0.394
Num. obs.	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675

Table B.3: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 3, vs. control group.

	Confidence in US democracy	
Constant	0.560	0.102
	(0.007)	(0.025)
Treatment	−0.024	−0.025
	(0.011)	(0.007)
	p=0.012	p=0.000
Attention to politics		0.047
		(0.018)
Social media: Twitter		0.018
		(0.008)
Social media: Youtube		−0.010
		(0.015)
Social media: Tiktok		−0.029
		(0.009)
Social media: Snapchat		0.009
		(0.009)
Social media: Doromojo		0.073
		(0.021)
Informed: You		−0.003
		(0.020)
Informed: Young people		−0.010
		(0.015)
Informed: Voters		0.009
		(0.020)
Informed: Democrats		0.050
		(0.025)
Informed: Copartisans		−0.038
		(0.025)
Informed: Outpartisans		0.025
		(0.020)
Confidence: Democracy		0.599
		(0.018)
Confidence: Small business		0.028
		(0.019)
Confidence: Education		0.019
		(0.017)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.066
		(0.014)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.037
		(0.017)
Party ID (7-point)		0.005
		(0.002)
Adj. R^2	0.002	0.538
Num. obs.	2675	2675

Table B.4: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 1, vs. control group.

	Public informed	
Constant	0.468	0.186
	(0.008)	(0.023)
Treatment	−0.035	−0.033
	(0.012)	(0.010)
	p=0.001	p=0.000
Social media: Twitter		0.015
		(0.013)
Social media: Youtube		0.008
		(0.011)
Social media: Tiktok		−0.002
		(0.014)
Social media: Snapchat		0.010
		(0.015)
Social media: Doromojo		0.087
		(0.036)
Informed: Young people		0.062
		(0.022)
Informed: Voters		0.292
		(0.026)
Informed: MCs		0.014
		(0.020)
Informed: Twitter		0.057
		(0.024)
Confidence: Democracy		0.042
		(0.021)
Confidence: Education		0.031
		(0.022)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.055
		(0.018)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.041
		(0.022)
Adj. R^2	0.005	0.307
Num. obs.	1608	1608

Table B.5: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 2, vs. control group.

	Cast informed votes		Qualified to vote		Index, H2	
Constant	0.487 (0.009)	0.118 (0.020)	0.548 (0.009)	0.263 (0.022)	0.517 (0.008)	0.185 (0.018)
Treatment	−0.029 (0.013) $p=0.012$	−0.031 (0.011) $p=0.002$	−0.007 (0.014) $p=0.305$	−0.009 (0.012) $p=0.233$	−0.017 (0.011) $p=0.061$	−0.019 (0.009) $p=0.021$
Attention to politics		0.017 (0.020)				
Social media: Twitter				−0.022 (0.016)		
Social media: Tiktok				−0.011 (0.016)		
Social media: Doromojo		0.144 (0.033)		0.070 (0.038)		0.101 (0.024)
Informed: Young people		0.022 (0.024)		0.064 (0.027)		0.042 (0.021)
Informed: Voters		0.296 (0.029)		0.279 (0.031)		0.288 (0.024)
Informed: MCs		0.028 (0.022)		0.031 (0.026)		0.031 (0.019)
Informed: Twitter		0.002 (0.024)		0.020 (0.029)		0.005 (0.021)
Confidence: Democracy		0.136 (0.025)		0.026 (0.027)		0.081 (0.021)
Confidence: Education		0.058 (0.026)		0.092 (0.028)		0.076 (0.023)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.059 (0.020)		0.044 (0.023)		0.054 (0.018)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.042 (0.026)				0.011 (0.022)
News days per week						0.002 (0.002)
Party ID (7-point)		0.005 (0.003)		0.003 (0.003)		0.003 (0.002)
Adj. R^2	0.003	0.298	−0.000	0.178	0.001	0.315
Num. obs.	1608	1608	1606	1606	1606	1606

Table B.6: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 3, vs. control group.

	Confidence in US democracy	
Constant	0.542	0.115
	(0.010)	(0.032)
Treatment	0.002	−0.007
	(0.014)	(0.010)
	$p=0.545$	$p=0.264$
Attention to politics		0.023
		(0.024)
Social media: Facebook		−0.021
		(0.013)
Social media: Twitter		0.016
		(0.013)
Social media: Youtube		−0.012
		(0.013)
Social media: Tiktok		−0.043
		(0.014)
Social media: Snapchat		−0.015
		(0.015)
Social media: Doromojo		0.011
		(0.035)
Informed: You		0.003
		(0.027)
Informed: Young people		−0.043
		(0.021)
Informed: Voters		0.100
		(0.025)
Informed: MCs		0.025
		(0.022)
Informed: Business		0.032
		(0.026)
Informed: Twitter		0.015
		(0.025)
Confidence: Democracy		0.532
		(0.024)
Confidence: Small business		−0.009
		(0.027)
Confidence: Education		0.046
		(0.023)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.037
		(0.020)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.035
		(0.025)
News days per week		0.003
		(0.003)
Party ID (7-point)		0.005
		(0.003)
Adj. R^2	−0.001	0.469
Num. obs.	1608	1608

Table B.7: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 1, vs. placebo group.

	Public informed		Copartisan informed		Outpartisan informed	
Constant	0.501 (0.008)	0.121 (0.028)	0.658 (0.007)	0.272 (0.030)	0.423 (0.009)	0.116 (0.030)
Treatment	−0.058 (0.012) $p=0.000$	−0.055 (0.009) $p=0.000$	−0.023 (0.010) $p=0.012$	−0.019 (0.009) $p=0.016$	−0.017 (0.013) $p=0.085$	−0.017 (0.010) $p=0.041$
Attention to politics		0.081 (0.024)		0.075 (0.021)		0.024 (0.027)
Social media: Facebook				0.019 (0.012)		0.004 (0.013)
Social media: Twitter		0.037 (0.010)		−0.018 (0.009)		
Social media: Instagram				0.014 (0.010)		0.006 (0.011)
Social media: Youtube		0.001 (0.018)		0.006 (0.017)		
Social media: Tiktok		−0.006 (0.011)		−0.002 (0.010)		
Social media: Snapchat						0.020 (0.012)
Social media: Doromojo		0.112 (0.024)		0.037 (0.024)		0.052 (0.026)
Informed: You		−0.086 (0.026)		−0.038 (0.024)		−0.065 (0.028)
Informed: Young people		0.076 (0.021)		−0.025 (0.018)		0.062 (0.022)
Informed: Voters		0.272 (0.028)		0.064 (0.026)		0.085 (0.029)
Informed: Republicans		0.108 (0.033)				−0.068 (0.036)
Informed: Democrats		0.052 (0.035)				−0.198 (0.028)
Informed: Copartisans		−0.054 (0.037)		0.438 (0.025)		
Informed: Outpartisans		0.015 (0.034)		−0.151 (0.020)		0.498 (0.039)
Confidence: Democracy		0.094 (0.022)		0.046 (0.019)		0.141 (0.023)
Confidence: Small business				0.039 (0.022)		0.000 (0.024)
Confidence: Education		0.089 (0.021)		0.054 (0.020)		0.040 (0.023)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.088 (0.018)		0.035 (0.018)		0.109 (0.020)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.041 (0.022)		0.026 (0.020)		0.107 (0.023)
News days per week		−0.006 (0.003)				−0.008 (0.003)
Party ID (7-point)				−0.001 (0.002)		−0.000 (0.003)
Adj. R^2	0.010	0.342	0.002	0.262	0.000	0.403
Num. obs.	2538	2538	2270	2270	2270	2270

Table B.8: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 2, vs. placebo group.

	Cast informed votes		Qualified to vote		Index, H2	
Constant	0.510	0.128	0.573	0.249	0.541	0.188
	(0.008)	(0.030)	(0.008)	(0.031)	(0.007)	(0.025)
Treatment	−0.020	−0.019	−0.023	−0.022	−0.022	−0.021
	(0.011)	(0.008)	(0.011)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.007)
	$p=0.032$	$p=0.012$	$p=0.015$	$p=0.008$	$p=0.011$	$p=0.002$
Attention to politics		0.133		0.096		0.114
		(0.023)		(0.023)		(0.019)
Social media: Facebook		0.009		0.002		0.005
		(0.012)		(0.013)		(0.010)
Social media: Twitter		0.034		0.003		0.019
		(0.009)		(0.010)		(0.008)
Social media: Instagram		0.026		0.022		0.024
		(0.010)		(0.011)		(0.009)
Social media: Youtube		−0.034		−0.019		−0.026
		(0.016)		(0.017)		(0.014)
Social media: Tiktok		−0.017		−0.006		−0.012
		(0.010)		(0.010)		(0.009)
Social media: Snapchat		0.009				0.005
		(0.010)				(0.009)
Social media: Doromojo		0.125		0.100		0.113
		(0.021)		(0.020)		(0.016)
Informed: You		−0.095		−0.088		−0.091
		(0.023)		(0.024)		(0.019)
Informed: Young people		0.028		0.030		0.029
		(0.019)		(0.021)		(0.016)
Informed: Voters		0.167		0.170		0.169
		(0.025)		(0.027)		(0.020)
Informed: Republicans		0.071		0.045		0.058
		(0.029)		(0.036)		(0.026)
Informed: Democrats		0.067		0.062		0.064
		(0.031)		(0.036)		(0.027)
Informed: Copartisans		−0.061		−0.059		−0.060
		(0.032)		(0.038)		(0.028)
Informed: Outpartisans		−0.005		−0.006		−0.006
		(0.029)		(0.035)		(0.026)
Confidence: Democracy		0.189		0.128		0.159
		(0.020)		(0.022)		(0.017)
Confidence: Small business		−0.041		−0.004		−0.023
		(0.021)		(0.023)		(0.018)
Confidence: Education		0.125		0.113		0.119
		(0.020)		(0.023)		(0.018)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.125		0.084		0.104
		(0.017)		(0.018)		(0.014)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.031		0.027		0.029
		(0.019)		(0.022)		(0.017)
News days per week		−0.003		−0.004		−0.003
		(0.002)		(0.003)		(0.002)
Party ID (7-point)		0.005		0.010		0.007
		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.002)
Adj. R^2	0.001	0.382	0.001	0.246	0.002	0.407
Num. obs.	2538	2538	2538	2538	2538	2538

Table B.9: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 3, vs. placebo group.

	Confidence in US democracy	
Constant	0.540	0.128
	(0.008)	(0.027)
Treatment	−0.004	−0.006
	(0.011)	(0.008)
	$p=0.351$	$p=0.217$
Attention to politics		0.081
		(0.020)
Social media: Twitter		0.008
		(0.008)
Social media: Youtube		−0.019
		(0.015)
Social media: Tiktok		−0.016
		(0.009)
Social media: Snapchat		−0.005
		(0.009)
Social media: Doromojo		0.096
		(0.022)
Informed: You		−0.049
		(0.021)
Informed: Young people		−0.024
		(0.017)
Informed: Voters		0.020
		(0.022)
Informed: Democrats		0.066
		(0.026)
Informed: Copartisans		−0.073
		(0.027)
Informed: Outpartisans		0.007
		(0.019)
Confidence: Democracy		0.590
		(0.019)
Confidence: Small business		0.014
		(0.020)
Confidence: Education		0.051
		(0.018)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.087
		(0.015)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.014
		(0.017)
Party ID (7-point)		0.006
		(0.002)
Adj. R^2	−0.000	0.525
Num. obs.	2538	2538

Table B.10: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 1, vs. placebo group.

	Public informed	
Constant	0.465	0.174
	(0.008)	(0.021)
Treatment	−0.032	−0.031
	(0.012)	(0.010)
	p=0.004	p=0.001
Social media: Twitter		0.022
		(0.013)
Social media: Youtube		0.014
		(0.011)
Social media: Tiktok		0.010
		(0.014)
Social media: Snapchat		−0.003
		(0.016)
Social media: Doromojo		0.100
		(0.036)
Informed: Young people		0.032
		(0.022)
Informed: Voters		0.328
		(0.026)
Informed: MCs		0.022
		(0.020)
Informed: Twitter		0.084
		(0.025)
Confidence: Democracy		0.031
		(0.021)
Confidence: Education		0.024
		(0.023)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.063
		(0.019)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.010
		(0.021)
Adj. R^2	0.004	0.336
Num. obs.	1567	1567

Table B.11: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 2, vs. placebo group.

	Cast informed votes		Qualified to vote		Index, H2	
Constant	0.476	0.102	0.556	0.267	0.516	0.195
	(0.009)	(0.022)	(0.010)	(0.023)	(0.008)	(0.020)
Treatment	−0.018	−0.020	−0.014	−0.016	−0.016	−0.018
	(0.013)	(0.011)	(0.014)	(0.012)	(0.011)	(0.009)
	$p=0.083$	$p=0.032$	$p=0.145$	$p=0.102$	$p=0.079$	$p=0.025$
Attention to politics		0.031				
		(0.020)				
Social media: Twitter				−0.009		
				(0.016)		
Social media: Tiktok				−0.027		
				(0.016)		
Social media: Doromojo		0.116		0.043		0.074
		(0.031)		(0.041)		(0.024)
Informed: Young people		0.017		0.063		0.039
		(0.024)		(0.028)		(0.021)
Informed: Voters		0.319		0.248		0.285
		(0.028)		(0.032)		(0.023)
Informed: MCs		−0.001		0.018		0.011
		(0.022)		(0.025)		(0.019)
Informed: Twitter		0.065		0.027		0.038
		(0.026)		(0.030)		(0.022)
Confidence: Democracy		0.136		0.085		0.118
		(0.024)		(0.026)		(0.020)
Confidence: Education		0.048		0.056		0.054
		(0.026)		(0.028)		(0.022)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.061		0.052		0.059
		(0.020)		(0.023)		(0.017)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.041				0.005
		(0.025)				(0.022)
News days per week						−0.001
						(0.002)
Party ID (7-point)		0.001		0.005		0.004
		(0.003)		(0.003)		(0.002)
Adj. R^2	0.001	0.321	0.000	0.171	0.001	0.329
Num. obs.	1567	1567	1566	1566	1566	1566

Table B.12: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 3, vs. placebo group.

	Confidence in US democracy	
Constant	0.543	0.122
	(0.010)	(0.034)
Treatment	0.000	−0.008
	(0.014)	(0.011)
	$p=0.511$	$p=0.216$
Attention to politics		0.028
		(0.026)
Social media: Facebook		−0.031
		(0.012)
Social media: Twitter		0.014
		(0.014)
Social media: Youtube		−0.010
		(0.013)
Social media: Tiktok		−0.040
		(0.015)
Social media: Snapchat		−0.014
		(0.017)
Social media: Doromojo		0.025
		(0.033)
Informed: You		0.016
		(0.028)
Informed: Young people		−0.032
		(0.022)
Informed: Voters		0.101
		(0.025)
Informed: MCs		0.015
		(0.021)
Informed: Business		0.029
		(0.025)
Informed: Twitter		0.010
		(0.027)
Confidence: Democracy		0.566
		(0.023)
Confidence: Small business		−0.039
		(0.028)
Confidence: Education		0.049
		(0.024)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.044
		(0.020)
Confidence: Tech companies		−0.007
		(0.024)
News days per week		0.004
		(0.003)
Party ID (7-point)		0.003
		(0.003)
Adj. R^2	−0.001	0.482
Num. obs.	1565	1565

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B.2 Hypotheses 4-5 (support for voting restrictions)

Table B.13: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 4, vs. control group.

	Threat from uninf		Restrict on uninf		Pass civics test		Too many uninf		Index, H4	
Constant	0.687 (0.010)	0.862 (0.047)	0.452 (0.008)	0.415 (0.035)	0.487 (0.008)	0.436 (0.037)	0.677 (0.006)	0.734 (0.025)	0.538 (0.006)	0.527 (0.026)
Treatment	0.020 (0.015) $p=0.089$	0.022 (0.014) $p=0.063$	0.023 (0.012) $p=0.024$	0.019 (0.011) $p=0.043$	0.021 (0.012) $p=0.044$	0.017 (0.011) $p=0.068$	0.024 (0.009) $p=0.004$	0.023 (0.009) $p=0.004$	0.022 (0.009) $p=0.005$	0.019 (0.008) $p=0.008$
Attention to politics		0.011 (0.036)		0.006 (0.026)		0.005 (0.026)		0.045 (0.021)		0.018 (0.019)
Social media: Facebook		−0.028 (0.018)		0.012 (0.015)		0.026 (0.016)		0.008 (0.012)		0.015 (0.011)
Social media: Twitter		−0.019 (0.015)		0.039 (0.012)		0.021 (0.013)		−0.002 (0.009)		0.019 (0.009)
Social media: Instagram		0.016 (0.017)		0.036 (0.013)		0.049 (0.014)		0.019 (0.010)		0.034 (0.010)
Social media: Youtube		0.039 (0.028)		0.009 (0.019)		0.016 (0.021)				0.007 (0.014)
Social media: Tiktok		0.008 (0.017)		0.004 (0.013)		0.007 (0.013)		0.010 (0.010)		0.007 (0.009)
Social media: Snapchat		−0.025 (0.017)		0.039 (0.013)		0.007 (0.014)		0.019 (0.010)		0.022 (0.010)
Social media: Doromojo		−0.075 (0.041)		0.118 (0.023)		0.165 (0.021)		0.053 (0.022)		0.112 (0.017)
Informed: You		0.033 (0.035)		−0.005 (0.028)		0.016 (0.028)		0.080 (0.022)		0.031 (0.021)
Informed: Young people		−0.086 (0.031)		0.047 (0.023)		0.042 (0.023)		−0.006 (0.018)		0.029 (0.017)
Informed: Voters		−0.025 (0.040)		0.006 (0.030)				−0.065 (0.023)		−0.030 (0.022)
Informed: Republicans		−0.032 (0.037)		0.031 (0.041)		0.004 (0.026)				0.012 (0.021)
Informed: Democrats		−0.089 (0.040)		−0.142 (0.042)		−0.161 (0.034)		−0.089 (0.029)		−0.133 (0.025)
Informed: Copartisans		0.114 (0.048)		0.118 (0.044)		0.140 (0.040)		0.048 (0.027)		0.104 (0.029)
Informed: Outpartisans				0.007 (0.041)				−0.032 (0.023)		
Confidence: Democracy		−0.113 (0.030)		−0.076 (0.024)		−0.034 (0.026)		−0.063 (0.019)		−0.057 (0.018)
Confidence: Small business		0.052 (0.034)		−0.025 (0.026)		0.016 (0.027)		0.052 (0.020)		0.014 (0.019)
Confidence: Education		−0.090 (0.032)		0.020 (0.024)		−0.057 (0.026)		−0.064 (0.019)		−0.033 (0.018)
Confidence: Catholic Church		−0.054 (0.027)		0.147 (0.020)		0.145 (0.021)				0.096 (0.015)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.075 (0.031)		0.117 (0.025)		0.127 (0.025)		0.046 (0.019)		0.097 (0.018)
News days per week		0.003 (0.004)		−0.019 (0.003)		−0.018 (0.003)		−0.007 (0.002)		−0.014 (0.002)
Party ID (7-point)		−0.026 (0.004)		−0.013 (0.003)		−0.015 (0.003)		−0.012 (0.002)		−0.013 (0.002)
Adj. R^2	0.000	0.071	0.001	0.145	0.001	0.129	0.002	0.075	0.002	0.147
Num. obs.	2670	2670	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675

Table B.14: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 4, vs. control group.

	Threat from uninf		Restrict on uninf		Pass civics test		Too many uninf		Index, H4	
Constant	0.702 (0.013)	0.997 (0.048)	0.429 (0.011)	0.560 (0.045)	0.462 (0.012)	0.475 (0.046)	0.703 (0.009)	0.718 (0.037)	0.532 (0.008)	0.584 (0.035)
Treatment	0.019 (0.019)	0.027 (0.019)	0.003 (0.016)	0.008 (0.016)	0.024 (0.017)	0.028 (0.016)	−0.007 (0.012)	−0.004 (0.012)	0.006 (0.012)	0.011 (0.012)
	p=0.160	p=0.077	p=0.419	p=0.297	p=0.079	p=0.043	p=0.718	p=0.621	p=0.295	p=0.172
Attention to politics		0.034 (0.043)		−0.063 (0.036)		0.094 (0.039)		0.066 (0.029)		0.032 (0.028)
Social media: Facebook		−0.033 (0.022)		0.014 (0.020)		0.027 (0.020)		−0.009 (0.015)		0.011 (0.014)
Social media: Twitter		−0.010 (0.023)		−0.027 (0.019)						−0.006 (0.015)
Social media: Instagram				0.029 (0.021)		−0.006 (0.021)		0.015 (0.015)		0.013 (0.015)
Social media: Youtube				0.015 (0.019)		0.038 (0.020)		0.006 (0.014)		0.019 (0.014)
Social media: Tiktok		0.034 (0.025)		0.076 (0.022)		0.073 (0.022)		0.035 (0.017)		0.061 (0.016)
Social media: Snapchat		0.031 (0.026)		0.077 (0.024)		0.054 (0.024)		0.010 (0.018)		0.047 (0.018)
Social media: Doromojo				0.202 (0.041)		0.218 (0.048)		0.036 (0.036)		0.152 (0.033)
Informed: You		0.053 (0.044)		0.072 (0.039)		0.079 (0.041)		0.044 (0.030)		0.065 (0.029)
Informed: Young people		−0.078 (0.040)		−0.068 (0.033)		−0.067 (0.034)		−0.075 (0.026)		−0.069 (0.025)
Informed: Voters		−0.138 (0.042)		−0.104 (0.037)		−0.113 (0.039)		−0.119 (0.030)		−0.111 (0.028)
Informed: MCs		−0.054 (0.036)		−0.060 (0.032)		−0.057 (0.034)		−0.003 (0.025)		−0.040 (0.024)
Informed: Business		0.064 (0.044)		0.059 (0.038)		0.084 (0.042)		0.032 (0.030)		0.059 (0.030)
Informed: Twitter		−0.040 (0.040)		0.107 (0.036)				−0.022 (0.027)		0.020 (0.027)
Confidence: Democracy		−0.101 (0.037)		−0.082 (0.033)		−0.049 (0.036)		−0.058 (0.026)		−0.064 (0.026)
Confidence: Small business		0.033 (0.041)		−0.106 (0.037)		−0.030 (0.038)		0.092 (0.029)		−0.016 (0.028)
Confidence: Education		−0.097 (0.038)		0.015 (0.036)		−0.067 (0.038)		−0.036 (0.025)		−0.031 (0.027)
Confidence: Catholic Church				−0.004 (0.028)		−0.043 (0.030)		−0.053 (0.022)		−0.034 (0.021)
Confidence: Tech companies				0.073 (0.035)		0.102 (0.036)				0.066 (0.027)
News days per week		0.002 (0.005)		−0.002 (0.004)		−0.007 (0.004)		0.003 (0.003)		−0.002 (0.003)
Party ID (7-point)		−0.024 (0.005)		−0.007 (0.004)		−0.003 (0.004)		−0.005 (0.003)		−0.005 (0.003)
Adj. R^2	−0.000	0.079	−0.001	0.106	0.001	0.071	−0.000	0.069	−0.000	0.093
Num. obs.	1608	1608	1606	1606	1606	1606	1607	1607	1606	1606

Table B.15: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 5, vs. control group.

	Threat from fraud		Mail voting		Require ID		Make easier		College polls		Index, H5	
Constant	0.418 (0.012)	0.744 (0.046)	0.573 (0.009)	0.441 (0.035)	0.701 (0.008)	0.690 (0.033)	0.216 (0.006)	0.416 (0.026)	0.295 (0.007)	0.517 (0.025)	0.446 (0.005)	0.516 (0.019)
Treatment	0.000 (0.017) p=0.494	−0.002 (0.014) p=0.558	−0.006 (0.013) p=0.678	−0.008 (0.013) p=0.729	−0.002 (0.012) p=0.574	−0.004 (0.010) p=0.636	0.020 (0.009) p=0.015	0.019 (0.008) p=0.011	0.001 (0.010) p=0.445	0.002 (0.009) p=0.404	0.003 (0.007) p=0.332	0.002 (0.006) p=0.346
Attention to politics		−0.056 (0.033)		0.050 (0.029)		−0.013 (0.024)				−0.033 (0.022)		0.002 (0.014)
Social media: Facebook		0.046 (0.017)		0.041 (0.018)		0.038 (0.015)		0.001 (0.011)		−0.005 (0.012)		0.019 (0.008)
Social media: Twitter		−0.014 (0.014)		0.005 (0.014)		−0.032 (0.011)				−0.022 (0.010)		−0.013 (0.007)
Social media: Instagram				0.023 (0.015)		0.014 (0.012)				−0.020 (0.010)		0.006 (0.007)
Social media: Youtube		−0.014 (0.027)		0.017 (0.015)		0.021 (0.018)		0.008 (0.015)				0.006 (0.011)
Social media: Tiktok		0.017 (0.016)		0.036 (0.015)		−0.004 (0.012)		0.003 (0.009)		−0.010 (0.010)		
Social media: Snapchat						0.033 (0.012)				−0.019 (0.010)		0.014 (0.007)
Social media: Doromojo		0.126 (0.043)		0.096 (0.023)		0.022 (0.022)		0.063 (0.018)		−0.017 (0.019)		0.041 (0.011)
Informed: You				−0.022 (0.030)		−0.024 (0.026)				−0.015 (0.023)		−0.019 (0.015)
Informed: Young people		−0.157 (0.028)		−0.060 (0.027)		−0.117 (0.022)		−0.066 (0.016)		−0.139 (0.019)		−0.095 (0.013)
Informed: Voters				0.085 (0.036)		0.053 (0.027)		−0.044 (0.023)		−0.007 (0.025)		0.022 (0.017)
Informed: Republicans		0.328 (0.052)		0.123 (0.037)		0.178 (0.039)		0.126 (0.034)		0.195 (0.030)		0.152 (0.015)
Informed: Democrats		−0.169 (0.054)		−0.044 (0.037)		−0.092 (0.041)		−0.127 (0.035)		−0.090 (0.025)		−0.092 (0.018)
Informed: Copartisans		0.036 (0.058)				0.061 (0.043)		0.076 (0.036)				0.042 (0.022)
Informed: Outpartisans		−0.069 (0.053)		0.036 (0.041)		0.024 (0.039)		−0.013 (0.034)		−0.053 (0.031)		
Confidence: Democracy		−0.013 (0.030)		0.030 (0.029)		0.028 (0.022)						0.010 (0.014)
Confidence: Small business		0.076 (0.033)		0.072 (0.030)		0.122 (0.024)		−0.029 (0.021)		0.036 (0.022)		0.051 (0.014)
Confidence: Education		−0.102 (0.031)		−0.071 (0.029)		−0.139 (0.023)		−0.097 (0.018)		−0.125 (0.019)		−0.108 (0.014)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.182 (0.027)		0.111 (0.024)		0.097 (0.019)		0.088 (0.015)		0.066 (0.016)		0.091 (0.011)
Confidence: Tech companies		−0.039 (0.031)		0.030 (0.028)		0.062 (0.022)		−0.031 (0.018)		−0.014 (0.019)		0.013 (0.013)
News days per week		−0.013 (0.004)		−0.010 (0.003)		−0.005 (0.003)		−0.006 (0.002)		0.002 (0.003)		−0.005 (0.002)
Party ID (7-point)		−0.062 (0.004)		−0.013 (0.003)		−0.033 (0.002)		−0.024 (0.002)		−0.020 (0.002)		−0.022 (0.001)
Adj. R²	−0.000	0.303	−0.000	0.106	−0.000	0.259	0.001	0.202	−0.000	0.221	−0.000	0.344
Num. obs.	2673	2673	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675	2675

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Table B.16: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 4, vs. placebo group.

	Threat from uninf		Restrict on uninf		Pass civics test		Too many uninf		Index, H4	
Constant	0.698 (0.011)	0.859 (0.047)	0.463 (0.009)	0.453 (0.038)	0.486 (0.009)	0.465 (0.040)	0.691 (0.007)	0.740 (0.028)	0.547 (0.007)	0.555 (0.030)
Treatment	0.009 (0.015) p=0.285	0.011 (0.015) p=0.217	0.012 (0.012) p=0.168	0.009 (0.011) p=0.206	0.021 (0.009) p=0.045	0.019 (0.012) p=0.049	0.010 (0.009) p=0.146	0.010 (0.009) p=0.139	0.014 (0.009) p=0.056	0.013 (0.008) p=0.062
Attention to politics		−0.056 (0.037)		0.008 (0.027)		0.018 (0.028)		0.005 (0.022)		0.011 (0.020)
Social media: Facebook		−0.002 (0.019)		0.020 (0.017)		0.014 (0.017)		0.005 (0.013)		0.013 (0.013)
Social media: Twitter		−0.022 (0.016)		0.041 (0.013)		0.030 (0.013)		0.004 (0.010)		0.025 (0.009)
Social media: Instagram		−0.019 (0.017)		0.026 (0.013)		0.030 (0.014)		0.011 (0.011)		0.022 (0.010)
Social media: Youtube		0.052 (0.028)		0.022 (0.020)		0.030 (0.021)				0.017 (0.016)
Social media: Tiktok		−0.010 (0.017)		0.002 (0.013)		−0.003 (0.014)		0.011 (0.010)		0.004 (0.010)
Social media: Snapchat		0.001 (0.018)		0.038 (0.014)		0.034 (0.014)		0.010 (0.011)		0.027 (0.010)
Social media: Doromojo		−0.051 (0.044)		0.185 (0.024)		0.177 (0.023)		0.088 (0.023)		0.150 (0.018)
Informed: You		0.055 (0.036)		0.016 (0.028)		0.042 (0.029)		0.108 (0.022)		0.054 (0.021)
Informed: Young people		−0.012 (0.032)		0.028 (0.024)		0.014 (0.024)		−0.014 (0.019)		0.009 (0.018)
Informed: Voters		−0.066 (0.042)		0.023 (0.031)				−0.103 (0.024)		−0.023 (0.023)
Informed: Republicans		−0.048 (0.037)		0.012 (0.042)		0.040 (0.027)				0.018 (0.021)
Informed: Democrats		−0.055 (0.040)		−0.138 (0.043)		−0.122 (0.034)		−0.029 (0.029)		−0.092 (0.026)
Informed: Copartisans		0.108 (0.047)		0.128 (0.045)		0.074 (0.041)		0.054 (0.028)		0.083 (0.031)
Informed: Outpartisans				0.037 (0.042)				−0.011 (0.024)		
Confidence: Democracy		−0.098 (0.033)		−0.130 (0.026)		−0.075 (0.027)		−0.094 (0.020)		−0.100 (0.020)
Confidence: Small business		0.058 (0.034)		−0.088 (0.027)		−0.043 (0.027)		0.066 (0.022)		−0.021 (0.020)
Confidence: Education		−0.075 (0.033)		−0.007 (0.026)		−0.028 (0.027)		−0.066 (0.020)		−0.035 (0.019)
Confidence: Catholic Church		−0.090 (0.028)		0.106 (0.022)		0.117 (0.023)				0.076 (0.017)
Confidence: Tech companies		−0.001 (0.033)		0.163 (0.026)		0.153 (0.026)		0.013 (0.020)		0.110 (0.019)
News days per week		0.008 (0.004)		−0.019 (0.003)		−0.016 (0.003)		−0.005 (0.002)		−0.014 (0.002)
Party ID (7-point)		−0.023 (0.004)		−0.012 (0.003)		−0.017 (0.003)		−0.009 (0.002)		−0.013 (0.002)
Adj. R^2	−0.000	0.068	−0.000	0.142	0.001	0.124	0.000	0.074	0.001	0.135
Num. obs.	2536	2536	2537	2537	2538	2538	2538	2538	2537	2537

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Table B.17: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 4, vs. placebo group.

	Threat from uninf		Restrict on uninf		Pass civics test		Too many uninf		Index, H4	
Constant	0.721 (0.013)	0.991 (0.047)	0.430 (0.011)	0.581 (0.044)	0.457 (0.012)	0.479 (0.047)	0.703 (0.009)	0.727 (0.036)	0.530 (0.008)	0.594 (0.034)
Treatment	0.000 (0.019)	0.004 (0.019)	0.002 (0.016)	−0.000 (0.016)	0.029 (0.017)	0.025 (0.017)	−0.006 (0.012)	−0.006 (0.012)	0.008 (0.012)	0.006 (0.012)
	p=0.492	p=0.424	p=0.449	p=0.504	p=0.044	p=0.065	p=0.693	p=0.700	p=0.250	p=0.305
Attention to politics		−0.058 (0.044)		−0.001 (0.037)		0.069 (0.039)		0.043 (0.029)		0.040 (0.028)
Social media: Facebook		−0.024 (0.021)		0.042 (0.019)		0.013 (0.020)		0.021 (0.014)		0.026 (0.014)
Social media: Twitter		0.036 (0.023)		−0.039 (0.020)						−0.023 (0.015)
Social media: Instagram				0.026 (0.022)		0.024 (0.021)		0.005 (0.015)		0.021 (0.016)
Social media: Youtube				0.001 (0.019)		0.017 (0.020)		0.016 (0.014)		0.012 (0.014)
Social media: Tiktok		−0.014 (0.026)		0.070 (0.022)		0.078 (0.023)		0.010 (0.017)		0.054 (0.017)
Social media: Snapchat		0.021 (0.028)		0.099 (0.025)		0.015 (0.026)		0.006 (0.019)		0.040 (0.019)
Social media: Doromojo				0.148 (0.047)		0.177 (0.049)		0.026 (0.041)		0.119 (0.036)
Informed: You		0.122 (0.045)		0.069 (0.041)		0.095 (0.043)		0.089 (0.030)		0.085 (0.030)
Informed: Young people		−0.006 (0.040)		−0.021 (0.034)		−0.043 (0.036)		−0.031 (0.027)		−0.032 (0.026)
Informed: Voters		−0.158 (0.045)		−0.111 (0.038)		−0.138 (0.040)		−0.156 (0.030)		−0.136 (0.029)
Informed: MCs		−0.048 (0.035)		−0.066 (0.033)		−0.071 (0.033)		−0.030 (0.024)		−0.056 (0.024)
Informed: Business		0.016 (0.043)		0.021 (0.039)		0.111 (0.042)		0.038 (0.030)		0.057 (0.029)
Informed: Twitter		−0.060 (0.042)		0.040 (0.037)				−0.037 (0.028)		0.005 (0.028)
Confidence: Democracy		−0.074 (0.035)		−0.108 (0.034)		−0.015 (0.036)		−0.072 (0.025)		−0.064 (0.025)
Confidence: Small business		0.102 (0.042)		−0.102 (0.037)		−0.040 (0.039)		0.059 (0.027)		−0.028 (0.028)
Confidence: Education		−0.116 (0.038)		0.028 (0.036)		−0.076 (0.038)		−0.043 (0.026)		−0.031 (0.027)
Confidence: Catholic Church				0.012 (0.029)		−0.026 (0.031)		−0.053 (0.023)		−0.023 (0.022)
Confidence: Tech companies				0.095 (0.035)		0.072 (0.038)				0.057 (0.027)
News days per week		0.010 (0.005)		−0.002 (0.004)		−0.002 (0.004)		0.009 (0.003)		0.002 (0.003)
Party ID (7-point)		−0.026 (0.005)		−0.013 (0.004)		−0.009 (0.004)		−0.009 (0.003)		−0.010 (0.003)
Adj. R²	−0.001	0.083	−0.001	0.100	0.001	0.056	−0.000	0.092	−0.000	0.086
Num. obs.	1566	1566	1566	1566	1565	1565	1567	1567	1565	1565

Table B.18: Table of plotted estimates, study 1, hypothesis 5, vs. placebo group.

	Threat from fraud		Mail voting		Require ID		Make easier		College polls		Index, H5	
Constant	0.431 (0.012)	0.737 (0.047)	0.563 (0.010)	0.457 (0.037)	0.712 (0.008)	0.731 (0.034)	0.233 (0.007)	0.481 (0.029)	0.313 (0.007)	0.540 (0.027)	0.455 (0.005)	0.550 (0.019)
Treatment	−0.013 (0.017)	−0.012 (0.015)	0.004 (0.014)	0.005 (0.013)	−0.013 (0.012)	−0.009 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.009)	−0.017 (0.010)	−0.015 (0.009)	−0.006 (0.008)	−0.004 (0.006)
	p=0.774	p=0.789	p=0.389	p=0.353	p=0.870	p=0.820	p=0.379	p=0.382	p=0.951	p=0.951	p=0.778	p=0.752
Attention to politics		−0.058 (0.033)		0.062 (0.030)		−0.036 (0.024)				−0.040 (0.022)		−0.004 (0.014)
Social media: Facebook		0.055 (0.018)		0.023 (0.019)		0.026 (0.015)		0.020 (0.012)		0.029 (0.012)		0.025 (0.009)
Social media: Twitter		−0.022 (0.015)		0.028 (0.015)		−0.026 (0.011)				−0.022 (0.010)		−0.004 (0.007)
Social media: Instagram				0.008 (0.016)		0.007 (0.012)				−0.031 (0.011)		−0.006 (0.007)
Social media: Youtube		0.003 (0.027)				0.004 (0.018)		0.003 (0.016)				0.005 (0.011)
Social media: Tiktok		0.010 (0.016)		0.031 (0.015)		0.007 (0.012)		−0.015 (0.009)		−0.013 (0.011)		
Social media: Snapchat				0.026 (0.015)		0.031 (0.012)				−0.029 (0.011)		0.007 (0.007)
Social media: Doromojo		0.119 (0.045)		0.112 (0.022)		0.036 (0.022)		0.011 (0.020)		−0.058 (0.019)		0.025 (0.012)
Informed: You				−0.043 (0.030)		−0.010 (0.024)				−0.002 (0.023)		−0.009 (0.015)
Informed: Young people		−0.153 (0.029)		−0.095 (0.028)		−0.142 (0.023)		−0.061 (0.018)		−0.118 (0.020)		−0.104 (0.013)
Informed: Voters				0.030 (0.037)		0.091 (0.028)		−0.020 (0.025)		0.023 (0.027)		0.031 (0.017)
Informed: Republicans		0.306 (0.051)		0.141 (0.037)		0.154 (0.034)		0.166 (0.034)		0.201 (0.029)		0.169 (0.016)
Informed: Democrats		−0.186 (0.054)		−0.072 (0.037)		−0.165 (0.036)		−0.102 (0.035)		−0.099 (0.024)		−0.105 (0.017)
Informed: Copartisans		−0.013 (0.058)				0.017 (0.038)		−0.012 (0.036)				−0.008 (0.022)
Informed: Outpartisans		−0.037 (0.053)		0.047 (0.042)		0.068 (0.035)		−0.039 (0.034)		−0.072 (0.030)		
Confidence: Democracy		−0.012 (0.031)		0.054 (0.029)		0.007 (0.023)						0.021 (0.014)
Confidence: Small business		0.076 (0.034)		0.052 (0.030)		0.129 (0.024)		−0.066 (0.022)		0.006 (0.022)		0.030 (0.015)
Confidence: Education		−0.098 (0.032)		−0.001 (0.030)		−0.100 (0.023)		−0.096 (0.019)		−0.128 (0.020)		−0.083 (0.014)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.173 (0.028)		0.112 (0.025)		0.077 (0.020)		0.070 (0.017)		0.049 (0.017)		0.076 (0.012)
Confidence: Tech companies		−0.022 (0.032)		0.031 (0.029)		0.088 (0.022)		−0.037 (0.019)		−0.017 (0.020)		0.015 (0.014)
News days per week		−0.007 (0.004)		−0.009 (0.004)		0.001 (0.003)		−0.004 (0.002)		0.003 (0.003)		−0.003 (0.002)
Party ID (7-point)		−0.063 (0.004)		−0.015 (0.003)		−0.033 (0.003)		−0.025 (0.002)		−0.024 (0.002)		−0.024 (0.002)
Adj. R²	−0.000	0.295	−0.000	0.114	0.000	0.266	−0.000	0.195	0.001	0.236	−0.000	0.346
Num. obs.	2537	2537	2535	2535	2538	2538	2537	2537	2538	2538	2535	2535

B.3 Hypotheses 6-7 (reputation of journalists and pollsters)

Table B.19: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 6, vs. control group.

	Polling accurate		Polling informative		Polling trustworthy		Index, H6	
Constant	0.440	0.189	0.535	0.212	0.463	0.163	0.479	0.185
	(0.010)	(0.033)	(0.009)	(0.034)	(0.010)	(0.035)	(0.009)	(0.030)
Treatment	−0.017	−0.018	0.009	0.008	−0.009	−0.009	−0.006	−0.007
	(0.014)	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.012)	(0.014)	(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.011)
	$p=0.108$	$p=0.068$	$p=0.743$	$p=0.752$	$p=0.249$	$p=0.221$	$p=0.315$	$p=0.271$
Attention to politics		−0.017		0.018		0.014		0.001
		(0.027)		(0.029)		(0.029)		(0.024)
Social media: Facebook		−0.014		−0.017		−0.019		−0.016
		(0.015)		(0.015)		(0.014)		(0.013)
Social media: Twitter		−0.020		−0.033		−0.016		−0.023
		(0.016)		(0.015)		(0.016)		(0.014)
Social media: Instagram		0.037		0.046		0.055		0.046
		(0.016)		(0.016)		(0.016)		(0.014)
Social media: Youtube		0.033		0.034		0.013		0.027
		(0.015)		(0.015)		(0.015)		(0.013)
Social media: Tiktok		0.042		0.026		0.038		0.035
		(0.017)		(0.017)		(0.018)		(0.015)
Social media: Snapchat		0.028		0.025		0.035		0.029
		(0.019)		(0.018)		(0.019)		(0.016)
Social media: Doromojo		0.113		0.125		0.043		0.094
		(0.040)		(0.031)		(0.039)		(0.031)
Informed: You		−0.030		0.046		−0.036		
		(0.033)		(0.033)		(0.032)		
Informed: Young people		0.080		0.043		0.073		0.065
		(0.027)		(0.026)		(0.026)		(0.023)
Informed: Voters		0.040		0.051		0.084		0.057
		(0.030)		(0.030)		(0.030)		(0.026)
Informed: MCs		0.032		0.089		0.074		0.065
		(0.027)		(0.028)		(0.027)		(0.024)
Informed: Business		0.029		0.001		0.005		0.011
		(0.032)		(0.032)		(0.032)		(0.027)
Informed: Twitter		0.047		0.022		0.018		0.029
		(0.029)		(0.030)		(0.029)		(0.025)
Confidence: Democracy		0.011		−0.021		−0.010		−0.007
		(0.028)		(0.028)		(0.027)		(0.024)
Confidence: Small business		−0.105		−0.030		−0.074		−0.070
		(0.030)		(0.030)		(0.030)		(0.027)
Confidence: Education		0.153		0.134		0.163		0.150
		(0.028)		(0.028)		(0.028)		(0.025)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.052		−0.005		0.047		0.031
		(0.023)		(0.022)		(0.023)		(0.020)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.092		0.089		0.081		0.088
		(0.029)		(0.028)		(0.029)		(0.026)
News days per week				0.008		0.007		0.005
				(0.003)		(0.003)		(0.003)
Party ID (7-point)		0.010		0.010		0.010		0.010
		(0.003)		(0.003)		(0.003)		(0.003)
Adj. R^2	0.000	0.215	−0.000	0.191	−0.000	0.222	−0.000	0.249
Num. obs.	1606	1606	1606	1606	1606	1606	1606	1606

Table B.20: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 7, vs. control group.

	News accurate		News informative		News trustworthy		Index, H7	
Constant	0.410 (0.011)	−0.046 (0.033)	0.515 (0.011)	0.048 (0.034)	0.409 (0.011)	−0.021 (0.035)	0.445 (0.010)	−0.007 (0.031)
Treatment	0.015 (0.016) p=0.837	−0.000 (0.012) p=0.490	0.011 (0.015) p=0.757	−0.003 (0.012) p=0.406	0.019 (0.016) p=0.888	0.003 (0.012) p=0.595	0.015 (0.015) p=0.849	−0.000 (0.011) p=0.494
Attention to politics		−0.007 (0.026)		0.018 (0.028)		−0.007 (0.026)		−0.006 (0.024)
Social media: Facebook		−0.011 (0.015)		−0.026 (0.015)		−0.021 (0.015)		−0.019 (0.013)
Social media: Twitter				−0.008 (0.016)				0.003 (0.014)
Social media: Instagram						0.030 (0.015)		
Social media: Youtube		−0.030 (0.015)		−0.018 (0.015)		−0.048 (0.015)		−0.030 (0.014)
Social media: Tiktok		0.030 (0.015)		0.033 (0.016)		0.022 (0.016)		0.030 (0.014)
Social media: Doromojo		0.129 (0.041)		0.041 (0.041)		0.099 (0.039)		0.091 (0.036)
Informed: You				−0.034 (0.033)				
Informed: Young people		0.057 (0.027)		0.055 (0.027)		0.055 (0.027)		0.055 (0.024)
Informed: Voters		0.023 (0.029)		0.000 (0.030)		0.007 (0.029)		0.009 (0.027)
Informed: MCs		0.112 (0.026)		0.161 (0.026)		0.108 (0.023)		0.127 (0.023)
Informed: Business		0.032 (0.031)		0.022 (0.032)				0.016 (0.028)
Informed: Twitter		0.023 (0.029)		0.046 (0.029)		0.028 (0.028)		0.034 (0.026)
Confidence: Democracy		0.069 (0.027)		0.035 (0.027)		0.082 (0.027)		0.062 (0.025)
Confidence: Small business		−0.133 (0.031)		−0.114 (0.030)		−0.175 (0.030)		−0.141 (0.027)
Confidence: Education		0.263 (0.029)		0.265 (0.028)		0.285 (0.029)		0.273 (0.026)
Confidence: Catholic Church				−0.037 (0.022)				−0.017 (0.020)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.129 (0.028)		0.151 (0.028)		0.154 (0.028)		0.147 (0.025)
News days per week		0.014 (0.003)		0.016 (0.003)		0.017 (0.003)		0.015 (0.003)
Party ID (7-point)		0.040 (0.003)		0.035 (0.003)		0.039 (0.003)		0.038 (0.003)
Adj. R^2	−0.000	0.383	−0.000	0.375	0.000	0.403	0.000	0.437
Num. obs.	1606	1606	1606	1606	1606	1606	1606	1606

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Table B.21: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 6, vs. placebo group.

	Polling accurate		Polling informative		Polling trustworthy		Index, H6	
Constant	0.427 (0.010)	0.177 (0.032)	0.535 (0.010)	0.208 (0.034)	0.458 (0.010)	0.161 (0.036)	0.474 (0.009)	0.176 (0.029)
Treatment	−0.004 (0.014) p=0.381	−0.007 (0.012) p=0.276	0.009 (0.013) p=0.738	0.008 (0.012) p=0.735	−0.004 (0.014) p=0.374	−0.005 (0.012) p=0.356	−0.000 (0.012) p=0.492	−0.002 (0.011) p=0.425
Attention to politics		0.023 (0.026)		0.041 (0.028)		0.036 (0.028)		0.027 (0.023)
Social media: Facebook		−0.003 (0.015)		−0.017 (0.015)		−0.018 (0.015)		−0.012 (0.013)
Social media: Twitter		−0.027 (0.016)		−0.038 (0.015)		−0.028 (0.016)		−0.032 (0.014)
Social media: Instagram		0.022 (0.016)		−0.001 (0.016)		0.023 (0.016)		0.015 (0.014)
Social media: Youtube		0.021 (0.015)		0.046 (0.015)		0.025 (0.015)		0.030 (0.013)
Social media: Tiktok		0.007 (0.017)		0.018 (0.017)		0.006 (0.018)		0.010 (0.015)
Social media: Snapchat		0.035 (0.020)		0.034 (0.019)		0.025 (0.020)		0.030 (0.017)
Social media: Doromojo		0.126 (0.037)		0.105 (0.033)		0.081 (0.038)		0.105 (0.031)
Informed: You		−0.054 (0.033)		0.024 (0.033)		−0.044 (0.031)		
Informed: Young people		0.060 (0.027)		0.023 (0.027)		0.071 (0.027)		0.049 (0.023)
Informed: Voters		0.081 (0.029)		0.101 (0.031)		0.120 (0.030)		0.098 (0.026)
Informed: MCs		−0.022 (0.025)		0.033 (0.027)		0.019 (0.026)		0.011 (0.022)
Informed: Business		0.077 (0.030)		0.037 (0.031)		0.042 (0.030)		0.051 (0.026)
Informed: Twitter		0.119 (0.030)		0.066 (0.030)		0.108 (0.030)		0.098 (0.026)
Confidence: Democracy		0.069 (0.027)		0.046 (0.027)		0.040 (0.027)		0.050 (0.023)
Confidence: Small business		−0.130 (0.029)		−0.061 (0.030)		−0.102 (0.030)		−0.099 (0.026)
Confidence: Education		0.129 (0.028)		0.112 (0.028)		0.144 (0.028)		0.128 (0.024)
Confidence: Catholic Church		0.016 (0.024)		−0.016 (0.024)		0.031 (0.024)		0.010 (0.021)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.099 (0.028)		0.102 (0.029)		0.097 (0.028)		0.101 (0.024)
News days per week				0.004 (0.004)		0.005 (0.003)		0.002 (0.003)
Party ID (7-point)		0.006 (0.003)		0.006 (0.003)		0.005 (0.003)		0.005 (0.003)
Adj. R²	−0.001	0.217	−0.000	0.180	−0.001	0.230	−0.001	0.251
Num. obs.	1565	1565	1564	1564	1565	1565	1564	1564

Table B.22: Table of plotted estimates, study 2, hypothesis 7, vs. placebo group.

	News accurate		News informative		News trustworthy		Index, H7	
Constant	0.438 (0.011)	−0.038 (0.034)	0.538 (0.011)	0.032 (0.035)	0.434 (0.011)	−0.035 (0.034)	0.470 (0.010)	−0.013 (0.031)
Treatment	−0.013 (0.016) p=0.211	−0.011 (0.013) p=0.182	−0.012 (0.015) p=0.207	−0.010 (0.012) p=0.205	−0.005 (0.016) p=0.369	−0.004 (0.012) p=0.386	−0.010 (0.015) p=0.245	−0.009 (0.011) p=0.220
Attention to politics		0.045 (0.028)		0.084 (0.029)		0.055 (0.026)		0.065 (0.024)
Social media: Facebook		−0.021 (0.015)		−0.029 (0.015)		−0.017 (0.015)		−0.022 (0.013)
Social media: Twitter				−0.033 (0.015)				−0.023 (0.014)
Social media: Instagram						−0.012 (0.015)		
Social media: Youtube		−0.028 (0.015)		−0.013 (0.015)		−0.043 (0.015)		−0.027 (0.014)
Social media: Tiktok		0.009 (0.016)		0.010 (0.016)		−0.007 (0.016)		0.006 (0.014)
Social media: Doromojo		0.086 (0.039)		0.030 (0.038)		0.098 (0.040)		0.075 (0.036)
Informed: You				0.006 (0.034)				
Informed: Young people		0.052 (0.029)		0.029 (0.028)		0.029 (0.028)		0.036 (0.025)
Informed: Voters		0.100 (0.031)		0.067 (0.032)		0.113 (0.031)		0.094 (0.028)
Informed: MCs		0.081 (0.026)		0.121 (0.026)		0.089 (0.023)		0.099 (0.023)
Informed: Business		−0.002 (0.031)		−0.002 (0.032)				−0.008 (0.027)
Informed: Twitter		0.045 (0.029)		0.059 (0.029)		0.050 (0.029)		0.055 (0.026)
Confidence: Democracy		0.049 (0.028)		0.046 (0.027)		0.068 (0.026)		0.056 (0.024)
Confidence: Small business		−0.164 (0.030)		−0.141 (0.030)		−0.208 (0.029)		−0.170 (0.027)
Confidence: Education		0.265 (0.030)		0.260 (0.030)		0.251 (0.029)		0.259 (0.027)
Confidence: Catholic Church				−0.017 (0.022)				−0.009 (0.020)
Confidence: Tech companies		0.174 (0.028)		0.171 (0.028)		0.188 (0.027)		0.178 (0.025)
News days per week		0.005 (0.004)		0.010 (0.003)		0.009 (0.003)		0.008 (0.003)
Party ID (7-point)		0.039 (0.003)		0.035 (0.003)		0.041 (0.003)		0.038 (0.003)
Adj. R²	−0.000	0.381	−0.000	0.374	−0.001	0.404	−0.000	0.437
Num. obs.	1566	1566	1566	1566	1566	1566	1566	1566

B.4 Within-subject estimates

For two of our dependent variables, we designed pre-treatment covariates that were almost identical, with the exception that they were placed in grids alongside unrelated distractor items. In this section, we estimate the treatment effect on the difference between the pre- and post-treatment versions of these variables. Specifically, we use OLS to estimate the parameters in

$$Y_i^{\text{POST}} - Y_i^{\text{PRE}} = \alpha + \beta Z_i + \epsilon_i \tag{1}$$

where i indexes respondents, Y^{POST} is the post-treatment DV analyzed elsewhere in the main text, Y^{PRE} is the pre-treatment version of the DV, and Z is a treatment indicator. The parameter of interest, β, estimates the treatment effect on this variable. The intercept, α, is the control mean. We do not employ clustering in these analyses.

The results appear in the tables below. In all cases, the results are similar to the covariate-adjusted estimates reported in the main text. Given that our automated covariate selection procedure also selected the pre-treatment outcome measures, it is not surprising that the covariate-adjusted and within-subject estimates are similar.

Table B.23: Effect on perception that fellow citizens are informed (H1), within-subject DV.

	vs. Control		vs. Placebo	
	Study 1	Study 2	Study 1	Study 2
(Intercept)	-0.028^{**}	-0.045^{**}	-0.062^{**}	-0.059^{**}
	(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.009)
ZTreatment	-0.061^{**}	-0.044^{**}	-0.030^{*}	-0.032^{*}
	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.013)	(0.012)
Adj. R^2	0.011	0.005	0.003	0.004
Num. obs.	2675	2538	1605	1563

$^{*}p < 0.05$, $^{**}p < 0.01$ (two-tailed).

Table B.24: Effect on confidence in democracy (H3), within-subject DV.

	vs. Control		vs. Placebo	
	Study 1	Study 2	Study 1	Study 2
(Intercept)	0.025^{**}	0.005	0.002	0.011
	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.008)	(0.008)
ZTreatment	-0.026^{**}	-0.006	-0.007	-0.016
	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.012)	(0.012)
Adj. R^2	0.003	-0.000	-0.000	0.000
Num. obs.	2675	2537	1608	1565

$^{*}p < 0.05$, $^{**}p < 0.01$ (one-tailed).

B.5 Balance Tests

Table B.25: Balance test, treatment vs. control, study 1.

Variable	Ctrl	Treat	Diff	SD	Z	p
age	39.708	40.628	0.920	0.488	1.884	0.060
news_days	5.228	5.265	0.036	0.078	0.465	0.642
informed_pre_you	0.696	0.700	0.004	0.010	0.422	0.673
informed_pre_young	0.496	0.504	0.007	0.011	0.643	0.520
informed_pre_voters	0.532	0.541	0.010	0.011	0.927	0.354
informed_pre_rep	0.530	0.531	0.001	0.012	0.047	0.962
informed_pre_dem	0.589	0.591	0.002	0.011	0.182	0.856
conf_pre_dem	0.538	0.535	-0.003	0.011	-0.243	0.808
conf_pre_smallbusiness	0.674	0.690	0.016	0.009	1.800	0.072
conf_pre_educ	0.532	0.528	-0.004	0.011	-0.340	0.734
conf_pre_catholic	0.394	0.392	-0.001	0.013	-0.101	0.920
conf_pre_tech	0.531	0.520	-0.011	0.011	-0.976	0.329
pid7	4.565	4.547	-0.017	0.086	-0.201	0.841
attention_to_politics	0.583	0.602	0.019	0.010	1.883	0.060
social_facebook	0.834	0.820	-0.015	0.015	-0.993	0.321
social_twitter	0.537	0.557	0.021	0.019	1.077	0.281
social_instagram	0.696	0.664	-0.032	0.018	-1.748	0.080
social_youtube	0.917	0.920	0.003	0.011	0.304	0.761
social_doromojo	0.065	0.058	-0.007	0.009	-0.767	0.443
social_snapchat	0.353	0.315	-0.038	0.018	-2.091	0.036
social_tiktok	0.343	0.324	-0.019	0.018	-1.024	0.306
educ_Associate_degree	0.115	0.125	0.010	0.013	0.783	0.434
educ_Bachelor_degree	0.415	0.435	0.020	0.019	1.047	0.295
educ_Did_not_complete_high_school	0.008	0.001	-0.006	0.003	-2.432	0.015
educ_Graduate_degree	0.203	0.197	-0.006	0.015	-0.385	0.700
educ_High_school_diploma_or_GED	0.078	0.081	0.003	0.010	0.274	0.784
educ_Some_college	0.179	0.158	-0.022	0.014	-1.506	0.132
race_Asian	0.073	0.077	0.003	0.010	0.311	0.756
race_Black_or_African_American	0.126	0.119	-0.007	0.013	-0.590	0.555
race_Some_other_race_or_origin	0.015	0.019	0.004	0.005	0.825	0.409
race_Two_or_more	0.101	0.073	-0.028	0.011	-2.598	0.009
race_White	0.684	0.713	0.028	0.018	1.605	0.108
gender_Female	0.533	0.544	0.011	0.019	0.564	0.573
gender_Male	0.461	0.449	-0.012	0.019	-0.619	0.536
gender_Something_else	0.006	0.007	0.001	0.003	0.330	0.741
informed_pre_young (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.034	0.301
conf_pre_dem (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.034	0.301
conf_pre_smallbusiness (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.034	0.301
conf_pre_educ (missing)	0.002	0.001	-0.002	0.001	-1.068	0.285
conf_pre_catholic (missing)	0.002	0.001	-0.001	0.001	-0.636	0.525
conf_pre_tech (missing)	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.001	-0.048	0.962
educ_Associate_degree (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.613	0.540
educ_Bachelor_degree (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.613	0.540
educ_Did_not_complete_high_school (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.613	0.540
educ_Graduate_degree (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.613	0.540
educ_High_school_diploma_or_GED (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.613	0.540
educ_Some_college (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.613	0.540
race_Asian (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.901	0.368
race_Black_or_African_American (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.901	0.368
race_Some_other_race_or_origin (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.901	0.368
race_Two_or_more (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.901	0.368
race_White (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.901	0.368
gender_Female (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.613	0.540
gender_Male (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.613	0.540
gender_Something_else (missing)	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.613	0.540

Chi-sq = 46.345, df = 39, p = 0.195

Table B.26: Balance test, treatment vs. placebo, study 1.

Variable	Ctrl	Treat	Diff	SD	Z	p
age	39.708	39.793	0.085	0.511	0.167	0.868
news_days	5.228	5.249	0.021	0.081	0.259	0.796
informed_pre_you	0.696	0.703	0.007	0.010	0.664	0.507
informed_pre_young	0.496	0.496	-0.001	0.011	-0.065	0.948
informed_pre_voters	0.532	0.546	0.014	0.011	1.281	0.200
informed_pre_rep	0.530	0.533	0.003	0.012	0.227	0.821
informed_pre_dem	0.589	0.591	0.001	0.011	0.128	0.898
conf_pre_dem	0.538	0.535	-0.003	0.011	-0.224	0.822
conf_pre_smallbusiness	0.674	0.686	0.012	0.009	1.263	0.207
conf_pre_educ	0.532	0.532	0.000	0.012	0.037	0.971
conf_pre_catholic	0.394	0.385	-0.008	0.013	-0.648	0.517
conf_pre_tech	0.531	0.537	0.006	0.011	0.527	0.598
pid7	4.565	4.482	-0.083	0.088	-0.941	0.347
attention_to_politics	0.583	0.610	0.027	0.010	2.612	0.009
social_facebook	0.834	0.828	-0.006	0.015	-0.429	0.668
social_twitter	0.537	0.535	-0.002	0.020	-0.091	0.928
social_instagram	0.696	0.683	-0.013	0.018	-0.725	0.468
social_youtube	0.917	0.911	-0.006	0.011	-0.575	0.565
social_doromojo	0.065	0.051	-0.014	0.009	-1.457	0.145
social_snapchat	0.353	0.338	-0.015	0.019	-0.769	0.442
social_tiktok	0.343	0.350	0.008	0.019	0.401	0.688
educ_Associate_degree	0.115	0.125	0.010	0.013	0.779	0.436
educ_Bachelor_degree	0.415	0.383	-0.031	0.019	-1.615	0.106
educ_Did_not_complete_high_school	0.008	0.005	-0.003	0.003	-0.927	0.354
educ_Graduate_degree	0.203	0.224	0.021	0.016	1.320	0.187
educ_High_school_diploma_or_GED	0.078	0.088	0.010	0.011	0.934	0.350
educ_Some_college	0.179	0.173	-0.007	0.015	-0.445	0.656
race_Asian	0.073	0.080	0.006	0.011	0.573	0.567
race_Black_or_African_American	0.126	0.108	-0.018	0.013	-1.379	0.168
race_Some_other_race_or_origin	0.015	0.013	-0.002	0.005	-0.398	0.691
race_Two_or_more	0.101	0.082	-0.019	0.011	-1.691	0.091
race_White	0.684	0.717	0.033	0.018	1.804	0.071
gender_Female	0.533	0.523	-0.010	0.020	-0.503	0.615
gender_Male	0.461	0.470	0.009	0.020	0.451	0.652
gender_Something_else	0.006	0.007	0.001	0.003	0.322	0.748
informed_pre_young (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-0.981	0.326
conf_pre_dem (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-0.981	0.326
conf_pre_smallbusiness (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-0.981	0.326
conf_pre_educ (missing)	0.002	0.001	-0.002	0.002	-0.963	0.336
conf_pre_catholic (missing)	0.002	0.000	-0.002	0.001	-1.388	0.165
conf_pre_tech (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-0.981	0.326
educ_Associate_degree (missing)	0.002	0.002	-0.001	0.002	-0.405	0.685
educ_Bachelor_degree (missing)	0.002	0.002	-0.001	0.002	-0.405	0.685
educ_Did_not_complete_high_school (missing)	0.002	0.002	-0.001	0.002	-0.405	0.685
educ_Graduate_degree (missing)	0.002	0.002	-0.001	0.002	-0.405	0.685
educ_High_school_diploma_or_GED (missing)	0.002	0.002	-0.001	0.002	-0.405	0.685
educ_Some_college (missing)	0.002	0.002	-0.001	0.002	-0.405	0.685
race_Asian (missing)	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.046	0.963
race_Black_or_African_American (missing)	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.046	0.963
race_Some_other_race_or_origin (missing)	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.046	0.963
race_Two_or_more (missing)	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.046	0.963
race_White (missing)	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.046	0.963
gender_Female (missing)	0.002	0.002	-0.001	0.002	-0.405	0.685
gender_Male (missing)	0.002	0.002	-0.001	0.002	-0.405	0.685
gender_Something_else (missing)	0.002	0.002	-0.001	0.002	-0.405	0.685

Chi-sq = 38.366, df = 38, p = 0.453

Table B.27: Balance test, treatment vs. control, study 2.

Variable	Ctrl	Treat	Diff	SD	Z	p
age	54.039	52.928	-1.111	0.928	-1.197	0.231
news_days	5.299	5.298	0.000	0.112	-0.001	0.999
informed_pre_you	0.740	0.733	-0.007	0.012	-0.535	0.593
informed_pre_young	0.444	0.444	0.000	0.015	0.003	0.997
informed_pre_voters	0.523	0.530	0.007	0.014	0.486	0.627
conf_pre_dem	0.548	0.540	-0.008	0.015	-0.562	0.574
conf_pre_smallbusiness	0.720	0.745	0.025	0.012	2.085	0.037
conf_pre_educ	0.543	0.531	-0.011	0.014	-0.779	0.436
conf_pre_catholic	0.403	0.410	0.007	0.016	0.414	0.679
conf_pre_tech	0.508	0.524	0.016	0.014	1.098	0.272
pid7	4.162	3.968	-0.195	0.111	-1.746	0.081
attention_to_politics	0.620	0.609	-0.011	0.015	-0.752	0.452
social_facebook	0.750	0.770	0.020	0.021	0.931	0.352
social_twitter	0.314	0.341	0.027	0.023	1.132	0.258
social_instagram	0.430	0.466	0.036	0.025	1.444	0.149
social_youtube	0.694	0.748	0.055	0.022	2.450	0.014
social_doromojo	0.039	0.029	-0.010	0.009	-1.082	0.279
social_snapchat	0.242	0.277	0.035	0.022	1.590	0.112
social_tiktok	0.322	0.351	0.030	0.024	1.256	0.209
informed_pre_MCs	0.598	0.592	-0.006	0.015	-0.396	0.692
informed_pre_business	0.634	0.622	-0.012	0.013	-0.928	0.354
informed_pre_twitter	0.417	0.418	0.001	0.014	0.040	0.968
educ_Associate_degree	0.125	0.135	0.010	0.017	0.592	0.554
educ_Bachelor_degree	0.257	0.241	-0.017	0.022	-0.775	0.438
educ_Did_not_complete_high_school	0.018	0.018	0.000	0.007	0.005	0.996
educ_Graduate_degree	0.152	0.155	0.003	0.018	0.187	0.852
educ_High_school_diploma_or_GED	0.219	0.202	-0.017	0.020	-0.817	0.414
educ_Some_college	0.228	0.249	0.021	0.021	1.001	0.317
race_Asian	0.026	0.022	-0.004	0.008	-0.538	0.591
race_Black_or_African_American	0.069	0.065	-0.005	0.012	-0.361	0.718
race_Some_other_race_or_origin	0.013	0.028	0.015	0.007	2.092	0.036
race_Two_or_more	0.210	0.194	-0.016	0.020	-0.801	0.423
race_White	0.682	0.692	0.010	0.023	0.425	0.671
gender_Female	0.538	0.540	0.002	0.025	0.094	0.925
gender_Male	0.457	0.456	-0.001	0.025	-0.033	0.974
gender_Something_else	0.005	0.004	-0.002	0.003	-0.468	0.640
informed_pre_you (missing)	0.000	0.004	0.004	0.002	1.676	0.094
informed_pre_young (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.967	0.334
informed_pre_voters (missing)	0.003	0.001	-0.001	0.002	-0.636	0.525
conf_pre_catholic (missing)	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.002	-0.048	0.962
informed_pre_MCs (missing)	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.002	-0.048	0.962
informed_pre_business (missing)	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.002	1.368	0.171
informed_pre_twitter (missing)	0.003	0.002	0.000	0.002	-0.067	0.946
educ_Associate_degree (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.034	0.301
educ_Bachelor_degree (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.034	0.301
educ_Did_not_complete_high_school (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.034	0.301
educ_Graduate_degree (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.034	0.301
educ_High_school_diploma_or_GED (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.034	0.301
educ_Some_college (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.034	0.301
race_Asian (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.967	0.334
race_Black_or_African_American (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.967	0.334
race_Some_other_race_or_origin (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.967	0.334
race_Two_or_more (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.967	0.334
race_White (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.967	0.334

Chi-sq = 44.231, df = 42, p = 0.378

Table B.28: Balance test, treatment vs. placebo, study 2.

Variable	Ctrl	Treat	Diff	SD	Z	p
age	54.039	53.864	-0.175	0.926	-0.189	0.850
news_days	5.299	5.410	0.112	0.110	1.014	0.311
informed_pre_you	0.740	0.724	-0.016	0.012	-1.272	0.204
informed_pre_young	0.444	0.443	-0.001	0.015	-0.077	0.939
informed_pre_voters	0.523	0.523	0.000	0.014	-0.009	0.993
conf_pre_dem	0.548	0.532	-0.016	0.015	-1.069	0.285
conf_pre_smallbusiness	0.720	0.726	0.005	0.012	0.439	0.661
conf_pre_educ	0.543	0.537	-0.005	0.015	-0.353	0.724
conf_pre_catholic	0.403	0.414	0.010	0.016	0.642	0.521
conf_pre_tech	0.508	0.522	0.014	0.015	0.955	0.339
pid7	4.162	4.211	0.049	0.111	0.439	0.661
attention_to_politics	0.620	0.625	0.005	0.015	0.337	0.736
social_facebook	0.750	0.731	-0.019	0.022	-0.870	0.384
social_twitter	0.314	0.331	0.017	0.024	0.711	0.477
social_instagram	0.430	0.413	-0.017	0.025	-0.681	0.496
social_youtube	0.694	0.711	0.017	0.023	0.743	0.457
social_doromojo	0.039	0.032	-0.007	0.009	-0.758	0.448
social_snapchat	0.242	0.241	-0.001	0.022	-0.037	0.971
social_tiktok	0.322	0.313	-0.009	0.024	-0.367	0.714
informed_pre_MCs	0.598	0.606	0.008	0.016	0.508	0.612
informed_pre_business	0.634	0.623	-0.011	0.013	-0.836	0.403
informed_pre_twitter	0.417	0.411	-0.006	0.014	-0.444	0.657
educ_Associate_degree	0.125	0.114	-0.011	0.016	-0.685	0.494
educ_Bachelor_degree	0.257	0.241	-0.016	0.022	-0.743	0.457
educ_Did_not_complete_high_school	0.018	0.019	0.001	0.007	0.135	0.892
educ_Graduate_degree	0.152	0.162	0.010	0.018	0.531	0.595
educ_High_school_diploma_or_GED	0.219	0.225	0.006	0.021	0.284	0.776
educ_Some_college	0.228	0.240	0.012	0.021	0.566	0.571
race_Asian	0.026	0.028	0.002	0.008	0.250	0.803
race_Black_or_African_American	0.069	0.063	-0.006	0.013	-0.507	0.612
race_Some_other_race_or_origin	0.013	0.021	0.009	0.007	1.308	0.191
race_Two_or_more	0.210	0.184	-0.025	0.020	-1.266	0.205
race_White	0.682	0.703	0.021	0.023	0.909	0.364
gender_Female	0.538	0.545	0.007	0.025	0.298	0.766
gender_Male	0.457	0.451	-0.006	0.025	-0.244	0.807
gender_Something_else	0.005	0.004	-0.001	0.003	-0.404	0.686
informed_pre_you (missing)	0.000	0.003	0.003	0.002	1.401	0.161
informed_pre_young (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.990	0.322
informed_pre_voters (missing)	0.003	0.004	0.001	0.003	0.426	0.670
conf_pre_dem (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.990	0.322
conf_pre_smallbusiness (missing)	0.000	0.003	0.003	0.002	1.401	0.161
conf_pre_catholic (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.010	0.313
conf_pre_tech (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.990	0.322
informed_pre_MCs (missing)	0.001	0.004	0.003	0.003	0.982	0.326
informed_pre_business (missing)	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.990	0.322
informed_pre_twitter (missing)	0.003	0.003	0.000	0.003	-0.019	0.985
educ_Associate_degree (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.010	0.313
educ_Bachelor_degree (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.010	0.313
educ_Did_not_complete_high_school (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.010	0.313
educ_Graduate_degree (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.010	0.313
educ_High_school_diploma_or_GED (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.010	0.313
educ_Some_college (missing)	0.001	0.000	-0.001	0.001	-1.010	0.313

Chi-sq = 34.049, df = 43, p = 0.834

B.6 Pilot Study

Prior to conducting Study 1, we conducted a pilot study on MTurk on May 18, 2021. We recruited 2,627 subjects using the same eligibility criteria as Study 1 (see Appendix). After dropping non-consenting and ineligible respondents, our final sample size was 2,577 (cooperation rate 97.9 percent). An anonymous version of the preregistration is available at https://aspredicted.org/Q9L_96Q.

The pilot study was similar in design to Studies 1 and 2, with the following key differences. First, there was no pure control condition. Second treated subjects were exposed to five randomly selected treatment headlines and five randomly selected placebo headlines, while placebo subjects were exposed to ten placebo headlines. Third, subjects were just asked "Have you seen this headline before?" rather than being asked to describe or identify the content of the deadline.

We found little evidence of treatment effects on any dependent variable. Figure B.1 displays our treatment effect estimates for all five hypotheses tested in the study (H1 to H5). None of the estimates are statistically significant.

We considered three possible reasons for the null results: our expectations were misplaced, our treatment was too weak, or our placebo was too similar to the treatment. We therefore redesigned the experiment to have a stronger treatment and an explicit control condition. The observed patterns across studies suggest the null results in the pilot were primarily attributable to a weak treatment. In the pilot study, the null result extended even to our first measure of perceptions of the public (H1). By contrast, Study 1 used a stronger version of the treatment and found large effects on H1, H2, and H3, which were replicated in Study 2. The null effect for perceptions of the public suggests that the pilot stood little chance of detecting effects on other variables that are less directly related to the treatments, regardless of whether our expectations were accurate or misplaced.

Figure B.1: Treatment effect estimates, pilot study.
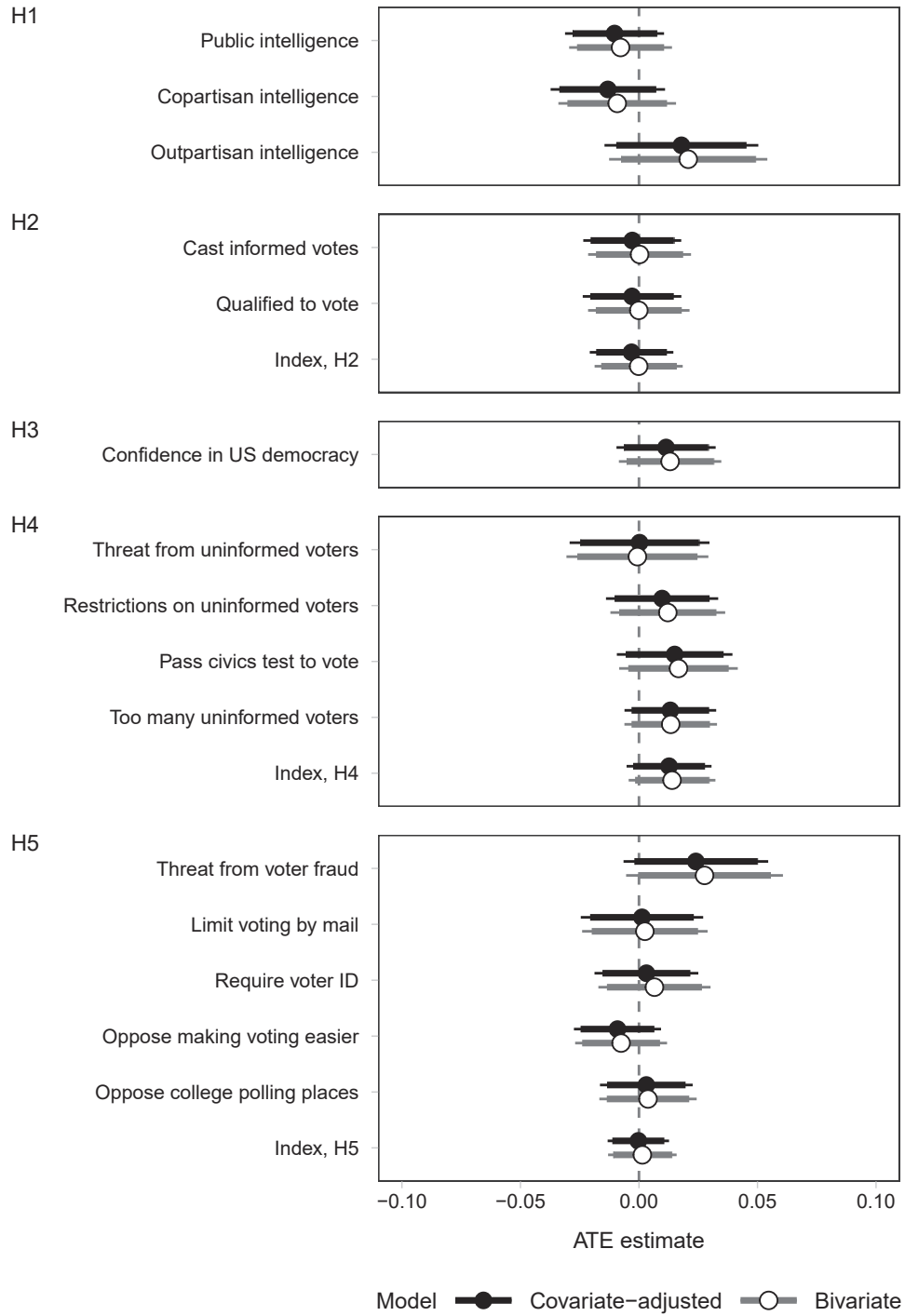
C Survey Information

C.1 Study 1

Study 1 is a web survey conducted by the authors from June 5th, 2021 to June 12th, 2021. The authors recruited a non-probability convenience sample of 4,266 US adults on the Amazon Mechanical Turk platform to complete the survey. To be eligible to participate, respondents were required to have completed at least one previous task on MTurk, have an MTurk approval rating of at least 95 percent, consent to participate, be of at least 18 years of age, reside in the United States, and pass a Captcha. Respondents who did not reach the final outcome question of the survey were dropped for the analysis, providing a final N = 3,923 for analysis (cooperation rate 91.8 percent). Respondents were paid $0.70 each for their participation.

Study 1 was approved by [ANONYMIZED] with a concurrence from [ANONYMIZED]. The preregistration materials for Study 1 are available at https://aspredicted.org/V1D_1R5.

C.2 Study 2

Study 2 is a web survey conducted by the authors. The study was hosted on the Qualtrics survey platform and fielded June 24th, 2022, to June 28th, 2022. The authors recruited a non-probability convenience sample of 2,685 US adults via Qualtrics Panels, using quota sampling to approximate the distributions of gender, race, and ethnicity among American adults (cooperation rate 85.8 percent). The quota sampling constraints were as follows:

- Male: 48%
- Female: 52%
- Non-binary: natural fallout

- White: 75%
- Black or African American: 13%
- Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander: 6%
- Native American, Alaska Native, or other race or ethnicity: 6%

- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin: 18%
- Non-Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin: 82%

To be eligible to participate, respondents were required to consent to participate, be of at least 18 years of age, reside in the United States, and pass a Captcha. After removing those who did not reach the final page of the survey, 23 respondents who showed evidence of speeding (defined as completing all elements of the survey that were common to all treatment

groups in less than one third of the median time, specifically less than 130 seconds) were dropped for the analysis. 24 additional respondents were also dropped from the analysis because they failed at least two of four separate quality checks: the respondent reported a birth year did not reflect their reported age (within an error tolerance of 5 years), the respondent reported a zip code did not match their reported state of residence, the respondent reported using a social media platform that does not exist, or the respondent provided a non-sequitur or item non-response to an open-ended question about the most important problem facing the country. These exclusions provided a final N = 2,400 for analysis.

Study 2 was approved by the Institutional Review Board of [ANONYMIZED]. The preregistration materials for Study 2 are available at https://aspredicted.org/Q1M_V8Y.

C.3 Questionnaires

The following pages contain the full text questionnaires of both studies.

Study 1 Questionnaire

Screening

Please select below:

- o [Captcha verification]

  IF Captcha is not completed, disqualify respondent.

Consent Information [available upon request]

- o I agree to participate.
- o I do not agree to participate.

  IF "I agree to participate" is not selected, disqualify respondent.

We first have just a few questions to check your eligibility for the survey.

In which state do you currently reside?

- o I do not reside in the United States
- o Alabama
- o Arkansas

...

- o Wyoming

  IF "I do not reside in the United States" is selected, disqualify respondent.

What is your year of birth?

- o [Text entry, values 1900-2020 permitted]

  IF birthyear >= 2004, disqualify respondent.

Background questions

Thank you, you have qualified for the survey. We want to start by asking just a few questions about topics in the news.

During a typical week, how many days do you watch, read, or listen to news on TV, radio, printed newspapers, the Internet, or social media, not including sports?
- o None
- o One day

  ...

o   Seven days

How often do you pay attention to what's going on in government and politics?
o   Always
o   Most of the time
o   About half the time
o   Some of the time
o   Never

Generally speaking, how informed or uniformed about politics are each of the following individuals and groups? [Yourself, young people, American voters, Republican voters, Democrat voters]
o   Very well-informed
o   Somewhat well-informed
o   Neither informed nor uninformed
o   Somewhat uninformed
o   Very uninformed

How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following? [The U.S. system of democracy, small businesses, public education, Catholic church, large technology companies]
o   A great deal of confidence
o   A fair amount of confidence
o   Not too much confidence
o   No confidence at all

Which of the following social media platforms have you used in the past two weeks? Select all that apply.
☐   Facebook
☐   Twitter
☐   Instagram
☐   WeChat
☐   Snapchat
☐   TikTok
☐   Doromojo
☐   None of the above

What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today?
o   [Text box]

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?
o   Republican
o   Democrat
o   Independent
o   Other: _____

Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?
- o Strong
- o Not very strong

Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?
- o Strong
- o Not very strong

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?
- o Republican
- o Democratic
- o Neither

Treatment

Design note: Using simple random assignment, respondents were assigned to treatment (p = 1/3), placebo (p = 1/3), or control (p = 1/3). Treated respondents viewed all six treatment headlines. Placebo respondents viewed six randomly selected placebo headlines. Control respondents proceeded straight to the outcome measures.

On each of the next **six** pages, we'll show you a headline that appeared in the news. We want to know what people learn from these headlines. You will be asked to summarize the information presented in your own words.

Before you write your summary, please read each headline carefully and reflect on the information presented. To make sure you have enough time to read and write your summary, the "proceed" button will not appear until you have been on each page for 15 seconds.

[A series of 6 headlines will be shown to the respondent. A sample one is displayed below and the full list of possible headlines follows.]

Example of how the headlines appeared:

Majority of Americans Plan to Vacation This Summer

Daily Mail • May 31

According to a recent Gallup poll asking Americans about their vacation plans for this summer, the average American will vacation during the month of July.

In your own words, how would you summarize the key information from this news story?

o [Text box]

Complete list of headlines:

Placebo Title	Date	Description
Hot chocolate: Americans say it's the most-loved part of winter	Jan 28	In a survey, "sipping on some cocoa" was named the "best part of the season," winning out over watching the first snowfall and warming up by the fire.
Chocolate is the most popular ice cream flavor in America	Jul 14	Additional polling finds that the most popular topping is hot fudge.
What's America's favorite sandwich?	Aug 1	America's top sandwich is grilled cheese, according to the results of a YouGov survey.
America's favorite vegetable is broccoli, survey says	Jun 13	The survey discovered broccoli is the most popular vegetable in 47 percent of the United States, with corn coming in second place.
Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are America's favorite candy, poll finds	Oct 10	Thirty-six percent love the peanut butter and chocolate combo, while just 18% favor second place Snickers. M&M's came in at number three with 11%.
Majority of Americans Plan to Vacation This Summer	May 31	According to a recent Gallup poll asking Americans about their vacation plans for this summer, the average American will vacation during the month of July.
Poll: Americans grateful at holidays — and a bit stressed	Dec 20	Most Americans say the holiday season makes them feel very grateful and generous — but many report feeling stressed, too
Majority of American workers are unhappy in their jobs	Oct 28	Although more people are in work in the US than at any time in the past 50 years, only 40 percent of American workers said in a survey that they work in good jobs
Most Americans Think Their Job Is Bad or Mediocre, Gallup Poll Shows	Oct 24	The majority of American workers aren't satisfied with their job, a new Gallup poll showed.

Holiday spending estimates lowest in four years: poll	Oct 27	Anticipated spending on holiday gifts is expected to drop significantly this year amid a retail slump due to the coronavirus pandemic, a Gallup poll released Tuesday found.
Poll: Majority of Americans See No Health Impact From a Few Drinks	Jul 31	While the majority of Americans (55%) think that drinking in moderation makes no difference to their health, the percentage who say it is bad for one's health outweighs those who say it is good, 28% to 16%.
What is America's favorite music genre?	Jan 28	Country and rock are America's favorite music genres, according to a recent poll.
Bugs Bunny most popular cartoon among Americans, poll finds	Jul 16	When it comes to cartoons, Americans are saying "what's up, Doc?" Bugs Bunny is the most popular cartoon in the U.S., with 11% saying this was their favorite cartoon.

Treatment Title	Date	Description
1 In 4 Americans Thinks The Sun Goes Around The Earth, Survey Says	Feb 14	A quarter of Americans surveyed could not correctly answer that the Earth revolves around the sun and not the other way around, according to a report out Friday from the National Science Foundation.
The surprising number of American adults who think chocolate milk comes from brown cows	Jun 15	Seven percent of American adults believe chocolate milk comes from brown cows, according to an online survey.
Survey: One third of young millennials believe the earth is flat	Apr 6	A new survey has found that a third of young millennials in the U.S. aren't convinced the Earth is actually round.
Nationwide Poll: 47 Percent Of Americans Mistakenly Believe Eating Chicken Can Spread Bird Flu	Nov 8	Nearly half of Americans questioned in a new opinion poll mistakenly believe that they can contract bird flu by eating chicken.
What's the Constitution? Don't bother asking 70% of Americans	Mar 21	A survey shows that alarming number of U.S. citizens don't know basic facts about their own country.
Americans believe crazy, wrong things	Dec 28	Many Americans believe a lot of dumb, crazy, destructive, provably wrong stuff, according to a poll from the EconomistYouGov.

Outcomes

Generally speaking, would you say that American voters are... [Well-informed/uninformed, patriotic/unpatriotic, honest/dishonest, selfish/generous]
  o   Very [positive trait]

- o Somewhat [positive trait]
- o Neither [positive trait] nor [negative trait]
- o Somewhat [negative trait]
- o Very [negative trait]

Generally speaking, how much confidence, if any, do you have in the U.S. system of democracy?
- o A great deal of confidence

  ...
- o No confidence at all

Generally speaking, how much confidence, if any, do you have in the American people to...cast informed votes in elections?
- o A great deal of confidence

  ...
- o No confidence at all

Which of the following is the greater threat to American democracy?
- o People who do not vote
- o Uninformed voters

How strongly do you feel that [people who do not vote / uninformed voters] are a greater threat than [uninformed voters / people who do not vote]?
- o Not too strongly
- o Strongly

Which of the following is the greater threat to American democracy?
- o Too many ineligible people casting ballots (voter fraud)
- o Too many eligible voters being prevented from voting (voter suppression)

How strongly do you feel that [too many ineligible people casting ballots (voter fraud) / too many eligible voters being prevented from voting (voter suppression)] is a greater threat than [too many eligible people being prevented from voting (voter suppression) / too many ineligible people casting ballots (voter fraud)]?
- o Not too strongly
- o Strongly

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

People who are not well informed about election issues should not be allowed to vote.
- o Strongly agree
- o Agree
- o Neither agree nor disagree
- o Disagree
- o Strongly disagree

People should be required to take a civics test before registering to vote

o Strongly agree

...

o Strongly disagree

Too many uninformed people vote in this country
o Strongly agree

...

o Strongly disagree

Most Americans are well-qualified to vote
o Strongly agree

...

o Strongly disagree

Everything possible should be done to make it easy for every citizen to vote
o Strongly agree

...

o Strongly disagree

Voters should only be allowed to vote by mail if they can't vote in-person
o Strongly agree

...

o Strongly disagree

All voters should be required to present photo identification before voting
o Strongly agree

...

o Strongly disagree

Polling places should be located on college campuses so that students can vote more easily
o Strongly agree

...

o Strongly disagree

Earlier we asked you about the traits of the American public, now we want your views of the traits of different groups in society.

Generally speaking, would you say that [Democrat voters/Republican voters] are…
    [See above]

Manipulation check

Thinking about the headlines you reviewed earlier, which topics were included? Please select all that apply:

☐ U.S. political events
☐ Foreign affairs
☐ Public opinion polls
☐ Sports and exercise
☐ None of the above

Demographics

Finally we have just a few background questions for statistical purposes.

Which of the following best describes you?
o Female
o Male
o Something else

What is your race or origin? Mark one or more.
☐ White
☐ Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
☐ Black or African American
☐ Asian
☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
☐ Some other race or origin

What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

o Less than high school degree
o High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent including GED)
o Some college but no degree (yet)
o Associate degree in college (2-year)
o Bachelor's degree in college (4-year)
o Graduate degree (e.g., MA, JD, PhD)

Thank you for your participation! Is there anything else you would like to share about the survey?
o [Text box]

Study 2 Questionnaire

Screening & Demographics

Please select below:
- o [Captcha verification]

IF Captcha is not completed, disqualify respondent.

Consent Information [available upon request]
- o I agree to participate.
- o I do not agree to participate.

IF "I agree to participate" is not selected, disqualify respondent.

We first have just a few questions to check your eligibility for the survey.

What is your year of birth? Please enter a four-digit number:
- o [Text entry, values 1900-2022 permitted]

IF birthyear >= 2005, disqualify respondent.

What is your gender?
- o Male
- o Female
- o Something else

What is your race or origin? Mark one or more:
- ☐ White
- ☐ Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Some other race or origin

What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- o Did not complete high school
- o High school diploma or GED
- o Some college, no degree
- o Associate degree
- o Four-year college degree
- o Graduate degree (Master's, professional, or doctorate)

In which state do you currently reside?
- o I do not reside in the United States
- o Alabama
- o Arkansas
   ...
- o Wyoming

IF "I do not reside in the United States" is selected, disqualify respondent.

Background

Thank you. You have qualified for the survey. We want to start by asking just a few questions about topics in the news.

During a typical week, how many days do you watch, read, or listen to news on TV, radio, printed newspapers, the Internet, or social media, not including sports?
- o None
- o One day
   ...
- o Seven days

How often do you pay attention to what's going on in government and politics?
- o Always
- o Most of the time
- o About half the time
- o Some of the time
- o Never

How much have you used the following social media platforms in the past two weeks? [A lot, Some, Not at all]
- o Facebook
- o Twitter
- o Instagram
- o YouTube
- o Doromojo
- o Snapchat
- o TikTok

What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today?
- o [Text entry.]

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?
- o Republican
- o Democrat

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o   Independent
o   Other: _____

Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?
o   Strong
o   Not very strong

Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?
o   Strong
o   Not very strong

Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?
o   Republican
o   Democratic
o   Neither

Are you registered to vote?
o   Yes
o   No
o   I don't know

How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following? [American democracy, small business owners, public education, the Catholic Church, large technology companies]
o   A great deal of confidence
o   A fair amount of confidence
o   Not too much confidence
o   No confidence at all

Generally speaking, how informed or uniformed about politics are each of the following individuals and groups? [Yourself, American voters, members of Congress, young people, business executives, Twitter users]
o   Very well-informed
o   Somewhat well-informed
o   Neither informed nor uninformed
o   Somewhat uninformed
o   Very uninformed

Treatment

Design note: Using simple random assignment, respondents were assigned to treatment (p = 1/3), placebo (p = 1/3), or control (p = 1/3). Treated respondents viewed all six treatment headlines and two placebo headlines. Placebo respondents viewed all eight placebo headlines. Control respondents proceeded directly to the outcome measures.

On each of the next **eight** pages, we'll show you a headline that appeared in the news, and you will be asked a question about the news story.

{A series of 8 headlines will be shown to the respondent. A sample one is displayed below and the full list of possible headlines follows.}

Example of how the headlines appeared:

<div style="border:1px solid #000; padding:10px;">

Majority of Americans Plan to Vacation This Summer

Daily Mail • May 31

According to a recent Gallup poll asking Americans about their vacation plans for this summer, the average American will vacation during the month of July.

</div>

From what you read, how would you classify the main topic of the news article?
- ☐ Sports
- ☐ Foreign Affairs
- ☐ Polling & Surveys
- ☐ Health & Exercise
- ☐ Politics & Elections
- ☐ Technology & Social Media

Complete list of headlines:

Placebo Title	Date	Description
How to Diet in 2022: Easy, Healthy Ways to Lose Weight with These Top 3 Tips	Jan 28	For millions of Americans, New Year's Day marks the start of a new diet. Losing weight is always among the most popular New Year's resolutions, and 2022 is no different.
We Know Your Age Base on Your Social Media Habits	Jul 14	We can guess your age, just tell us your social media preferences.
Bitcoin Is Not Most Used Cryptocurrency in the World, You'll Never Guess What It Is	Aug 1	The daily trading volumes have spoken, and the most used crypto is not Bitcoin.

Five Mental Health Signals You Should Never Ignore	Jun 13	There are hundreds of symptoms which can indicate a mental health issue, but it can be difficult to know when to pay attention to them and when they are not a concern.
7 Weird and Surprising Things Linked to Dementia	Oct 10	Recent research has found some pretty unexpected things that are linked to dementia, a term for diseases associated with memory loss.
13 Surprising Things That Are Damaging Your Skin	May 31	You're probably aware that you should wear sunscreen for a day at the beach. But there are also some surprising things you may not have realized are affecting your skin.
6 Weird Ways to Trick Your Mind into Sleep That Actually Work	Dec 20	Sure, it might be easier said than done—but there are several not-so-obvious ways to quiet your thoughts and prep the brain and body for sleep.
5 Tech Hacks to Improve Work-Life Balance	Oct 28	Imagine what you could do with an extra two hours in your week. Here are some tech hacks to give you back your time.

Treatment Title	Date	Description
1 In 4 Americans Thinks the Sun Goes Around the Earth, Survey Says	Feb 14	A quarter of Americans surveyed could not correctly answer that the Earth revolves around the sun and not the other way around, according to a report out Friday from the National Science Foundation.
The surprising number of American adults who think chocolate milk comes from brown cows	Jun 15	Seven percent of American adults believe chocolate milk comes from brown cows, according to an online survey.
Survey: One third of young millennials believe the earth is flat	Apr 6	A new survey has found that a third of young millennials in the U.S. aren't convinced the Earth is actually round.
Nationwide Poll: 47 Percent of Americans Mistakenly Believe Eating Chicken Can Spread Bird Flu	Nov 8	Nearly half of Americans questioned in a new opinion poll mistakenly believe that they can contract bird flu by eating chicken.
Judge Judy is a Supreme Court Justice, a Surprising Number of College Grads Think	Mar 21	An alarming one in 10 college graduates believe that Judge Judith Sheindlin, better known as Judge Judy, is actually a Supreme Court justice, according to a recent study.
10 of the Craziest Conspiracy Theories That a Ridiculously Disturbing Amount of People Believe	Dec 28	Outlandish conspiracies have been embraced by a surprisingly large segment of the population, according to a survey conducted last year.

Outcomes

Now we'll move on to another set of topics.

Generally speaking, would you say that **American voters** are...

…informed or uninformed about politics?
- o Extremely well-informed
- o Very well-informed
- o Somewhat well-informed
- o Somewhat uninformed
- o Very uninformed
- o Extremely uninformed

…patriotic or unpatriotic?
- o Extremely patriotic
- o Very patriotic
- o Somewhat patriotic
- o Somewhat unpatriotic
- o Very unpatriotic
- o Extremely unpatriotic

…tolerant or intolerant?
- o Extremely tolerant
- o Very tolerant
- o Somewhat tolerant
- o Somewhat intolerant
- o Very intolerant
- o Extremely intolerant

…generous or selfish?
- o Extremely generous
- o Very generous
- o Somewhat generous
- o Somewhat selfish
- o Very selfish
- o Extremely selfish

How much confidence, if any, do you have in American voters to <u>cast informed votes in elections</u>?
- o A great deal of confidence
- o A fair amount of confidence
- o Not too much confidence
- o No confidence at all

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the <u>American democracy</u>?
- o A great deal of confidence

...
o No confidence at all

Which of the following is the greater threat to American democracy?
- o People who do not vote
- o Uninformed voters

How strongly do you feel that [people who do not vote / uninformed voters] are a greater threat than [uninformed voters / people who do not vote]?
- o Not too strongly
- o Strongly

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

People who are not well informed about election issues should not be allowed to vote.
- o Completely disagree
- o Moderately disagree
- o Slightly disagree
- o Slightly agree
- o Moderately agree
- o Completely agree

People should be required to take a civics test before registering to vote.
- o Completely disagree

  ...
- o Completely agree

Too many uninformed people vote in this country.
- o Completely disagree

  ...
- o Completely agree

Most Americans are well-qualified to vote.
- o Completely disagree

  ...
- o Completely agree

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

I can count on public opinion polls to be accurate.
- o Completely disagree

  ...
- o Completely agree

I consider public opinion polls to be trustworthy.

o Completely disagree

...

o Completely agree

I find that public opinion polls are informative.
o Completely disagree

...

o Completely agree

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

I can count on the news media to be accurate.
o Completely disagree

...

o Completely agree

I consider the news media to be trustworthy.
o Completely disagree

...

o Completely agree

I find that the news media are informative.
o Completely disagree

...

o Completely agree

Additional Demographics + Quality Checks

Finally, we have a few background questions for statistical purposes.

What is the number of people in your household? Please enter a whole number:
o [Text entry. 1-100 permitted.]

What is your age? Please enter a whole number:
o [Text entry. 1-150 permitted.]

What is your ZIP code? Please enter a 5-digit number:
o [Text entry. 5 characters required.]

Based on the survey so far, what is your best guess as to the purpose of this research study?
o [Text entry.]

We sometimes find people don't always take surveys seriously, instead providing humorous or insincere responses to questions. Thinking back on **the current survey**, how often did you do this? (This will not influence your compensation at all.)
o Always

- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Rarely
- Never

Thank you for your participation. Is there anything else you would like to share about the survey?
- [Text entry.]

D Media Analysis

To estimate the proportion of U.S. newspaper articles that mention polls, we searched the NexisUni database (on March 1, 2022) for newspaper articles that met the following parameters:

1. Published between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2021.
2. English language.
3. U.S. newspaper (non-international).
4. Word count greater than 25 words.
5. Not an obituary.
6. Contained one or more of the following keywords or phrases:
   - "poll finds"
   - "survey finds"
   - "poll shows"
   - "survey shows"
   - "poll found"
   - "survey found"
   - "poll showed"
   - "survey found"
   - "poll says"
   - "survey says"
   - "poll suggests"
   - "survey suggests"
   - "poll conducted"
   - "survey conducted"
   - "poll released"
   - "survey released"
   - "poll published"
   - "survey published"
   - "poll produced"
   - "survey produced"
   - "poll" or "survey" and one or more of
     - "study finds"
     - "study found"
     - "study shows"

- "study showed"
- "study says"
- "study suggests"

We developed this extensive list of query terms after a review of articles citing surveys. We use these specific terms to ensure that our search identified articles that discuss surveys/polling rather than (e.g.) voting at "the polls" or other contexts in which these same root words might be used. We therefore consider our estimate to be conservative.

This procedure generated a total of 33,694 articles over the period of search that met the above criteria, including 4,801 produced by the *New York Times*. To estimate the total number of articles produced by the same newspapers over the same period, we repeated the same procedure as above, but with a blank query in place of step 6. This generated a total of 5,203,309 articles for the period of search, including 322,974 from the *New York Times*. Analyzing by year, we find that the estimated proportion of *New York Times* articles that mention polling or surveys ranges from a low of 1.2 percent (in 2018) to a high of 2.1 percent (in 2020), with the average at 1.5 percent over the period of search.