

LETTER

Supplementary File for ‘Lexicographic Preferences in Candidate Choice. How Party Affiliation Dominates Gender and Race’

Morten Hjortskov¹ and Simon Calmar Andersen^{*,2}

¹VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science Research

²Aarhus University, Denmark

*Corresponding author. Email: sca@ps.au.dk

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Ethical Considerations and Statement of Competing Interests

In our work, we comply with current standards for research transparency and ethics. Much of the data used in our paper is collected by other researchers. We refer to their published work regarding the details of the ethical standards employed (Kirkland and Coppock 2018; Horiuchi, Smith, and Yamamoto 2020). However, in the preregistered study, we use data collected through Amazon's Mechanical Turk (MTurk). MTurk is a voluntary service provided by Amazon in which participants can sign up to highly different work tasks, such as scientific surveys, and receive payment accordingly from the requester of the work task.¹

The participation in our study was of course also voluntary. The introduction to our work task presented the task as an academic survey on politicians and public policies. Our conjoint experiment was purely hypothetical and asked respondents to choose between nameless candidates without any reference to real candidates. Some respondents received one additional piece of information to inform their decision: party affiliation. To the respondent, there was no doubt that the exercise was hypothetical, so neither deception nor misinformation was used in this study. Respondents were anonymous to us and were paid \$1.21 for participating, representing 1/6 of the federal minimum wage in the US, corresponding to the 10 minutes that we estimated the survey would take to complete. The compensation was administered through MTurk's compensation system. No respondents were denied compensation.

The research has not been reviewed by an internal review board. Prospective review is not a requirement for this type of research in our country. (Until recently, the ethics committee only handled biological/health research.) The research involves no deception and minimal, if any, risk or harm to participants.

Data and code from this study are available at the Harvard Dataverse [insert link]

The funds for conducting this research were obtained from [institution anonymized for peer review].

Competing interests: The authors declare none.

Analysis of Kirkland and Coppock (2018). MTurk and YouGov Data Separately

In the main analysis, we have pooled the data from the two studies in Kirkland and Coppock (2018). Here, we present the same analysis but separated into the two original data collections (MTurk and YouGov).

1. See the participation agreement on <https://www.mturk.com/participation-agreement> and Amazon's privacy notice on https://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html/ref=footer_privacy?ie=UTF8&nodeId=468496

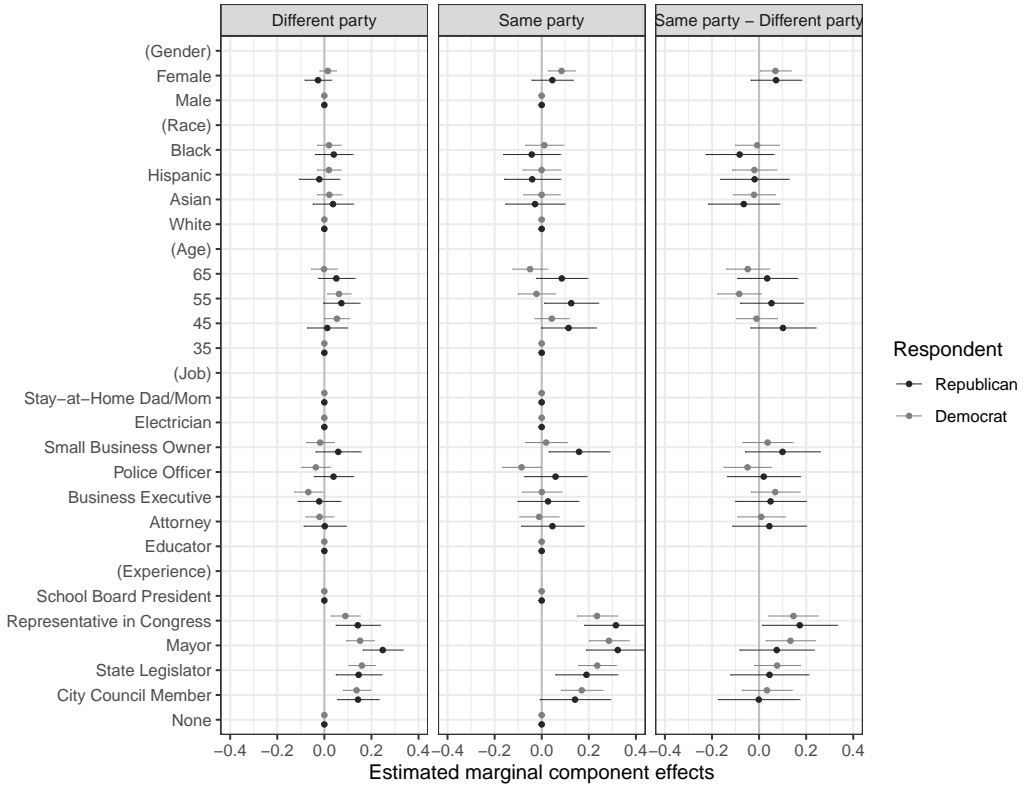


Figure S1. Marginal Component Effects with and without Difference in Party Affiliations—by Respondent Party. Kirkland & Coppock (2018) MTurk Data

Note: The attribute “Party” is included in the statistical model but not presented for readability concerns. Horizontal bars present 95% confidence intervals.

Figure S1 shows the results from the MTurk sample. The results mirror the ones from the pooled sample in Figure 2 in the main text, although wider confidence intervals also indicate lower statistical power. There is a significant effect of being a female candidate for democrats in the Same party - Different party panel, indicating that gender is a second-order attribute. However, in terms of race, the effect of black race is no longer significant. This is also true for age, although the point estimates reflect the same tendencies as in the pooled sample. Conversely, having experience as a representative in Congress or as a mayor is significant in the MTurk sample, which they are not in the pooled sample.

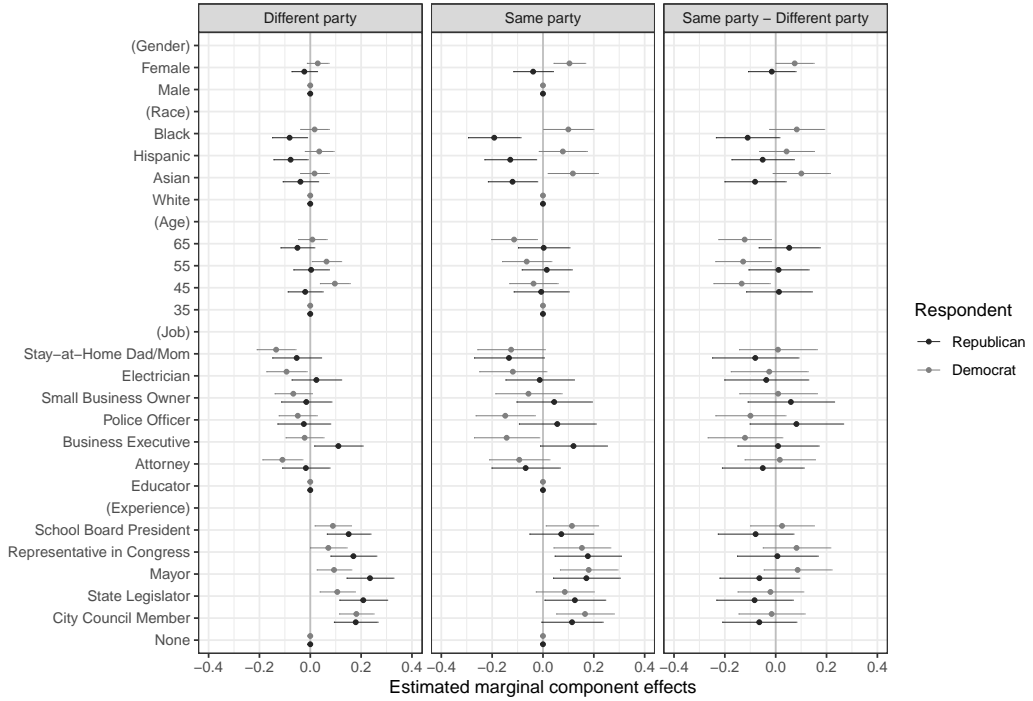


Figure S2. Marginal Component Effects with and without Difference in Party Affiliations—by Respondent Party. Kirkland & Coppock (2018) YouGov Data

Note: The attribute “Party” is included in the statistical model but not presented for readability concerns. Horizontal bars present 95% confidence intervals.

Figure S2 displays the results for the YouGov sample. Again, the effect of being a female candidate is significantly positive for democratic voters, and again, the effect of black race is insignificant in this sample. However, in the YouGov sample, age turns out to be significant at all levels, while there is no effect of experience as there is in the MTurk sample.

Placebo Tests Using Ties on Gender, Race, and Job

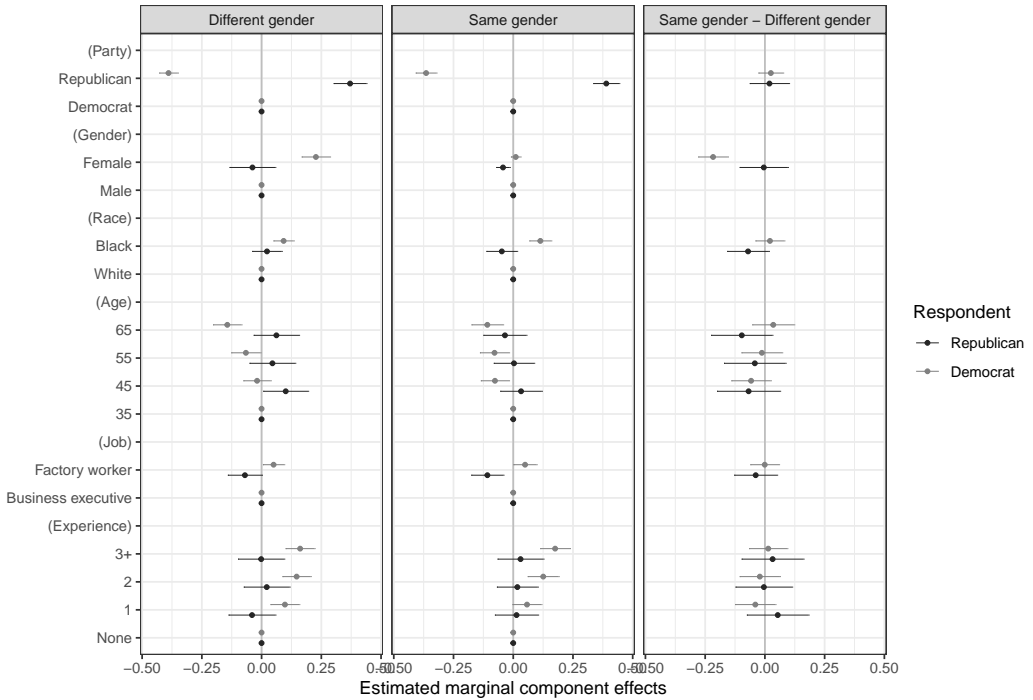


Figure S3. Marginal Component Effects with and without Difference in Gender—by Respondent Party. Preregistered Study

Note: The middle panel indicates a small but significant association between female candidates and choice for Republican respondents, even though this analysis only uses choice tasks where both candidates have the same gender. Both male and female candidates are selected by Republican respondents to the exact same extent (227 male candidates are chosen, 227 male candidates are not; 217 female candidates are chosen, 217 are not). The bivariate correlation between gender and choice of candidates is 0. However, by chance, there is a correlation between the party and gender attributes in this subset of the data, and when party and gender are included in the same model, we observe this small but significant correlation between gender and choice of candidate. Horizontal bars present 95% confidence intervals.

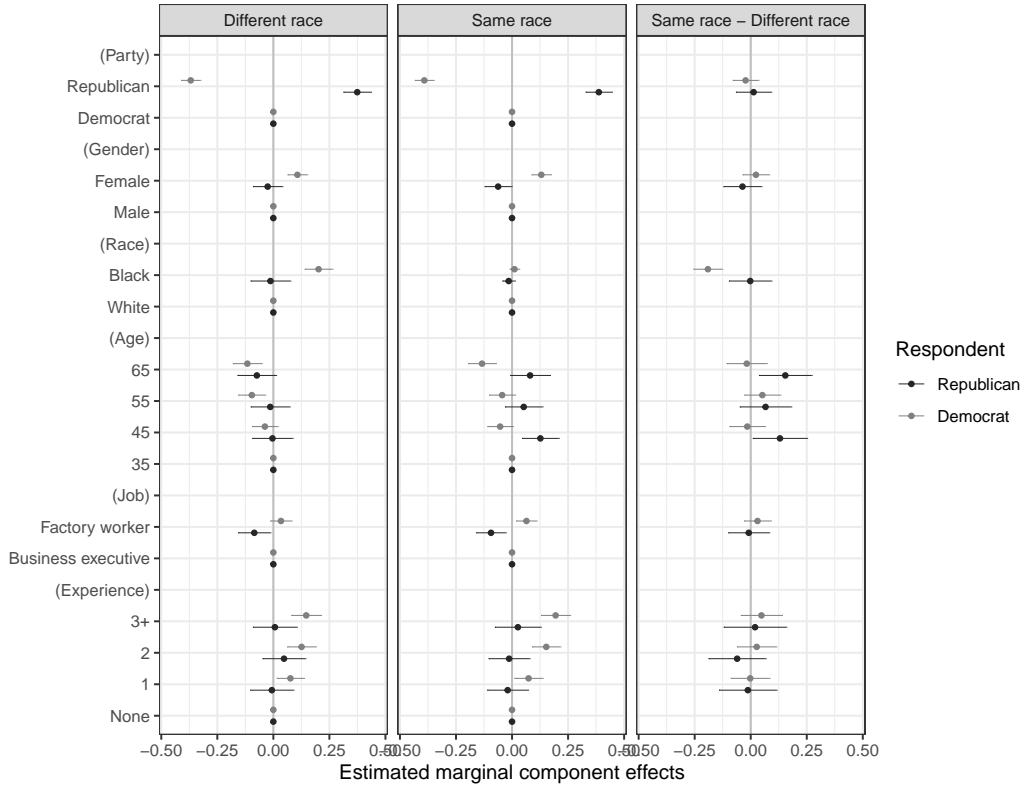


Figure S4. Marginal Component Effects with and without Difference in Race—by Respondent Party. Preregistered Study

Note: Horizontal bars present 95% confidence intervals.

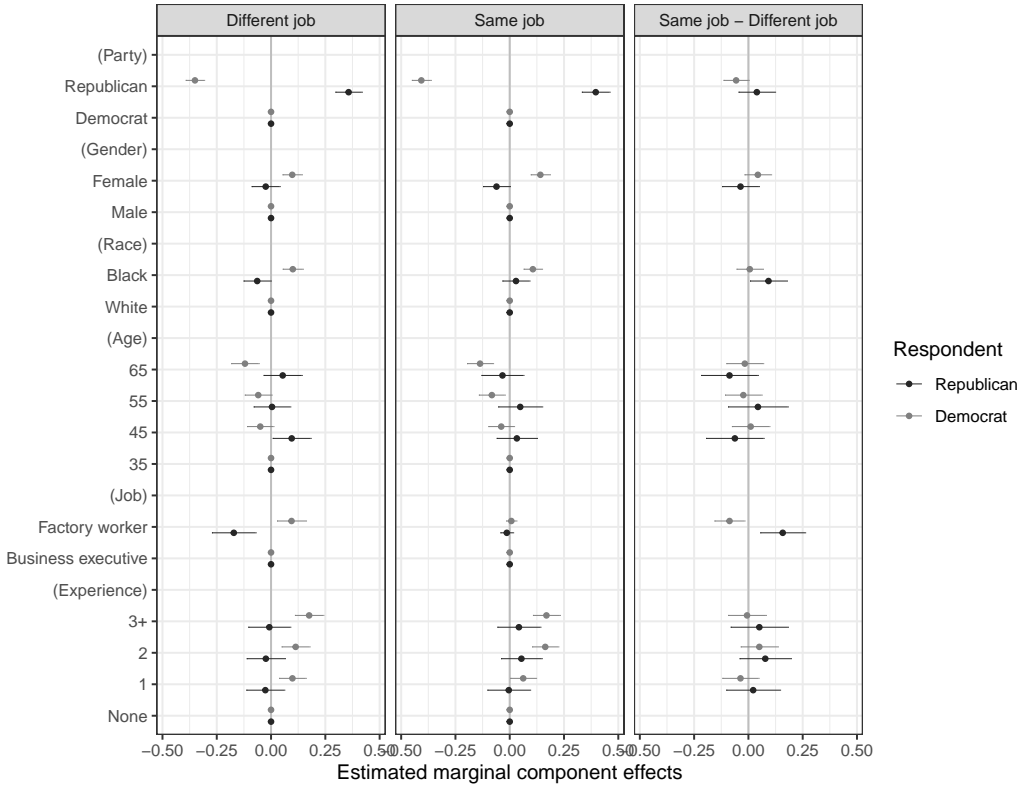


Figure S5. Marginal Component Effects with and without Difference in Job—by Respondent Party. Preregistered Study

Note: Horizontal bars present 95% confidence intervals.