**Appendix**

*Details on the use of Mturk*

Mturk allows researchers to set a wide range of requirements for subjects and thereby determine which demographic groups enter the sample. For our survey, respondents had to be at least 18 years of age, they needed to reside within the United States, and their approval rating on previous mturk tasks had to equal or exceed 98 percent. This last selection criterion was included in order to eliminate individuals who frequently submit “low-quality” work on mturk (which, in the case of surveys, might mean “speeding” through questionnaires or not reading instructions carefully). One commonly stated criticism of data collected on mturk is that samples are not representative of the general population of a given country. Indeed, consistent with previous work relying on mturk data, our sample is noticeably younger (41 percent of respondents are in the age bracket 18-34), more liberal (52 percent self-identify as “extremely liberal”, “liberal” or “slightly liberal”), and more educated (63 percent have completed a bachelor’s degree) than the U.S. population as a whole. Despite these characteristics, mturk respondent pools have a number of highly desirable features for experimental social science research. First, as Berinsky et al. (2012: 352) point out, “the demographic characteristics of […] MTurk users are more representative and diverse than the corresponding student and convenience samples typically used in experimental political science studies.” Second, the same authors also show that treatment effects discovered on amazon mturk tend to be very similar to those obtained in nationally representative samples.

*Balance Tests*

Table 1 provides balance tests between both experimental conditions. In particular, we calculate the group means with regards to age, gender, education, income, ideology, partisan identification, political knowledge, and political interest (measurement of these variables is described the main manuscript). This procedure shows that the randomization procedure was largely successful. Both experimental groups are near-identical on most relevant socio-demographic dimensions. Nevertheless, there are two notable exceptions. In particular, our treatment group has a somewhat lower level of political knowledge (t = 1.40) and higher level of political interest (t = 1.60) than our control group. While the differences on these two dimensions are small, we decided to perform the statistical analysis using regression analysis in order to ensure the effects of our treatment are not confounded by any remaining differences between our two experimental groups.

*Table 1: Balance Tests*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Control Group | Treatment Group | Difference (t-score) |
| Respondent Age | 1.77 | 1.79 | 0.23 (t = 0.52) |
| Respondent Gender (Male = 1) | 0.55 | 0.52 | 0.03 (t = 0.86) |
| Respondent Education | 4.48 | 4.41 | 0.07 (t = 0.90) |
| Respondent Income | 6.26 | 6.44 | 0.18 (t = 0.87) |
| Respondent Ideology | 3.62 | 3.66 | 0.04 (t = 0.32) |
| Respondent Party ID (Republican =1) | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.00 (t = 0.24) |
| Respondent Political Knowledge | 3.47 | 3.35 | 0.12 (t = 1.40) |
| Respondent Political Interest | 2.30 | 2.40 | 0.10 (t = 1.60) |

## Table 2 Logistic Regression Estimates of Attitudes Toward Elections

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Model 1:**  **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** | **Model 2:**  **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | | **Model 3:**  **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t care about people** | | **Model 4:**  **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any say about gov.** | | **Model 5:**  **Support**  **for Democracy** |
| **Treatment (Fraud Story=1)** | -0.234  (0.144) | -0.425\*\*\*  (0.144) | | -0.300\*\*  (0.130) | | -0.224\*  (0.128) | | -0.390\*\*\*  (0.145) |
| **Party ID: Republican** | 0.573\*\*  (0.238) | 0.747\*\*\*  (0.269) | | 0.225  (0.242) | | -0.017  (0.235) | | 0.091  (0.268) |
| **Party ID: Independent** | 0.191  (0.238) | -0.035  (0.243) | | -0.334  (0.222) | | -0.525\*\*  (0.218) | | -0.077  (0.251) |
| **Vote Choice: Biden** | 0.620\*\*\*  (0.225) | 0.067  (0.233) | | 0.186  (0.211) | | 0.340\*  (0.205) | | -0.452\*  (0.238) |
| **Vote Choice: “Other”** | -0.034  (0.377) | -0.941\*\*  (0.391) | | -0.765\*\*  (0.361) | | -0.910\*\*  (0.366) | | -0.809\*\*\*  (0.404) |
| **Age** | 0.118  (0.102) | 0.159  (0.102) | | -0.017  (0.093) | | 0.005  (0.091) | | 0.161  (0.104) |
| **Gender (Male = 1)** | 0.089  (0.146) | -0.140  (0.145) | | -0.160  (0.131) | | -0.131  (0.130) | | -0.058  (0.147) |
| **Education** | 0.081  (0.064) | 0.177\*\*\*  (0.065) | | 0.031  (0.059) | | 0.007  (0.058) | | -0.016  (0.065) |
| **Income** | 0.036  (0.025) | -0.016  (0.025) | | 0.066  (0.023) | | 0.059  (0.022) | | 0.025  (0.025) |
| **Conservative Ideology** | -0.248\*\*\*  (0.051) | 0.012  (0.052) | | 0.001  (0.046) | | -0.029  (0.046) | | 0.039  (0.051) |
| **Race: White** | 0.003  (0.181) | -0.305\*  (0.185) | | -0.248  (0.166) | | -0.306\*  (0.163) | | -0.046  (0.185) |
| **Ethnicity (Hispanic = 1)** | 0.082  (0.219) | 0.320  (0.232) | | -0.701\*\*\*  (0.208) | | -0.589\*\*\*  (0.203) | | 0.282  (0.231) |
| **News Consumption** | 0.060  (0.041) | 0.026  (0.042) | | 0.054  (0.038) | | -0.005  (0.038) | | -0.002  (0.042) |
| **Pol. Interest** | -0.237\*\*\* (0.088) | -0.534\*\*\*  (0.091) | | 0.005  (0.080) | | -0.121  (0.081) | | -0.176\*  (0.091) |
| **Pol. Knowledge** | 0.074  (0.061) | -0.311\*\*\*  (0.064) | | -0.059  (0.056) | | 0.061  (0.056) | | 0.256\*\*\*  (0.064) |
| **Swing State Residency** | 0.289  (0.201) | 0.083  (0.199) | | -0.178  (0.185) | | -0.119  (0.179) | | -0.019  (0.203) |
| **Cut Point 1** | -3.658 (0.615) | -3.912 (0.603) | | -1.507 (0.529) | | -2.088 (0.529) | | -3.368 (0.628) |
| **Cut Point 2** | -2.881 (0.591) | -1.003 (0.584) | | 0.469 (0.526) | | -0.357 (0.523) | | -1.567 (0.592) |
| **Cut Point 3** | -1.606 (0.576) | --- | | 1.290 (0.528) | | 0.431 (0.522) | | 1.395 (0.591) |
| **Cut Point 4** | 0.694 (0.574) | --- | | 3.906 (0.564) | | 2.409 (0.533) | | --- |
| **N** | 816 | 816 | | 812 | | 812 | | 773 |
| **Log-Likelihood** | -791.96 | -683.03 | | -1,111.55 | | -1,186.61 | | -774.02 |
| \* = p ≤ 0.10, \*\* = p ≤ 0.05, \*\*\* = p ≤ 0.01 | | |  | |  | |  | |

## Table 3 – Interaction Effects (Party ID)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Model 6:**  **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** | **Model 7:**  **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | | **Model 8:**  **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t care about people** | | **Model 9:**  **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any say about gov.** | | **Model 10:**  **Support**  **for Democracy** |
| **Treatment (Fraud Story=1)** | -0.702\*\*\*  (0.251) | -0.454\*  (0.266) | | -0.423\*  (0.244) | | -0.189  (0.239) | | -0.577\*\*  (0.263) |
| **Party ID: Democrat** | 0.308  (0.311) | 0.615\*  (0.320) | | 0.137  (0.289) | | -0.111  (0.285) | | 0.068  (0.319) |
| **Party ID: Independent** | -0.320  (0.308) | 0.139  (0.316) | | -0.422  (0.289) | | -0.266  (0.287) | | -0.487  (0.332) |
| **Treatment X Dem..** | 0.540  (0.331) | 0.218  (0.335) | | 0.171  (0.304) | | 0.151  (0.300) | | 0.056  (0.333) |
| **Treatment X Ind.** | 1.032\*\*  (0.401) | -0.366  (0.409) | | 0.174  (0.378) | | -0.534  (0.371) | | 0.801\*  (0.421) |
| **Vote Choice: Biden** | 0.583\*\*  (0.226) | 0.092  (0.234) | | 0.176  (0.212) | | 0.370\*  (0.206) | | -0.488\*\*  (0.239) |
| **Vote Choice: “Other”** | -0.145  (0.381) | -0.877\*\*  (0.394) | | -0.777\*\*  (0.362) | | -0.859\*\*  (0.367) | | -0.876\*\*  (0.406) |
| **Age** | 0.121  (0.103) | 0.160  (0.102) | | -0.016  (0.093) | | 0.004  (0.091) | | 0.164  (0.104) |
| **Gender (Male = 1)** | 0.092  (0.146) | -0.148  (0.146) | | -0.162  (0.131) | | -0.142  (0.130) | | -0.051  (0.147) |
| **Education** | 0.069  (0.064) | 0.179\*\*\*  (0.065) | | 0.029  (0.059) | | 0.009  (0.058) | | -0.025  (0.066) |
| **Income** | 0.035  (0.025) | -0.156  (0.025) | | 0.065\*\*\*  (0.023) | | 0.060\*\*\*  (0.022) | | 0.026  (0.025) |
| **Conservative Ideology** | -0.258\*\*\*  (0.050) | 0.010  (0.053) | | -0.003  (0.046) | | -0.030  (0.046) | | 0.034  (0.052) |
| **Race: White** | -0.041  (0.181) | -0.299  (0.186) | | -0.257  (0.166) | | -0.291\*  (0.164) | | -0.069  (0.186) |
| **Ethnicity (Hispanic = 1)** | 0.030 (0.221) | 0.344  (0.233) | | -0.709\*\*\*  (0.209) | | -0.564\*\*\*  (0.203) | | 0.248  (0.231) |
| **News Consumption** | 0.067  (0.042) | 0.027  (0.042) | | 0.055  (0.038) | | -0.008  (0.038) | | 0.001  (0.042) |
| **Pol. Interest** | -0.240  (0.088) | -0.545\*\*\*  (0.091) | | 0.003  (0.081) | | -0.134\*  (0.081) | | -0.171\*  (0.091) |
| **Pol. Knowledge** | 0.073  (0.061) | -0.313\*\*\*  (0.064) | | -0.060  (0.056) | | 0.061  (0.056) | | 0.257\*\*\*  (0.063) |
| **Swing State Residency** | 0.287  (0.202) | 0.091  (0.200) | | -0.186  (0.185) | | -0.118  (0.180) | | -0.031  (0.204) |
| **Cut Point 1** | -4.047 (0.638) | -3.950 (0.626) | | -1.608 (0.555) | | -2.093 (0.552) | | -3.532 (0.651) |
| **Cut Point 2** | -3.268 (0.614) | -1.028 (0.606) | | 0.369 (0.553) | | -0.353 (0.547) | | -1.729 (0.616) |
| **Cut Point 3** | -1.979 (0.598) | --- | | 1.191 (0.554) | | 0.437 (0.546) | | 1.244 (0.614) |
| **Cut Point 4** | 0.341 (0.593) | --- | | 3.807 (0.589) | | 2.415 (0.556) | | --- |
| **N** | 816 | 816 | | 812 | | 812 | | 773 |
| **Log-Likelihood** | -788.53 |  | | -1,111.38 | | -1,184.50 | | -741.80 |
| \* = p ≤ 0.10, \*\* = p ≤ 0.05, \*\*\* = p ≤ 0.01 | | |  | |  | |  | |

## Table 4 – Interaction Effects (Vote Choice)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Model 11:**  **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** | **Model 12:**  **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | | **Model 13:**  **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t care about people** | | **Model 14:**  **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any say about gov.** | | **Model 15:**  **Support**  **for Democracy** |
| **Treatment (Fraud Story=1)** | -0.729\*\*\*  (0.237) | -0.461\*  (0.249) | | -0.481\*\*  (0.229) | | -0.500\*\*  (0.224) | | -0.495\*\*  (0.248) |
| **Party ID: Democrat** | 0.542\*\*  (0.259) | 0.746\*\*\*  (0.270) | | 0.208  (0.243) | | -0.106  (0.235) | | 0.085  (0.269) |
| **Party ID: Independent** | 0.141  (0.240) | -0.025  (0.245) | | -0.350  (0.223) | | -0.554  (0.219) | | -0.089  (0.252) |
| **Treatment X Biden** | 0.798\*\*\*  (0.304) | 0.131  (0.309) | | 0.325  (0.283) | | 0.447  (0.278) | | 0.138  (0.310) |
| **Treatment X “Other”** | 0.722  (0.725) | -1.129  (0.746) | | -0.696  (0.688) | | -0.183  (0.706) | | 0.509  (0.762) |
| **Vote Choice: Biden** | 0.212  (0.274) | -0.001  (0.280) | | 0.025  (0.251) | | 0.106  (0.250) | | -0.524\*  (0.288) |
| **Vote Choice: “Other”** | -0.407  (0.546) | -0.309  (0.563) | | -0.380  (0.507) | | -0.817  (0.511) | | -1.071\*  (0.564) |
| **Age** | 0.107  (0.103) | 0.162  (0.102) | | -0.016  (0.093) | | 0.009  (0.091) | | 0.158  (0.104) |
| **Gender (Male = 1)** | 0.083  (0.146) | -0.131  (0.146) | | -0.156  (0.131) | | -0.1133  (0.130) | | -0.061  (0.147) |
| **Education** | 0.067  (0.064) | 0.177\*\*\*  (0.065) | | 0.027  (0.059) | | -0.002  (0.058) | | -0.019  (0.066) |
| **Income** | 0.035  (0.025) | -0.014  (0.025) | | 0.067\*\*\*  (0.023) | | 0.060\*\*\*  (0.022) | | 0.025  (0.025) |
| **Conservative Ideology** | -0.262\*\*\*  (0.050) | 0.010  (0.053) | | -0.006  (0.047) | | -0.038  (0.046) | | 0.037  (0.051) |
| **Race: White** | -0.041  (0.182) | -0.312  (0.185) | | -0.268  (0.166) | | -0.331\*\*  (0.164) | | -0.055  (0.186) |
| **Ethnicity (Hispanic = 1)** | 0.076 (0.220) | 0.319  (0.232) | | -0.715\*\*\*  (0.208) | | -0.605\*\*\*  (0.203) | | -0.275  (0.231) |
| **News Consumption** | 0.064  (0.041) | 0.027  (0.042) | | 0.053  (0.038) | | -0.006  (0.038) | | -0.002  (0.042) |
| **Pol. Interest** | -0.243\*\*\*  (0.088) | -0.533\*\*\*  (0.091) | | 0.002  (0.082) | | -0.127\*  (0.081) | | -0.180\*\*  (0.091) |
| **Pol. Knowledge** | 0.079  (0.061) | 0.311\*\*\*  (0.064) | | -0.058  (0.056) | | 0.064  (0.055) | | 0.256\*\*\*  (0.064) |
| **Swing State Residency** | 0.313  (0.202) | -0.063  (0.200) | | -0.198  (0.185) | | -0.131  (0.180) | | -0.031  (0.204) |
| **Cut Point 1** | -4.116 (0.640) | -3.923 (0.629) | | -1.670 (0.558) | | -2.352 (0.556) | | -3.475 (0.654) |
| **Cut Point 2** | -3.335 (0.616) | -0.998 (0.610) | | 0.315 (0.555) | | -0.616 (0.550) | | -1.675 (0.620) |
| **Cut Point 3** | -2.049 (0.600) | --- | | 1.138 (0.556) | | 0.174 (0.549) | | 1.287 (0.618) |
| **Cut Point 4** | 0.270 (0.595) | --- | | 3.754 (0.591) | | 2.154 (0.558) | | --- |
| **N** | 816 | 816 | | 812 | | 812 | | 773 |
| **Log-Likelihood** | -788.45 | -618.50 | | -1,109.92 | | -1,185.06 | | -743.76 |
| \* = p ≤ 0.10, \*\* = p ≤ 0.05, \*\*\* = p ≤ 0.01 | | |  | |  | |  | |

## Table 5 – Interaction Effects (Ideology)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Model 16:**  **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** | **Model 17:**  **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | | **Model 18:**  **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t care about people** | | **Model 19:**  **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any say about gov.** | | **Model 20:**  **Support**  **for Democracy** |
| **Treatment (Fraud Story=1)** | -0.022  (0.321) | 0.062  (0.308) | | -0.138  (0.276) | | -0.296  (0.273) | | -0.654\*\*  (0.313) |
| **Party ID: Democrat** | 0.580\*\*  (0.258) | 0.772\*\*\*  (0.270) | | 0.235  (0.242) | | -0.018  (0.235) | | 0.083  (0.268) |
| **Party ID: Independent** | 0.196  (0.238) | -0.025  (0.243) | | -0.328  (0.222) | | -0.525\*\*  (0.218) | | -0.083  (0.251) |
| **Treatment X Ideology** | -0.056  (0.076) | -0.136\*  (0.075) | | -0.045  (0.068) | | 0.020  (0.067) | | 0.072  (0.076) |
| **Vote Choice: Biden** | 0.630\*\*  (0.225) | 0.094  (0.234) | | 0.192  (0.211) | | 0.336  (0.206) | | -0.462\*  (0.238) |
| **Vote Choice: “Other”** | -0.032  (0.377) | -0.912\*\*  (0.392) | | -0.762\*  (0.360) | | -0.911\*\*  (0.366) | | -0.816\*\*  (0.405) |
| **Age** | 0.114  (0.103) | 0.153  (0.102) | | -0.020  (0.093) | | 0.006  (0.091) | | 0.165  (0.104) |
| **Gender (Male = 1)** | 0.082  (0.146) | -0.155  (0.146) | | -0.167  (0.132) | | -0.128  (0.130) | | -0.049  (0.147) |
| **Education** | 0.076  (0.064) | 0.168\*\*  (0.065) | | 0.028  (0.059) | | -0.008  (0.058) | | -0.010  (0.066) |
| **Income** | 0.037  (0.025) | -0.014  (0.025) | | 0.066\*\*\*  (0.022) | | 0.058\*\*  (0.022) | | 0.025  (0.025) |
| **Conservative Ideology** | -0.218\*\*\*  (0.065) | 0.087  (0.067) | | 0.025  (0.060) | | -0.040  (0.059) | | -0.001  (0.066) |
| **Race: White** | -0.007  (0.181) | -0.335  (0.185) | | -0.256  (0.166) | | -0.301\*  (0.164) | | -0.030  (0.186) |
| **Ethnicity (Hispanic = 1)** | 0.076 (0.219) | 0.308  (0.232) | | -0.707\*\*\*  (0.208) | | -0.586\*\*\*  (0.203) | | 0.290  (0.230) |
| **News Consumption** | 0.060  (0.041) | 0.026  (0.042) | | 0.053  (0.038) | | -0.005  (0.038) | | -0.002  (0.042) |
| **Pol. Interest** | -0.240\*\*\*  (0.088) | -0.542\*\*\*  (0.091) | | 0.002  (0.080) | | -0.120  (0.081) | | -0.171\*\*  (0.091) |
| **Pol. Knowledge** | 0.075  (0.060) | 0.311\*\*\*  (0.064) | | -0.058  (0.056) | | 0.060  (0.056) | | 0.253\*\*\*  (0.064) |
| **Swing State Residency** | 0.288  (0.201) | -0.069  (0.200) | | -0.186  (0.185) | | -0.115  (0.180) | | -0.004  (0.204) |
| **Cut Point 1** | -3.573 (0.625) | -3.714 (0.612) | | -1.447 (0.536) | | -2.115 (0.536) | | -3.472 (0.637) |
| **Cut Point 2** | -2.796 (0.601) | -0.791 (0.595) | | 0.530 (0.534) | | -0.383 (0.530) | | -1.671 (0.602) |
| **Cut Point 3** | -1.516 (0.587) | --- | | 1.352 (0.536) | | 0.405 (0.529) | | 1.294 (0.600) |
| **Cut Point 4** | 0.785 (0.586) | --- | | 3.967 (0.572) | | 2.383 (0.540) | | --- |
| **N** | 816 | 816 | | 812 | | 812 | | 773 |
| **Log-Likelihood** | -791.69 | -681.41 | | -1,111.33 | | -1,186.57 | | -743.57 |
| \* = p ≤ 0.10, \*\* = p ≤ 0.05, \*\*\* = p ≤ 0.01 | | |  | |  | |  | |

Discussion: Here, we examined the role of people’s political ideologies. More specifically, we interacted ideology with our binary Treatment-indicator. Taken as a whole, this procedure fails to uncover statistically significant results. The inclusion of the interaction term does not improve model fit in Model 16, 18, 19, and 20. In Model 17, the interaction term approaches statistical significance, but even here we cannot reject the null hypothesis that Models 17 and 2 are identical to each other in terms of overall fit (p=0.08). Taken as a whole, these analyses suggest that our experiment had similar effects across people’s political ideologies.

## Table 6 – Interaction Effects (Swing State Residence)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Model 21:**  **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** | **Model 22:**  **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | | **Model 23:**  **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t Care about people** | | **Model 24:**  **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any Say about gov.** | | **Model 25:**  **Support**  **for Democracy** |
| **Treatment (Fraud Story=1)** | -0.250  (0.155) | -0.382\*\*  (0.155) | | -0.345\*\*  (0.140) | | -0.306\*\*  (0.139) | | -0.342\*\*  (0.156) |
| **Party ID: Democrat** | 0.571\*\*  (0.258) | 0.748\*\*\*  (0.269) | | 0.220  (0.242) | | -0.024  (0.236) | | 0.092  (0.268) |
| **Party ID: Independent** | 0.188  (0.238) | -0.029  (0.243) | | -0.344  (0.222) | | -0.534\*\*  (0.218) | | -0.072  (0.252) |
| **Treatment X Swing State** | 0.104  (0.401) | -0.284  (0.399) | | 0.312  (0.367) | | 0.539  (0.357) | | -0.328  (0.406) |
| **Vote Choice: Biden** | 0.623\*\*\*  (0.225) | 0.061  (0.233) | | 0.194  (0.211) | | 0.354  (0.206) | | -0.458\*  (0.239) |
| **Vote Choice: “Other”** | -0.026  (0.378) | -0.961\*\*  (0.392) | | -0.744\*\*  (0.361) | | -0.879\*\*  (0.367 | | -0.833\*\*  (0.406) |
| **Age** | 0.118  (0.102) | 0.157  (0.102) | | -0.017  (0.093) | | 0.006  (0.091) | | 0.160  (0.104) |
| **Gender (Male = 1)** | 0.089  (0.146) | -0.140  (0.146) | | -0.161  (0.131) | | -0.132  (0.130) | | -0.060  (0.147) |
| **Education** | 0.081  (0.064) | 0.176\*\*\*  (0.065) | | 0.031  (0.059) | | -0.008  (0.058) | | -0.017  (0.066) |
| **Income** | 0.036  (0.025) | -0.015  (0.025) | | 0.066\*\*\*  (0.022) | | 0.058\*\*  (0.022) | | 0.026  (0.025) |
| **Conservative Ideology** | -0.247\*\*\*  (0.050) | 0.010  (0.052) | | -0.002  (0.047) | | -0.025  (0.046) | | 0.036  (0.051) |
| **Race: White** | -0.006  (0.181) | -0.313  (0.185) | | -0.244  (0.166) | | -0.303\*\*  (0.163) | | -0.056  (0.185) |
| **Ethnicity (Hispanic = 1)** | 0.080 (0.219) | 0.324  (0.232) | | -0.707\*\*\*  (0.208) | | -0.604\*\*\*  (0.203) | | 0.285  (0.231) |
| **News Consumption** | 0.059  (0.041) | 0.027  (0.042) | | 0.053  (0.038) | | -0.007  (0.038) | | -0.001  (0.042) |
| **Pol. Interest** | -0.238\*\*\*  (0.088) | -0.536\*\*\*  (0.091) | | 0.006  (0.080) | | -0.120\*  (0.081) | | -0.177\*  (0.091) |
| **Pol. Knowledge** | 0.075  (0.060) | 0.313\*\*\*  (0.064) | | -0.057  (0.056) | | 0.064  (0.056) | | 0.253\*\*\*  (0.064) |
| **Swing State Residency** | 0.238  (0.281) | 0.227  (0.285) | | -0.326  (0.254) | | -0.382  (0.250) | | 0.142  (0.284) |
| **Cut Point 1** | -3.659 (0.615) | -3.915 (0.603) | | -1.517 (0.529) | | -2.105 (0.529) | | -3.379 (0.628) |
| **Cut Point 2** | -2.883 (0.591) | -1.006 (0.584) | | 0.461 (0.526) | | -0.370 (0.523) | | -1.577 (0.592) |
| **Cut Point 3** | -1.606 (0.576) | --- | | 1.283 (0.528) | | 0.421 (0.522) | | 1.386 (0.591) |
| **Cut Point 4** | 0.692 (0.574) | --- | | 3.898 (0.565) | | 2.400 (0.533) | | --- |
| **N** | 816 | 816 | | 812 | | 812 | | 773 |
| **Log-Likelihood** | -791.93 | -682.78 | | -1,111.19 | | -1,185.47 | | -743.70 |
| \* = p ≤ 0.10, \*\* = p ≤ 0.05, \*\*\* = p ≤ 0.01 | | |  | |  | |  | |

*Robustness Checks*

In this section, we provide a number of robustness checks. More specifically, we re-estimated Models 6 -20 from above with an adjusted list of control variables. For the models that interacted treatment-status with party ID (Models R6 - R10) we left out vote choice and ideology. For the models that interacted treatment-status with vote choice (Models R11 – R15), we left out party ID and ideology. For the models that interacted treatment-status with ideology, we left our vote choice and party ID (Models R16 – R20). For all of these models, our substantive conclusions remain in place. In other words, our findings reported in the manuscript are unaffected by this change in model specification.

## Table R1 – Robustness Check; Interaction Effects (Party ID)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Model R6:**  **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** | **Model R7:**  **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | | **Model R8:**  **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t care about people** | | **Model R9:**  **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any say about gov.** | | **Model R10:**  **Support**  **for Democracy** |
| **Treatment (Fraud Story=1)** | -0.594\*\*  (0.245) | -0.477\*  (0.250) | | -0.386\*  (0.229) | | -0.079  (0.225) | | -0.426\*  (0.248) |
| **Party ID: Democrat** | 1.567\*\*\*  (0.235) | 0.675\*\*  (0.228) | | 0.273  (0.206) | | 0.308  (0.207) | | -0.245  (0.230) |
| **Party ID: Independent** | 0.395  (0.274) | -0.034  (0.265) | | -0.387  (0.244) | | -0.137  (0.247) | | -0.799  (0.281) |
| **Treatment X Dem..** | 0.330  (0.323) | 0.235  (0.317) | | 0.084  (0.287) | | 0.031  (0.285) | | -0.049  (0.315) |
| **Treatment X Ind.** | 0.895\*\*  (0.386) | -0.265  (0.370) | | 0.095  (0.324) | | -0.544  (0.339) | | -0.578  (0.380) |
| **Age** | 0.069  (0.100) | 0.126  (0.097) | | -0.030  (0.087) | | -0.016  (0.086) | | 0.183\*  (0.098) |
| **Gender (Male = 1)** | -0.030  (0.142) | -0.170  (0.137) | | -0.137  (0.123) | | -0.134  (0.122) | | -0.042  (0.137) |
| **Education** | 0.103  (0.062) | 0.163\*\*\*  (0.060) | | 0.022  (0.053) | | 0.013  (0.052) | | -0.071  (0.059) |
| **Income** | 0.031  (0.024) | 0.002  (0.023) | | 0.052\*\*  (0.021) | | 0.052\*\*  (0.020) | | 0.035  (0.022) |
| **Race: White** | -0.135  (0.178) | -0.331  (0.171) | | -0.134  (0.1154) | | -0.207  (0.152) | | 0.012  (0.171) |
| **Ethnicity (Hispanic = 1)** | 0.137 (0.217) | 0.406\*  (0.223) | | -0.631\*\*\*  (0.199) | | -0.497\*\*  (0.194) | | 0.234  (0.222) |
| **News Consumption** | 0.077  (0.041) | 0.034  (0.039) | | 0.061  (0.035) | | 0.005  (0.035) | | -0.022  (0.038) |
| **Pol. Interest** | -0.245  (0.086) | -0.554\*\*\*  (0.083) | | -0.063  (0.073) | | -0.190\*\*  (0.074) | | -0.193\*\*  (0.083) |
| **Pol. Knowledge** | 0.059  (0.059) | -0.280\*\*\*  (0.059) | | -0.073  (0.052) | | 0.024  (0.051) | | 0.254\*\*\*  (0.059) |
| **Swing State Residency** | 0.377  (0.197) | 0.101  (0.192) | | -0.072  (0.175) | | 0.005  (0.171) | | 0.070  (0.194) |
| **Cut Point 1** | -2.673 (0.563) | -3.852 (0.519) | | -1.680 (0.457) | | -1.956 (0.459) | | -3.761 (0.552) |
| **Cut Point 2** | -1.872 (0.536) | -0.961 (0.500) | | 0.201 (0.453) | | -0.304 (0.454) | | -1.822 (0.514) |
| **Cut Point 3** | -0.619 (0.520) | --- | | 1.013 (0.455) | | 0.488 (0.454) | | 1.041 (0.511) |
| **Cut Point 4** | 1.610 (0.522) | --- | | 3.560 (0.491) | | 2.428 (0.466) | | --- |
| **N** | 826 | 910 | | 906 | | 906 | | 857 |
| **Log-Likelihood** | -821.99 | -774.44 | | -1,256.02 | | -1,334.30 | | -841.59 |
| \* = p ≤ 0.10, \*\* = p ≤ 0.05, \*\*\* = p ≤ 0.01 | | |  | |  | |  | |

## Table R2 – Robustness Check; Interaction Effects (Vote Choice)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Model R11:**  **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** | **Model R12:**  **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | | **Model R13:**  **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t care about people** | | **Model R14:**  **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any say about gov.** | | **Model R15:**  **Support**  **for Democracy** |
| **Treatment (Fraud Story=1)** | -0.579\*\*  (0.233) | -0.406\*  (0.246) | | -0.448\*\*  (0.227) | | -0.447\*\*  (0.222) | | -0.462\*  (0.246) |
| **Treatment X Biden** | 0.590\*\*  (0.213) | 0.096  (0.304) | | 0.298  (0.279) | | 0.369  (0.274) | | 0.116  (0.307) |
| **Treatment X “Other”** | 1.078  (0.672) | -0.936  (0.708) | | -0.522  (0.664) | | -0.208  (0.688) | | 0.420  (0.747) |
| **Vote Choice: Biden** | 1.241  (0.213) | 0.484\*\*  (0.215) | | 0.210  (0.196) | | 0.228  (0.195) | | -0.551\*\*  (0.226) |
| **Vote Choice: “Other”** | -0.449  (0.478) | -0.556  (0.513) | | -0.710  (0.468) | | -1.019\*\*  (0.484) | | -1.092\*\*  (0.535) |
| **Age** | 0.034  (0.100) | 0.142  (0.101) | | -0.012  (0.092) | | -0.002  (0.090) | | 0.159  (0.103) |
| **Gender (Male = 1)** | 0.097  (0.142) | -0.086  (0.143) | | -0.144  (0.130) | | -0.098  (0.129) | | -0.045  (0.146) |
| **Education** | 0.072  (0.062) | 0.180\*\*\*  (0.064) | | 0.029  (0.058) | | -0.006  (0.058) | | -0.014  (0.065) |
| **Income** | 0.028  (0.024) | -0.017  (0.024) | | 0.062\*\*\*  (0.022) | | 0.059\*\*\*  (0.022) | | 0.025  (0.024) |
| **Race: White** | -0.149  (0.179) | -0.339  (0.184) | | -0.268  (0.166) | | -0.331\*\*  (0.162) | | -0.059  (0.184) |
| **Ethnicity (Hispanic = 1)** | 0.007 (0.213) | 0.243  (0.227) | | -0.783\*\*\*  (0.205) | | -0.583\*\*\*  (0.200) | | 0.283  (0.227) |
| **News Consumption** | 0.067  (0.040) | 0.017  (0.041) | | 0.044  (0.037) | | -0.015  (0.038) | | -0.004  (0.042) |
| **Pol. Interest** | -0.238\*\*\*  (0.084) | -0.559\*\*\*  (0.088) | | -0.037  (0.078) | | -0.158\*\*  (0.079) | | -0.194\*\*  (0.089) |
| **Pol. Knowledge** | 0.075  (0.059) | 0.301\*\*\*  (0.063) | | -0.060  (0.055) | | 0.053  (0.055) | | 0.246\*\*\*  (0.063) |
| **Swing State Residency** | 0.287  (0.195) | 0.016  (0.196) | | -0.198  (0.183) | | -0.139  (0.179) | | -0.032  (0.202) |
| **Cut Point 1** | -2.926 (0.567) | -4.118 (0.552) | | -1.705 (0.493) | | -2.156 (0.492) | | -3.692 (0.590) |
| **Cut Point 2** | -2.158 (0.541) | -1.229 (0.530) | | 0.268 (0.489) | | -0.441 (0.486) | | -1.894 (0.552) |
| **Cut Point 3** | -0.863 (0.523) | --- | | 1.082 (0.490) | | 0.343 (0.486) | | 1.070 (0.548) |
| **Cut Point 4** | 1.351 (0.523) | --- | | 3.685 (0.530) | | 2.311 (0.597) | | --- |
| **N** | 823 | 823 | | 819 | | 819 | | 777 |
| **Log-Likelihood** | -821.47 | -695.45 | | -1,121.94 | | -1,201.20 | | -747.48 |
| \* = p ≤ 0.10, \*\* = p ≤ 0.05, \*\*\* = p ≤ 0.01 | | |  | |  | |  | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Model R16:**  **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** | **Model R17:**  **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | | **Model R18:**  **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t care about people** | | **Model R19:**  **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any say about gov.** | | **Model R20:**  **Support**  **for Democracy** |
| **Treatment (Fraud Story=1)** | -0.150  (0.315) | 0.061  (0.288) | | -0.357  (0.263) | | -0.373  (0.260) | | -0.617\*\*  (0.297) |
| **Treatment X Ideology** | -0.014  (0.074) | -0.121\*  (0.070) | | 0.018  (0.064) | | 0.005  (0.064) | | 0.082  (0.071) |
| **Age** | 0.105  (0.100) | 0.106  (0.095) | | -0.014  (0.087) | | 0.002  (0.086) | | 0.181  (0.098) |
| **Gender (Male = 1)** | 0.040  (0.142) | -0.142  (0.134) | | -0.107  (0.122) | | -0.078  (0.1121) | | -0.045  (0.136) |
| **Education** | 0.131\*\*  (0.062) | 0.181\*\*  (0.057) | | 0.046  (0.052) | | 0.025  (0.052) | | -0.044  (0.059) |
| **Income** | 0.031  (0.024) | 0.001  (0.022) | | 0.048\*\*  (0.020) | | 0.052\*\*  (0.020) | | 0.034  (0.022) |
| **Conservative Ideology** | -0.400\*\*\*  (0.053) | -0.027  (0.050) | | -0.060  (0.046) | | -0.082\*  (0.046) | | 0.028  (0.052) |
| **Race: White** | -0.027  (0.178) | -0.406\*\*  (0.168) | | -0.154  (0.152) | | -0.220  (0.150) | | 0.008  (0.170) |
| **Ethnicity (Hispanic = 1)** | -0.019 (0.214) | 0.187  (0.213) | | -0.709\*\*\*  (0.195) | | -0.570\*\*\*  (0.190) | | 0.228  (0.215) |
| **News Consumption** | 0.063  (0.041) | 0.025  (0.037) | | 0.055  (0.034) | | 0.001  (0.034) | | -0.021  (0.038 |
| **Pol. Interest** | -0.241\*\*\*  (0.085) | -0.615\*\*\*  (0.080) | | -0.142\*\*  (0.071) | | -0.239  (0.071) | | -0.257\*\*  (0.081) |
| **Pol. Knowledge** | 0.082  (0.059) | -0.267\*\*\*  (0.057) | | -0.088\*  (0.051) | | 0.009  (0.050) | | 0.241\*\*\*  (0.058) |
| **Swing State Residency** | 0.175  (0.195) | 0.028  (0.187) | | -0.093  (0.174) | | -0.015  (0.171) | | 0.009  (0.193) |
| **Cut Point 1** | -4.590 (0.574) | -4.322 (0.514) | | -2.087 (0.449) | | -2.452 (0.449) | | -3.352 (0.541) |
| **Cut Point 2** | -3.897 (0.547) | -1.542 (0.494) | | -0.221 (0.443) | | -0.837 (0.442) | | -1.473 (0.506) |
| **Cut Point 3** | -2.638 (0.530) | --- | | 0.598 (0.441) | | -0.038 (0.441) | | 1.373 (0.505) |
| **Cut Point 4** | -0.407 (0.522) | --- | | 3.132 (0.480) | | 1.886 (0.452) | | --- |
| **N** | 829 | 920 | | 916 | | 916 | | 865 |
| **Log-Likelihood** | -824.25 | -804.01 | | -1,276.00 | | -1,360.69 | | -855.96 |
| \* = p ≤ 0.10, \*\* = p ≤ 0.05, \*\*\* = p ≤ 0.01 | | |  | |  | |  | |

## Table R3 – Robustness Check; Interaction Effects (Ideology)

*Survey Questionnaire*

Text

Description automatically generated

Text, letter

Description automatically generated

**Vote Counted Fairly:**

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "My vote in the 2020 Presidential election was counted fairly"

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither disagree nor agree
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

**Electoral Responsiveness:**

How much do you feel having elections makes the government pay attention to what the people think?

1. Not much
2. Some
3. A great deal

**Efficacy (Nocare):**

Public officials don't care much what people like me think.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

**Efficacy (Nosay):**

People like me don't have any say about what the government does.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

**Support for Democracy:**

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Democracy may have problems but it's better than any other form of government."

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Agree
4. Strongly Agree

**Age:**

Which category below includes your age?

1. 18-34
2. 35-54
3. 55 or older

**Race:**

Which of the following best describes your racial identity?

1. White
2. Black or African American
3. American Indian or Alaska Native
4. Asian
5. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
6. From multiple races
7. Some other race (please specify)
8. I prefer not to answer

**Hispanic Origin:**

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican or Cuban?

1. Yes
2. No.
3. Prefer not to answer

**Gender:**

Which of the following best describes your gender identity?

1. Male
2. Female
3. Other (please specify)
4. Prefer not to answer

**Education:**

What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?

1. Less than high school degree
2. High school degree or equivalent (e.g., GED)
3. Some college but no degree
4. Associate degree
5. Bachelor’s degree or equivalent
6. Graduate or professional degree
7. Prefer not to answer

**Ideology:**

Thinking about your political ideology, where would you place yourself on this scale?

1. Extremely Liberal
2. Liberal
3. Slightly Liberal
4. Moderate, middle of the road.
5. Slightly conservative
6. Conservative
7. Extremely conservative
8. Prefer not to answer.

**Party ID:**

Which of the following best describes how you usually think of yourself?

1. Democrat
2. Independent
3. Republican
4. Prefer not to answer

**News Consumption:**

During a typical week, how many days do you watch, read, or listen to news on TV, radio, printed newspapers, or the Internet, not including sports?

1. 0
2. 1
3. 2
4. 3
5. 4
6. 5
7. 6
8. 7

**Voter Status:**

In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people are not able to vote because they are not registered, they are sick, or they just don’t have time. How about you— did you vote in the Presidential election held on November 3, 2020?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Prefer not to answer

**Vote Choice:**

And who did you vote for?

1. Donald Trump
2. Joe Biden
3. Other
4. Prefer not to answer

**Political Interest:**

Do you consider your interest in politics to be very great, great, some, little, or are you not interested in politics at all?

1. Very great
2. Great
3. Some
4. Little
5. Not at all

**Income:**

Last year, that is in 2019, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?

1. Less than $10,000
2. $10,000 - $19,999
3. $20,000 - $29,999
4. $30,000 - $39,999
5. $40,000 - $49,999
6. $50,000 - $59,999
7. $60,000 - $69,999
8. $70,000 - $79,999
9. $80,000 - $89,999
10. $90,000 - $99,999
11. $100,000 - $149,999
12. More than $150,000
13. Prefer not to answer

**Homestate**

In which state do you currently reside?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Political Knowledge Items**

**Question 1**: Is the U.S. federal budget deficit – the amount by which the government’s spending exceeds the amount of money it collects – now bigger, about the same, or smaller than it was during most of the 1990s?

1. Bigger,
2. About the same
3. Smaller

**Question 2**: For how many years is a United States Senator elected – that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. Senator?

Answer Options: 1-10+ years.

**Question 3**: On which of the following does the U.S. federal government currently spend the least?

1. Foreign Aid,
2. Medicare
3. National defense
4. Social security

**Question 4**: Which party currently holds a majority in the United States House of Representatives?

1. Democratic Party
2. Republican Party
3. I Don’t know

**Question 5**: Who is the current Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court?

1. Mike Pence
2. John Roberts
3. Paul Ryan
4. Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

## Table 7: Descriptive Statistics

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Min** | **Max** | **Mean /**  **ratio** | **Std. Dev.** |
| *Dependent Variables* |  |  |  |  |
| Was Vote Counted Fairly | 1 | 5 | 4.18 | 0.92 |
| Electoral Responsiveness | 1 | 3 | 2.29 | 0.66 |
| Efficacy (Nocare) | 1 | 5 | 2.47 | 1.10 |
| Efficacy (Nosay) | 1 | 5 | 2.70 | 1.21 |
| Support for Democracy | 1 | 4 | 3.10 | 0.71 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| *Independent Variables* |  |  |  |  |
| Age | 1 | 3 | 1.76 | 0.72 |
| Gender (male = 1) | 0 | 1 | 0.54 | 0.50 |
| Education | 1 | 6 | 4.31 | 1.31 |
| Income | 1 | 12 | 6.28 | 3.18 |
| Ideology | 1 | 7 | 3.63 | 1.91 |
| Race White | 0 | 1 | 0.77 | 0.42 |
| Hispanic | 0 | 1 | 0.15 | 0.36 |
| News Consumption | 0 | 7 | 5.03 | 2.06 |
| Political Interest | 1 | 5 | 2.37 | 0.98 |
| Political Knowledge | 0 | 5 | 3.41 | 1.34 |
| Swing State Residency | 0 | 1 | 0.15 | 0.36 |
| Vote Choice |  |  |  |  |
| Trump | 0 | 1 | 0.38 | -- |
| Biden | 0 | 1 | 0.58 | -- |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0.04 | -- |
| Party ID (ratios) |  |  |  |  |
| Republican Party | 0 | 1 | 0.31 | -- |
| Democratic Party | 0 | 1 | 0.45 | -- |
| Independent | 0 | 1 | 0.24 | -- |

## Table 8 Correlation between all Dependent Variables in our Study

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** | **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t care about people** | **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any say about gov.** | **Support for Democracy** |
| **Was Vote Counted Fairly?** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Elections Make Government Pay Attention** | r=0.30 |  |  |  |  |
| **Efficacy:**  **Public officials don’t care about people** | r=0.17 | r=0.32 |  |  |  |
| **Efficacy:**  **People don’t have any say about gov.** | r=0.21 | r=0.31 | r=0.68 |  |  |
| **Support for Democracy** | r=0.13 | r=0.19 | r=0.11 | r=0.12 |  |