The Effects of Cross-Ideological Endorsements in Ranked Choice Voting Elections (#239634)

Author(s)
This pre-registration is currently anonymous to enable blind peer-review.
It has one author.

Pre-registered on: 2025/07/23 - 09:47 AM (PT)

1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
Do cross-ideology endorsements under ranked choice voting elections reduce affective polarization?

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
The key dependent variables are affective polarization, measured two ways (Druckman and Levendusky 2019; Lelkes and Westwood 2017).
First, we ask the extent to which any of the following traits describe (liberal or conservative) candidates and elected officials: patriotic, intelligent, honest, open-minded, generous, hypocritical, selfish, and mean, each on 5 scale of not at all well (1) to extremely well (5). We will measure affective polarization as the difference in in-/out-ideology traits positivity pre- and post-treatment.
Second, we will use a set of feeling thermometers asking about (liberal or conservative) candidates and elected officials. We will measure affective polarization as the difference in in-/out-party feeling thermometers pre- and post-treatment.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
There will be three conditions (evenly distributed). In the plurality condition, respondents will read a story about an in-ideology candidate complimenting an out-ideology candidate. In the RCV condition, respondents will read about an in-ideology candidate complimenting an out-ideology candidate. In the RCV-endorse condition, respondents will read about an in-ideology candidate complimenting and endorsing an out-ideology candidate.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will regress measures of affective polarization on treatment condition using linear regression.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
Outliers will be conceptualized as inattentive respondents, which will be measured by whether the respondent failed the mock vignette check and/or factual manipulation check. We will conduct additional analyses with respondents who failed the attention checks to examine any influences of non-attentiveness on our results.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
We will collect 2,250 respondents. This will result in 750 observations per experimental conditions. This number was determined a priori based on power analyses. Any deviations from this exact amount will be due to Prolific and outside of our control.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
Nothing else to pre-register.

########## BUNDLE ##########
This pre-registration is part of a set of similar and/or related pre-registrations sharing at least one author. When one of these pre-registrations was shared by an author, the rest were shared automatically. Links to other pre-registration(s), appear below:

#239633 - https://aspredicted.org/hszh-h26n.pdf - Title: 'The Effects of Cross-Ideological Endorsements in Ranked Choice Voting Elections'
#239636 - https://aspredicted.org/xr38-6kbn.pdf - Title: 'The Effects of Cross-Ideological Endorsements in Ranked Choice Voting Elections'
#239637 - https://aspredicted.org/299v-9q5r.pdf - Title: 'The Effects of Cross-Ideological Endorsements in Ranked Choice Voting Elections'