

Online Appendix

Two Decades of Polarization in American State Legislatures

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July 19, 2022

NPAT

Figure 1 shows the distribution of the number of NPAT survey responders within-state.

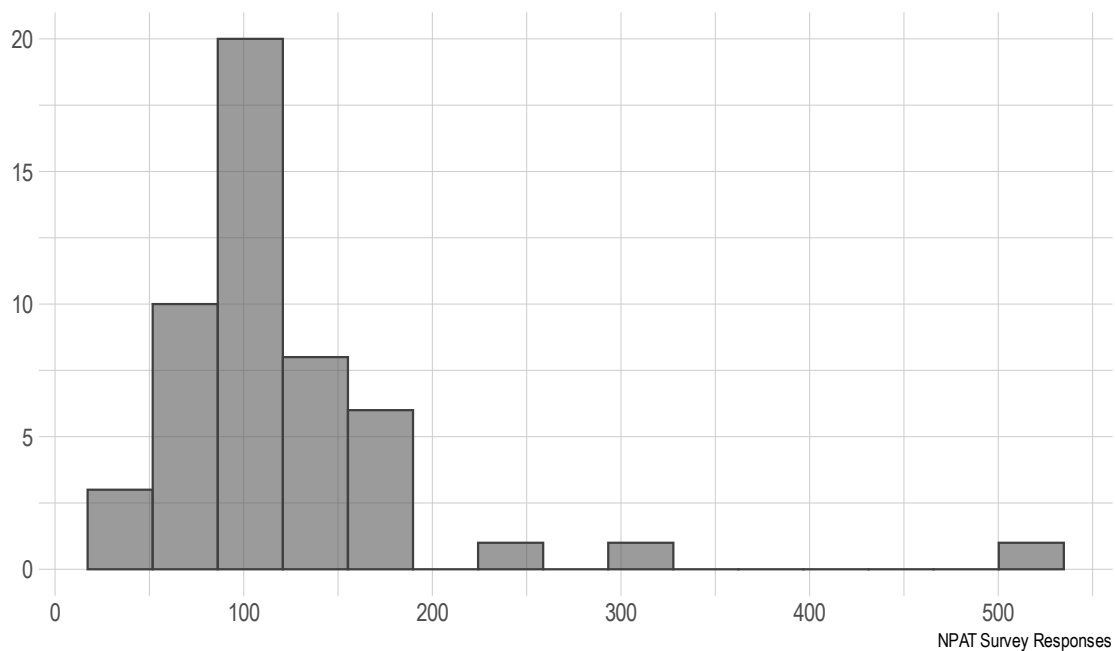


Figure 1: *Counts of NPAT survey responses within states*

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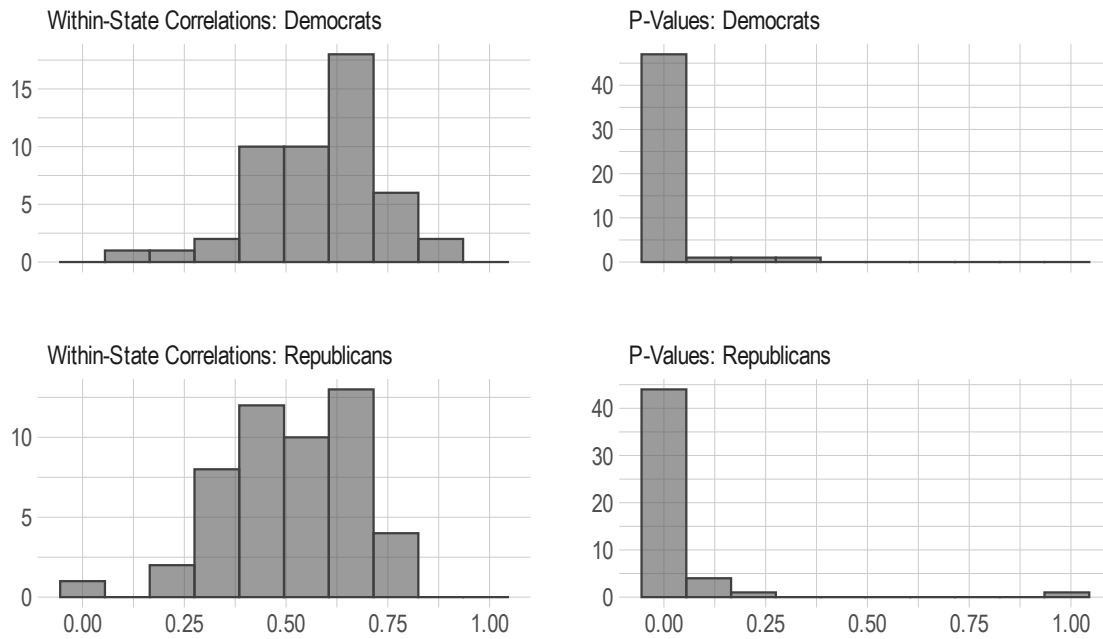


Figure 2: *Within-state, within-party correlation between roll call-based ideal points and survey-only ideal points.*

Figure 3 is a scatterplot of survey-only scores with within-state roll call based scores. The overall correlation is 0.77, and the within-party correlations range between 0.33 (Republicans) and 0.39 (Democrats). Figure 4 subdivides the data by region.

Figure 5 shows that within-party, within-state coefficients are uniformly positive. With two exceptions (Delaware at 0.06 and Rhode Island at 0.3), p-values are all essentially zero.

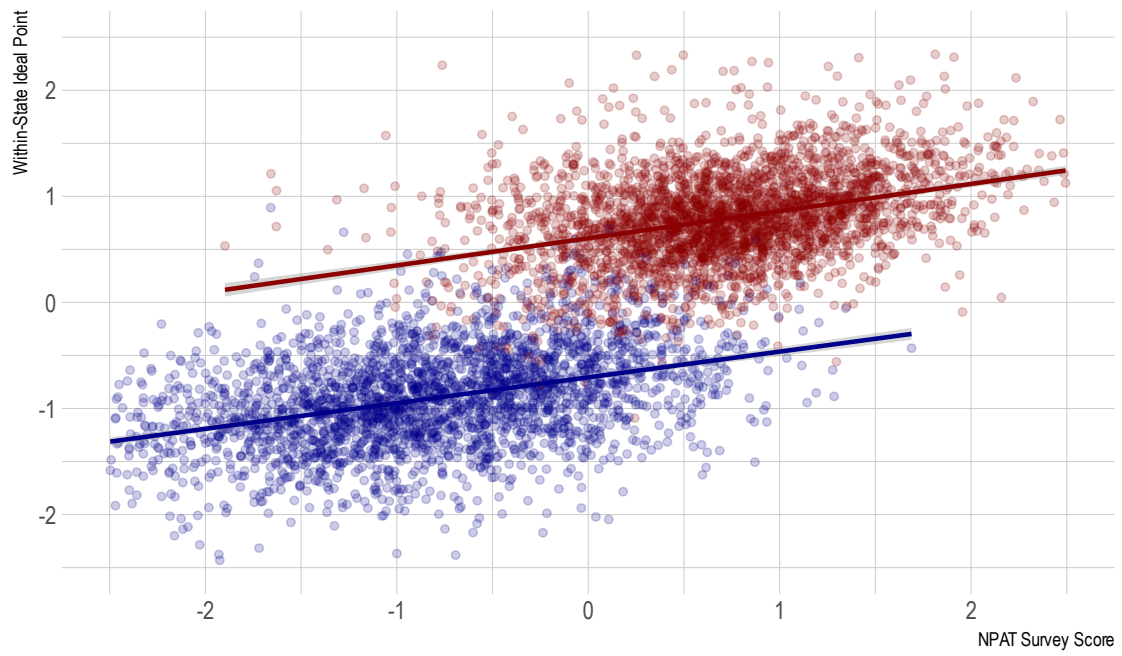


Figure 3: Scatterplot of NPAT survey scores and within-state scores

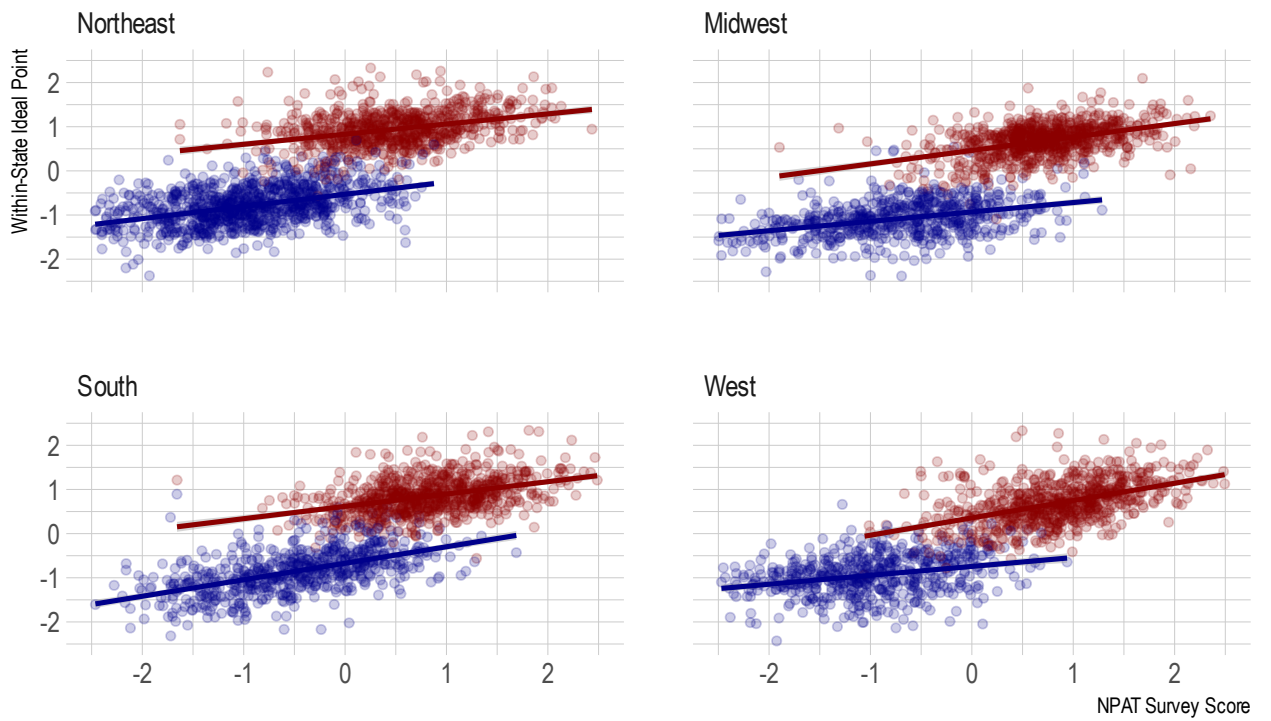


Figure 4: Scatterplot of NPAT survey scores and within-state scores, by region

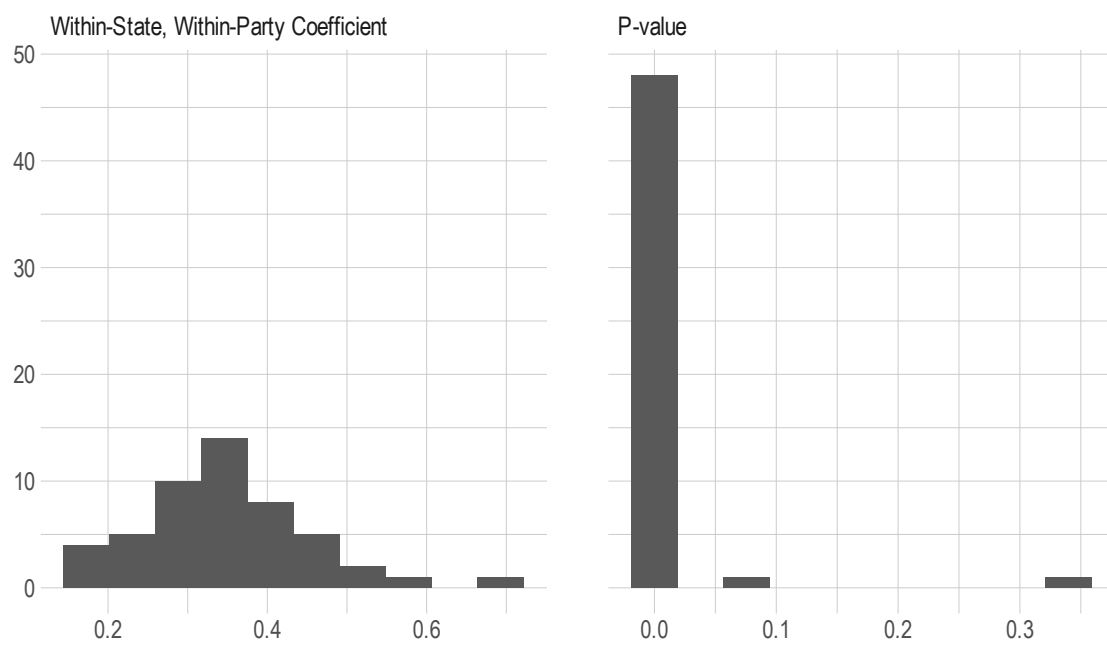


Figure 5: Coefficient and *p*-values from regressing NPAT scores on within-state ideal points.

Other Cross State Comparisons

Comparing across time, Figure 6.

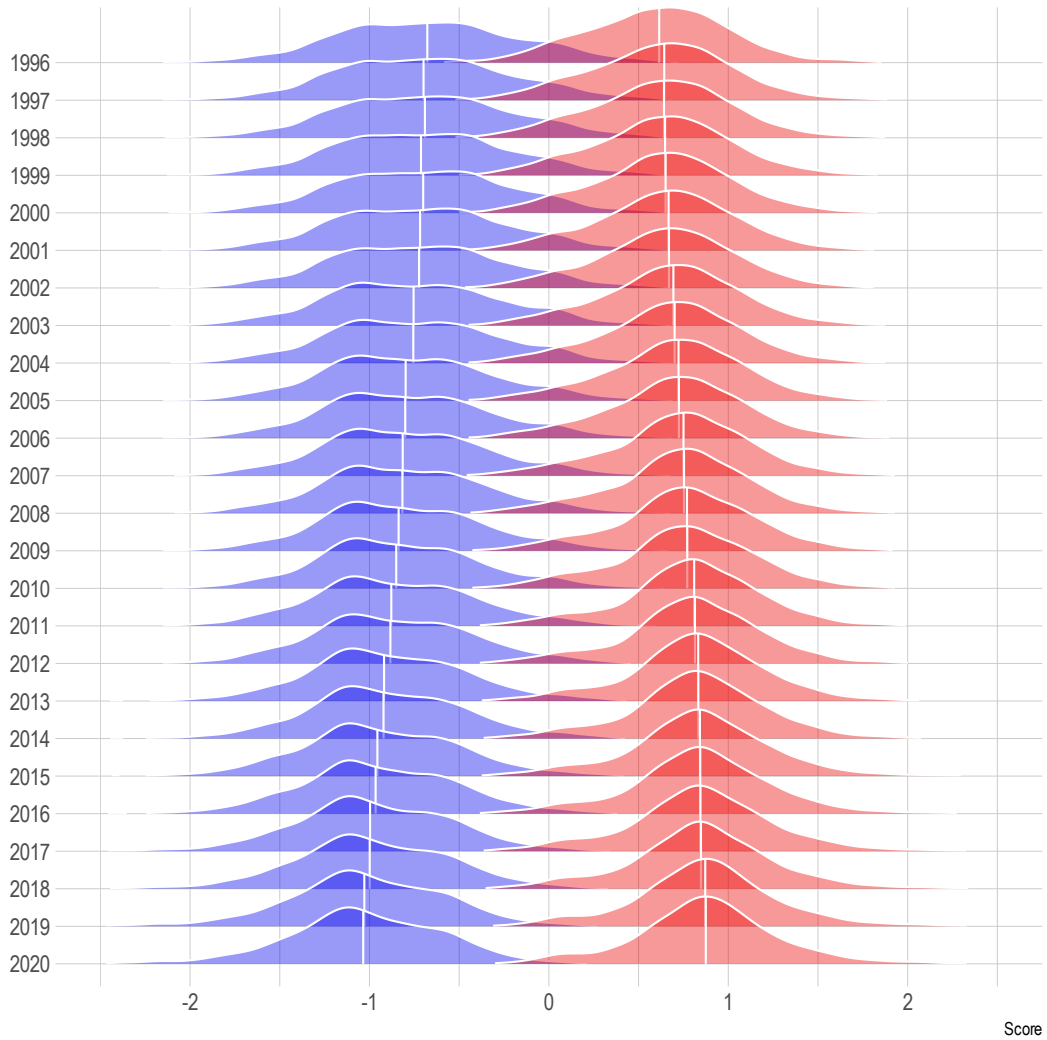


Figure 6: Legislator level ideal point densities, 1996-2020. Medians indicated by vertical line.

While we usually operationally measure polarization by differences in party *medians*, one might instead choose differences in party *means*. The latter might better capture the tails of the party ideology distributions which the median measure might miss. Figure 7 shows that mean differences are consistently higher than median differences.

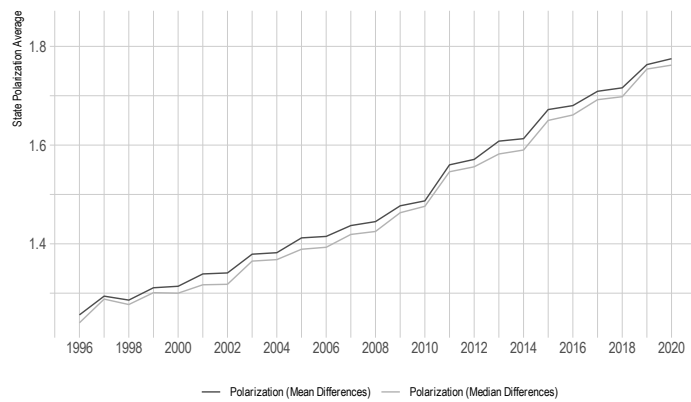


Figure 7: Trends in state legislative polarization over time, as measured by median and mean differences.

State Legislative Party Medians

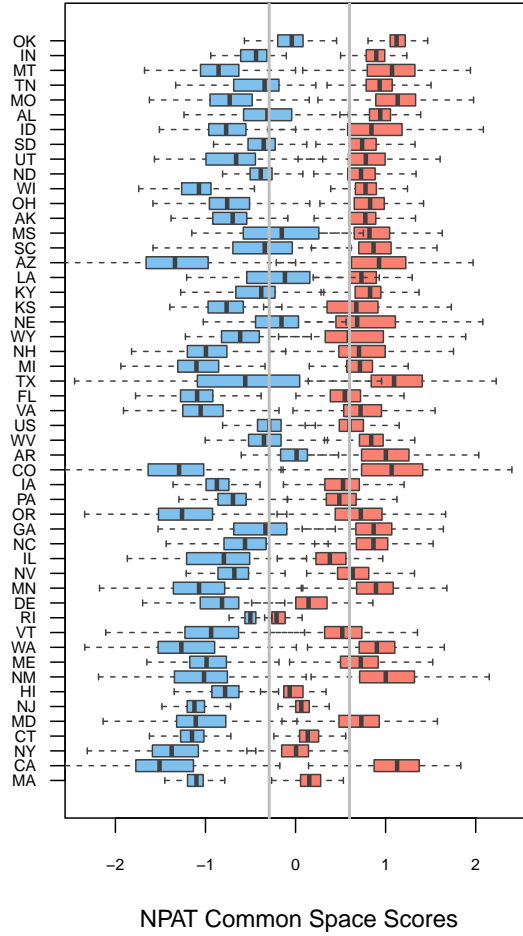


Figure 8: Boxplot of the distribution of ideology across and within states; states ranked by average ideology.

Polarization by Chambers

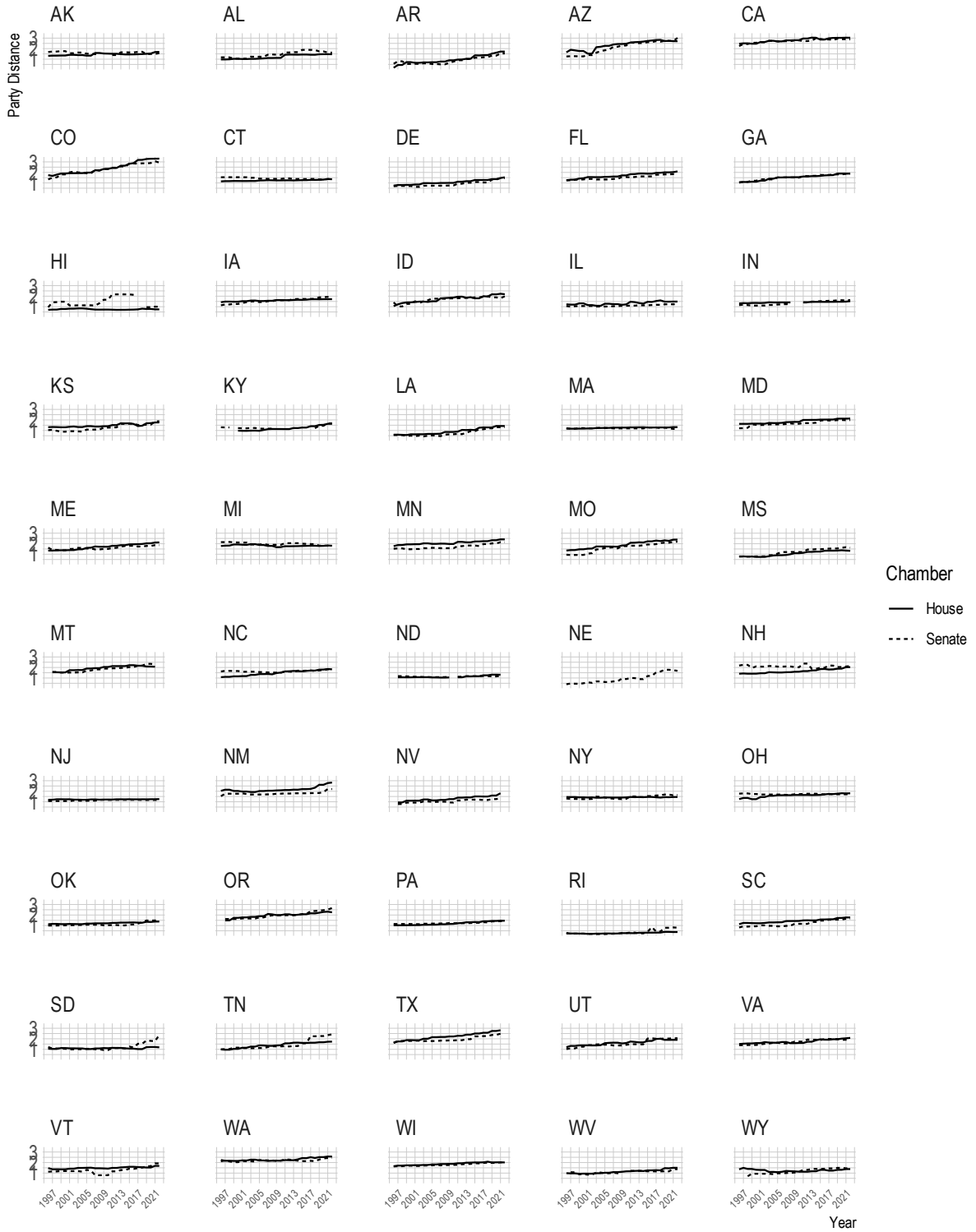


Figure 9: Difference in party medians. Higher values indicate more polarization.

Chamber Party Medians over Time

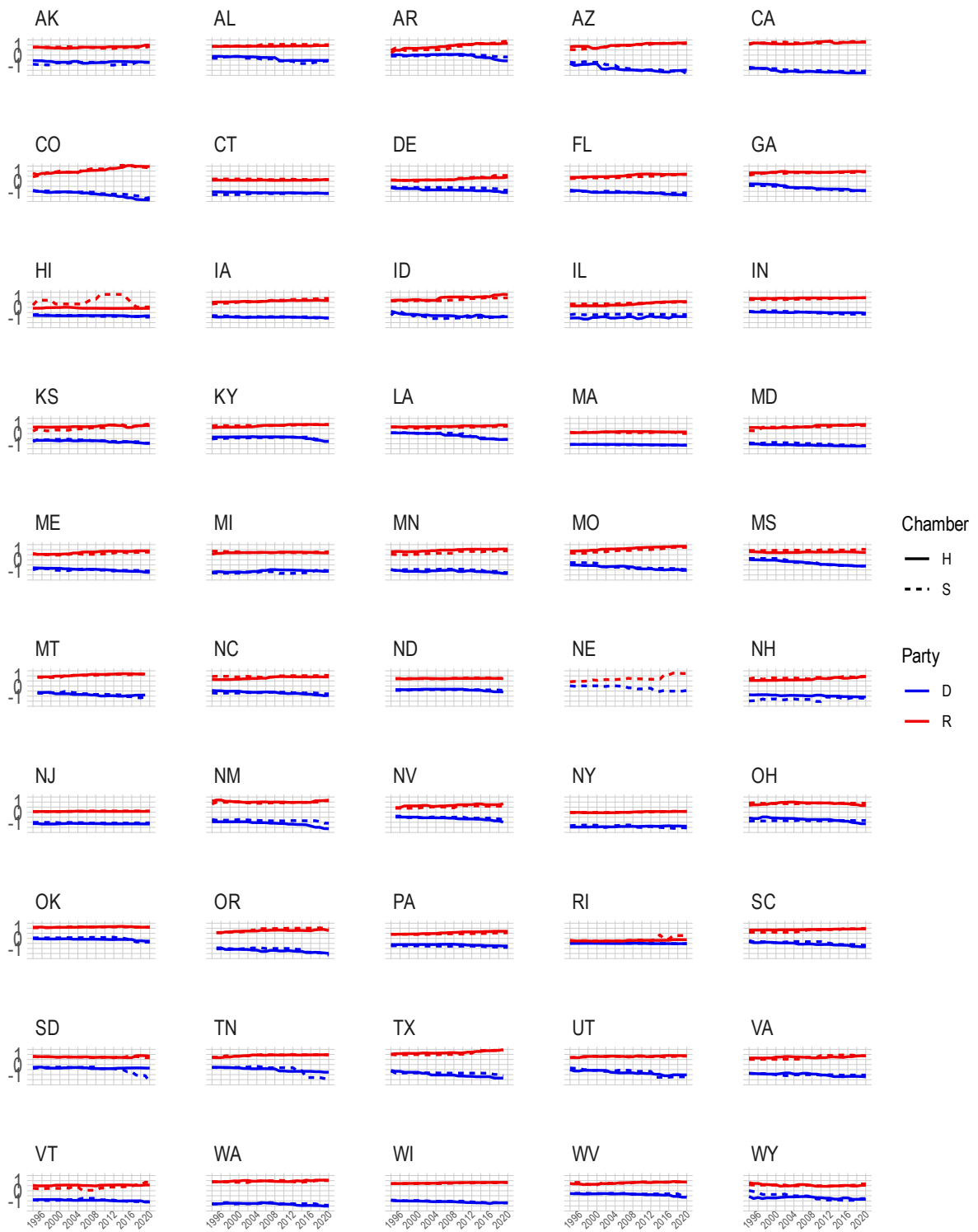


Figure 10: Chamber party medians

State Party Slopegraphs

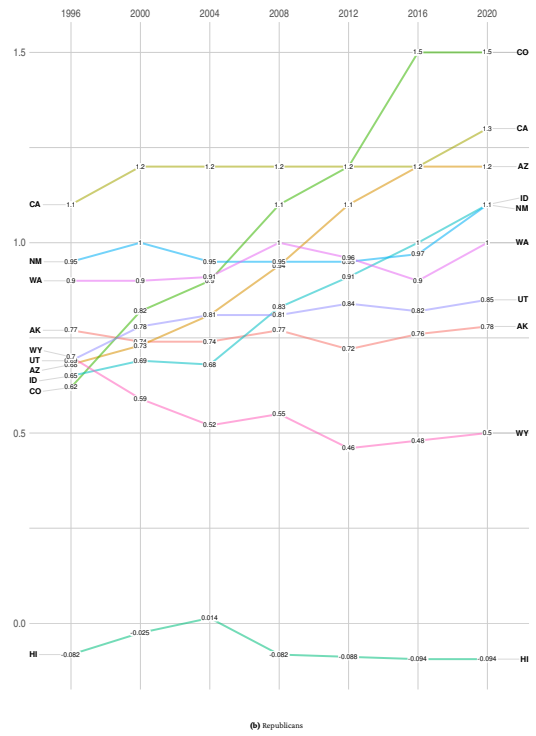
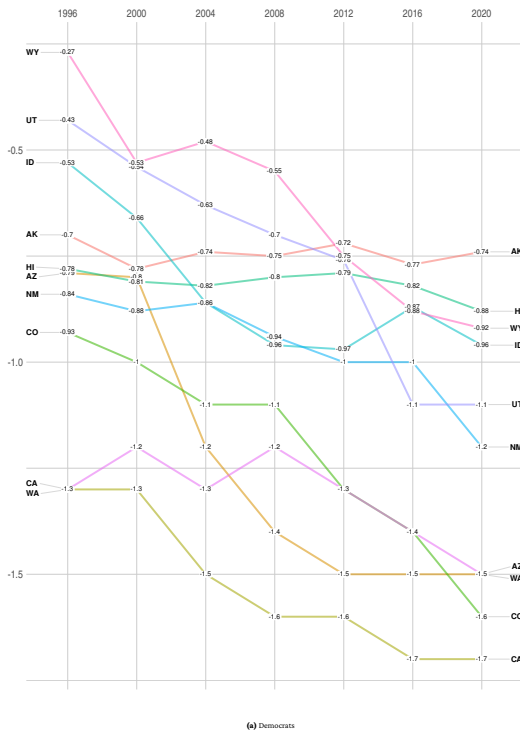


Figure 11: Party Polarization in the West

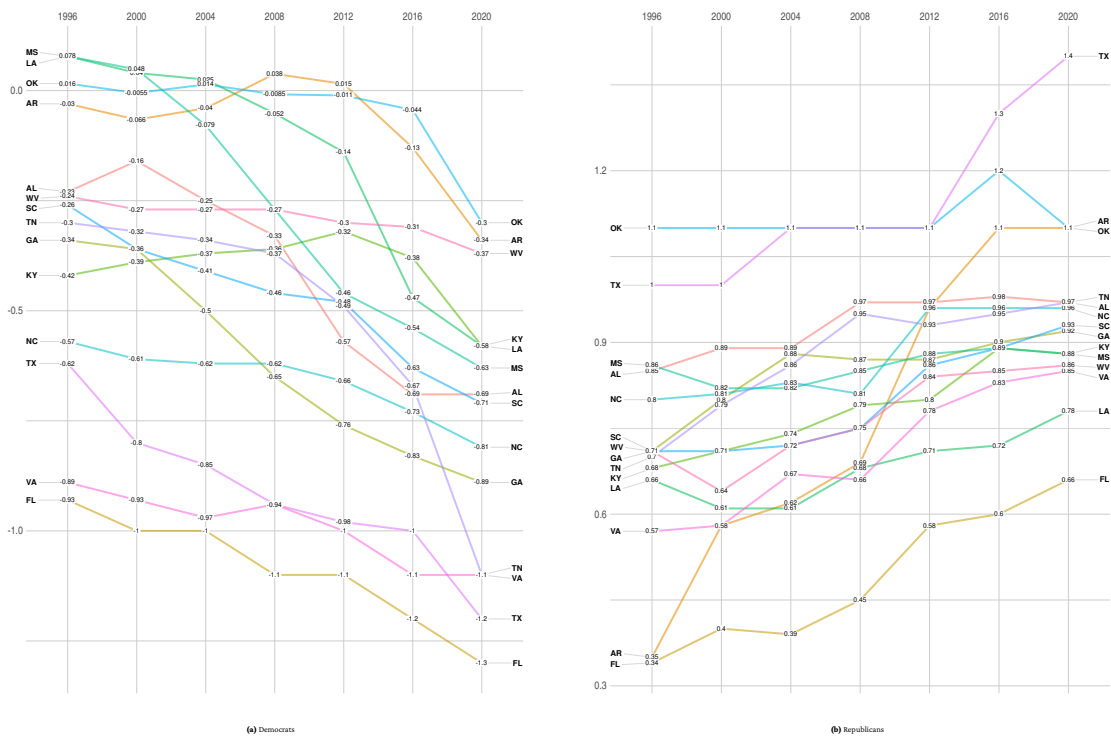


Figure 12: Party Polarization in the South

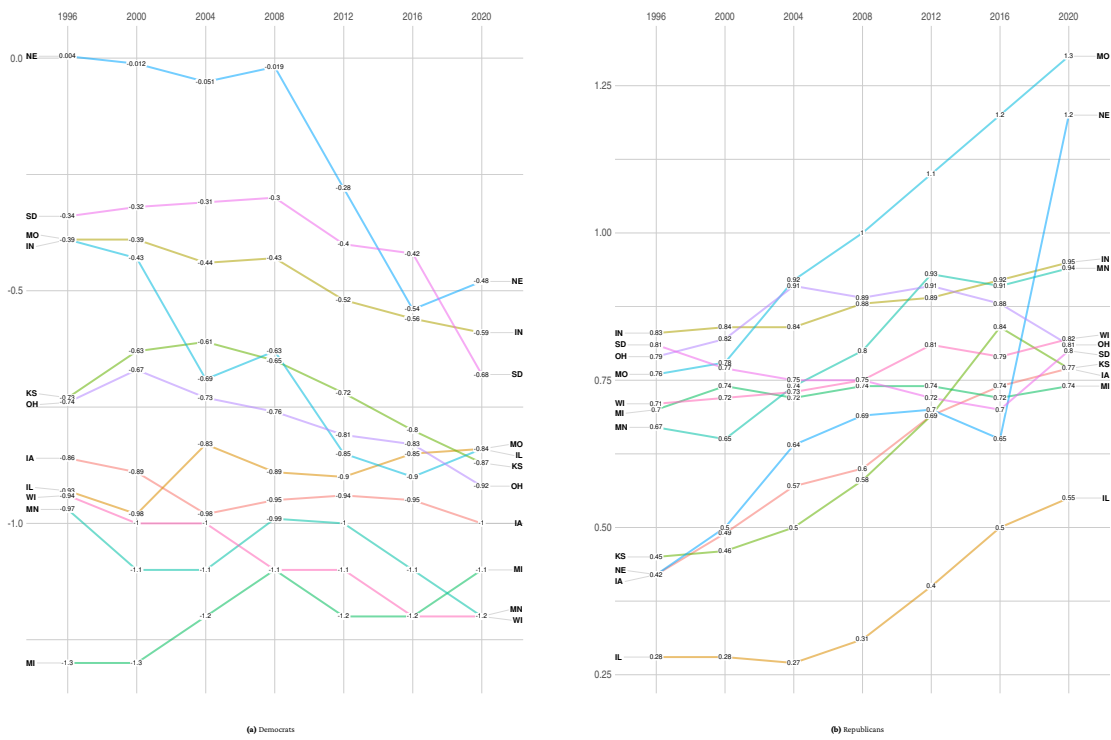
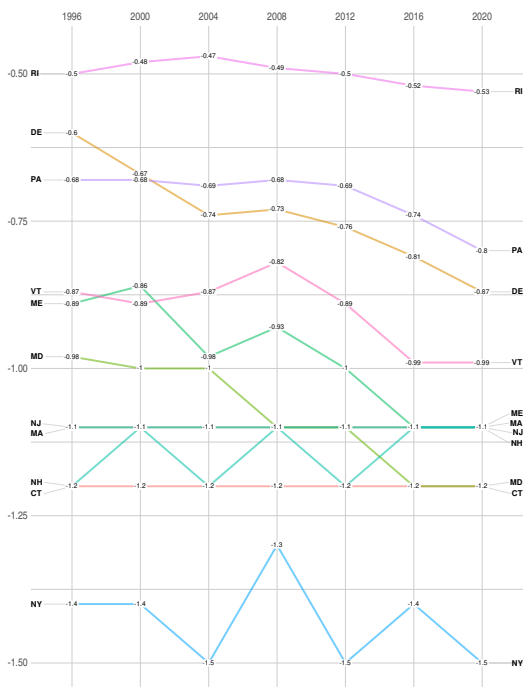
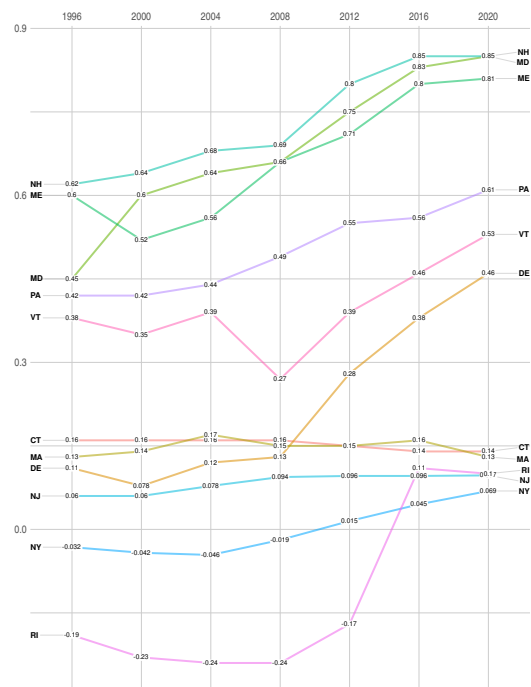


Figure 13: Party Polarization in the Midwest



(a) Democrats



(b) Republicans

Figure 14: Party Polarization in the Northeast