Online Appendix

Preempting Polarization: An Experiment on Opinion Formation

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Outline

The online appendix provides supplementary materials for the paper "Preempting Polarization: An Experiment on Opinion Formation." The appendix is organized as follows.

Section 1 provides supporting data analysis for the main experiment with the sample of Republicans. The extra analysis focuses on providing more details about the sample (including the analysis of political leanings) and robustness checks (applying Lee bounds).

Section 2 provides supporting analysis for the additional experiment with the sample of Democrats. We conducted it after the main study as a robustness check and to uncover potential heterogeneity of the treatment effect by party affiliation. In the online appendix, we present balance tables and supporting regression analysis related to the additional experiment.

Section 3 provides survey instruments and instructions for the participants used in the main experiment. The protocol in the additional study with Democrats was almost identical (same information intervention screens and outcomes). We did not conduct the follow-up survey with the sample of Democrats.

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1 Supporting Analysis for the Main Experiment (Republicans)

1.1 Sample

In this section, we provide additional information about the sample of participants for the main study.

1.1.1 Political Characteristics

As reported in the paper, we restricted recruitment to individuals whose political affiliation is Republican according to Prolific's pre-screening data. However, to learn more about participants' political leanings, we conducted our own party affiliation elicitation. We find that 94.5% of individuals in the main sample identified as Republicans – 94.9% of people in the Partisan-2nd group and 94.2% in the Partisan-1st group. Additionally, 3.5% of participants in the Partisan-1st condition and 4.6% in the Partisan-2nd condition considered themselves Independents but closer to the Republican party. Thus, we conclude that our recruitment strategy successfully rendered a Republican sample.

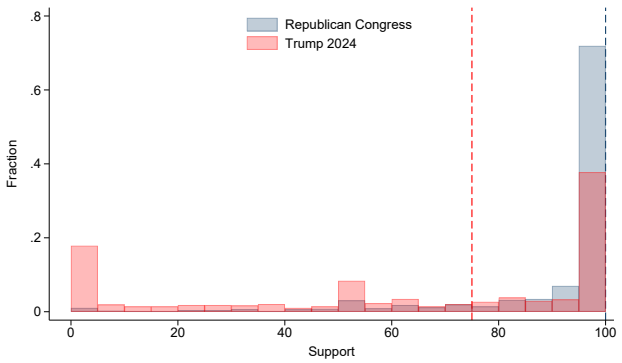
We further detail our sample by discussing its electoral preferences and affective polarization. We collected relevant measures after eliciting the donation decisions to prevent contaminating the primary outcome. Despite the possibility that the responses could have been affected by the intervention, it is important to consider them, as they shed light on the strength of participants' partisanship.

First, we find that the average "warmth" towards Republicans detected using a 0-100 feeling thermometer was 70.0 in the Partisan-2nd group and 71.9 in the Partisan-1st group. At the same time, the temperatures associated with the feeling towards Democrats were 29.3 and 30.1 respectively. These indicate a strong ingroup bias in both conditions.

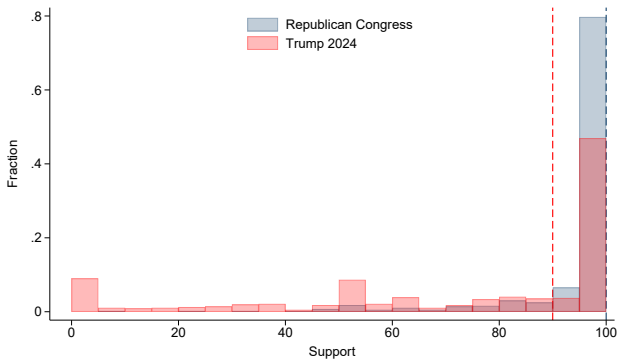
Second, we elicited two electoral measures: support for Republicans for Congress and for Donald Trump in 2024 on a scale from 0-100. We created the former variable by subtracting the congressional support for Democrats, which we obtained in the survey, from 100. We did not directly ask about Republican support for Congress in order to avoid posing all questions from one party's perspective. Figure B1 shows the distribution of both electoral measures, additionally split by whether the participant voted for Trump in 2020. More than 70% of individuals declared full support (100) for Republicans for Congress, with almost no observations where the score was less than 50. The support for Donald Trump was lower, with just under 40% of 100 scores. It is notable that almost 20% of the sample fully disagreed with backing Trump in 2024. This proportion was even higher in the subsample of individuals who reported that they did not vote for Trump in 2020. Crucially, even among that group the median support for Republicans for Congress was 100. To sum up, despite the opposition to Donald Trump exhibited by a non-negligible fraction of the participants, the subjects overwhelmingly backed Republicans for Congress.

The statistics reported in this section are important for the interpretation of the paper's results. We demonstrated that our sample consists of individuals exhibiting nearly universal congressional support

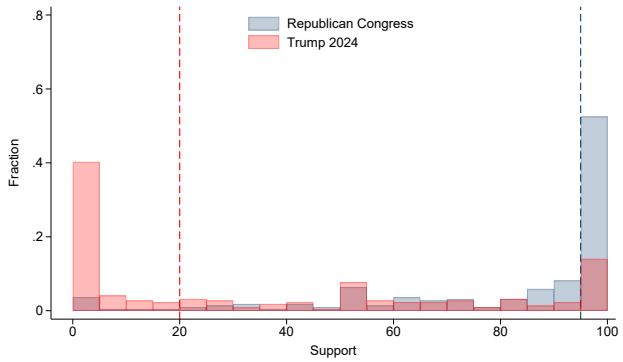
for Republicans, significant approval for Donald Trump as a presidential candidate, and a large pro-Republican ingroup bias. Given the strength of the partisan leaning of the participants, one would expect that any prior considerations will be easily undone by revealing the partisan position. In this light, our evidence that it is possible to preempt polarization of an issue by offering early non-partisan information is notable.



(A) All Participants



(B) Voted for Trump in 2020



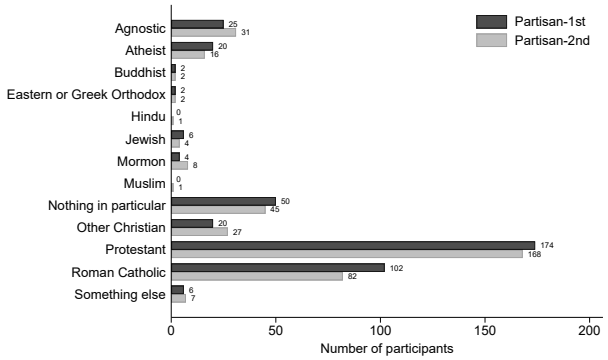
(C) Did Not Vote for Trump in 2020

Figure B1: Support for Donald Trump in 2024 and Republicans for Congress

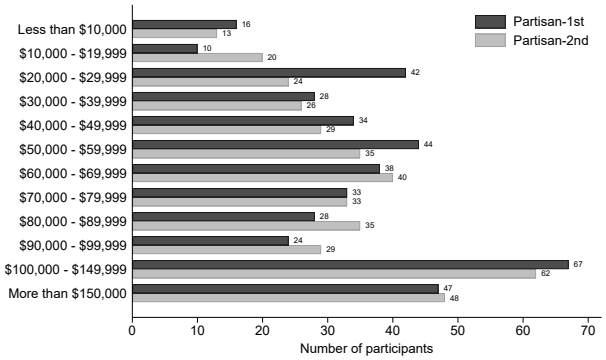
Note: The histograms in the figure depict the distributions of self-reported support for (i) Donald Trump in the 2024 Presidential election and (ii) Republicans for Congress. The medians are indicated with dashed vertical lines. The survey directly elicited support for Democrats for Congress on a scale from 0 to 100. In order to create a measure of support for Republicans for Congress, we subtracted the Democrat support from 100. Panel A relies on the unrestricted sample – it includes everyone for whom the outcomes are available. Panel B focuses on the subsample of participants who reported voting for Trump in 2020 (based on answers to pre-screening questions available through Prolific – the recruitment platform that we used). Panel C is based on the subsample of participants whose report indicates that they did not vote for Trump in 2020. The histogram in Panel A is based on a sample of N=790 participants. The sample sizes for Panels B and C are N=567 and N=221 respectively.

1.1.2 Distributions of Key Categorical Variables

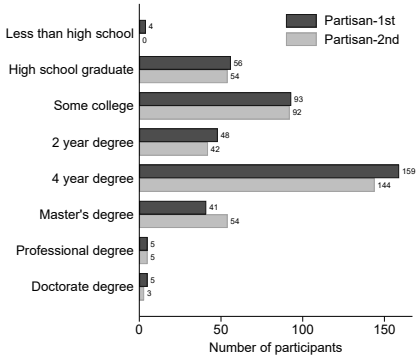
Figure B2 demonstrates distributions of three key categorical variables: religious beliefs, gross household income, and the highest educational qualification, all split by treatment group. For all three variables, there are no major differences between the distributions for the Partisan-1st and Partisan-2nd groups. This adds to the evidence reported in the main body of the paper that the sample is well-balanced on covariates.



(A) Religion



(B) Income



(C) Education

Figure B2: Distributions of Categorical Demographics

Note: The figure depicts distributions of three categorical demographics by treatment group (Partisan-1st or Partisan-2nd). In the Partisan-2nd group, participants (Republicans) see the non-partisan information block on net neutrality (non-political videos on its pros and cons) prior to receiving information about the position of political parties (Republicans against and Democrats in favor). In the Partisan-1st group, the order is reversed. Panel A shows the distribution of religious beliefs. Panel B depicts the distribution of household income in 2021. Lastly, Panel C demonstrates the distribution of the highest educational qualification. The figure is based on a sample of N=805 individuals (411 in the Partisan-1st group and 394 in the Partisan-2nd group) for whom we collected the main outcome – the proportion of the bonus payment donated to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a charity supporting net neutrality.

1.1.3 Follow-Up Study

As reported in the paper, the obfuscated follow-up study was conducted several weeks after the information intervention. More precisely, the median person took the follow-up survey 30 days after the main survey. Figure B3 offers further details by providing the distribution of the number of days elapsed between participation in the original survey and the follow-up survey.

To provide more information about the sample of participants who took the follow-up survey, we replicate the balance table from the main paper but for the sample of people for whom we collected the measure of support for net neutrality in the follow-up survey. The result is shown in Table B1. None of the twelve reported covariates reveals a significant difference in means by treatment at the 10% significance level.

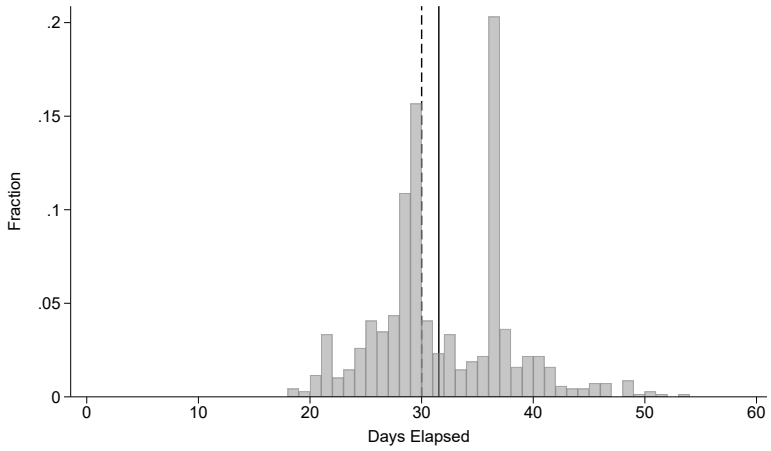


FIGURE B3: DAYS ELAPSED BETWEEN THE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY AND THE MAIN SURVEY

Note: The experiment consists of two surveys: the main survey and the follow-up survey. The histogram depicts the distribution of the number of days elapsed between a participant took the main survey and the follow-up survey. The median is signified with the dashed vertical line, whereas the mean is indicated by the solid vertical line. The bin width is equal to 1 day. During the main survey, participants were randomly assigned to either the Partisan-1st or the Partisan-2nd treatments. In the Partisan-2nd group, participants (Republicans) see the non-partisan information block on net neutrality (non-political videos on its pros and cons) prior to receiving information about the position of political parties (Republicans against and Democrats in favor). In the Partisan-1st group, the order is reversed. Subsequently, in both groups, key outcomes were collected, including the proportion of the bonus payment donated to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a charity supporting net neutrality. During the follow-up survey, we elicited support for three technology policies, one of which was net neutrality.

TABLE B1: SAMPLE BALANCE (FOLLOW-UP STUDY)

	Control			Treatment			
	n	mean	sd	n	mean	sd	diff
Trump in 2020	358	0.72	0.45	323	0.74	0.44	0.016
Male	361	0.49	0.50	328	0.52	0.50	0.031
Age	361	43.55	14.04	328	42.36	13.47	-1.195
College	361	0.52	0.50	328	0.52	0.50	-0.002
White	361	0.83	0.38	328	0.86	0.35	0.032
Income > 70k	361	0.48	0.50	328	0.53	0.50	0.052
West	361	0.17	0.37	328	0.16	0.37	-0.002
Midwest	361	0.23	0.42	328	0.21	0.41	-0.025
South	361	0.43	0.50	328	0.44	0.50	0.015
Northeast	361	0.17	0.38	328	0.19	0.39	0.011
Household Size	361	2.97	1.37	328	3.06	1.52	0.092
Christian	361	0.49	0.50	328	0.52	0.50	0.037

Note: The table presents balance on covariates by treatment group (Partisan-1st and Partisan-2nd) in the follow-up study. In the Partisan-2nd group, participants (Republicans) see the non-partisan information block on net neutrality (non-political videos on its pros and cons) prior to receiving information about the position of political parties (Republicans against and Democrats in favor). In the Partisan-1st group, the order is reversed. The follow-up survey was conducted a few weeks after the survey with the information intervention. For each covariate, we report the sample size, mean, standard deviation, and the difference in means, all by treatment group. We report the significance of the coefficient in the regression of each covariate on a dummy variable equal to one if the participant was assigned the Partisan-2nd group (* significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%). We report the following covariates in order: (1) a dummy equal to one if the participant reported voting for Donald Trump in 2020 (*Trump in 2020*), (2) a dummy equal to one if a person is male (*Male*), (3) age, defined as the difference between 2022 and the reported year of birth (*Age*), (4) a dummy equal to one if they have at least a 4-year degree (*College*), (5) a dummy equal to one if they are white/Caucasian (*White*), (6) a dummy equal to one if they have household income exceeding $70,000 (*Income > 70k*), (7) four regional dummies based on the state of residence (*West*, *Midwest*, *South*, *Northeast*), (8) the household size capped at 6 (*Household Size)*, (9) a dummy equal to one if their religion can be classified as Christian (*Christian*). The table is based on a sample of N=689 individuals (361 in the Partisan-1st group and 328 in the Partisan-2nd group) for whom we collected the support for net neutrality in the follow-up survey. The only exception is *Trump in 2020* with N=681.

1.2 Robustness

To address the extent to which our results are affected by attrition during the study, we apply Lee (2009) bounds to our treatment effects. The results are shown in Table B2. The lower bound of the effect remains significant at the 1% level for both main outcomes: (i) the side of the argument chosen after watching the videos, and (ii) the proportion of the bonus donated to the EFF. Additionally, even when excluding all pilot observations and applying Lee bounds, the 95% confidence interval for the treatment effect does not include zero. We conclude that our main results are probably not explained by attrition.

Table B2: Lee Bounds for Treatment Effect

	(1) Arg. in Favor	(2) Arg. in Favor	(3) Prop. Donated	(4) Prop. Donated
lower	0.149***	0.155***	0.064***	0.046*
	(0.036)	(0.041)	(0.022)	(0.026)
upper	0.175***	0.175***	0.095***	0.073**
	(0.036)	(0.042)	(0.026)	(0.029)
Observations	851	631	851	631
CI Effect	[.0872 .2377]	[.0819 .2485]	[.0278 .139]	[.0018 .1223]
Sample	All	No Pilot	All	No Pilot

Note: This table provides results of applying Lee (2009) bounds to the main regression specifications. For each column, we provide the lower bound (worst-case scenario) and the upper bound (best-case scenario). Furthermore, we report the 95% confidence interval for the treatment effect. There are two treatment groups: Partisan-1st and Partisan-2nd. In the Partisan-2nd, participants (Republicans) see the non-partisan information block on net neutrality (non-political videos on its pros and cons) prior to receiving information about the position of political parties (Republicans against and Democrats in favor). In the Partisan-1st group, the order is reversed. Column 1 concerns a regression of a dummy equal to one if the participant reported making an argument in favor of net neutrality after watching the non-partisan videos on a dummy equal to one if they were assigned the Partisan-2nd treatment. Column 2 demonstrates the same specification, but excluding observations from the pilot study. Column 3 pertains to a regression of the proportion of the bonus payment donated to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a charity supporting net neutrality. on a dummy equal to one if they were assigned the Partisan-2nd treatment. Column 4 shows the same specification, but excluding observations from the pilot study. Standard errors are reported in parentheses. * significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%.

2 Supporting Analysis for the Additional Experiment (Democrats)

This section complements the description of results of the additional experiment with a sample of Democrats that was provided in the main body of the paper.

2.1 Sample Balance

Table B3 presents balance on covariates by treatment group for all participants for whom we recorded the primary outcome i.e., the proportion of the bonus payment donated to the EFF, a charity advocating for net neutrality. None of the twelve reported covariates reveals a significant difference in means by treatment at the 10% significance level, which is consistent with proper randomization of participants into treatments (Partisan-1st and Partisan-2nd).

Table B3: Sample Balance (Study with Democrats)

	Partisan-1st			Partisan-2nd			
	n	mean	sd	n	mean	sd	diff
Male	405	0.51	0.50	396	0.51	0.50	0.001
Age	405	42.50	14.55	396	41.76	13.90	-0.741
College	405	0.58	0.49	396	0.62	0.49	0.043
White	405	0.69	0.46	396	0.67	0.47	-0.017
Income > 70k	405	0.38	0.49	396	0.43	0.50	0.047
West	405	0.20	0.40	396	0.20	0.40	0.009
Midwest	405	0.22	0.41	396	0.21	0.41	-0.013
South	405	0.35	0.48	396	0.34	0.47	-0.010
Northeast	405	0.23	0.42	396	0.25	0.43	0.013
Household Size	405	2.59	1.32	396	2.71	1.28	0.127
Christian	405	0.20	0.40	396	0.19	0.39	-0.008

Note: The table presents balance on covariates by treatment group (Partisan-1st and Partisan-2nd). In the Partisan-2nd group, participants (Democrats) see the non-partisan information block on net neutrality (non-political videos on its pros and cons) prior to receiving information about the position of political parties (Republicans against and Democrats in favor). In the Partisan-1st group, the order is reversed. For each covariate, we report the sample size, mean, standard deviation, and the difference in means, all by treatment group. We report the significance of the coefficient in the regression of each covariate on a dummy variable equal to one if the participant was assigned the Partisan-2nd group (* significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%). We report the following covariates in order: (1) a dummy equal to one if a person is male (*Male*), (2) age, defined as the difference between 2023 and the reported year of birth (*Age*), (3) a dummy equal to one if they have at least a 4-year degree (*College*), (4) a dummy equal to one if they are white/Caucasian (*White*), (5) a dummy equal to one if they have household income exceeding $70,000 (*Income > 70k*), (6) four regional dummies based on the state of residence (*West*, *Midwest*, *South*, *Northeast*), (7) the household size capped at 6 (*Household Size)*, (8) a dummy equal to one if their religion can be classified as Christian (*Christian*). The table is based on a sample of N=801 individuals (405 in the Partisan-1st group and 396 in the Partisan-2nd group) for whom we collected the main outcome – the proportion of the bonus payment donated to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a charity supporting net neutrality.

2.2 Additional Regression Analysis

In the paper, we demonstrate the main regression analysis associated with the side of the argument chosen by the participants following the non-partisan videos and the primary outcome – the proportion of the bonus payment donated to the EFF. In the online appendix, we report the extensive margin results and the results on beliefs about other people's support for net neutrality by party affiliation.

The results of all specifications (with and without controls) reported in Table B4 show that, on the extensive margin, seeing the non-partisan information first (Partisan-2nd group) does not significantly

affect the likelihood of a positive donation to the EFF. Similarly, it has no impact on the likelihood of a substantial donation (above 10% of the bonus payment).

Table B4: Donations to the EFF: Extensive Margin

	(1) Donation>0	(2) Donation>0	(3) Donation>10%	(4) Donation>10%
Partisan-2nd	0.016	0.017	-0.003	-0.001
	(0.034)	(0.034)	(0.035)	(0.035)
Constant	0.607***		0.548***	
	(0.024)		(0.025)	
Observations	801	801	801	801
Sample	All	All	All	All
Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes
t-stat (Partisan-2nd)	0.474	0.496	-0.0765	-0.0360

Note: Column 1 demonstrates a regression of a dummy variable equal to one if an individual donated a positive amount to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a charity supporting net neutrality, on a dummy equal to one if they were assigned the Partisan-2nd treatment. In the Partisan-2nd group, participants (Democrats) see the non-partisan information block on net neutrality (non-political videos on its pros and cons) prior to receiving information about the position of political parties (Republicans against and Democrats in favor). In the Partisan-1st group, the order is reversed. Column 2 shows the same specification but with controls. The following controls were included: a dummy equal to one if a person is male, age, a dummy equal to one if they have at least a 4-year degree, a dummy equal to one if their household income exceeds $70,000, a dummy equal to one if they are white/Caucasian, the household size capped at 6, and a dummy equal to one if their religion can be classified as Christian. Column 3 depicts a regression of a dummy variable equal to one if an individual donated more than 10% of the bonus payment to the EFF on a dummy equal to one if they were assigned the Partisan-2nd treatment. Column 4 shows the same specification with controls. The table is based on a sample of N=801 (405 in the Partisan-1st group and 396 in the Partisan-2nd group). Robust standard errors are reported in parentheses. * significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%.

Lastly, the results of all specifications (with and without controls) reported in Table B5 indicate that seeing the non-partisan information first (Partisan-2nd group) does not significantly affect beliefs about Democrats' and Republicans' support for net neutrality.

Table B5: Ex-Post Beliefs about Party Support for Net Neutrality

	(1) Beliefs R Support	(2) Beliefs R Support	(3) Beliefs D Support	(4) Beliefs D Support
Partisan-2nd	-0.375	-0.704	-0.982	-0.903
	(1.512)	(1.499)	(1.277)	(1.284)
Constant	25.960***		80.010***	
	(1.057)		(0.865)	
Observations	801	801	801	801
Sample	All	All	All	All
Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes

Note: Column 1 shows a regression of participants' estimated proportion of Republicans who support net neutrality on a dummy equal to one if they were assigned the Partisan-2nd treatment. In the Partisan-2nd group, participants (Democrats) see the non-partisan information block on net neutrality (non-political videos on its pros and cons) prior to receiving information about the position of political parties (Republicans against and Democrats in favor). In the Partisan-1st group, the order is reversed. The estimates were collected immediately after the main outcome – donation to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a charity supporting net neutrality. Column 2 depicts the same specification with controls. The following controls were included: a dummy equal to one if a person is male, age, a dummy equal to one if they have at least a 4-year degree, a dummy equal to one if their household income exceeds $70,000, a dummy equal to one if they are white/Caucasian, the household size capped at 6, and a dummy equal to one if their religion can be classified as Christian. Column 3 demonstrates a regression of participant's estimated proportion of Democrats who support net neutrality on a dummy equal to one if they were assigned the Partisan-2nd treatment. Column 4 presents the same specification with controls. The table is based on a sample of N=801 (405 in the Partisan-1st group and 396 in the Partisan-2nd group). Robust standard errors are reported in parentheses. * significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%.

3 Survey Instruments

In this section, we provide instructions given to the participants and the wording of all questions for both the first survey and the follow-up survey.

3.1 Main Survey

3.1.1 Demographics and Attention

A. What is your year of birth?

Note: Text entry question. Only integers between 1900 and 2020 were allowed.

B. What is your sex?

- Male
- Female

C. Please select your state of residence.

Note: Participants had to choose one value from a drop-down list. The options included: 50 US states and District of Columbia.

D. How would you describe your ethnicity? Please check all that apply.

- White or European American
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian or Asian American
- Other
- I prefer not to say

E. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than high school
- High school graduate
- Some college
- 2 year degree
- 4 year degree
- Master's degree
- Doctorate degree
- Professional degree (JD, MD, etc.)

F. The next question is about the following problem. In questionnaires like ours, sometimes there are participants who do not carefully read the questions and just quickly click through the survey. This means that there are a lot of random answers which compromise the results of research studies. To show that you read our questions carefully, please choose both "Extremely interested" and "Not interested at all" as your answer in the next question. Do not select any other option. How interested are you in sports?

- Extremely interested
- Very interested
- A little bit interested
- Almost not interested
- Not interested at all

G. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

- Republican
- Democrat
- Independent

Note: This question appears if "Independent" is selected in Part G.

H. As an Independent, do you think of yourself as closer to Republicans or Democrats?

- Republicans
- Democrats

I. How many people are in your household?

- 1 (live alone)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 or more

J. What was your gross household income in 2021 in US dollars?

- Less than $10,000
- $10,000 - $19,999
- $20,000 - $29,999
- $30,000 - $39,999
- $40,000 - $49,999

- $50,000 - $59,999
- $60,000 - $69,999
- $70,000 - $79,999
- $80,000 - $89,999
- $90,000 - $99,999
- $100,000 - $149,999
- More than $150,000

K. What is your present religion, if any?

- Protestant
- Roman Catholic
- Mormon
- Eastern or Greek Orthodox
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Atheist
- Agnostic
- Nothing in particular
- Something else *[Note: text entry]*

3.1.2 Issue Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to answer the questions about your background.

We are a group of **non-partisan researchers** interested in public policy issues.

You will now receive information about the following public policy issue: **Net Neutrality**.

Net Neutrality is the principle that your internet service provider (ISP) – the company that connects you to the internet – cannot control what you do on the internet. It also prevents ISPs from blocking or favoring particular content, websites, or applications.

Please check all that apply. Net neutrality principles affect:

- how impartial referees must be in volleyball, tennis, and other net-based sports.
- how the companies who provide internet service can control what their customers do on the internet.
- whether internet service providers can block or favor other companies' applications or websites.

- the types of equipment commercial fishing companies are allowed to use.

3.1.3 Partisan Block

Note: This block appears immediately after the Issue Introduction for the participants in the Partisan-1st group. For individuals in the Partisan-2nd group, this block appears after the Non-Partisan Block

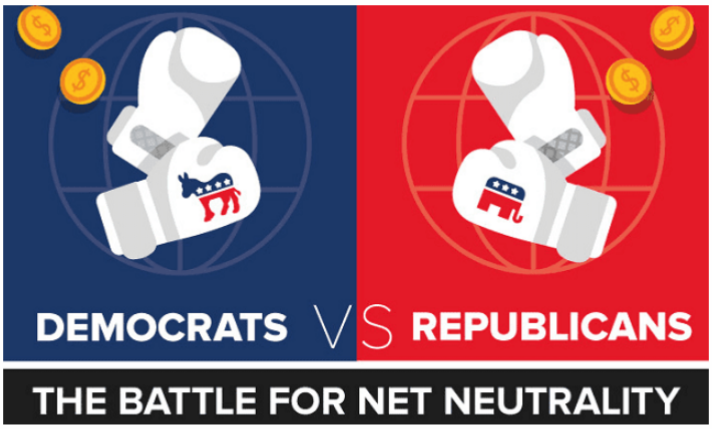
For such an important public policy issue, net neutrality has received little media attention in the United States.

Please have a careful look at the information about the history of the net neutrality debate provided on the next few screens. We will ask you questions about the their content.

Note: The subsequent figures show the slides about the history of net neutrality debate that were displayed to the participants. Each slide was a separate screen in the Qualtrics survey. Any comprehension questions that appeared in a particular screen are provided immediately below the figure.

Slide 1:

A History of the Net Neutrality Debate



Net neutrality policy in the United States has flip-flopped back and forth in the past decade, depending on who was the President at the time.

Slide 2:

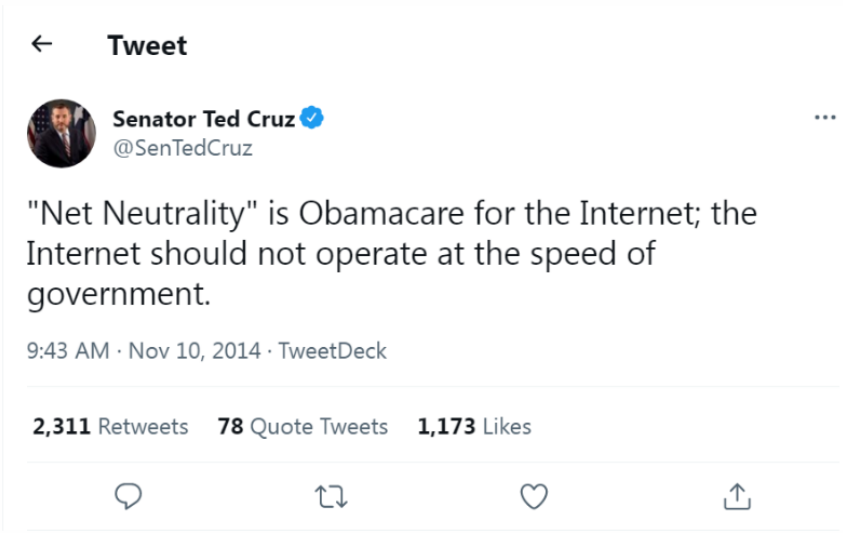
Net Neutrality policies were originally put in place by Obama.

Who was the US President when net neutrality policies were originally put in place?

- Bill Clinton
- George W. Bush
- Barack Obama
- Donald Trump
- Joe Biden

Slide 3:

These policies were met with criticism by Republicans.



In the tweet above, which policy does Ted Cruz compare net neutrality to?

- The Monroe Doctrine
- The Green New Deal
- Affirmative Action
- The Paris Accords
- Obamacare

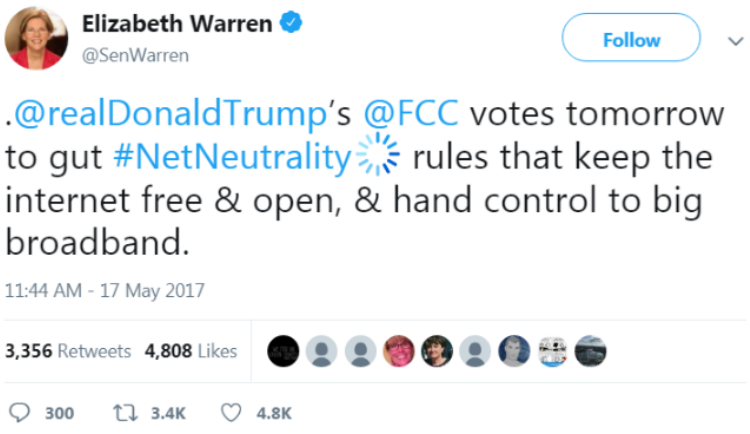
Slide 4:

Then, Donald Trump became president...

Ajit Pai, FCC Chairman (left), Donald Trump (right)

...and many Democrats feared that Obama's net neutrality policies would be removed by Trump's FCC Chairman, Ajit Pai.

Slide 5:



Slide 6:

Slide 7:

The Democrats' fears were realized when Ajit Pai led the FCC in overturning Obama's net neutrality policies.

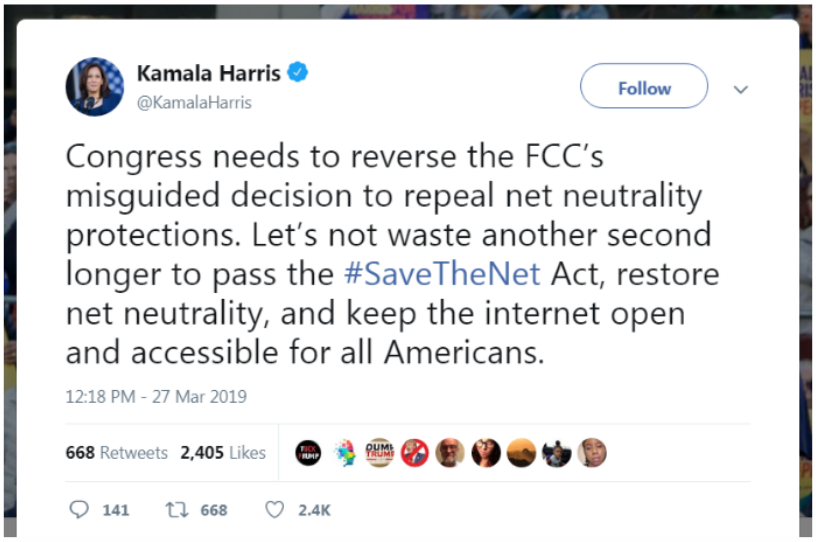
Who was the US President when the FCC Chairman overturned the net neutrality policies?

Who was the US President when the FCC Chairman overturned the net neutrality policies?

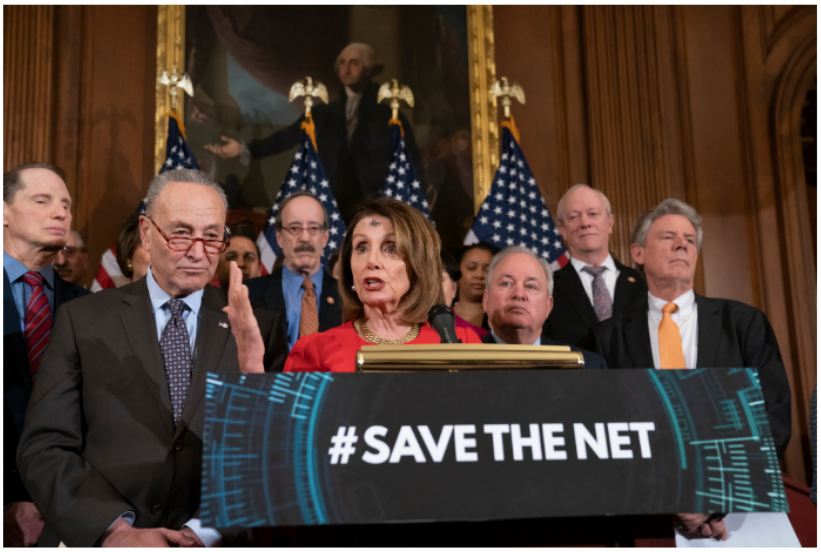
- Bill Clinton
- George W. Bush
- Barack Obama
- Donald Trump
- Joe Biden

Slide 8:

Since then, there have been attempts to restore net neutrality policies...



Slide 9:



... but so far, these attempts to restore net neutrality policies have been unsuccessful.

3.1.4 Non-Partisan Block

Note: This block appears after the Partisan Block for the participants in the Partisan-1st group. For individuals in the Partisan-2nd group, this block appears immediately after the Issue Introduction for the participants in the Partisan-1st group.

Below, you will find two videos on the issue of net neutrality. One outlines the **pros** of net neutrality, while the other focuses on the **cons**.

After you watch both videos, we will ask you about the arguments made in the videos. This is to check that you watched the videos. Additionally, we will award an extra bonus payment ($0.60) for the top 25% of answers.

- IMPORTANT: Do NOT refresh your browser!
- Please click PLAY to watch; videos do not auto-play.
- You may skip to a specific part of the video only AFTER it has played completely through once.
- We encourage you to watch with audio enabled. However, subtitles are provided in case you cannot use the audio.

Pros of net neutrality

The second video will appear after you finish the first one.

Cons of net neutrality

Which video was more convincing, pro or con? Choose one reason / argument / example from that video, and explain why it convinced you.

Your answer must:

- Focus on an argument from the videos.
- Be written in your own words.
- Min: 20 words, Max: 80 words.
- Next button will appear when you reach 20 words.

Extra: Top 25% of answers will earn a bonus of $0.60. The side of the argument that you chose does not affect your chance of getting the bonus, only the clarity of the answer.

On the previous page, you explained which argument from the videos about net neutrality you found the most convincing. Was it an argument in favor or against net neutrality?

- In favor of net neutrality
- Against net neutrality

3.1.5 Donation to the EFF

Here is your chance to contribute to protecting net neutrality.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), rated 92.88 on CharityNavigator.org, is a non-profit organization focused on protecting net neutrality.

We are offering all participants an additional bonus sum of $.50. You may give as much of this bonus as you like to the net neutrality charity, EFF, and keep the rest for yourself.

On the slide bar below, please choose how much of the bonus you would like to **give to support net neutrality**.

Note: Participants could choose any amount between $0 and $0.5 using a slider, with precision to two decimal places. The slider was labeled "Donation in $" on the left hand side.

3.1.6 Beliefs About Support for Net Neutrality

We are interested in your estimates regarding the support for net neutrality.

What percentage of the following groups support net neutrality?

- % Republicans who support net neutrality
- % Democrats who support net neutrality

Note: For each statement, participants could choose any integer between 0 and 100 using a slider.

3.1.7 Electoral Preferences

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- I will vote in the 2022 midterm elections.
- I support Democratic Party for Congress.
- I will vote for Donald Trump if he runs in 2024 presidential elections.

Note: For each statement, participants could choose any integer support level between 0 and 100 using a slider.

3.1.8 Affective Polarization

We would like to ask you about your feelings toward Democrats and Republicans. Please rate them using the scales below.

Higher ratings mean that you feel warmer and more favorable toward them.

- Democrats
- Republicans

Note: Participants could indicate their feelings on a scale from 0 to 100 using a slider. Five labels were provided: "Very cold feeling" (0), "Quite cold feeling" (25), "No feeling at all" (50), "Quite warm feeling" (75), "Very warm feeling" (100).

3.1.9 Credits

Thank you for participating in our study. We hope that it gave you an opportunity to learn a bit about the issue of net neutrality.

Please note that the videos that you watched during the survey were based on the YouTube video by the BBC available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zq-2Yk5OgKc and the YouTube video by PragerU available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiZ8xwwycXA.

Please proceed to complete the survey.

3.2 Follow-Up Survey

3.2.1 Attention

Please indicate how strongly you agree (or disagree) with the statements below.

- Technology plays an important role in my life.
- Alaska is one of the US states.
- I am an avid user of social media platforms.

Note: For each statement, participants could choose any integer support level between 0 and 100 using a slider. Five labels were provided: "Strongly disagree" (0), "Somewhat disagree" (25), "Neither agree nor disagree" (50), "Somewhat agree" (75), "Strongly agree" (100).

3.2.2 Introduction

Technology Issues Survey

Important decisions must be made about the ways we use our technology.

On the following pages, we will describe three issues. After reading a description of the issue, you will be asked how strongly you agree (or disagree) with a statement.

3.2.3 Technology Issues: Opinions

Note: We randomized the order in which the technology issues (net neutrality, carbon capture, and blockchain voting) appeared.

Net Neutrality

Net neutrality is a set of rules which say Internet Service Providers (ISPs) cannot block or prioritize certain internet content. In particular, ISPs cannot charge companies more for "fast lanes" or slow down the delivery of content for those who do not pay.

Please read the above description of the issue. Then, use the slider to indicate how strongly you agree (or disagree) with the statement below.

- I support net neutrality rules.

Note: Participants could choose any integer support level between 0 and 100 using a slider. Five labels were provided: "Strongly disagree" (0), "Somewhat disagree" (25), "Neither agree nor disagree" (50), "Somewhat agree" (75), "Strongly agree" (100).

Carbon Capture

Newly developed technology can remove CO2 (a greenhouse gas) and store it in underground geological formations, where it cannot escape into the atmosphere. Coal-burning power plants can receive tax credits if they use this technology.

Please read the above description of the issue. Then, use the slider to indicate how strongly you agree (or disagree) with the statement below.

- I support tax credits for carbon capture.

Note: Participants could choose any integer support level between 0 and 100 using a slider. Five labels were provided: "Strongly disagree" (0), "Somewhat disagree" (25), "Neither agree nor disagree" (50), "Somewhat agree" (75), "Strongly agree" (100).

Blockchain Ballots

In order to provide election integrity and prevent voter fraud, blockchain technology (similar to that used in the authentication of cryptocurrency transfer) could be used for verifying the identity of voters and recording their ballots, privately and securely.

Please read the above description of the issue. Then, use the slider to indicate how strongly you agree (or disagree) with the statement below.

- I support blockchain-based voting systems.

Note: Participants could choose any integer support level between 0 and 100 using a slider. Five labels were provided: "Strongly disagree" (0), "Somewhat disagree" (25), "Neither agree nor disagree" (50), "Somewhat agree" (75), "Strongly agree" (100).

3.2.4 Technology Issues: Beliefs

Thank you for providing your opinion on these three issues.

We're also interested in your predictions about the opinions other people might hold on these issues. Please provide your best guess about how much support these issues might receive among different demographic groups.

Note: The questions on beliefs regarding support for the three technology issues appeared in the same order as randomized for the previous section.

What percentage of the following groups **support net neutrality rules**? Please provide your best prediction.

- Among individuals under 30 years old, what % support net neutrality rules
- Among individuals over 30 years old, what % support net neutrality rules
- % Republicans who support net neutrality rules
- % Democrats who support net neutrality rules

Note: For each statement, participants could choose any integer between 0 and 100 using a slider.

What percentage of the following groups **support tax credits for carbon capture**? Please provide your best prediction.

- Among individuals under 30 years old, what % support tax credits for carbon capture
- Among individuals over 30 years old, what % support tax credits for carbon capture
- % Republicans who support tax credits for carbon capture
- % Democrats who support tax credits for carbon capture

Note: For each statement, participants could choose any integer between 0 and 100 using a slider.

What percentage of the following groups **support blockchain-based voting systems**? Please provide your best prediction.

- Among individuals under 30 years old, what % support blockchain-based voting systems
- Among individuals over 30 years old, what % support blockchain-based voting systems
- % Republicans who support blockchain-based voting systems
- % Democrats who support blockchain-based voting systems

Note: For each statement, participants could choose any integer between 0 and 100 using a slider.

References

Lee, D. S. (2009): "Training, wages, and sample selection: Estimating sharp bounds on treatment effects," *The Review of Economic Studies*, 76, 1071–1102.