

A Political Scientist's Look at the 2020 Presidential Election

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Factors to Consider in 2020

Well Understood

Historical patterns

Nature of Trump's 2016 Victory

Uncertain

Handling of pandemic

Highly unusual economy

Response to protests

Elections with an Incumbent Candidate Running

Yes, Kept the Presidency (N = 21)

No, Lost the Presidency (N = 10)

1792 Washington

1804 Jefferson

1812 Madison

1820 Monroe

1832 Jackson

1864 Lincoln

1872 Grant

1900 McKinley

1904 T. Roosevelt

1916 Wilson

1924 Coolidge

1936 F.D. Roosevelt

1940 F. D. Roosevelt

1944 F.D. Roosevelt

1948 Truman

1956 Eisenhower

1964 L.B. Johnson

1972 Nixon

1984 Reagan

1996 Clinton

2004 G.W. Bush 2012 Obama

1800 J. Adams lost to Jefferson

1828 J.Q. Adams lost to Jackson

1840 Van Buren lost to W.H. Harrison

1888 Cleveland lost to B. Harrison

1892 B. Harrison lost to Cleveland

1912 Taft lost to Wilson

1932 Hoover lost to F.D. Roosevelt

1976 Ford lost to Carter

1980 Carter lost to Reagan

1992 G.H.W. Bush lost to Clinton

How the White House Party Has Fared (Since 1960)

After One Term		After Two Terms or More	
1964	won	1960	lost
1972	won	1968	lost
1980	lost	1976	lost
1984	won	1988	won
1996	won	1992	lost
2004	won	2000	lost
2012	won	2008	lost
2020	?	2016	lost

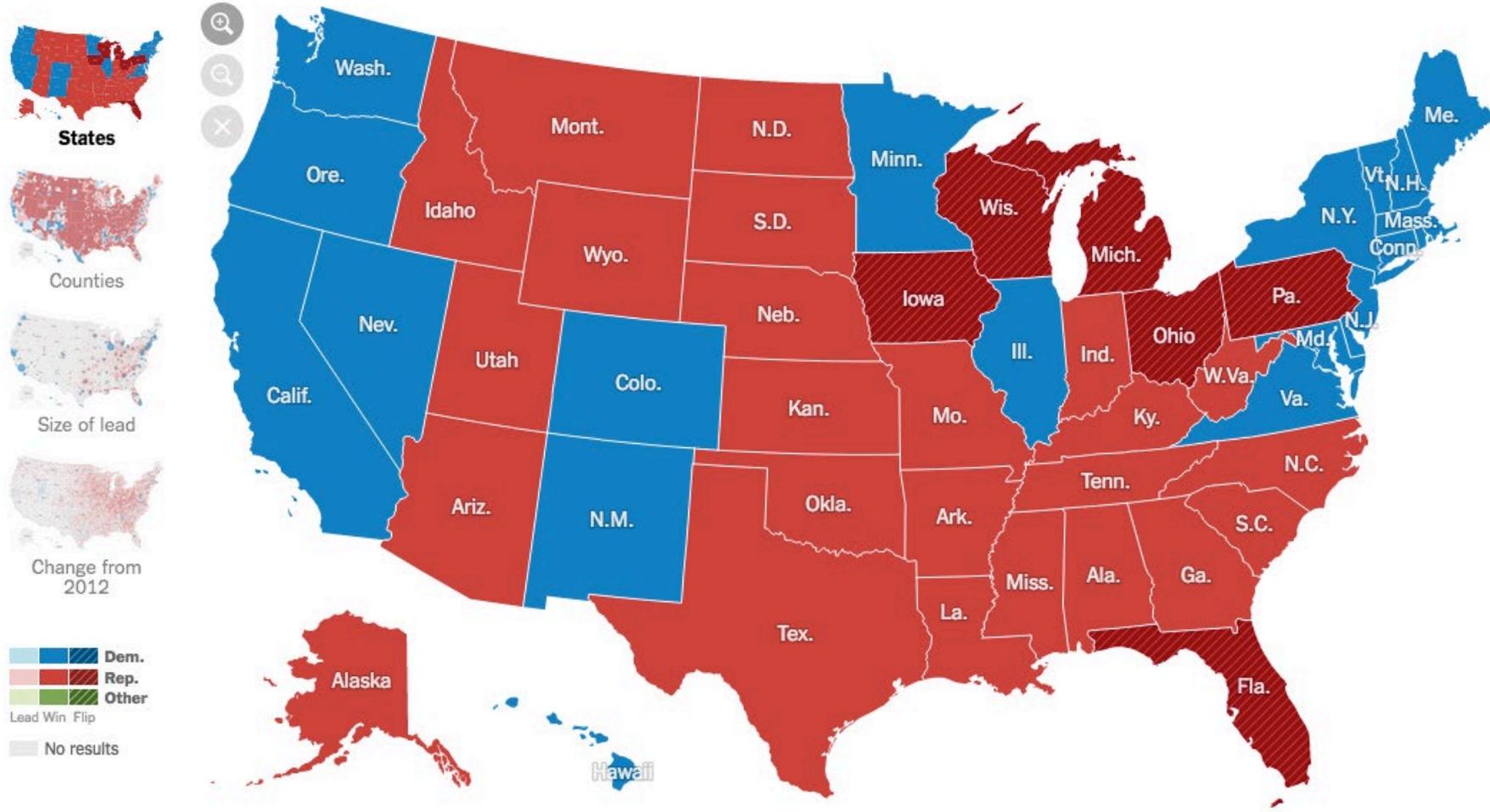
232 Hillary Clinton

✓ Donald J. Trump **306**

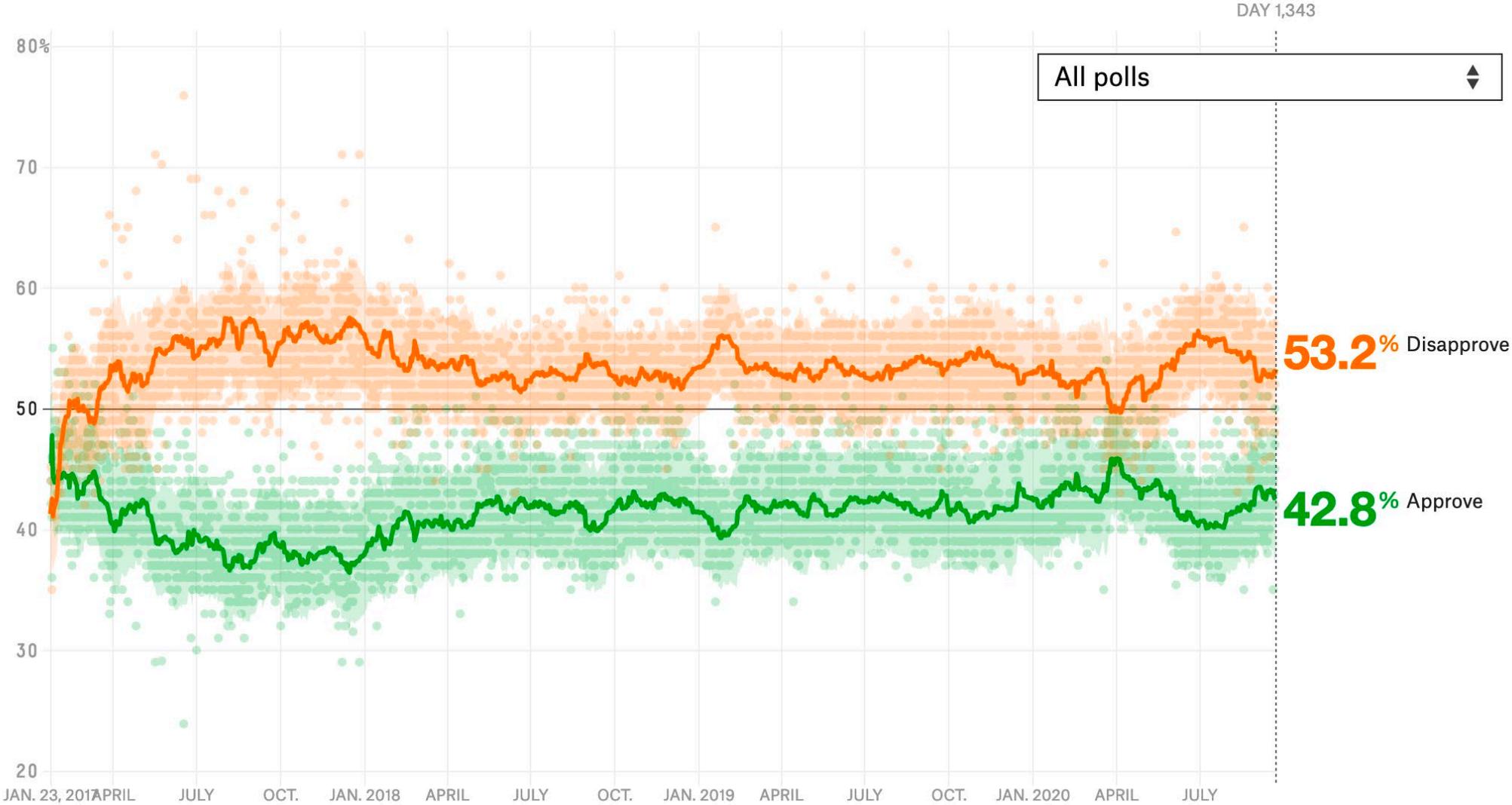
65,853,625 votes (48.0%)

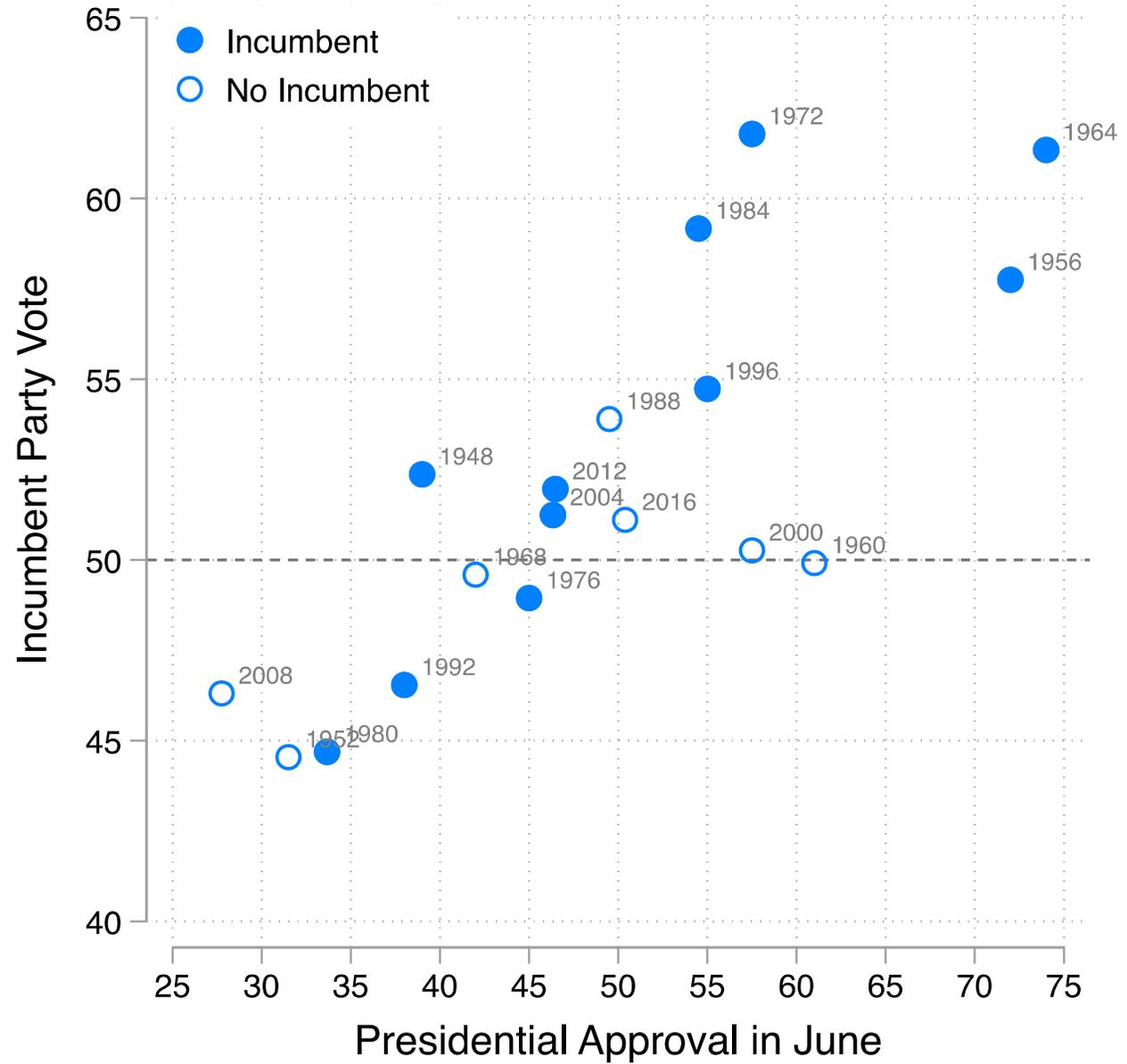
270 to win

62,985,106 votes (45.9%)

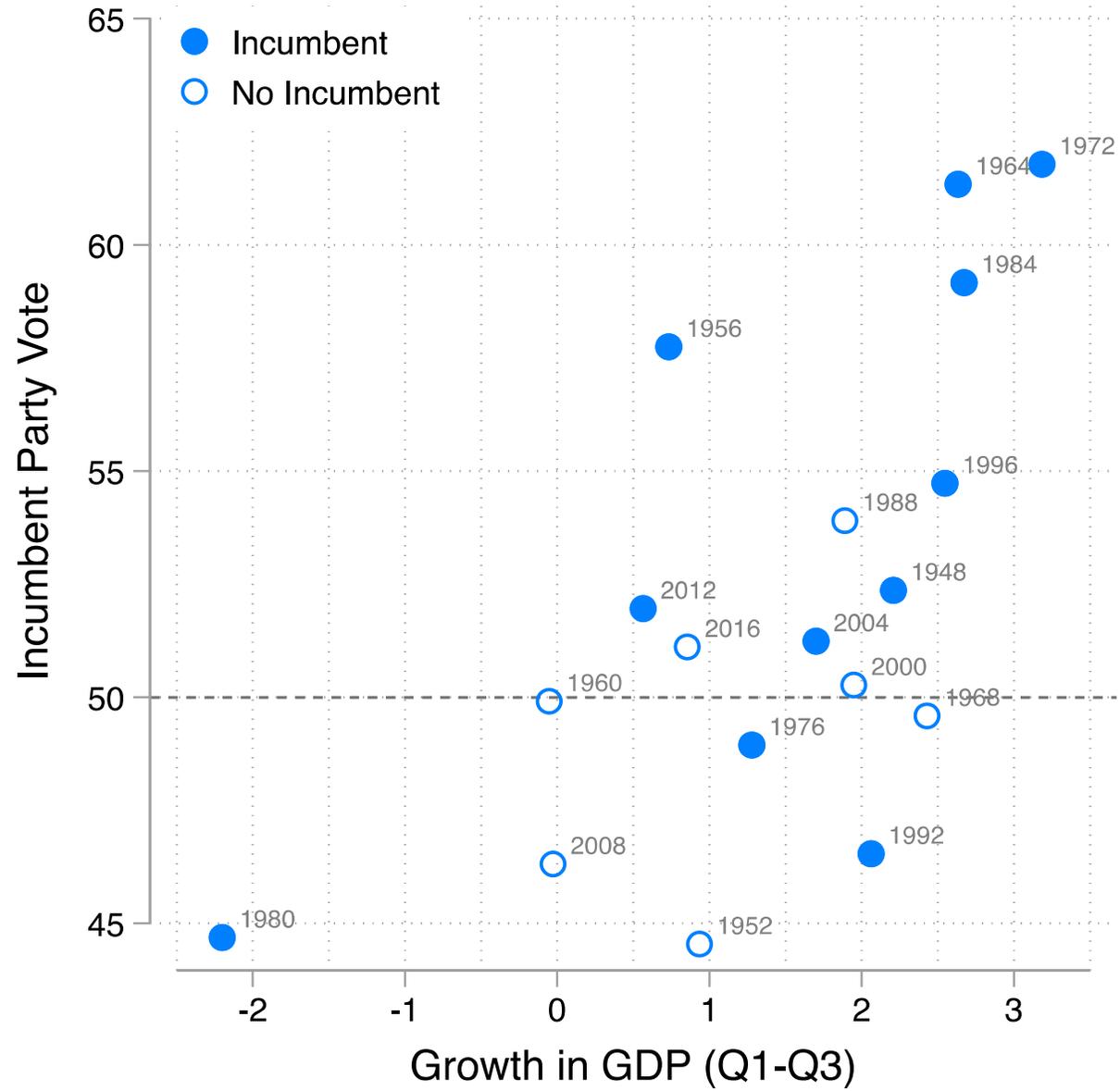


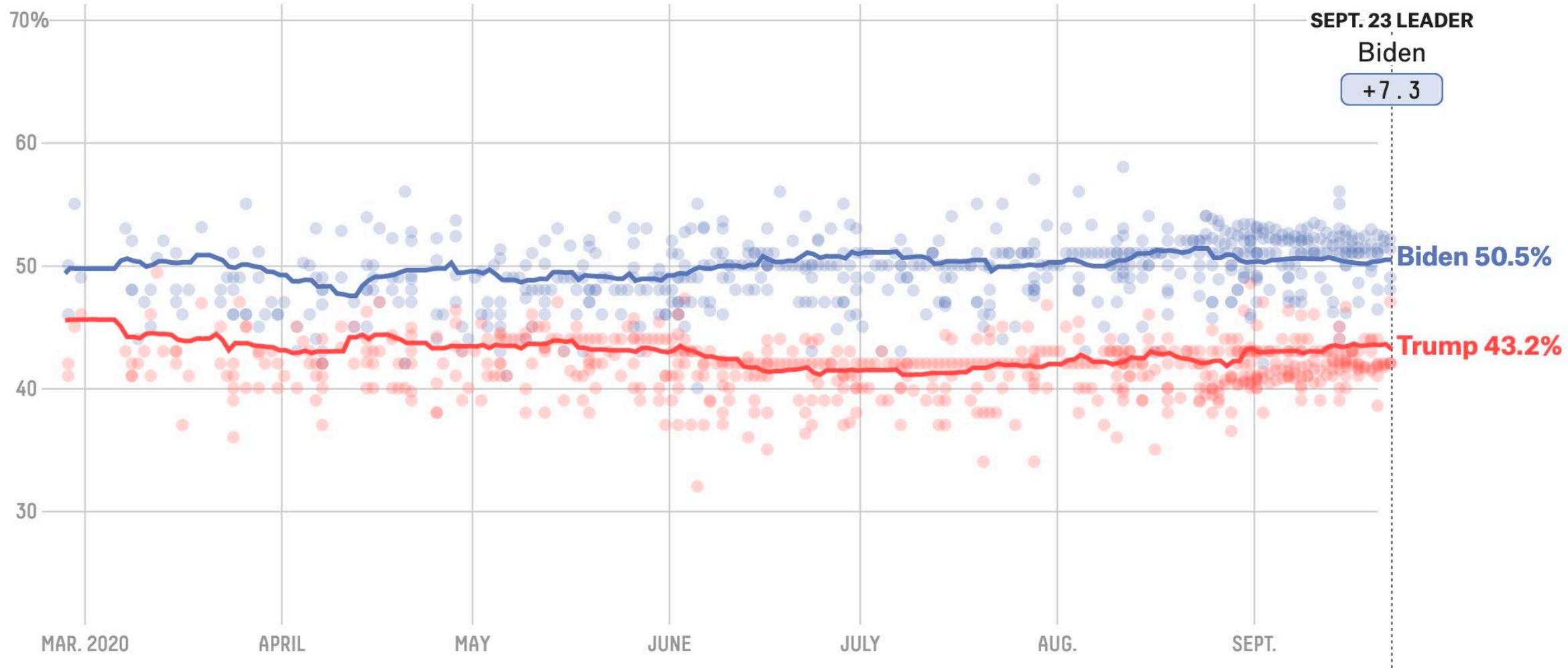
Trump Job Approval



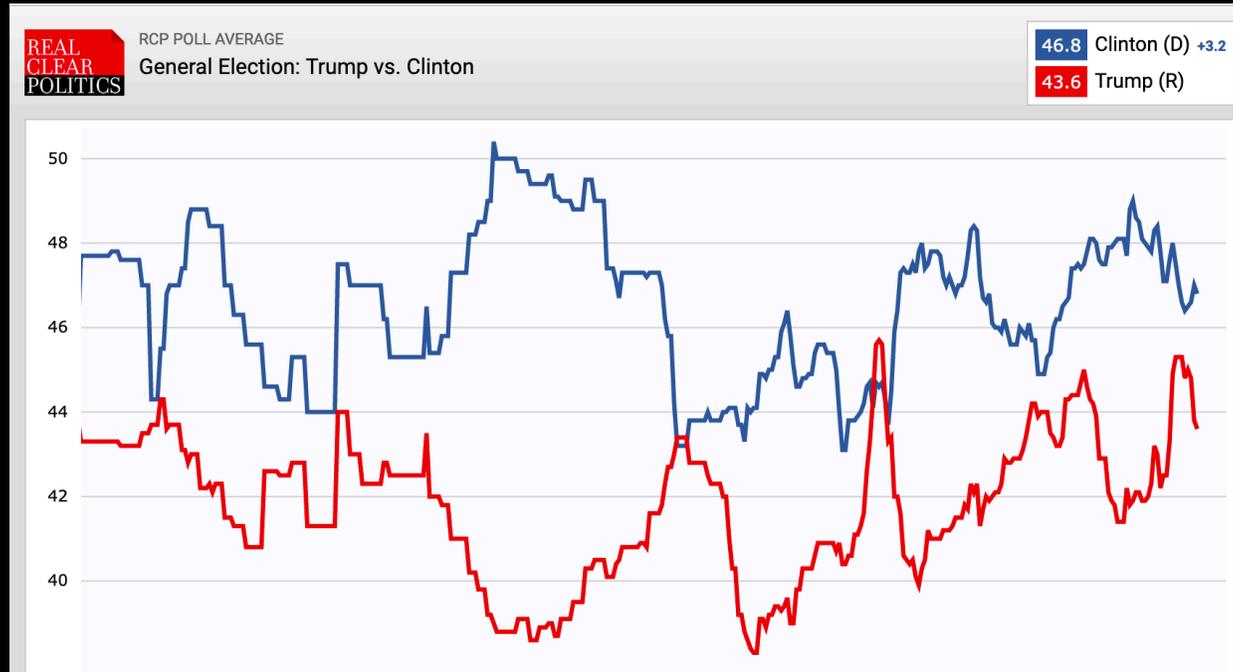


Topic	Approve	Disapprove
Handling of economy	51	49
Handling of Court appointments	47	52
Overall approval	41	58
Handling of coronavirus	38	62
Handling of Black Lives Matter protests	37	62

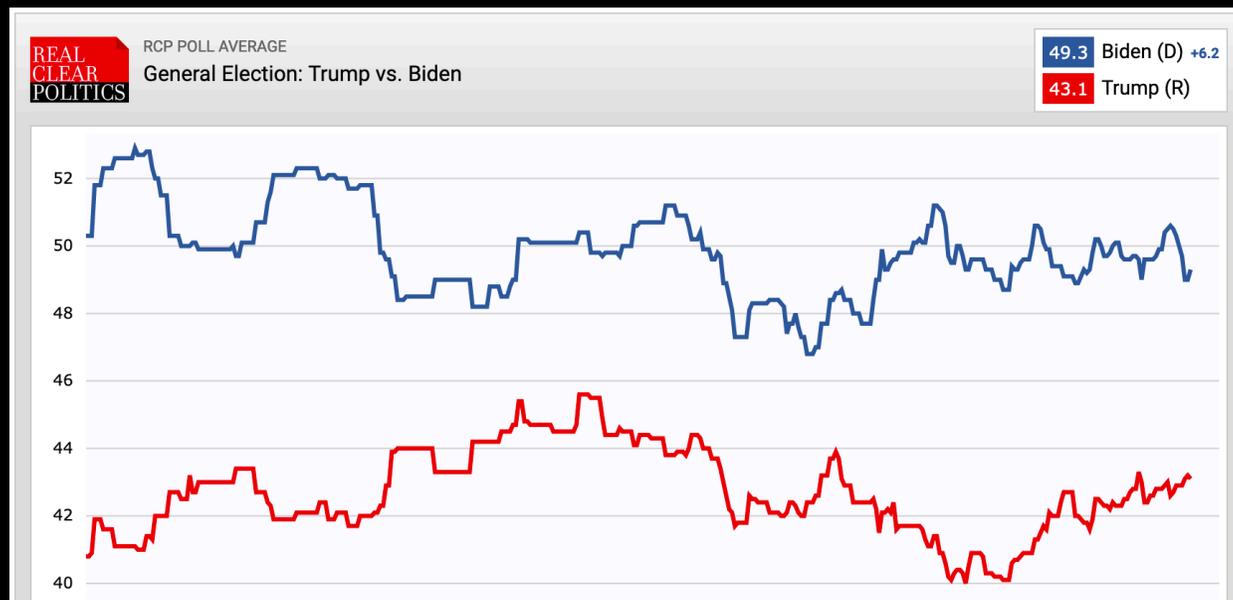


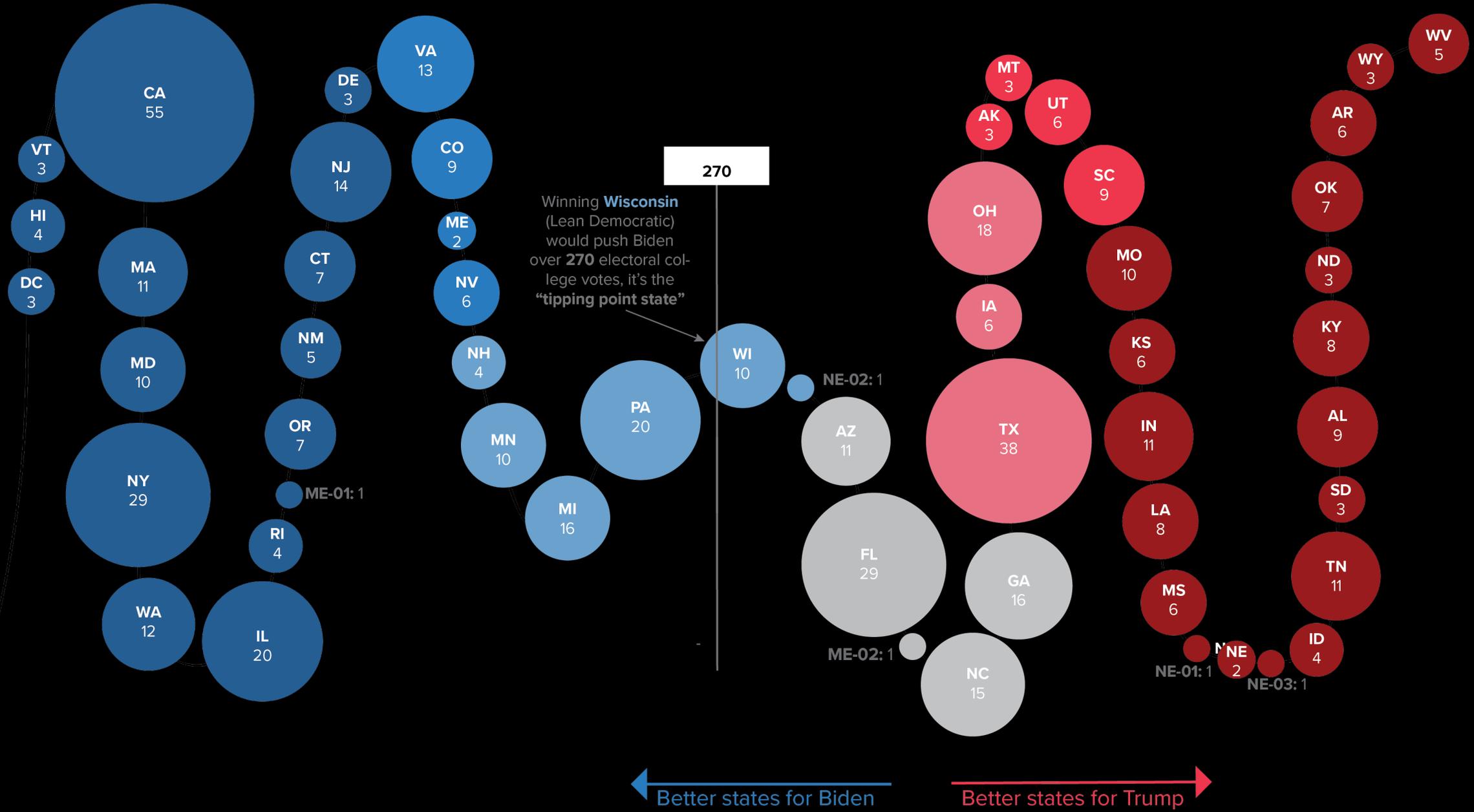


2016



2020



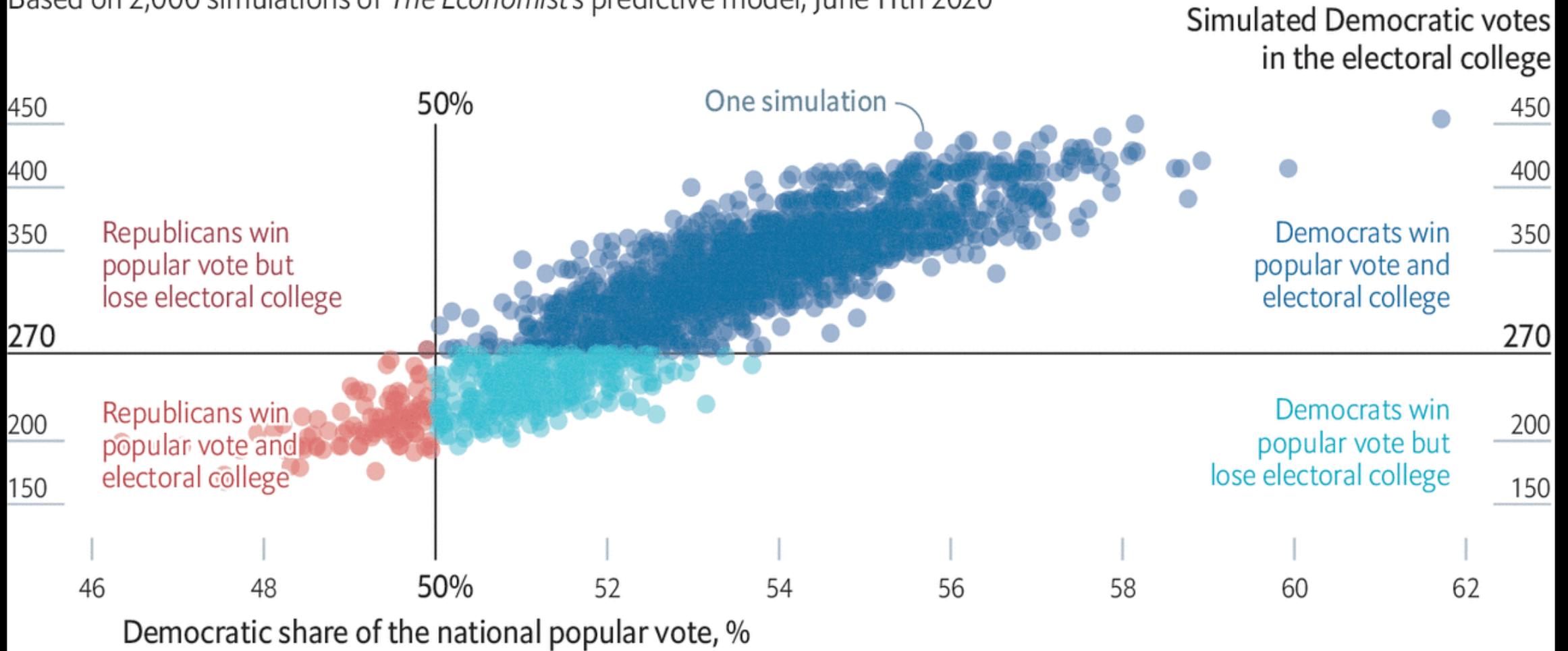


← Better states for Biden Better states for Trump →

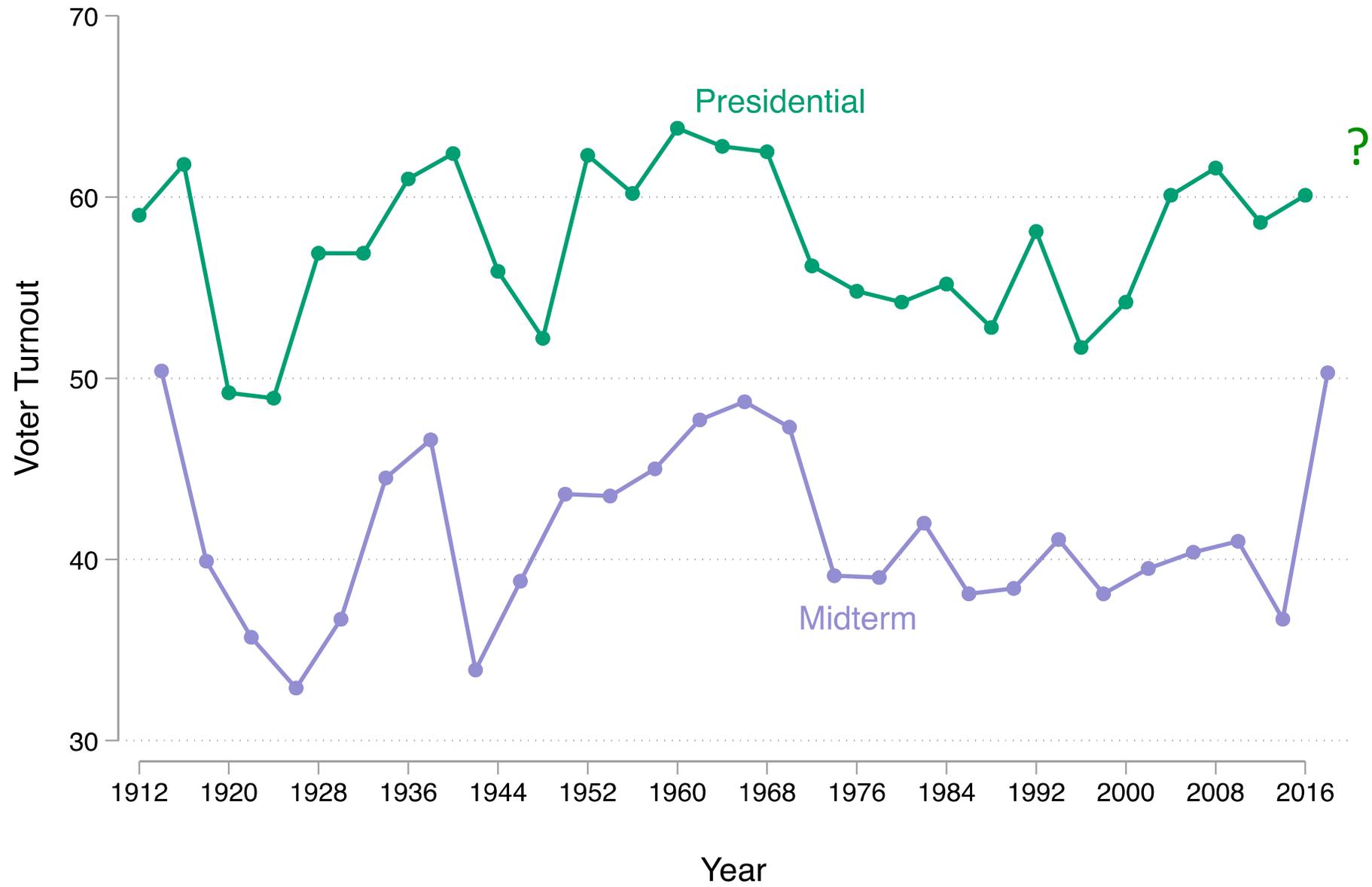
Minority rule

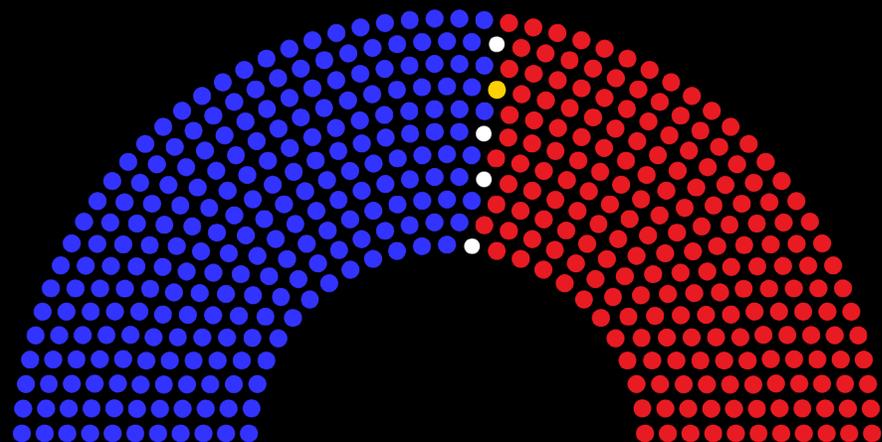
United States, presidential election, simulated outcomes by popular vote share and electoral-college tally

Based on 2,000 simulations of *The Economist's* predictive model, June 11th 2020



Source: *The Economist*

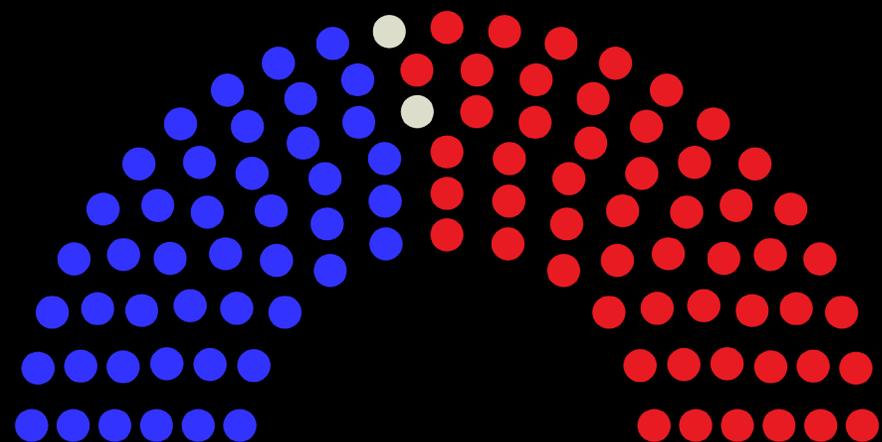




House of Representatives

233 Democrats

197 Republicans



Senate

53 Republicans

45 Democrats (+2)

Keep up with the 2020 Election



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