
RESULTS OF THE TOWN HALL LISTENING SESSIONS CONDUCTED BY THE OKLAHOMA ACADEMY



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

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SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICAL METHODS

In total, 476 individuals completed the listening session survey. Table 1 presents the raw demographics of respondents compared to those of the population of adults aged 18 years and older in Oklahoma. The sample is significantly different from the population in every demographic category for which population statistics are available. Specifically, females, those aged 18-29 years old, those of other or two or more races, those of Hispanic ethnicity, those with less than a Bachelor's degree, those not registered to vote, registered Independents and Libertarians, and those who did not vote in the 2016 presidential election are all significantly under-represented in the sample.

Due to these differences, the sample was weighted with respect to sex, age, race, ethnicity, education, and registered party. Whether the individual was registered to vote and whether the individual voted in the 2016 presidential election were not used in the weighting process as these tend to be items on which respondents are not always truthful. Boxplots of weights with respect to sex, age, race, ethnicity, education, and registered party are displayed in Figure 1.

Listening session participants were asked to list the top three barriers and solutions in three categories: the election process, voter access, and voter engagement. For each participant, the barrier and solution listed first were assigned three points each, the barrier and solution listed second were assigned two points each, and the barrier and solution listed third were assigned one point each. Any barriers and solutions not selected by the participant were assigned zero points. The (weighted) mean score for each barrier and solution was then computed. For each of the three categories, the top five barriers and solutions as measured by the (weighted) mean were determined.

Table 1. Sample demographics (unweighted)

		Sample	Population*
Sex	Male	260	56.4%
	Female	201	43.6%
Age	18-29 years	44	9.4%
	30-49 years	143	30.6%
	50-64 years	171	36.6%
	65+ years	109	23.3%
Race	Caucasian/White only	362	79.0%
	African American/Black only	31	6.8%
	Native American/Alaska Native only	52	11.4%
	Other/Two or More	13	2.8%
Ethnicity	Hispanic	16	3.6%
	Not Hispanic	432	96.4%
Marital Status	Married	349	74.7%
	Single	95	20.3%
	Widowed	23	4.9%
Education	Bachelor's degree or higher	374	80.1%
	Less than a Bachelor's degree	93	19.9%
Household Income	Above median	389	84.0%
	Below median	74	16.0%
Are you registered to vote?	Yes	459	98.7%
	No	6	1.3%
How are you registered?	Democrat	204	44.3%
	Republican	216	47.0%
	Independent / Libertarian	40	8.7%
Did you vote in the 2016 presidential election?	Yes	454	96.8%
	No	15	3.2%

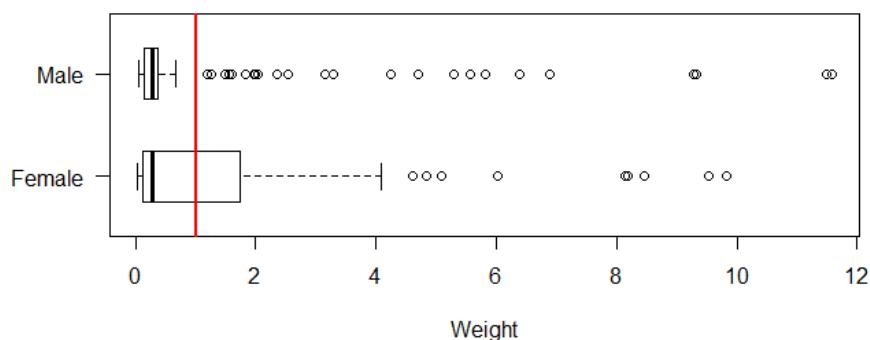
* Population percentages for sex, age, race, ethnicity, and education collected from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

Voter registration collected from the Oklahoma State Election Board, Voter Registration Reports, https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Voter_Registration_Statistics/.

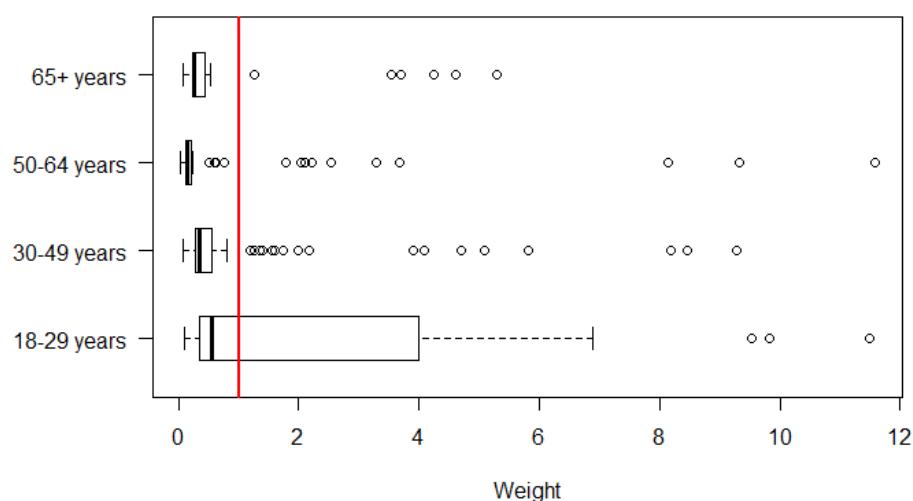
Votes in the 2016 presidential election collected from The New York Times, Oklahoma Results, <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/results/oklahoma?mcubz=0>.

Figure 1. Boxplots of weights (unweighted)

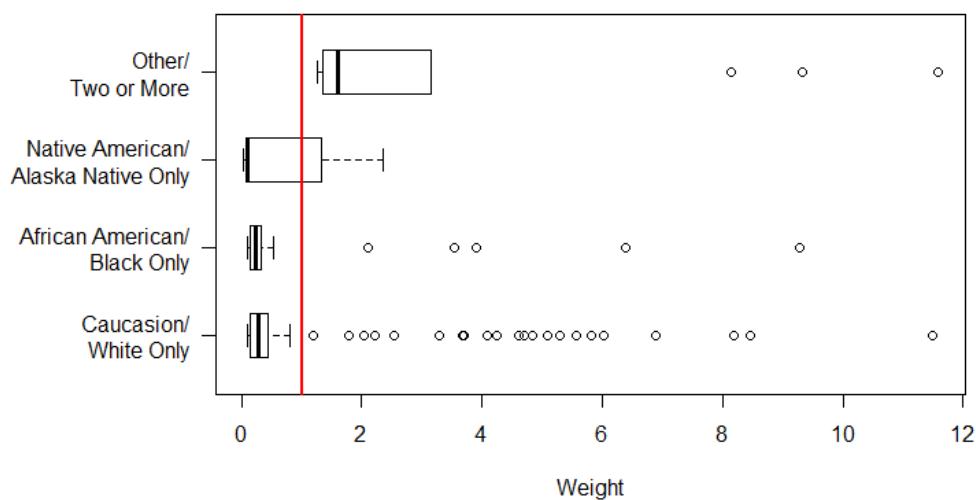
a. By sex



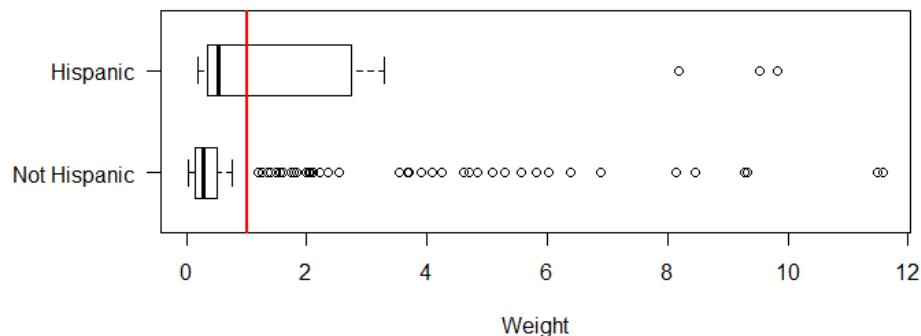
b. By age



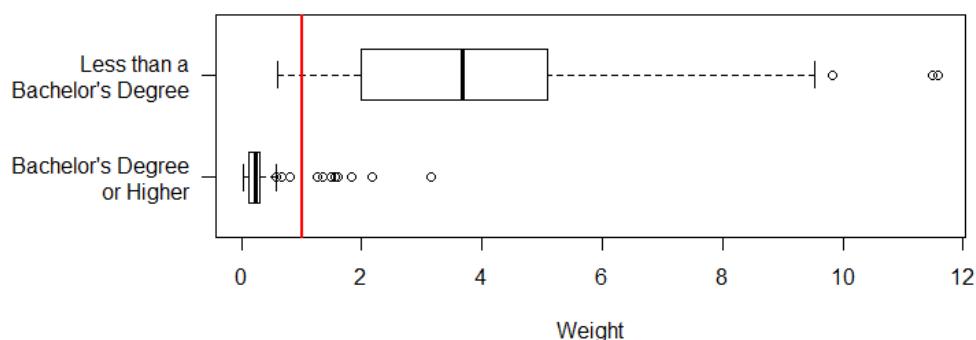
c. By race



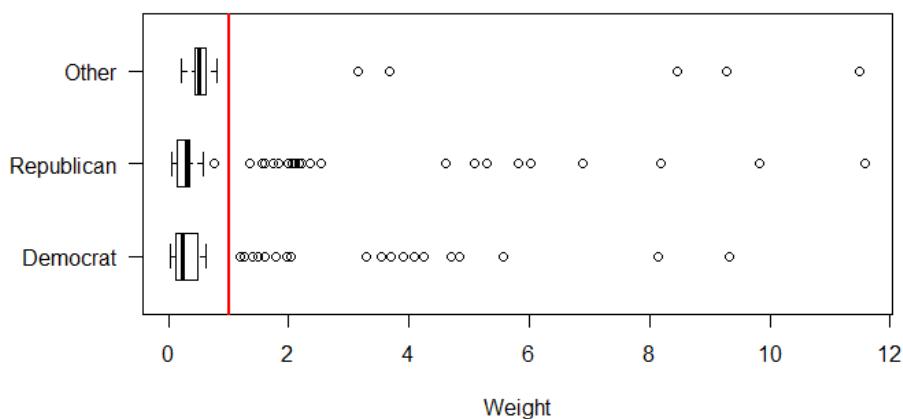
d. By ethnicity



e. By education

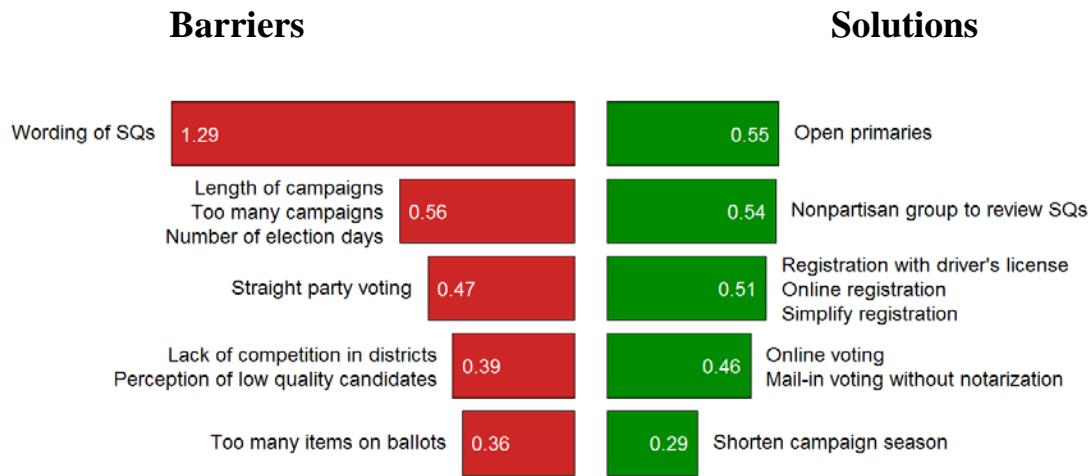


f. By registered party



THE ELECTION PROCESS

The top 5 barriers and solutions to the election process, according to all listening session participants, are shown below. The barrier with the greatest mean score was ‘wording of SQs’. This barrier stood out at the top of the list, receiving a mean score more than double that of the second barrier in the list. The solution with the greatest mean score was ‘open primaries’; however, the mean scores for the top four solutions are all very close.

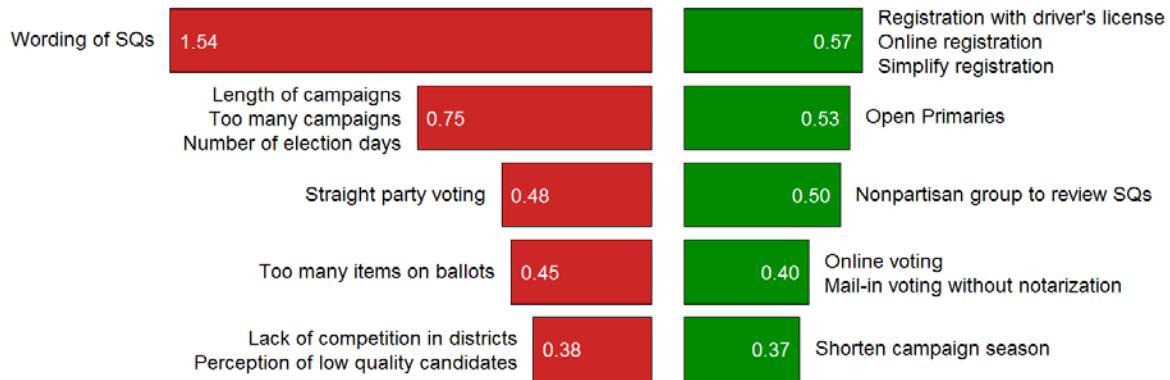


The top 5 barriers and solutions to the election process, by sex, registered party, and age are displayed on the following pages. The barrier with the highest mean score in every sex, registered party, and age group was ‘wording of SQs’. There was disagreement, however, as to the best solution. Males and females had the same top four solutions, but in different orders. Females selected ‘registration with driver’s license/online registration/simplify registration’ as the top solution, and males selected ‘nonpartisan group to review SQs’. Democrats, republicans, and independents/libertarians had two solutions of the top five in common, but did not agree on the best solution. Overall, democrats and republicans had the most solutions in common of the three groups. The four age groups had three solutions in common, but did not agree on the best solution. The 50-64 year olds and 65 year olds and older had all five solutions in common, but in different orders. It is interesting that ‘wording of SQs’ was clearly selected as the greatest barrier by every group, but ‘nonpartisan group to review SQs’ was only selected as the top solution by males, republicans, and 18-29 year olds.

Barriers

Solutions

Female (n = 201)



Male (n = 260)



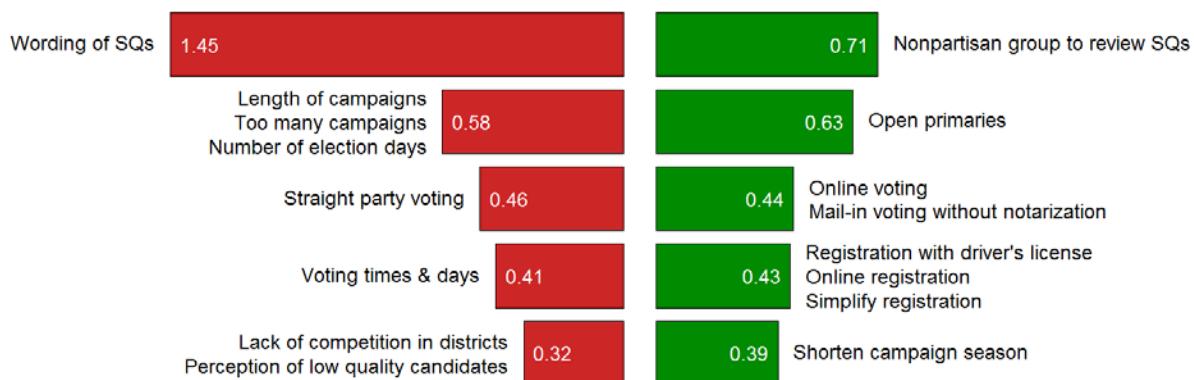
Barriers

Solutions

Democrat ($n = 204$)



Republican ($n = 216$)



Independent / Libertarian ($n = 40$)



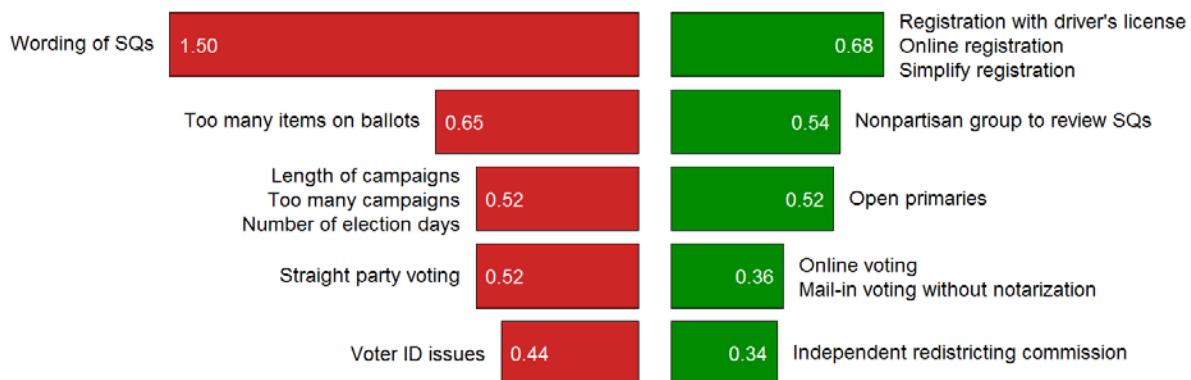
Barriers

Solutions

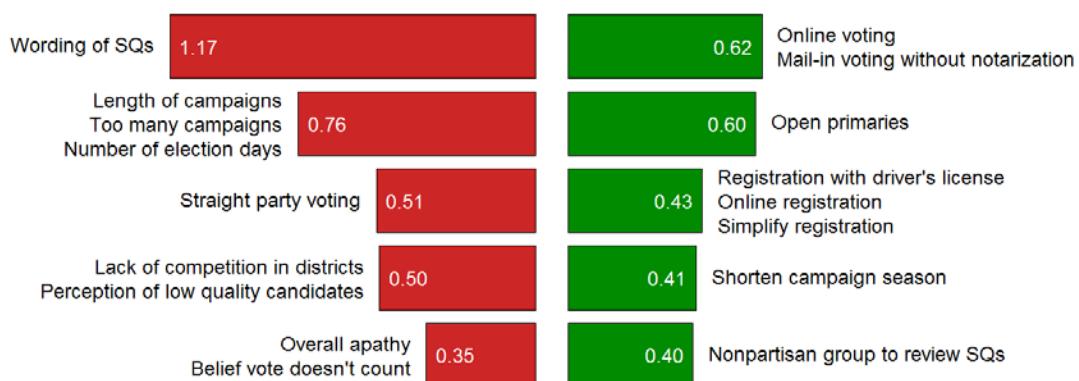
Age 18-29 years (n = 44)



Age 30-49 years (n = 143)



Age 50-64 years (n = 171)



Age 65 years or older (n = 109)



VOTER ACCESS

The top 5 barriers and solutions to voter access, according to all listening session participants, are shown below. The barrier with the greatest mean score was ‘lack of transportation’, but there is very little difference (0.14 points) in the mean scores of the top five barriers. The solution with the greatest score was ‘more early voting sites’.



The top 5 barriers and solutions to voter access, by sex, registered party, and age are displayed on the following pages. Males and females agreed on four of the top five barriers and four of the top five solutions, but in different orders. The top barrier selected by females was ‘lack of transportation’, which doesn’t appear at all in the top five barriers for males. Both males and females agreed that the top solution was ‘more early voting sites’. Democrats, republicans, and independents/libertarians had only two barriers of the top five in common, but did not agree on the greatest barrier. Democrats and independents/libertarians had the most barriers in common of the three groups. Democrats and republicans both selected ‘more early voting sites’ as the top solution; whereas, independents/libertarians selected ‘free public transportation on election day’ as the top solution. The four age groups have only two barriers in common, and did not agree on the greatest barrier. Similarly, the four age groups have only two solutions in common; however, three of the four age groups agree that the top solution is ‘more early voting sites’.

Barriers

Solutions

Female (n = 201)



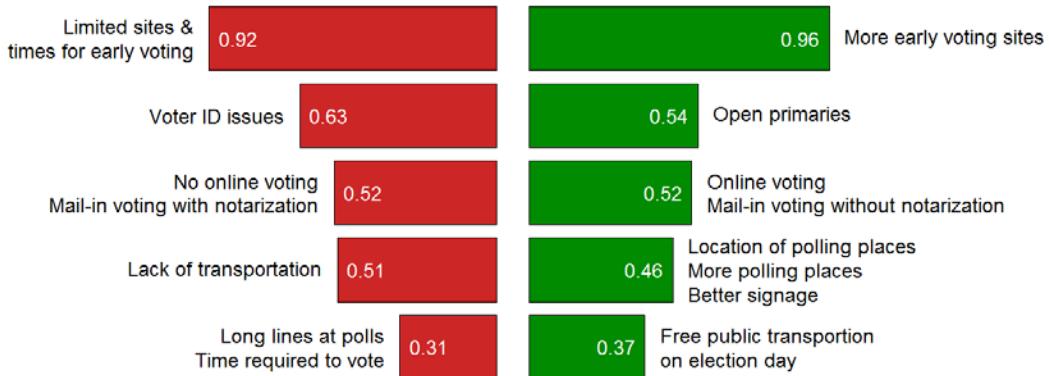
Male (n = 260)



Barriers

Solutions

Democrat (n = 204)



Republican (n = 216)



Independent / Libertarian (n = 40)



Barriers

Solutions

Age 18-29 years (n = 44)



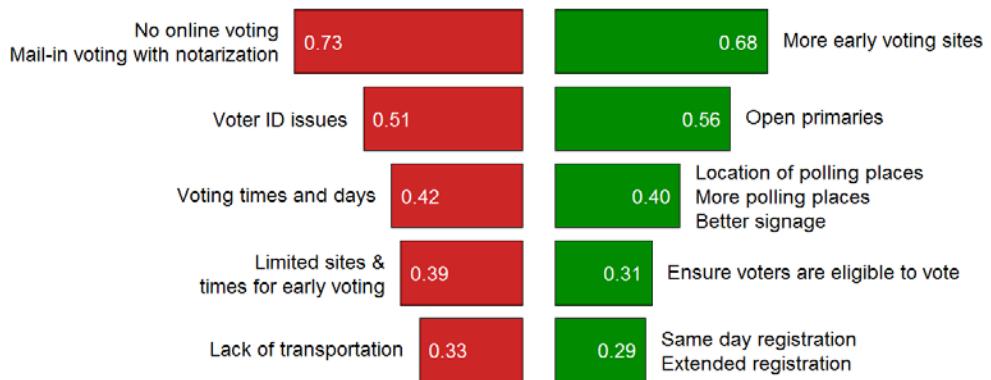
Age 30-49 years (n = 143)



Age 50-64 years (n = 171)

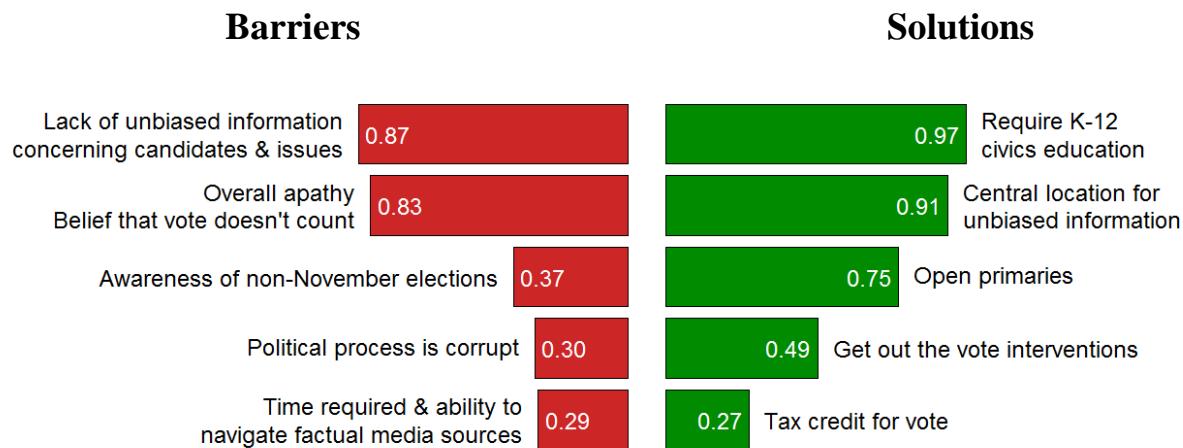


Age 65 years or older (n = 109)



VOTER ENGAGEMENT

The top 5 barriers and solutions to voter engagement, according to all listening session participants, are shown below. The barrier with the greatest mean score was ‘lack of unbiased information concerning candidates & issues’, but there is very little difference (0.04 points) in the mean scores of the top two barriers. The solution with the greatest score was ‘require K-12 civics education’, but again there is very little difference (0.06 points) in the mean scores of the top two solutions.

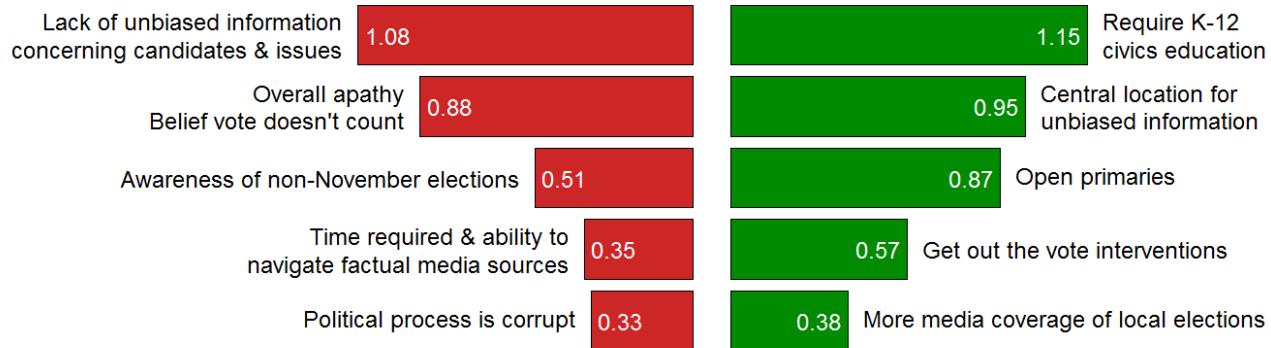


The top 5 barriers and solutions to voter engagement, by sex, registered party, and age are displayed on the following pages. ‘Lack of unbiased information concerning candidates and issues’ and ‘overall apathy/belief vote doesn’t count’ are the top two barriers for every category of sex, registered party, and age, but they are in a different order. Similarly, ‘require K-12 civics education’ is one of the top two solutions for every category of sex, registered party, and age.

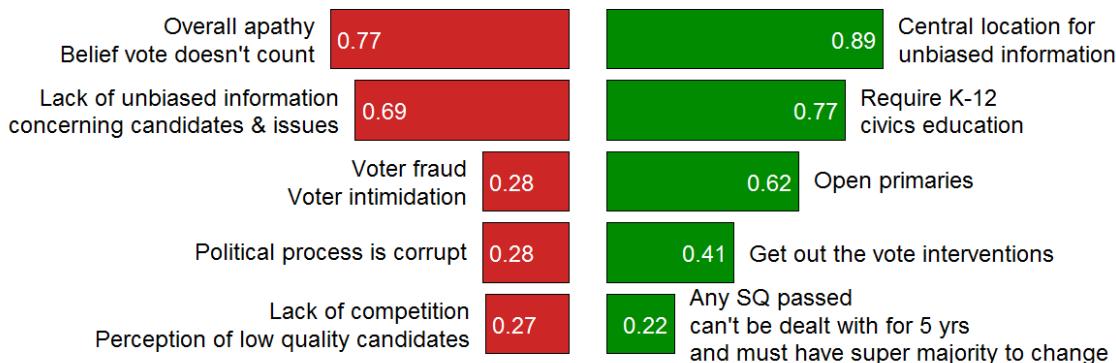
Barriers

Solutions

Female (n = 201)



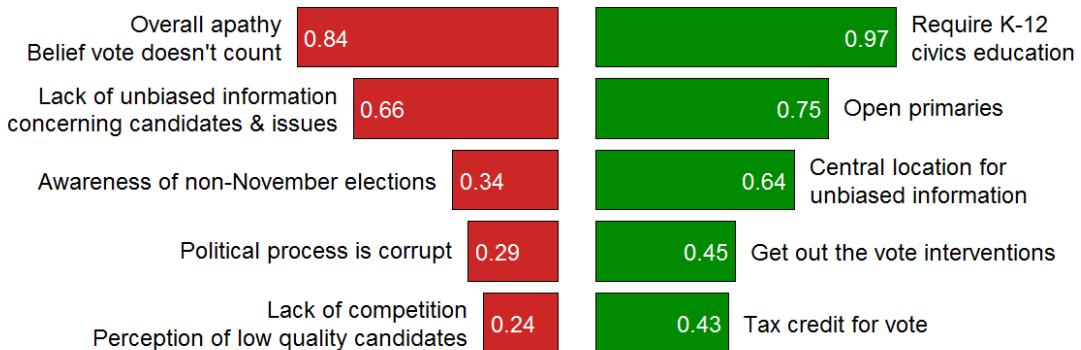
Male (n = 260)



Barriers

Solutions

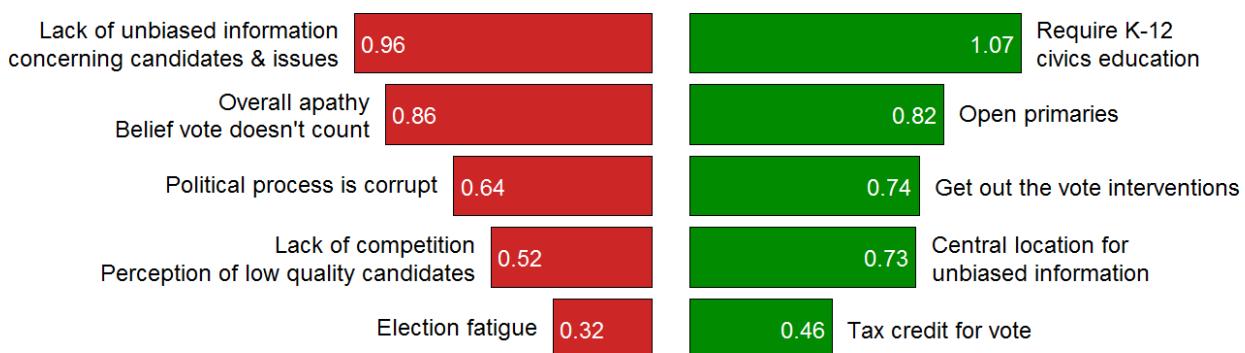
Democrat (n = 204)



Republican (n = 216)



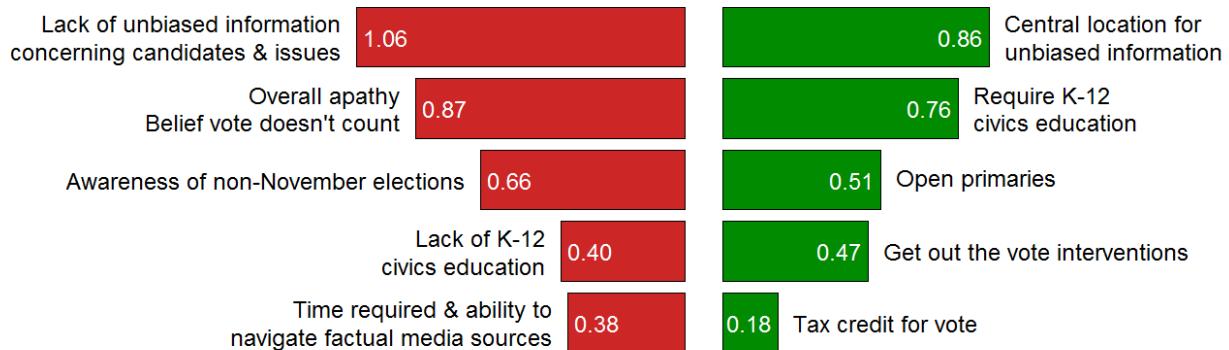
Independent / Libertarian (n = 40)



Barriers

Solutions

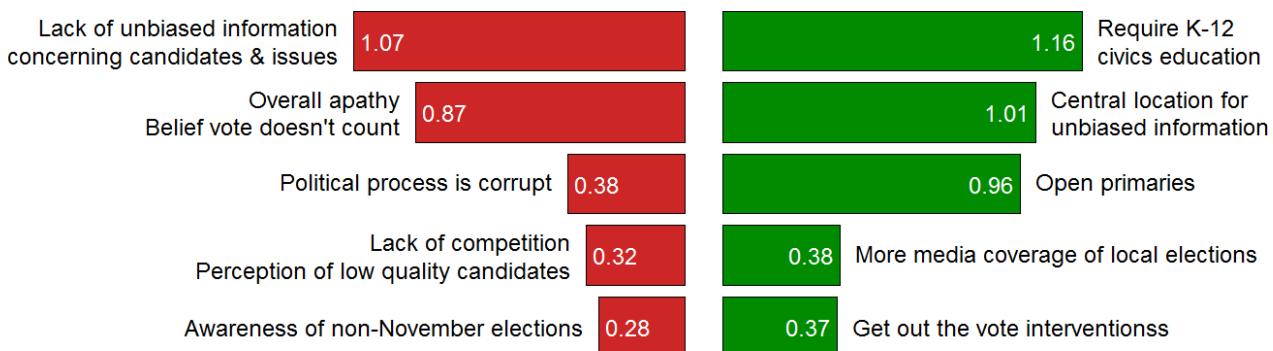
Age 18-29 years (n = 44)



Age 30-49 years (n = 143)



Age 50-64 years (n = 171)



Age 65 years or older (n=109)

