

Supplementary Material

Partisan mathematical processing of political polling statistics:

It's the expectations that count

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Exploratory Analyses

Pre-election popular vote estimates in Experiment 3 among voters in Experiment 4. We also analyzed pre-election popular vote bias in those who did not vote, compared to Trump voters and Clinton voters. Aligning with their expectations for a Clinton win, we found that people who ultimately did not vote showed a Clinton-favoring, but slightly more “middle-of-the-road,” estimation pattern of the popular vote (see Figure S1).

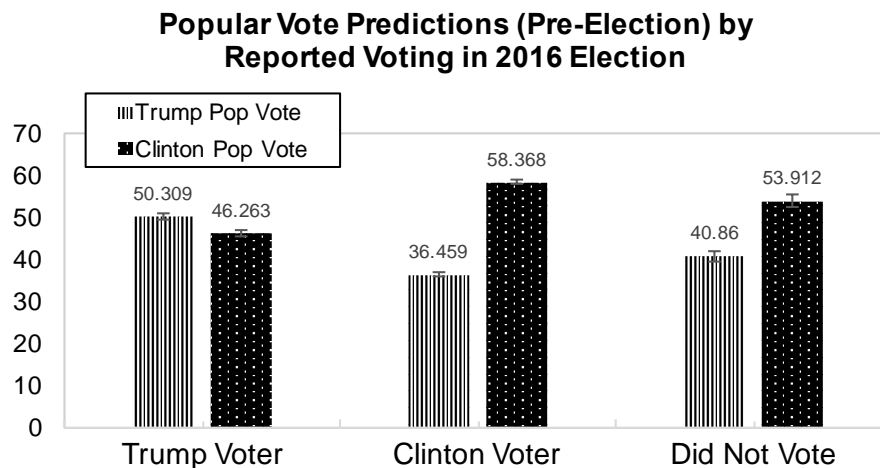


Figure S1. Popular vote predictions from Experiment 3 graphed by reported voter behavior in Experiment 4. The people who did not vote tended to expect Clinton to win and showed estimates similar to Clinton supporters'. However, they showed a significantly reduced pattern of bias in her favor, compared to those who ultimately did vote for Clinton.

Specifically, people who reported that they did not vote in Experiment 4 gave estimates of Clinton's popular vote ($n=57$; $M(SD \text{ following}) = 54\% (11.7)$) that were significantly lower than Clinton voters' estimates ($n=329$; $M = 58\% (9.6)$) but significantly higher than Trump voters' ($n=217$; $M = 46\% (10.9)$, $F(2,600) = 91.7$, $p < .001$; $\eta^2_{\text{partial}} = .23$) in Experiment 3. Likewise, their estimates for Trump's popular vote ($M = 41\% (11.0)$) were significantly higher than Clinton voters' estimates ($M = 37\% (9.2)$) but significantly lower than Trump voters' ($M = 50\% (11.4)$, $F(2,600) = 121.6$, $p < .001$; $\eta^2_{\text{partial}} = .29$). In sum, those who did not vote by and large

had expected Clinton to win, but their pre-election popular vote biases were reduced compared to those who reported actually voting for Clinton. These results contrast with non-voters' mathematical biases (reported in the main text), which were larger (in favor of Clinton, deflating Trump), compared to those who voted.