



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW

Top-3 Voting:

Electoral Reform to Combat Polarization

Edward B. Foley

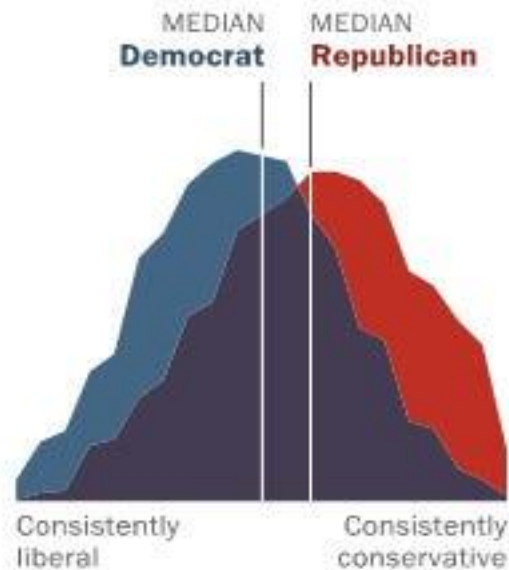
Reform Elections Now zoom webinar
May 28, 2024



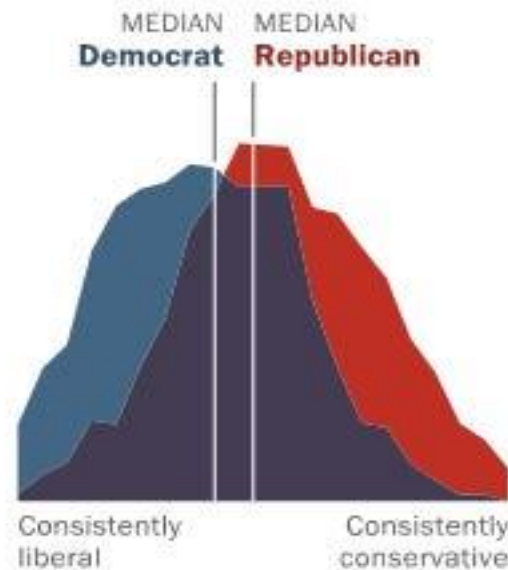
Democrats and Republicans more ideologically divided than in the past

Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values

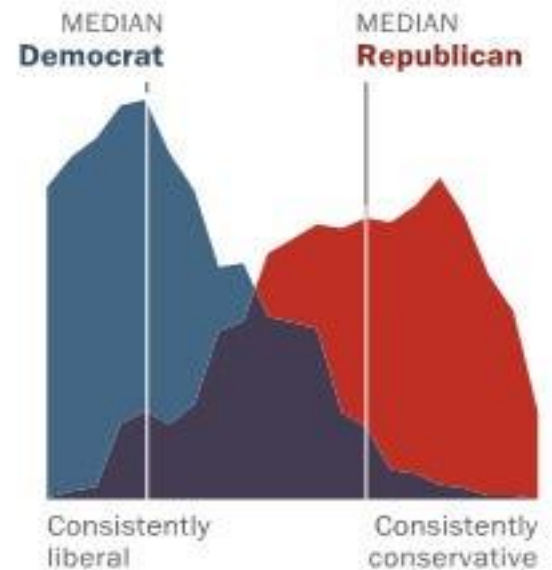
1994



2004



2017



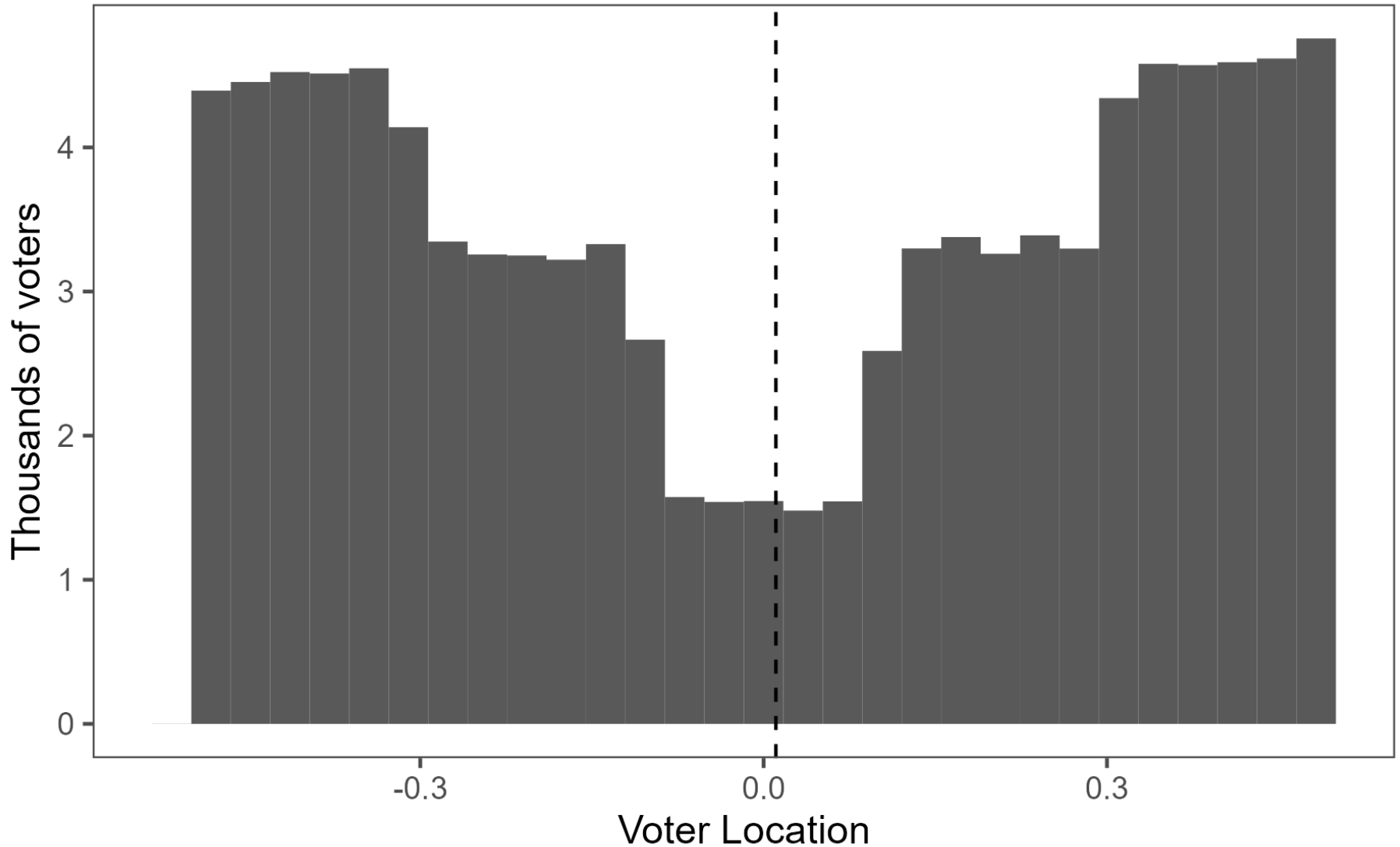
Notes: Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see methodology). The blue area in this chart represents the ideological distribution of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents; the red area of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. The overlap of these two distributions is shaded purple.

Source: Survey conducted June 8-18, 2017.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

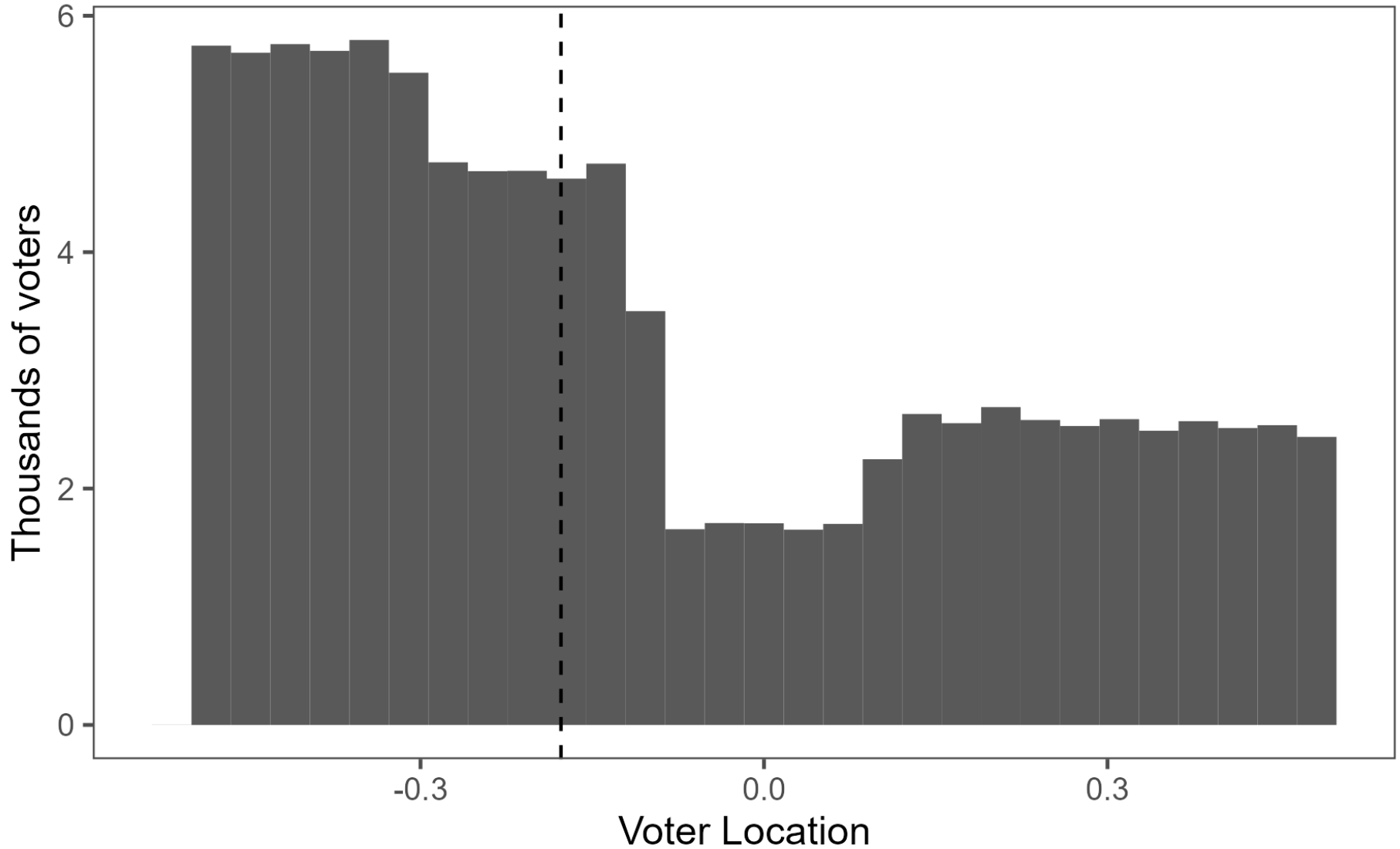


Arizona Simulated Voter Population



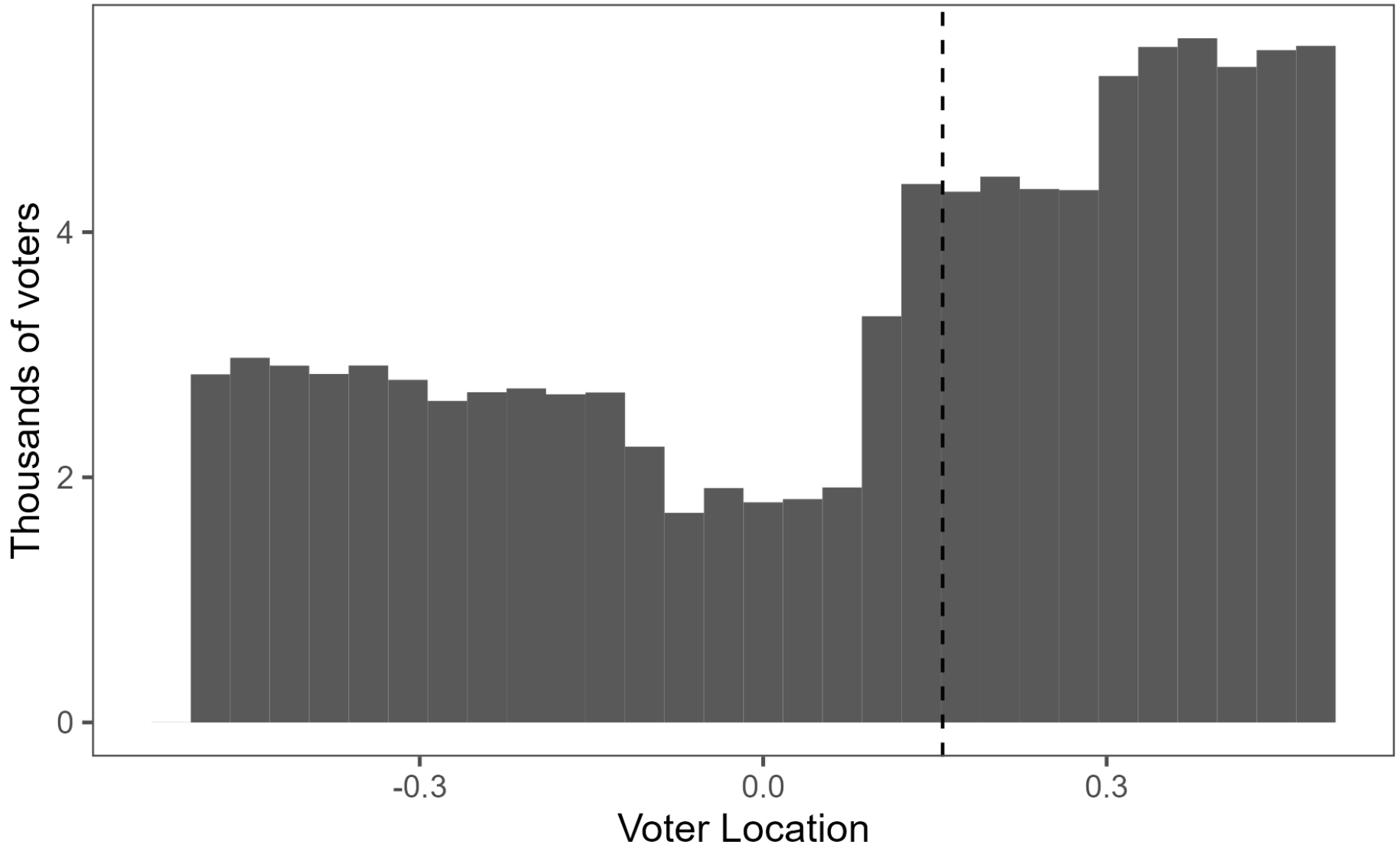


California Simulated Voter Population



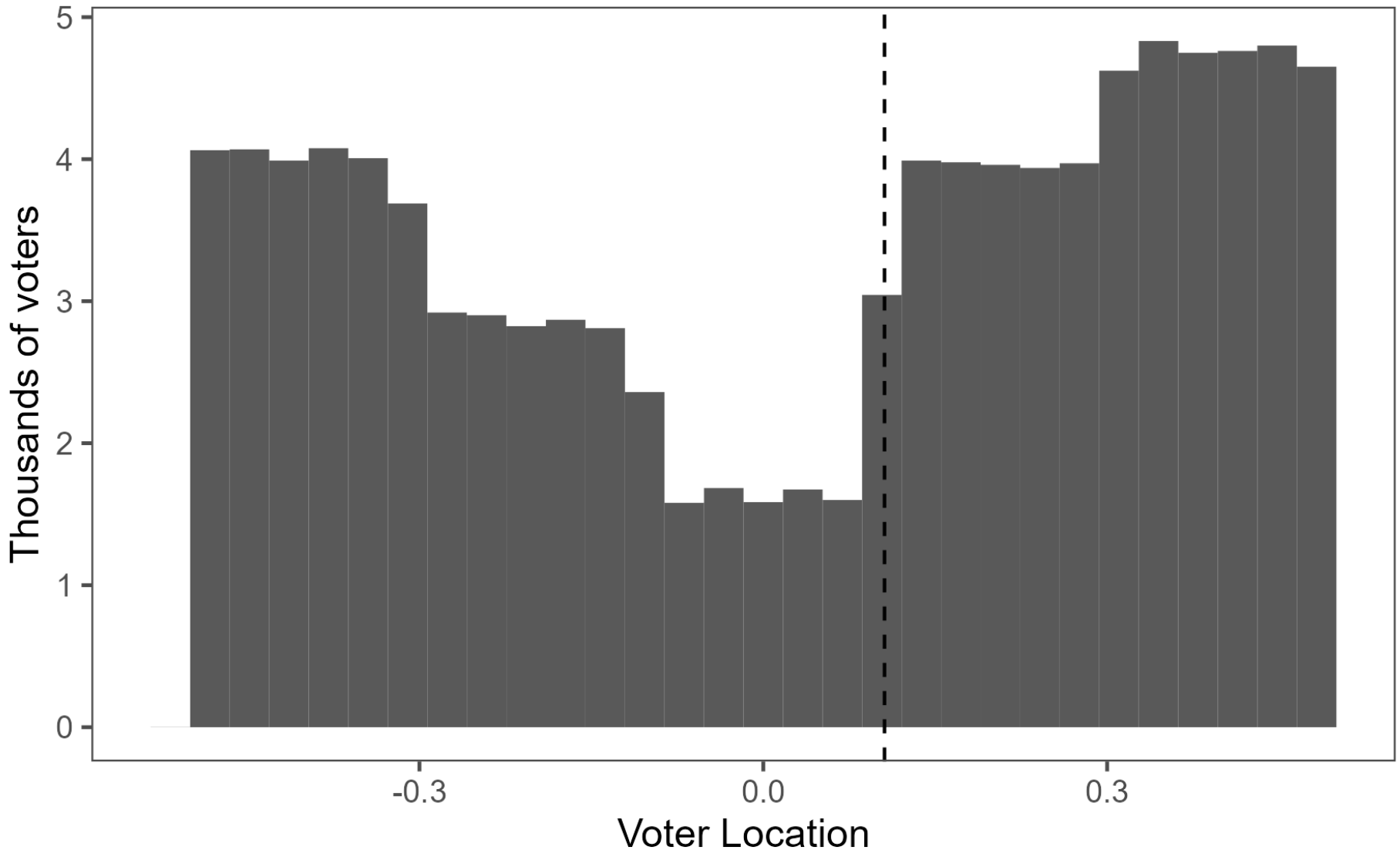


Arkansas Simulated Voter Population



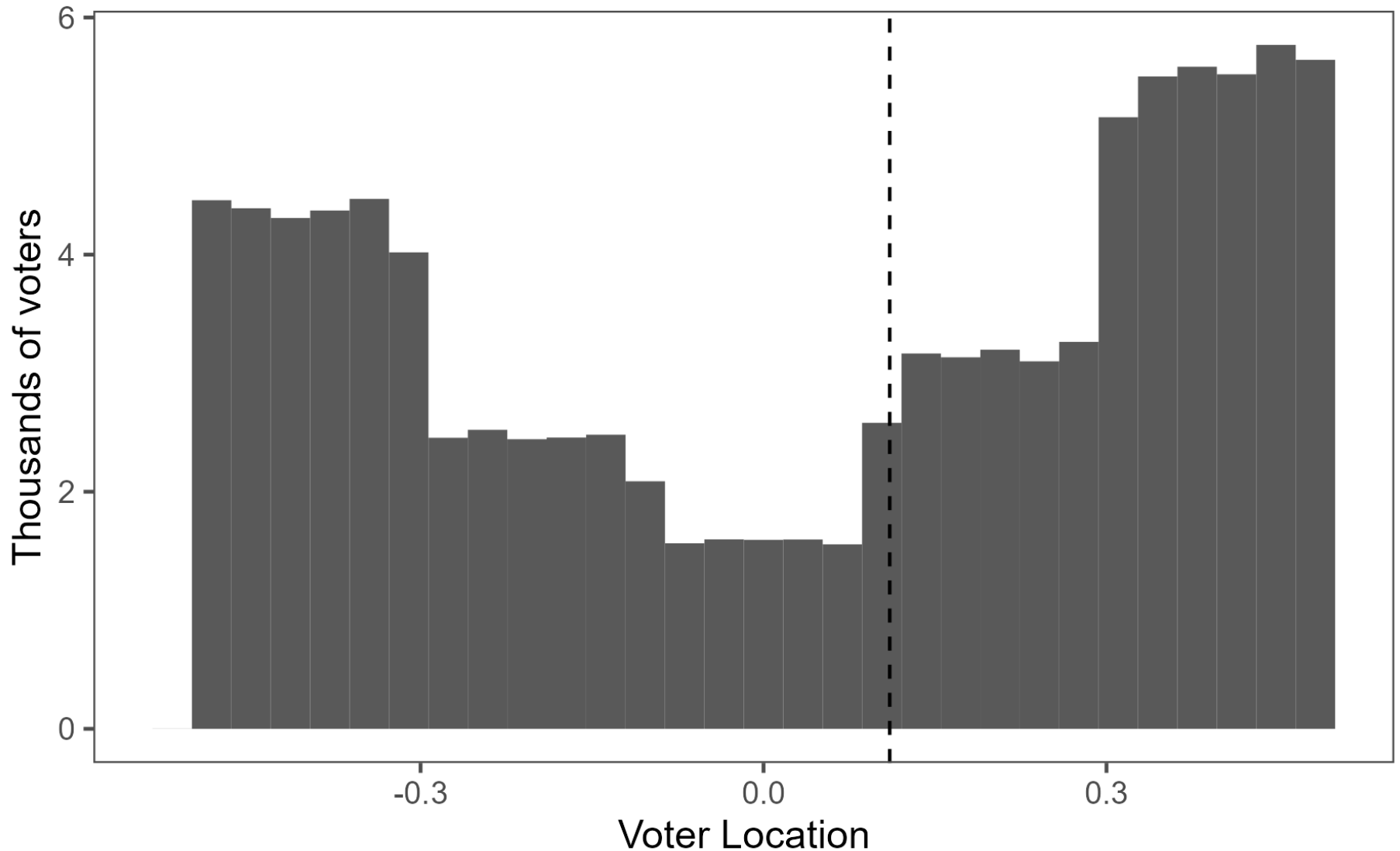


Missouri Simulated Voter Population



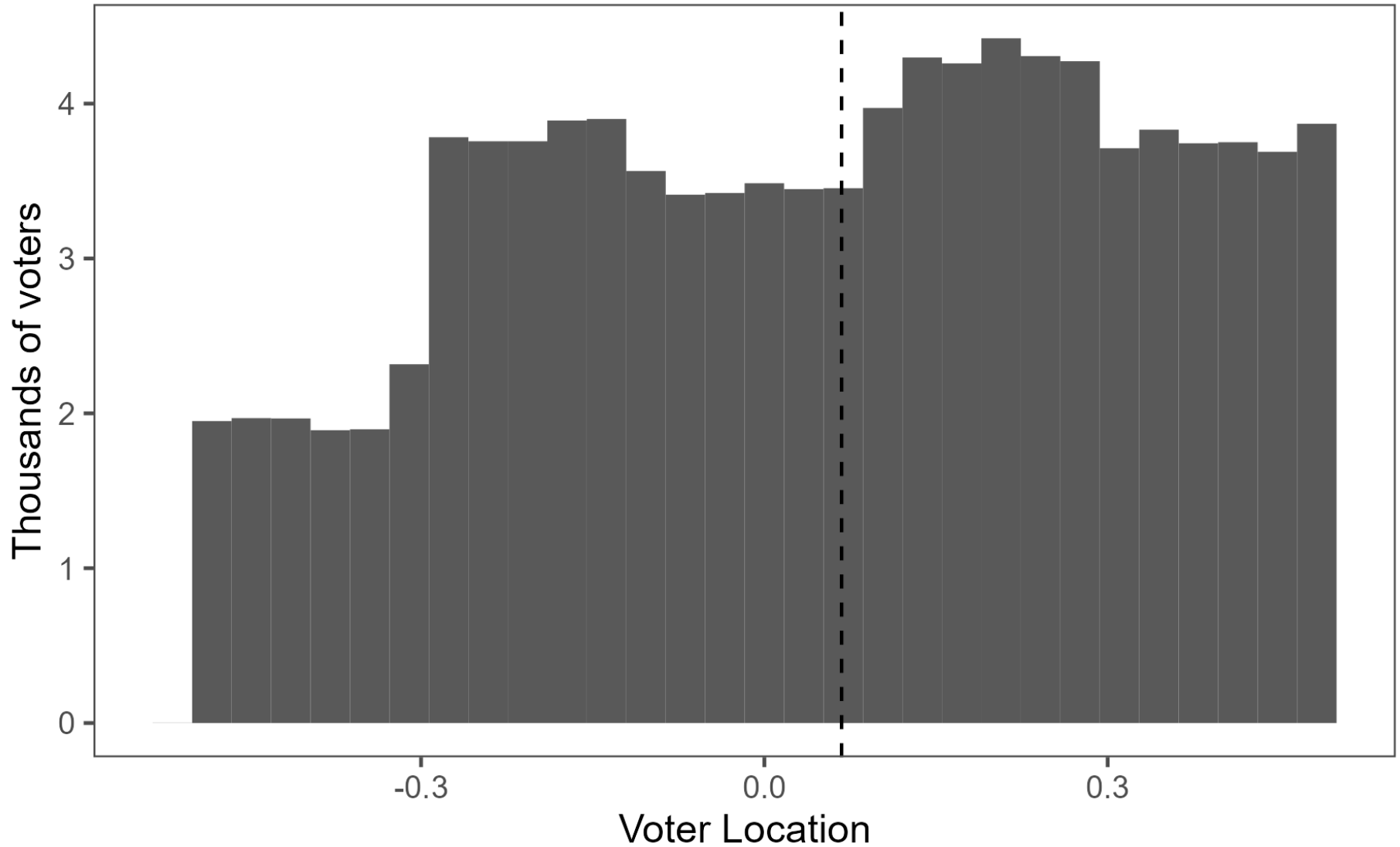


Mississippi Simulated Voter Population



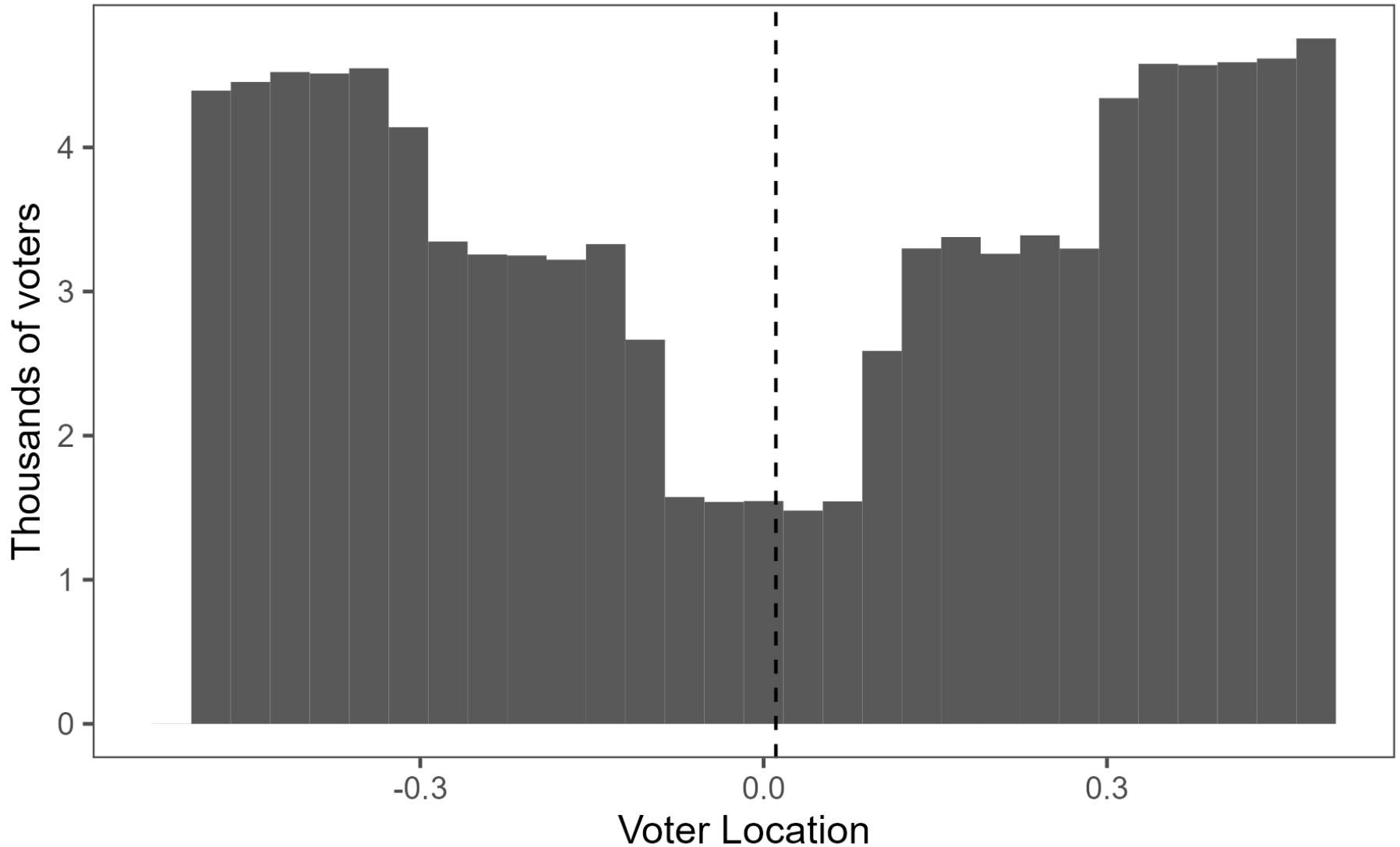


Alaska Simulated Voter Population



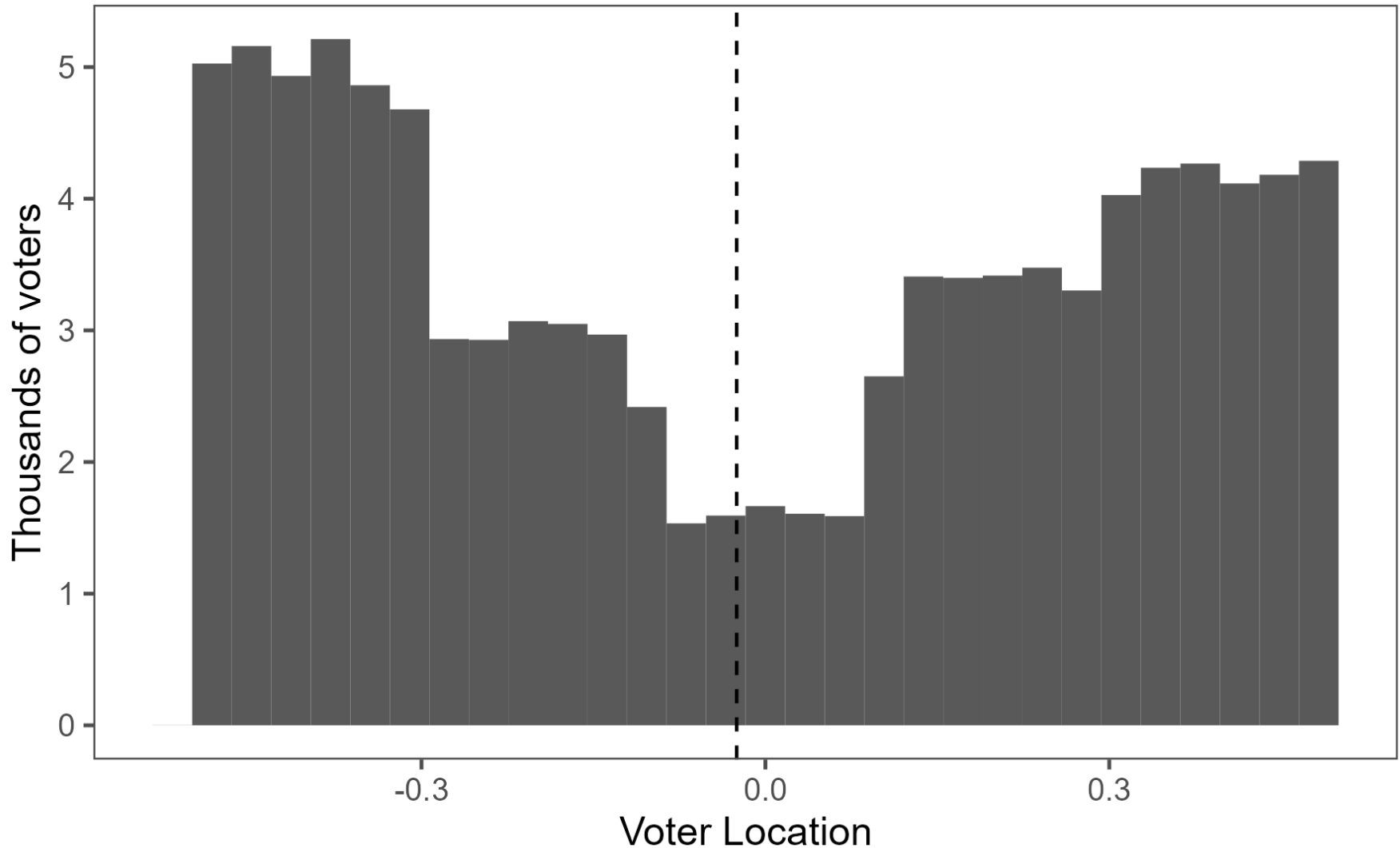


Arizona Simulated Voter Population



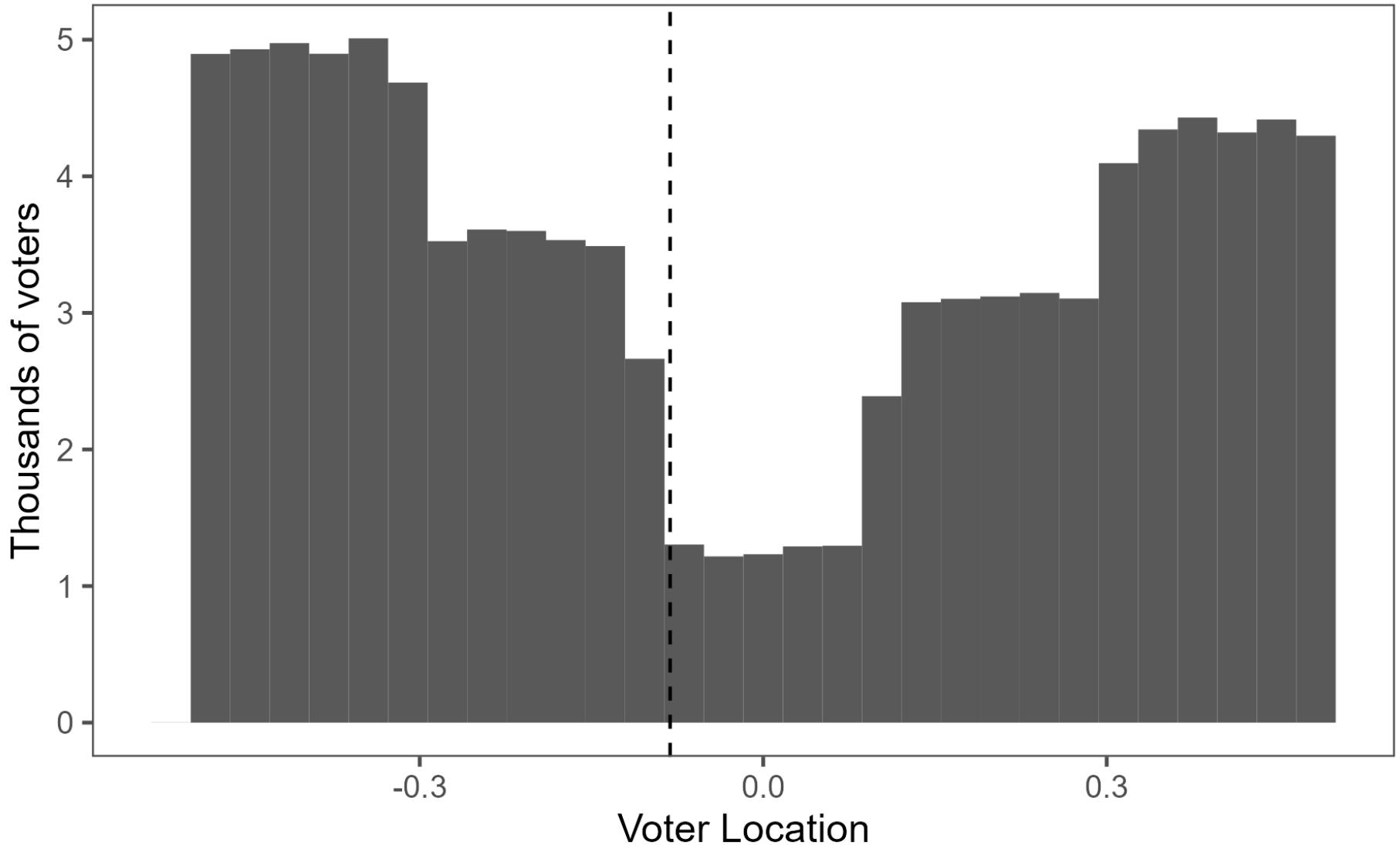


Nevada Simulated Voter Population



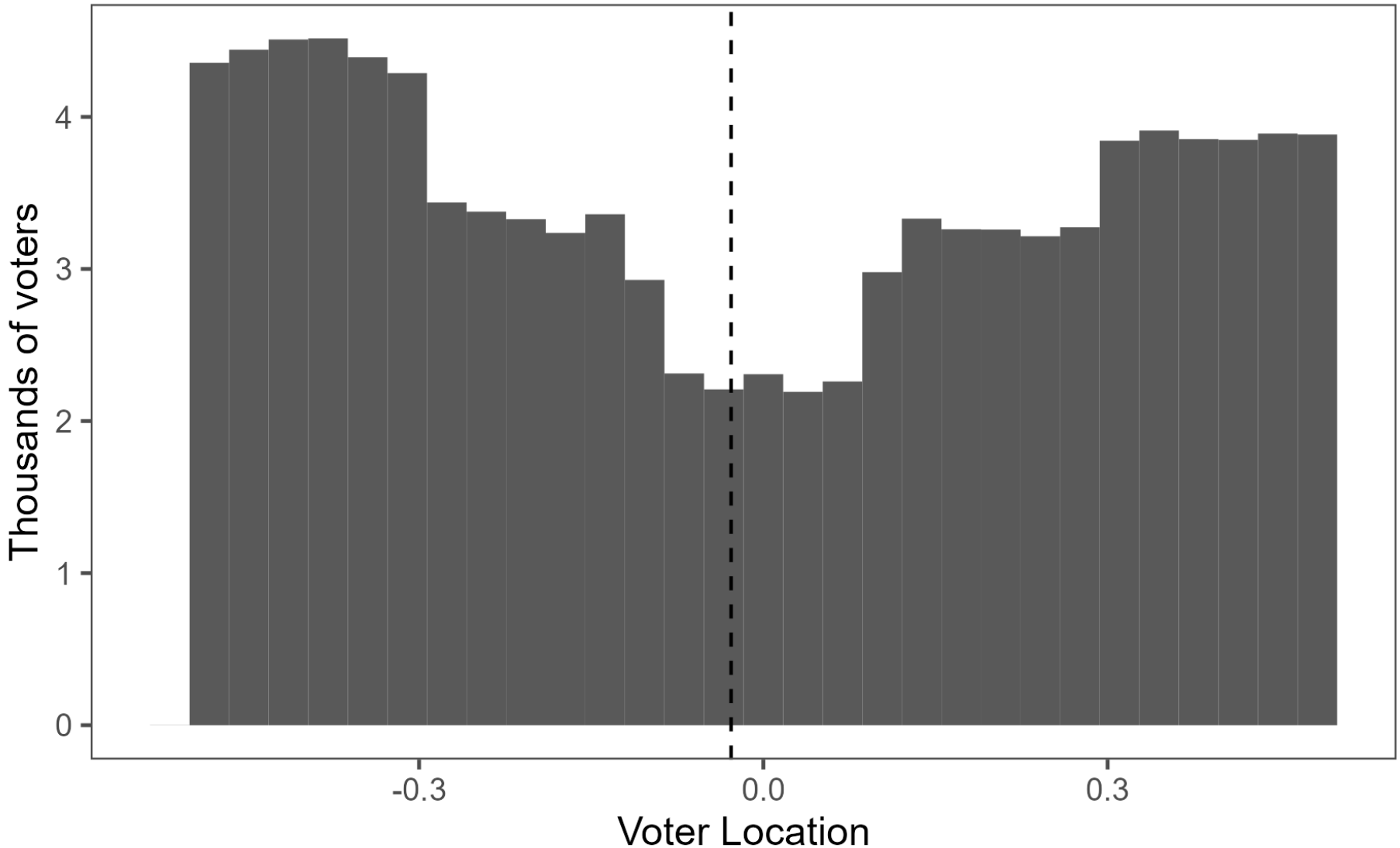


Pennsylvania Simulated Voter Population



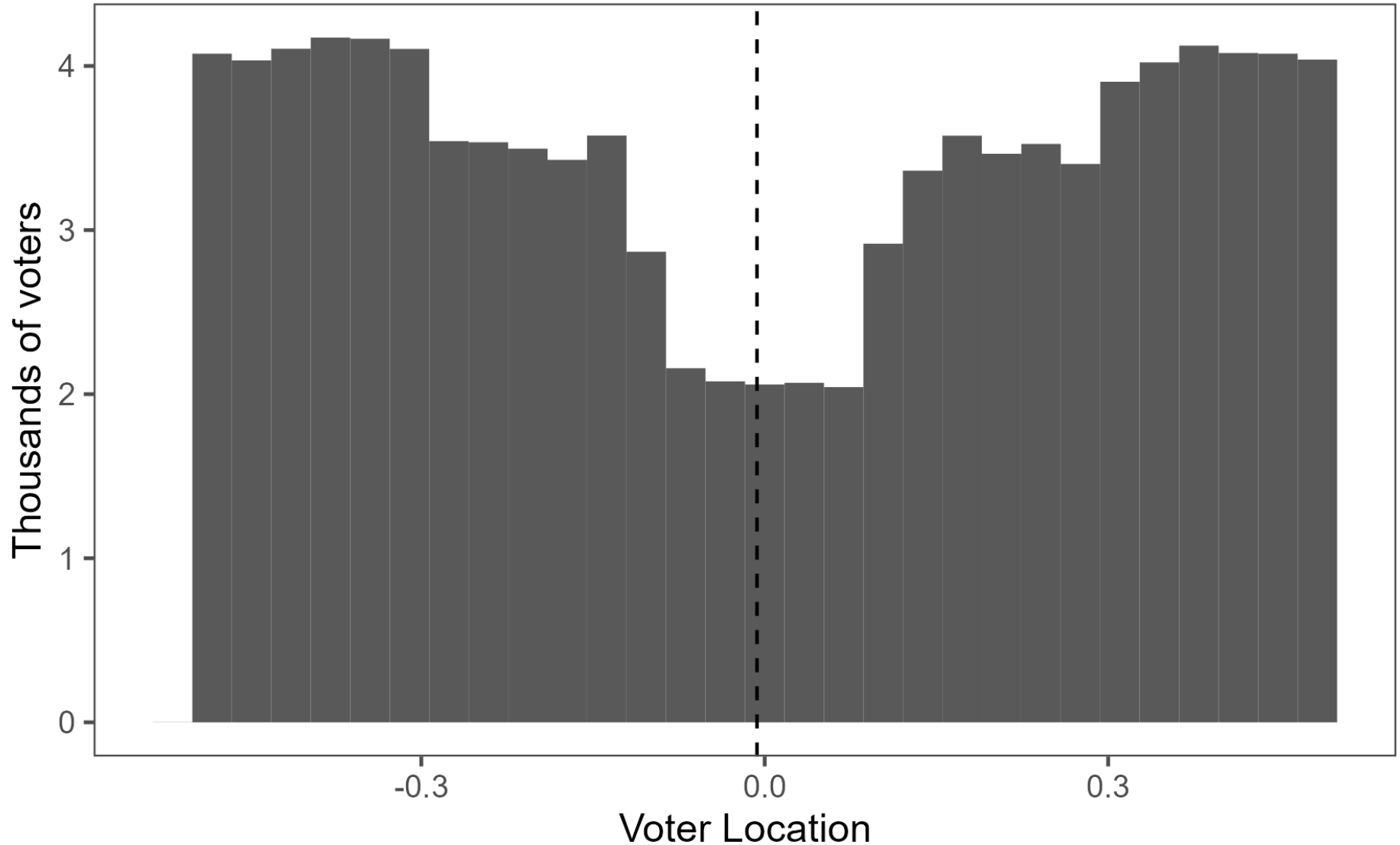


Michigan Simulated Voter Population



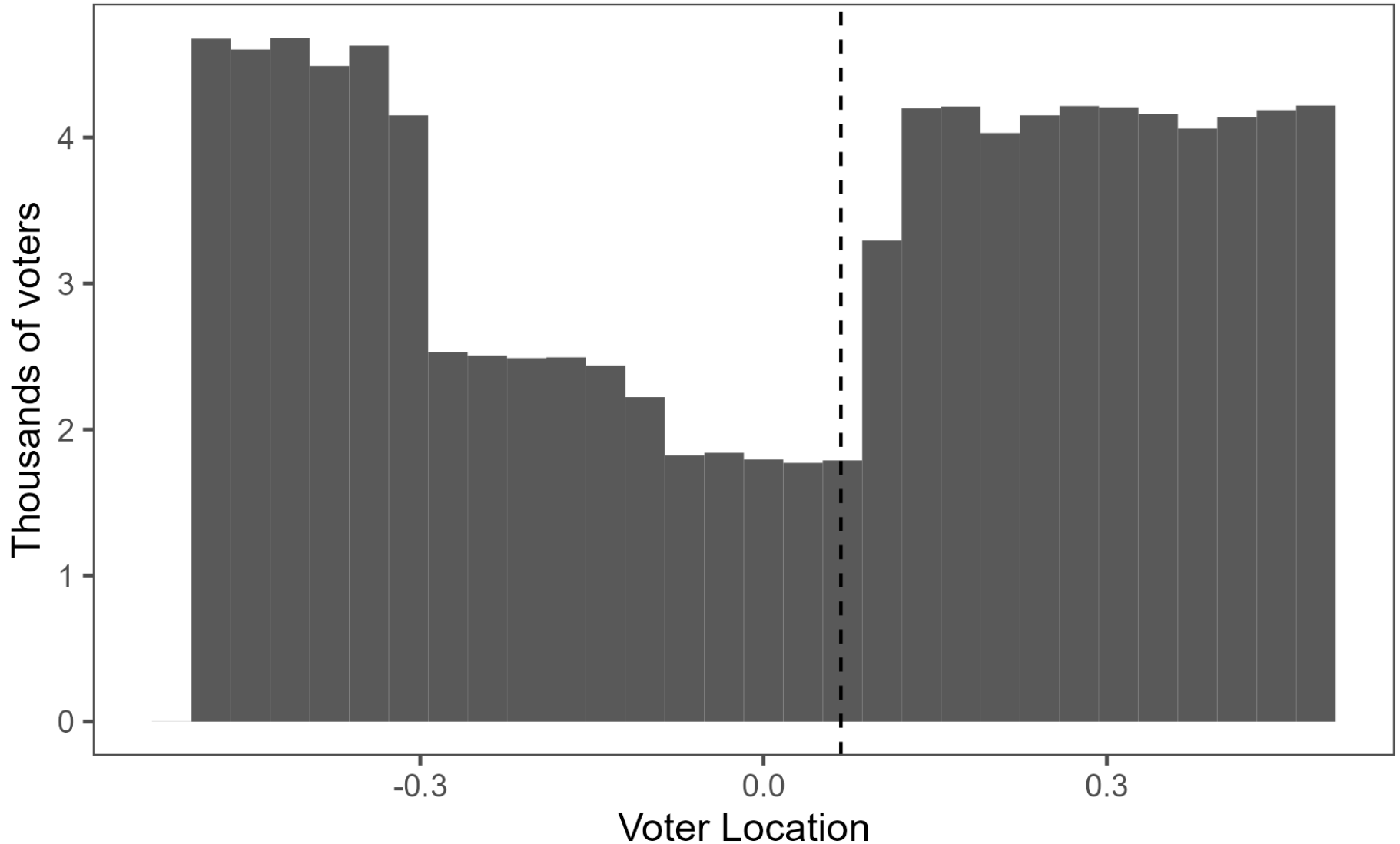


Wisconsin Simulated Voter Population



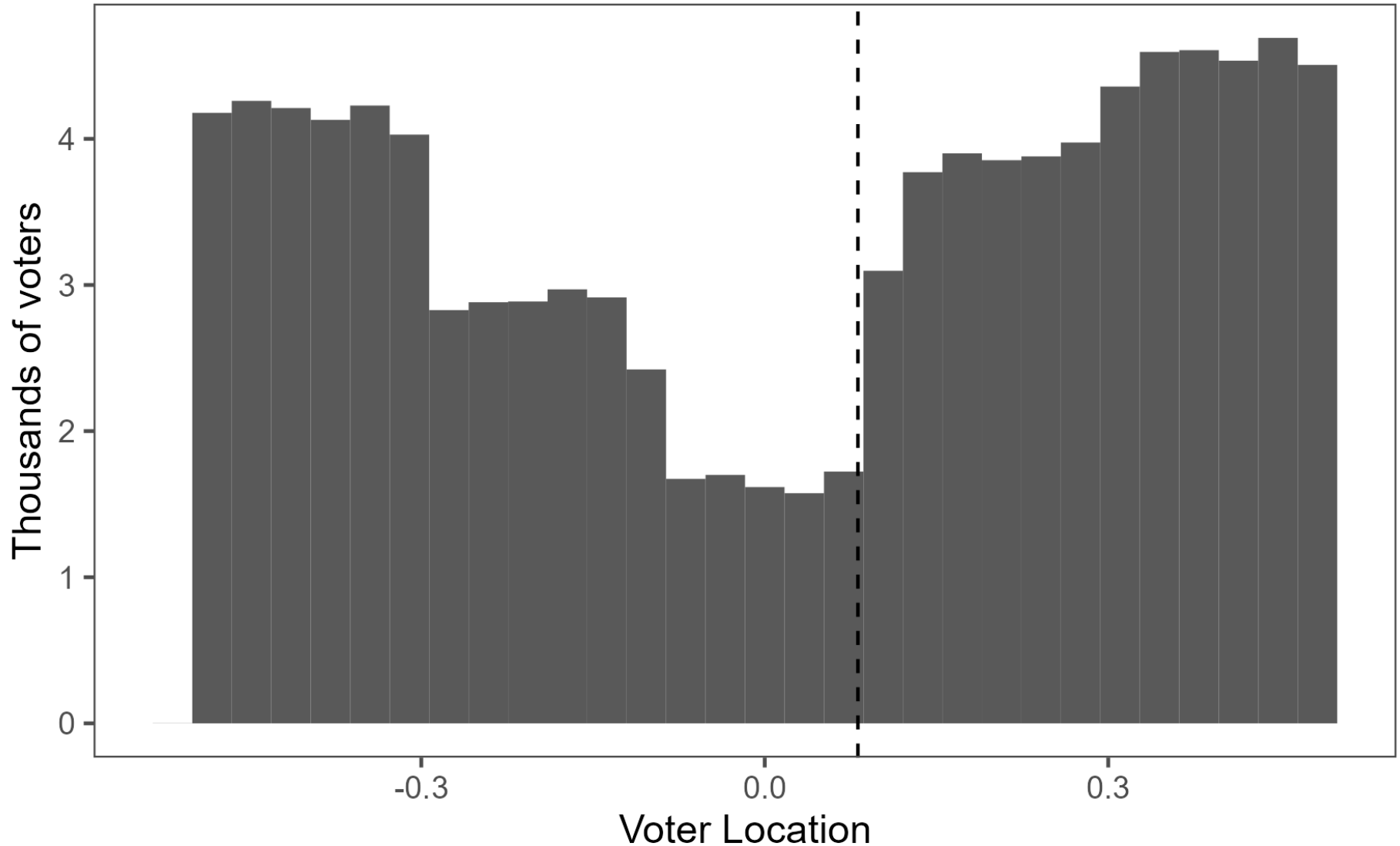


North Carolina Simulated Voter Population





Ohio Simulated Voter Population

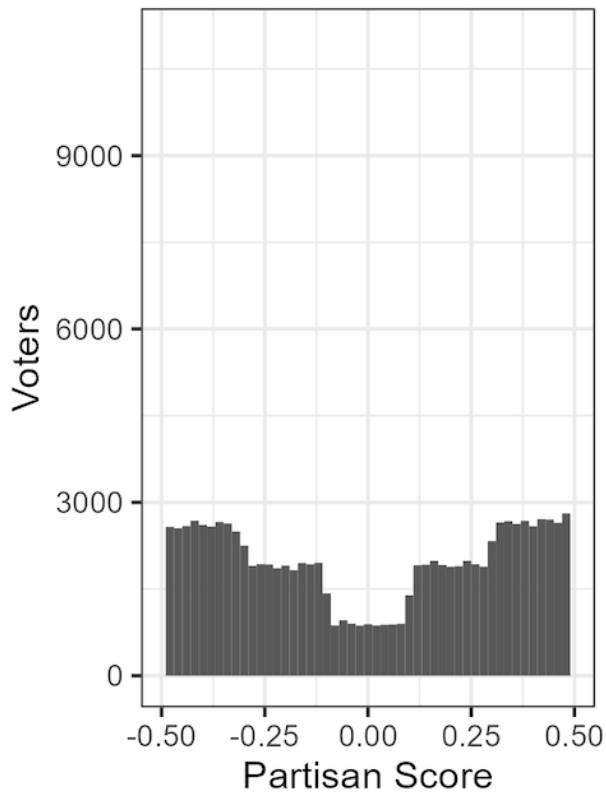




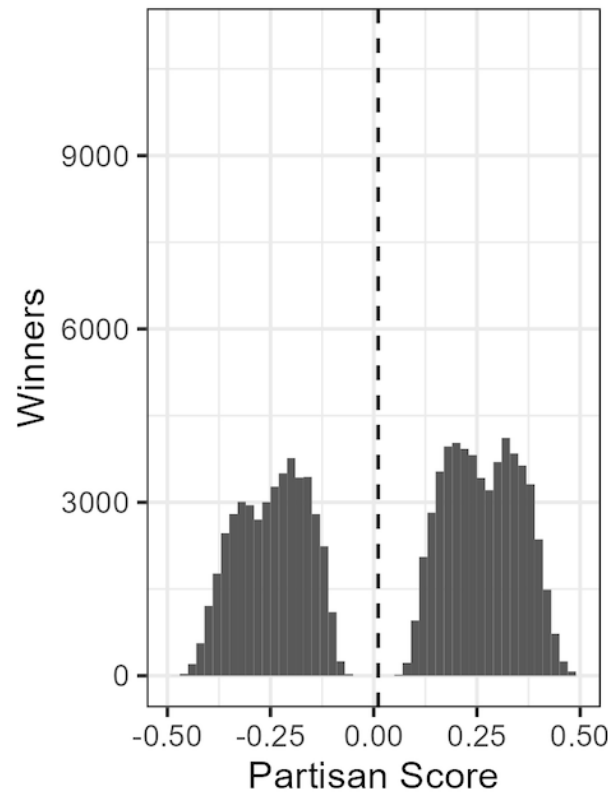
Arizona

Data from Nate Atkinson, Scott Ganz & John Mantus

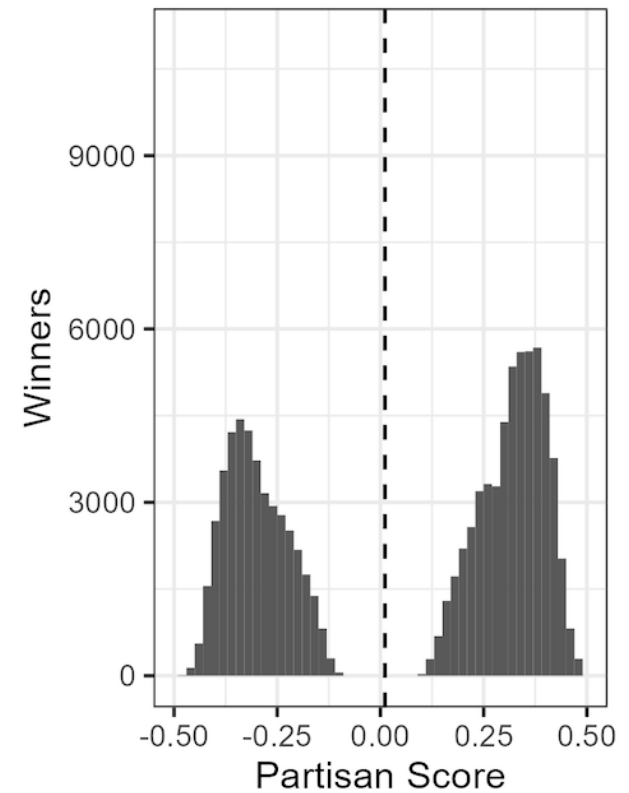
Voters



Plurality (delta = 1)



Plurality (delta = 2)

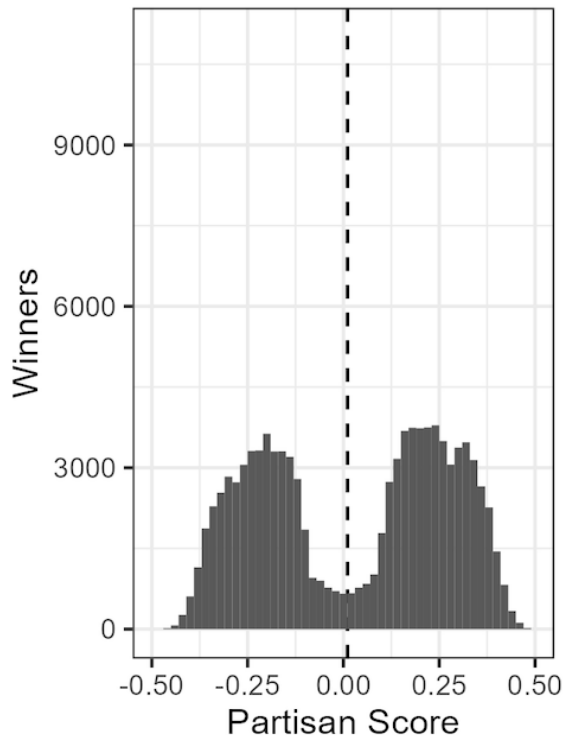




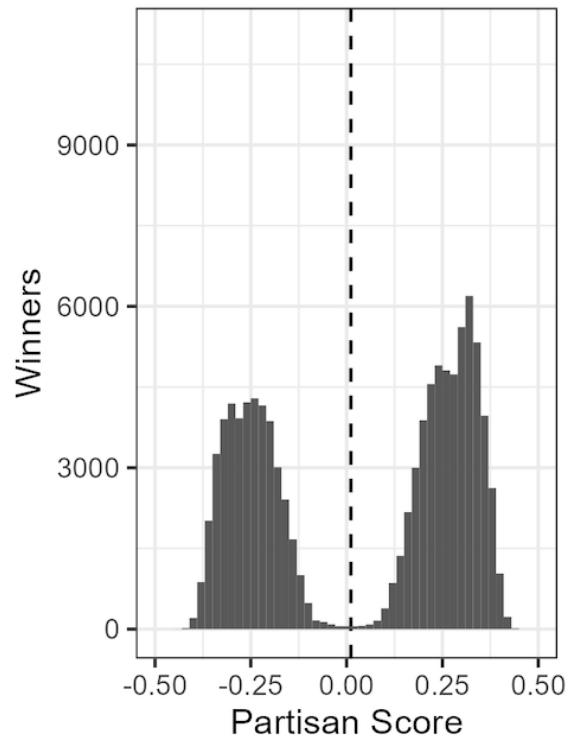
Data from Nate Atkinson, Scott Ganz & John Mantus

Arizona

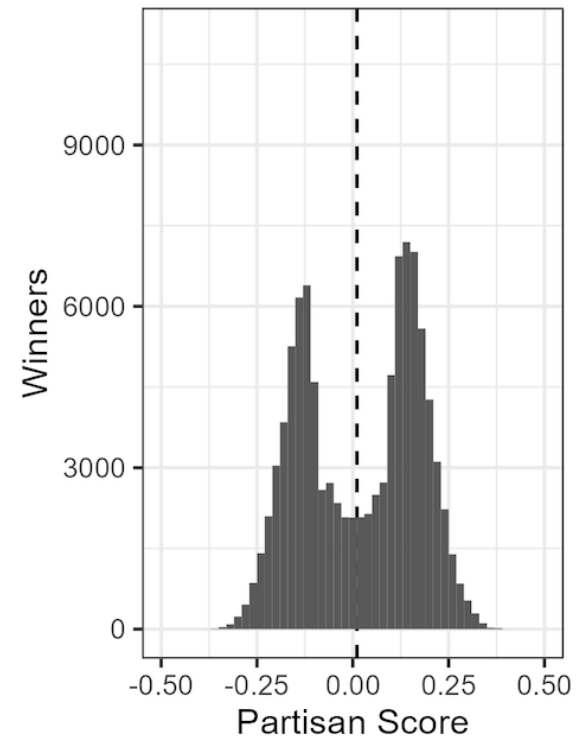
Top-2 Winners



IRV Winners



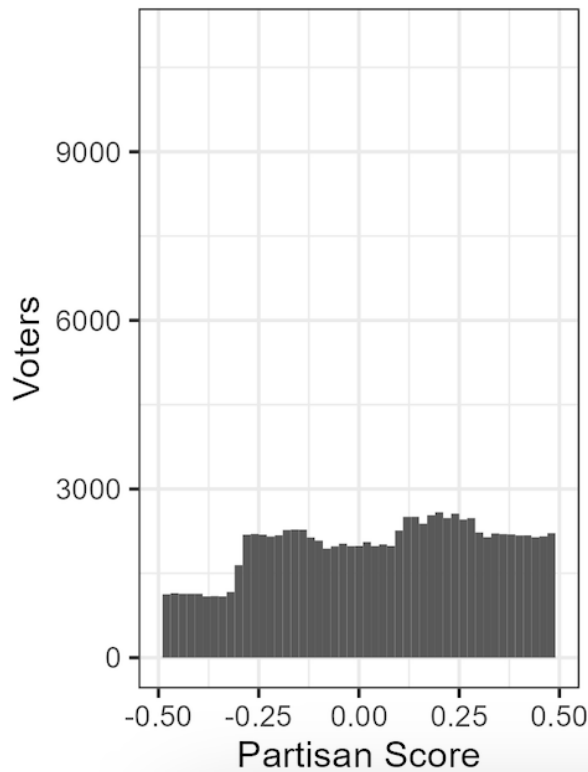
Condorcet Winners



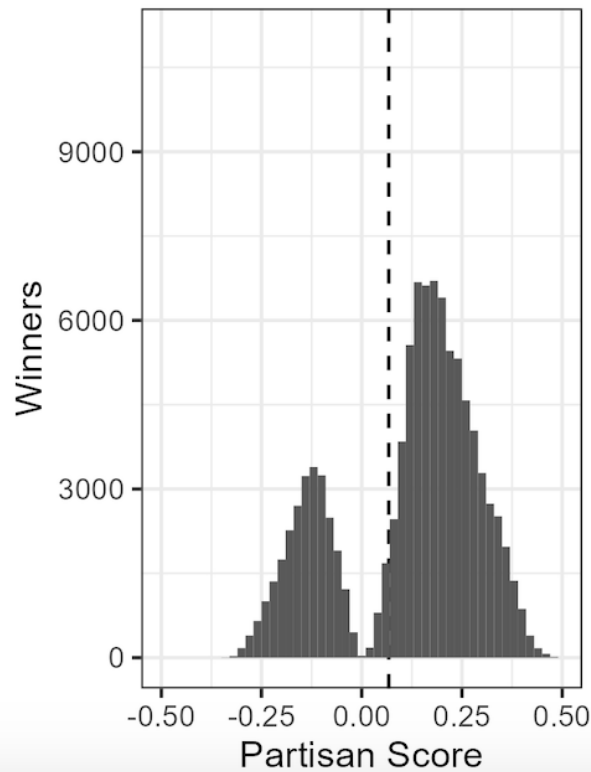


Alaska

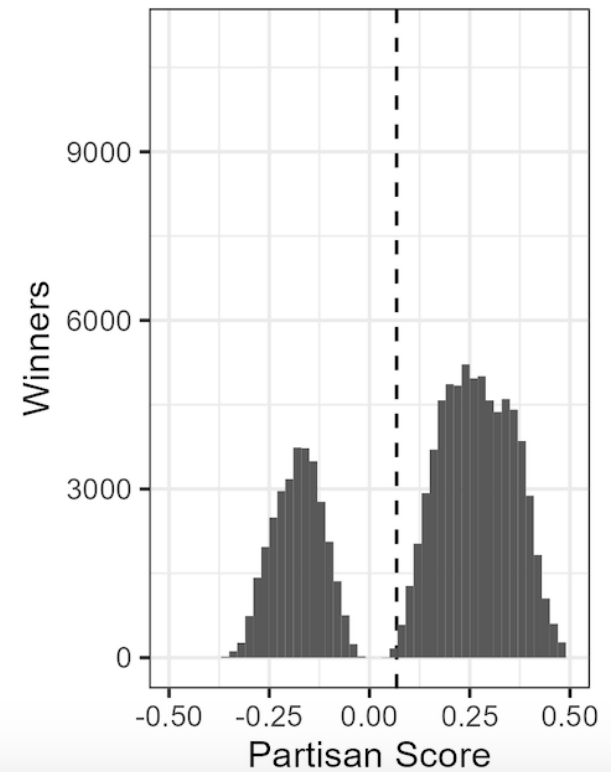
Voters



Plurality (delta = 1)



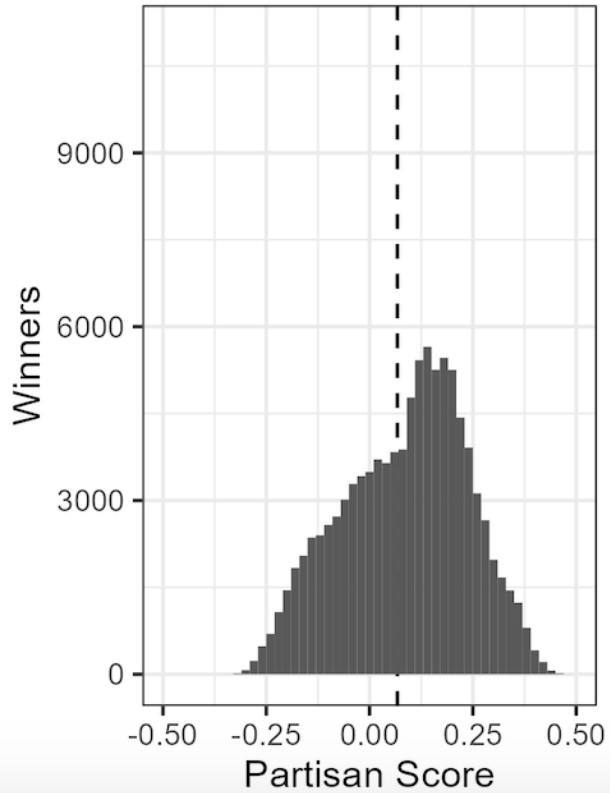
Plurality (delta = 2)



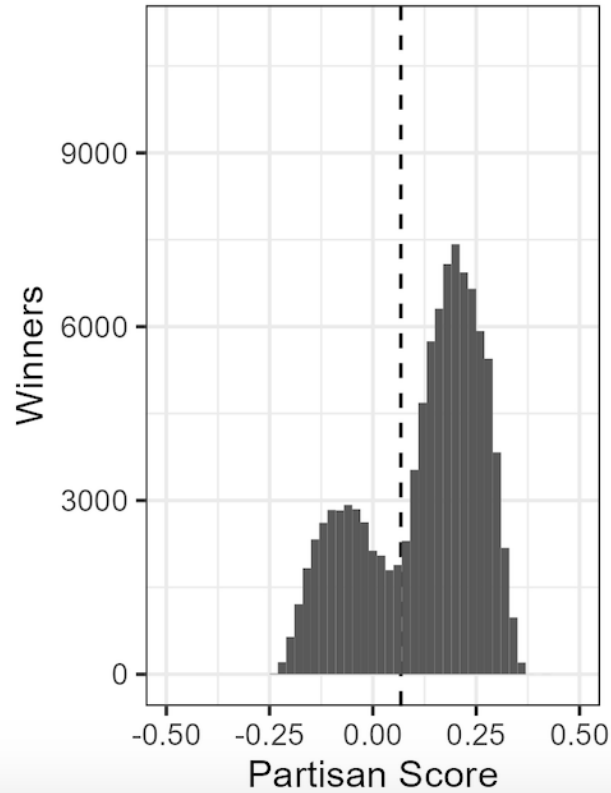


Alaska

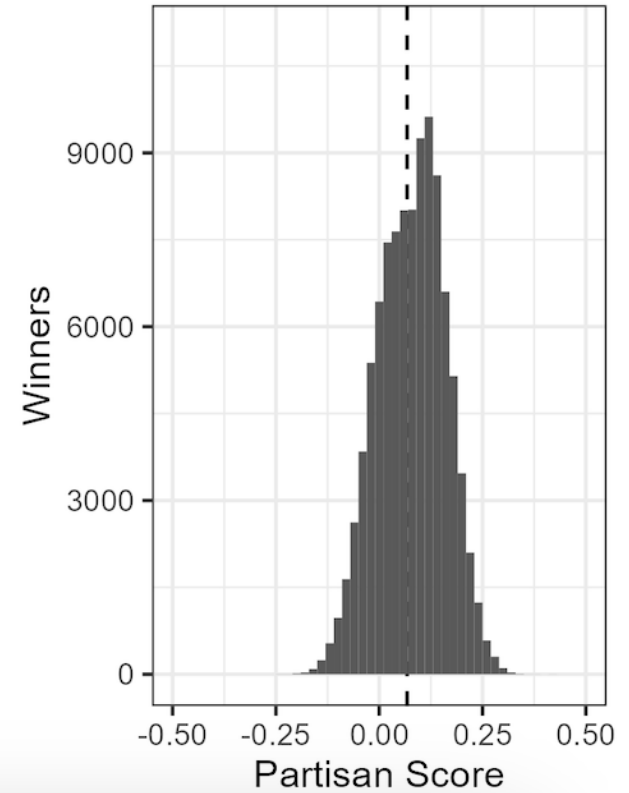
Top-2 Winners



IRV Winners



Condorcet Winners

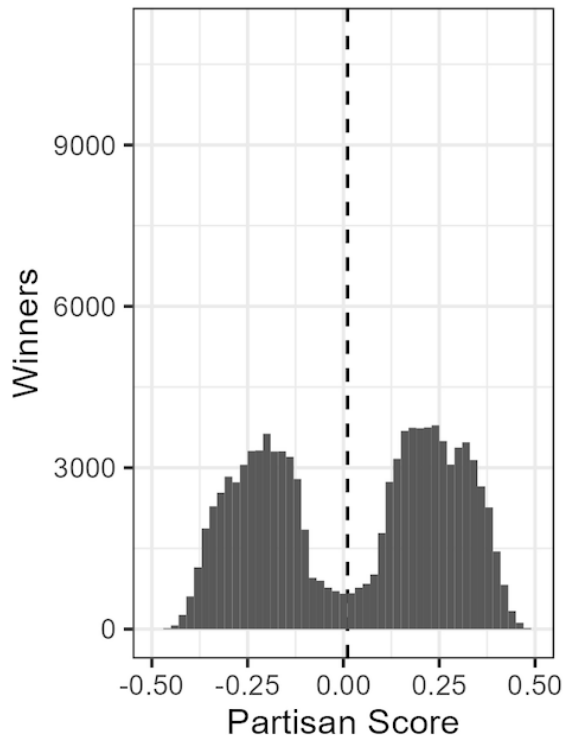




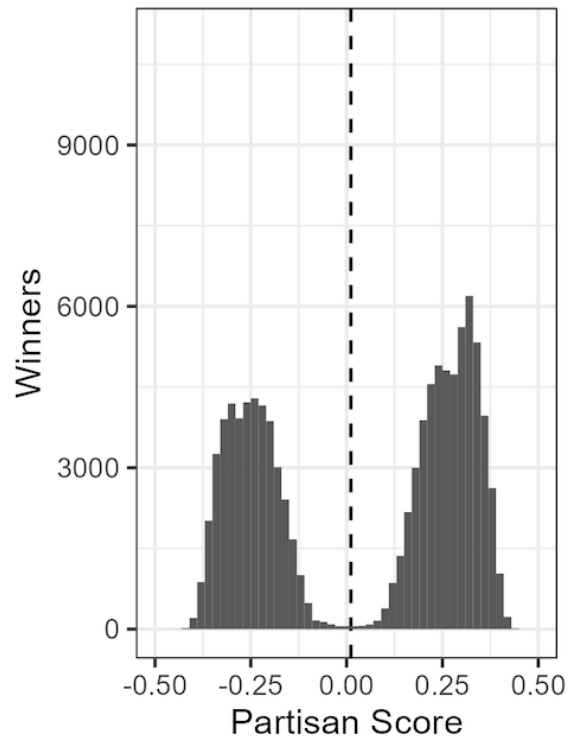
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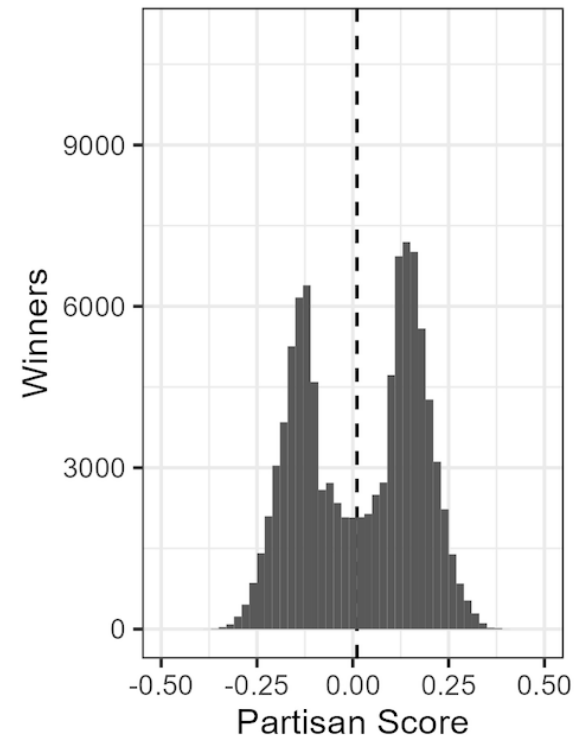
Top-2 Winners



IRV Winners



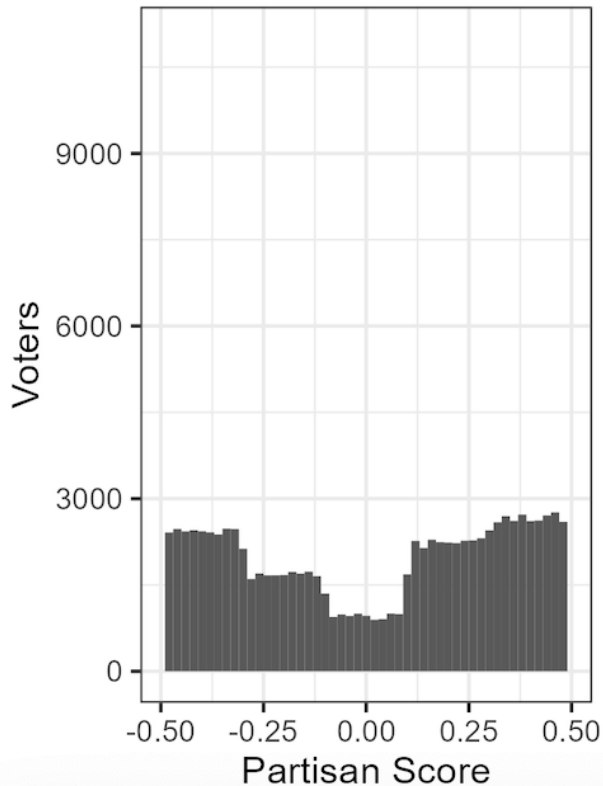
Condorcet Winners



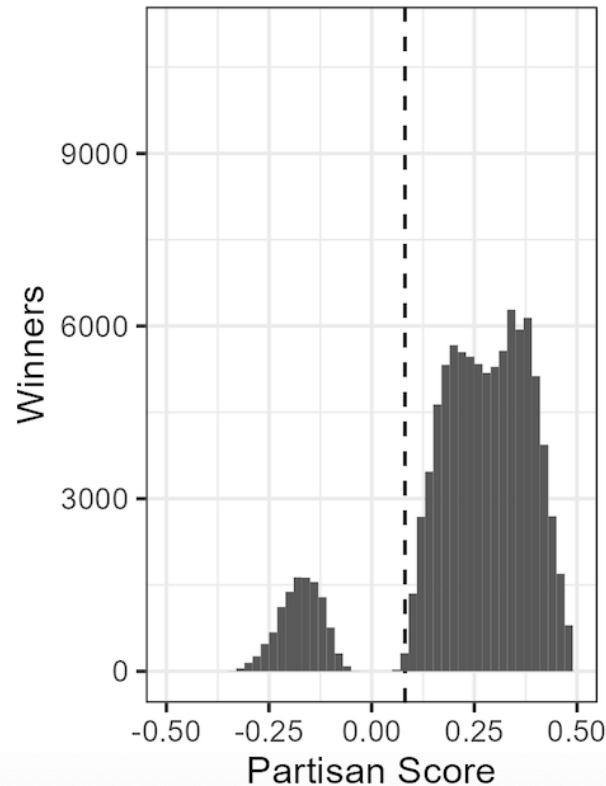


Ohio

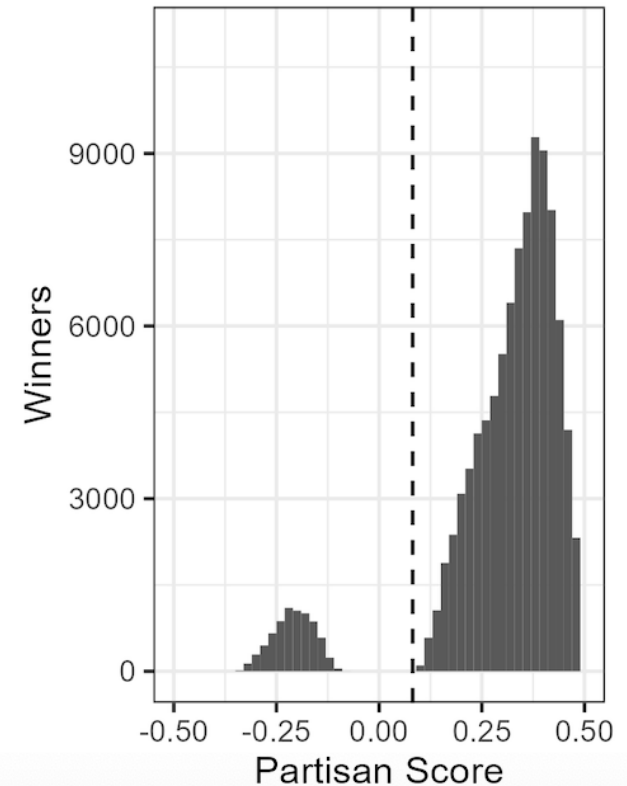
Voters



Plurality (delta = 1)



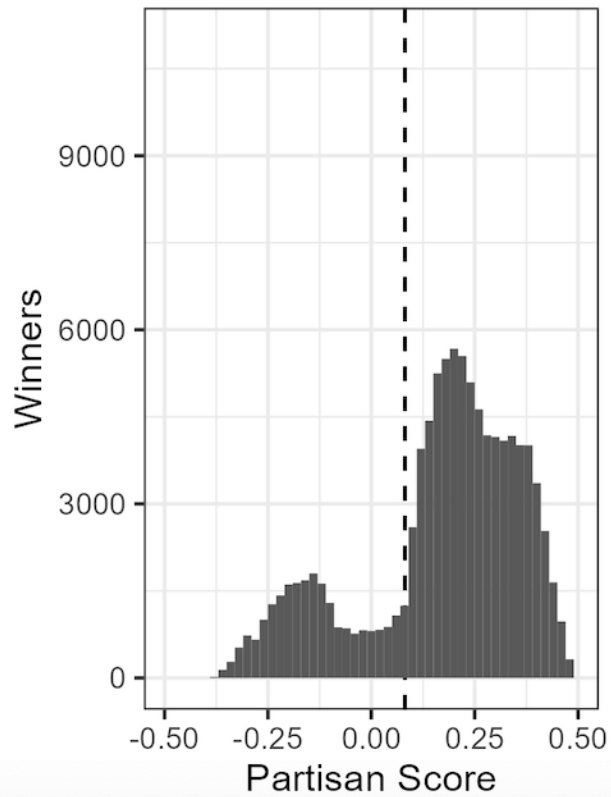
Plurality (delta = 2)



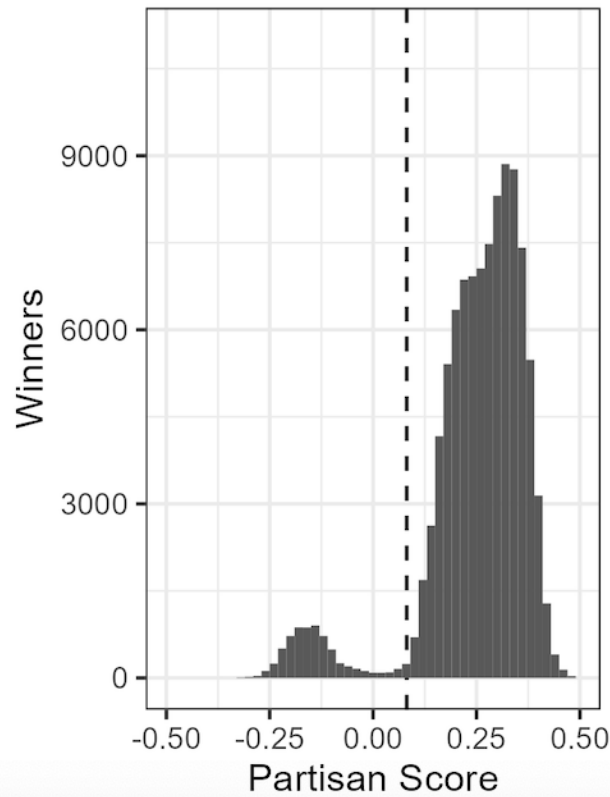


Ohio

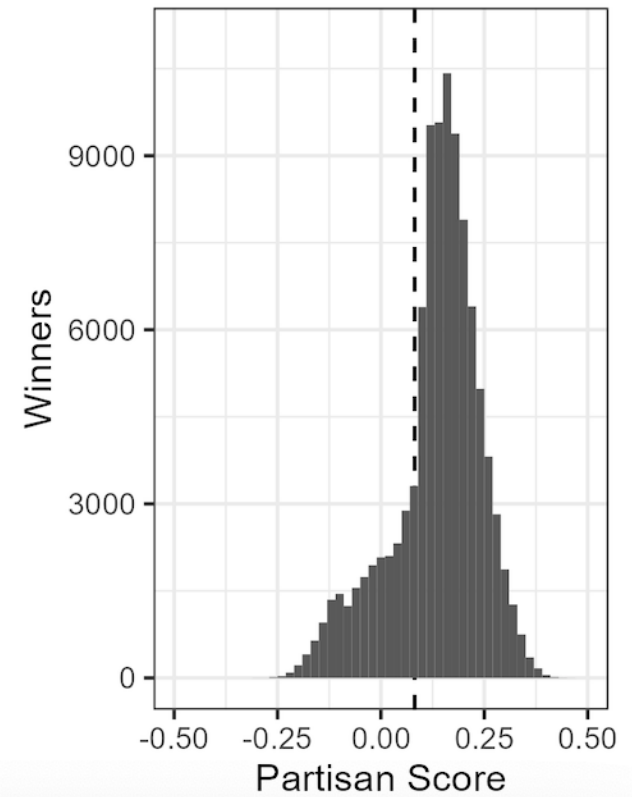
Top-2 Winners



IRV Winners



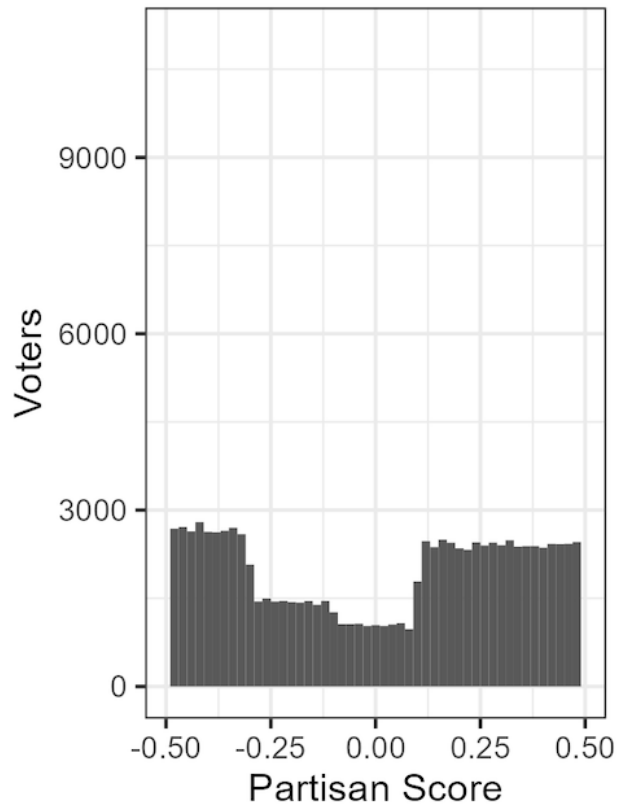
Condorcet Winners



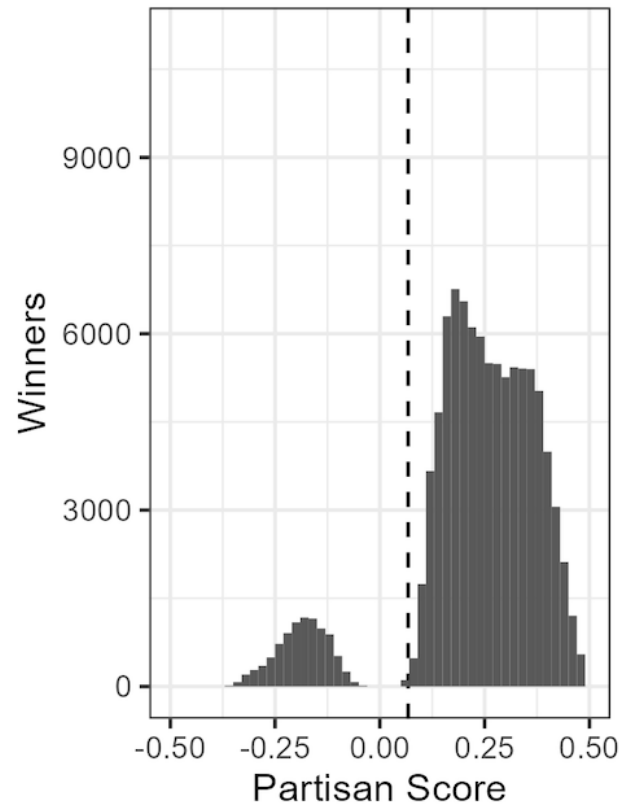


North Carolina

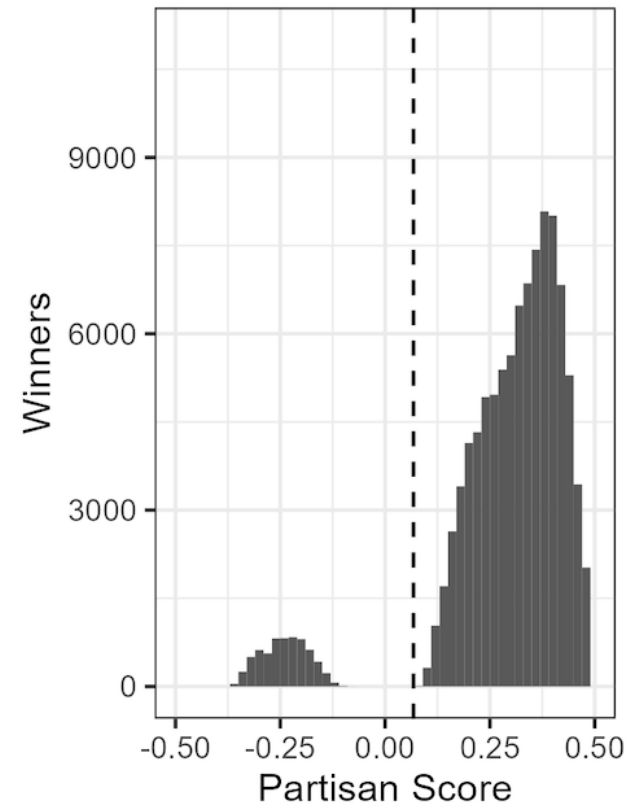
Voters



Plurality (delta = 1)



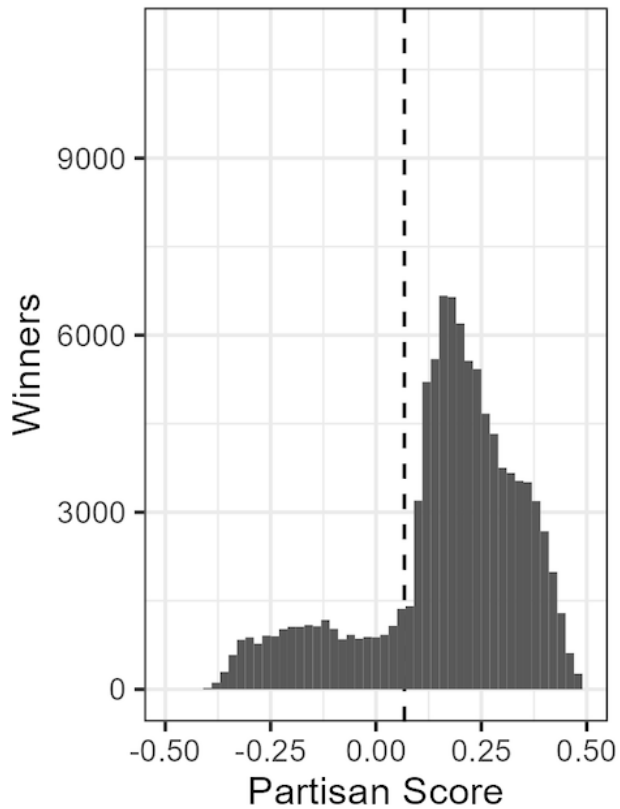
Plurality (delta = 2)



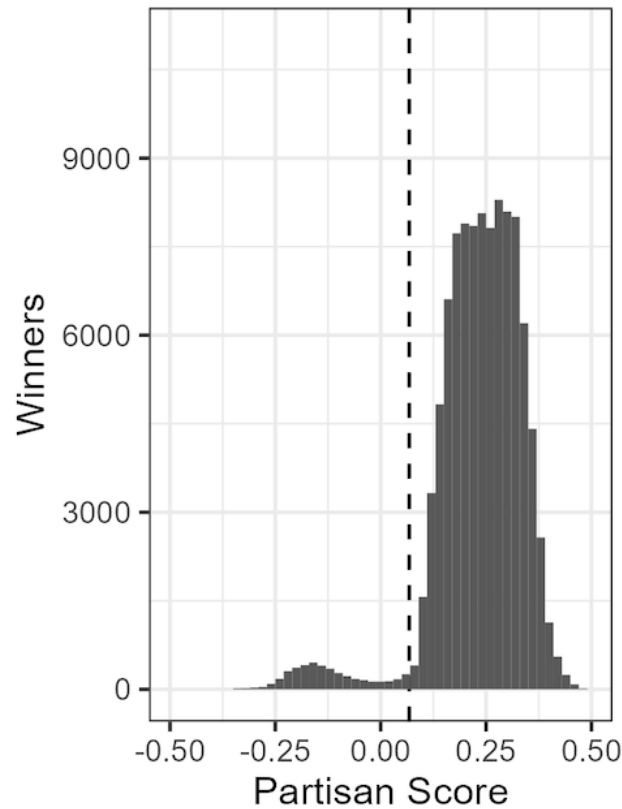


North Carolina

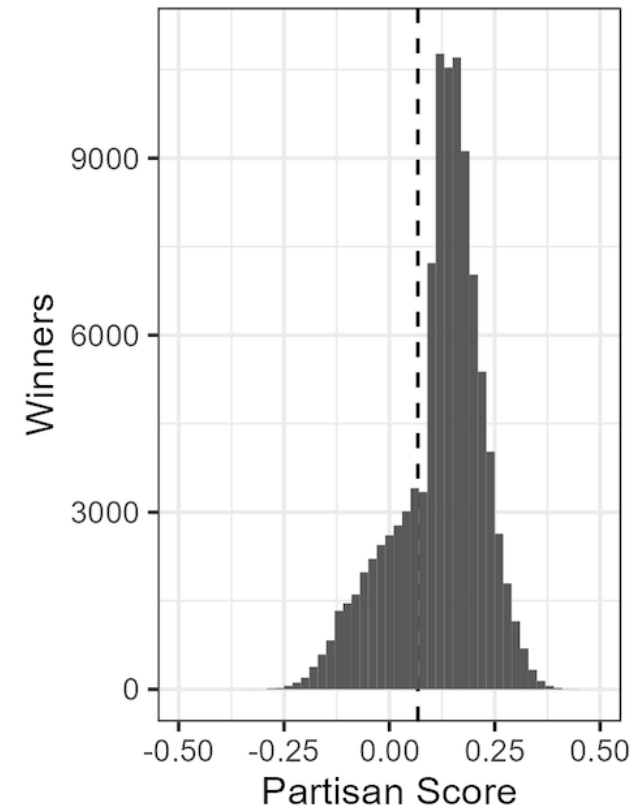
Top-2 Winners



IRV Winners



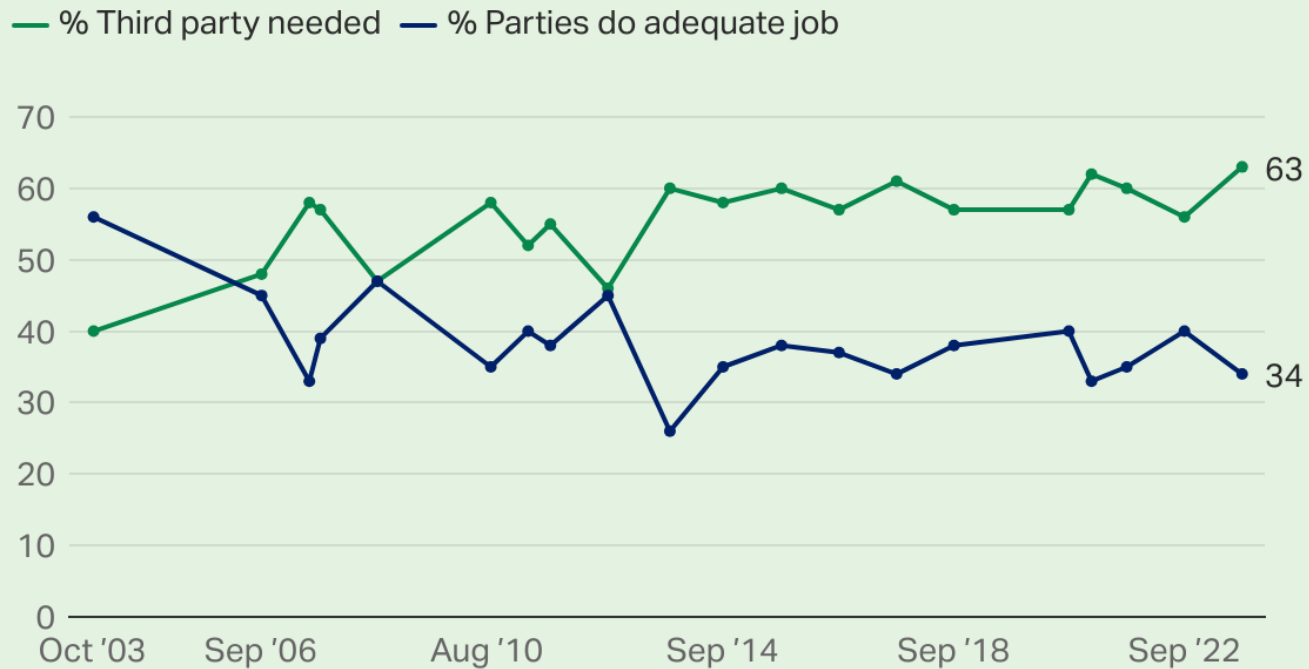
Condorcet Winners





Americans' Views of Need for a Third Major Political Party

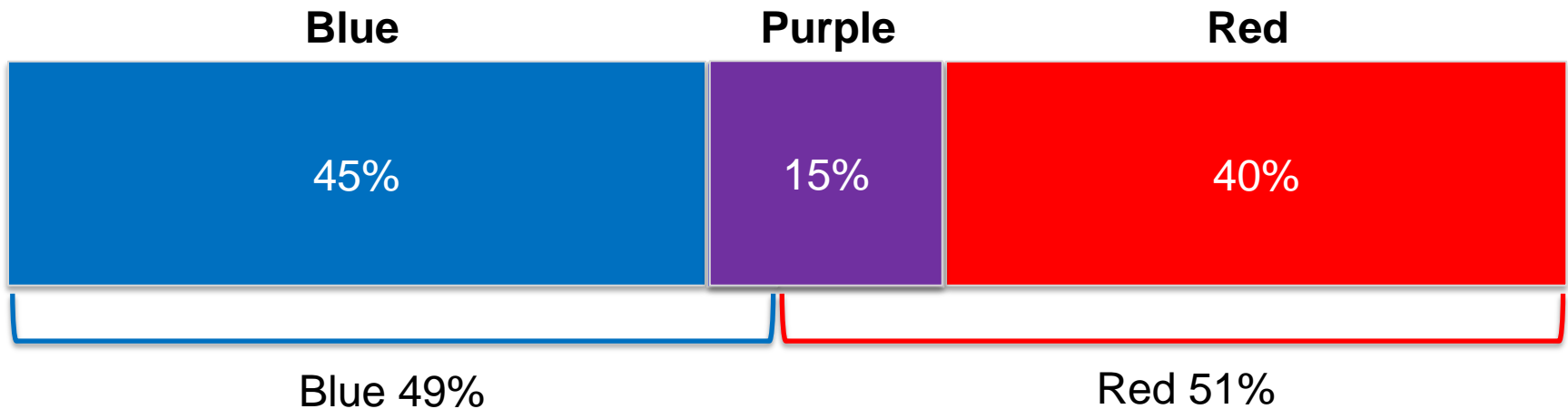
In your view, do the Republican and Democratic parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?



GALLUP



An Election with 3 Candidates



2nd Choice

Purple Voters
Blue 4%
Red 11%

If Purple doesn't run, Red with 51% beats Blue with 49%

Same result in a run-off (for races requiring a majority winner)

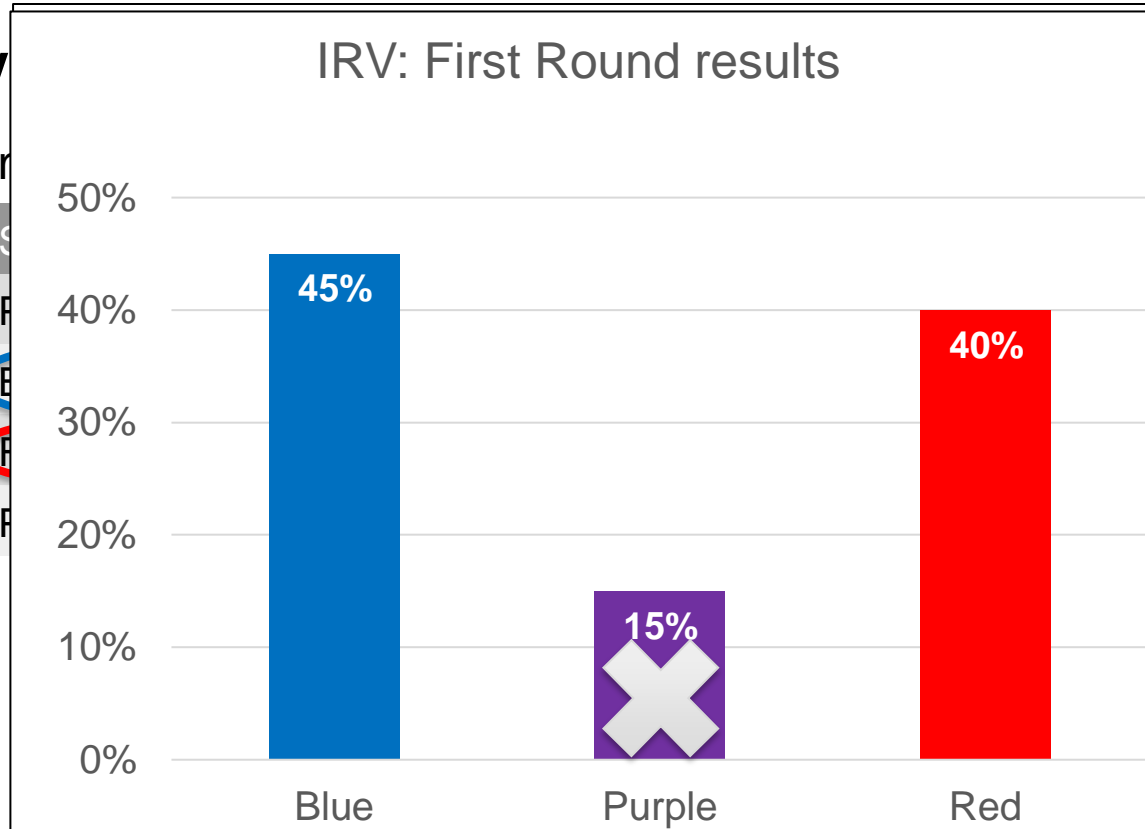


An Election with 3 Candidates

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)

Ranked Choice Ballots with same preferences

% of voters	First choice	Second choice
45	Blue	Red
4	Blue	Purple
11	Red	Purple
40	Red	Blue



Purple is eliminated first: Blue picks up 4%; Red picks up 11%

Red with 51% beats Blue with 49%



An Election with 3 Candidates

A “Condorcet” Election with the same voter preferences

<u>Blue v Purple</u>	Blue 45%	Purple ✓ 55%	
<u>Purple v Red</u>		Purple ✓ 60%	Red 40%
<u>Blue v Red</u>	Blue 49%		Red ✓ 51%

Purple is the “Condorcet winner” because Purple beats each opponent one-on-one

