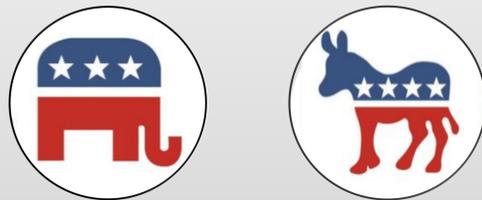


Blue is Green and Red is too: The Political Divide on Environmental Policy Support

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INTRODUCTION

- As political polarization has accelerated over the past decade, both Congress and the general population have become increasingly divided on support for environmental policies.



Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to believe that media coverage on climate change is highly exaggerated (Dunlap & McCright, 2008)

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to believe that global warming is already occurring and will pose a serious threat in their lifetime (Dunlap & McCright, 2008)

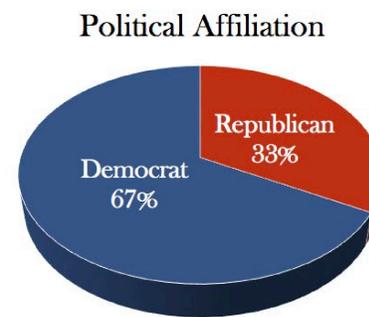
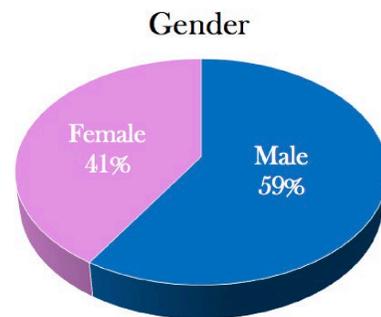
Democrats have increased their support for environmental policies and global warming, while Republicans have extremely decreased their support (Dunlap et al., 2016)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How does support for policies to limit plastics and greenhouse gas emissions differ depending on political affiliation?
- Even though Republicans and Democrats may not share the same overarching environmental opinions, do they agree on specific plastic and climate policies?

METHOD

- Democratic ($n = 120$) and Republican ($n = 59$) participants from Mturk
- Predominantly male, with an average age of 35 years old.



- Participants indicated their support for 4 Plastic Policy Support items ($\alpha = .86$) and 6 Climate Policy Support items ($\alpha = .86$).

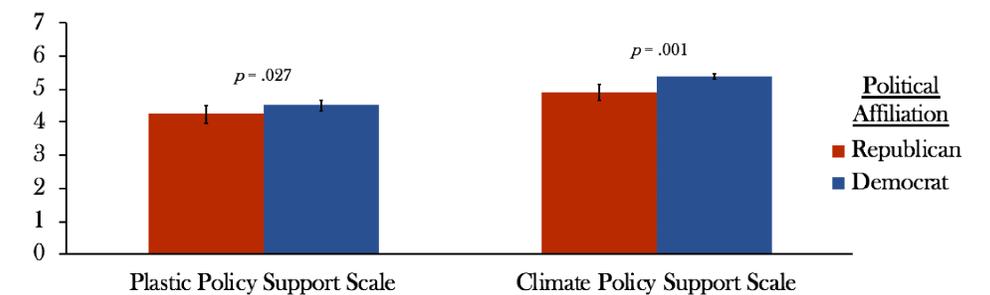
Environmental Support Scales:	Example questions:
Plastic Policy Support	How much do you support or oppose banning the sale of single-use, plastic straws in the US?
Climate Policy Support	How much do you support or oppose regulating carbon dioxide as a pollutant?

DISCUSSION

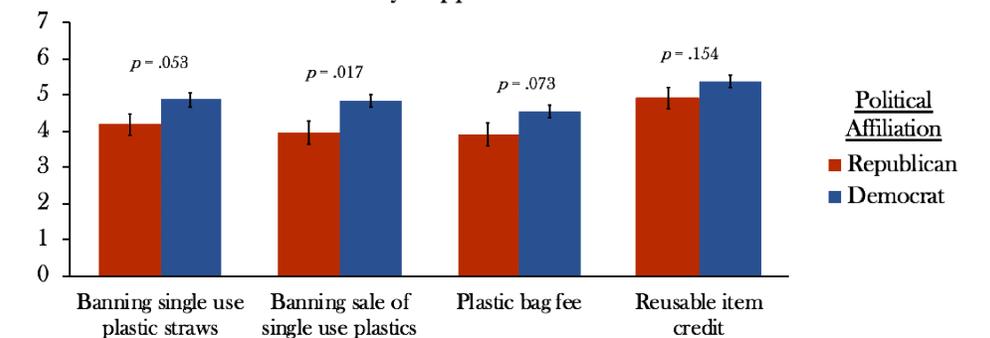
- Republicans scored significantly lower than Democrats on Plastic Policy Support Scale and Climate Policy Support Scale. However, when we examined the individual items that made up the scales, Republicans did not differ from Democrats in their support for several specific policies.
- Specifically, for the Plastic Policy Support items, there was no difference in support for banning the sale of plastic straws, a plastic bag fee, and a reusable item credit. There were also no differences in support for the specific Climate Policy items of implementing a gasoline tax and tax rebates for energy-efficient purchases.
- These results indicate that while the merging of political and ideological identities may contribute to the division in overarching beliefs about environmental protection between political parties, support for specific policies may not be influenced by party affiliation.

RESULTS

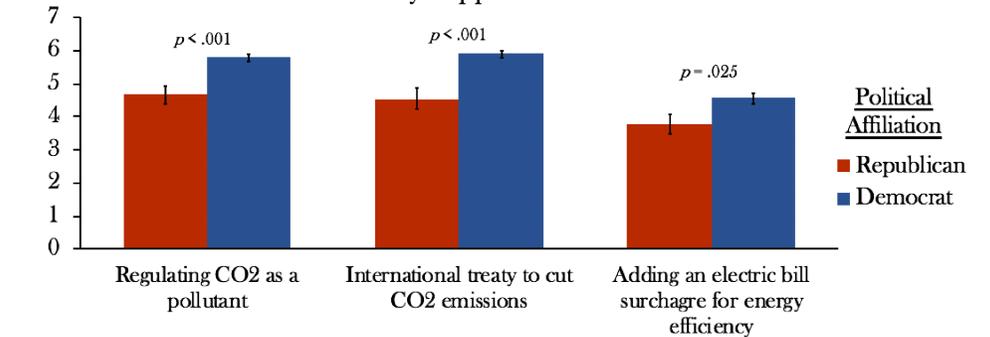
Plastic and Climate Policy Support Scales



Plastic Policy Support Scale Items 1 - 4



Climate Policy Support Scale Items 1 - 3



Climate Policy Support Items 4 - 6

