Election Fundamentals: The Economy, the War and the President
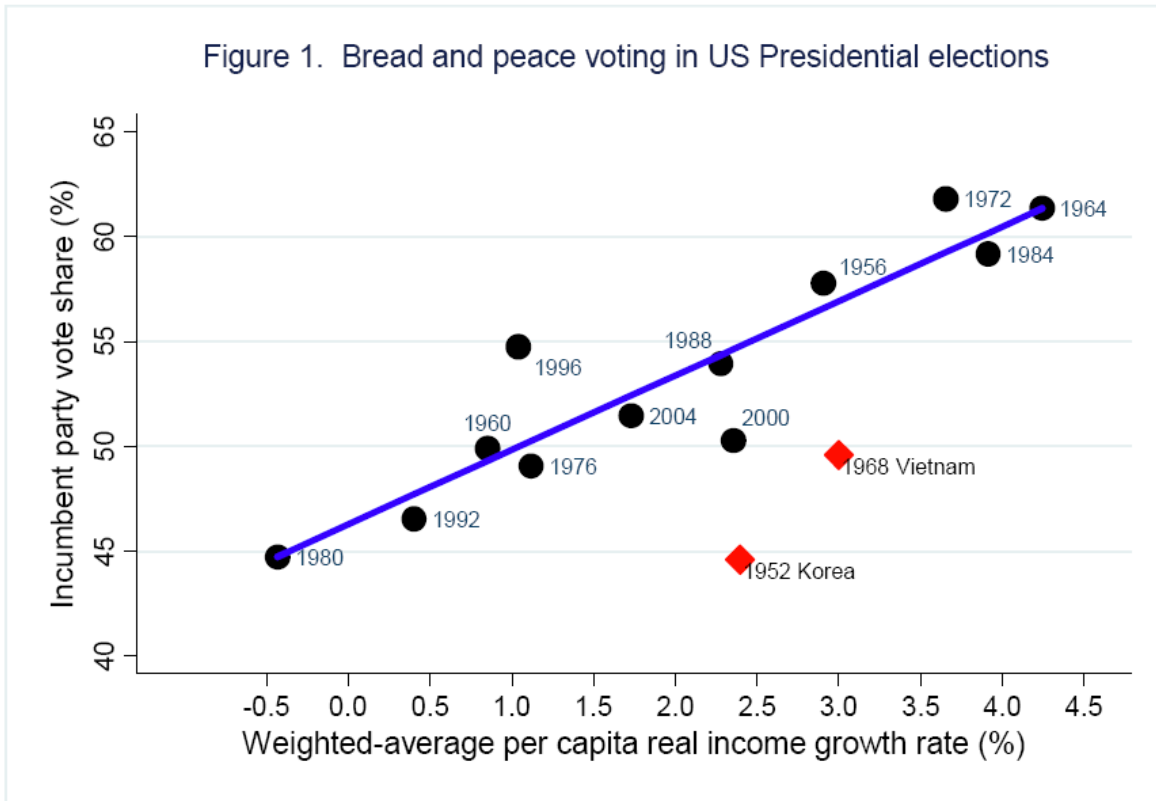**Robert Erikson, Columbia University**
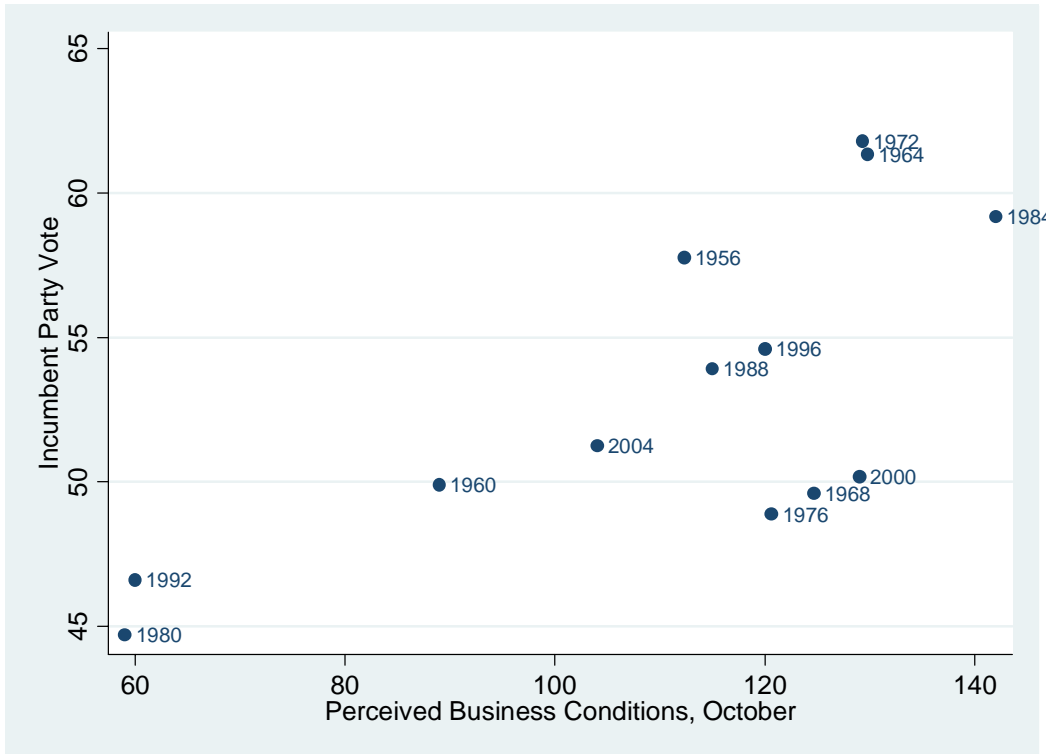

Figure 1. Bread and peace voting in US Presidential elections

From Douglas Hibbs' "Bread and Peace Model"

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Predicting the vote from the subjective economy in October
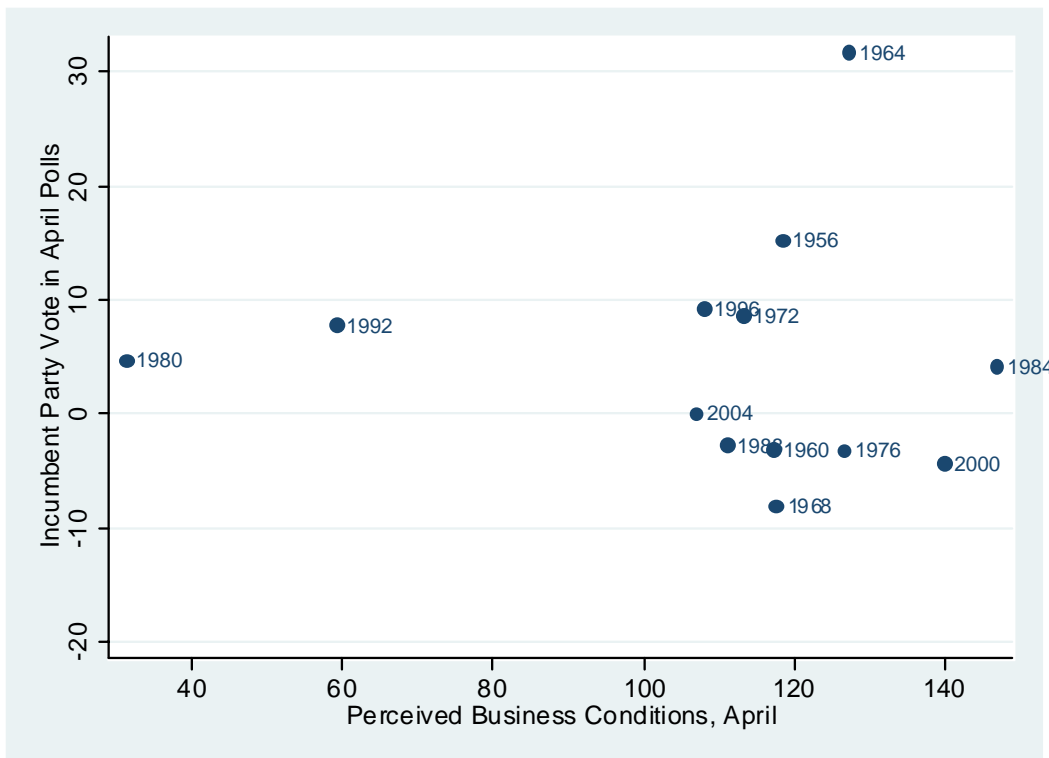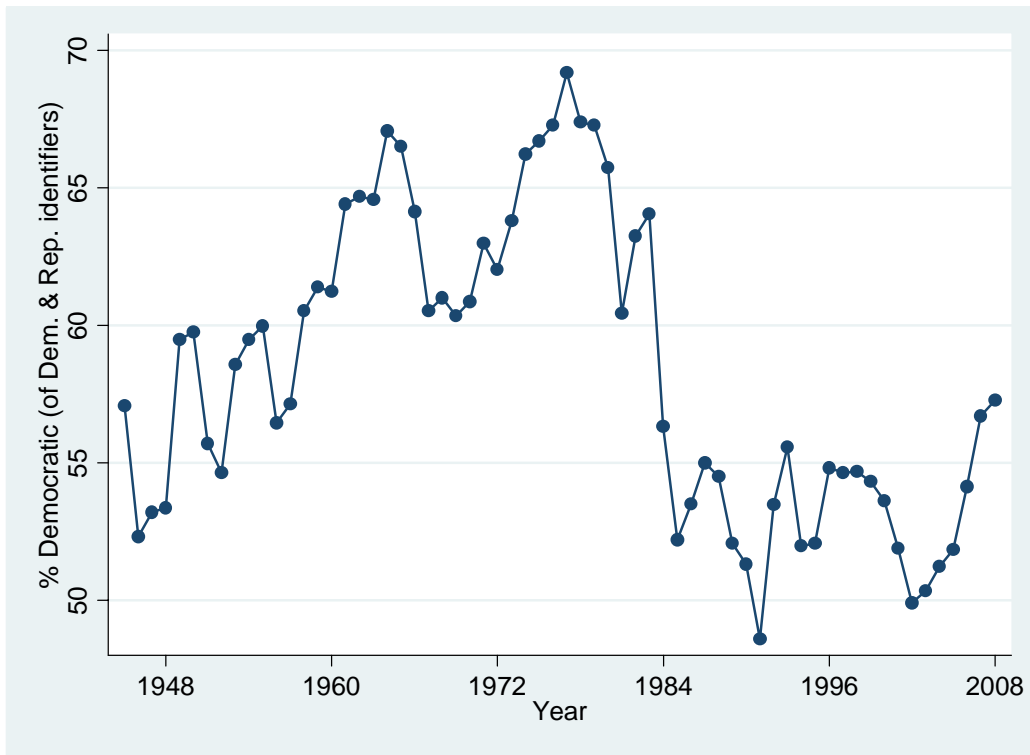

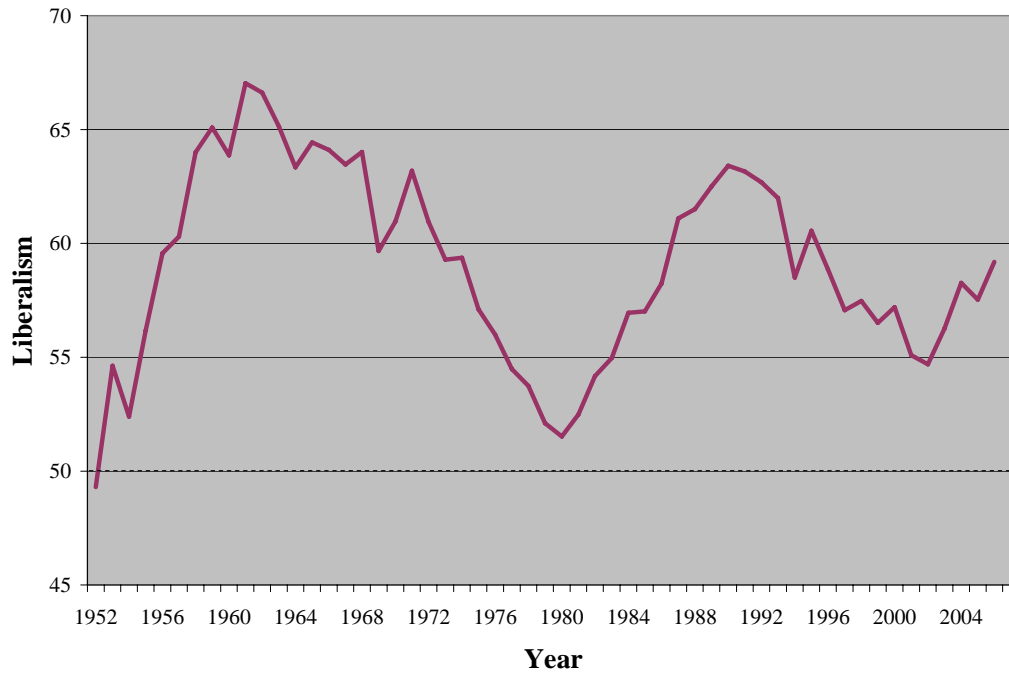**The subjective economy in April is unrelated to the polls in April.**

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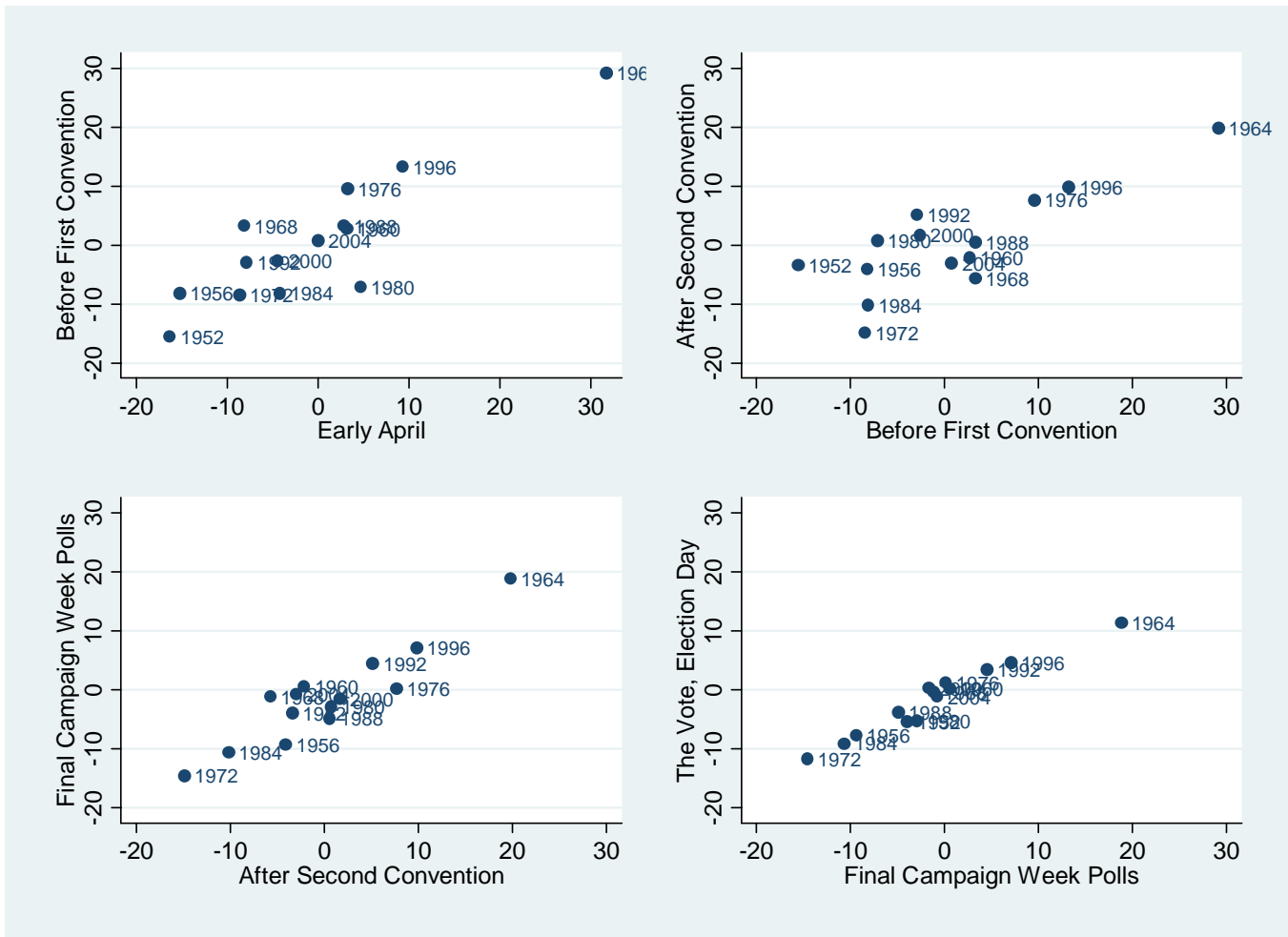

Macropartisanship, Annually, 1944-2008

Policy Mood, Annually, 1952-2006

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The vote as measured in the polls and on Election Day, from April to November, 1952-2004

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The conventions to the final vote for the incumbent party.

The conventions to the final vote for the Democratic Party.

Presented at an event hosted by the Brookings Institution's Opportunity 08 project in partnership with the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs

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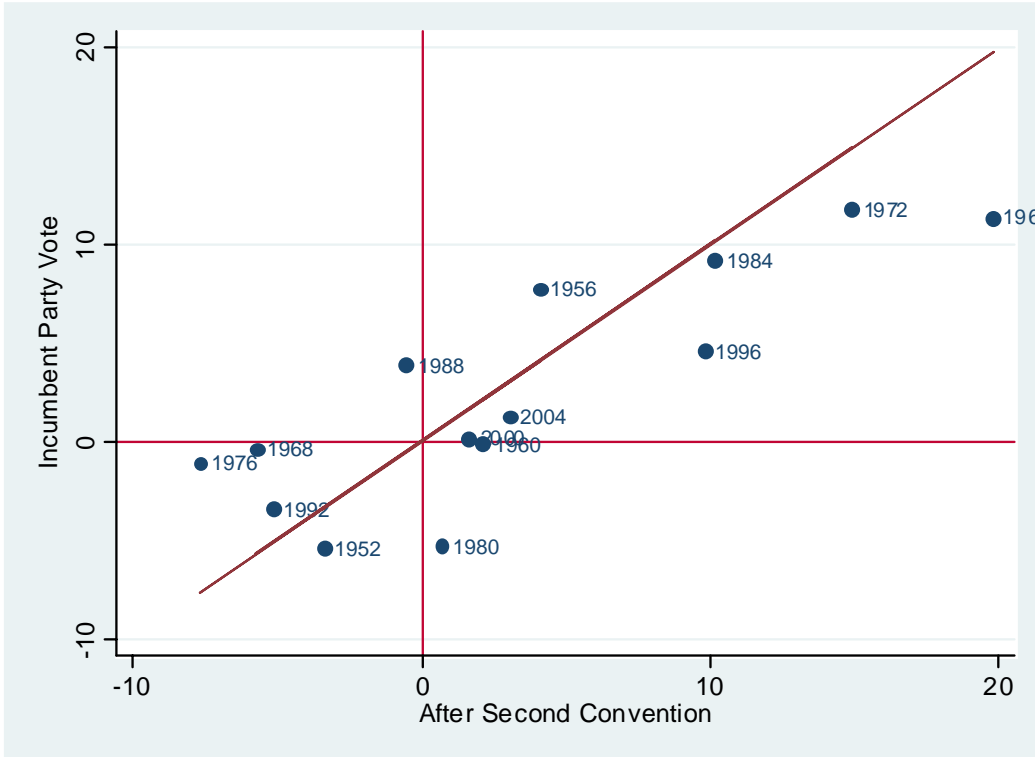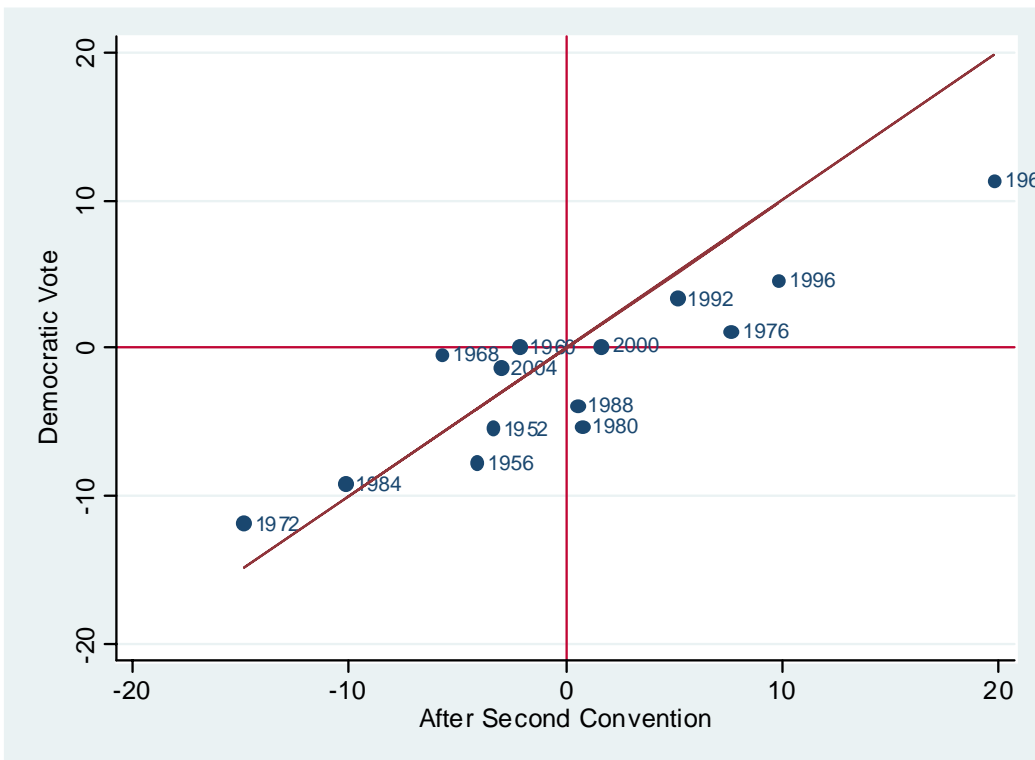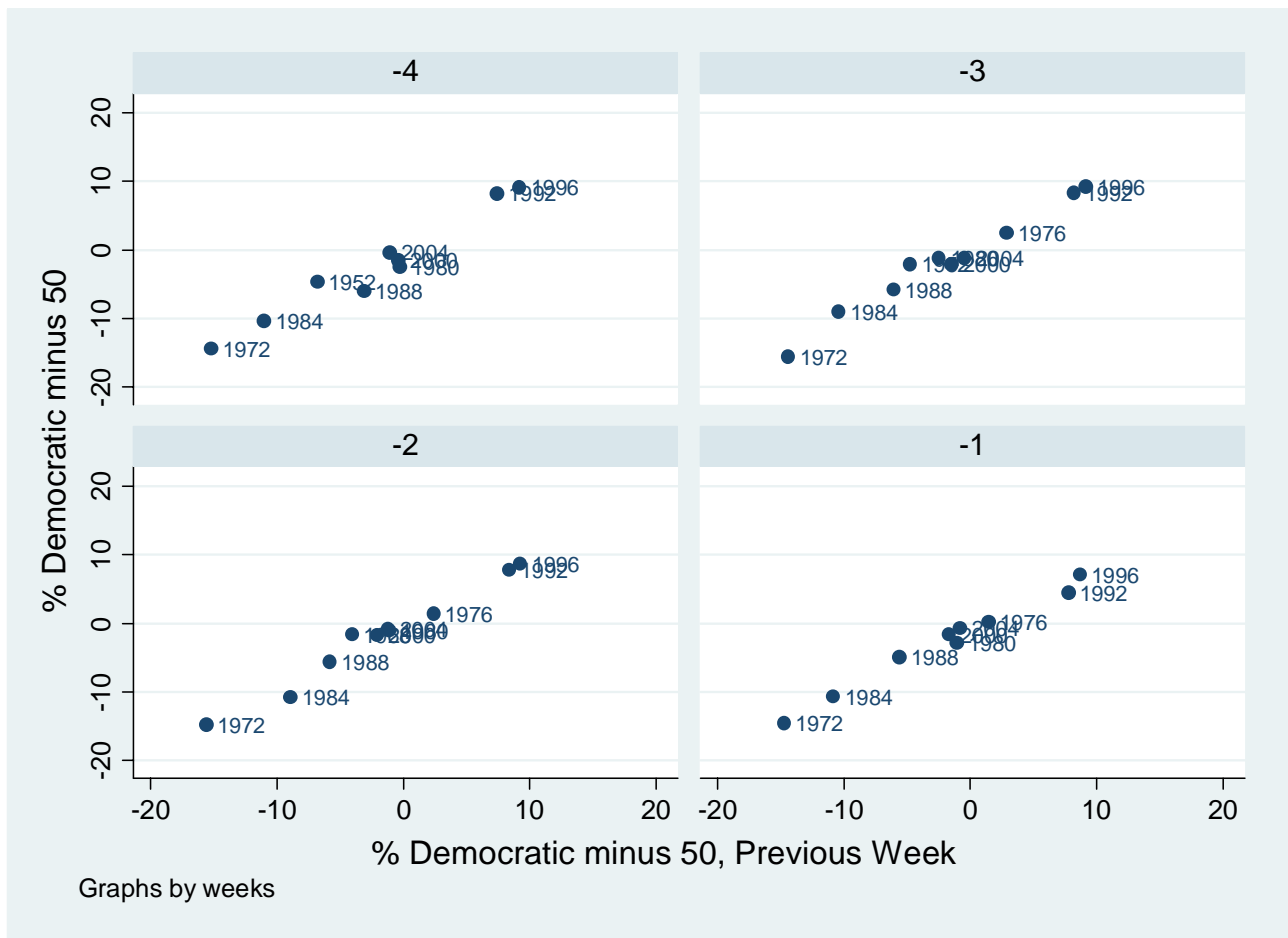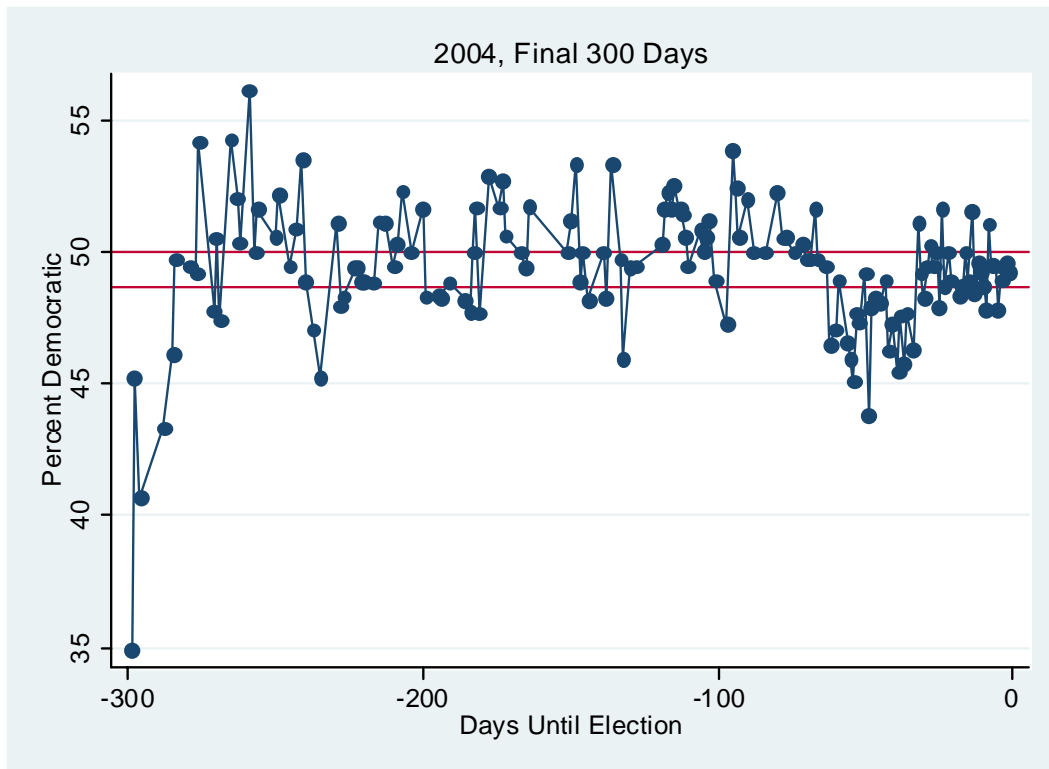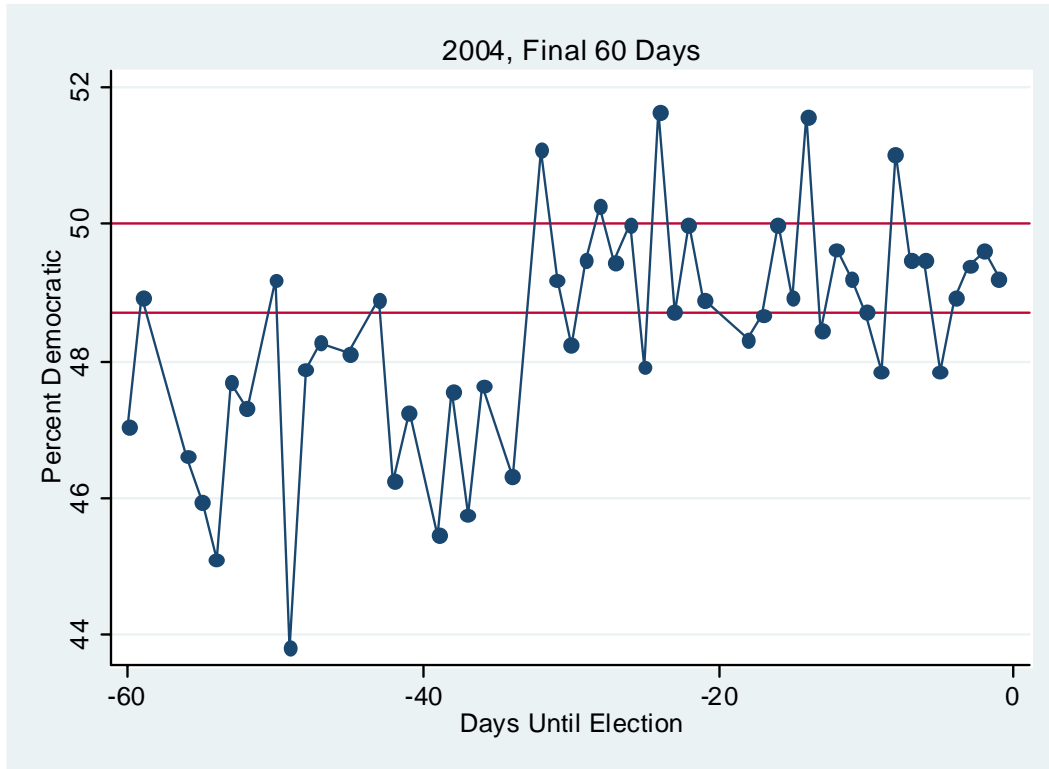**Robert Erikson, Columbia University**

Week-to-week during the last month of the campaign. Generally, the polls are stable.

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Polls in 2004 day-to-day. Much of the movement was sampling error.

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