

The Partisan Landscape in 2008

Alan I. Abramowitz

Department of Political Science

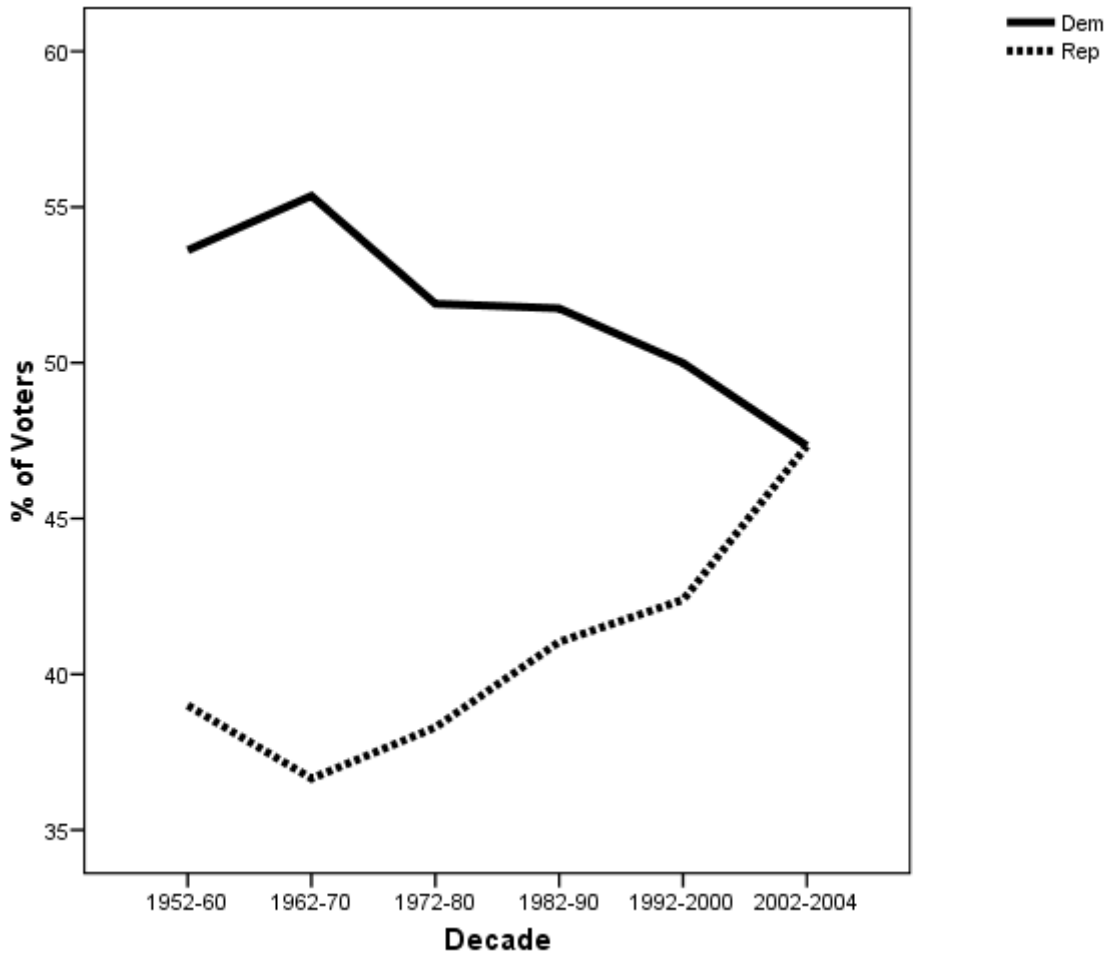
Emory University

“Political Parties and Partisanship: The American Electorate in 2008”

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

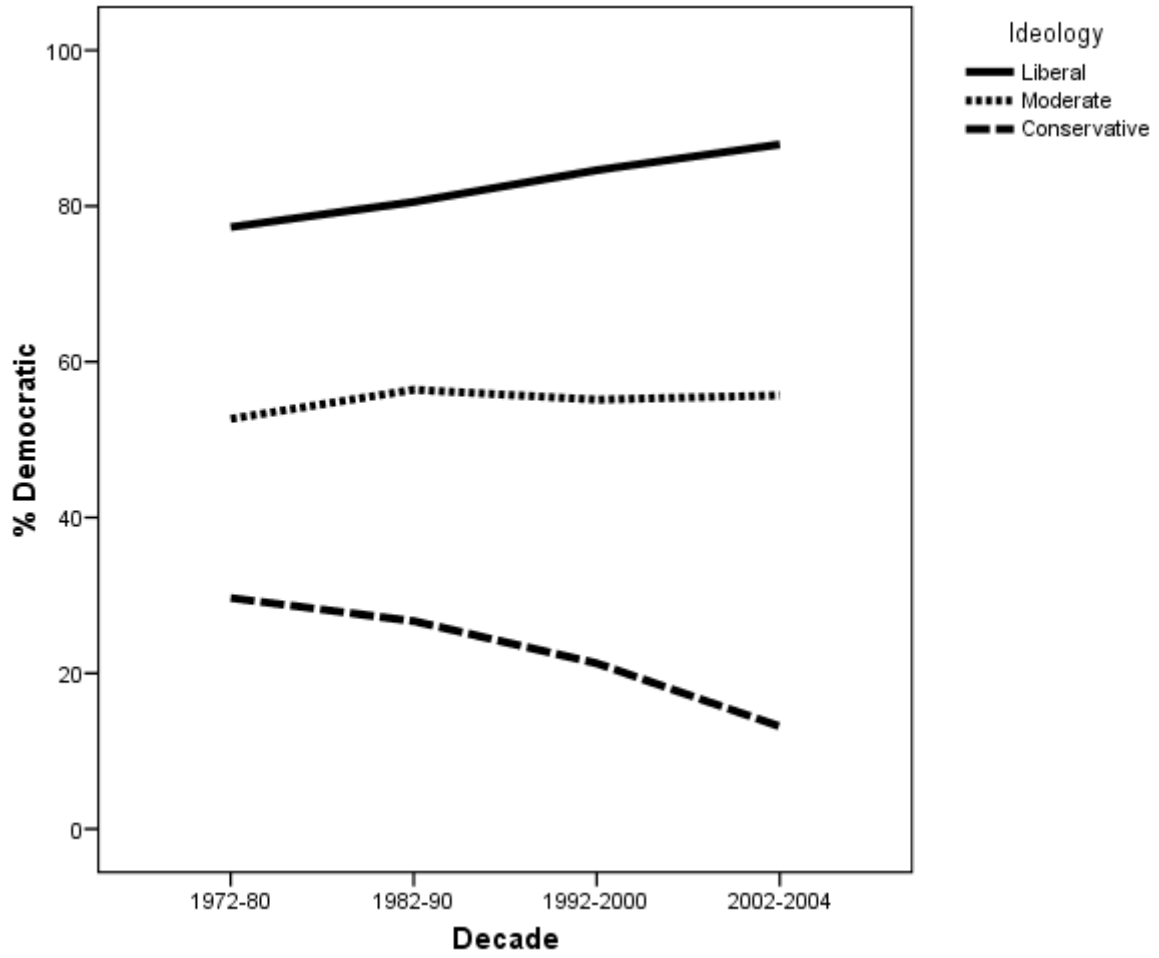
The Brookings Institution
September 12, 2008

Party Identification of Voters by Decade



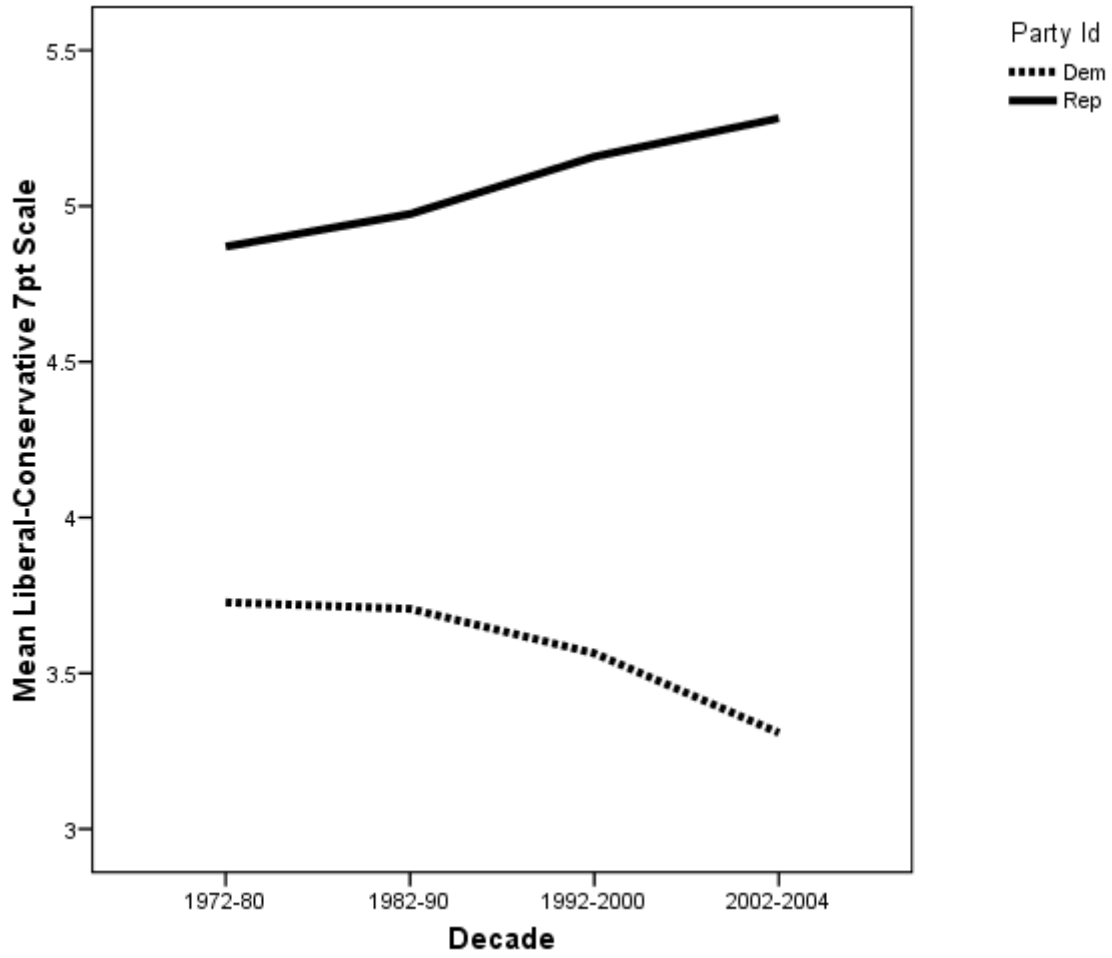
Source: NES Cumulative File

Trend in Democratic Identification of Voters by Ideology



Source: NES Cumulative File

Trend in Voter Ideology by Party Identification



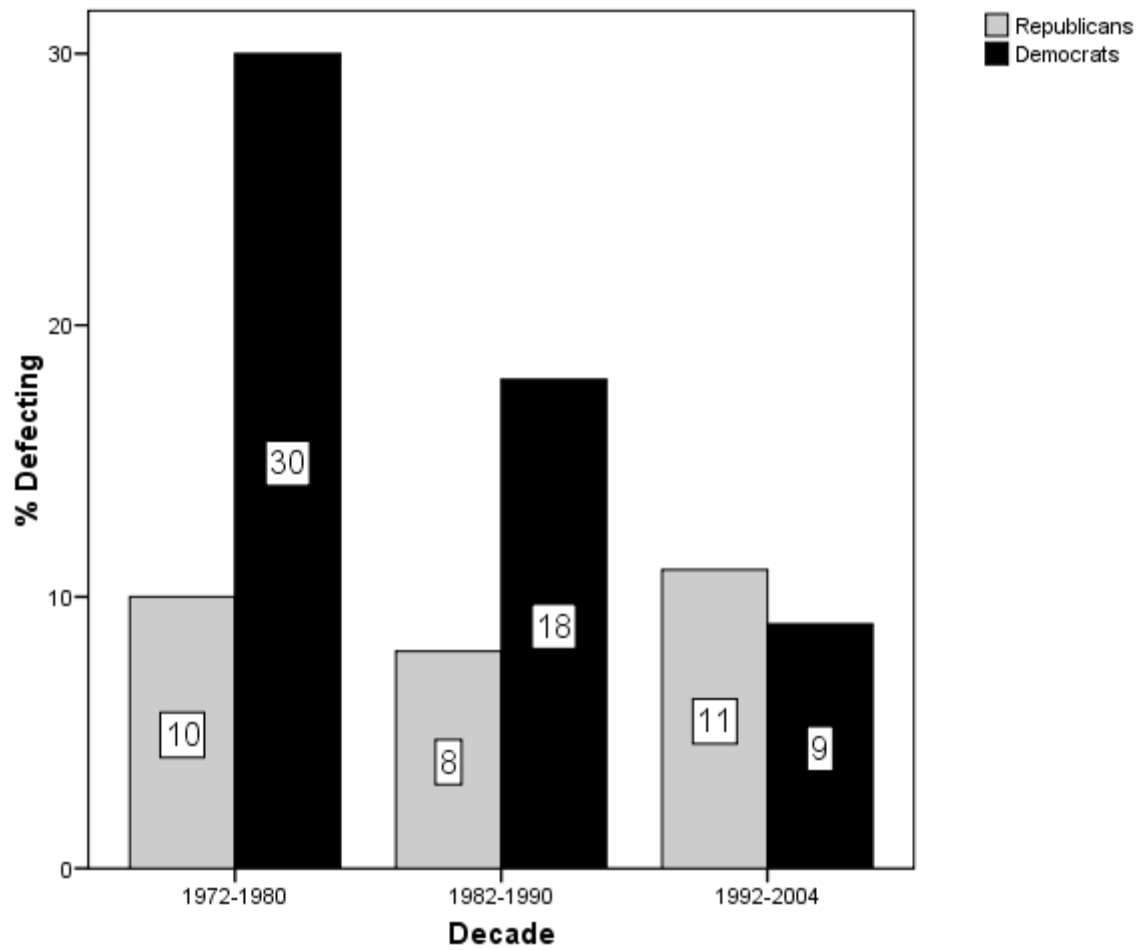
Source: NES Cumulative File

Differences between Democratic and Republican Voters in 2004

	Democrats	Republicans
Approve of President Bush	10%	95%
Support War in Iraq	15%	89%
Pro-Choice on Abortion	78%	37%
Favor Activist Government	68%	30%

Source: 2004 National Exit Poll

Defection Rates of Democratic and Republican Identifiers in Presidential Elections by Decade



Source: NES Cumulative File

Yearly Average Party Identification in Gallup Polls, 1988-2007

In percentage points

Year	Republican	Independent	Democrat	Democratic advantage
1988	30.9	33.3	35.6	4.8
1989	32.6	32.7	34.8	2.3
1990	32.8	32.9	34.5	1.8
1991	33.2	36.2	30.9	-2.3
1992	29.1	36.7	34.3	5.2
1993	28.6	37.6	34.0	5.4
1994	30.1	37.6	32.4	2.4
1995	30.1	39.1	30.8	0.7
1996	30.4	35.5	34.1	3.6
1997	28.5	37.1	34.4	5.9
1998	28.6	36.9	34.5	5.8
1999	28.1	38.5	33.5	5.4
2000	30.4	35.4	34.0	3.6
2001	32.1	34.9	32.9	0.8
2002	33.0	34.1	32.1	-0.9
2003	32.4	36.1	30.5	-1.9
2004	34.2	31.2	33.6	-0.6
2005	32.8	32.5	33.2	0.4
2006	30.4	33.9	34.3	3.9
2007	27.7	38.6	32.5	4.8

GALLUP POLL

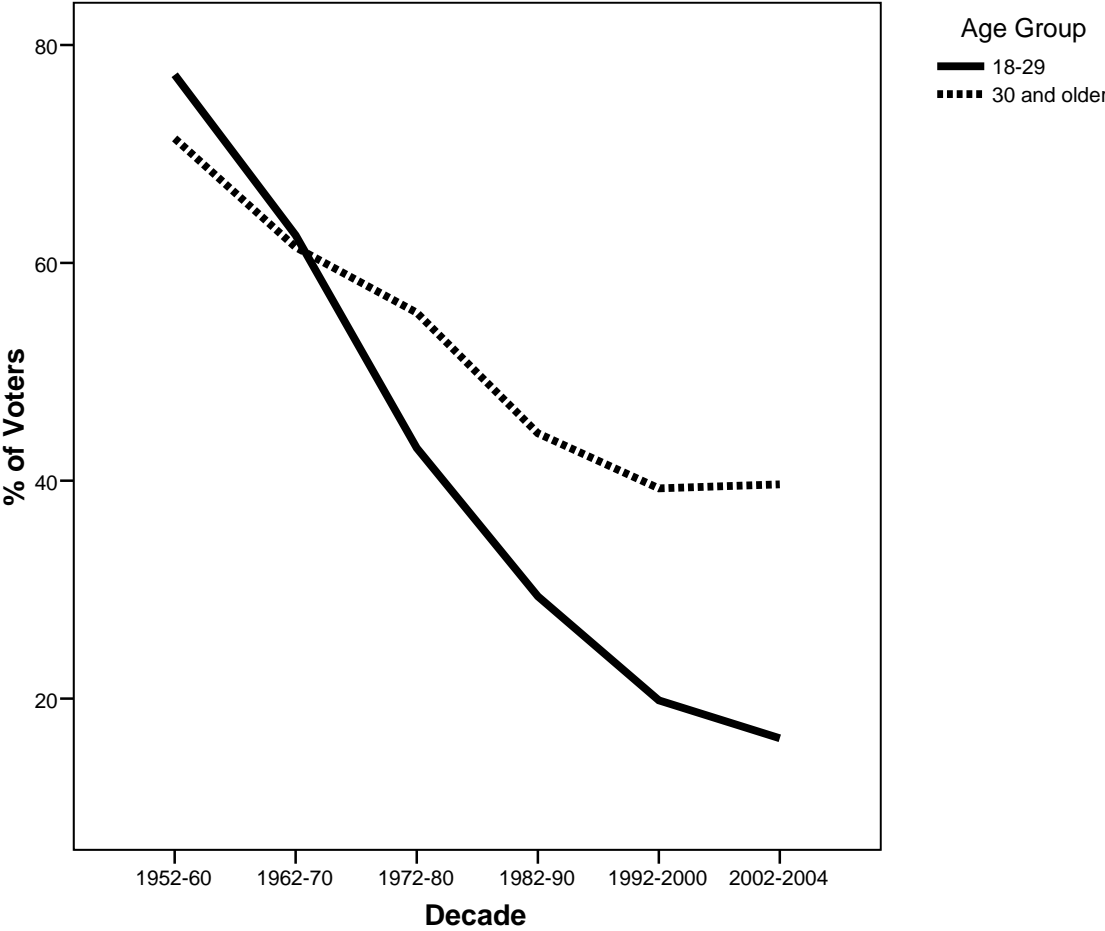
2008	27.8	35.5	35.8	8.0
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Yearly Average in Leaned Party Identification in Gallup Polls, 1991-2007

In percentage points

Year	Republicans + leaners	Democrats + leaners	Democratic advantage
1991	47.8	43.9	-3.9
1992	41.5	49.4	7.9
1993	41.1	48.4	7.3
1994	44.3	46.4	2.1
1995	44.3	45.5	1.2
1996	41.9	49.0	7.1
1997	40.1	49.2	9.1
1998	40.8	48.7	7.9
1999	41.0	48.2	7.2
2000	42.4	46.9	4.5
2001	44.1	45.4	1.3
2002	45.1	44.7	-0.4
2003	45.2	45.1	-0.1
2004	45.2	47.9	2.7
2005	43.2	47.7	4.4
2006	40.2	50.4	10.2
2007	39.6	50.6	11.0
GALLUP POLL			
2008	39.1	52.3	13.2

The Decline of Married, White Christians in the U.S. Electorate since the 1950s



Source: NES Cumulative File

The Generation Gap in 2006

	Age Group		
	18-29	30-59	60 +
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Party Identification			
Democratic	43%	37%	36%
Independent	26	27	27
Republican	31	36	37
House Vote			
Democratic	61%	54%	51%
Republican	39	46	49

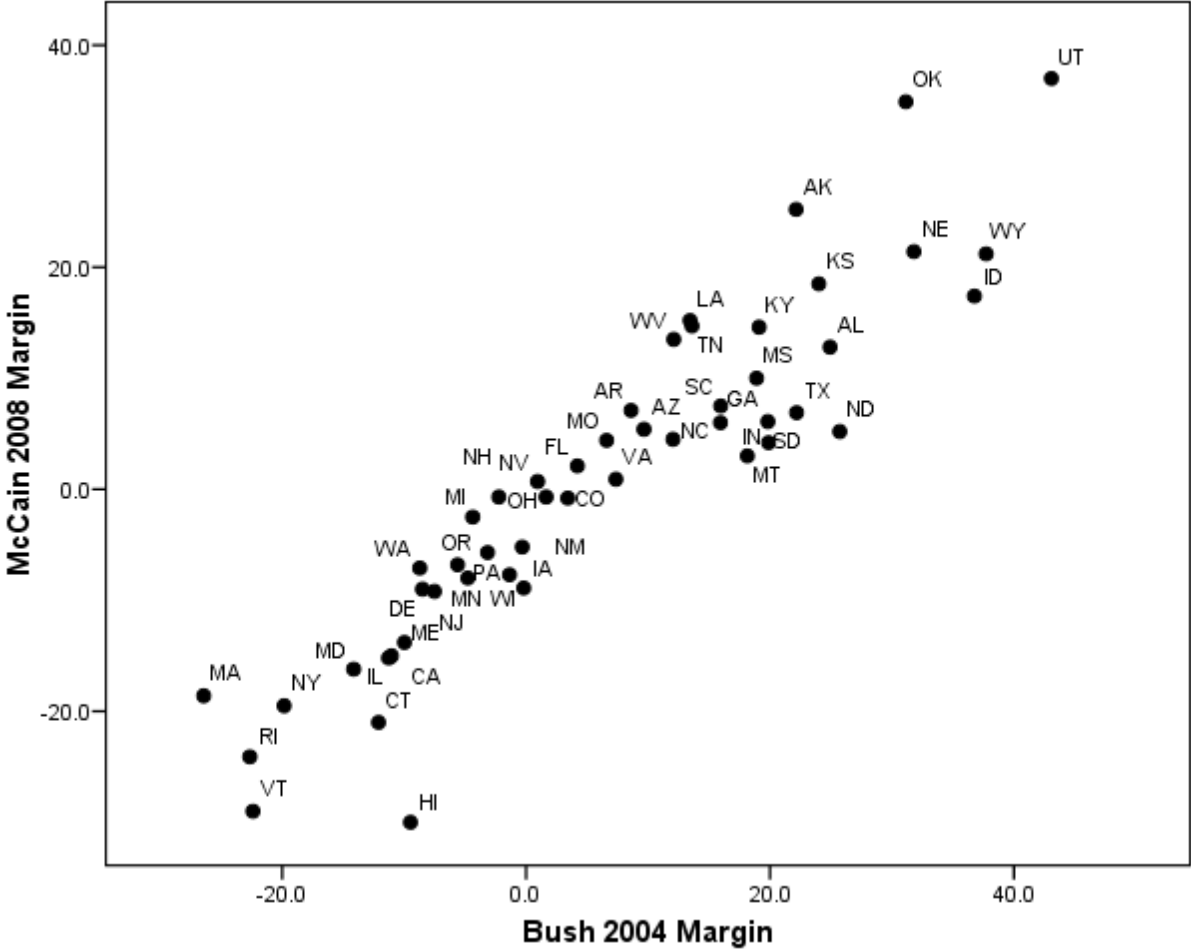
Source: 2006 National Exit Poll

Candidate Preference by Party in Gallup Tracking Poll

	Aug. 18-24	Aug. 25-31	Sept. 1-7
Democrats			
Obama	78	85	83
McCain	14	9	11
Independents			
Obama	43	44	42
McCain	42	41	45
Republicans			
Obama	7	8	8
McCain	87	88	88

Source: Gallup Tracking Poll

Scatterplot of McCain 2008 Poll Margin by Bush 2004 Vote Margin



Source: Pollster.com and uselectionatlas.org