

Keeping Up with the Congressmen

Evaluating Constituents' Awareness of Redistricting

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Redistricting and Its Consequences

- Most research focused on elite effects—*who* is elected:
 - Incumbency advantage.
 - Policy representation of minorities.
 - Descriptive representation.
- Limited research on effects on *constituents*.
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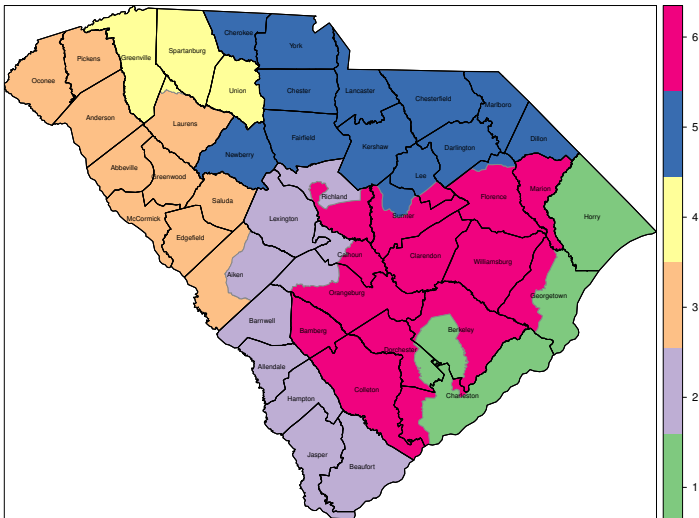
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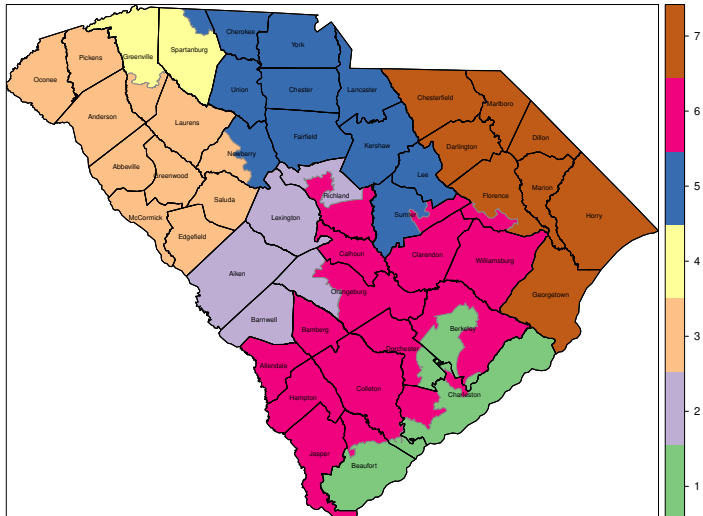
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Before Redistricting



After Redistricting



Data Collection

- **October 2012 Winthrop Poll, sponsored by Winthrop University and the West Forum on Politics and Policy.**
- Telephone survey conducted September 23–30, 2012.
- 981 complete or partial interviews with registered voters in district.

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Awareness of the New District

Some awareness of redistricting; lower awareness of being in new district.

- 33.5% of respondents unaware of redistricting.
- 39.5% of respondents aware of redistricting *and* aware they were in a new district.
- Low ability to identify counties in/not in new district (> 50% don't know).

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Awareness of the New District

	Knew was in district	Knew district existed
(Intercept)	-4.843*** (0.559)	-3.382*** (0.523)
Knowledge items	0.357*** (0.103)	0.314* (0.133)
Education	0.137* (0.065)	0.252*** (0.070)
Political awareness	0.268* (0.121)	0.420*** (0.108)
Age	0.016** (0.006)	0.008 (0.006)
Female (1/0)	-0.197 (0.169)	0.015 (0.179)
Black (1/0)	0.136 (0.205)	-0.319 (0.196)
Iwr eval of knowledge	0.421*** (0.079)	0.388*** (0.083)
Income	0.141*** (0.039)	0.108** (0.042)
Aldrich-Nelson R-sq.	0.182	0.193
Likelihood-ratio	171.807***	183.896***
Log-likelihood	-485.630	-438.858
N	771	771
ePCP	61.5%	66.7%
ePRE	20.9%	22.5%

Who benefits from the new district?

- **More respondents believed new district would improve representation than not.**
- Near-majority believed it would make no difference.
- Around 25% believed Horry County/Myrtle Beach/coastal area would get more attention than other parts of district.

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New district will improve representation

(Intercept)	-2.358*** (0.521)
Knowledge items	0.363*** (0.096)
Education	-0.050 (0.064)
Political awareness	0.351** (0.121)
Age	-0.006 (0.005)
Female (1/0)	0.067 (0.164)
Black (1/0)	0.535* (0.236)
Ivr eval of knowledge	0.099 (0.074)
Income	0.030 (0.039)
Coastal county (Georgetown/Horry)	0.313† (0.170)
Republican identifier/leaner	0.439* (0.203)

Aldrich-Nelson R-sq.	0.060
Likelihood-ratio	47.837****
Log-likelihood	-511.229
N	750
ePCP	58.0%
ePRE	5.0%

Expected vote in November 2012 (Republican=1)

(Intercept)	-7.054*** (1.309)
Education	0.127 (0.141)
Age	0.013 (0.012)
Female (1/0)	-0.084 (0.387)
Black (1/0)	-2.445*** (0.598)
Income	0.003 (0.098)
Party ID (7 point, D→R)	1.134*** (0.117)
Ideology (5 point, Lib→Con)	0.607** (0.212)
Married (1/0)	0.763† (0.444)

Aldrich-Nelson R-sq.	0.517
Likelihood-ratio	713.519***
Log-likelihood	-121.455
N	666
ePCC	90.8%
ePRE	81.3%

Conclusions

- **Even a competitive, open-seat contest did not lead to high knowledge of the new district.**
- Reinforced recent findings that redistricting disrupts constituent–representative connections.
- Raises questions about strictly following “one person, one vote.”

- **Future Directions:**
 - Consider additional states/districts.
 - Need longer-term study of constituents in new/changed districts.

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