



POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES & BELIEFS

Unit 4 : AP Test Review

10% - 15%

UNIT 4

LAST MONTH REVIEW STRATEGY

BIG ARGUMENTS

Make sure you can articulate answers, develop thesis statements, and contextualize these big arguments.

KEY POINTS

Review these key points, narrowed down from our notes throughout the year. Pay particular attention to bolded terms.

CONTEXT

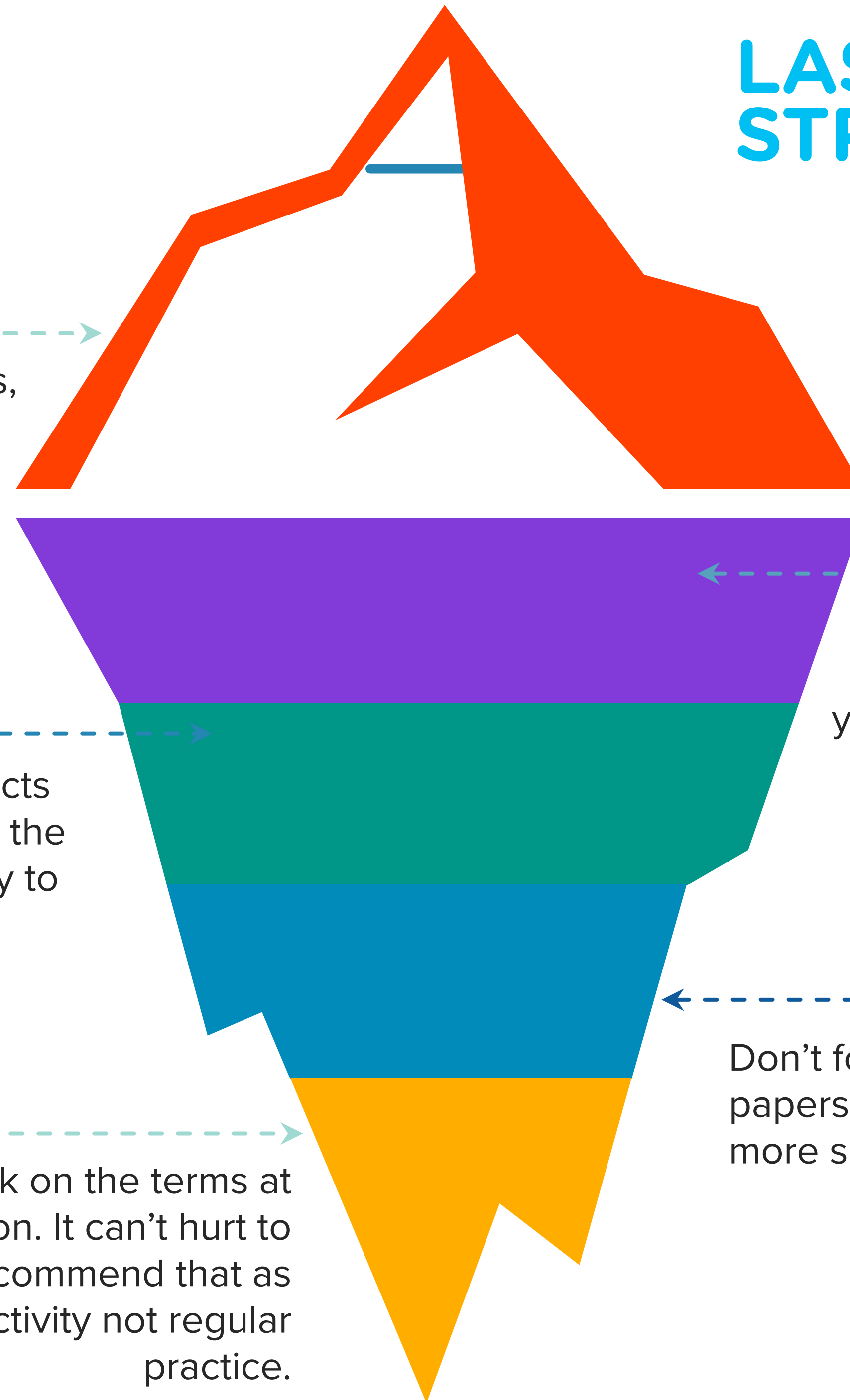
Think about how each unit connects to others. For instance, how does the compromise that denied humanity to slaves connect to the Civil Rights Movement?

TEST PREP

Don't forget to review rubrics, sample papers, multiple choice questions and more specific test prep!

TERMS

Your lowest priority is to work on the terms at the end of the presentation. It can't hurt to review those, but I would recommend that as a quick, periodic Quizlet activity not regular practice.



THE BIG ARGUMENTS

MAJOR THEMES AND CONCEPTS

THE BIG ARGUMENTS

- ✓ Our political beliefs are shaped by demographics, social change, and political culture.
- ✓ Public opinion is measured through scientific polling and the resulting polls also snap public policies and institutions.
- ✓ There are broad areas of disagreement over domestic and foreign policy between liberals and conservatives. Some Americans inhabit ideological space outside of these beliefs.
- ✓ Political ideologies are both shaped by and shape government policy.
- ✓ Political parties both reflect and shape policy.

KEY POINTS

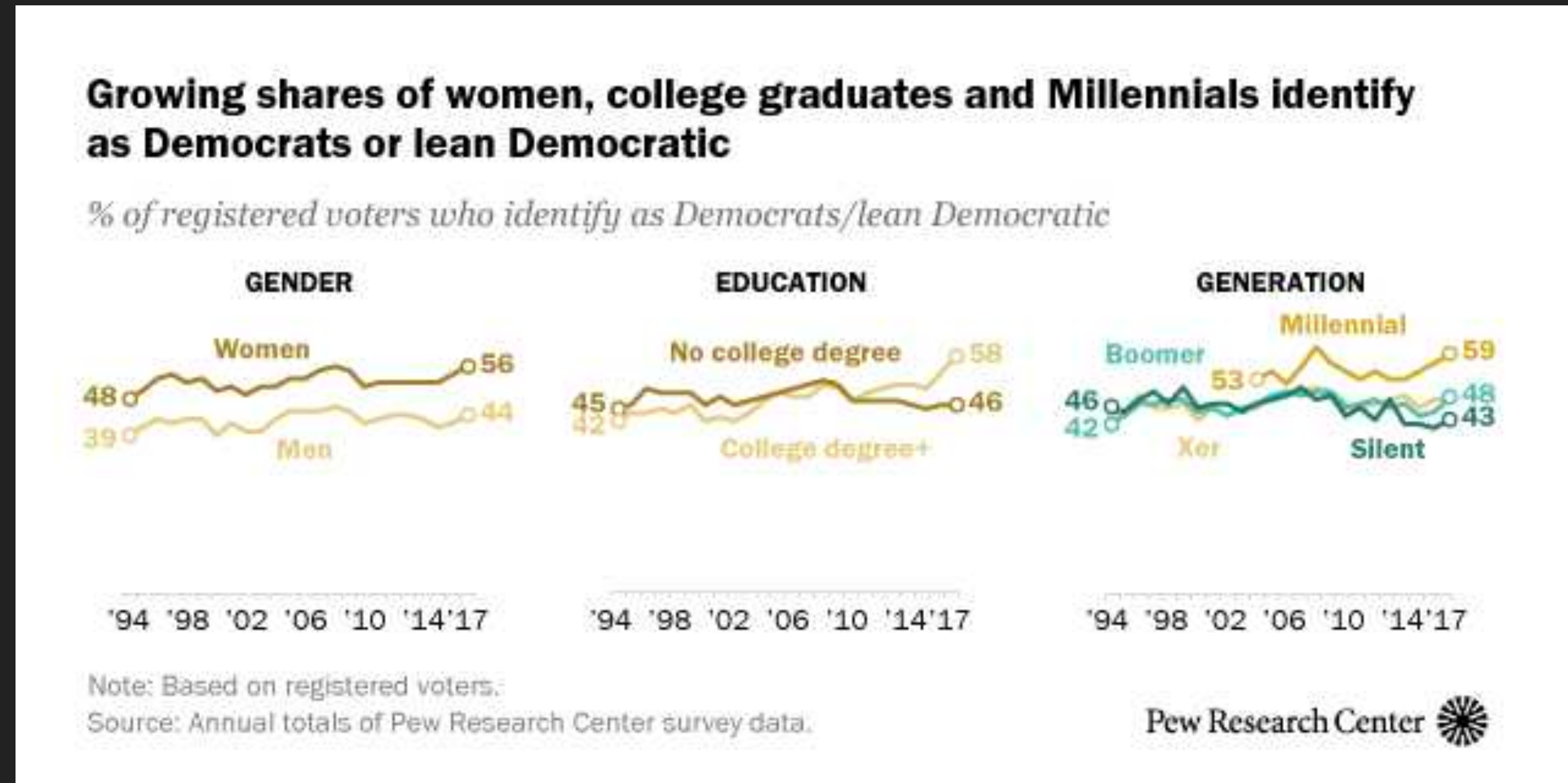
KEY POINTS WORTH LOCKING AWAY IN THE BRAIN



Political Ideologies & Beliefs

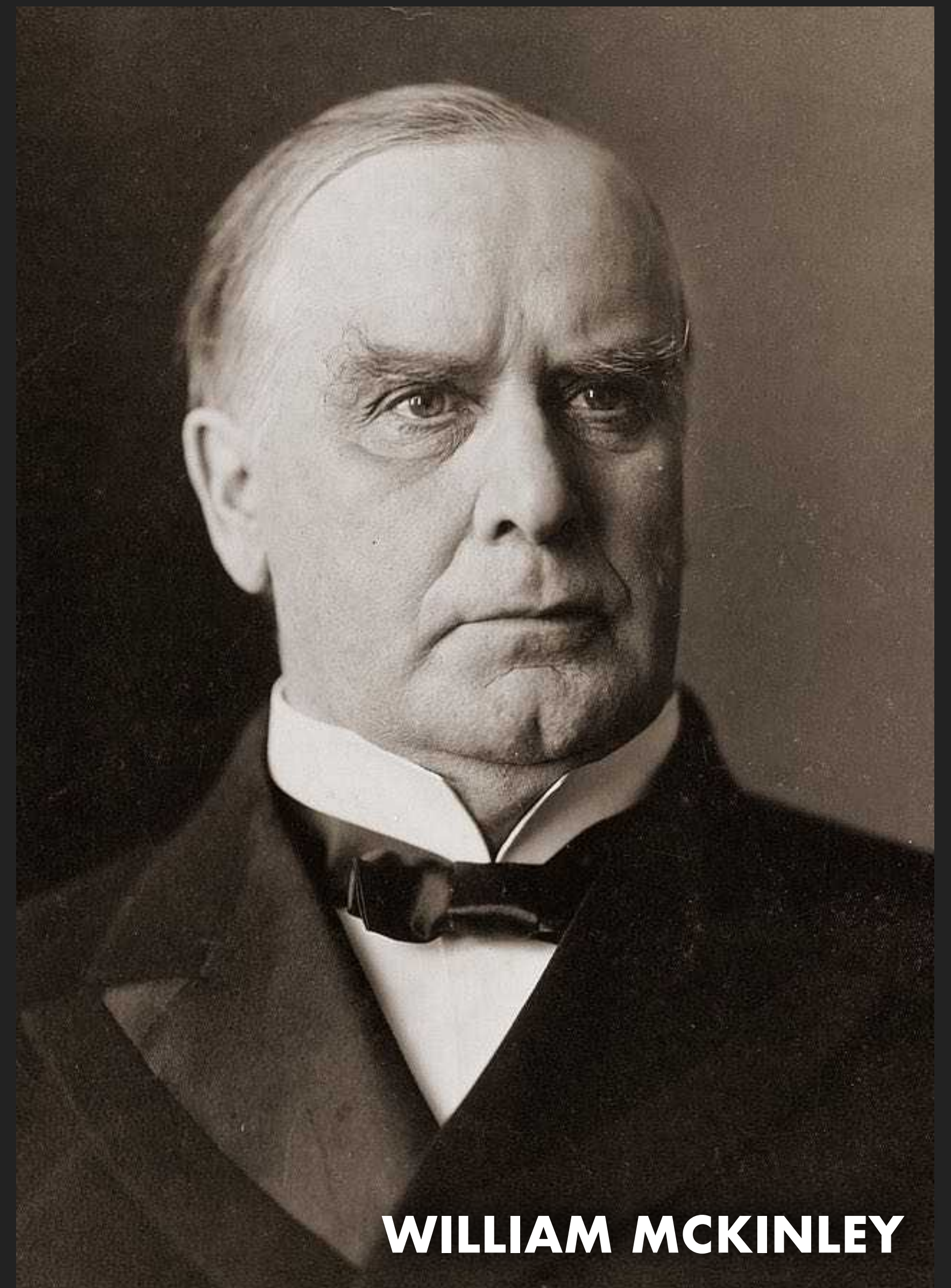
PARTISANSHIP

- ▶ **Partisanship** refers to a voter's long term, stable attachment to a party.
- ▶ Party affiliation has hardened: only about 10 percent of voters are truly independent.
- ▶ **Both Republican and Democratic voters vote their respective parties about 90% of the time.**
- ▶ **Despite this, party identification shifts in American politics.**
- ▶ Family party affiliation is the strongest predictor.



HISTORY OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN US

- ▶ **The Founding (1790-1824):** Democratic-Republicans versus the Federalists in loose, mostly local parties.
- ▶ **The Jacksonian Era (1824-1860):** Increased popular vote grew the power of parties as politics became a mass phenomenon.
 - ▶ Shift from caucus system to national conventions.
- ▶ **The Sectional Era (1860-1896):** the peak of power for parties as one party rule was the norm in most states.
 - ▶ **Patronage system, spoils, machine politics**
- ▶ **Modern era (1896-1980):** Decreased power of parties as areas become more competitive, party lines blur.
- ▶ **Polarized era (1980-today):** Deep divisions between the two major parties harden, increasing the power of parties once again.



WILLIAM MCKINLEY

FUNCTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- ▶ They organize and recruit, define values, and lead.
- ▶ They provide a **label** for voters, **get out the vote**, and **raise money**.
- ▶ Local and state parties peaked in their power when the **patronage system** was in place.
- ▶ They choose candidates for election:
 - ▶ Some states have **closed primaries**, in which only registered voters of each party can vote.
 - ▶ Others have **open primaries**, in which a voter receives both ballots but can only vote one.
 - ▶ Some states have moved to a **top-two** or **jungle primary**, in which the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, advance to the general.



NOMINATING FOR PRESIDENT

- ▶ They also nominate for President at a **nominating convention** every four years.
- ▶ When you vote in a Presidential **primary** or **caucus**, you are voting for delegates to attend these conventions. These people are **pledged delegates**, who must vote for the candidate who won their state.
- ▶ Both parties also have **super-delegates**—party leaders and officials who can choose how they vote.
- ▶ Reforms reducing the power of super delegates has empowered **activist voters** like Sanders and Trump voters.



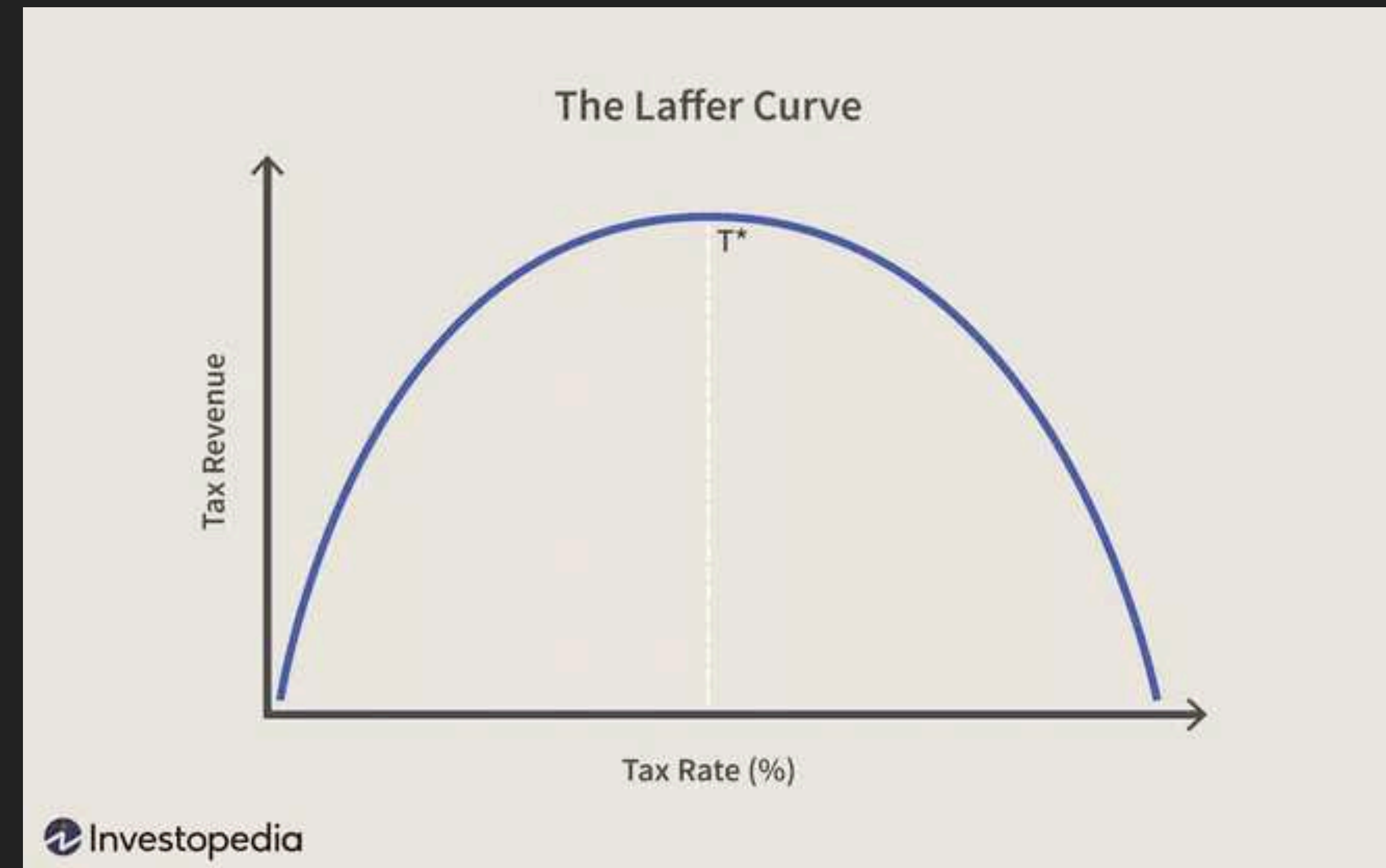
HOW POLICY GETS MADE

- ▶ There are two broad views of policy making:
 - ▶ **Majoritarian policy making:** when politicians enact the will of the majority.
 - ▶ **Interest group policy making:** when political leaders respond to a **pluralist** view of government and enact policy
- ▶ Some policy is also made when politicians exploit **wedge issues**.



POLICY DIFFERENCES: FISCAL

- ▶ Conservatives tend to support **laissez faire** economic policy.
 - ▶ Since the 1980s, they have adopted **supply-side** economics, which holds that the more money in the hands of the people, the better the economy will be.'
- ▶ Since the 1930s, liberals have accepted more government involvement and regulation of the economy, rooted in **Keynesian economics**.
 - ▶ Government, according to Keynes, should **stimulate** the economy and **slow it down** when needed.



POLICY DIFFERENCES: TRADE, SPENDING & TAXES

- ▶ Elites in both parties tend to support **globalization**, while grassroots voters tend to support **protectionism**.
- ▶ Liberals tend to prefer a more **progressive tax system**, one in which those with lower incomes pay a lower rate of taxes.
 - ▶ **Earned Income Tax Credit**
- ▶ Conservatives tend to favor a system of **reduced taxation** for all, arguing that **job creators** will boost the economy.
- ▶ Liberals tend to favor an expansive federal welfare state; conservatives tend to failure individual responsibility and state programs.



SOCIAL SECURITY

- ▶ **Social Security (1935)** is a self-funded program (workers and their employers each pay 6.2%) that provides \$ for retired, disabled, and survivors.
- ▶ Some have called for **privatization**.
- ▶ Trustees have noted that reduced benefits will need to happen in 2034 w/o changes.
- ▶ Social Security is the **third rail** of American politics.



SIGNING OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

MEDICARE, MEDICAID, OBAMACARE

- ▶ Medicare and Medicaid are 20% of the federal budget.
 - ▶ **Medicare** is government-run health insurance for people 65+.
 - ▶ **Medicaid** is government-run health insurance for those in or near poverty.
- ▶ Both programs are largely run by states.
- ▶ In 2010, the US adopted the **Affordable Care Act** (Obamacare).
- ▶ Some liberals are calling for **Medicare for All** as a mechanism for universal coverage.



THE GREATEST SIGN OF ALL TIME

HEALTH CARE

- ▶ **It:**
 - ▶ Provided subsidized care for those in poverty.
 - ▶ Protected people with pre-existing conditions
 - ▶ Required businesses with 50+ employees to provide affordable insurance.
 - ▶ Required individuals to get insurance coverage (repealed 2018).
- ▶ What do liberals and conservatives think?

Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)



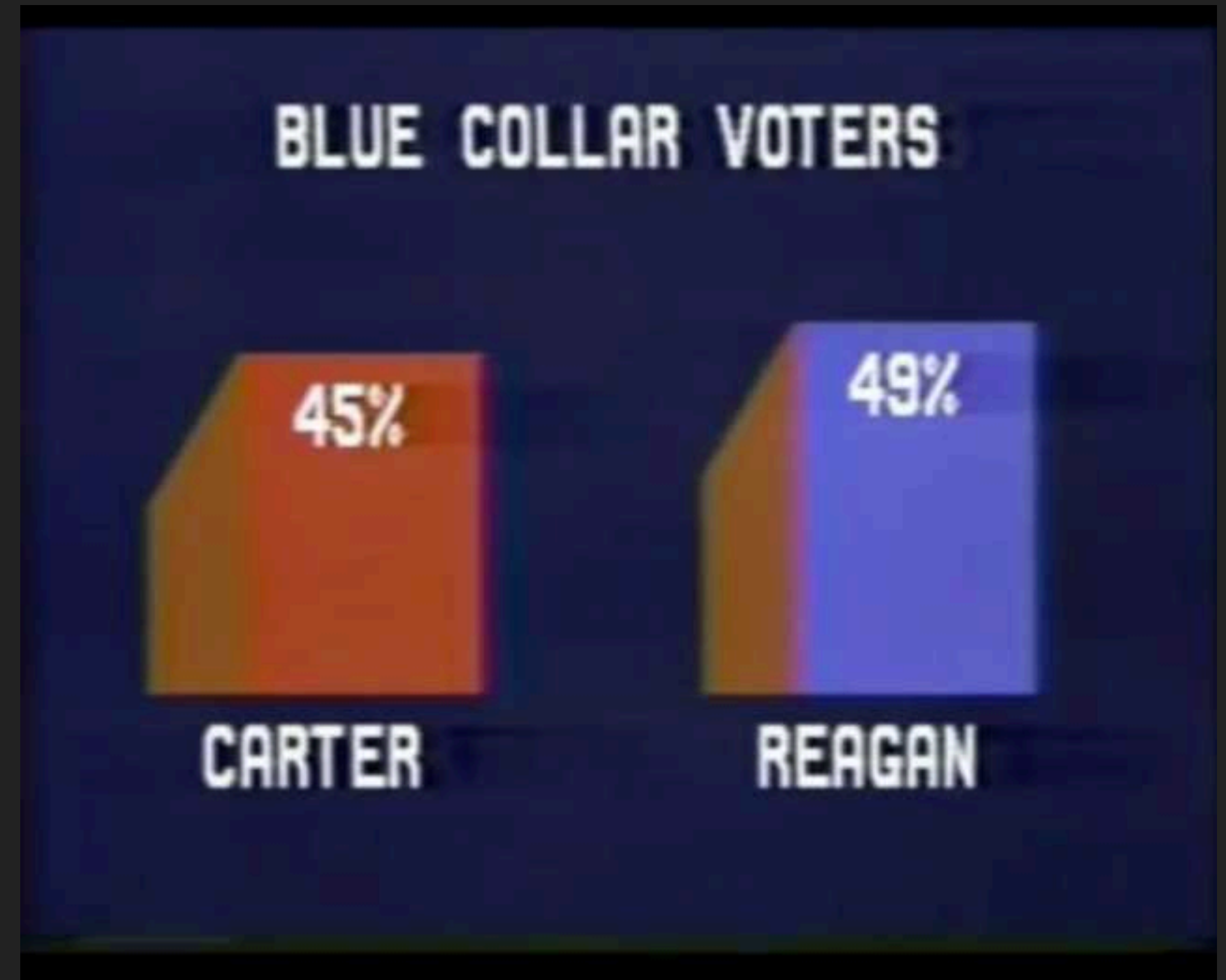
SIGNING OF THE ACA



Measuring Public Opinion

TYPES OF POLLS

- ▶ Broadly, we refer to **public opinion polls** to understand the public's attitude towards candidates and issues.
- ▶ **Benchmark polls** refer to initial polls taken to evaluate initial support for a candidate or measures.
- ▶ **Tracking polls** measure public attitudes over time.
 - ▶ **Approval ratings** for the President are among the most common tracking polls.
- ▶ **Entrance and exit polls** are conducted outside polling stations to help gauge winners before formal results are announced.



SAMPLING

- ▶ Polls rest on finding a **random sample** of respondents.
- ▶ Once a random group has been polled, however, pollsters will use **weighing** or **stratification** to ensure that the final survey accurately represents an area's demographics and political leaning.
- ▶ Every poll has a **sampling error** or **margin of error** because of randomness or respondent accuracy. Pollsters can measure this by comparing two or more samples from their survey.
- ▶ One critical detail to note about polls is whether they ask **Registered Voters**, **Likely Voters**, or a **General Survey**. Why?

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POLITICS

- ▶ Critics argue that polls transform American political races into **horse races**, in which substance gives way to gauging polling support.
 - ▶ Does this trivialize races?
- ▶ Others argue that polling drives candidates out of races before they have a chance to speak their platform.
- ▶ Others argue that polls reduce **voter turnout**.
- ▶ In recent elections, **election forecasting** has become a minor industry, with sites **aggregating** polls and developing **models** to determine likely winners.

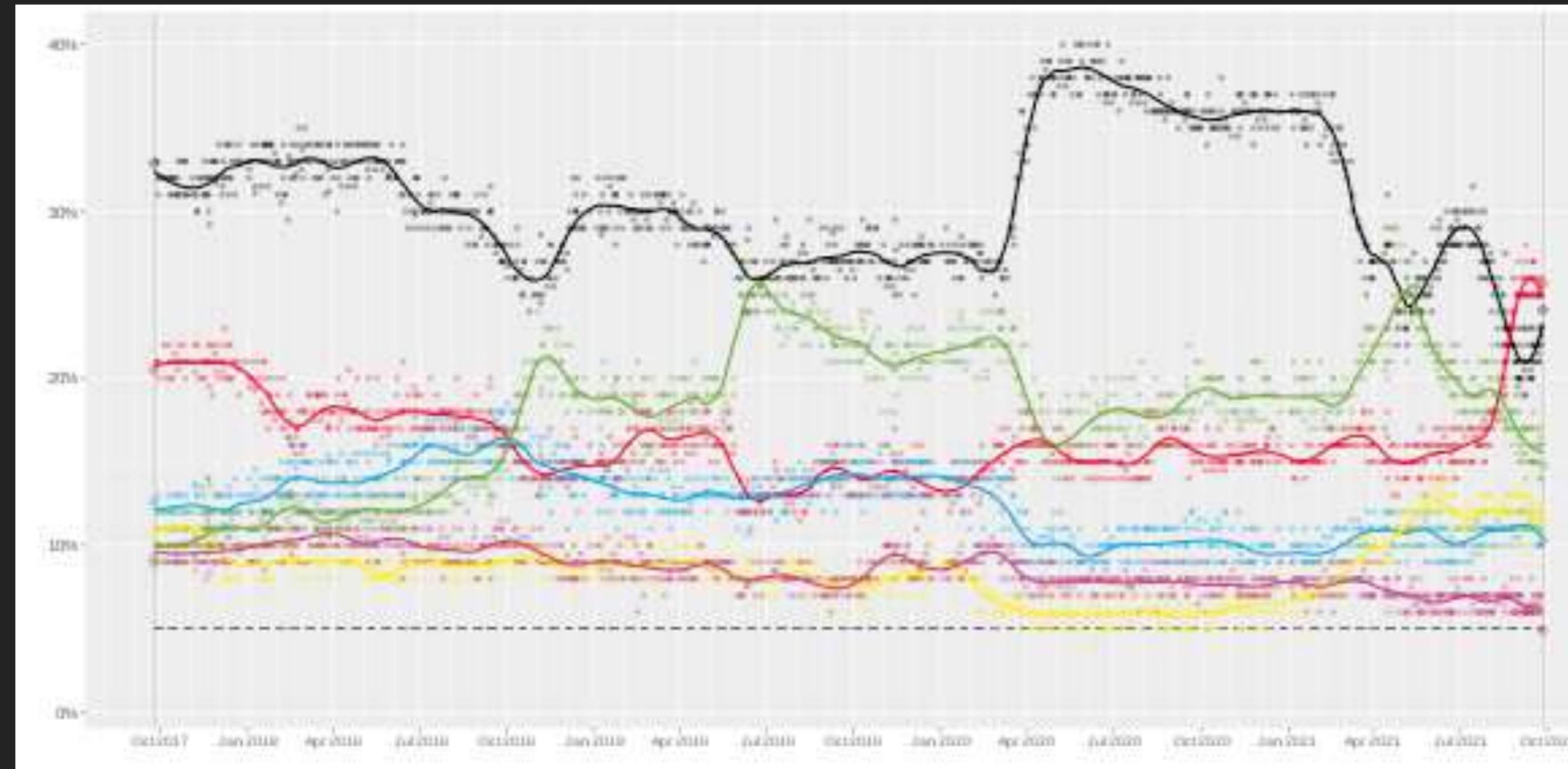


“HOOPLA! HERE WE ARE AGAIN!”

DRAWN BY E. W. KEMBLE

BIASED POLLING

- ▶ And some polls are just **biased** from the outset, funded by special interests, PACS, parties, and candidates themselves.
 - ▶ Why would a candidate want to overstate his support in a poll?
- ▶ There are **four questions** you can ask about every poll:
 - ▶ Who funded it?
 - ▶ What was the sampling method?
 - ▶ Are the questions and data made public?
 - ▶ How was it weighted?



TERMS

CAN'T HURT TO KNOW WHAT THESE MEAN

KEY TERMS

- Baby Boomers
- Conservatives
- Free enterprise
- Gen X
- Globalization
- Liberal
- Libertarian
- Life cycle effect
- Limited government
- Partisanship
- Political socialization
- Progressive
- Wedge issues
- Valence issues
- Approval rating
- Benchmark poll
- Entrance and exit polls
- Focus groups
- Push polling
- Margin of error
- Random sample
- Representative sample
- Sample
- Sampling error
- Weighting
- Tracking polls
- Pluralism
- Majoritarianism
- Super delegates
- Delegates
- Conventions
- Primary
- Caucus
- Open primary
- Closed primary
- Jungle primary
- Bias