

The State of Split Ticket Voting

Zeke Peters, Isabel Williams, & Jacob Lunt
Mentor: Dr. Jeremy C. Pope | Department of Political Science



Introduction

Split ticket voters are a statistical minority – so who cares about them?

Think about the US Senate: Joe Manchin and Krysten Sinema are only two of 100 senators, but in a body ruled by majority, their individual votes become very important. Despite their small numbers, **split ticket voters represent a vital minority in American elections.**

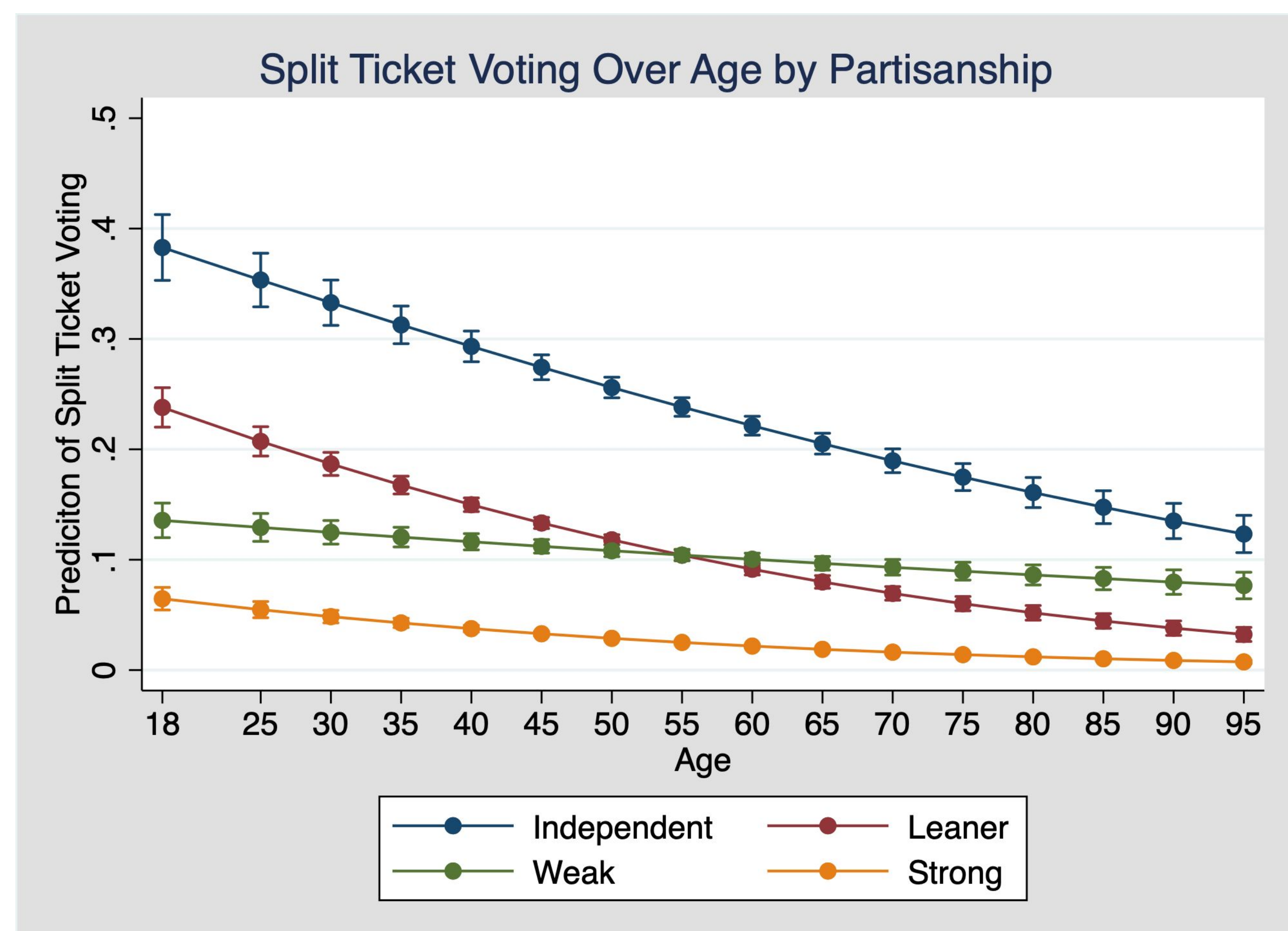
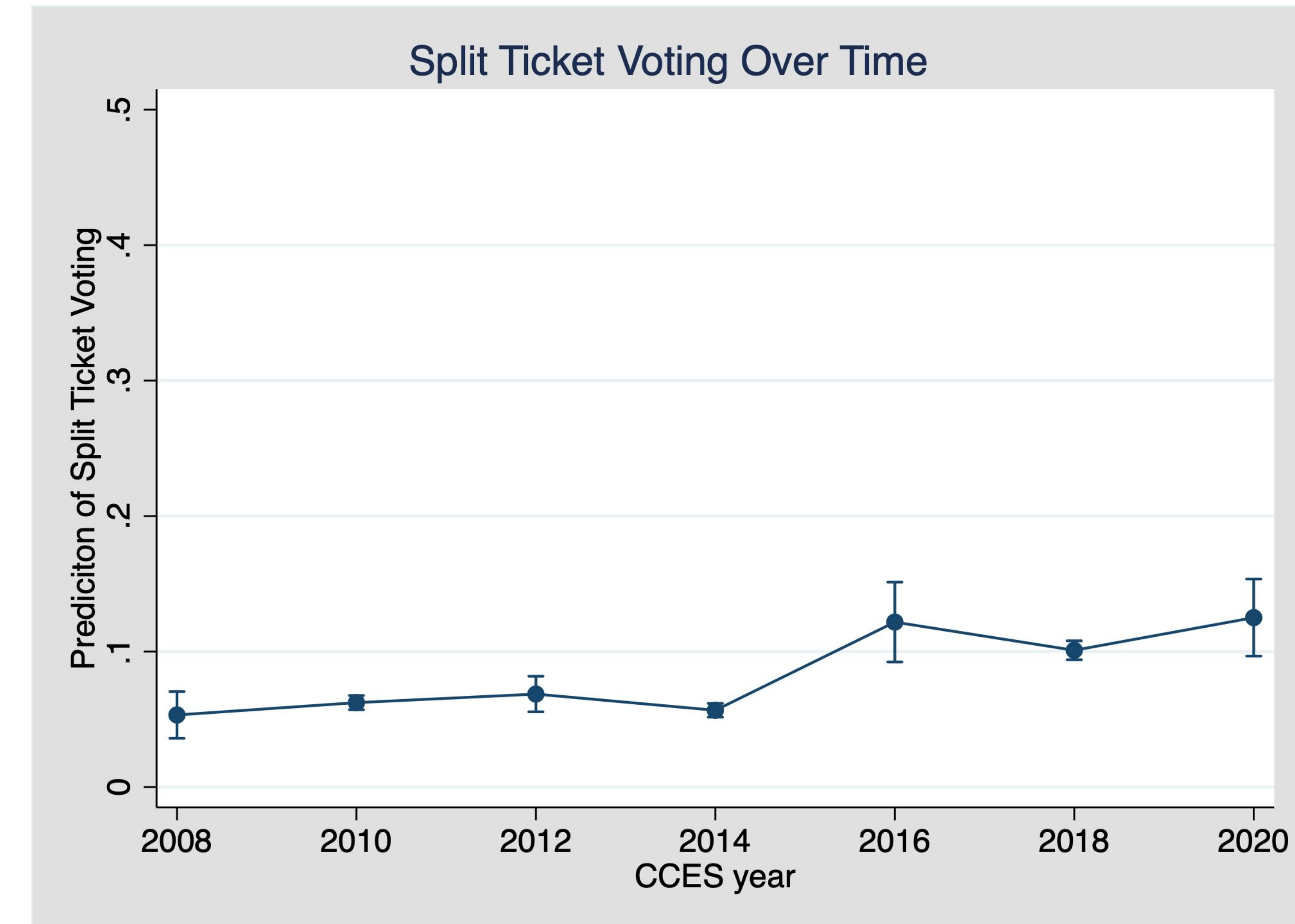
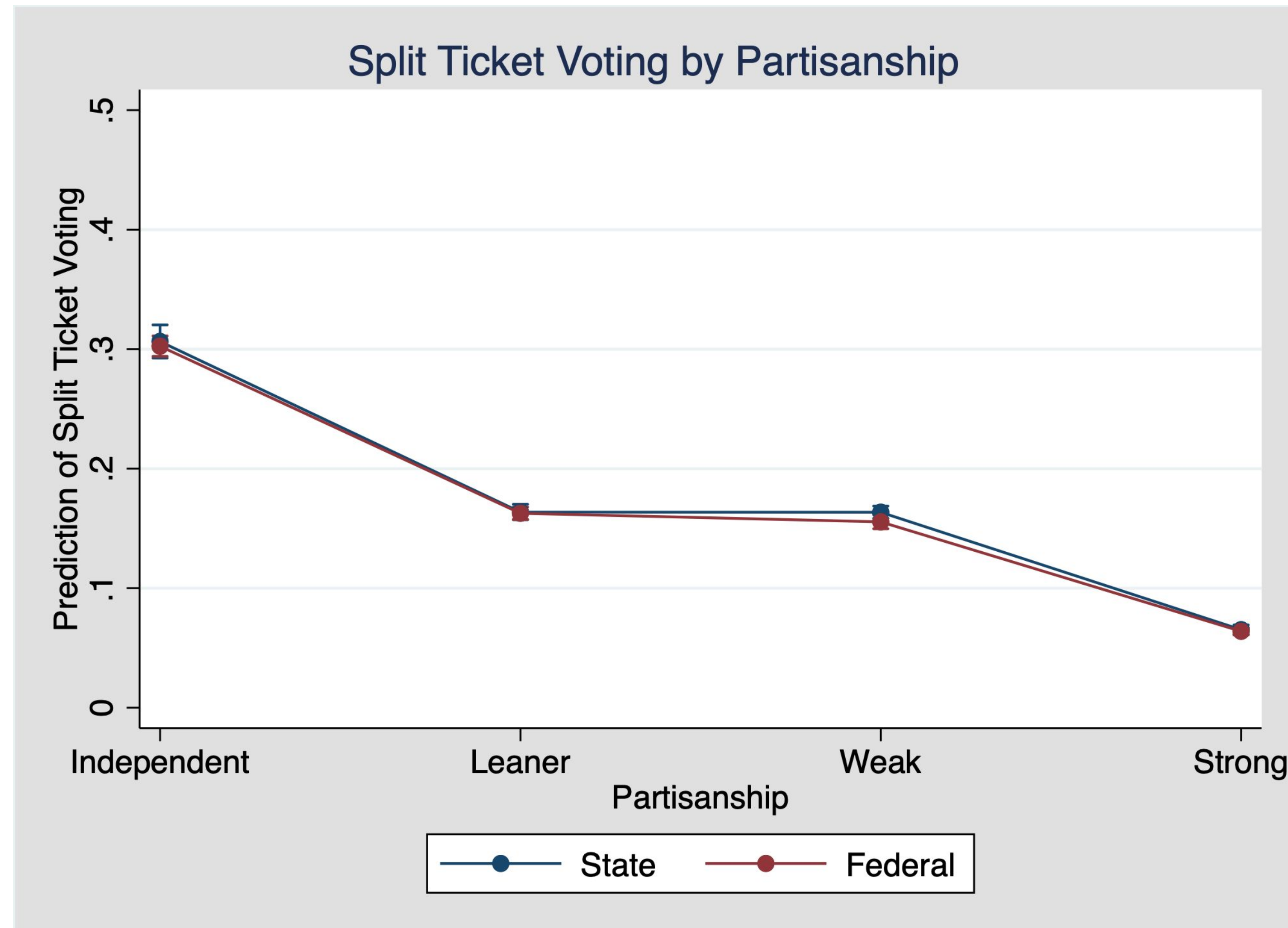
Questions

- Common wisdom says split ticket voting is decreasing- is this still accurate?
- Are independents or ambivalent partisans splitting their vote?
- Which age group is most likely to split their ticket?
- Did Trump have an effect on split ticket voting?
- How does including state data on split ticket voting change our findings?

Data

- CCES 2006-2020 combined data.
- Each vote coded as either (1) Democrat (2) Republican (3) Third-Party.
- Separated Federal and State splitters by: Federal: President/House State: President/Governor.
- Split ticket voter at state or federal level if their two votes did not match the same of the three parties.

Results



Findings/Implications

- Split ticket voting increased slightly but significantly in the Trump era.
- Independents and ambivalent partisans are the most likely to split their ticket.
- No difference between these groups in state or local elections vs federal elections.
- Trump effect in higher likelihood of young voters to split their tickets? Or an ongoing trend over time? More data from the 20th century would help determine the distinction.