

Political Polarization Leading to New Party Formation

Adia Caldwell, School of Library and Information Science

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Introduction

Over the past few years, many Americans have noticed an increasing trend in political polarization between the two major political parties: Democrat and Republican. **Political polarization** is referred to the case in which an individual's opinions on a specific issue are strictly confined to those of their designated party. This study will analyze recent trends in the way American citizens deal with politics and will decide if the level of polarization would lead to a **newer political party** that better suited the values of the American citizens that are stuck in limbo between Democratic and Republican.

Hypothesis

The hypothesis of this study is based on how radicalized politics has become recently. Those who do not share the same values as Dems or Reps are left in the middle and are forced to vote for representatives that do not necessarily meet their needs. Thus, a new party with a **more centrist ideology** will be able to attract voters that closely represent their beliefs.

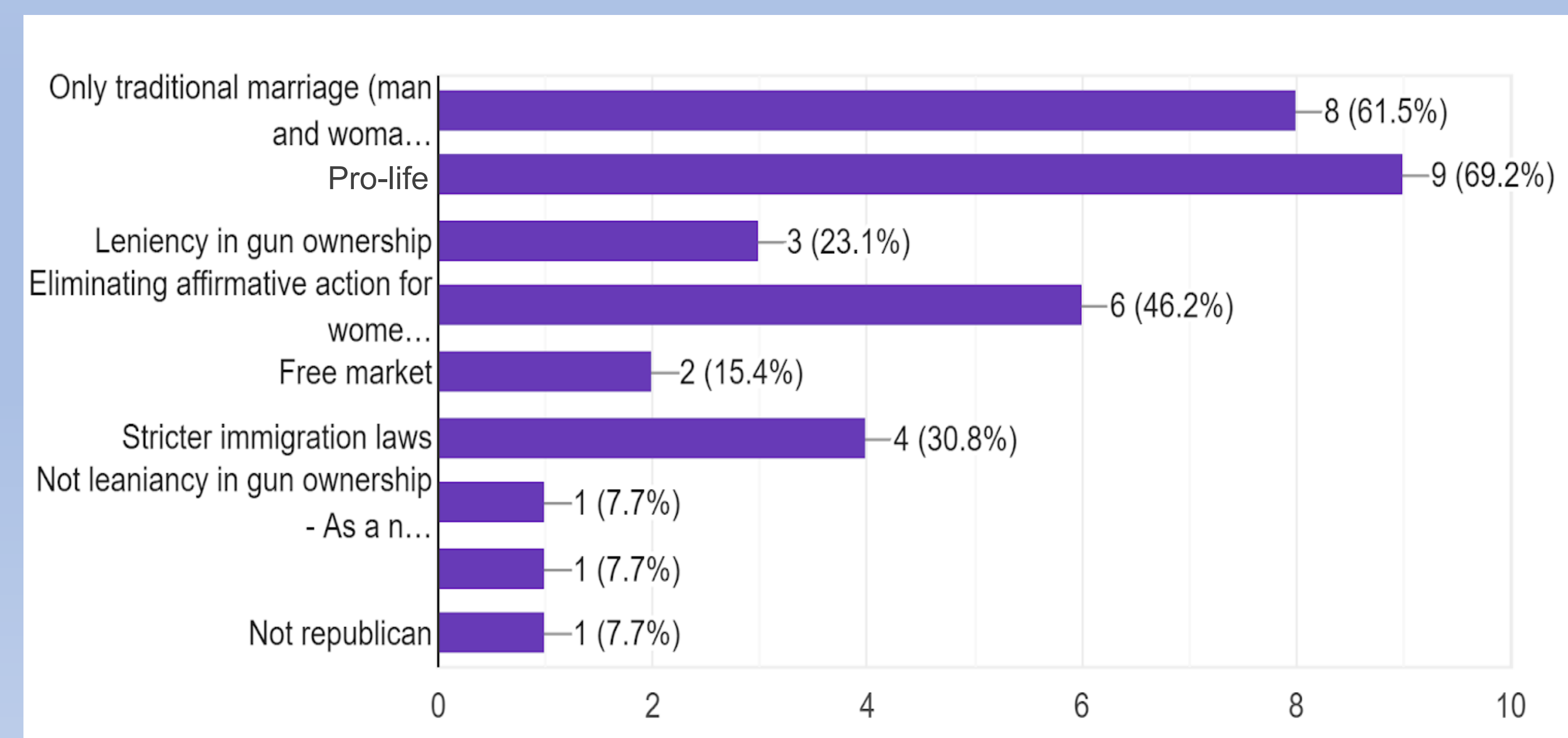
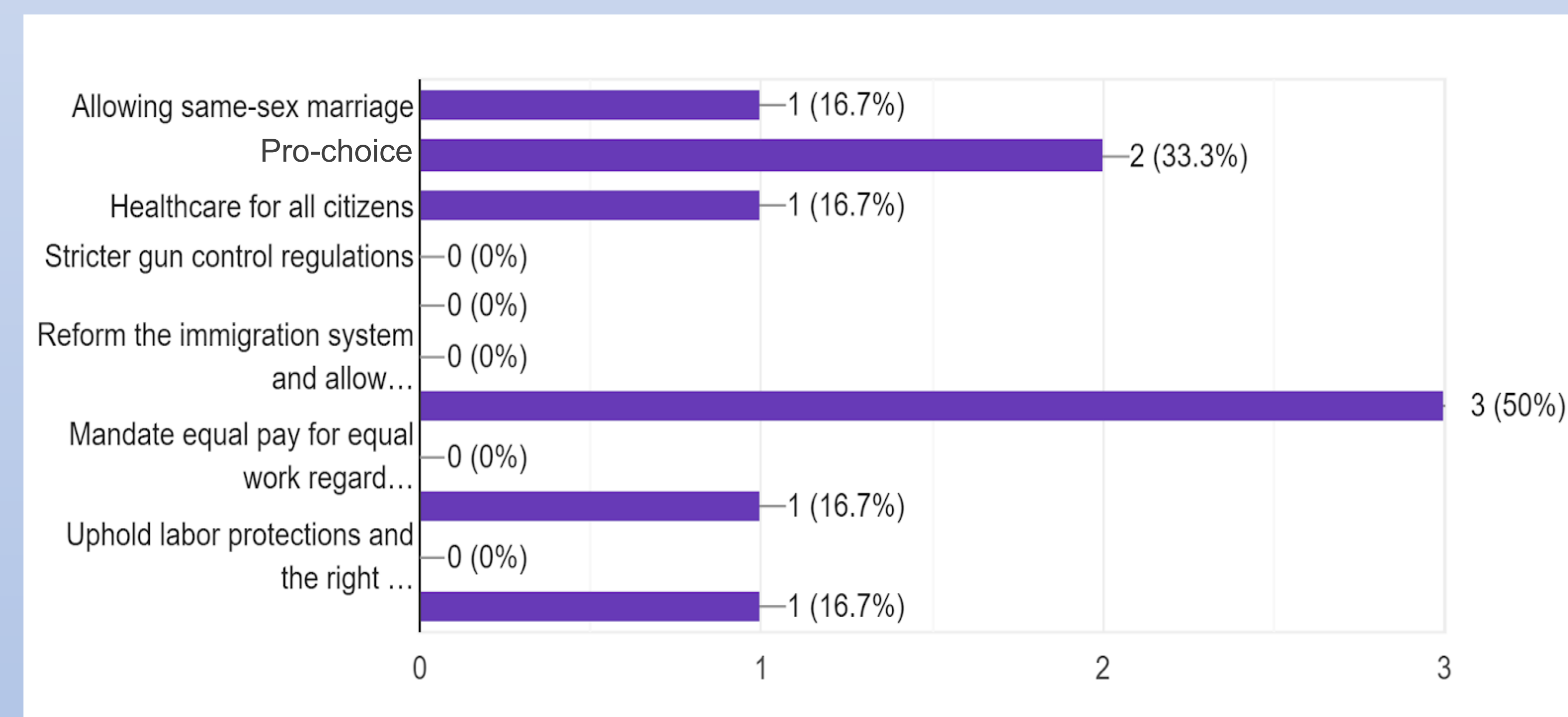
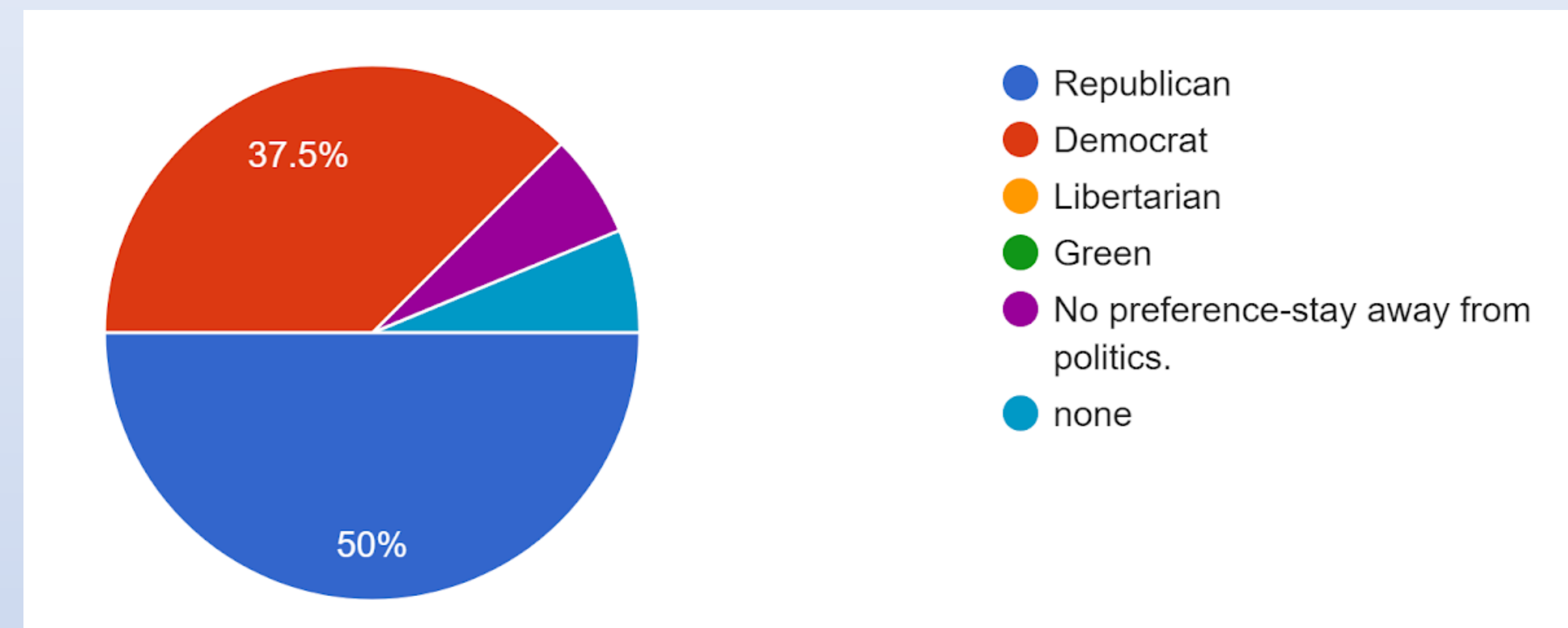
Methods

In order to obtain data about the public, the researcher developed a survey through Google Forms that contained four questions:

1. "What political party do you identify with?"
2. "Which Democratic beliefs do you disagree with?"
3. "Which Republican beliefs do you disagree with?"
4. "Would you be open to joining a different political party that better represents your values? Please explain why."

The first question provides information about who the respondent typically votes for in elections. The second and third question was asked to see how well their beliefs aligned with the party they chose. The last and most important question allows the respondent to go into detail about how they feel in this particular political climate. The participants could also voice their opinions about which party or belief system they are looking for.

Datasets



Findings

The results from this survey showed much promise to the possible rise of a newer political party. Of the republican respondents, 62.5% showed interest in joining a different party that better suited their beliefs. Half of those responses mentioned that they have a Libertarian ideology but tend to vote Republican because the Libertarian party does not have a large enough presence in our political atmosphere. Another interesting finding is shown in the disagreed republican beliefs; 75% of the republicans disagreed with two or more beliefs, which shows that these participants may benefit from having a more moderate ideology. The two main points of interest are traditional marriages and pro-life tendencies. Disagreement on these two points relates to the Libertarian ideology – that people should be free to make their own decisions without government involvement. Additionally, many of the democratic respondents agreed that they would change their party for one with matching beliefs but did not explain why.

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