

Rural Divide in State Parties

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Research Question:

Is there a geographic divide within state political parties?

Answer:

Yes. Parties cannot represent both rural and nonrural constituents because of divergent preferences.

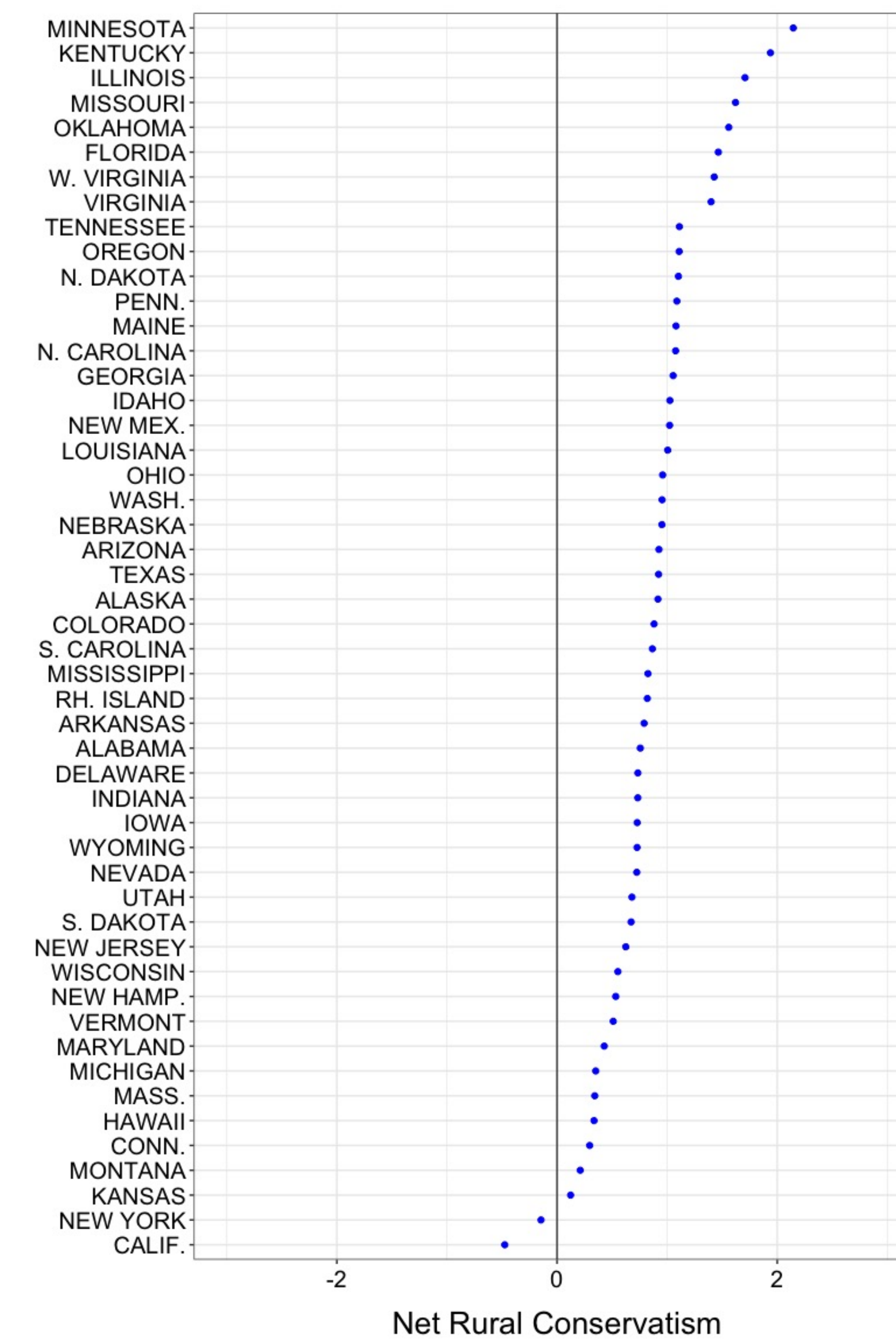
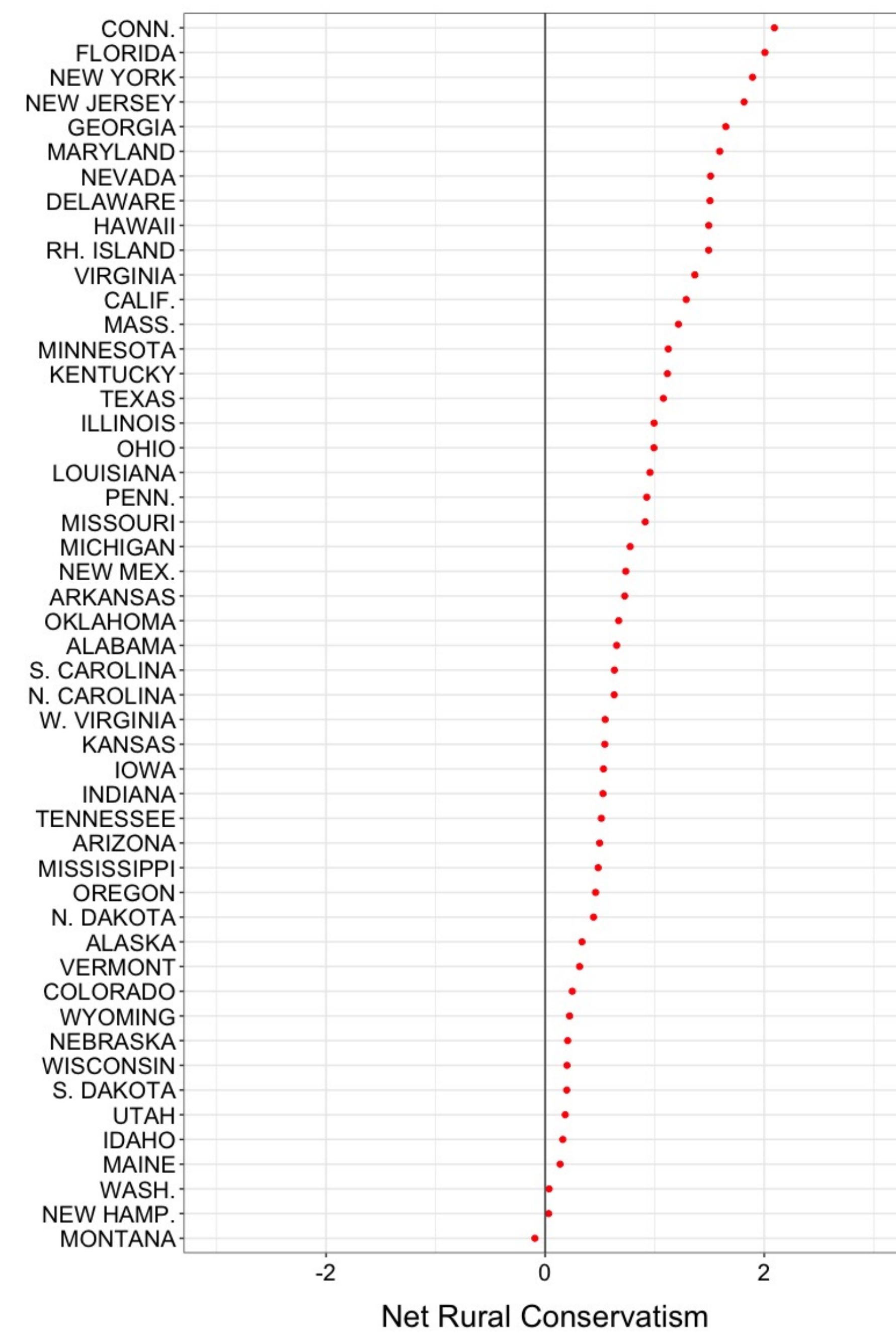
Which rural/nonrural demographic differences predict a rural divide among co-partisans?

Republicans Social Issues Income Race Size of Rural Pop.	Democrats Social Issues
Republicans Economic Issues Income Size of Rural Pop.	Democrats Economic Issues Race

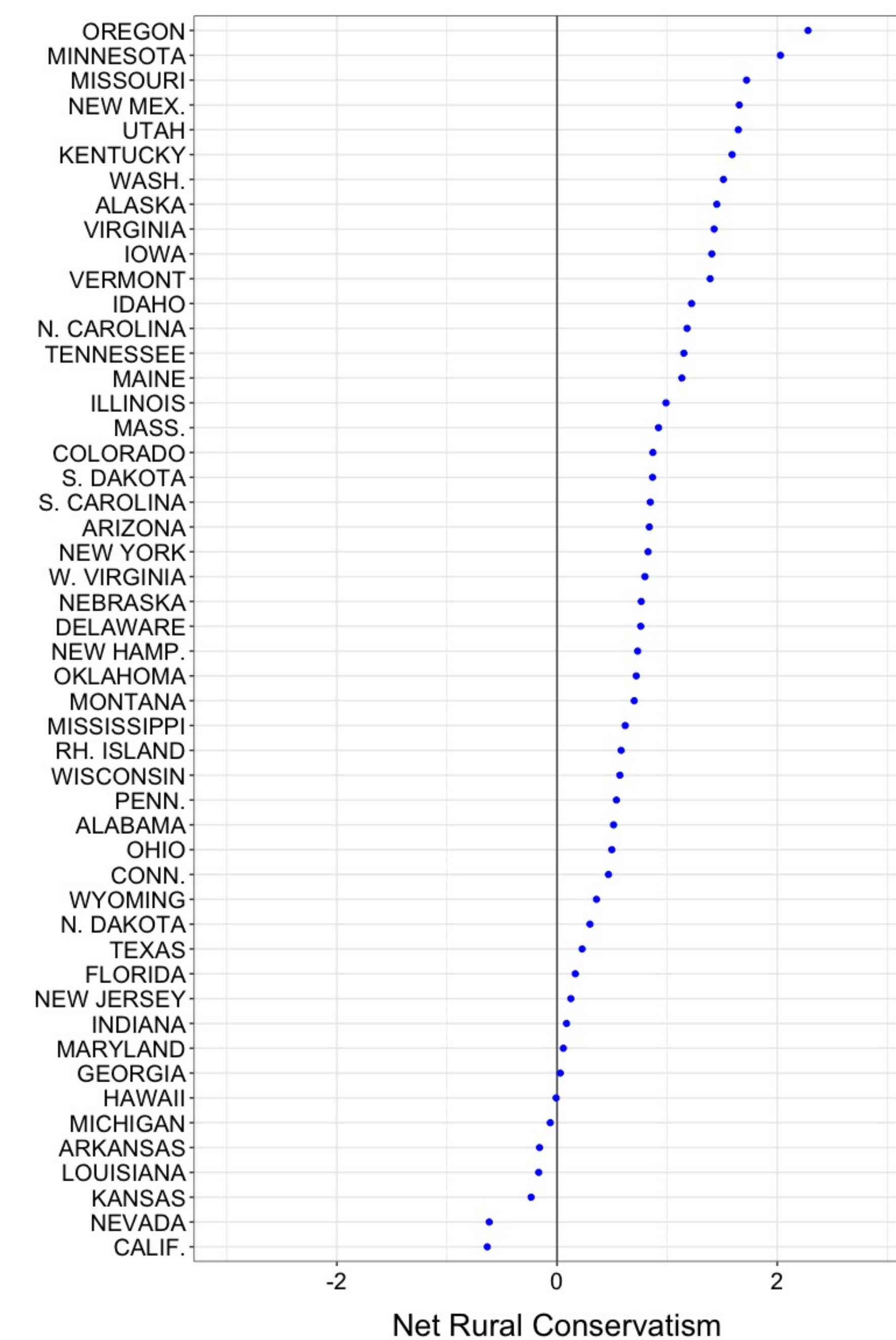
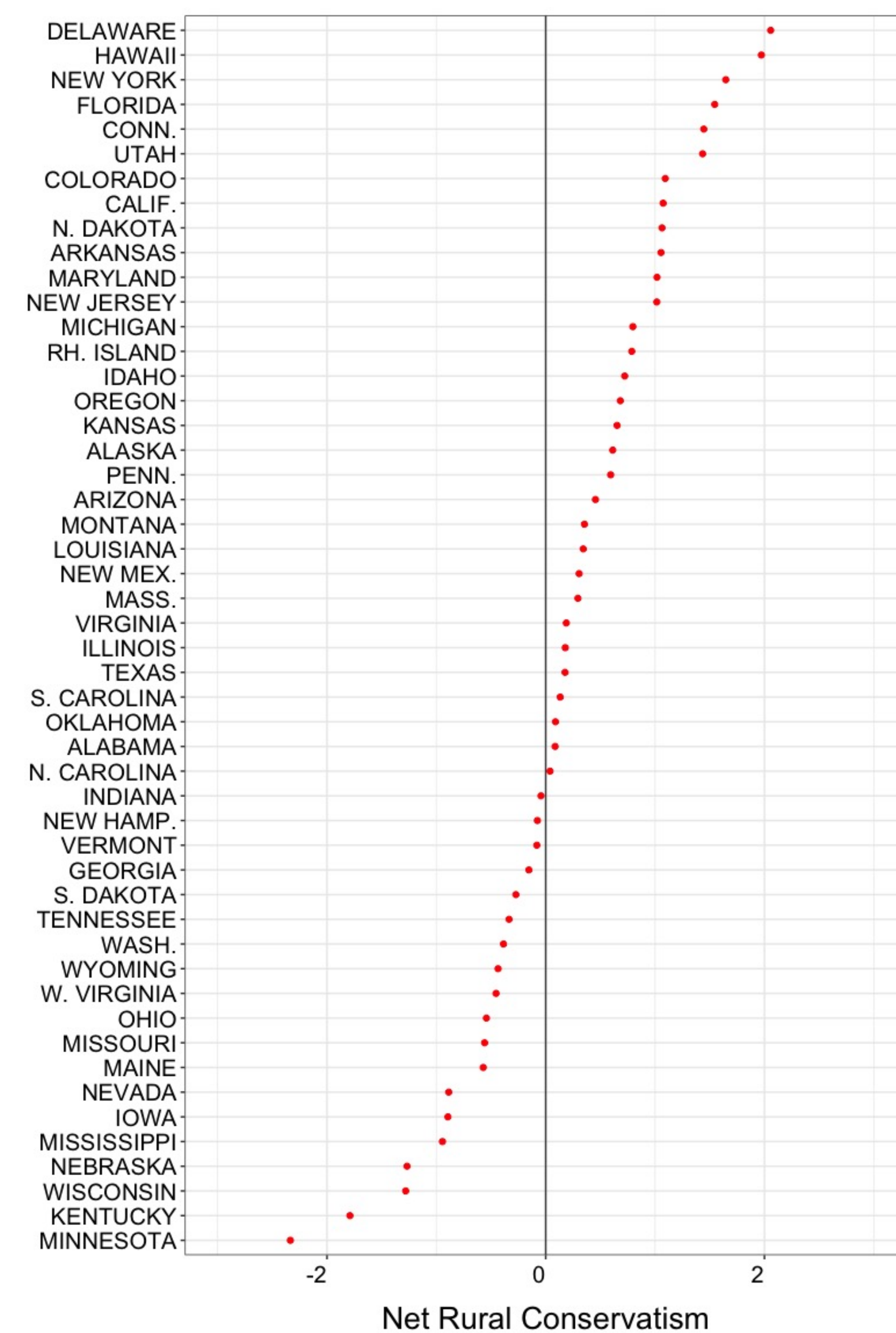
SOCIAL DIVIDE

Republicans

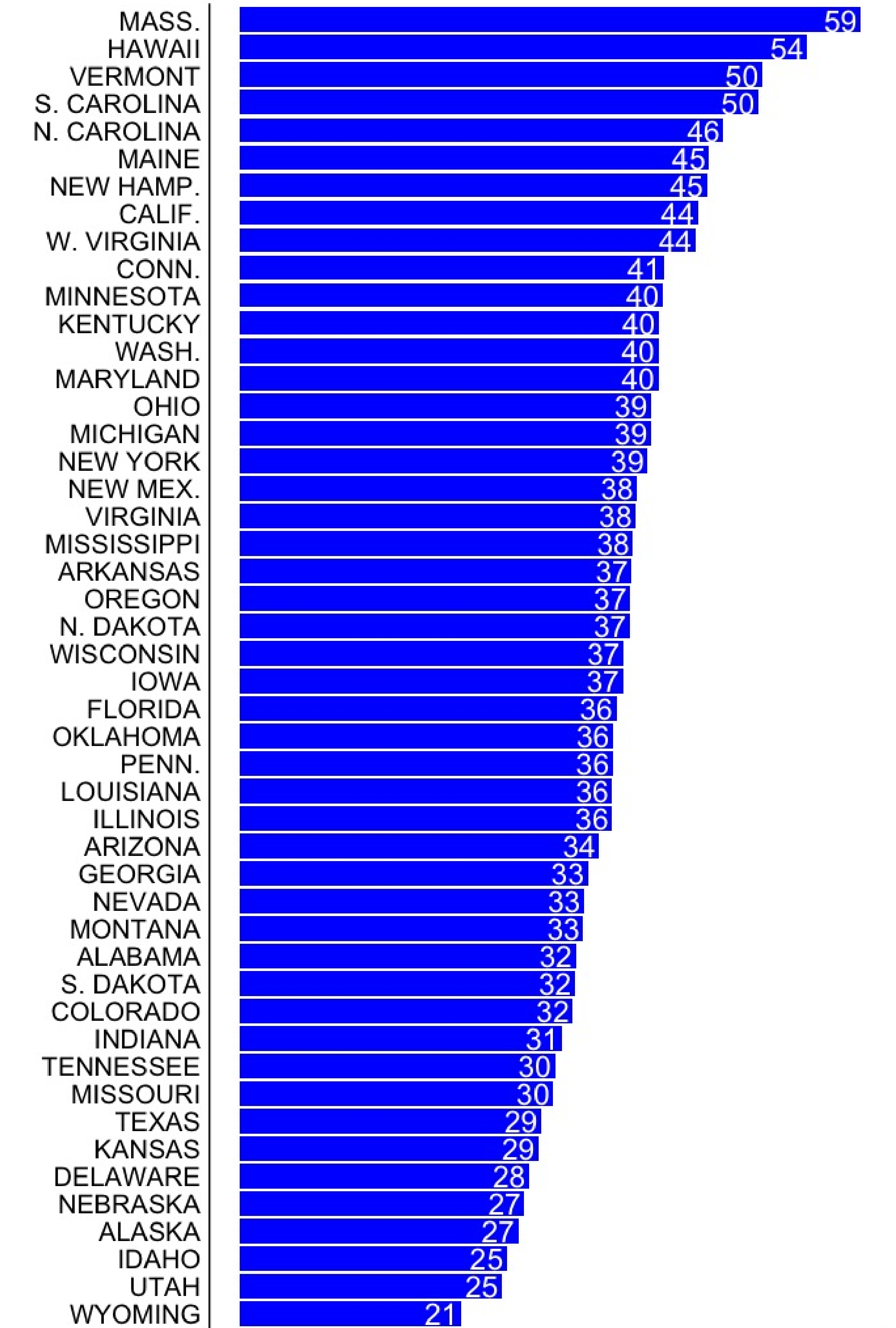
Democrats



ECONOMIC DIVIDE



Importantly, not all rural voters are Republicans.



Next steps: Representation Gap

Are urban or rural voters better represented by state parties?

- Calculate legislator ideal points using bills that correspond to IRT items
- Comparative analysis of congruence between voters and political outcomes
- Which institutions foster better representation of rural voters?

Contact Information

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