

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

THE INFLUENCE OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS CAMPAIGNS

AUBREY BARANOWSKI
SPRING 2019

A thesis
submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements
for a baccalaureate degree
in Political Science
with honors in Political Science

Reviewed and approved by the following:

Robert Speel
Professor of Political Science
Thesis Supervisor and
Honors Advisor

Kilac Kanat
Professor of Political Science
Faculty Reader

*Signatures are on file with the Schreyer Honors College office.

ABSTRACT

The main focus of my research was to see how the campaigns of those wishing to either enter Congress or keep their seat in it portray the current president of the United States. How do they address the president's past actions and current policies? Does being in a state or district that tends to lean Republican or Democrat change how the candidate addresses the president? I looked at the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate campaigns of 2018, 2010, and 2006. Donald Trump, Barack Obama, and George W. Bush were the presidents during these elections, respectively. I saw in my research how the midterm effect can impact the party of the current president. A majority of the time the candidates of the president's party will support him, especially if his approval ratings are high. If the approval ratings are low, candidates of the same party as the president might avoid controversial actions or issues that the president has taken a stance on. I found that the president does have a significant impact on the campaigns of candidates from both parties at all levels of government.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2 George W. Bush and the United States Senate	3
Republican Portrayal of President Bush II in United States Senate General Elections 2006	7
Democrat’s Portrayal of President Bush II in United States Senate General Elections 2006	8
Chapter 3 Barack Obama and the United States Senate	9
Republican Portrayal of President Obama in the United States Senate General Elections 2010.....	13
Democrat’s Portrayal of President Obama in the United States Senate General Elections 2010.....	13
Chapter 4 Donald Trump and the United States Senate	15
Republican Portrayal of President Trump in the United States Senate General Elections 2018	18
Democrat’s Portrayal of President Trump in the United States Senate General Elections 2018	19
Chapter 5 Analysis of the Influence of Presidents on the United States Senate Elections	20
Chapter 6 George W. Bush and the United States House of Representatives	22
Republican Portrayal of George W. Bush in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2006	29
Democrat’s Portrayal of George W. Bush in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2006	30
Chapter 7 Barack Obama and the United States House of Representatives	32
Republican Portrayal of President Obama in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2010	38
Democrat’s Portrayal of President Obama in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2010	39
Chapter 8 Donald Trump and the United States House of Representatives	41
Republican Portrayal of President Trump in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2018	49
Democrat’s Portrayal of President Trump in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2018	49
Chapter 9 Analysis of Influence of Presidents on United States House of Representatives Elections	52

Chapter 10 Conclusion.....55

BIBLIOGRAPHY.....58

ACADEMIC VITA.....75

Chapter 1

Introduction

Presidents play a role in elections of candidates at all levels of government. Their presence influences the advertisements and messages that candidates from both parties send out to their constituents. Even though the United States Congress is huge with many different areas of the country being represented, the president still plays a large role in those elections. The policies that the president puts in place, wants to implement, or wants to get rid of become large talking points among candidates (US Midterm Elections: What are the Key Issues?). For many presidents, they are up against the midterm effect. The midterm effect takes place during the midterm elections, which are congressional elections halfway through a president's term. The midterm effect is when the president's party normally performs worse in the midterm elections of his presidency because of people's opinions on how well the country is running under the president ('Trump Effect' Overpowers Booming Economy Ahead of Midterm Elections). Almost every four-year term has had the same fate in which the midterm election almost always goes poorly for the president's party. The midterm effect normally only affects the United States House of Representatives. Since the Civil War in thirty-six out of thirty-nine midterm elections, the party of the president has lost seats in the United States House of Representatives. There were three exceptions to the midterm effect, including the election in 2002 with George W. Bush as president. Republicans gained seats because of the reaction to 9/11 and President Bush II's War on Terror. His approval ratings were at an all-time high.

Candidates frequently mention in their advertisements whether or not they approve of the president's stance on certain issues. A majority of the time the candidates of the president's party will support him, especially if his approval ratings are high. If the approval ratings are low, candidates of the same party as the president might avoid controversial actions or issues that the president has taken a stance on (Novak). Candidates that are of the opposing party of the president will oppose his stances and policies. Will candidates refer to the president in different ways when they are from different districts that lean either red or blue? What impact did George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump have as president on the United States House of Representatives' and Senate elections in 2006, 2010, and 2018 respectively?

Chapter 2

George W. Bush and the United States Senate

Influence on elections extends way back in history. Presidents have always impacted elections for their own party and the opposite party. How did George W. Bush's reputation impact campaigns in 2006? According to the Washington Post, George W. Bush hit the campaign trail to bolster the Republican base and encourage twenty to thirty percent of those voters in the middle to vote for the Republican candidates. His rhetoric included saying that "terrorists will win if Democrats win and impose their policies on Iraq" (Abramowitz). Democratic leaders responded by saying that the United States policy in Iraq has failed. The war in Iraq was a very huge issue in the 2006 election. Republicans were worried about losing the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate. I chose Senate races in which the outcome was a switch in party control and races where the state was considered neither clearly red nor clearly blue. These I believed would show how the candidates addressed the president the most.

In 2006, there were certain areas that George W. Bush did not go to support the Republican candidates there. In fact, it would have hurt the candidates if he did go to support them. These were normally swing districts where the First Lady Laura Bush went instead or the Press Secretary Tony Snow (Abramowitz). In Georgia, two Democratic candidates did not distance themselves from President Bush II. One candidate had said that he agreed with the president on tax reform. In certain areas where one party is strong, the other party will not venture to the opposite side of the spectrum because they know that they will not have a chance

of winning if they do. The Republicans ended up losing the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate. In President Bush II's case, the major issue of the Iraq war helped the Democrats take power in the both chambers of Congress.

The first of the five races I chose was in Pennsylvania between Bob Casey and Rick Santorum. Rick Santorum was the incumbent Senator. Santorum was the third-ranking Senate Republican with a promising future within the party. Bob Casey was the son of Governor Bob Casey Senior. Casey Jr. was the Democratic state treasurer with a conservative social record including opposition to abortion and supporting gun rights.

Santorum's general election advertisements focused on his accomplishments in the Senate and on how he is working across the aisle with Democrats to get things done. He did say that the White House probably called him a lot of things when he fought their efforts to cut Amtrak funding ("Rick Santorum 2006. . ."). Perhaps he was trying to separate himself from President Bush to show that he is not always on the president's side of an issue since the president's approval rating was low in Pennsylvania. Santorum also had an advertisement that told the Pennsylvania people that "We just can't take a chance on Bob Casey," and presented Casey as soft of defense while the advertisement showed faces of terrorists (DeParle). Overall, Santorum was a known strong supporter of President Bush and, "he ran as a strong supporter of the war in Iraq and tried to paint Mr. Casey as a captive of a liberal party that could not be trusted on values or national defense" (DeParle). Casey's general election advertisements dealt with economic issues and fiscal policies. Casey used his background as state treasurer to push Pennsylvania's economy as an issue and he claimed that irresponsible policies in Washington D.C. were the causes of Pennsylvania's economic issues ("Stand Up"). Bob Casey effectively "managed to portray Mr. Santorum as the party captive, pointing to a voting record that tied him

closely to Mr. Bush in a state where exit polls showed 6 in 10 voters disapproving of the president's job performance" (DeParle). Casey won the election with about sixty percent of the vote.

The second Senate race I chose was a race in Ohio between Republican Mike DeWine and Democrat Sherrod Brown. DeWine was the incumbent since 1988. He was considered a moderate Republican. Brown was one of Ohio's Representatives for the United States House of Representatives and had been re-elected six times. He was also a former Ohio Secretary of State. While in the United States House, he voted against the 2003 invasion of Iraq (Admin).

DeWine's general election advertisements attacked Brown for being soft on terrorists. His advertisement mentioned every bill Brown voted against in the United States House that had to do with national security including voting against the Patriot Act and voting against the death penalty for terrorists that attack subways or trains ("DeWine Ad"). Brown's general election advertisements mention what his stances were, including raising the minimum age, protecting Ohio jobs, and tighter borders ("Sherrod Brown 2006. . ."). Brown's other advertisements "kept the focus on DeWine's ties to President Bush and his handling of the Iraq war" (Admin). Sherrod Brown won the Senate race. According to the Associated Press, "exit polls showed that Ohio voters' opposition to the war and President Bush were key to Brown's victory" (Admin).

The third Senate race I chose was Montana's Senate race between the Republican Conrad Burns and the Democrat John Tester. Burns was the incumbent United States Senator and had been for eighteen years. Montana was considered a Republican state. Tester had been in the Montana Senate since 1998 and was the president of the Montana Senate since 2005.

Conrad Burns' general election advertisements focused on how much he had done for Montana during his eighteen years in the United States Senate. He also had advertisements

where Tester was displayed as being soft on terrorism and repeatedly showed a speech of Tester's where he said that he wanted to repeal the Patriot Act ("Conrad Burns Against Tester 'Repeal It'"). John Tester's general election advertisements attacked Burns for his involvement with the Abramoff scandal, where Burns took one hundred and fifty thousand dollars from Abramoff as bribes ("Out Here". . .). They also pointed out how Tester helped bring renewable energy into Montana as state senator. Tester also criticized President George W. Bush's war in Iraq (Johnson & Dennison). Tester ended up winning the election in Montana. It was an extremely close race separated by only one percent.

The fourth Senate race I chose was the Michigan Senate race between the Democrat Debbie Stabenow and the Republican Mike Bouchard. Stabenow was the incumbent in a state that was considered a strong Democratic state. Mike Bouchard was a former county sheriff and state senator. Two key issues that separated the candidates were taxes and immigration (Gizzi).

Stabenow's general election advertisements were focused on the economy and how she has reached across party lines to pass tax cuts for the working class. She said the election was not about Republicans and Democrats, but the Michigan way of life ("Michigan Way of Life"). Bouchard's general election campaigns attacked Stabenow for not fulfilling her promises to the Michigan people, for raising taxes, wanting to raise the age for retirement for Social Security, and against making English the official language ("Mike Bouchard Responds. . ."). Neither candidate addressed President Bush II. Stabenow ended up being re-elected into the Senate seat.

The fifth Senate race I chose for 2006 was the New York race between the Democrat Hillary Clinton and the Republican John Spencer. Clinton was the incumbent running for re-election. Hillary Clinton was also the former First Lady. Spencer was the former mayor of

Yonkers. Clinton had a large lead in polls over Spencer and it was believed that Clinton would easily win the race.

Clinton's campaign advertisements mention what she has done to help New York during her time as a New York senator in the United States Senate. The advertisements mentioned that she brought billions to New York to help with the cleanup of 9/11 ("Hillary Clinton 2006 . . ."). Clinton "largely ignored Spencer in recent months and targeted her criticisms at President Bush and the Republican-led Congress" ("Clinton, Spencer. . .") because she had a fairly decent lead over Spencer. John Spencer's general election advertisements mention the accomplishments he had achieved during his term as mayor such as lowering taxes. He also launched advertisements that accused Clinton of leaving the United States vulnerable to a terrorist attack because she opposes the Patriot Act and the war in Iraq ("Spencer Second Ad"). Spencer also claimed that Clinton was focused too much on national issues and not New York issues. Clinton won the election, but it was not surprising at all. Spencer himself said during their second debate that he liked Hillary Clinton and that she would make a tremendous presidential candidate in 2008 ("Clinton, Spencer. . ."). Spencer also did not mention President Bush II probably because he was far behind in polls.

Republican Portrayal of President Bush II in United States Senate General Elections 2006

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Santorum	X				Loss
DeWine	X				Loss
Burns	X				Loss

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Bouchard				X	Loss
Spencer				X	Loss

Democrat's Portrayal of President Bush II in United States Senate General Elections 2006

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Casey		X			Win
Brown		X			Win
Tester		X			Win
Stabenow				X	Win
Clinton		X			Win

All Democrats won their senate races in the states that I looked at. Four out of five of the candidates portrayed Bush II in a negative light. They disagreed with George W. Bush's policies and effectively tied their Republican opponents to President Bush II. Democrats criticized the Iraq war, and that was a major issue of the 2006 elections. Republicans tried to portray the Democrats as soft on terrorism. In areas where the state was considered a strong Republican state, the Republicans portrayed a positive view of President Bush II. In states that were considered more Democrat, the Republican candidates ignored Bush II because they knew that the people were less likely to have a favorable view of him. Such is the case with Spencer against Clinton in New York.

Chapter 3

Barack Obama and the United States Senate

For President Obama in 2010, he was trying to preserve the Democrats' majority in the Senate and the House. According to the New York Times, Obama would "concentrate largely on delivering a message, raising money and motivating voters from afar, rather than on racing from district to district" (Zeleny). In the previous two elections, President Obama had gone to the campaigns of Democratic candidates in both "red" and "blue" states because he was a major pull. In 2010, his approval ratings were at a new low and Democrats were trying to make the campaign for the election on issues that did not involve the president. The staff for the White House was trying to determine in which races Obama would be a positive influence on the campaigns of fellow Democrats. Obama was "popping up more as a target in Republican campaign advertisements than as a positive presence in Democratic ones" (Zeleny). Some Democrats believed that the president and his administration were not as focused on the elections in Congress as they were on Obama's re-election. I chose five Senate races that reflected close races of candidates in states that leaned Democratic, or leaned Republican, or in races that were considered a toss-up.

The first Senate race I chose from 2010 was considered a toss-up in Nevada. It was between the Democrat Harry Reid and the Republican Sharron Angle. Harry Reid was the incumbent and the Senate Majority leader while Sharron Angle was a former Assemblywoman. Reid's approval rating was below forty percent in some polls ("Nevada Senate. . ."). Angle was running as a Christian Conservative.

Reid's general election advertisements attacked Angle claiming that she wanted to cut Social Security and eliminate the Department of Education. The advertisements also mentioned her participation with the Church of Scientology and her belief of giving massages to prisoners ("Sharron Angle Plans. . ."). Angle's advertisements accuse Harry Reid of siding with illegal immigrants over American citizens and giving illegal immigrants Social Security benefits ("Sharron Angle's Racist Immigration Ad"). Reid effectively "brought in Obama, the first lady, the vice president and a string of other Democratic base favorites, in an effort to get possibly dispirited Obama voters to feel that 2008 magic again" (Ball). In the end, it worked and Reid ended up winning the election.

The second Senate race I chose was the Delaware race between Democrat Chris Coons and Republican Christine O'Donnell. The Delaware seat was open, but was previously held by Vice President Joe Biden. O'Donnell upset Representative Mike Castle in the primary for the Republican candidacy. Castle was the favorite to take the senate seat and O'Donnell was considered more conservative than him ("Delaware Senate. . ."). Coons was the former New Castle County Council President and then New Castle County Executive.

Coons' general election advertisements attacked Christine O'Donnell for her past comments of witchcraft and her election advertisements opening with her saying that she is not a witch ("Coons- The O'Donnell Zone"). He accused O'Donnell of "pursuing a narrow partisan agenda" (Halloran). Coons told constituents that he could bring about bipartisanship between the two parties. Coons also hosted President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in Delaware and said he would support the President. O'Donnell's general election advertisements attacked Coons for being an avid Obama supporter and rubber stamping the President's agenda. O'Donnell tried

to present herself as “beholden to no party” (Halloran). Coons ended up winning the election easily.

The third Senate race I chose was the North Carolina race between Republican Richard Burr and Democrat Elaine Marshall. Burr was the current incumbent with one term under his belt. No candidate had been able to be re-elected to the seat for two terms since 1974. Marshall was the former North Carolina Secretary of State. The race was leaning Republican.

Burr’s general election advertisements focused on what he had done during his time in Congress. This was most notably for his service to veterans, since he is on the committee that deals with veteran affairs in the United States Senate (“Burr’s ‘Serving’ Ad”). Marshall attacked Burr for being President Bush II’s go to man in the Senate. She said Washington was broken and Senator Richard Burr helped break it (“Elaine Marshall: ‘Throw ‘em out!’”). Marshall accused Burr of taking part in the “darkest and most dire disasters of the Bush administration” (Carmichael). Richard Burr ended up winning the election.

The fourth Senate race I chose was the Colorado race between Democrat Michael Bennet and Republican Ken Buck. Bennet was the incumbent Senator, although he was an appointee so he had only been in the United States Senate for a year. Buck was the former Weld County District Attorney. The polls went back and forth between the two candidates with neither having a confident lead over the others (“Colorado Senate. . .”). The election was considered a toss-up.

Bennet’s election advertisements focused on his views of Washington as being a mess. He said he wanted to freeze Congress’s pay until the budget was decided upon and that he supported a lifetime ban on lobbying for former Congressmen (“Michael Bennet for U.S. Senate ‘Wake Up’”). Bennet supported Obamacare and cosponsored the DREAM Act which included “giving residency to aliens enrolled in higher education programs or serving in the military”

(“Ken Buck vs. Michael Bennet”). Buck’s advertisements accuse Bennet of rubber stamping his friends in Washington, most importantly Obama (“Ken Buck for U.S. Senate TV Ad - ‘Unfair’”). Buck held conservative Republican views such as calling global warming a hoax and having a negative view of homosexuals (Levy). Bennet ended up winning the election by a percentage.

The fifth Senate race I chose was the Wisconsin race between Democrat Russ Feingold and Republican Ron Johnson. Feingold was the incumbent Senator since 1992. Feingold’s approval ratings started in the forties at the beginning of the election cycle, which is not good for an incumbent (“Wisconsin Senate. . .”). Johnson is a conservative manufacturer (“Wisconsin Senate. . .”) that had a lead in the polls that never dropped.

Feingold’s election advertisements focused on what he had done in the United States Senate for the Wisconsin people. He had advertisements of people saying what he had done for them and how Johnson would destroy these accomplishments, including “hands off my healthcare” (“WI SEN Feingold On Your Side”). Feingold did not accept money from the Democratic party for his campaign and he was known for opposing the Democratic party (Grunwald). He even voted with Republicans on separate issues. Nonetheless, Johnson accused Feingold of being a “standard-issue Democrat, a reliable Big Government vote for Obamacare and the stimulus, a typical Washington insider” (Grunwald). Johnson’s advertisements mentioned how he was not a lawyer, but instead an accountant and manufacturer that can balance a budget (“Ron Johnson US Senate. . .”). He boasted his background of not being a politician and Johnson ended up winning the election.

Republican Portrayal of President Obama in the United States Senate General Elections 2010

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Angle		X			Loss
O'Donnell		X			Loss
Burr				X	Win
Buck		X			Loss
Johnson		X			Win

Democrat's Portrayal of President Obama in the United States Senate General Elections 2010

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Reid	X				Win
Coons	X				Win
Marshall				X	Loss
Bennet	X				Win
Feingold			X		Loss

Three Democrats out of the five won their Senate races. It is important to note that the two candidates that lost either were neutral with their stance regarding the president or they completely ignored the topic of the president. Feingold was borderline negative in regards to how he addressed the president and the Democratic party. Feingold refused to accept aid from

the party and occasionally went against his party. I placed him in the neutral category because he was viewed as a Democrat and did support some of their legislation and policies. Marshall attacked former President Bush II's policies and his administration, but also said that all of Washington was broken. She effectively ignored Obama and just blamed Bush II and Burr for breaking Washington. It clearly benefited the Democratic candidates to positively portray Obama. The one Republican candidate that ignored Obama won his election as well as one candidate who portrayed Obama negatively. All the other Republican candidates that negatively portrayed Obama lost their elections. It almost did not seem to matter whether the race leaned Democrat, Republican, or was considered a tossup. The Republicans ended up controlling the United States House of Representatives after the election while the Democrats remained in control of the United States Senate.

Chapter 4

Donald Trump and the United States Senate

Donald Trump faced the same issues as his predecessors. He was trying to keep his party as a majority in both chambers of Congress like President Obama was. I looked at five Senate races to see how senators portrayed President Trump in the 2018 elections. I picked close races that leaned Republican, leaned Democratic, or were considered toss ups. The first race I looked at was the Missouri race between Democrat Claire McCaskill and Republican Josh Hawley. McCaskill was the incumbent, but tread carefully when it came to Trump. At a rally in Springfield, he yelled for Missourians to throw her out of office and she did not jab back at him, most likely because Trump won the state with fifty-seven percent of the vote in 2016 (Shesgreen). Hawley was Missouri's attorney general and is considered a rising GOP star (Shesgreen).

McCaskill's election advertisements featured veterans saying that the things you hear McCaskill has done wrongly are lies. Her other advertisements boasted how she is a moderate, how the only place where people can get stuff done is in the middle and that the middle is where she makes her home ("State I Love"). Hawley's election advertisements compared McCaskill to Hillary Clinton and said that McCaskill is not with the Missouri people, but rather Clinton and the Democrats ("Clock"). Trump came to Missouri and rallied for Hawley. Hawley's election advertisements followed much of the Trump administration's rhetoric. Hawley ended up winning the election.

The second senate race I looked at was the Arizona race between Democrat Kyrsten Sinema and Republican Martha McSally. The seat was open after the Republican Jeff Flake resigned. Arizona has typically been considered a "red" or Republican leaning state. It was the

first time in Arizona's history that a woman would be voted into a United States Senate seat from Arizona.

Sinema's advertisements generally preached her love for Arizona and how she was a bipartisan voice in Congress. She was ranked the third most independent and third most bipartisan member of Congress ("Better Way"). Sinema's strategy was to cater to moderate Republicans, independent voters and suburban women (Sanchez & Hansen). McSally's election advertisements aligned with Trump's rhetoric, especially about securing the border and pushing the idea that illegal immigrants bring drugs into the country ("Resolve"). Sinema ended up winning the election. She successively brought some moderate Republicans and independent voters to her side.

For my third senate race, I chose the race in Nevada between Republican Dean Heller and Democrat Jacky Rosen. Heller was the incumbent senator. Clinton had won the state by two percentage points in 2016 (Shesgreen). This left Heller trying to convince the conservative base to vote for him, while also trying to convince those in the middle to vote for him as well. Heller was against the president on his healthcare proposal in 2017, but President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Ivanka Trump went to Nevada to support Heller (Dixon). Rosen was previously a United States House Representative.

Heller's election advertisements attacked Rosen's lack of experience. They mentioned how she had passed zero bills in Congress and that she has only been in Congress for six months before wanting a promotion ("Zero"). He also claimed that Rosen was another Hillary Clinton and he told people to not vote for another Clinton; however Clinton won the state by two percentage points. I think that was a weak argument. Rosen's election ads called out Heller for saying he would support Planned Parenthood, but then voted to defund it. She also called out

Heller for being totally partisan while she was bipartisan and that he had the “wrong experience” when comparing their experience in Congress (“Wrong Experience”). Rosen pinned Heller to Trump and said that the Republicans wanted to dismantle Obamacare (Dixon). Obama and Joe Biden came to Nevada to campaign for Rosen (Dixon). Rosen ended up winning the election.

The fourth senate race I chose was the race in West Virginia between Democrat Joe Manchin and Republican Patrick Morrisey. Manchin was the incumbent senator and he was also considered the most conservative Senate Democrat. Morrisey was the former state attorney general. President Trump had won the state by a forty-two point margin (Prokop).

Manchin’s election advertisements promoted all the things he has done while in Congress for West Virginia, but he also attacked the actions of his opponent. Manchin used Morrisey’s action of signing a lawsuit to strike down Obamacare to tell constituents that Morrisey wanted to take away health care from people with preexisting condition. (“Dead Wrong”). Healthcare was an important issue in the poor, rural state of West Virginia (Prokop). Morrisey’s election advertisements talked of how he stood up to Obama’s policies and that Manchin cozied up to Hillary Clinton. Morrisey called his opponent “Liberal Joe” (“Amen Brothers- Morrisey For Senate TV Ad”). President Trump came to West Virginia to rally for Morrisey and told them that Morrisey would fight for the people of West Virginia (“Amen Brothers- Morrisey For Senate TV Ad”). Manchin ended up winning the election. Trump did not inspire enough people to vote Republican, and Manchin’s image as a moderate who did not vote along party lines helped him win.

For the fifth senate race I looked at, I chose the race in Wisconsin between Democrat Tammy Baldwin and Republican Leah Vukmir. Baldwin was the incumbent senator since 2012

and the first openly gay senator (Hubbuck). Vukmir was a former state Senator since 2010 (Hubbuck).

Baldwin’s election advertisements presented her record of working across the aisle to support the people in Wisconsin. Her advertisements also focused on healthcare and the opposition to Vukmir, and by extension Trump, for wanting to deny people with pre-conditions healthcare (“What would Happen”). Baldwin heavily supported protecting American manufacturing and created Buy America legislation in order to promote American made products. This was something that she and President Trump had in common. Vukmir’s election advertisements presented her roots as an immigrant and as a nurse. Other advertisements called Baldwin a part of the “radical left” and that she wanted a socialist healthcare system and open borders (“One of Us”). Vukmir was a strong supporter of Donald Trump and never tried to reach voters outside of the Trump base (Hubbuck). Baldwin ended up winning the election.

Republican Portrayal of President Trump in the United States Senate General Elections 2018

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Hawley	X				Win
McSally	X				Loss
Heller	X				Loss
Morrisey	X				Loss
Vukmir	X				Loss

Democrat's Portrayal of President Trump in the United States Senate General Elections 2018

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
McCaskill			X		Loss
Sinema				X	Win
Rosen		X			Win
Manchin				X	Win
Baldwin		X			Win

Only one Republican candidate won their election. This candidate, just like all the others, had a positive view of President Trump. For that reason, I think it's more important to focus on the Democratic candidates. Only two of them portrayed Trump in a negative light and to be honest, I think that Baldwin could potentially be put in the neutral category as well. Her advertisements showed how Vukmir was a proponent of the Republican agenda (which Trump is as well), but never directly called out President Trump. The other three Democratic candidates either were neutral towards the president or tried to avoid him completely. I think this has a lot to do with the absolute force that President Trump has on the media and with the Republican base. I believe Democrats wanted to win over independent voters and potentially moderate Republicans, so they tried to make the election not about Washington, but about the state and effectively turning the focus away from Trump.

Chapter 5

Analysis of the Influence of Presidents on the United States Senate Elections

Looking at the evidence of all fifteen United States Senate election results, the candidates of the same party as the president that portrayed the current president in a positive light fared better than those who ignored the president. This is especially true in 2010 with President Obama and the Democrats. Only the Democrats that portrayed him in a positive light won their elections. There were no candidates of the same political party as the president that portrayed the president in a negative light. Those in the opposing party of the president fared better at either presenting the president in a negative light or ignoring him in general. The state's geographical region and whether the state was considered blue or red, affected how candidates portrayed the president. Candidates in strong blue states normally supported Democratic presidents and negatively portrayed Republican presidents and vice versa.

Overall, there was not much correlation between the fifteen races I chose. For both President Bush II and President Trump, all but one Republican candidate lost their races. All of the candidates except two portrayed the president positively. For President Obama in 2010, all three candidates who supported him and his administration won their elections. The political parties of both President Trump in 2018 and President Obama in 2010 kept their majority in the Senate. One correlation is that most senators in the party of the president portray the president in a positive light. Those who are not of the same party as the president tend to portray the president in a negative light. Ten out of the fifteen candidates who ran for the opposite party negatively portrayed the current president. These portrayals also depend on the popularity of the president. President Bush II had an approval rating between forty and thirty percent in 2006 (Presidential Approval Ratings -- George W. Bush). President Obama had an approval rating in

the low forties in 2010 and averaged at forty-four percent (Jones). President Trump had an approval rating between forty to forty-five percent in 2018 (Presidential Approval Ratings -- Donald Trump). All three have similar approval ratings hovering around forty percent. This could explain a type of correlation between President Bush II and President Obama, but the results with President Trump could not be explained this way. In the 2006 and 2010 election, candidates of the same party as the president mostly supported the president, but there were some that were neutral or ignored the president. Candidates of the opposing party were mostly negative as well. In 2018, the Republican candidates supported President Trump one-hundred percent and a much smaller amount of candidates from the opposing party had a negative stance against Trump. I found that it was interesting that the least amount of negative portrayals came from Democrats running in 2018. Only two candidates chose to portray President Trump in a negative light. This is probably because the other three Democratic candidates were running in states that Trump had won in 2016. Perhaps it has to do with the nature of the issues we have seen with this administration and how quick President Trump is to respond to any attack on him. Two other Democrats that ran in 2018 just ignored Trump. All Democratic candidates seemed to focus on more state issues than national issues.

Does this show a trend towards more positivity and support for the president? I am inclined not to think so. I think this might be out of fear for retribution from either President Trump or the constituents in general. It is important to remember that three out of the five Democratic candidates were running in states that Trump had won in 2016. Therefore, I think they took weaker stances against Trump and decided to ignore him since there was a strong enough constituent base that supported Trump for him to win the state in 2016.

Chapter 6

George W. Bush and the United States House of Representatives

George W. Bush was facing the midterm effect with the 2006 United States House of Representative elections. The war in Iraq and the War on Terror were the biggest issues for the 2006 elections. President Bush II was on the campaign trail helping Republican candidates wherever it might help that candidate win their election. The Republicans that backed President Bush II claimed the Iraq War to be patriotic and any Democrats who opposed the Iraq War were favoring terrorists over America. As President Bush II said after the elections, “There were different factors that determined the outcome of different races, but no question, Iraq was on people’s minds” (Bush takes blame for GOP election losses). So how did the administration’s policy with Iraq and other domestic issue impact how candidates portrayed the president? To examine this further, I chose ten United States House of Representative races that varied from leaning Democrat, leaning Republican, to those that were considered a toss-up.

The first race I chose was in Arizona’s Fifth Congressional District. J.D. Hayworth was the Republican incumbent and his opponent was the Democrat Harry Mitchell. J.D. Hayworth was running for a seventh time and he was a former TV sportscaster (Chadwick & Brand). Mitchell was the former mayor of Tempe where he has a statue and building named after him. He also use to be a state legislator, city councilman, and high school civics teacher (Chadwick & Brand). A big issue that the two of them differed on was the issue of immigration. Hayworth was also a vocal supporter of the war in Iraq.

In the general elections, Hayworth's advertisements attacked Mitchell on his stance for immigration. Hayworth claimed that Mitchell wanted to give illegal aliens social security. His advertisement said that Mitchell was against English being the official language of the United States ("Hayworth Ad"). Hayworth disagreed with President Bush II on immigration. Hayworth opposed guest worker plans for immigrants, while Bush II supported them (Sunnucks). Mitchell's election advertisements attacked Hayworth for being involved in the Jack Abramoff scandal for taking money ("Harry Mitchell (AZ-05): Enough"). His ads also place him with those in the Republican party that supported the war with Iraq. The district was thought to be in Hayworth's favor, however Mitchell won a surprising victory.

The second race I looked at was in Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. The Republican incumbent Marilyn Musgrave was being challenged by the Democrat Angie Paccione. President Bush II had won fifty-eight percent of the vote there in the 2004 election (Giroux). The biggest issue discussed between the two was the issue of same-sex marriage. Musgrave wanted a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, while Paccione supported a federal amendment legalizing same-sex marriage (Giroux). Immigration was a large issue as well between the two candidates.

The advertisements for Musgrave weren't able to be found for the 2006 election cycle. However, The New York Times wrote about an advertisement from Musgrave that attacked Paccione for wanting amnesty for illegal immigrants (Giroux). Paccione's advertisements said that Musgrave is so consumed by the issue of same-sex marriage that she has abandoned the issues and constituents of her district. Paccione linked Musgrave to President Bush II by showing both of them in advertisements together and arguing that the Republican party and the President have misled the American people to war with Iraq ("Had Enough of Marilyn Musgrave?. . .). The

district was considered leaning Republican; however it had been a firm Republican district prior to the 2006 elections. Musgrave ended up winning the election.

The third race I chose was Florida's Thirteenth Congressional District. The Republican Vern Buchanan was running against Democrat Christine Jennings. The seat was vacant because the Republican Katherine Harris ran for the United States Senate. President Bush II came to the district to rally for Buchanan. President Bush II said that Buchanan would help keep the country strong and that the Democrats oppose legislation, like the Homeland Security Act, to protect the citizens in the United States. He also said that the Democrats would only want to respond after an attack and not be pre-emptive and protective of the United States (Remarks by the President. .). Jennings was a banker and business woman.

The advertisements from Buchanan's campaign were not on the internet. However, he was a supporter of President Bush II and supported Bush II's administration policies. Jennings's election advertisements had testimonials from Republicans saying that they are supporting Jennings instead of Buchanan ("Jennings- Proud"). Jennings ads attacked Buchanan's character, probably because the district was still considered leaning Republican. The election was an extremely close one. Buchanan won by 369 votes. However, there was a possible issue with 18,000 votes not being counted by the voting machines ("Judge rules against Jennings, Democrats to seat Buchanan"). There was a case brought by Jennings against Buchanan to challenge the results of the election and have a recount. This was eventually ruled in Buchanan's favor, and he won the district.

The fourth race I chose was the Illinois's Eighth Congressional District. The Republican David McSweeney was challenging the Democrat incumbent Melissa Bean. Bean had only served in the United States House for one term and the district was traditionally Republican

(Zorn). McSweeney was a former investment banker. Immigration was a large issue between the two as well with abortion. McSweeney wanted to use troops to defend the border while Bean wanted to increase the amount of border patrol agents. McSweeney wanted to reverse Roe vs. Wade and have a much stricter abortion amendment while Bean was pro-choice (Zorn). McSweeney was a strong supporter of President Bush II and said in an interview “I am a strong supporter of President Bush. I think he is one of the great presidents of this century. He has had the courage to stand up to the terrorists and is fighting a winning battle that is protecting our freedom. Thank God George Bush is President of the United States” (“In Focus: GOP Candidate for 8th CD David McSweeney”).

McSweeney’s campaign advertisements stuck to typical conservative values. He wanted to lower taxes, ban former member of Congress from lobbying, and stop deficit spending (“David McSweeney for Congress”). Bean’s campaign advertisements followed a typical Democratic platform. She supported air and water quality, protecting the environment, and supporting pensions. She also supported strengthening border security. The advertisements also talked about what she has done for the district, such as bring money back to support emergency personnel. Bean ended up winning the election. McSweeney’s support of the president and conservative views did not turn up enough support from the Republican base.

The fifth race I chose was Minnesota’s Sixth Congressional District. Republican Michele Bachmann was running against Democrat Patty Wetterling. The seat was open when the Republican incumbent ran for the United States Senate. Some big issues of the race were immigration and the Iraq War. Bachmann was a Minnesota State Senator. Wetterling was a former math teacher, soccer coach and Parent Teacher Association president.

Bachmann's advertisements attacked Wetterling for not promising to keep tax cuts for Minnesota and for saying that immigration is not an urgent crisis ("Audience Laughs at Bachmann's Ad"). Bachmann's advertisements also claimed that Wetterling wanted to negotiate with terrorists and sit down with Osama bin Laden (Collins). Wetterling's election advertisements attacked Bachmann for voting with party lines against an amendment that would put repeat sex offenders behind bars for life, make operating meth labs close to children a crime, and let police alert parents when dangerous out-of-state sex offenders move to their neighborhood ("Michele Bachmann- Is This Really Who We Should Send"). Wetterling did say that she would support a bill that would provide funding for the American troops in Iraq. Bachmann ended up winning the election.

The sixth race I chose was the North Carolina Eleventh Congressional District. Democrat Heath Shuler was challenging the Republican incumbent Charles Taylor. Shuler was a former NFL quarterback who had a pro-gun and anti-abortion positions in an effort to win swing votes and social conservatives ("Republicans Use Pelosi as a Campaign Weapon"). Taylor was a seasoned politician with sixteen years under his belt. The race was considered a tossup and this was one of the only tough races Taylor had encountered.

Taylor's advertisements focused more on Nancy Pelosi than Shuler. They consistently tried to tie Shuler to being a pawn in Pelosi's plan ("Republicans Use Pelosi as a Campaign Weapon"). They also mention that Shuler moved to North Carolina from Tennessee and that Democrats were just trying to get him elected so they could tell him how to vote ("Rep. Charles Taylor (NC-11) Ad"). Shuler's advertisements boasted his mountain values and claimed that we needed to fix our healthcare system, protect our jobs, and keep our families safe from terrorism ("Heath Shuler's Mountain Values"). Shuler won the election. I think Taylor lost because he

focused too much on Nancy Pelosi when most people did not know who she was. A Gallup poll showed that forty percent of Americans surveyed did not know Pelosi (“Republicans Use Pelosi as a Campaign Weapon”).

The seventh race I chose was the race in Pennsylvania’s Sixth Congressional District. The Republican incumbent Jim Gerlach was challenged by Democrat Lois Murphy. In the 2004 election, Gerlach beat Murphy with fifty-one percent of the vote (Bacon, Calabresi, & Tumulty). The district is in the Philadelphia suburbs which lean more Democratic. Murphy tried to link Gerlach to President Bush II while Gerlach tried to link Murphy to Nancy Pelosi (Bacon, Calabresi, & Tumulty).

Gerlach’s election advertisements mention how he voted to pass the Medicare Part D Law and that he was supporting our senior citizens (“Rep. Jim Gerlach on Medicare Part D”). Gerlach also said that Pelosi and the Democrats would “raise taxes and oppose measures like the Patriot Act that [Gerlach] says keep the country safe” (Bacon, Calabresi, & Tumulty). Murphy’s election advertisements mentioned how she was focused on healthcare, environmental protections, and education (“Lois Murphy PA6. . .”). She also tried to highlight Gerlach’s support for President Bush II particularly the Iraq War. Gerlach tried hard to show how often he disagreed with President Bush II and his campaign focused on local issues (Bacon, Calabresi, Tumulty). Gerlach was successful in promoting local issues and distancing himself away from President Bush II because he won the election.

The eighth United States House of Representatives race I chose was the race in Texas’s Twenty-Second Congressional District. Democrat Nick Lampson was running against Republican Shelly Sekula-Gibbs. The seat used to be held by Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, who had resigned due to a scandal. Lampson use to serve in the U.S. House of

Representatives before redistricting. Sekula-Gibbs was on Houston's City Council. She is a write-in candidate. For that reason, President Bush II came to the district to encourage voters to get out to the polls and write Sekula-Gibbs name on the ballot (Mack). The district was a traditionally Republican district.

Lampson's election advertisements mention what he did in Congress when he was there including protecting children and a testimonial from the sheriff ("Sheriff"). Lampson's election began as an attack on DeLay, but then he had to convince Republican voters that Sekula-Gibbs was not an acceptable alternative (Mack). Sekula-Gibbs did not have any advertisements. Her first ads began in 2008. She relied on the heavy support from the president and the National Republican Congressional Committee, however she was not in their list for a final push before the election (Mack). Lampson ended up winning the election. Bush II was not enough to encourage the Republican base to write in a candidate's name that they did not really know.

The ninth election race I chose was Virginia's Second Congressional District. Republican incumbent Thelma Drake was challenged by Democrat Phil Kellam. Drake replaced the former Republican Rep. Ed Schrock in 2004. Kellam was Virginia Beach's elected revenue commissioner and had a lot of name recognition because the Kellam family "has filled the ranks of the city's political leadership for half a century (Hood). Drake was still relatively a newcomer to the political stage.

Kellam's election advertisements tried to link Drake to a House scandal and accused her of voting against the interest of military veterans. They also tried to tie her to President Bush II by saying that she had voted with him ninety-seven percent of the time (Hood). Drake's election advertisements pushed for restructuring the federal tax code, and she attacked Kellam for his opposition against terrorist-surveillance policies (Hood). She also advocated for stronger border

security and she was against amnesty for illegal immigrants (“Thelma Drake Ad”). Drake won the election most likely because she was able to rally the Republican base voters.

The final race I chose was West Virginia’s First Congressional District. Democrat incumbent Alan Mollohan was challenged by Republican Chris Wakim. Wakim was in the West Virginia House of Delegates and a West Point graduate (King). Mollohan had some financial scandals surrounding him, including using the House Appropriations Committee to better himself.

Wakim advertisements showed support for the war in Iraq. Wakim also supported building a wall between the United States and Mexico. He also said he was committed to keeping marriage between a man and a woman and he was a pro-life supporter (King). Mollohan’s advertisements attacked Wakim for lying about having a Master degree from Harvard University (“Congressman Mollohan Election Night”). Mollohan won the election by over sixty percent of the vote. Wakim clearly did not do a well enough job inspiring Republicans to come out to vote or win swing voters.

Republican Portrayal of George W. Bush in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2006

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Hayworth			X		Loss
Musgrave				X	Win
Buchanan	X				Win
McSweeney	X				Loss
Bachmann	X				Win

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Taylor	X				Loss
Gerlach		X			Win
Sekula-Gibbs	X				Loss
Drake	X				Win
Wakim	X				Loss

Democrat's Portrayal of George W. Bush in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2006

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Mitchell		X			Win
Paccione		X			Loss
Jennings				X	Loss
Bean		X			Win
Wetterling			X		Loss
Shuler			X		Win
Murphy		X			Loss
Lampson				X	Win
Kellam		X			Loss
Mollohan				X	Win

Overall, the Republican party lost control of the United States House of Representatives. Five out of the ten Republican candidates won their elections. Only three of those candidates had positive views of the current administration. One candidate had negative views while another was neutral when it came to the president's actions. For Republicans it seemed that the region they were in and the strength of the Democrat running against them played a huge factor. Only two of the Democrats who won portrayed Bush II negatively. The three others either ignored the president or had neutral views about his policies. Three of the Democrats that lost portrayed the president negatively while four of the Republican candidates that lost portrayed the president positively.

Chapter 7

Barack Obama and the United States House of Representatives

President Barack Obama was faced with the midterm effect in the 2010 United States House of Representatives election. Obama had signed Obamacare into law, which many Republicans viciously attacked. There also was a problem of a growing rising public debt. The Republican party ended up winning the majority in the United States House of Representatives by more than sixty (MacAskill). They also won a majority of the thirty-seven governorships up for election and nineteen of the state legislatures (MacAskill). I chose ten United States House of Representative races that I believed would best show how different candidates portrayed the president and his administration by choosing races in districts that leaned Democrat, leaned Republican, or were considered a tossup.

The first race I chose was North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District. Democrat incumbent Larry Kissell was challenged by Republican Harold Johnson. Johnson was a former sportscaster. Kissell was known for poor fundraising, and the Democratic party did not have the money to bail him out, nor would Kissell get the same rush of African American voters as he did in the 2008 election which made up twenty-eight percent of his district (Wood). The district had been considered a tossup.

Kissell's advertisements used his background as a way to win voters by using his experience as a teacher to fight for education and living in a small town to support the middle class ("Larry Kissell Commercial"). He also supported pro-choice and was against the war in Iraq. Johnson's advertisements attacked Nancy Pelosi and the uncontrollable spending of the Democratic party ("Harold Johnson TV Ad"). Kissell focused on local issues while Johnson focused on national issues. Kissell ended up winning the election.

The second House race I chose was Wisconsin's Seventh Congressional District. The seat was left vacant after the former Democrat David Obey had served there for forty years (Wood). Democrat Julie Lassa ran against Republican Sean Duffy. Lassa was a former member of the state legislature while Duffy was a former actor and attorney. Duffy was leading polls in October by a forty-four to thirty-five percent margin (Wood). Despite the district having a Democratic tilt, disapproval ratings of Obama were in the same margin.

Lassa's advertisements claimed that Duffy was not willing to acknowledge that jobs were being shipped overseas. They also mention Duffy starring in MTV's shows. The advertisements also mention how Lassa has the highest National Rifle Association rating in the race and they tell of her background of growing up on a dairy farm ("Julie Lassa- One of Us"). Lassa was trying to appeal to moderate Republican voters. Duffy's election advertisements had humor behind them, but with an important message that America and its politicians had gone astray. Duffy said the reckless spending is "spinning our country out of control" ("Get America Rolling Again!"). The budget and the economy were the biggest issues for Duffy's campaign. Duffy ended up winning the election, turning a seat that had not been Republican for decades.

The third race I chose was Louisiana's Third Congressional District. Republican Jeff Landry was running against Democrat Ravi Sangisetty. Both of them were young lawyers who had never held public office (Barrow). Landry had the upper hand because he was the Republican running in a conservative district. There were a few scandals connected to Landry regarding a roommate of his stealing \$10,000 worth of cocaine and him never being charged, and a claim that he had broke federal law when working with Sen. Craig Romero in 2006.

Unfortunately, I could not find advertisements from either candidate. However, Landry did not typically mention Sangisetty when he was traveling around southern Louisiana.

Sangisetty made it clear that he was a pro-life and pro-gun Democrat. He knew that he was running in a Republican leaning district and it was natural that he is a more conservative Democrat. If he was liberal, then he probably would have no chance at winning. Sangisetty did throw the scandals at Landry and tried to ruin his image. In the end it did not work and Landry ended up winning the election very easily. Neither candidate addressed President Bush II.

The fourth election race I chose was Arizona's Eighth Congressional District. Democrat incumbent Gabrielle Giffords was challenged by Republican Jesse Kelly who also had Tea Party ties. Kelly was a Marine Sargent and was an unknown challenger that won the Republican primary. This district was considered to lean Democratic, but the district was also slightly conservative. This race was expected to be close and Gifford's toughest challenge.

Giffords' campaign advertisements promoted her stance for helping our military personnel ("Sierra Club 2010 House Race Ad. . ."). She recommended using renewable energy to help fuel the vehicles and every thing soldiers might need. Kelly's campaign advertisements mentioned that he was against Washington's spending of our tax dollars and wanted to repeal the new healthcare law ("Jesse Kelly for Congress AZ District 8"). Kelly supported stronger border security as well. Kelly generally stayed away from the war in Iraq. Gifford ended up winning the election which was very close.

The fifth Congressional House race I looked at was New Jersey's Third Congressional District. Democrat incumbent John Adler was challenged by Republican Jon Runyan. Runyan was a former NFL offensive lineman for the Philadelphia Eagles. Adler was expected to win this election. There was a scandal that occurred during this election in which the Democrats supposedly promoted a Tea Party candidate Peter DeStefano to take votes away from Runyan.

The scandal included Geoff Mackler, Adler's campaign manager. Adler denied knowledge of anything (Good).

Adler's advertisements mentioned his background in growing up middle class. Adler was a strong proponent for Social Security and said that it helped him and his family get by when he was younger. They also mentioned that all his legislation that he had introduced was bipartisan (Kolumbic). Adler voted against the healthcare bill. Both candidates agreed that the laws in place for immigration needed to be followed and illegal immigrants should not take American jobs (Kolumbic). Runyan's advertisements linked Adler to Nancy Pelosi saying he voted with her often and blamed him for the spending increases ("AFF TV Ad NJ 'Trick' Rep. Adler"). Runyan was against the healthcare bill as well. He also said that the U.S. should allow the generals in Iraq to do what they know how to do instead of having so much oversight (Kolumbic). Adler was not as supportive of the war in Iraq. Runyan ended up winning the district.

The sixth race I chose was Pennsylvania's Tenth Congressional District. Republican Tom Marino challenged Democrat incumbent Chris Carney. Marino was a former U.S. attorney from which he resigned after having questionable ties with particular people. Carney was attacked by the NRCC for voting with Pelosi on the stimulus bill.

Marino's advertisements attacked Carney for failing the constituents. They mentioned his humble background working through college and his job as a prosecutor. Marino said he will not waste our money on bailouts and he would stop government takeover on healthcare ("Tom Marino for Congress 2010"). Carney's advertisements claimed that Marino was supported by big companies and front groups during the campaign ("Our Ad- Pennsylvania's 10th District"). Marino tied Carney to the rest of the Democratic party, while Carney tried to paint himself as the

most conservative Democrat in Congress. Marino ended up winning the election by a decent margin.

The seventh race I chose was Ohio's Eighteenth Congressional District. Democrat incumbent Zack Space was challenged by Republican Bob Gibbs. Space was in his second term in the United States House of Representatives. Space also was feeling pressure from both sides of the aisle based on his voting record (Wood). The labor unions were encouraging people to not vote for him because he voted against health care reform. At the same time, the GOP was attacking him for voting with Pelosi on the stimulus vote.

Gibbs' advertisements attacked Space for not keeping his word on certain issues. Gibbs had a major issue of trying to bring jobs back to Ohio ("Bob Gibbs"). They also attacked Space for his voting record and linking him with Pelosi. Space's election advertisements attack Gibbs for not wanting Social Security and trying to privatize it. They also mention how he is endorsed by the NRA ("Bob Gibbs' Big Bad Game") and that he would protect social security for the people in Ohio. Space tried to focus on local issues because both sides of the aisle were mad at the decisions he had made at the national level. Gibbs ended up winning the election. It had been considered a tossup, but Space was not seen as a strong candidate (Wood).

The eighth House race I chose was Ohio's Sixth Congressional District. Democrat incumbent Charlie Wilson was challenged by Republican Bill Johnson. Johnson had become a "young gun" within the Republican party (Wood). Wilson had taken over the United States House of Representatives seat in 2006 when the incumbent Ted Strickland left to become Governor. Strickland's re-election campaign was going poorly and it did not look like Wilson would be getting much help (Wood). The district was considered to lean Democratic.

Wilson's advertisements mentioned how he was voting to support coal and voting against legislation that would harm the coal industry, such as opposing a cap and trade and opposing an energy tax. Wilson said that his goal was always to put Ohio first ("TV Spot: Charlie Wilson for Congress"). Johnson's advertisements attacked Wilson for being a "patsy for Nancy Pelosi" (Wood). Johnson ended up winning the election by stirring up anti-Democrat feelings in a district that typically was leaning Democrat.

The ninth race I chose was the race between Democrat incumbent Rush Holt and Republican Scott Sippelle in New Jersey's Twelfth Congressional District. In 2008, Obama won the district with fifty-eight percent of the vote (Wood). Scott Sippelle was a self-funded candidate and had been more active than Holt. Obama's approval rating dropped to forty-four percent and Holt only led by a five percent lead in the polls (Wood).

Sippelle's campaign advertisements said that Holt and Pelosi ignored the American people and that the healthcare bill created a large new federal agency. That would bring about more taxes and it was a direct assault on American liberty ("Sippelle for Congress: First TV AD"). Holt's advertisements said that he would protect jobs from outsourcing. He also said that he was going to strengthen our schools. He used the phrase "American Dream" in his advertisements ("Built"). Holt managed to hold onto his seat in the United States House of Representatives. There was enough support for Obama in this district to give Holt the win.

The final race I chose was California's Twentieth Congressional District. The Democrat incumbent Jim Costa was challenged by Republican Andy Vidak. Originally this race seemed to be out of the grasp of the Republicans, but Vidak surprised everyone when he was still within the margin of error during a September poll (Wood). So, the NRCC sent a lot of much-needed

money to Vidak. Vidak was a farmer and the district was still considered to be Democrat at the end of the day.

Costa's advertisements said that Vidak would cut federal funding for water that the farmers rely on ("Andy Vidak- He's One Thing We Can Do Without"). Costa was a large advocate for the agricultural sector in his district and did a lot to bring water to California when there was a drought. Vidak's advertisements attacked him for voting with the president on health care reform and with Pelosi on other controversial legislations (Mayer). Vidak's major issue in his advertisements were water, especially because he was a farmer. Vidak's ads also linked Costa to Pelosi and said that he was part of the reason why there was such a high debt ("Jim Costa Boondoggle"). Costa ended up winning the election, however it was a relatively close election. Vidak might have had too little, too late.

Republican Portrayal of President Obama in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2010

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Johnson		X			Loss
Duffy				X	Win
Landry				X	Win
Kelly				X	Loss
Runyan		X			Win
Marino		X			Win
Gibbs		X			Win
Johnson		X			Win

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Sippelle		X			Loss
Vidak		X			Loss

Democrat's Portrayal of President Obama in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2010

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Kissell				X	Win
Lassa				X	Loss
Sangisetty				X	Loss
Giffords				X	Win
Adler			X		Loss
Carney				X	Loss
Space				X	Loss
Wilson				X	Loss
Holt			X		Win
Costa			X		Win

Overall, the Democrats did poorly in their elections. Only four Democrats won a seat to the United States House of Representatives. None of the Democrats portrayed the president in a positive light. They decided to try and ignore the administration's policies and focus on local issues. Three of the Democrats I found were neutral towards the president. On some legislation

they would vote with the Democrat party, but on other legislation they would vote against it with the Republicans. Six Republicans won their elections. Four of those candidates portrayed the president in a negative light. In those races, they also tried to link the candidate they were running against as part of the problem by linking them with Nancy Pelosi. Five of the Democrats that lost their elections decided to ignore the president and his administration. Only one Republican lost when he ignored the president or the administration. I think the populace wanted a regime change because they were angry with the debt and healthcare situation and it might have benefitted Democrats to go against President Obama. They could have benefitted from saying that they do not agree with him on some issues. It would be hard for Republicans to use that against them. The 2010 election cycle was the best cycle for Republicans ever with all of their House of Representatives, Senate, and gubernatorial wins.

Chapter 8

Donald Trump and the United States House of Representatives

Donald Trump's presidency was faced with the midterm effect in the November 2018 elections. Trump went on the road to campaign for fellow Republican candidates. President Trump campaigned for or endorsed ninety-six Republicans in both chambers and those in governor races, in which fifty-six won their election campaigns ("Endorsements by Donald Trump"). "In the final days leading up to Tuesday's election, Trump made 11 appearances in 8 states and hosted 50 live rallies in an attempt to mobilize Republican voters in some of the most highly contested midterm races" (Sourcestaff) and it appeared that the Republicans who aligned themselves with Trump saw significant wins. In the ten United States House of Representative races discussed in this paper, each one will be analyzed to see whether or not President Trump was a source of influence in the campaigns of the two party's candidates or if Trump's administration was left out of the advertisements. I picked races that were considered toss ups or were Republican held seats that leaned Democratic. I considered that these would be the most interesting to watch.

The first of the ten races was Pennsylvania's First Congressional District. Brian Fitzpatrick was the incumbent Republican. Scott Wallace was the Democrat running against him. Brian Fitzpatrick was first elected into Congress in Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District in 2016, which became the redrawn First District in 2018. Fitzpatrick was previously in the military and worked in law enforcement. Scott Wallace was a former United States Senate staffer and then worked in the nonprofit sector ("Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District Election, 2018"). The newly shaped first district had backed Hillary Clinton by two percentage points in 2016. The race was considered a toss-up between Fitzpatrick and Wallace.

In the general election, Fitzpatrick did not mention Scott Wallace or Donald Trump at all in advertising. He focused more on the community and what he was a part of in Congress including the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus (“Problem Solver”). Fitzpatrick mentioned his background a lot and laid out his stance on important issues such as establishing term limits, abolishing congressional pensions, not allowing former congressmen/women being allowed to be lobbyists, and if there is no budget then there is no pay for those in Congress (“One Community. Now More Than Ever”). He also mentioned how he is ranked the number one independent congressman. Scott Wallace fought against what he calls false accusations about his nonprofit and portrayed Fitzpatrick in a negative light. Wallace said he will be a check and balance against Trump. Most of his advertisements revolved around his disapproval of Trump’s administration (“We Knew”). He was for gun control, a woman's right to chose, and believes in climate control. He said he would be an independent Congressman (“Independent”). Brian Fitzpatrick ended up winning the election. He never mentioned President Trump while Scott Wallace did. Wallace’s emphasis on Trump might have been what steered people away from him.

Arizona’s Second Congressional District election involved Ann Kirkpatrick, the Democratic candidate, versus Lea Marquez Peterson, the Republican candidate. The seat was open because the incumbent Martha McSally ran for a United States Senate seat. Kirkpatrick was a former United States Representative that served in the House from 2009-2011 and 2013. Peterson was the president and CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (“Arizona’s 2nd Congressional District Election, 2018”).

Kirkpatrick’s general election advertisements were mostly endorsements by other individuals, and they mentioned her stance on different issues such as banning assault weapons (“Progressive Champion”). She did not mention Trump at all in any of her advertisements. She

did take a stance on issues opposite of the Republican party and Trump, such as banning assault weapons. However, she addressed neither the Republican party or President Trump's administration. Lea Peterson's general election advertisements focused on how she was not a politician, but a mom, businesswoman, and a Latina Republican ("Bio"). She also mentioned how she wanted term limits and that she will fight to fix Washington D.C. She did not mention Donald Trump either. Ann Kirkpatrick ended up winning the election in Arizona's Second Congressional District. Neither of the candidates mention President Trump and they focused their ads more so on how they will fix Washington D.C.

Pennsylvania's Sixteenth Congressional District was a race between Mike Kelly and Ron DiNicola. Mike Kelly was the Republican incumbent in the newly formed district. Ron DiNicola was the Democratic challenger ("Pennsylvania's 16th Congressional District Election, 2018"). The newly formed district had cut off half of Kelly's home county which was very Republican and added the entire Erie County which normally leaned left. Kelly was a huge President Trump supporter, and Donald Trump came to Erie, PA to rally for Mike Kelly.

Mike Kelly's general election advertisements were almost all testimonials about what he has done for his constituents while he was in Congress such as creating jobs in western Pennsylvania ("Back in Business"). I found no advertisements of Kelly's that mentioned Trump. Ron DiNicola's general election advertisements focused on his military background and how that made him a fighter. He also claimed he would make jobs return to Erie County. He used some attack ads against Mike Kelly. DiNicola did not mention Donald Trump in his advertisements, but did blame Nancy Pelosi for problems in Congress ("Change Congress."). Mike Kelly ended up winning the election in the sixteenth district. Donald Trump's rally might have helped him win because the polls showed the district as leaning Republican, but the race was very close.

Iowa's First Congressional District election was between Rod Blum and Abby Finkenauer. Rod Blum was the incumbent Republican and Abby Finkenauer was the challenging Democrat. According to polls, Blum was "the most vulnerable U.S. House incumbent seeking re-election in 2018" ("Iowa's 1st Congressional District Election, 2018"). Finkenauer was a State Representative in the Iowa State House of Representatives.

Rod Blum invited President Trump to come to his hometown in Iowa to speak at a roundtable. Farmers in Iowa were not pleased with Trump's trade wars because it had caused the price of crops to drop (Garcia). Rod Blum's general election campaign advertisements were mostly other people promoting him. They mentioned how he will protect Social Security and Medicare. Blum promoted term limits, a lifetime lobby ban for former Congress members, and cleaning up Congress ("Clean up Congress"). Abby Finkenauer's general election advertisements were about hope of a better future and how she will make sure that Social Security and Medicare is there for future generations ("Hope"). She blamed Trump and his tariffs for endangering the welfare of Iowa farmers. Abby Finkenauer won the election. Trump's visit did not inspire the people or promote a Republican base even though two years earlier Trump was the first Republican to win the vote in that district since Eisenhower.

Virginia's Tenth Congressional District election was between Barbara Comstock and Jennifer Wexton. Barbara Comstock was the incumbent Republican candidate and Jennifer Wexton was the Democratic challenger. The district was won by Hillary Clinton in 2016 and leaned Democrat according to polls ("Virginia's 10th Congressional District Election, 2018"). Comstock tried to separate herself from Trump, but Democrats in Virginia branded her as "Trumpstock" (Zito). Wexton was a member of Virginia's State Senate since 2014.

Comstock's general election advertisements attacked Jennifer Wexton. There were no advertisements with her speaking. Trump was never mentioned because she wanted to distance herself from him. The advertisements instead mentioned bipartisan and across the aisle phrases to pull Comstock further from Trump ("The Choice"). Wexton's general election advertisements attacked Barbara Comstock and called her "Trumpstock." They mentioned policies and things Trump has done and said that Comstock has voted with him ninety-eight percent of the time ("Trumpstock"). Wexton held stances on certain issues such as banning bump stocks and gun control. Wexton won the election in the tenth district by a majority with 56% of the vote ("Virginia's 10th Congressional District Election, 2018"). People's disapproval of Trump and Wexton's effective use of "Trumpstock" helped win her the election.

Texas's Thirty-second Congressional District election was between Pete Sessions and Colin Allred. Sessions was the Republican incumbent ("Texas's 32nd Congressional District Election, 2018"). Trump never came to his district, but "Vice President Mike Pence campaigned for Sessions earlier in the month, while Donald Trump, Jr., the president's eldest son, fundraised for the longtime congressman Thursday night" (Weaver). Colin Allred was a "former Obama official at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and NFL linebacker" (Weaver).

Pete Sessions had no advertisements posted that I could find for the general election, but Allred did address ads that attacked him so I assume that Sessions had attack ads. Sessions recognized that there was growing Anti-Trump sentiment since his district is in Dallas. In 2016, he had faced no Democratic opponent but Hillary Clinton beat Trump by two points (Weaver). Colin Allred's general election advertisements attacked Pete Sessions especially about his support to take away protections for those with pre-existing conditions ("Listening"). However, Allred never directly addressed President Trump. Allred won the election with over fifty percent.

The anti-Trump sentiment overcame the Republican base voters, and Sessions lost a seat he had for fifteen years.

New York's Nineteenth Congressional District election was between John Faso and Antonio Delgado. Faso was the Republican incumbent while Delgado was a Democratic challenger. The district had voted him in along with voting for Trump in 2016, even though they had voted for Obama in the previous two elections ("New York's 19th Congressional District Election, 2018"). Delgado had been working for Akin Gump as a litigation assistant. According to WSKG, "But in this split district, President Donald Trump might matter more than either Republican incumbent John Faso or Democratic challenger Antonio Delgado" (Altieri). The race was a toss up.

Faso's general election advertisements backed Trump's position on imposition of the sanctions on Iran. He called Delgado a dangerous choice for supporting Obama's agreement with Iran ("Dangerous"). He mentioned how he voted to protect those with pre-existing conditions. Delgado's general election advertisements focused a lot on healthcare. Almost all of his ads are centered around healthcare. He placed Faso with Washington Republicans and indirectly drew a link between Faso and Trump ("Matters"). Delgado won the election. In this relatively split district, enough Democrats voted to replace Faso and what they thought of as a "Trump Clone" (Altieri).

Utah's Fourth Congressional District election was between Mia Love and Ben McAdams. Love was the incumbent Republican and she did not align herself with Donald Trump. She did this because Mormons are generally anti-Trump. Ben McAdams was the challenging Democrat. He was the former Mayor of Salt Lake County ("Utah's 4th Congressional District Election, 2018").

Love's general election advertisements were about accomplishments she completed. Most noteworthy, is the testimonial of Laurie and Josh Holt in which Josh was taken prisoner by the Venezuelan government and Mia Love fought for his release ("Home Sweet Home: Story of Josh Holt"). McAdams' general election advertisements highlighted his background as a Mayor. He claimed he will clean up Washington D.C. and that he did not support Nancy Pelosi ("Shower"). McAdams won the election, but it was a very tight race. President Trump was a moot point in this election, mostly because Utah generally favors the Republican Party, but Mormons do not like Trump and they are a major religious group in Utah. Trump had publicly said that Republicans who lost and did not align themselves with him lost for that reason (Wolfe and Timmons). Love is among those people.

Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District election was between Andy Barr and Amy McGrath. Barr was the incumbent Republican while Amy McGrath, a Democrat, challenged him. Barr won the district by twenty points in 2016, but the race was considered a toss-up between him and McGrath ("Kentucky's 6th Congressional District Election, 2018"). Donald Trump went and rallied for Andy Barr. McGrath was depicted as an obstacle to Trump's agenda and the progress that he has made for the country (Bailey). McGrath is a retired Marine and professor at the United States Naval Academy.

Barr's general election advertisements attacked McGrath and how she did not support building a wall or how she was against many of Trump's policies ("Get Over It."). Barr's ads villainized the immigrants and villainized McGrath for supporting letting them into our country. McGrath's general election advertisements claimed that those in Washington no longer work as a team and she would never take orders from party leaders, but work with those that want to get things done ("Hundreds"). She said was against Trump and boasted her background as a military

pilot (“Toughest Mission”). She printed out a booklet to explain her platform to voters. Barr won the election in the sixth district. Trump coming to the district to rally the base and Barr’s ads to condemn McGrath for not supporting Trump’s policies stirred up enough support from Republican voters. McGrath only passively said that she did not support Trump and perhaps that passive position caused her to lose by not inspiring Democratic voters.

New Jersey’s Seventh Congressional District election was between Leonard Lance and Tom Malinowski. Lance was the incumbent Republican and Malinowski was the Democratic challenger. The district had voted for Hillary Clinton by one percentage point and the election in 2018 was considered a toss-up (“New Jersey’s 7th Congressional District Election, 2018”). Lance tried to separate himself from President Trump; “Rep. Leonard Lance wants us to know that Donald Trump and he have nothing in common and might even be bred from different species of animals” (Moran). Malinowski and the Democrats painted him as a Trump supporter.

Lance’s general election advertisements attacked Malinowski by depicting him as a lifelong progressive liberal (“Lifelong Progressive Democrat”). They also mentioned how he was not from New Jersey or the community. They also kept repeating how Lance was bipartisan because Lance wanted to distance himself from Trump slightly. Malinowski’s general election advertisements attacked Lance as being a Trump supporter. He claimed that he will be the one to fix the problems that Washington Republicans have caused (“We Have a Problem”). He promised not to take corporate PAC money. Malinowski won the election. He won by three percentage points. Enough Democratic support against Trump effectively lost Lance the election.

Republican Portrayal of President Trump in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2018

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Fitzpatrick				X	Win
Peterson				X	Loss
Kelly	X				Win
Blum	X				Loss
Comstock				X	Loss
Sessions			X		Loss
Faso	X				Loss
Love				X	Loss
Barr	X				Win
Lance				X	Loss

Democrat's Portrayal of President Trump in the United States House of Representatives General Elections 2018

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Wallace		X			Loss
Kirkpatrick				X	Win
DiNicola				X	Loss
Finkenauer		X			Win

Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Ignored	Win/Loss
Wexton		X			Win
Allred				X	Win
Delgado		X			Win
McAdams				X	Win
McGrath		X			Loss
Malinowski		X			Win

President Trump was still affected by the midterm effect. The Democrats ended up winning the majority in the United States House of Representatives. Most toss-ups between Republicans and Democrats went to the Democrats. In deep “red” states, candidates thoroughly supported Trump and his policies. Democrats in these districts tried to stay away from mentioning Trump or said that they agreed with him only on certain issues. In districts that were closer together on the spectrum, Democrats berated Republican candidates as Trump supporters such as calling Barbara Comstock as Trumpstock. These Republicans normally tried to separate themselves from Donald Trump. Trump went out to support candidates just like past presidents George W. Bush and Obama have done. Also like them, Trump had sent supporters like his son and Vice President Pence to places that it might have hurt the candidate if Trump came himself. Presidents have always impacted elections of those in his party and have impacted the messages that his opponents portray as well.

Overall, over fifty percent of the candidates Trump endorsed in races for the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and in gubernatorial (governor) races won their election. Candidates that had President Trump rally for them did even better than those

that only had support through other ways, such as social media. It is important to consider that President Trump endorsed candidates running for the United States House the least. Out of the ten United States House of Representatives races that are analyzed in this paper, only three Republicans won their elections. Out of two rallies and one visit where Trump came to support the candidate, the Republicans that held the rallies won. This leads me to believe that Trump's physical presence increases the Republican base voters' involvement in elections. In another poll by Quartz which also looked at ten toss up races for the United States House, in which Trump had endorsed the candidate, six out of the ten Republicans won their elections (Wolfe and Timmons). Five Republican candidates that tried to distance themselves from Trump or ignore the president's administration policies completely lost their election races. In races in districts that leaned Democratic, the Democrat would brand the Republican as a sincere Trump supporter. In four out of five of the races I analyzed, the Democratic candidate successively tied their opposition and Trump together as a deal package and won their elections. Considering that almost every Republican candidate that distanced themselves from Trump in the ten elections I analyzed lost, it hurt the Republican candidates to not support the president. Perhaps this is because the Republican base is motivated by Trump's rhetoric and when Republican candidates do not adhere to that, they lose votes from the base. The Republicans did not do well as a whole for the ten races I analyzed. At the national level, this correlates with the Democrats winning the majority in the United States House of Representatives.

Chapter 9

Analysis of Influence of Presidents on United States House of Representatives Elections

All three presidents were affected by the midterm effect. President Bush II lost both the United States House of Representative and the United States Senate in 2006. President Obama lost the United States House of Representatives by a very large amount, but the United States Senate continued to have a Democrat majority in 2010. President Trump lost the Republican majority in the United States House of Representatives, but like Obama, the Senate remained a Republican majority.

As for the races themselves, fourteen out of the thirty Republican candidates that ran won their elections. Considering the midterm effect, this makes sense. Two out of the three presidents I researched were Republicans. President Trump had the most losses for Republican candidates in the thirty races I analyzed. Only three of the Republican candidates won. Five Republicans ignored President Trump, while seven Democrats ignored President Obama in the campaigns. Only one Republican candidate ignored President Bush II in 2006. In 2006, candidates still showed loyalty to the president and their parties. However, in 2010 and 2018, candidates were afraid to support a polarizing figure or party politics that were seen as controversial. There may also be less partisan loyalty to the president. This may be caused by media polarization that inflicts heavy criticism of every decision the president makes. There is little overlap in the news sources that liberals and conservatives turn to and trust (Mitchell, Matsa, Gottfried, and Kiley). So, people are becoming more polarized in their opinions from those across the aisle. People also are likely to stay within their own “filter bubble” which means that they tend to follow news

sources and people on social media that share similar political beliefs as themselves (De-Wit, Brick, and Linden).

As for the opposing parties, six out of ten Democrats portrayed President Trump negatively. Seven out of ten Republicans portrayed President Obama negatively. Five out of ten Democrats portrayed President Bush II negatively. Looking at this information, I think it is important to realize that President Obama had the most amount of negative portrayals (along with zero positive portrayals by Democrats). What can this mean? Perhaps the populace was so stunned by the passing of the health care reform or Obamacare or they were so shocked about the amount of public debt the United States had that they thought the Democratic party was not a good option. I also think it is important to call to attention that President Bush II had the highest amount of positive portrayals and the lowest amount of negative portrayals. The Iraq war was obviously a big issue during the campaign, but a lot of people were overseas and candidates had to be conscious of how far they spoke poorly of the war. They wanted to be seen as supportive to the United States abroad which is why some Democrats said they would pass laws that allowed for funding of U.S. troops. Also, I believe that the political atmosphere was not as divisive as it is today and most people still respected the president as being the leader of the United States. In 2018, there was a lot of name calling and character attacking that did not seem to exist nearly as much in 2006.

Another possible explanation is that there has been a large decline in the rally around the flag syndrome post- 9/11. In 2006, a lot of individuals were still highly patriotic after the events on 9/11 and the office of the president was still respected as the leader of the United States. However, as one can see from the portrayals of the candidates in 2010 and 2018, the attitude towards the president got increasingly more negative, and there was less support for the

president's policies. In 2010, there was no Democratic candidate that portrayed Obama positively in the ten races I analyzed. In 2018, the Republican candidates mostly ignored President Trump. However, in 2006, all but three Republican candidates portrayed Bush II in a positive light. In 2010 and 2018, the opposing party was mostly negative as opposed to in 2006 when only half of the opposing party was negative towards Bush II. It is an interesting conclusion to make and perhaps the 2020 election will show even more negativity and less support for the president if this trend continues.

Chapter 10 Conclusion

In conclusion, presidents have a remarkable impact on the elections all over the country. They affect much more than just the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate. The president is considered the head of their political party. Their actions and policies impact the entire party and candidates who run for office as a member of the president's political party might be already assumed to be aligned with the president in all issues. This is why we see candidates that try to ignore the president or national issues that the political party supports or does not support at the federal level. These candidates who try to distance themselves normally do so by focusing on local issues to that state or district. This normally happens when a president does not have a high approval rating; however, all of the presidents had similar approval ratings with President Trump having a slightly higher one. So, this cannot be used as a deciding factor as to why candidates portrayed the president in certain ways, but it does possibly show a reason as to why candidates of the president's political party in all three years ignored the president. The candidate never wants to say he or she is against the head of his own party (the president) or the party itself because he or she does not want to alienate the base voters of their political party that will almost always vote for that political party. This is why ignoring the current administration's policies is normally what candidates will do. On the flip-side of that, candidates of the president's party will support him and positively portray his policies if the president's approval ratings are high.

For those candidates in the opposing political party, the area in which they are running will play a big part on whether or not they ignore the president as well or portray him negatively. If a Democratic candidate was running in a conservative or traditionally Republican district, they

would not bring attention to the president if he is a Republican, such as with some Democratic candidates in the 2018 Senate elections. Instead they would probably focus on local issues to the area and vice versa. In the areas where the district is considered to be a tossup between two candidates, the candidate of the opposing party will try to link the other candidate to the president if his approval ratings are low. I saw in my research that this happens often to incumbents. Many challengers will claim that the incumbent voted with the president or political party on many occasions. This happened frequently with the candidates in 2018 when Democrats tried to tie their opponent to President Trump. This also happened in 2010 when Republican candidates tied their opponent to President Obama, but even more to Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic Speaker of the House.

Candidates often take talking points from the issues that the president puts forward. For President Bush II this was the Iraq War, for President Obama it was the budget and healthcare, and for President Trump it was immigration. Many of the candidates focused their campaigns around those key issues or they tried their best to ignore those issues. The president is a major part of our elections at all levels of the government because he sets the example for the rest of the country to either follow or oppose. Presidents are the top political figure during their time in office and as the final decision maker they have a lot of power, but they also have a lot of responsibility to respond to the people's opinion. For the United States House of Representatives elections, there was a steady decline in support for the president. Perhaps this effect can be caused by the polarized media and the short time in which they are in office, which makes them much more responsive to constituents. The effect of this polarization in the media creating a divisive constituency and the end of the rally around the flag syndrome after 9/11 has caused more negativity for the president. This is reflective in all three years. For the United States

Senate elections, in 2006 and 2010, the amount of positivity and negativity for the president were the same. However, in 2018 there was this shift in overwhelming support for Trump by the Republicans and much less negativity from Democrats. Although the amount of negativity from Democrats might be because of the states in which they were running, it is important to realize that all Republican candidates supported Trump. Why is there a sudden escalation in support? Is this a trend towards more support for the president? It is very possible that this might be an outlier result. Perhaps it is because of Trump's very public image and presence on social media. Whatever the case may be, it will be interesting to see in the next set of Senate elections whether or not this trend will continue.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abramowitz, Michael. "Bush Says 'America Loses' Under Democrats." *The Washington Post*. 31 October 2006, www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/30/AR2006103000530.html?noredirect=on. Accessed Nov. 2018.
- Admin. "Democrat Brown Unseats Incumbent DeWine in Ohio." *PBS NewsHour*. 7 November 2006, https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/politics-july-dec06-oh_sen_11-07. Accessed on Feb. 2019.
- "AFF TV Ad NJ 'Trick' Rep. Adler." *YouTube*, uploaded by AmericanFutureFund, 15 September 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQABaa-M2wI>.
- "Amen Brothers- Morrisey For Senate TV Ad." *YouTube*, uploaded by Patrick Morrisey, 13 September 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZ-SqjKetVw>.
- "Andy Vidak- He's One Thing We Can Do Without." *YouTube*, uploaded by DCCC2010, 15 October 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZW2R40PrRk>.
- Altieri, Gabe. "President Trump Looms Over Faso, Delgado Matchup in 19th Congressional District." 24 October 2018, wskg.org/news/trump-looms-over-faso-delgado-matchup-in-19th-congressional-district/. Accessed Nov. 2018.
- "Arizona's 2nd Congressional District Election, 2018." *Ballotpedia*. ballotpedia.org/Arizona%27s_2nd_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov. 2018.
- "Audience Laughs at Bachmann's Ad." *YouTube*, uploaded by Skylark303, 2 November 2006, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UB80OHdFuds>.

“Back in Business.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Mike Kelly for Congress, 2 November 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCIqTpZNt1Q>.

Bacon, Perry Jr., Calabresi, Massimo, & Tumulty, Karen. “The Tipping Point Races: Gerlach v. Murphy.” *Time*. 6 November 2006,

<http://content.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1555542,00.html>. Accessed March 2019.

Ball, Molly. “Comeback: How did Reid do it?” *Politico*. 4 November 2010,

<https://www.politico.com/story/2010/11/comeback-how-did-reid-do-it-044714?o=1>. Accessed Feb. 2019.

Bailey, Phillip M. “Trump Bump or Slump? Andy Barr’s Fate Tied Closely to the President.” *Courier Journal*. 31 October 2018, [www.courier-](http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/elections/2018/10/31/donald-trump-popularity-impact-barr-mcgrath-kentucky-congress-race/1750640002/)

[journal.com/story/news/politics/elections/2018/10/31/donald-trump-popularity-impact-barr-mcgrath-kentucky-congress-race/1750640002/](http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/elections/2018/10/31/donald-trump-popularity-impact-barr-mcgrath-kentucky-congress-race/1750640002/). Accessed Nov. 2018.

Barrow, Bill. “3rd Congressional District Candidates Jeff Landry and Ravi Sangisetty Take to the Airwaves.” *NOLA*. 19 October 2010,

https://www.nola.com/politics/2010/10/3rd_congressional_district_can_4.html. Accessed March 2019.

“Better Way.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Krysten Sinema, 20 October 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wvl6OrALZUk>.

“Bio.” *YouTube*, Lea Marquez Peterson, 13 October 2018,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ilLIB_uXZs.

“Bob Gibbs.” *YouTube*, uploaded by The Franklin Center, 1 November 2010,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ss2HrFQkqKo>.

“Bob Gibbs’ Big Bad Game.” *YouTube*, uploaded by ibackzack, 21 October 2010,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnCG0j9k-r0>.

“Built.” *YouTube*, uploaded by RushHoltForCongress, 24 September 2010,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oL9uzYQu00>.

“Burr’s ‘Serving’ Ad.” *YouTube*, uploaded by TheDomeCam, 6 April 2010,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xb-YOqPBnAA>.

“Bush Takes Blame for GOP Election Losses.” *CNN*. 8 November 2006,

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/POLITICS/11/08/election.bush/index.html>. Accessed March 2019.

Carmichael, Michael. “Elaine Marshall Blasts Richard Burr.” *Huffington Post*. 13 October 2010,

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-carmichael/elaine-marshll-blasts-ric_b_758828.html.

Accessed Feb. 2019.

Chadwick, Alex. & Brand, Madeleine. “Fiery Rep. Hayworth in Hot Arizona Race.” *National Public*

Radio. 15 August 2006,

<https://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=5651179>. Accessed March

2019.

“Change Congress.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Ronald DiNicola, 31 October 2018,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nX5W7sIcV4.

“Chris Coons is... Rubber Stamp Man.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Christine4Senate, 21 October 2010,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=75&v=IIa0q3bIK90.

“Clean up Congress.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Blum for Congress Press, 30 August 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4fKZdR8rFI>.

“Clinton, Spencer face off in 2nd debate.” *KLTV*. 23 October 2006,

<http://www.kltv.com/story/5575577/clinton-spencer-face-off-in-2nd-debate/>. Accessed Feb. 2019.

“Clock.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Josh Hawley, 4 November 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1sNo2Lvztw>.

Collins, Bob. “God not Choosing Sides in 6th, Bachmann Says.” *MPR News*. 1 November 2006,

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2006/11/01/6distdebate>. Accessed March 2019.

“Colorado Senate- Buck vs. Bennet.” *Real Clear Politics*. November 2010,

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2010/senate/co/colorado_senate_buck_vs_bennet-1106.html. Accessed Feb. 2019.

“Congressman Mollohan Election Night.” *YouTube*, uploaded by John Dahlia, 21 November, 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Q3Ed8YOnHw>.

“Conrad Burns Against Tester ‘Repeal It’.” *YouTube*, uploaded by tpmmedia, 28 September 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iy7yIUlucCY>.

“Coons - The O'Donnell Zone.” *YouTube*, uploaded by The Campaign Group, 28 April 2015,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_s9yraIOpKw.

“Dangerous.” *YouTube*, uploaded by John Faso, 30 October 2018,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gScXaPIs_4.

“David McSweeney for Congress.” *YouTube*, uploaded by DavidMcSweeney4IL, 16 January 2012,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKI3ezr7A0k>.

“Dead Wrong.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Joe Manchin, 10 September 2018,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=tNte7Vr-IJg.

DeParle, Jason. "A High-Profile Ouster in Pennsylvania." *The New York Times*. 8 November 2006,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/08/us/politics/08penn.html>. Accessed Feb. 2019.

"DeWine Ad." *YouTube*, uploaded by tpmmedia, 17 July 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLIKMMtsOfM>.

De-Wit, Lee, & Brick, Cameron, & Van Der Linden, Sander. "Social Media Driving Political

Polarization." *Greater Good Science Center at Berkeley University*. 16 January 2019,

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/is_social_media_driving_political_polarization.

Accessed April 2019.

Dixon, Darius. "Jacky Rosen unseats Dean Heller in Nevada Senate Race." *Politico*. 7 November

2018, [https://www.politico.com/story/2018/11/07/jacky-rosen-vs-dean-heller-nevada-senate-](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/11/07/jacky-rosen-vs-dean-heller-nevada-senate-race-results-2018-963523)

[race-results-2018-963523](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/11/07/jacky-rosen-vs-dean-heller-nevada-senate-race-results-2018-963523). Accessed Feb. 2019.

"Elaine Marshall: 'Throw 'em out!'" *YouTube*, uploaded by marshallforsenate, 9 October 2010,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNE9ANS_hMY.

"TV Spot: Charlie Wilson for Congress." *YouTube*, uploaded by ElectCharlieWilson, 7 October 2010,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJKHS7qA_Wc.

"Endorsements by Donald Trump." *Ballotpedia*.

https://ballotpedia.org/Endorsements_by_Donald_Trump. Accessed 4 Dec. 2018.

Garcia, Eric. "Rep. Blum to Host Trump in Iowa." *Roll Call*. 23 July 2018,

www.rollcall.com/news/politics/blum-to-host-trump-in-dubuque. Accessed Nov. 2018.

"Get America Rolling Again!" *YouTube*, uploaded by Duffy for Wisconsin, 28 September 2010,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SadnrJbDdbE>.

"Get Over It." *YouTube*, uploaded by Andy Barr, 3 November 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MTUTg8XpY4>.

Giroux, Greg. "Musgrave's Priorities at Issue in Increasingly Close Colo. 4 Race." *The New York Times*.

28 September 2006,

https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/cq/2006/09/28/cq_1520.html. Accessed March 2019.

Gizzi, John. "MI-Sen: Bouchard vs. Stabenow." *Human Events*. 21 August 2006,

<http://humanevents.com/2006/08/21/misen-bouchard-vs-stabenow/>. Accessed Feb. 2019.

Good, Chris. "Jon Runyan and the Tea Party 'Plant.'" *The Atlantic*. 21 October 2010,

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/10/jon-runyan-and-the-tea-party-plant/64967/>. Accessed March 2019.

Grunwald, Michael. "Wisconsin's Senate Race: Russ Feingold vs. Ron Johnson." *Time*. 29 October 2010,

http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,2019138_2019132_2028137,00.html. Accessed Feb. 2019.

"Had Enough of Marilyn Musgrave? Vote Angie Paccione." *YouTube*, uploaded 1 October 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fb9p25dFSOQ>.

Halloran, Liz. "Christine O'Donnell Survives Debate With Frontrunner Chris Coons." *National Public Radio*. 13 October 2010,

<https://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2010/10/13/130553623/christine-o-donnell-survives-debate-with-frontrunner-chris-coons>. Accessed Feb. 2019.

"Harold Johnson TV Ad." *YouTube*, uploaded by VoteHaroldJohnson, 14 April 2010,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XhVg77IORQ>.

"Harry Mitchell (AZ-05): Enough." *YouTube*, uploaded 1 November 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNCWlbTE1AI>.

“Hayworth Ad.” *YouTube*, uploaded by cfitchaz, 25 September 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peFP6r1d4sU>.

“Heath Shuler’s Mountain Values.” *YouTube*, uploaded by ncdemocrat, 6 October 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGVDCiZN1Tc>.

“Hillary Clinton 2006 Ad: Standing Up For New York.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Caleb Rojas Castillo, 26

July 2010, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jD_iZ3yiuA.

“Home Sweet Home: Story of Josh Holt.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Mia B. Love for Congress, 26 August

2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7qIHf6RpU>.

Hood, John. “The Other Hot Virginia Race.” *National Review*. 23 October 2006,

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2006/10/other-hot-virginia-race-john-hood/>. Accessed March

2019.

“Hope.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Abby Finkenauer for Congress, 1 November 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPloEphmmM>.

Hubbuck, Chris. “Wisconsin Senate race: Tammy Baldwin defeats Leah Vukmir for second term.”

Wisconsin State Journal. 7 November 2018, [https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-](https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/wisconsin-senate-race-tammy-baldwin-defeats-leah-vukmir-for-second/article_5af39da9-a6c9-54b0-8d78-66998ab55110.html#1)

[politics/wisconsin-senate-race-tammy-baldwin-defeats-leah-vukmir-for-](https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/wisconsin-senate-race-tammy-baldwin-defeats-leah-vukmir-for-second/article_5af39da9-a6c9-54b0-8d78-66998ab55110.html#1)

[second/article_5af39da9-a6c9-54b0-8d78-66998ab55110.html#1](https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/wisconsin-senate-race-tammy-baldwin-defeats-leah-vukmir-for-second/article_5af39da9-a6c9-54b0-8d78-66998ab55110.html#1). Accessed Feb. 2019.

“Hundreds.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Amy McGrath for Congress, 7 August 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdgdwAhysuFY>.

“Independent.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Scott Wallace for Congress, 12 October 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDS4TCOP6Do>.

- “In Focus: GOP Candidate For 8th CD David McSweeney.” *Illinois Review*. 25 September 2006, https://www.illinoisreview.com/illinoisreview/2006/09/in_focus_gop_ca.html. Accessed March 2019.
- “Iowa’s 1st Congressional District Election, 2018.” *Ballotpedia*. ballotpedia.org/Iowa%27s_1st_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov. 2018.
- “Jesse Kelly for Congress AZ District 8.” *YouTube*, uploaded by 5 September 2010. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRoI496UxCU>.
- “Jim Costa Boondoggle.” *YouTube*, uploaded by CrossroadsGPSChannel, 25 October 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQGshcp3dSM>.
- Johnson, C. S., & Dennison, M. “Tester wins tight senate race.” *Billings Gazette*. 7 November 2006, https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/tester-wins-tight-senate-race/article_690d6288-4788-5d47-85d3-1cc7b6249c59.html. Accessed Feb. 2019.
- Jones, Jeffrey M. “Obama's Approval Rating at New Low in Most Recent Quarter.” *Gallup*. 21 October 2010, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/143921/obama-approval-rating-new-low-recent-quarter.aspx>. Accessed April 2019.
- “Judge rules against Jennings, Democrats to seat Buchanan.” *Herald-Tribune*. 29 December 2006, <https://www.heraldtribune.com/article/LK/20061229/News/605248599/SH/>. Accessed March 2019.
- “Julie Lassa- One of Us.” *YouTube*, uploaded by LassaForCongress, 28 October 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsgLOIZQObI>.
- “Ken Buck for U.S. Senate TV Ad - ‘Unfair’.” *YouTube*, uploaded by BuckForColorado, 16 September 2010, https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=28&v=JcPiS1Rue4Q.

“Ken Buck vs. Michael Bennet.” *Diffen*.

https://www.diffen.com/difference/Ken_Buck_vs_Michael_Bennet. Accessed Feb. 2019.

“Kentucky’s 6th Congressional District Election, 2018.” *Ballotpedia*.

ballotpedia.org/Kentucky%27s_6th_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov. 2018.

King, Joselyn. “Mollohan vs. Wakim: Wakim Challenging Mollohan.” *Vote Smart*. 17 October 2006,

<https://votesmart.org/public-statement/222428/mollohan-vs-wakim-wakim-challenging-mollohan#.XJRF3yhKhPY>. Accessed March 2019.

Kolumbic, Dubravka. “John Adler, Jon Runyan Both Claim the ‘Moderate’ Mantle at District 3

Congressional Debate at Medford Leas.” *South Jersey Local News*. 28 October 2010,

http://www.southjerseylocalnews.com/medford_central_record/john-adler-jon-runyan-both-claim-the-moderate-mantle-at/article_5698f819-a252-5260-a0ea-54fe3c3bcece.html. Accessed March 2019.

“Larry Kissell Commercial.” *YouTube*, uploaded by IHopeWeGetAnA, 3 December 2009,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LqVKHKVtxo>.

Levy, Michael. “Buck vs. Bennet: Outrage and Fear in Colorado (2010 Campaign Attack Ads of the

Day).” *Britannica*. 27 October 2010, <http://blogs.britannica.com/2010/10/buck-vs-bennet-outrage-and-fear-in-colorado-2010-campaign-attack-ads-of-the-day>. Accessed Feb. 2019.

“Lifelong Progressive Democrat.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Leonard Lance for Congress, 19 July 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CX15jr1Zp-U>.

“Listening.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Press Team, 9 October 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LJLcykS7oQ>.

“Lois Murphy PA6- Candidate Forum Closing Remarks.” *YouTube*, uploaded by xpecon, 16 August 2006, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtrzRZkFotM>.

MacAskill, Ewen. “Barack Obama Admits He Needs ‘to do a Better Job’ After Midterm Defeat.” *The Guardian*. 2 November 2010, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/nov/03/barack-obama-midterms-better-job>. Accessed March 2019.

Mack, Kristen. “President Pitching in to Help Sekula-Gibbs.” *Houston Chronicle*. 27 October 2006, <https://www.chron.com/news/article/President-pitching-in-to-help-Sekula-Gibbs-1511730.php>. Accessed March 2019.

“Matters.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Antonio Delgado, 3 October 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5Cn1XJ6zBE>.

Mayer, Steven. “Vidak Hangs onto Lead; Costa Expresses Optimism.” *Bakersfield*. 2 November 2010, https://www.bakersfield.com/news/politics/vidak-hangs-onto-lead-costa-expresses-optimism/article_312b0684-d899-54a0-aa76-8097e1d10279.html. Accessed March 2019.

“Melissa Bean’s Accomplishments.” *YouTube*, uploaded by davidam1979, 24 October 2006, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTreNA5tYQ>.

“Michael Bennet for U.S. Senate ‘Wake Up!’” *YouTube*, uploaded by ThePoliticalPlace, 8 April 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWpfyJhByvM>.

“Michele Bachmann- Is This Really Who We Should Send.” *YouTube*, uploaded by rfullinwider, 4 September 2008, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzQQuMFvB3M>.

Mitchell, Amy, & Matsa, Katernia E., & Gottfried, Jeffrey, & Kiley, Jocelyn. “Political Polarization & Media Habits.” *Pew Research Center*. October 2014. <https://www.journalism.org/2014/10/21/political-polarization-media-habits/>. Accessed April 2019.

Moran, Tom. "Leonard Lance, Facing Anti-Trump Wave, is in Grave Danger." *NJ.com*. 25 March 2018.

www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2018/03/leonard_lance_facing_anti-trump_wave_is_a_man_with.html. Accessed Nov. 2018.

"Nevada Senate - Angle vs. Reid." *Real Clear Politics*. November 2010.

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2010/senate/nv/nevada_senate_angle_vs_reid-1517.html. Accessed Feb. 2019.

"New Jersey's 7th Congressional District Election, 2018." *Ballotpedia*.

ballotpedia.org/New_Jersey%27s_7th_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov. 2018.

"New York's 19th Congressional District Election, 2018." *Ballotpedia*.

ballotpedia.org/New_York%27s_19th_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov. 2018.

Novak, Jake. "Trump Isn't Getting More Popular, but His Policies Are." *CNBC*. 12 February 2018,

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/02/12/trump-isnt-more-popular-but-his-policies-are-commentary.html>. Accessed 3 Dec. 2018.

"One Community. Now More Than Ever." *YouTube*, uploaded by Brian Fitzpatrick for Congress, 9

March 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGJdtVfqqn8>.

"One of Us." *YouTube*, uploaded by Leah Vukmir, 26 October 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW8xIzJPEWw>.

"Our Ad- Pennsylvania's 10th District." *YouTube*, uploaded by MoveOn, 20 October 2010,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10MtnirEqag>.

"Out Here - Jon Tester for US Senate 2006." *YouTube*, uploaded by Political Campaign Ads, 12

February 2008, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZG2XnWR7EE>.

“Pennsylvania’s 1st Congressional District Election, 2018.” *Ballotpedia*.

ballotpedia.org/Pennsylvania%27s_1st_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov. 2018.

“Pennsylvania’s 16th Congressional District Election, 2018.” *Ballotpedia*.

ballotpedia.org/Pennsylvania%27s_16th_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov. 2018.

“Presidential Approval Ratings -- Donald Trump.” *Gallup*.

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/203198/presidential-approval-ratings-donald-trump.aspx>. Accessed April 2019.

“Presidential Approval Ratings -- George W. Bush.” *Gallup*.

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/116500/presidential-approval-ratings-george-bush.aspx>. Accessed April 2019.

“Problem Solver.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Brian Fitzpatrick for Congress, 30 October 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OYtxKo-3hs>.

“Progressive Champion.” uploaded by Kirkpatrick for Congress, *YouTube*, 10 August 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKLaTRqQa3M>.

Prokop, Andrew. “Joe Manchin Reelected in West Virginia: The Most Conservative Senate Democrat Survives.”

Vox. 7 November 2018, <https://www.vox.com/2018/11/6/18049648/election-results-west-virginia-joe-manchin-wins>. Accessed March 2019.

“Jennings-Proud.” *YouTube*, uploaded by kvermazen,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCqv59XGtwc>.

“Remarks by the President at Vern Buchanan for Congress Reception.” *The White House Archives*.

October 2006, <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2006/10/20061024-2.html>. Accessed March 2019.

“Rep. Charles Taylor (NC-11) Ad.” *YouTube*, uploaded by tpmmedia, 24 August 2006,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qOWX-PVtmk.

“Rep. Jim Gerlach on Medicare Part D.”) *YouTube*, uploaded by USChamber, 1 November 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOjnN7Q3Hk8&list=PL461F8769EE7F9EC6&index=17>.

“Republicans Use Pelosi as a Campaign Weapon.” *Los Angeles Times*. 13 August 2006,

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2006-aug-13-me-pelosi13-story.html>. Accessed March 2019.

“Resolve.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Martha McSally, 4 October 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHNRLft4l6U>.

“Rick Santorum 2006 Ad Touts Saving Amtrak Govt Funding/Raising the Minimum Wage.” *YouTube*,

uploaded by Andrew Kaczynski, 10 February 2012,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHT6SJd2KFg>.

“Ron Johnson US Senate: ‘How Many Lawyers in Congress?’ Ad.” *YouTube*, uploaded by

ConservativeSamizdat, 3 October 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNGmDrOJxfQ>.

Sanchez, Y.W., & Hansen, R. J. “Krysten Sinema beats Martha McSally to become Arizona’s first female senator.” *USA Today*. 12 November, 2018,

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/elections/2018/11/12/martha-mcsally-krysten-sinema-race-how-arizona-voted-senate-race/1981442002/>. Accessed Fe. 2018.

“Sharron Angle Plans to Eliminate Social Security and Medicare. What's Next?” *YouTube*, uploaded by

Harry Reid, 12 June 2010,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=10&v=iBuI655UzRc.

“Sharron Angle's Racist Immigration Ad Oct. 7, 2010.” *YouTube*, uploaded by goodganews, 7 October

2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIvPPeYCe5k>.

“Sipprelle for Congress: First TV AD.” *YouTube*, uploaded by SupportScott2010, 22 March 2010,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KNWR4kHa4o>.

“Sheriff.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Lampson, 22 August 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YSKABczPgg>.

“Sherrod Brown 2006 Ad: Where I Stand.” *YouTube*, uploaded by jimmyarch72, 31 March 2011,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEDJTme3fYw>.

Shesgreen, Deirdre. “These 12 races will be key to who controls the Senate after the 2018 midterms.”

USA Today. 7 September 2017, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/09/07/2018-midterm-elections-senate-races-to-watch/597965001/>. Accessed Feb. 2019.

“Shower.” *YouTube*, uploaded by McAdams Campaign, 3 September 2018,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9_Kos9gXdU.

“Sierra Club 2010 House Race Ad: Arizona District 08 Gabrielle Giffords and Jesse Kelly.” *YouTube*,

uploaded by NorthSierraClub, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHIDbbVVjtQ>.

Sourcestaff. “The Donald Trump Effect and the 2018 Midterm Elections.” *The Source*. 7 November

2018, thesource.com/2018/11/07/the-donald-trump-effect-and-the-2018-midterm-elections/.

Accessed Nov. 2018.

“Spencer Second Ad.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Times Union Blog, 14 August 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bp-zChXlc38>.

“Stand Up.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Coreykiddleman, 22 June 2011,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPthL9feP20>.

“State I Love.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Team Claire, 29 October

2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJ0ttt19peo>.

Sunnucks, Mike. “Mitchell eyes Hayworth Challenge for House Seat.” *Phoenix Business Journal*. 8

March 2006, <https://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2006/03/06/daily37.html>. Accessed March 2019.

“Texas’s 32nd Congressional District Election, 2018.” *Ballotpedia*.

ballotpedia.org/Texas%27_32nd_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov. 2018.

“The Choice.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Comstock for Congress, 24 August 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xK511MXEI5k>.

“Thelma Drake Ad.” *YouTube*, uploaded by darkgreenforest, 27 July, 2006,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-QkewvyPCU>.

“Tom Marino for Congress 2010.” *YouTube*, uploaded by The CCS2011, 17 October 2011,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjzAhy2nmZM>.

“Toughest Mission.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Amy McGrath for Congress, 3 April 2018,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NitnQZP_13E.

“‘Trump Effect’ Overpowers Booming Economy Ahead of Midterm Elections.” *The Straits Times*. 19

October 2018, <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/trump-effect-overpowers-booming-economy-ahead-of-midterm-elections>. Accessed 3 Dec. 2018.

“Trumpstock.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Jennifer Wexton for Congress, 29 September 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID-gV33R3iU>.

“US Midterm Elections: What are the Key Issues?” *Al Jazeera*. 5 November 2018,

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/09/midterm-elections-key-issues-180928103258276.html>.

Accessed 3 Dec. 2018.

“Utah’s 4th Congressional District Election, 2018.” *Ballotpedia*.

ballotpedia.org/Utah%27s_4th_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov. 2018.

“Virginia’s 10th Congressional District Election, 2018.” *Ballotpedia*.

ballotpedia.org/Virginia%27s_10th_Congressional_District_election,_2018. Accessed Nov.

2018.

Weaver, Al. “Will Trump ‘Fire’ Spark Recovery for Vulnerable Republican or Could Flames Engulf

Him?” *Washington Examiner*. 20 October 2018,

www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/campaigns/pete-sessions-fights-to-hold-gop-district-that-spurned-trump. Accessed Nov. 2018.

“We Knew.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Scott Wallace for Congress, 27 March 2018,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXObqIQ_r1U.

“We Have a Problem.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Tom Malinowski, 25 October 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyN6oHTu2QQ>.

“What Would Happen.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Tammy Baldwin, 11 October 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPsDcq54kXg>.

“WI SEN Feingold On Your Side.” *YouTube*, uploaded by benpolitico, 30 September 2010,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uS_RudqV1Gk. Accessed Feb. 2019.

“Wisconsin Senate- Feingold vs. Johnson.” *Real Clear Politics*. November 2010,

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2010/senate/wi/wisconsin_senate_feingold_vs_johnson-1577.html. Accessed Feb. 2019.

Wolfe, Daniel & Timmons, Heather. “56% of Trump-endorsed Candidates Won Their Elections so Far.”

Quartz. 14 November 2018, <https://qz.com/1455181/how-did-candidates-trump-endorsed-do-in-the-midterm-elections/>. Accessed 3 Dec. 2018.

Wood, Issac. “House Race Changes.” *Sabato’s Crystal Ball*. 14 October 2010,

<http://crystalball.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/itw2010101402/>. Accessed March 2019.

“Wrong Experience.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Rosen Press, 24 October 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVWEWsYLB5k>.

Zeleny, Jeff. “To Help Democrats in the Fall, Obama May Stay Away”. *The New York Times*. 31 July

2010, www.nytimes.com/2010/08/01/us/politics/01obama.html. Accessed Nov. 2018.

“Zero.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Dean Heller, 28 August 2018,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnkfXncZgeA>.

Zito, Salena. “Comstock Struggling in Northern Virginia After Democrats Brand Her ‘Trumpstock’.”

Washington Examiner. 4 November 2018, www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/in-dcs-wealthy-suburbs-republican-barbara-comstock-tries-to-hang-on. Accessed Nov. 2018.

Zorn, Eric. “Bean, Opponent Choose the Truth that Suits Them.” *Chicago Tribune*. 17 October 2006,

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-2006-10-17-0610170098-story.html>. Accessed March 2019.

ACADEMIC VITA

EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University, Erie, PA	May 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor of Arts in Political Science• Minor in History• Schreyer Honors College• Behrend Honors Program• Dean's List• German Studies Certificate• Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy Certificate	August 2017- May 2019 August 2016- May 2018 Fall 2016- Spring 2019 May 2019 May 2019

RESEARCH

Influence of Presidents on United States Congress Campaigns	May 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze the influence of the President on the campaigns of candidates for United States House of Representatives and United States Senate• Establishing a correlation between the president's popularity and image and the messages campaign advertisements portray to the public• Analyze this correlation by watching campaign advertisements of different candidates from both parties and compare it to the president's reputation• Will compare the change of campaign advertisements between three different election cycles	
Relationship between Serbia and Russia	December 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze the relationship between Russia and Serbia to determine the effects of influence on Serbian political policies• Research different treaties, policies, and activities between the two countries to measure their relationship with one another• Expecting that Russia has a dominating role in Russian and Serbian relations	

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society 2019	August 2018- May 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vice President	
Lambda Sigma National Honor Society 2018	April 2017- May 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Set up agendas for biweekly meetings○ Planned fundraisers to raise money for various causes	

AWARDS

President's Sparks Award	April 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4.0 GPA throughout first three semesters of college	
President's Freshman Award	April 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4.0 GPA in the first semester of college	
Certificate from Pennsylvania State University College of Liberal Arts	Fall 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For superior academic achievement	
School of Humanities and Social Sciences Writing Award	Spring 2019
Evan Pugh Scholar Award	Fall 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average GPA of 3.99 throughout college career	
Student Marshal at Commencement Ceremony	Spring 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highest GPA in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences• The Marshal holds the banner for the school at graduation	
Outstanding Political Science Major Award	Spring 2019
Summa Cum Laude	Spring 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highest Honors Distinction	

LANGUAGE

English	Native
German	Intermediate