

Scoring Guideline for Quantitative FRQ: Midterm Elections

Part A: Identify the community with the highest percentage of support for the Republican Party in the 2022 elections

An acceptable identification is:

- Rural

Part B: Describe a trend in the data from 2018 to 2022.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- A lower percentage of people in all communities voted for Democrats in 2022 than in 2018.
- Democrats lost the most support from people living in small towns and in rural areas from 2018 to 2022.
- A greater percentage of people in all communities voted for Republicans in 2022 than in 2018.
- Republicans gained the most support from people living in small towns and in rural areas from 2018 to 2022.
- Democrats lost a similar percentage of votes, between 6% and 8% from all communities in 2022 compared to 2018.
- Republicans gained a similar percentage of votes, between 5% and 7% from all communities in 2022 compared to 2018.
- The percentage of decrease in support for Democrats is greater than the percentage of increase in support for Republicans in all communities.

Part C: Draw a conclusion about how the trend you described in Part B might impact the campaign strategies of political parties.

Acceptable conclusions include:

- Democrats will campaign to target voters in urban and suburban areas, because that is where they have the most support.
- Republicans will campaign to target voters in small town and rural areas, because that is where they have the most support.
- Both parties will improve outreach in communities where they have underperformed.

Part D: Explain how the data might impact the outcome of the presidential election in the Electoral College in 2024.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Republicans may make gains in the Electoral College, because they are most popular in small towns and rural areas, which are overrepresented by the winner-take-all feature.
- Democrats may continue to win states that have a large number of votes in the Electoral College, because although the Democratic Party has lost some support, it continues to be popular in urban areas, which tend to be located in large states.