



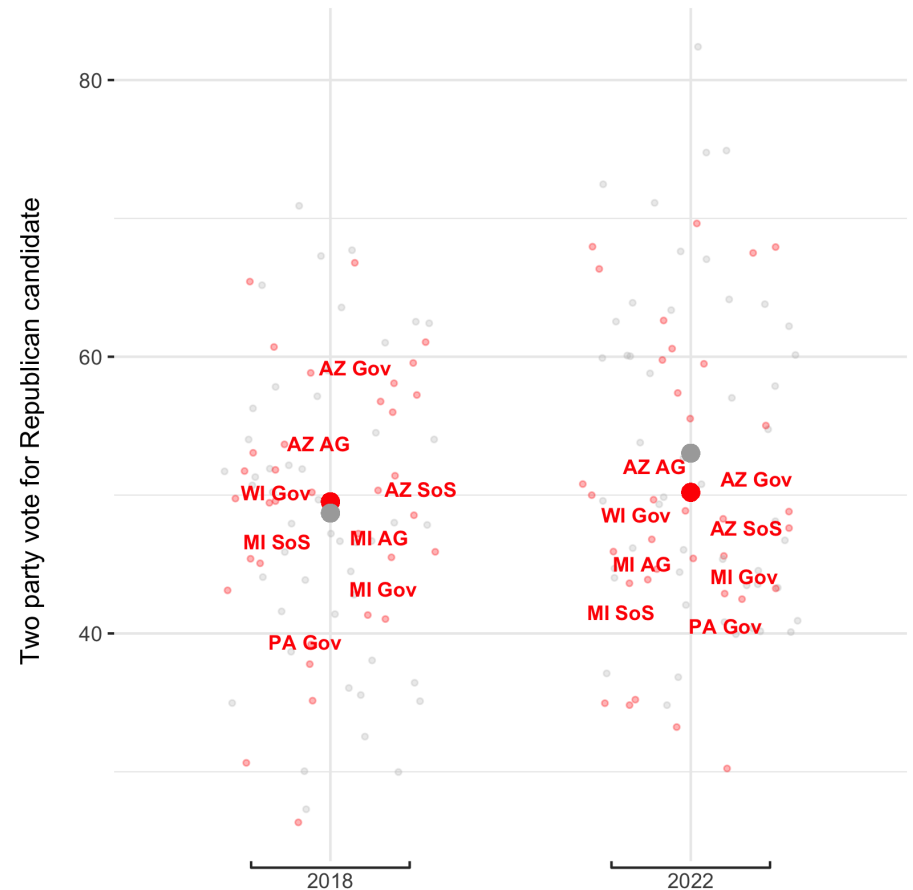
Election Denier Penalty

The election denier penalty in 2022 statewide races was large

- Election denying candidates received **2.3-3.7 points less** of the vote than expected, compared to similar candidates running in similar races
- This electoral penalty is big enough to have **cost election deniers 5-7 races**. And 1-2 non-election deniers won their races because they did not pay this penalty.
- There is no “election denier effect” for turnout in these races.
- This implies that the election denier vote share penalty is largely driven by *vote switching*. Voters who would have otherwise voted for election-denying candidates voted for their opponents instead.

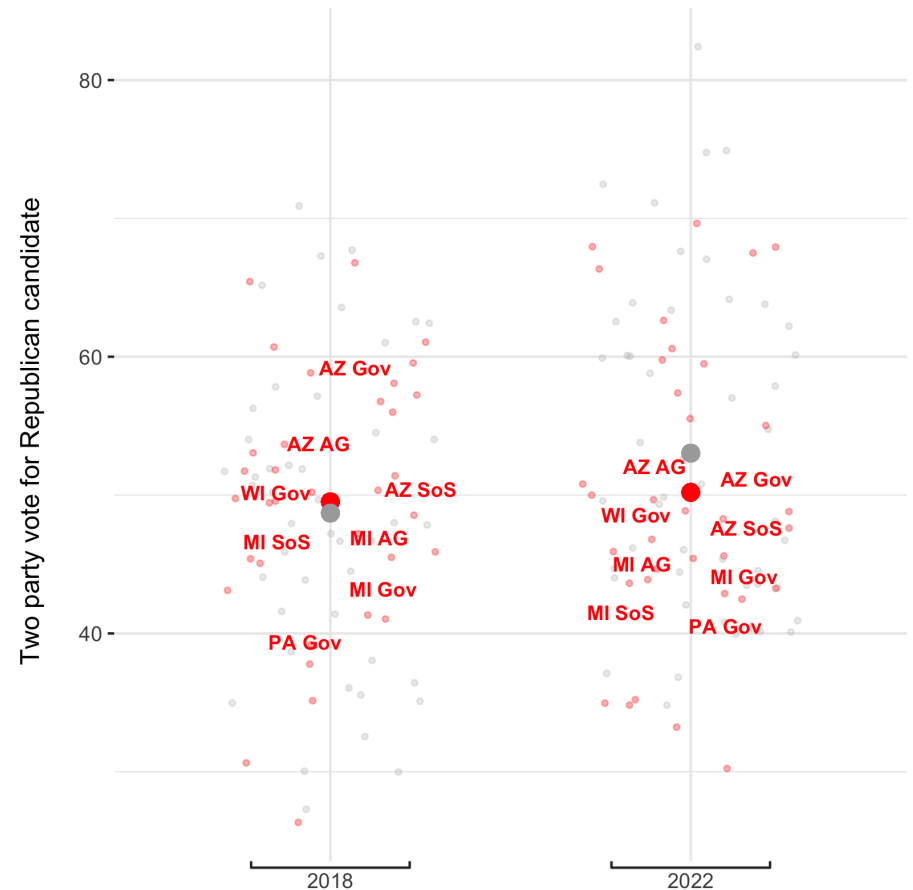
Election denier penalty D-in-D estimate

- A difference-in-differences (d-in-d) method compares the size of two gaps in some outcome between two groups.
 - One gap is from a time when the groups were different in some way.
 - The other gap is from a time *before* the groups were different in that way.
- Here we are comparing:
 - the gap in 2022 vote for the Republican candidate in races where election deniers ran vs. those in which they didn't.
 - the gap in 2018 vote for the Republican candidate in those same two groups of races, before there were any election deniers.



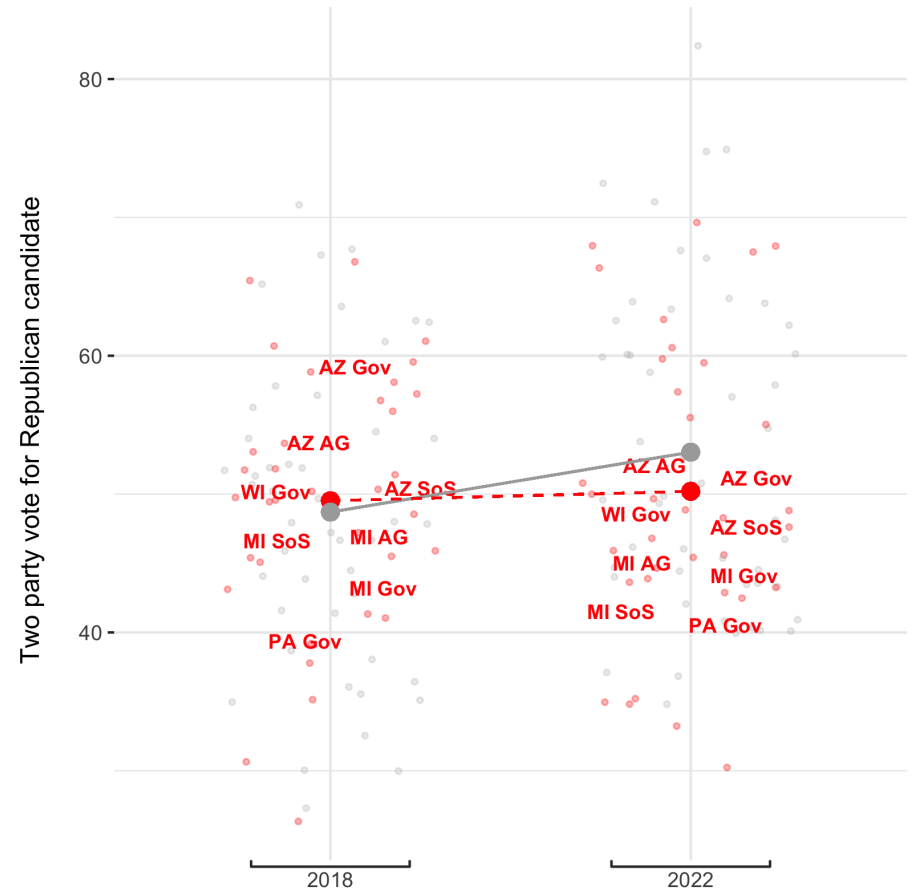
Election denier penalty D-in-D estimate

- Small dots are statewide races, contested by two major party candidates in 2022 and 2018.
- The outcome is the percent of the two-party vote for the Republican candidate in each race.
 - That is, the number of votes for the Republican divided by the number of votes cast for the Republican and the Democrat in the race.
 - By this measure, the winning threshold is always 50.
- Statewide races where election deniers ran in 2022 are in red.
- Big dots show the average performance in the two sets of races in each election year.



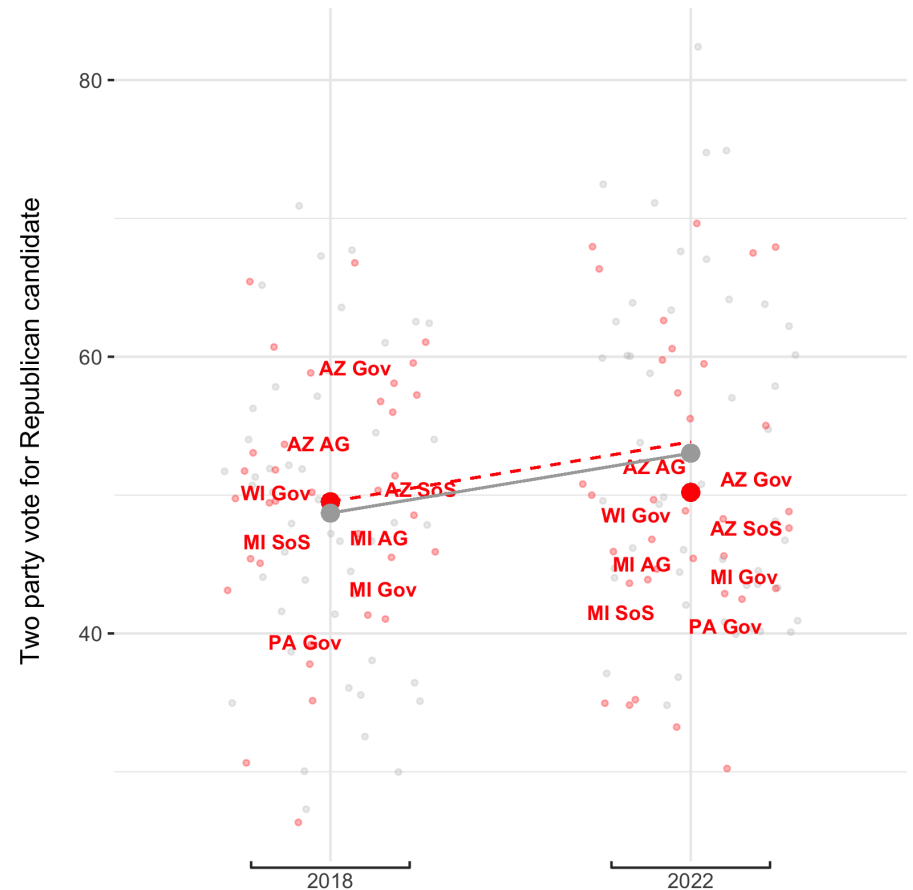
Election denier penalty D-in-D estimate

- In 2018, Republicans running in the same races as 2022 election deniers did slightly better than other Republicans on average.
 - Compare the 2018 big red dot to the 2018 big gray dot.
- 2022 was a good year for Republicans compared to 2018. As expected, in statewide races with no election denier, Republicans did much better in 2022 than in 2018 on average.
 - Compare the 2018 big gray dot to the 2022 big gray dot.
- But, in statewide races with an election denier, Republicans did about the same in 2022 than in 2018.
 - Compare the 2022 big red dot to the 2018 big red dot.



Election denier penalty D-in-D estimate

- What if 2022 election deniers saw the same improvement in their vote share as Republicans in non-election denier races?
 - i.e., what if races where election deniers ran followed the same trend as races where election deniers never ran, as shown by the dotted red line?
 - We can use the trend in performance of non-election deniers to benchmark the trend in performance of election deniers.



Election denier penalty D-in-D estimate

- This 3.7 point gap is the “election denier penalty,” the difference between the expected performance of election deniers vs. their actual performance.

This analysis assumes the two groups of races (gray and red) would have experienced the same pro-Republican trend were it not for election deniers.

- But we can adjust for other differences between the the two sets of races in 2018 and 2022 using regression analysis:
 - whether there was a reproductive rights ballot initiative, a democracy ballot initiative, whether either candidate was an incumbent, whether Trump endorsed one of the 2018 candidates, and the 2020 vote share for Trump
- 2.3 points is the adjusted election denier penalty.

