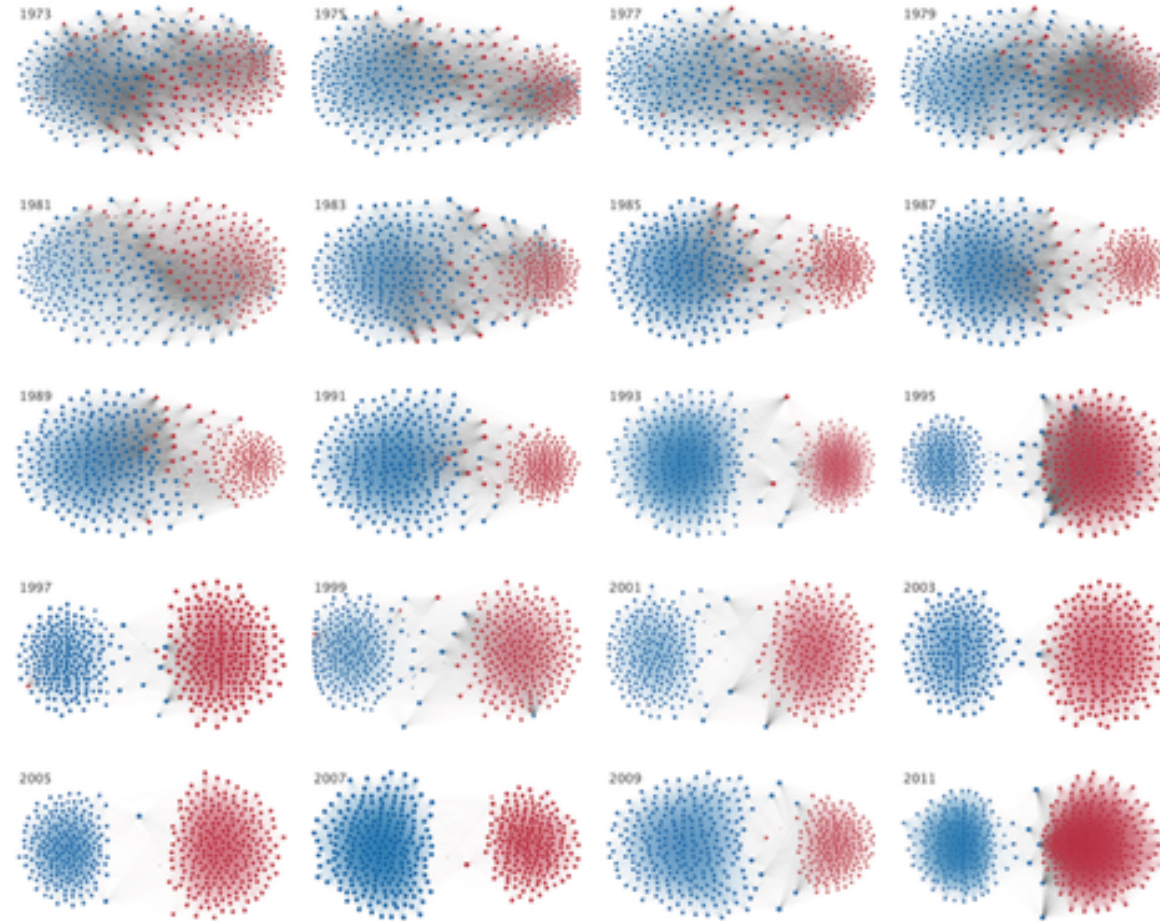


Making sense of polarization and hyper-partisanship:
Some observations for funders, advocates, and their evaluators

January 12, 2016

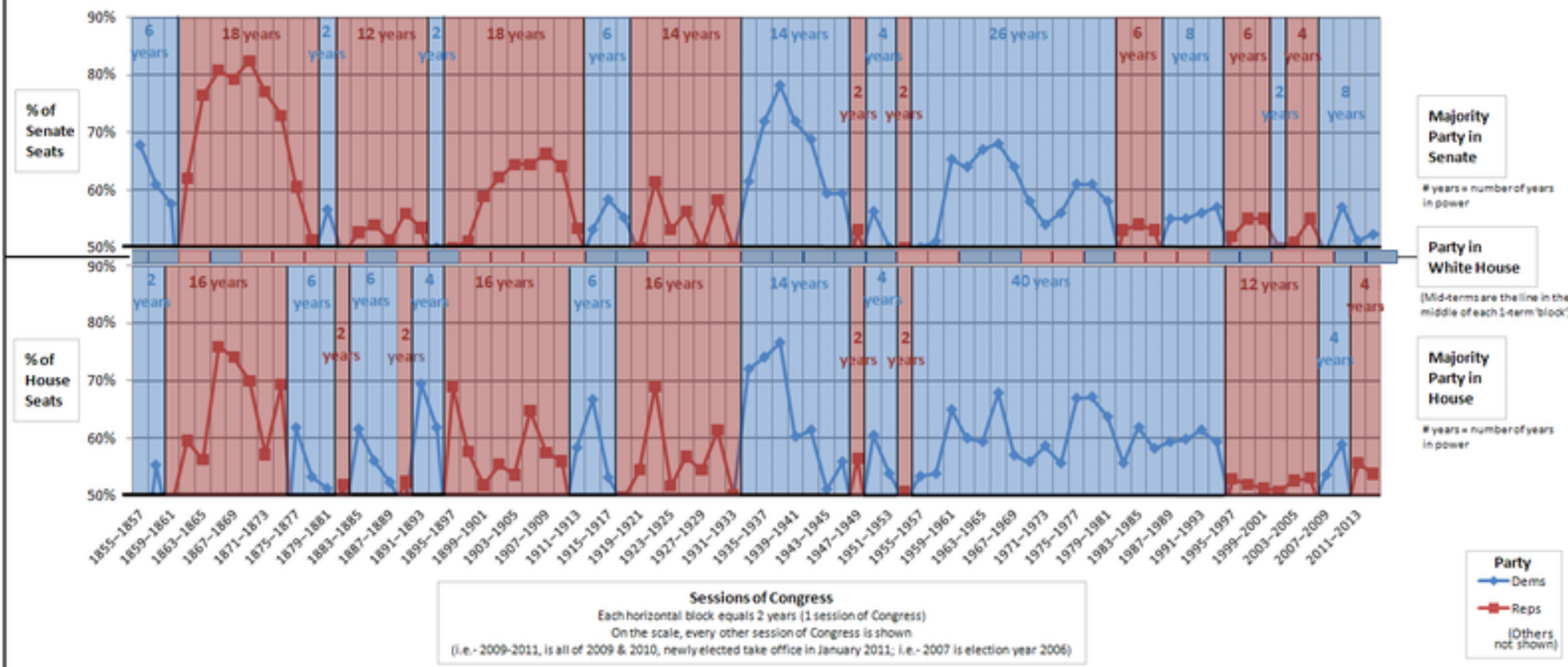
Aspen Planning and Evaluation Roundtable

Division of Democrat and Republican Party members over time



Andris C, Lee D, Hamilton MJ, Martino M, Gunning CE, et al. (2015) The Rise of Partisanship and Super-Cooperators in the U.S. House of Representatives. PLoS ONE 10(4): e0123507. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0123507
<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0123507>

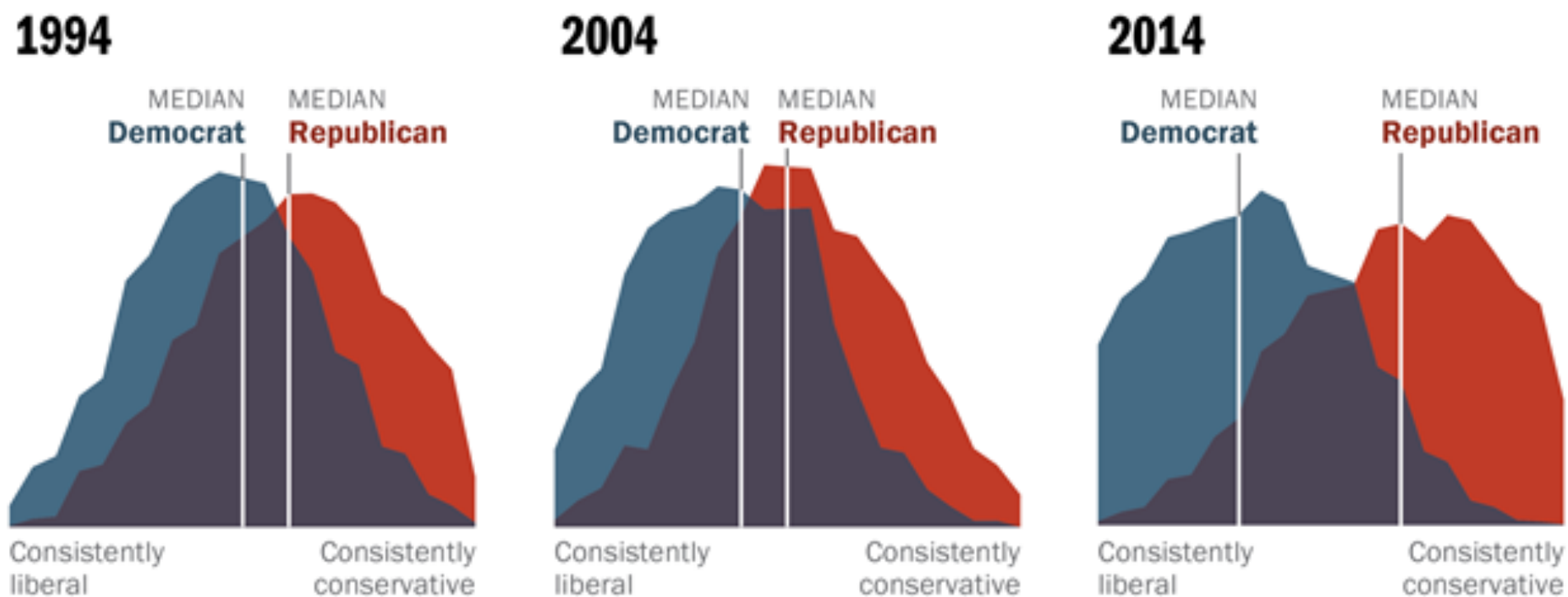
Control of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives: 1855-2015



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Presidents_and_control_of_Congress

Democrats and Republicans More Ideologically Divided than in the Past

Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values



Source: 2014 Political Polarization in the American Public

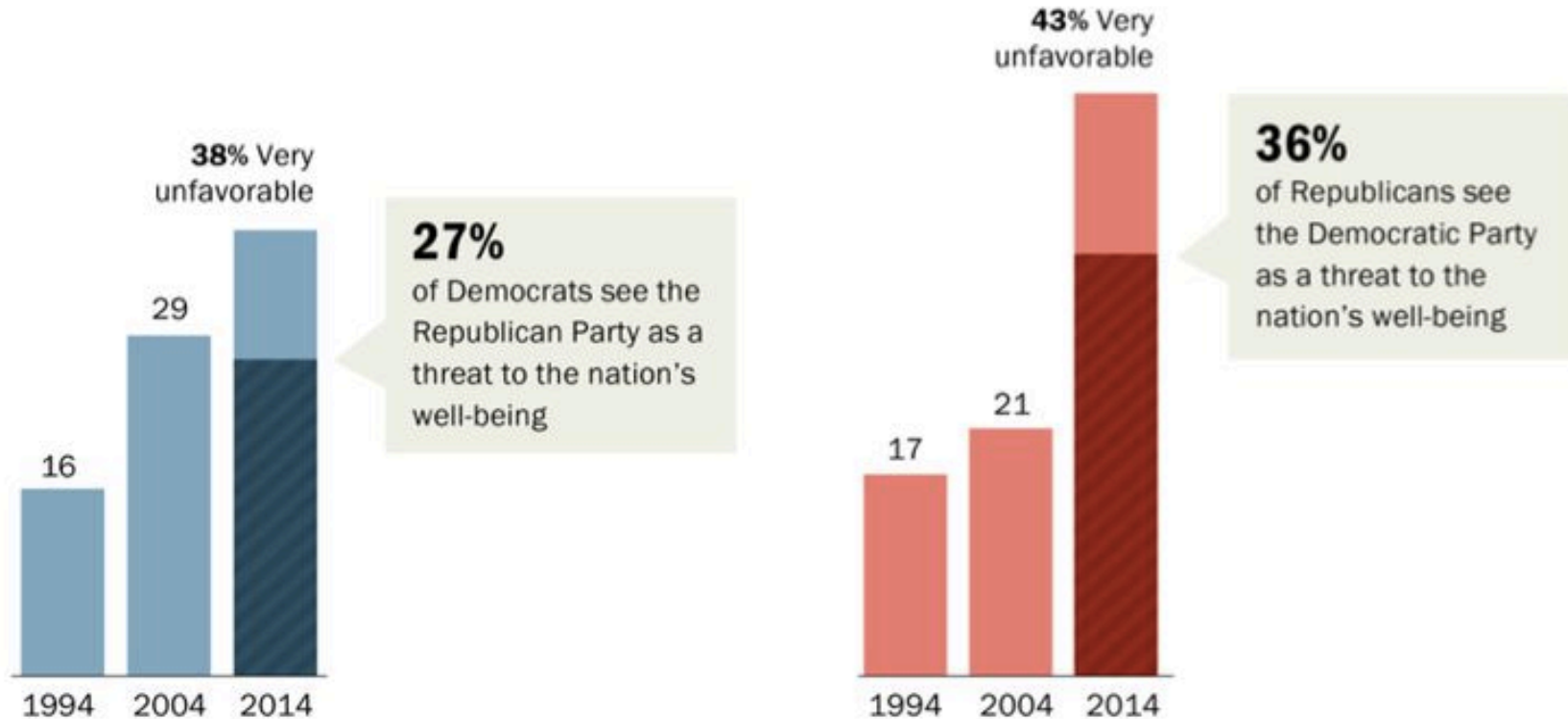
Notes: Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see Appendix A). The blue area in this chart represents the ideological distribution of Democrats; the red area of Republicans. The overlap of these two distributions is shaded purple. Republicans include Republican-leaning independents; Democrats include Democratic-leaning independents (see Appendix B).

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Beyond Dislike: Viewing the Other Party as a 'Threat to the Nation's Well-Being'

Democratic *attitudes about the* Republican Party

Republican *attitudes about the* Democratic Party



Source: 2014 Political Polarization in the American Public

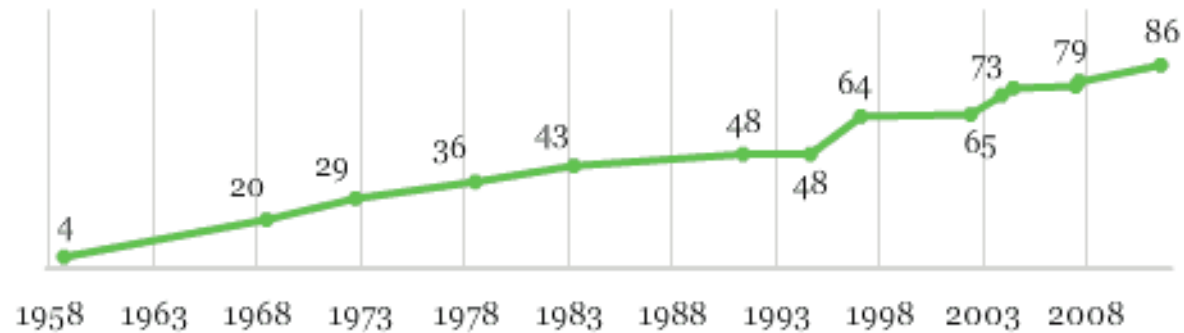
Notes: Questions about whether the Republican and Democratic Parties are a threat to the nation's well being asked only in 2014. Republicans include Republican-leaning independents; Democrats include Democratic-leaning independents (see Appendix B).

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We have some good news...and some bad news

Do you approve or disapprove of marriage between blacks and whites?

■ % Approve



1958 wording: "...marriages between white and colored people."

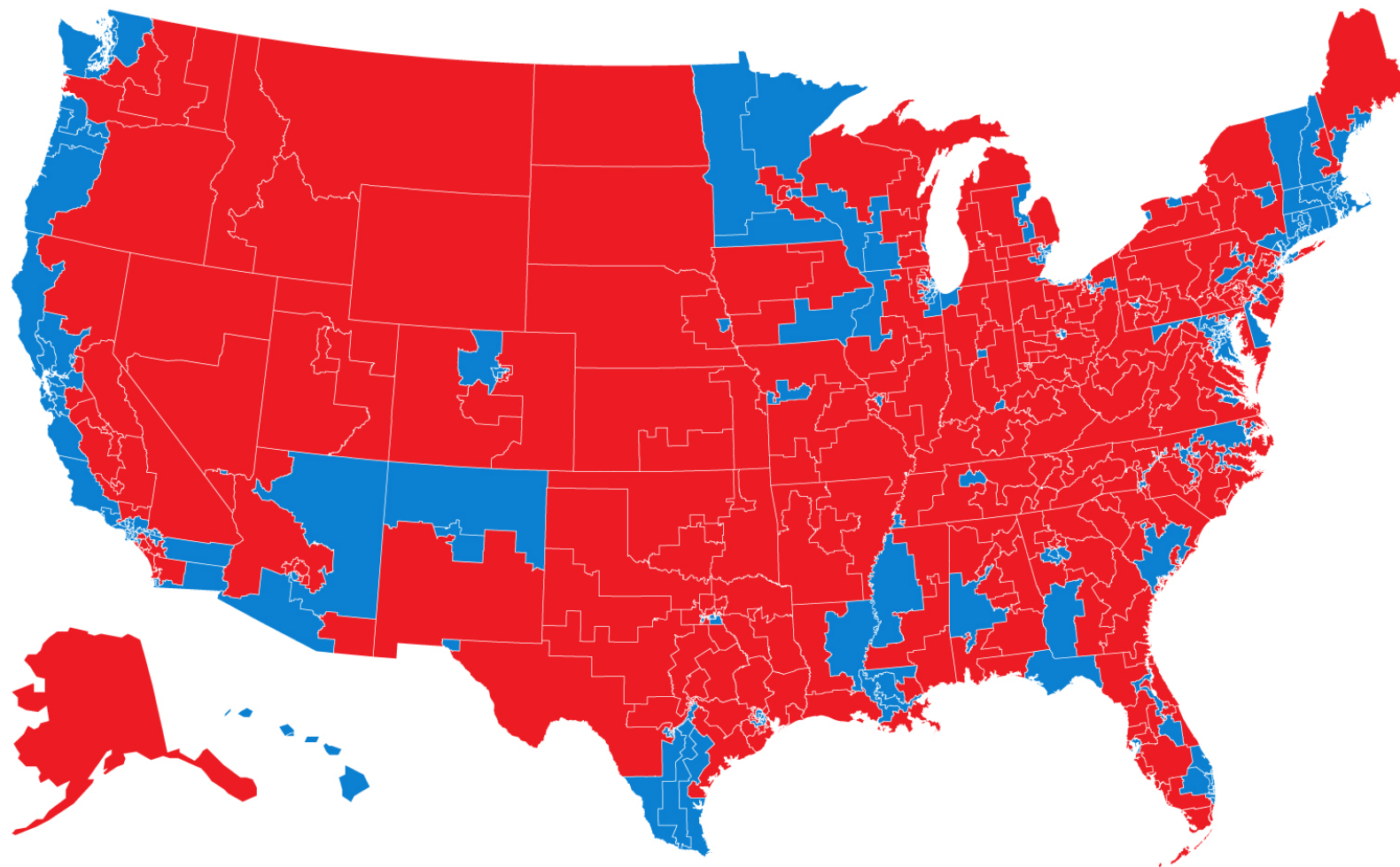
1968-1978 wording: "...marriages between whites and non-whites."

GALLUP®

	"Displeased" by inter-party marriage of child? (1960)	"Unhappy" about inter-party marriage of child? (2012)
GOP	4%	49%
Dem	5%	33%

Source: Iyengar, Sood, Lelkes, "Affect Not Ideology: A Social Identity Perspective on Polarization," *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 2012

114th Congress: House of Representatives map



NATIONAL JOURNAL Graphic

Sources: Staff reports; AP
