

Corrections to *Polarized America*

Chapter 4 of the original, hardback edition of our book contained some computational errors in the data analysis. These errors have been corrected. The revised results appear in the paperback edition of the book.

Chapter 3 of both editions contains a modeling error in the analysis of the effect of income on partisan identification and voting behavior.

To model voter preferences we used a model developed by Patrick Bolton and Gerard Roland.

We used the notation y_i to denote voter income, U_i to denote voter utility, and \bar{y} to denote mean income.

A fraction $1 - \alpha t$ of tax revenue is subject to deadweight loss and

$$U_i = (1 - t)y_i + (1 - \alpha t)\bar{y}$$

Let $r_i = \frac{y_i}{\bar{y}}$ denote relative income.

Voters with income greater than the mean, that is relative income greater than 1, will prefer a tax rate of 0 while those with lower relative income will have a most preferred tax rate given by:

$$t^* = \frac{1 - r_i}{2\alpha}.$$

More generally, preferences about taxes depend only on relative income. The real level of mean income is irrelevant.

However, let the parties now propose tax policies t_D, t_R . The utility difference between the parties for voter i is given by:

$$U_{iR} - U_{iD} = \left\{ r_i(t_D - t_R) - (t_D - t_R) \left[1 - \alpha(t_D + t_R) \right] \right\} \bar{y}$$

In *Polarized America*, chapter 3, we analyzed data from NES studies starting in 1952. In our ordered probits of partisan identification and probits of vote choice, we used r_i as a regressor by dividing through by \bar{y} . This would be an innocuous rescaling in a single cross section. When we pool multiple cross-sections, however, this is a mistake because mean income is not constant in time. Our regressor should have been $y_i = r_i \bar{y}$ (inflation adjusted). We have rerun the data analysis with the correct regressor, real income. The

results are substantively similar to and slightly, but not statistically significantly, better than the results with the incorrect regressor.