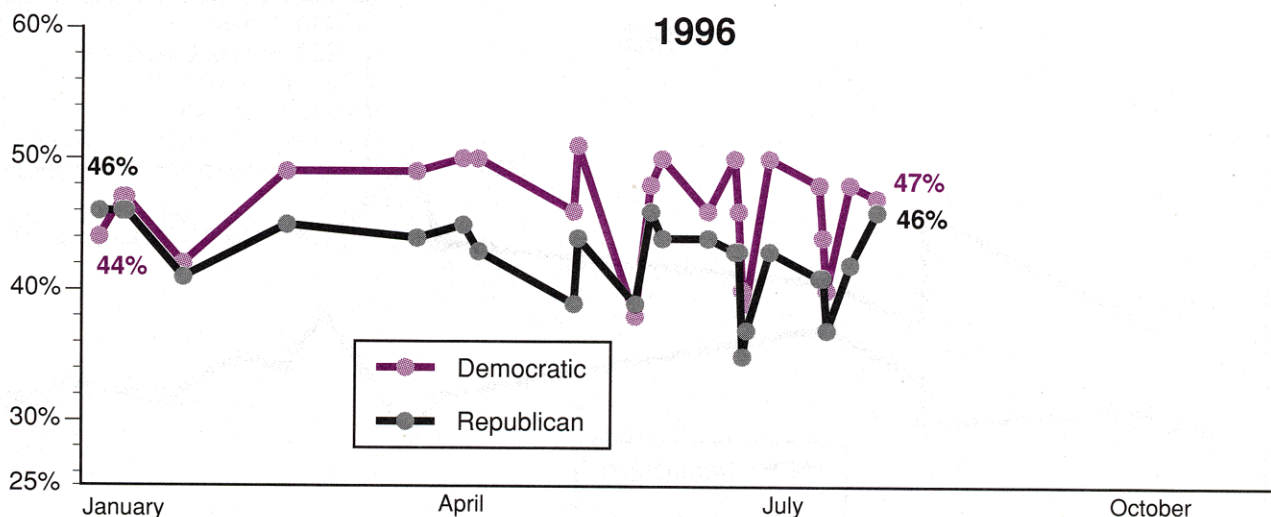
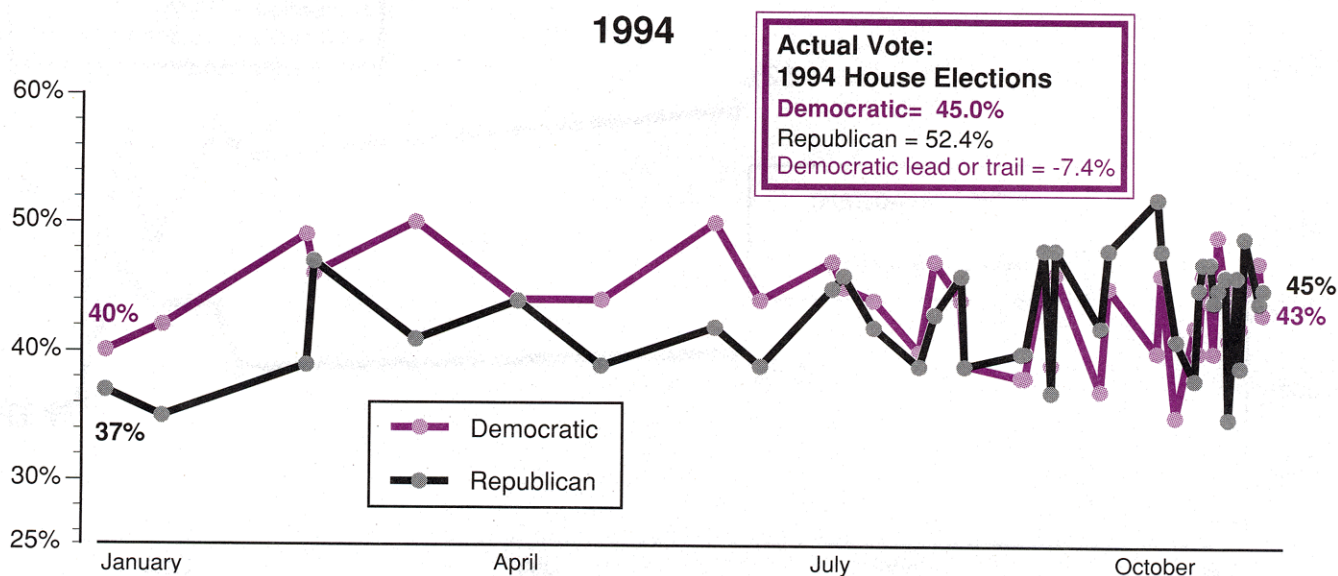


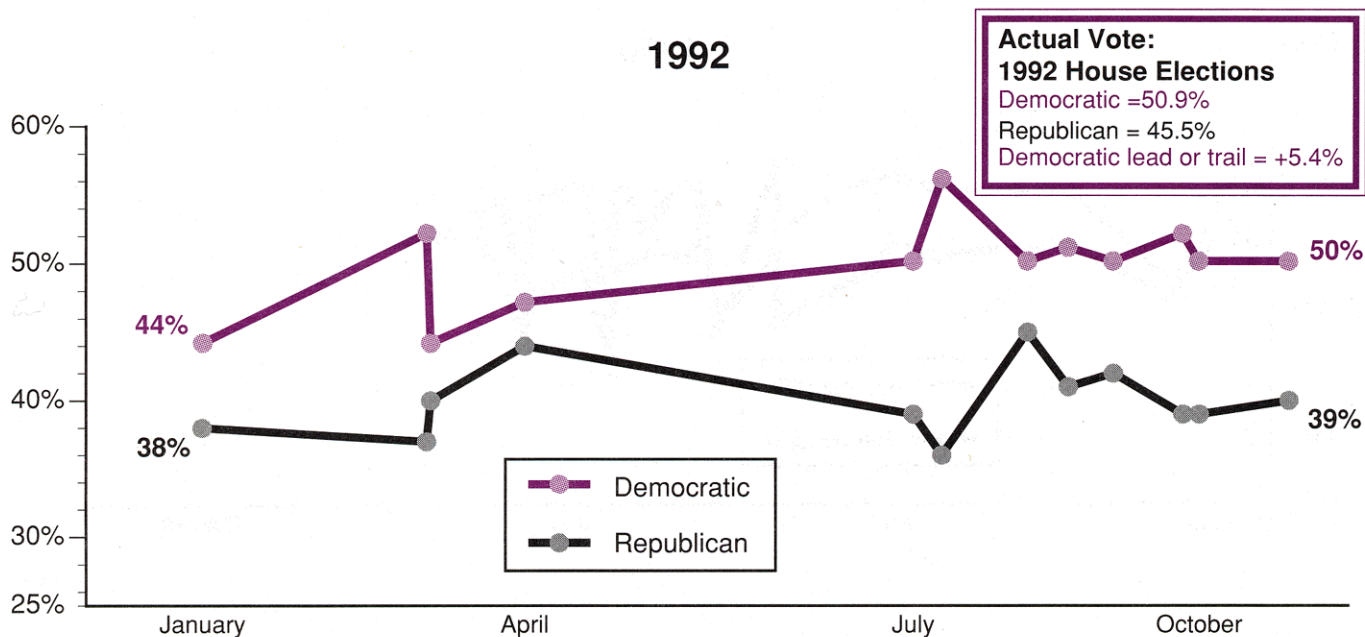
Tracking Congressional Vote Intentions, From the 1950s to 1996



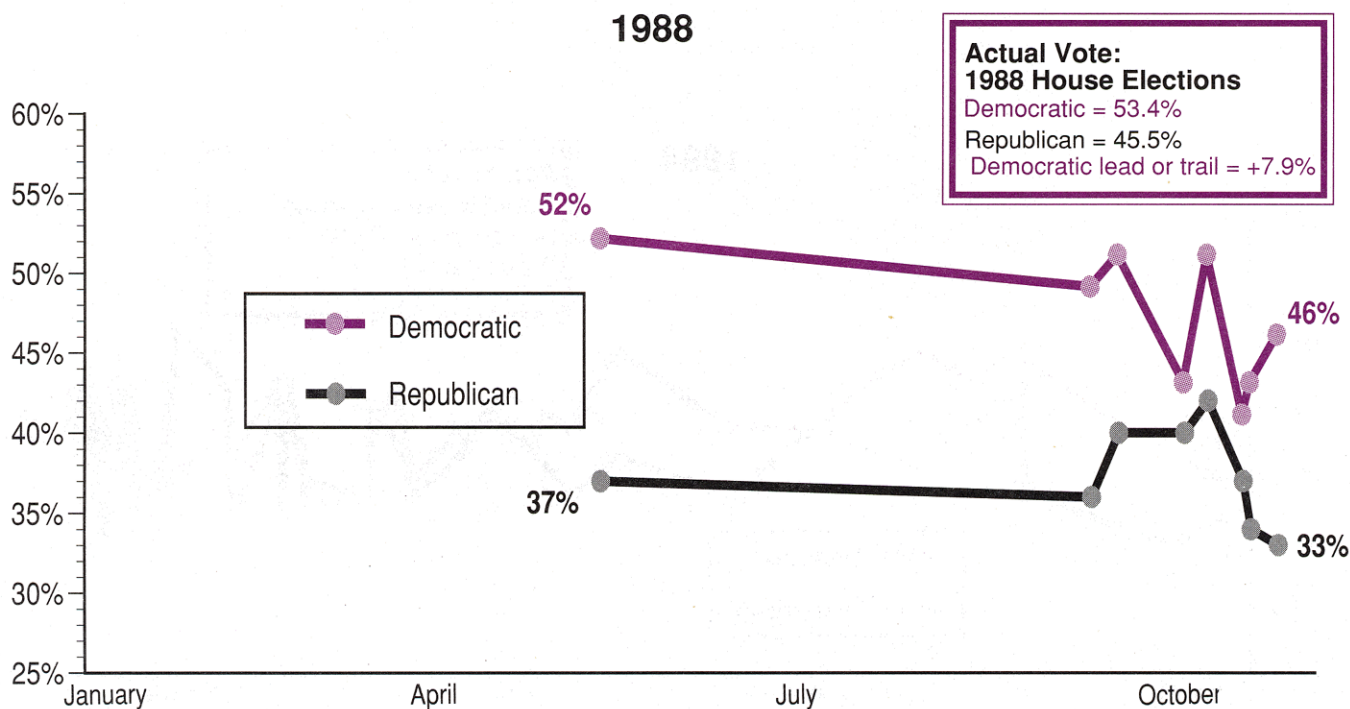
In early May, 1950, Gallup asked its national adult sample, "If the 1950 elections for Congress were being held today, which party would you like to see win in this state—the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?". Those saying they were "undecided" were then pushed as to how they leaned. Forty-seven percent declared themselves inclined to the Democratic Party, 31% to the Republican Party. Numerous variations of this "generic congressional vote intent" question have been posed by many different survey firms over the ensuing 45 years.



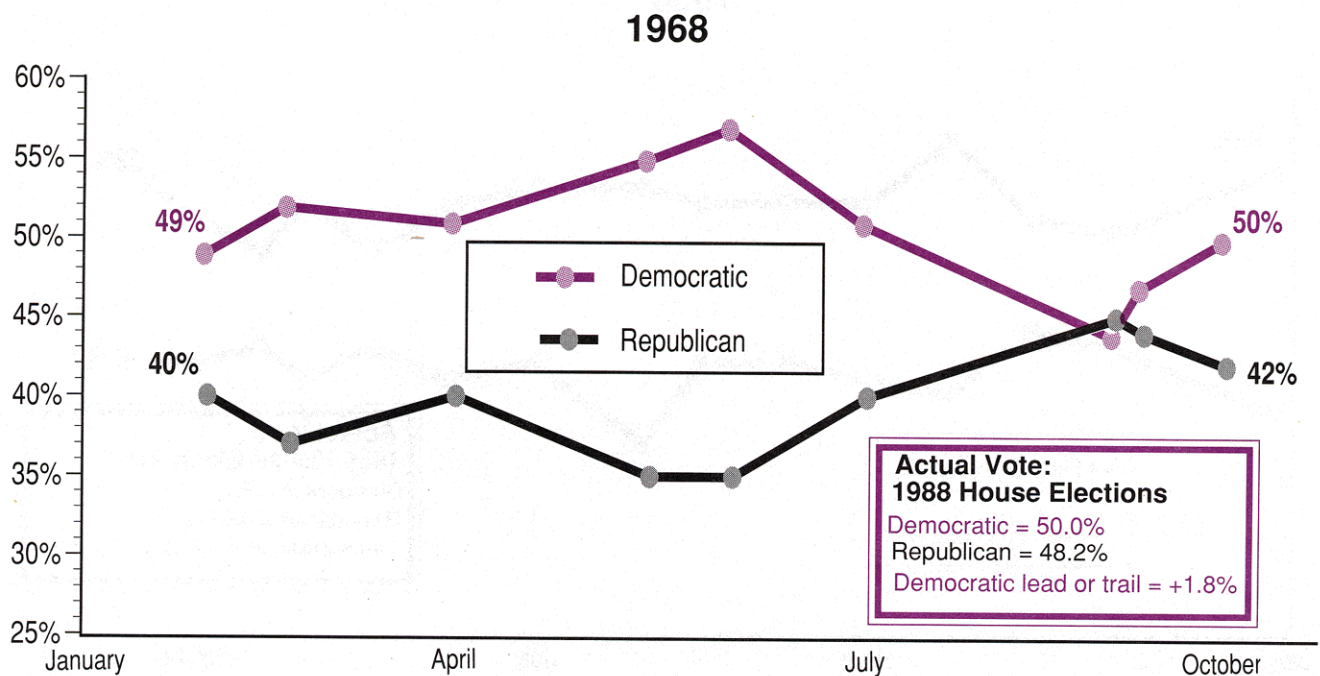
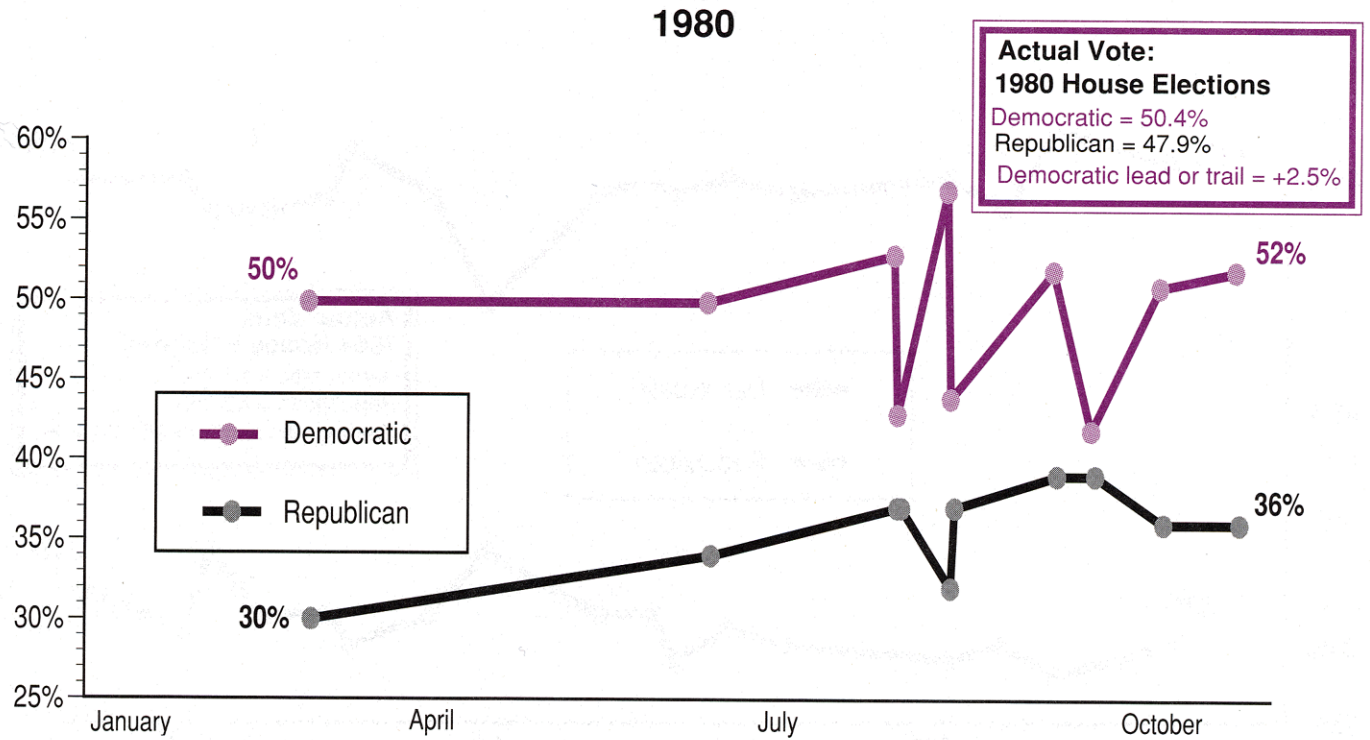
To Date in 1996, the Republicans' Position in These Trial Heats is Essentially the Same as It Was in 1994, and Far Better Than in Any Previous Year



For much of the span Gallup asked, “Which party would you **like to see win** in this congressional district...?” Now, Gallup asks, “Which party’s candidate would you **vote for** in your congressional district...?” Most other polling organizations ask variants of the “vote for” question in their surveys. The switch over from “like to see win” to “vote for” occurred after the 1992 elections. The data on this page and the two that follow are all “like to see win” askings. Page 37 is entirely “vote for” questions. For each year shown, all askings by national survey organizations that the Roper Center has been able to locate are included in the graphs.

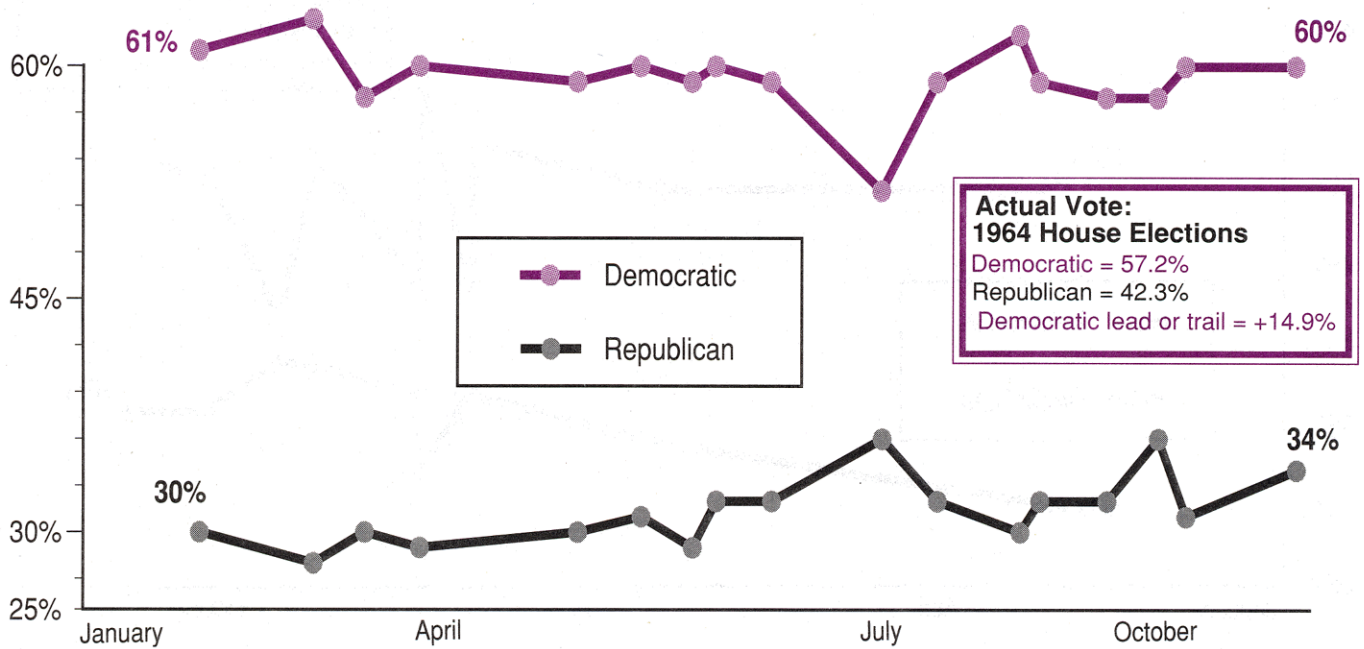


The Late Congressional Vote Trial Heats Have Consistently Overestimated the Democrats' Proportion of the Actual Vote



The Democrats' Margin in 1964 is Easily the Largest of Modern Times

1964



1956

