

Who Likes Paper Now?

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2023 ESRA

ELECTION 2022 ELECTIONS LAW & GOVERNMENT

After botching election results, Pinal County wants to try hand-counting ballots

Shasta supervisor renews unproven claims of voter fraud as he sets town hall on hand counts

Background



- + Shift to DREs in early 2000s touched off a backlash and movement against electronic voting machines.
- + 2020 misinformation launched a right-wing attack on computers & demand for hand-counted paper.
- + Little academic research on attitudes toward voting machines
 - Dunham & Stewart 2020



Two Surveys/Two Sets of Questions

Cooperative Election Study

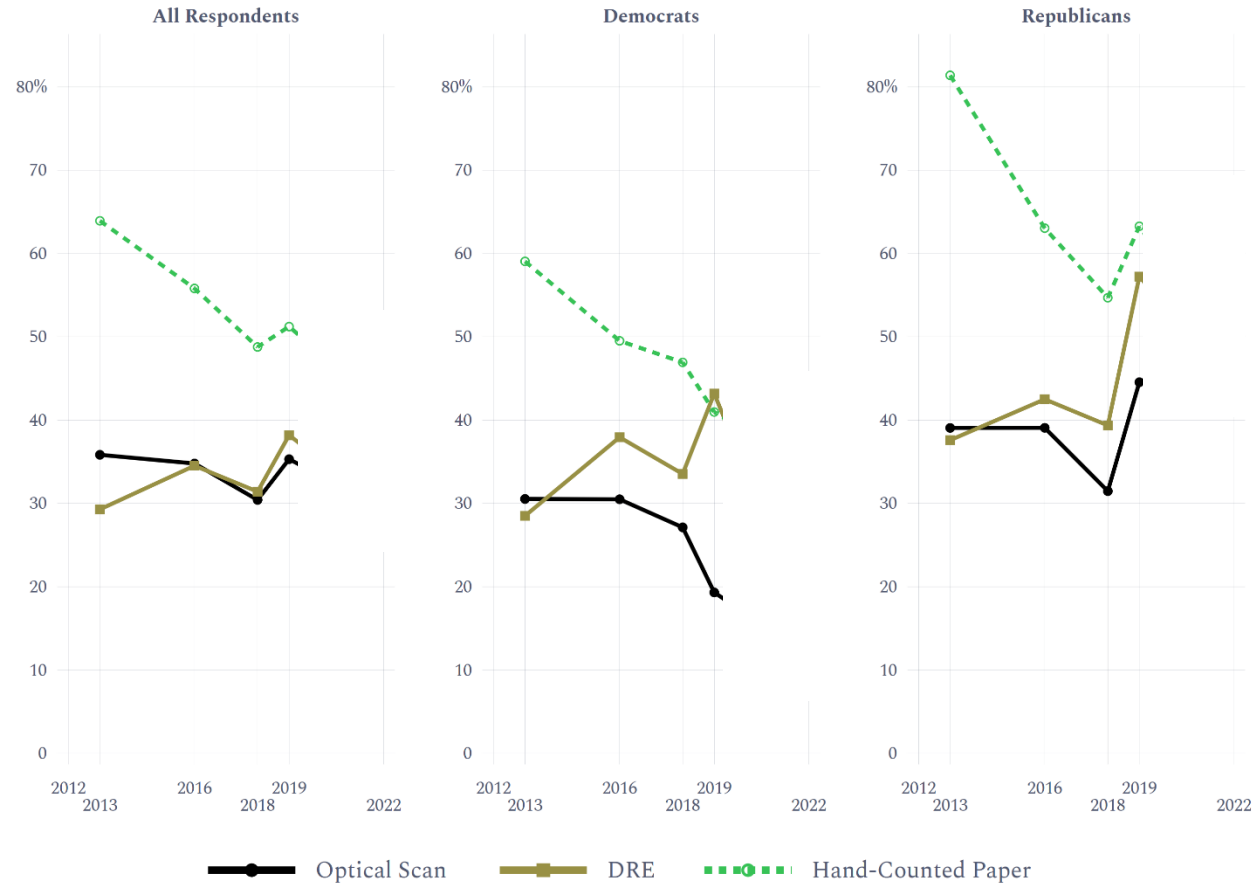
- + Attitudes toward technology
 - Agree/disagree: [opscans/DREs/hand-counted paper]...
 - + ... makes it easy for dishonest people to steal elections
 - + ... counts votes accurately
 - + ... is easy for people like me to use
 - Which machine would you prefer to use?

Survey of the Performance of American Elections

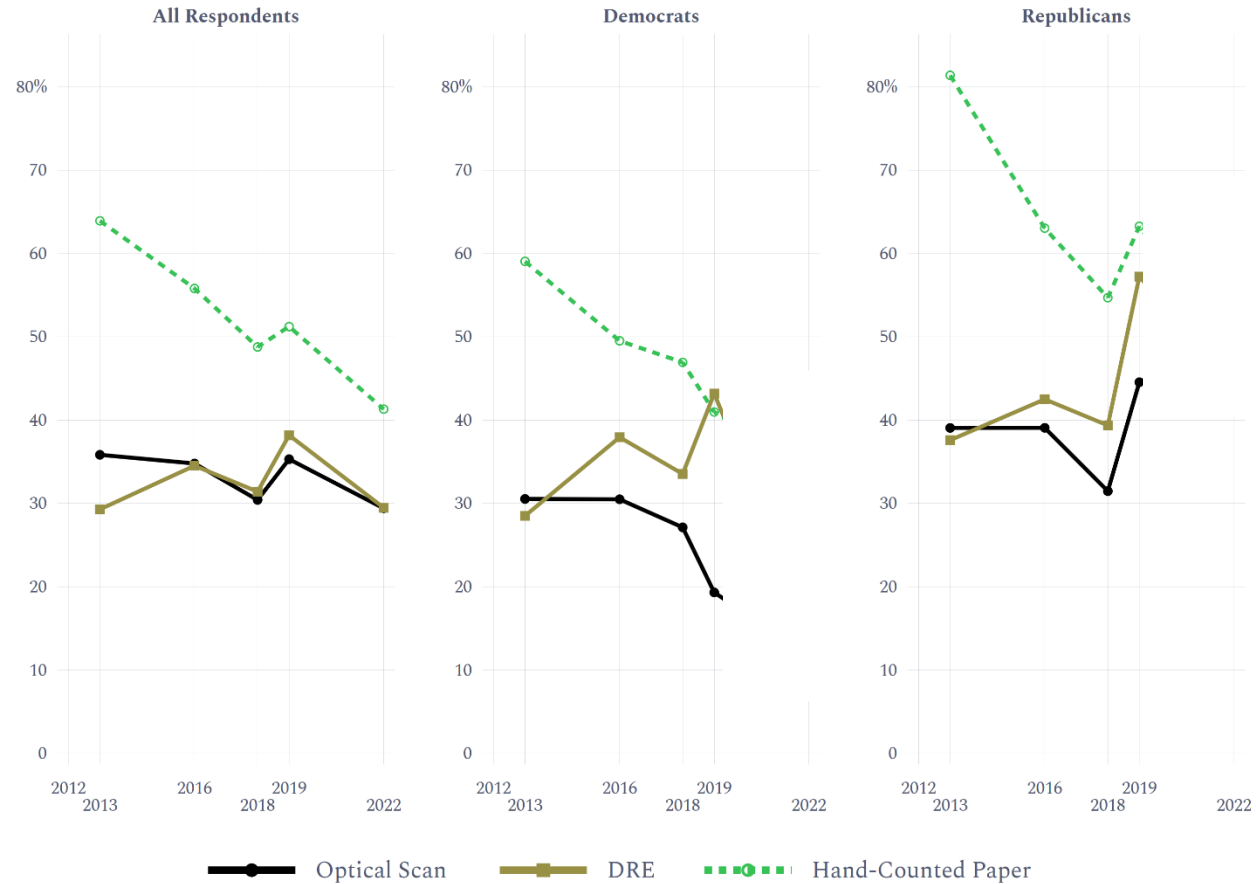
- + Reform support
 - Prohibit the use of computers to mark or count ballots



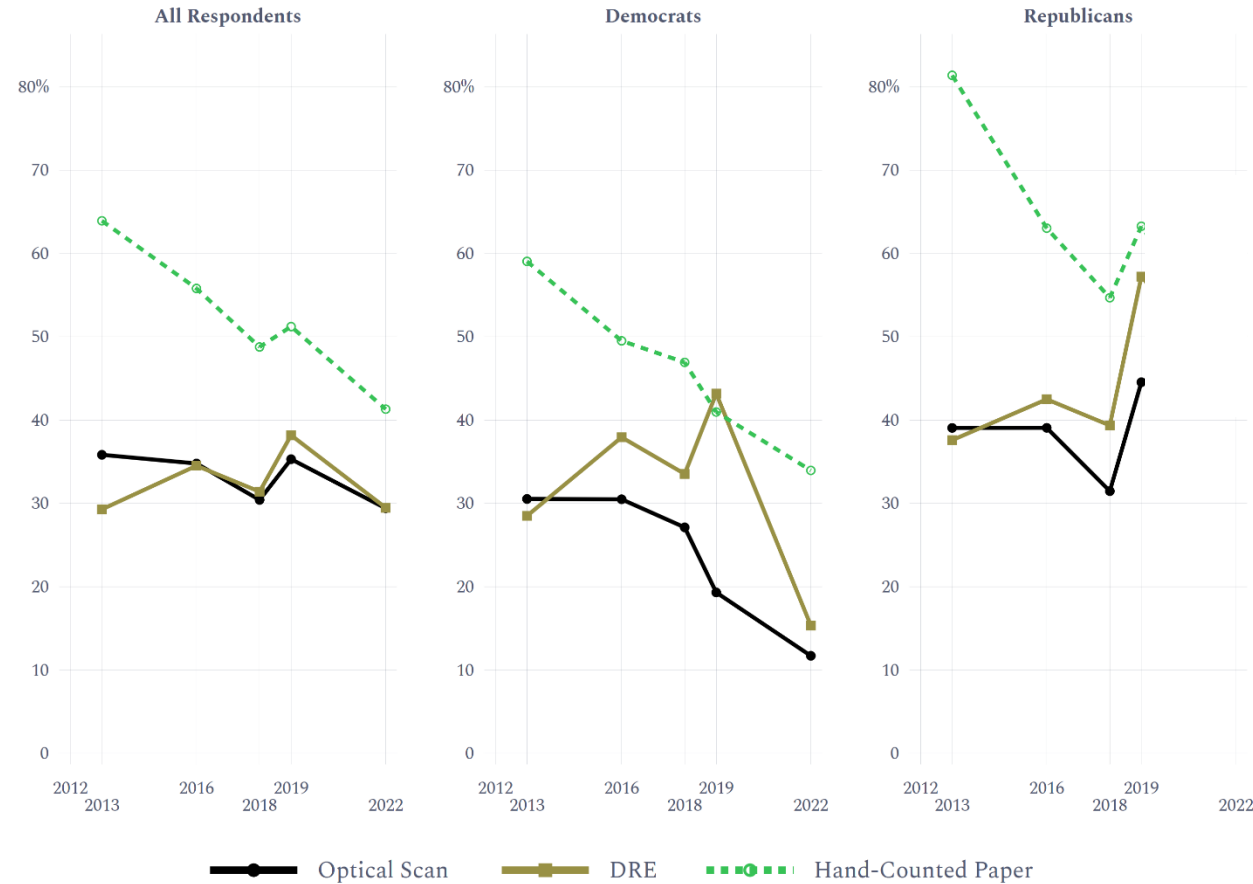
[Technology] makes it easy for dishonest people to steal elections



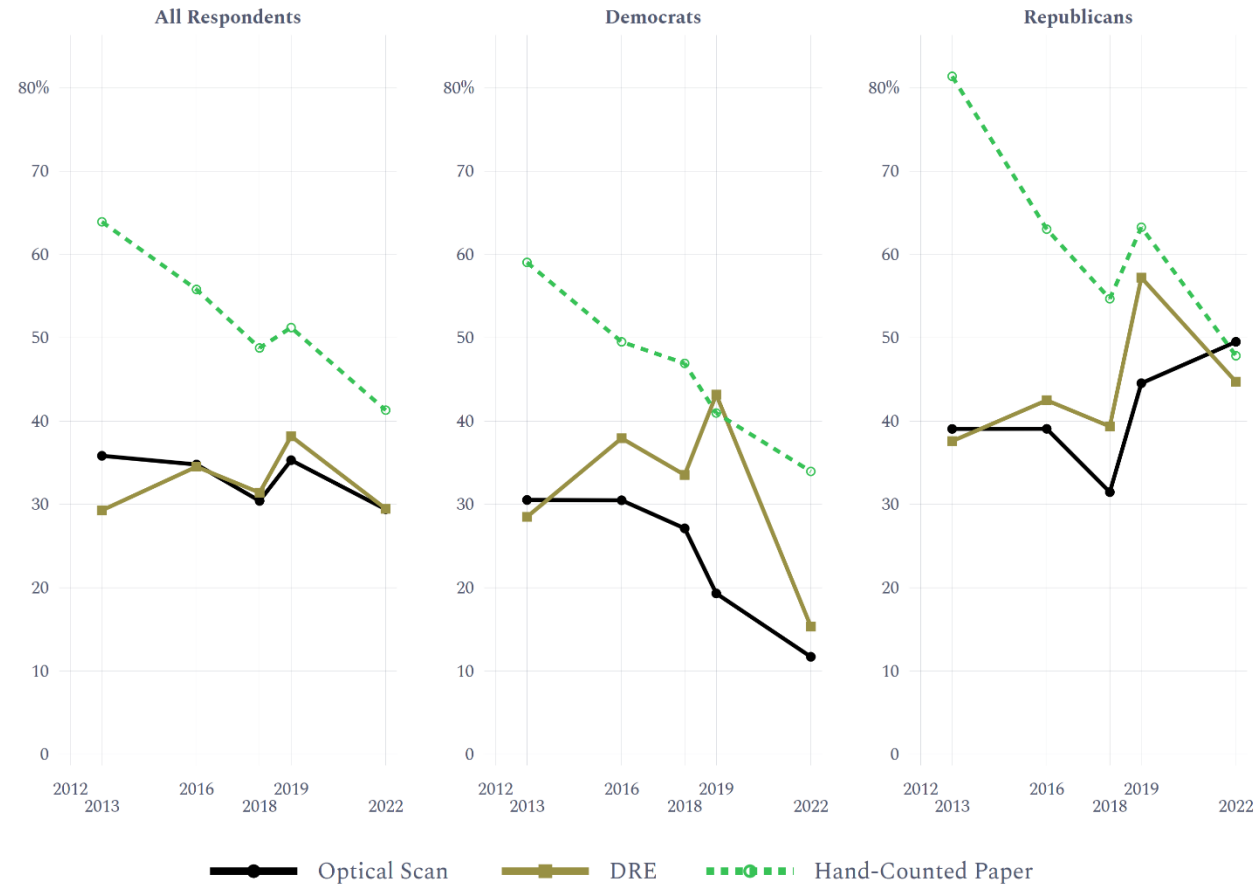
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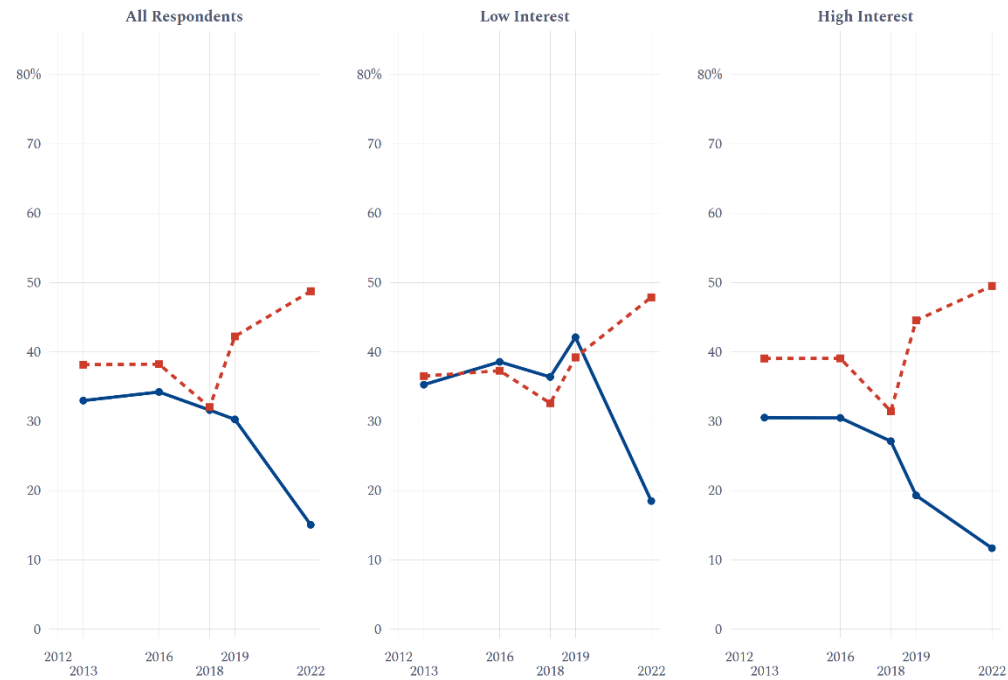


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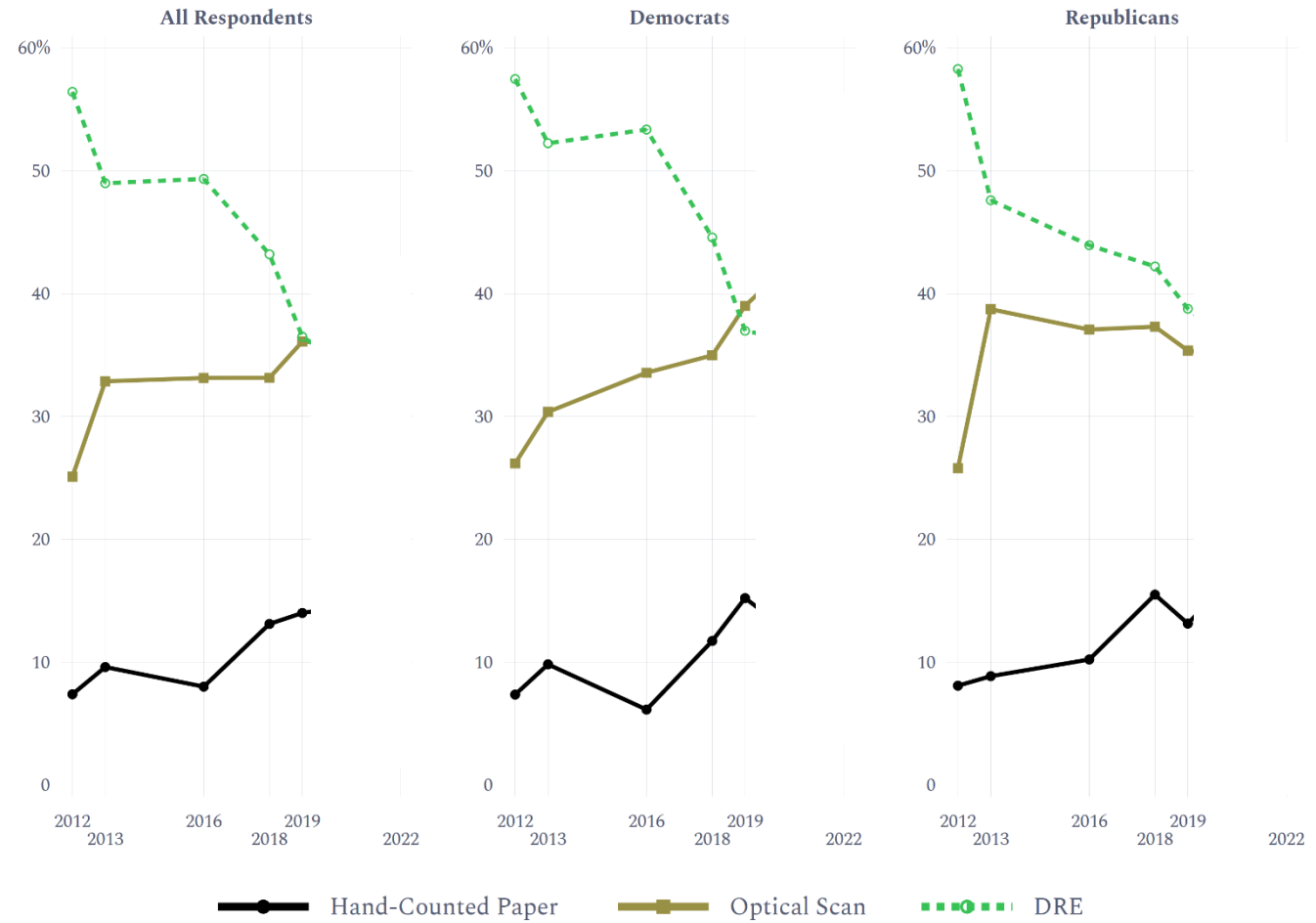
Optical Scan



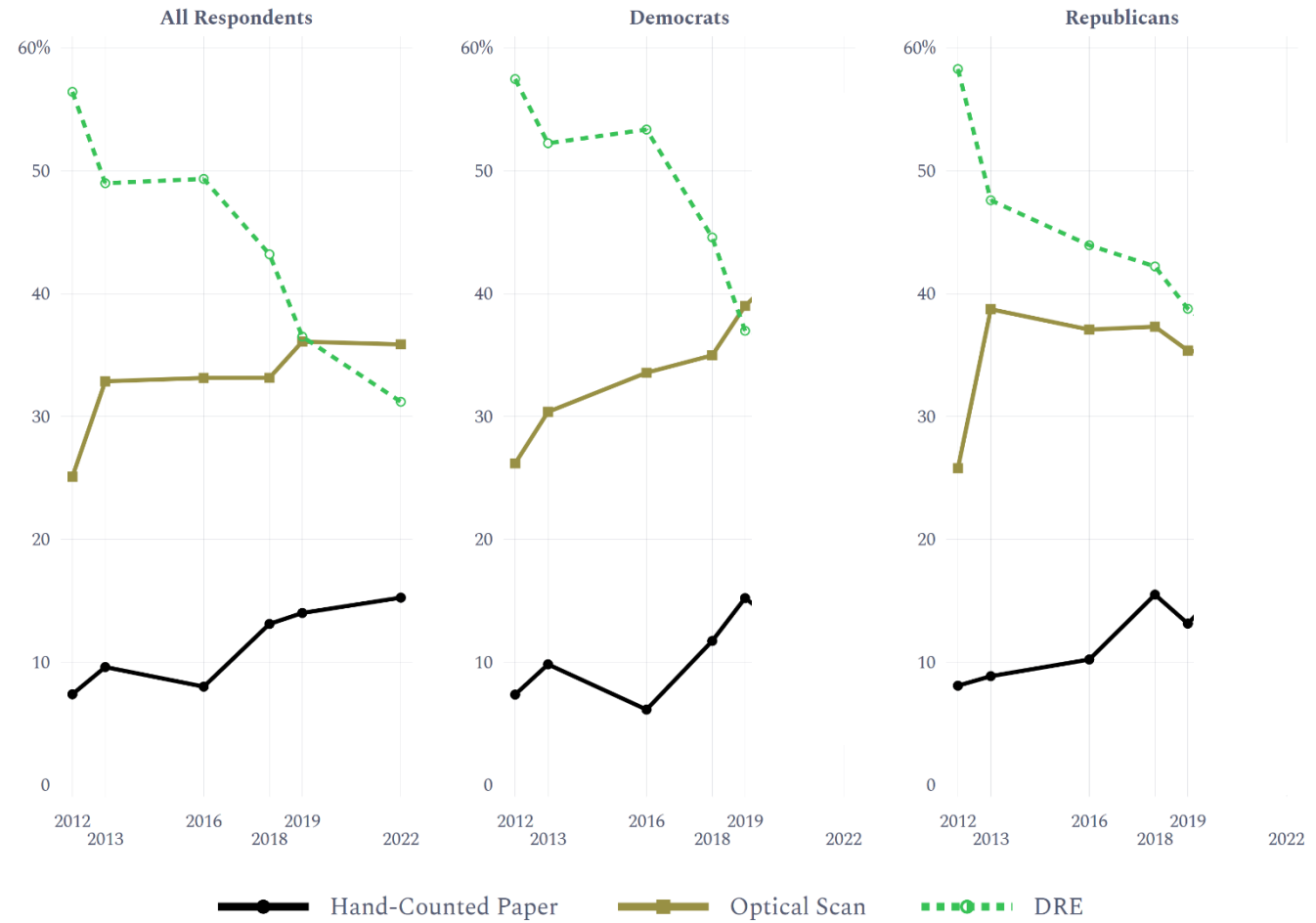
Hand-Counted Paper



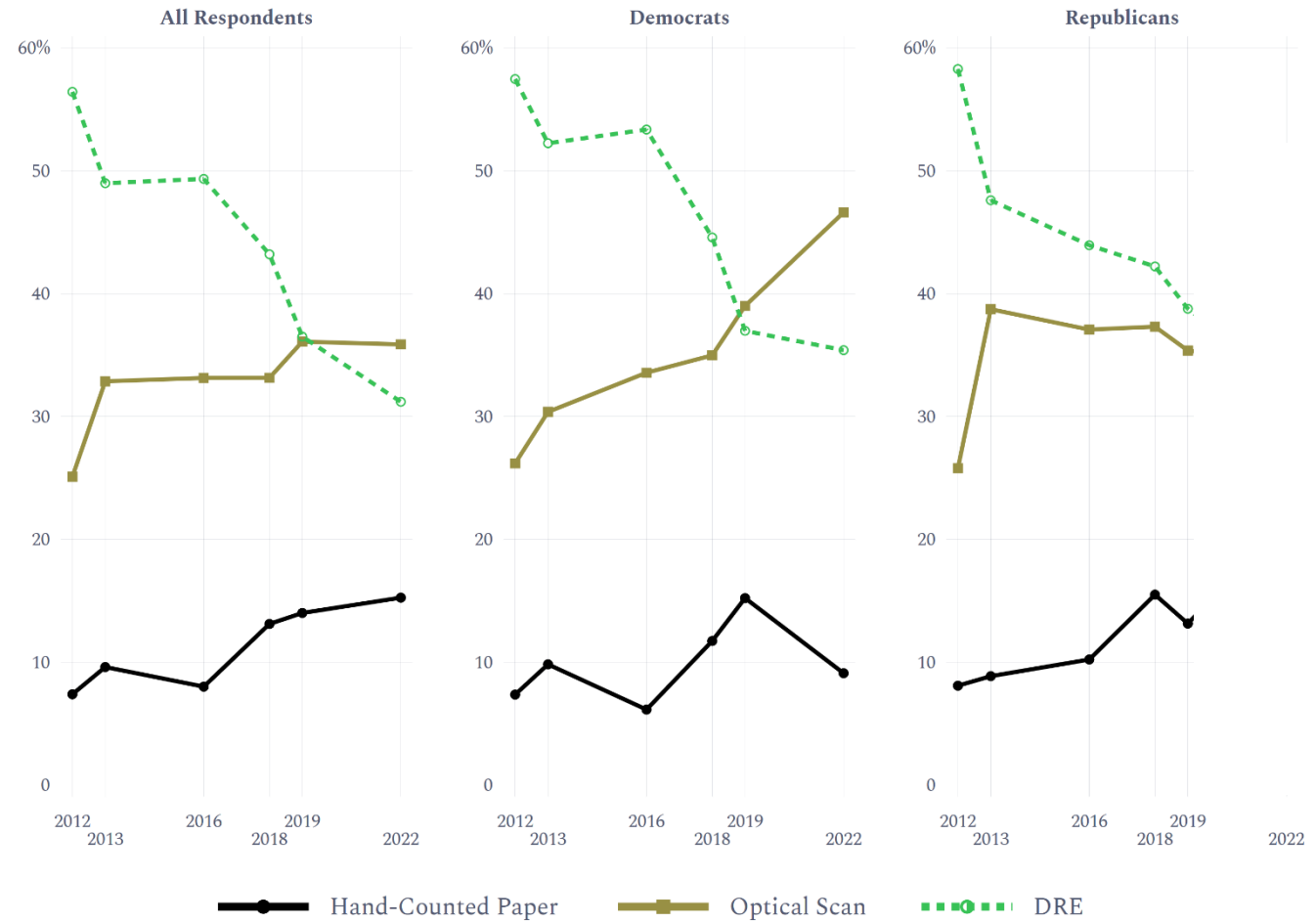
Most preferred



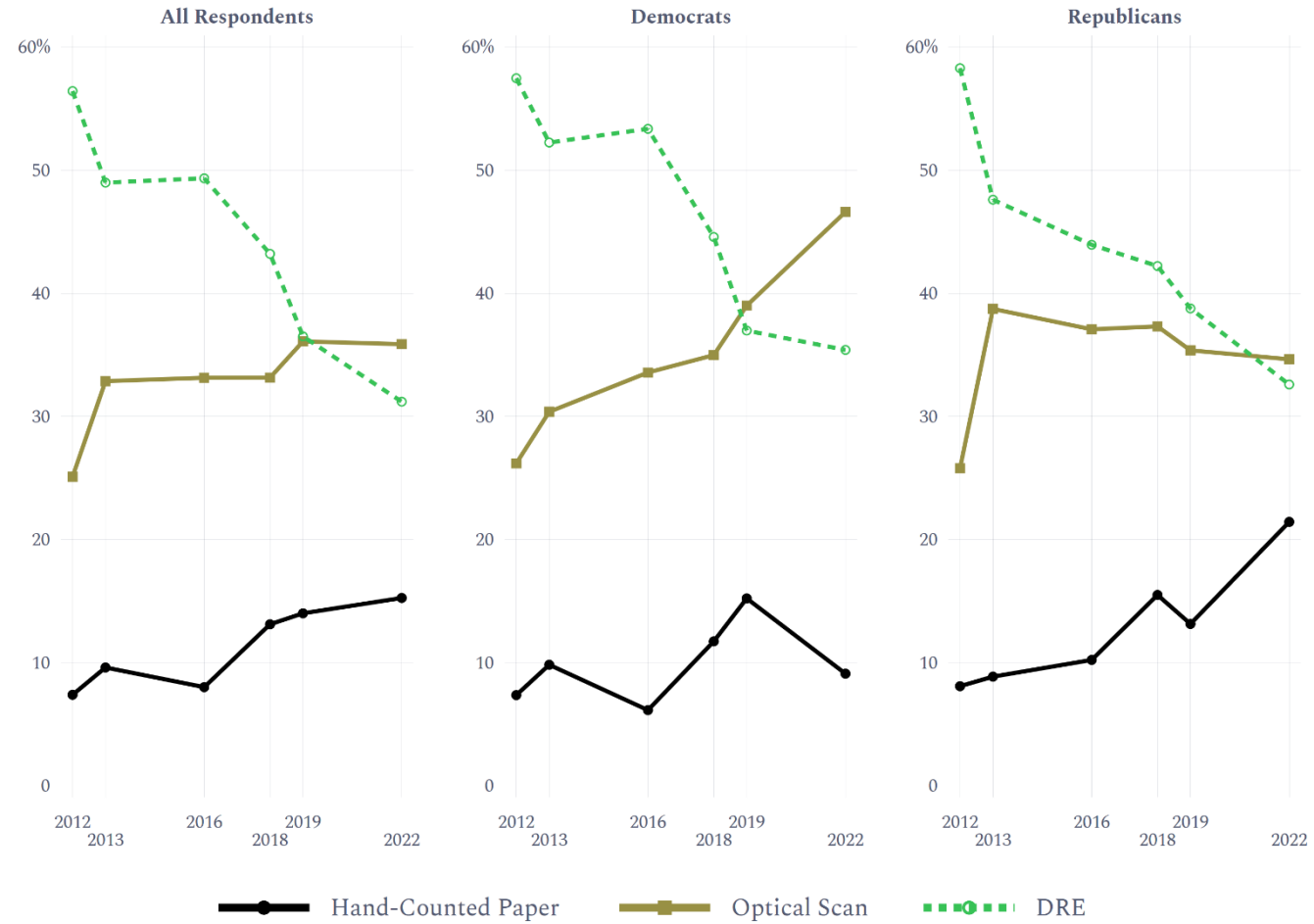
Most preferred



Most preferred



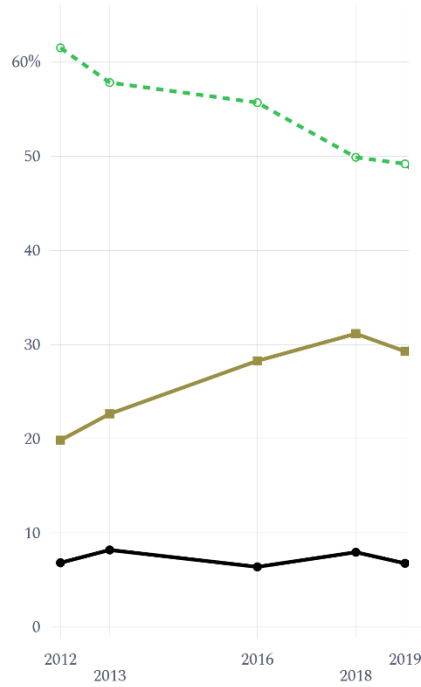
Most preferred



Most preferred

Democrats

Low interest

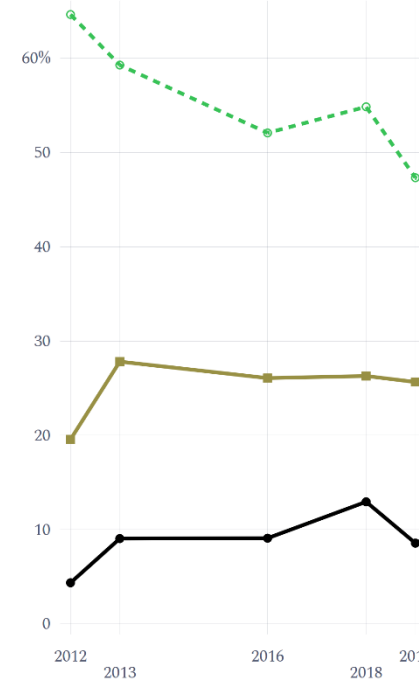


High interest

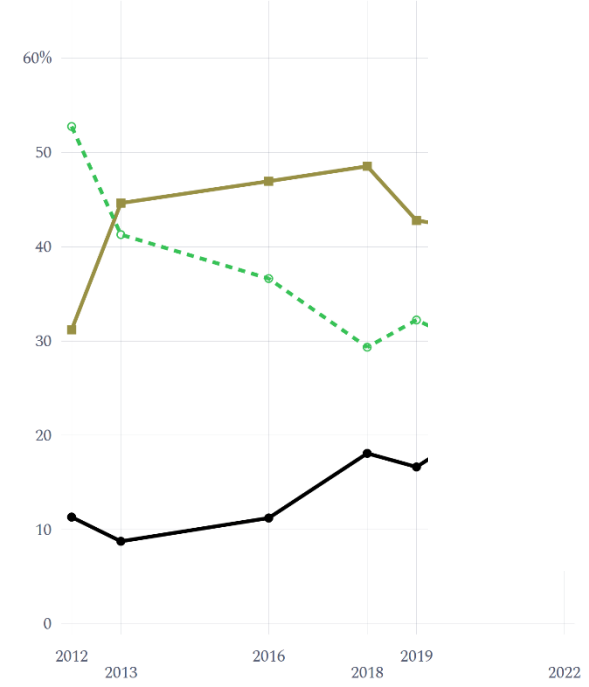


Republicans

Low interest



High interest



Hand-Counted Paper
 Optical Scan
 DRE

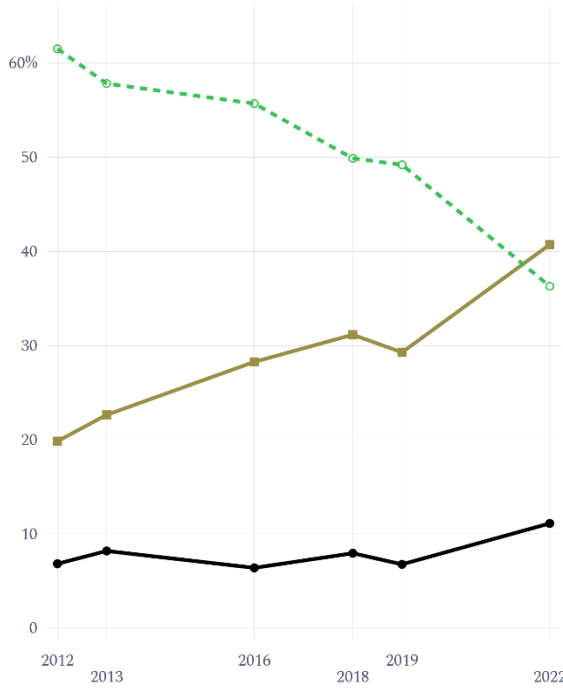
Hand-Counted Paper
 Optical Scan
 DRE



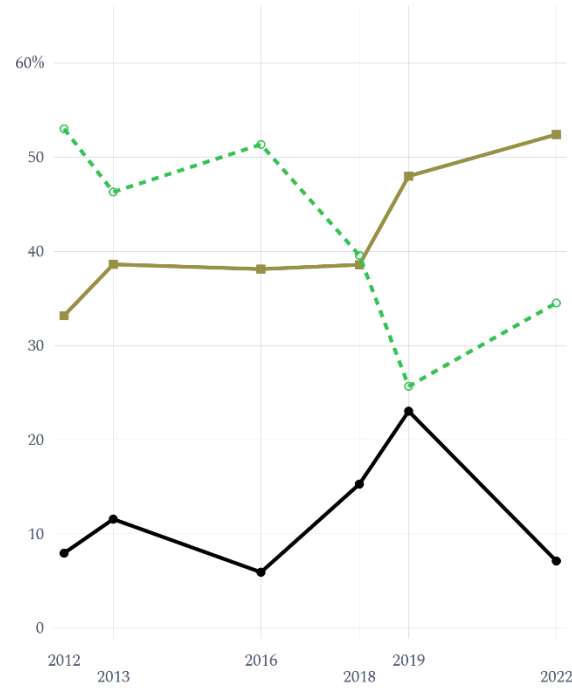
Most preferred

Democrats

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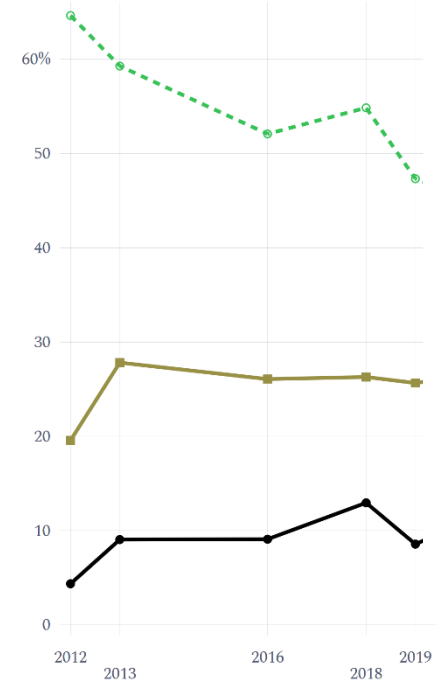


High interest

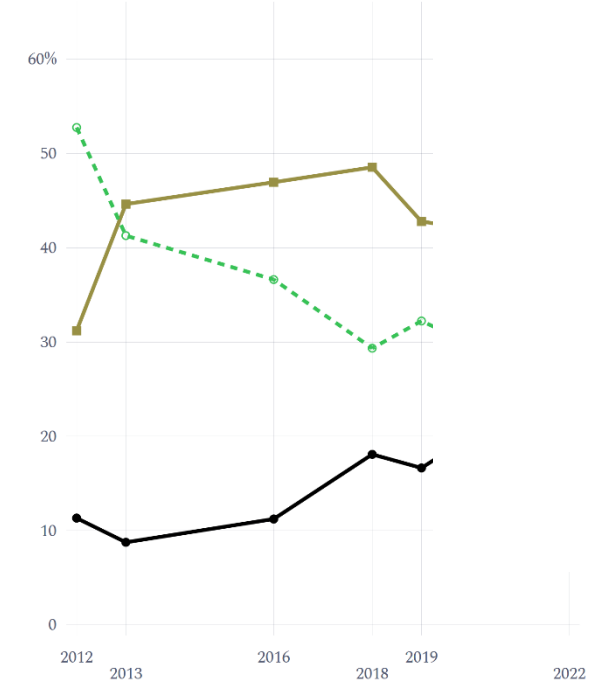


Republicans

Low interest



High interest



Hand-Counted Paper
 Optical Scan
 DRE

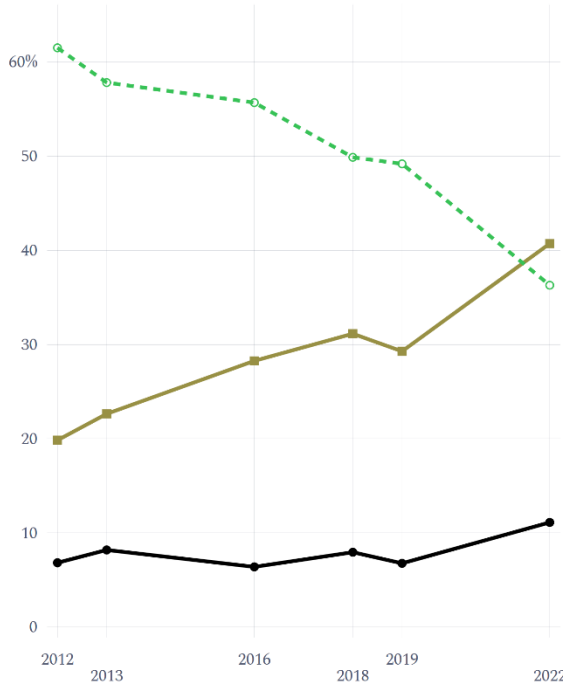
Hand-Counted Paper
 Optical Scan
 DRE



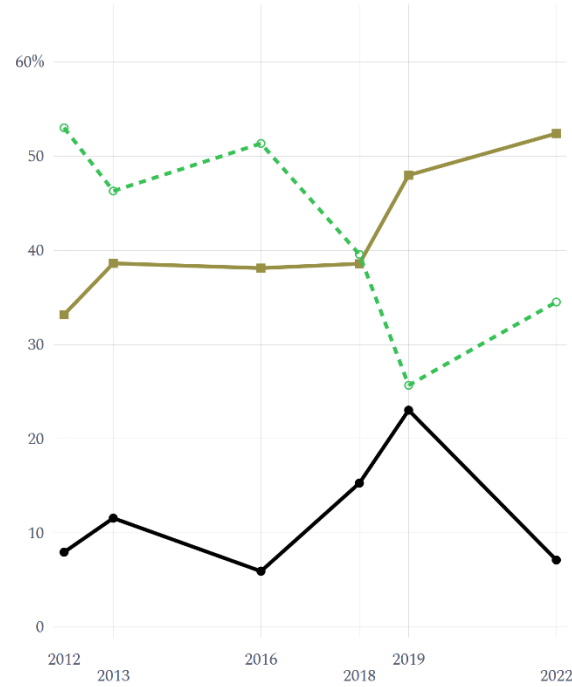
Most preferred

Democrats

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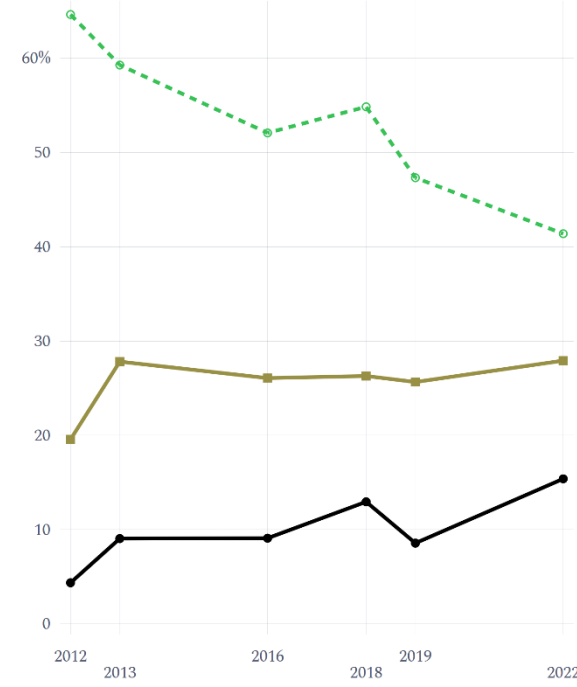


High interest

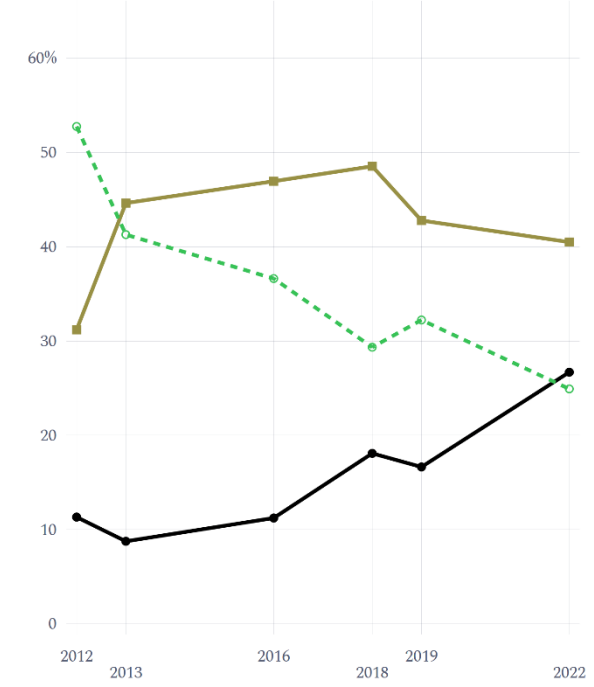


Republicans

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Hand-Counted Paper
 Optical Scan

 DRE

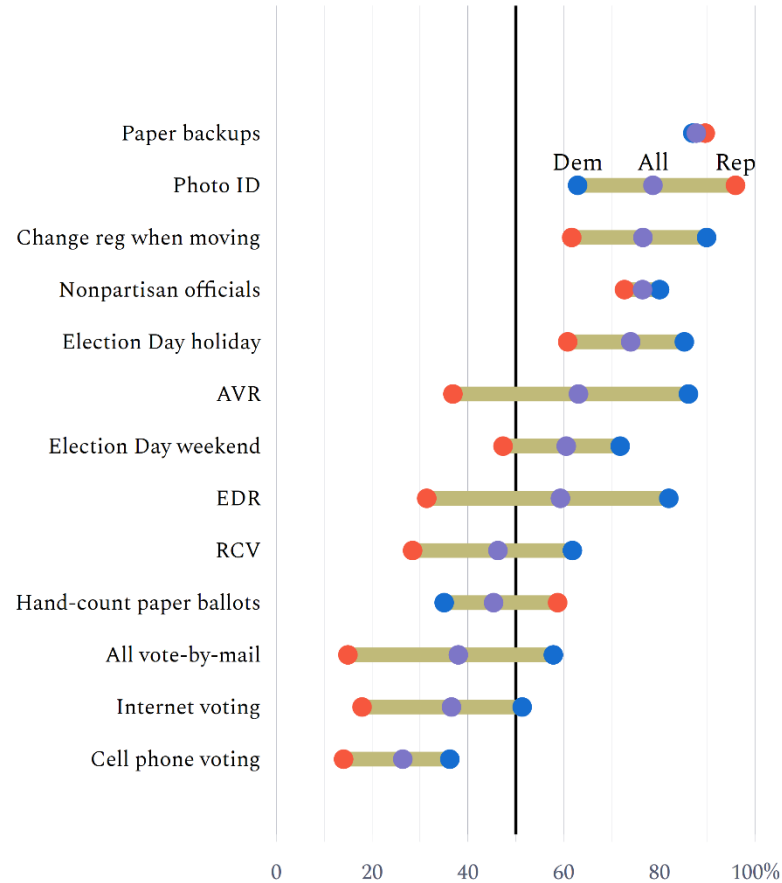
Hand-Counted Paper
 Optical Scan

 DRE



A brief word about the SPAE question

Do you support or oppose any of the following proposals for new ways of voting or conducting elections?



Conclusions

- + Some evidence that the attack on automated counting has percolated to mass opinion.
- + Opinion change builds off the dynamics preceding in the 2010s.
- + Highly attentive partisans the most responsive.
- + Resurgence of interest among Democrats in DREs?