

**FINALIST FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE
MASS BEHAVIOR SEARCH**

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Race, Responsiveness, and Representation in U.S. Lawmaking

Is national policy more responsive to the preferences of white Americans than to those of people of color? To answer this fundamental question, we examine how well federal lawmaking reflects the preferences of 520,000 Black, Latino, Asian American, and white citizens from 2006 to 2022. Average racial gaps in responsiveness are small regardless of issue area. However, white voters are significantly advantaged when Republicans control the government. Respondents' class, age, and ideology cannot explain this disparity. Respondents' partisanship explains some, but not all, of it. To further investigate, we analyze roll call votes in Congress, focusing on the Senate—the pivotal lawmaking institution. Similar patterns emerge: Republican Senators better represent white (versus Black or Latino) constituents. Moreover, Black-white disparities are larger in states where Black Americans comprise more of the population. This suggests a role for white racial attitudes, and, indeed, we find that state-level white racial resentment predicts Black-white representational disparities.

TIME

**Monday, March 30, 2026
11:30AM-1:00PM**

LOCATION

INTS 1113

ZOOM LINK

Meeting ID: 915 9575 1327