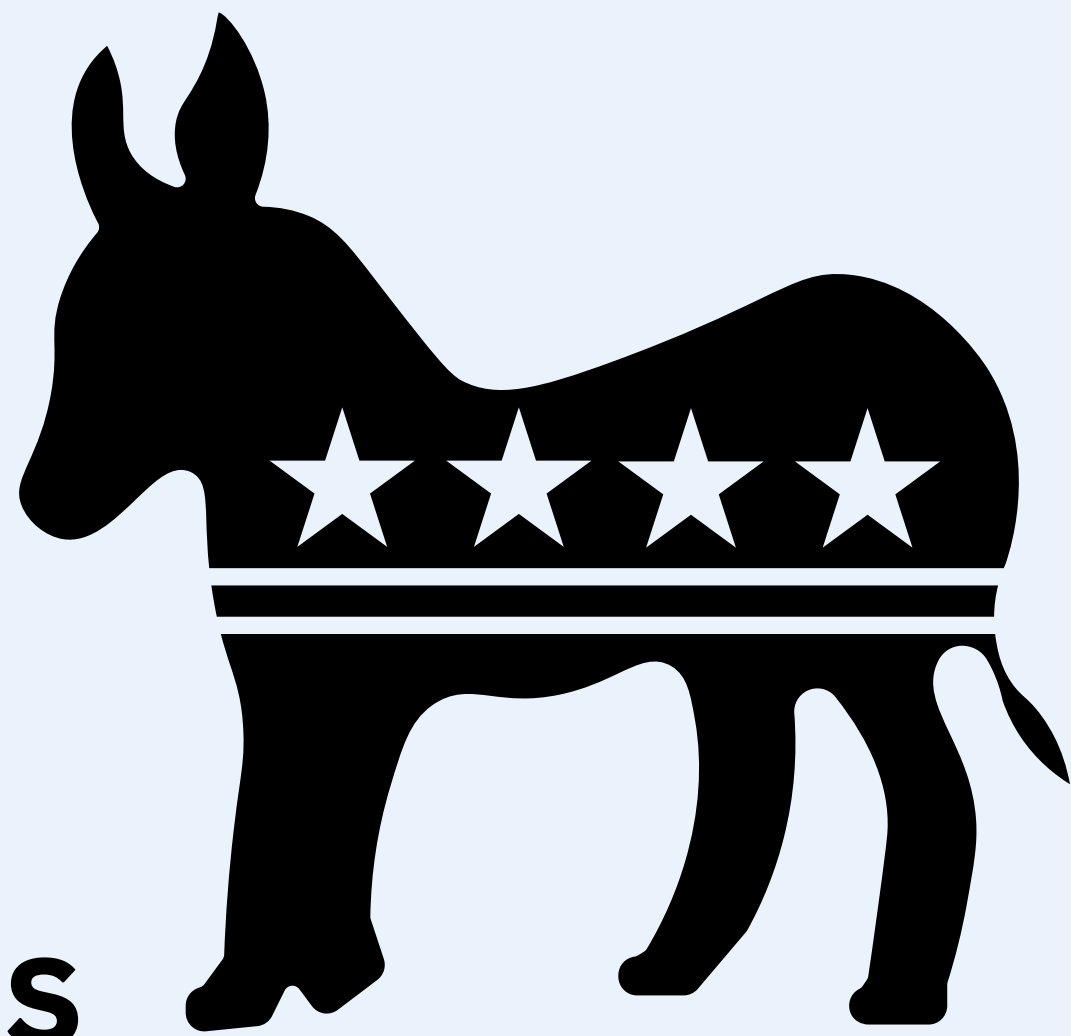
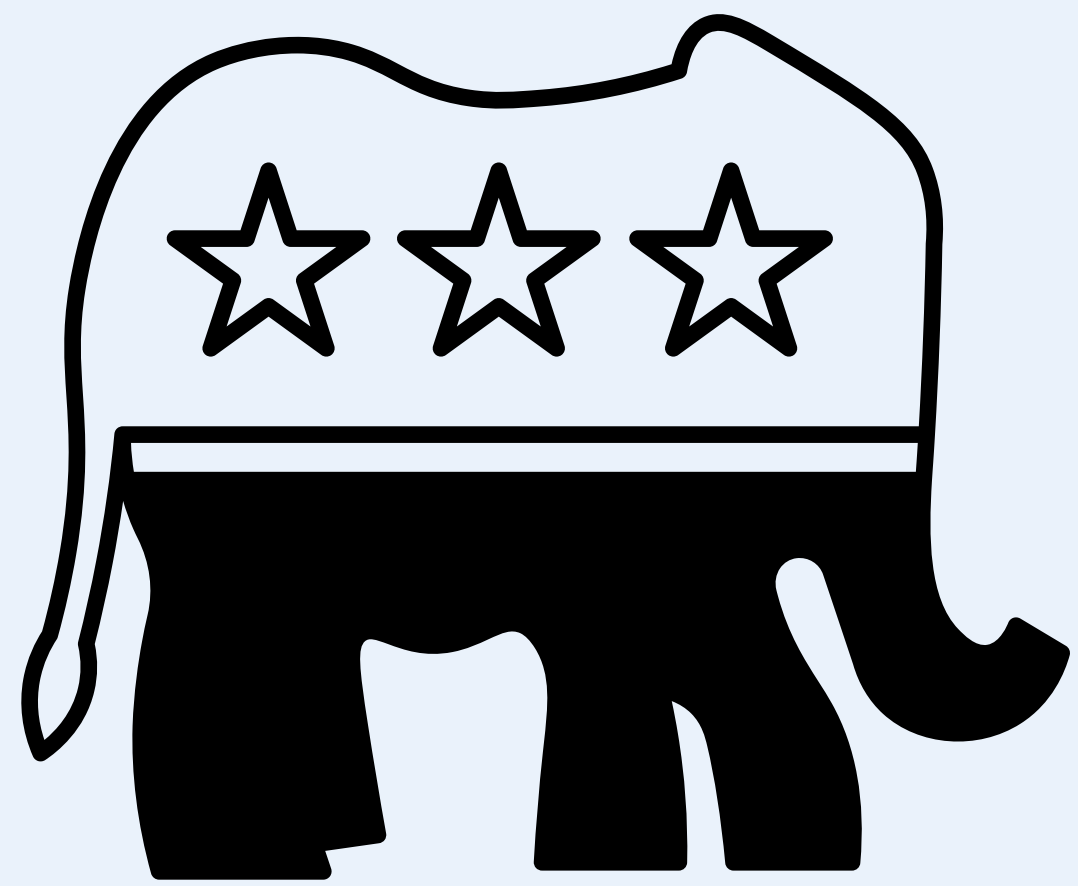


# Social Factors Influencing Political Party Identification



Phil Melo DeRosa  
International Affairs  
Professor Scala

## Introduction

Political party identification is shaped by social factors like religion, education, and gender. **This study looks at how these factors influence how individuals identify politically and which ones have the strongest impact.** I am doing this to find out how these characteristics affect party identification using survey data. This helps better understand how different groups align politically and what influences voting behavior.

## Literature Review

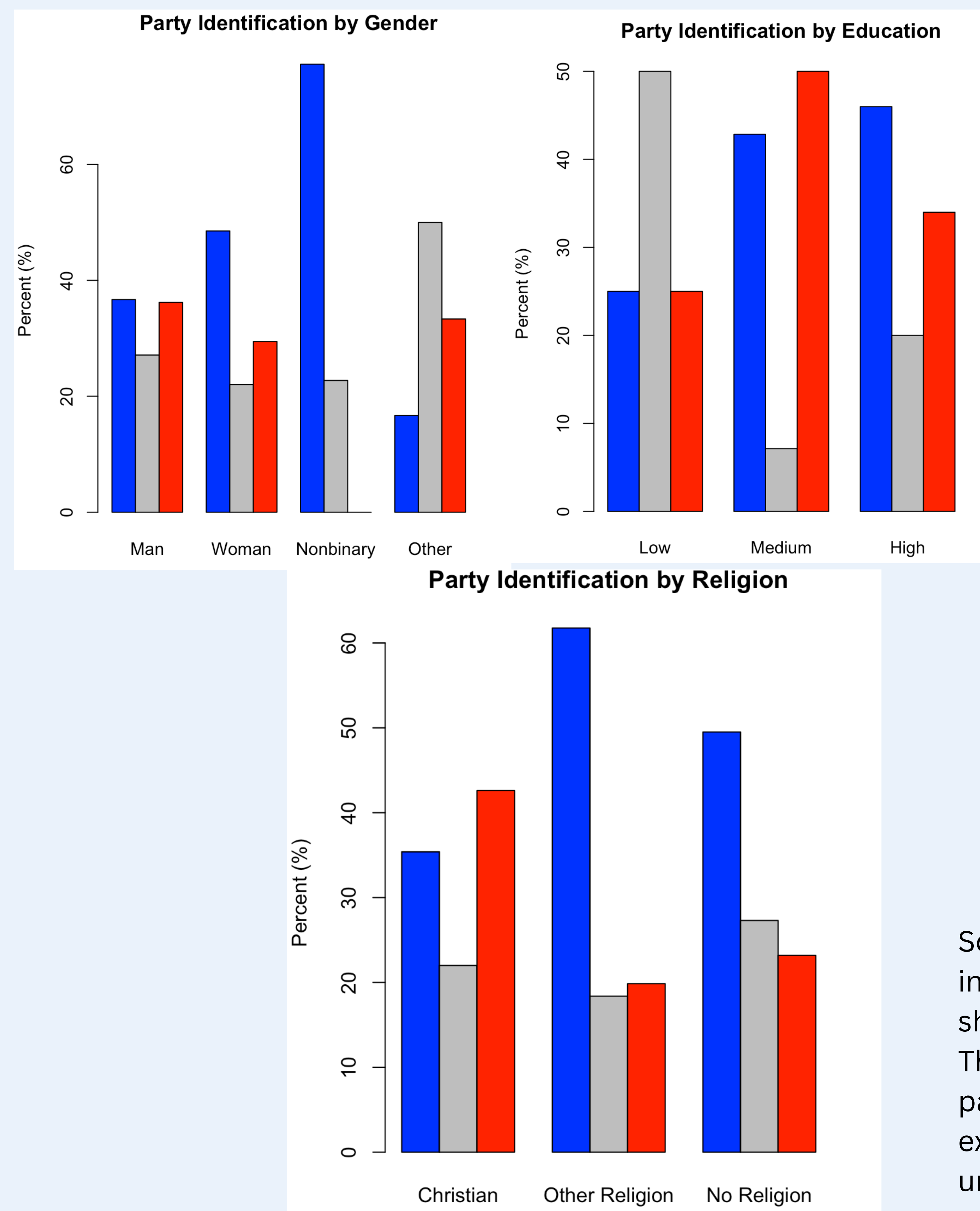
- Education is tied to party ID, with higher education associated with more Democratic identification.
- Religion is a strong predictor, with more religious individuals tending to lean Republican.
- Gender differences show women are more likely to identify as Democrats than men.

## Hypothesis

In a comparison of individuals, **religion, education, and gender** all influence political party identification, with differences in how people identify as Republican, Democrat, or Independent.

## Variables

- Dataset: ANES 2024
- Independent Variables: Religion importance, Education, Gender
- Dependent Variables: Party ID (Democrat, Republican, Independent)



## Methods

- Used R and RStudio
- Cleaned and recoded ANES 2024 data
- Ran crosstabulations
- Compared percentages across groups

## Findings

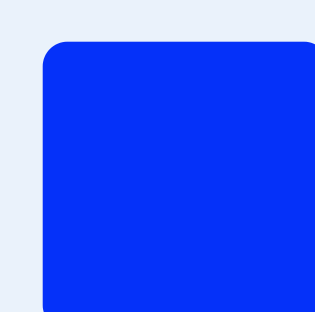
- Gender influences party ID, with **women and nonbinary individuals leaning Democratic**, while men are more evenly split.
- Higher education is associated with **Democratic identification**, while medium education shows more **Republican support** and lower education leans **Independent**.
- Religion is heavily related to party ID, as **Christians leaning Republican** and **non-religious individuals leaning Democratic**.
- These findings support the hypothesis that gender, education, and religion influence party identification.
- These patterns remain consistent across comparisons, suggesting an additive relationship rather than a spurious one.

## Conclusion

Social factors such as gender, education, and religion all influence political party identification. Education and religion show the strongest and most consistent patterns across groups. These findings help explain differences in political behavior and party alignment in the United States. Future research could examine additional factors such as income or age to better understand political identification.

## Bibliography

- American National Election Studies (ANES). ANES 2024 Time Series Study.
- Campbell, Angus, et al. The American Voter. University of Chicago Press, 1960.
- Gelman, Andrew. Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State. Princeton University Press, 2008.
- Pew Research Center. Religion and Political Affiliation in the United States. 2023.
- Dalton, Russell J. The Apartisan American: Dealignment and Changing Electoral Politics. CQ Press, 2013.



Democrat



Independent



Republican