

DRAFT: Marital Status Change and Political Behavior*

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Abstract

In this early draft, we build upon previous political science research documenting the effect of life events on political behavior, using the ANES 2016-2020-2024 panel dataset to test the effect of marital status change on a range of political outcomes. We employ OLS and logistic regression models with lagged dependent variables, finding that moving from unmarried to married is associated with more liberal attitudes and a greater belief that women experience discrimination in the United States. Respondents who moved from married to divorced are associated with reduced ideological extremity. We find no statistically significant effects ($p < .05$) for respondents moving from married to widowed; however, suggestive evidence emerges at the $p < .10$ level for political discussion networks, religious importance, and political affect. We propose two mechanisms through which marital status change exerts its effects: psychological processes and alterations in social networks. Future iterations will include additional model specifications and alternative data sources to better characterize the relationship between marital status change and political behavior.

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1 Introduction

Political attitudes and behavior are shaped not only by broad, macro-level forces such as institutions and societal trends, but also by personal, critical life events that can reorient an individual’s preferences and engagement. These life events include buying a home, having children, losing a parent, a change in employment status, or a change in marital status. The latter—becoming married, divorced, or widowed, is our focus here as we argue these changes can powerfully influence how individuals experience economic, social, and political life.

Theoretical explanations for how changes in marital status influence political behavior are straightforward, operating through two main mechanisms: psychological/emotional dispositions and social networks. Marital transitions can profoundly affect emotional well-being. Marriage is generally associated with improved mental health and positive psychological states (Braithwaite and Holt-Lunstad, 2017), whereas divorce often induces depression, anger, and distress (Strohschein et al., 2005; Tavares and Aassve, 2013; Trivedi, Sareen and Dhyani, 2009). Widowhood, similarly, involves the loss of a social tie and can lead to dejection, depression, and social disengagement (Zisook and Shuchter, 1991; Trivedi, Sareen and Dhyani, 2009). Political psychology research links these emotional states to various political attitudes and behaviors.

At the same time, marital status changes reshape individuals’ social networks. Marriage typically expands and consolidates social connections (Ang, 2021), while divorce and widowhood represent the dissolution of social ties (McDermott, Fowler and Christakis, 2013). Together, these psychological and social mechanisms indicate that changes in marital status are likely to have significant effects on political attitudes and preferences.

While the theoretical connection is strong, the extent of empirical data testing the effect of marital change on political behavior is relatively small. With the exception of a few works (Stoker and Jennings, 1995; Kern, 2010; Ojeda, Michener and Haselswerdt, 2024), most studies tend to treat marital status as a control variable or look at marital status change as a dependent variable. Further, if marital status is of theoretical interest to the researcher, studies have tended to only look at cross-sectional data comparing outcomes between divorce and married individuals, which are limited in the causal claims that the change in marital status can have on political outcomes. We attempt to address this issue by using the 2016-2020-2024 American National Election Survey (ANES) panel dataset. By observing marital change across election cycles over an eight-year time frame, we can track and assess the influence of marital status changes on an assortment of political and social outcomes.

We employ both Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) and logistic regression models with lagged dependent variables where appropriate, and rescale all outcomes to a common 0-1 range to facilitate comparison across models. Unfortunately, the amount of variation in marital status changes across the survey is considerably low, which limits our ability to make broad substantive conclusions. Despite this, we still find noteworthy effects. Moving from unmarried to married is associated with more liberal attitudes and a greater belief that women experience discrimination in the United States. Respondents who moved from married to divorced are associated with reduced ideological extremity. We find no statistically significant effects ($p < .05$) for respondents moving from married to widowed; however, we do find some evidence of an effect at the $p < .10$ significance level for political discussion networks, religious importance, and political affect.

In the sections that follow, we briefly discuss how marital status changes can shape political behavior before describing our data source and the operationalization of our independent and dependent variables. We then present model results and discuss their implications and potential for further inquiry. We conclude with a short discussion of the paper’s limitations and our plans to bolster these findings in future iterations.

2 How Marital Status Change Can Influence Political Behavior

Documenting if and how political attitudes evolve constitutes a large body of work in political science. Political behavior changes can result from a variety of factors stemming from both macro-level and individual level events (Ojeda, Michener and Haselswerdt, 2024). We focus our attention on marital status changes as an individual level event that can catalyze changes in political behavior. Previous work in political science has only seldom tested these specific life event changes on political behavior (see (Stoker and Jennings, 1995; Ojeda, Michener and Haselswerdt, 2024; Kern, 2010)). We theorize two mechanisms through which the various marital status changes can influence political behavior: 1) induce changes in emotional states, and 2) reshape social networks and dynamics. We outline these

unique causal pathways for each of the marital status changes: marriage, divorce, and widowhood in the following respective sections. While we broadly theorize these three status changes can influence political behavior, we argue their effect is not symmetrical and can lead to diverging political and social changes.

2.1 Marital Status Changes and Psychological/Emotional States

Changes in marital status can significantly shape individuals' psychological and emotional states. Adjacent work in cognate fields has found marriage to generally be associated with more positive emotional states and greater psychological well-being (Kim and McKenry, 2002). While certainly not uniform across all married couples, marriage's association with positive emotional states is generally attributed to mechanisms such as greater social support (Soulsby and Bennett, 2015; Adamczyk and Segrin, 2015; Becker, Kirchmaier and Trautmann, 2019), increased economic stability (Lerman, 2002), and enhanced social integration (DeMaris, 2018). Further, the effect of marriage on positive psychological states is likely to be most acute in the period after a marriage due to "honeymoon" phenomenon (Lavner and Bradbury, 2010).

In contrast, transitions from marriage to divorce, are often associated with declines in psychological well-being. Individuals who experience divorce have been shown to report higher levels of anxiety, depression, anger, and loneliness relative to married individuals (Gähler, 2006; Kitson and Morgan, 1990; Kendler et al., 2003). These emotional responses are frequently linked to disruptions in social support networks, financial instability, and residential mobility that accompany marital dissolution (Gähler, 2006; Johnson and Wu, 2002). Although many individuals adapt over time, the transition itself represents a period of heightened emotional vulnerability (Johnson and Wu, 2002).

While superficially similar to divorce, becoming a widow invokes a qualitatively different psychological reaction as the status change is involuntary, leading to a different emotional profile than becoming divorced (Trivedi, Sareen and Dhyani, 2009). Widowhood induces a negative emotional state associated with feelings of sadness, loneliness, anxiety, and particularly grief (Zisook and Shuchter, 1991). The intensity of emotions, particularly sadness and grief, in widowhood might lead to a more intense dejection and removal from social life.

What becomes clear is that marital status and changes in marital status induce specific and unique psychological/emotional states. Connecting these changes in emotional states to political behavior, work in political psychology and various other sub-fields have shown considerable evidence that emotional states can lead to predictable and powerful changes in political attitudes and actions (Mutz, 2011; Marcus, 2000; Redlawsk and Mattes, 2022; Wolak and Sokhey, 2022).

Positive emotional states such as enthusiasm or joy have been shown to increase political interest, action, strengthen prior political convictions (Marcus, 2000; Brader, 2005; Valentino et al., 2011). While negative emotional states, such as depression and sadness motivate a withdrawal from politics (Bonanno, Goorin and Coifman, 2008; Mutz, 2006). Notably, emotions such as fear and sadness can influence information consumption, changing both information processing and media habits (Mutz, 2011; Van Duyn, 2024). The extent to which grief can shape political behavior has attracted relatively less attention in political science. Lebel and Ronel (2009) finds grief to generally motivate political withdrawal; however, this effect appears to be conditional on feelings of anger, which could produce political activism.

Given marital status changes can alter individuals' emotional states, and emotional states in turn shape political behavior, marital transitions may indirectly affect political attitudes and engagement. In particular, transitions such as divorce or widowhood may temporarily reduce political participation and shift individuals toward more affective forms of political evaluation, while transitions associated with emotional stability or positive emotional states, like marriage, may reduce affective attitudes or increase engagement. Accordingly, we hypothesize that marital status changes are associated with systematic changes in political behavior through shifts in individuals' psychological and emotional states.

2.2 Marital Status Changes and Social Networks

An alternative (but closely intertwined) mechanism for which changes in marital status can influence political behavior is through its ability to shape social networks. An individual's social network can radically change in response to marital status changes. For one marriage can influence the size and nature of a social network. Kalmijn (2003) documents social networks between married individuals becoming more dense and having similar ties. However, both divorce and widowhood are processes that involve the dissolution of a social tie. (Gähler, 2006) finds that individuals who become divorced result in a smaller social network and are more likely to lack social support.

The extent to which one’s social network influences political participation and attitudes constitutes a strong literature within political science. Rolfe (2012) finds considerable evidence that voting is largely a function of core and acquaintance ties within your social network. Classic studies of social networks and political behavior bolster the connection between dynamics within a social network and political attitudes (Lazarsfeld, Berelson and Gaudet, 1968; La Due Lake and Huckfeldt, 1998; Huckfeldt and Sprague, 1987). Given marriage solidifies a social tie, we hypothesize that individuals who move from unmarried to married discuss politics at higher rates. Further, previous studies of marriage and social/political behaviors have found a convergence effect among spouses (Stoker and Jennings, 1995; Kalmijn, 2003).

For divorced and widowed individuals, the loss of a social tie reduces the amount of political discussion that occurs and since we previously outlined that these marital status changes can invoke emotional responses that are associated with withdrawal and isolation, the nature of one’s social network under these marital status changes is likely to be both reduced and invoke qualitatively different interactions within their social network.

Thus, the connection between marital status and social network change is robust and theoretically straightforward. To summarize, we theorize marital status change influences political behavior through two pathways: changes in psychological/emotional state and changes in one’s social network. From this we hypothesize the following:

1. *Marriage Hypothesis*: Transitioning from unmarried to married generally enhances emotional well-being and strengthens social networks. Individuals undergoing this transition will pay more attention to politics, engage in more political discussion, and exhibit less extreme political attitudes.
2. *Divorce Hypothesis*: Transitioning from married to divorced often reduces emotional well-being and weakens social networks. Individuals undergoing this transition will pay less attention to politics, engage in less political discussion, experience greater partisan instability, and hold more extreme attitudes.
3. *Widowhood Hypothesis*: Transitioning from married to widowed often reduces emotional well-being and diminishes social network engagement. Individuals undergoing this transition will show lower political interest and discussion, and greater partisan instability.

3 Data

We use the American National Election Survey (ANES) panel data from 2016 to 2024 (American National Election Studies, 2025). The ANES 2016–2020–2024 panel includes pre- and post-election surveys across nine waves over an eight-year period. The dataset contains an extensive questionnaire covering demographic, social, and political topics, making it well suited to examine associations between marital status change and political behavior. In the following sections, we describe our use of the ANES panel data.

3.1 Independent Variable

In each wave, respondents were asked to report their marital status with six possible options: Married: spouse present, Married: spouse absent, Widowed, Divorced, Separated, and Never Married. For simplicity, we collapse these categories down to four: Married, Separated, Never Married, and Widowed; figure 5 (in the Appendix) reports the counts for the collapsed marital status in each wave.

When we consider the amount of marital status change that occurs during the survey, the majority of respondents did not change marital status. Figure 1 provides the percentages of marital status transitions between each wave (2016-2020, 2020-2024, 2016-2024)¹. We create dummy variables if the respondent went from from married to divorced; from unmarried to married; or from married to widowed at any point during the survey. Table 1 provides the counts for each of these variables. We then use these dummy variables to assess the effect of marital status change on political behavior. Ignoring respondents that did not change marital status during the duration of the survey, we observe respondents that went from unmarried to married constitute the most respondents.

¹For readability purposes, respondents that did not change are not shown in the graph

Table 1: Summary Statistics: Marital Transition Variables

	Variable	Type	N	Count	Min	Max
mar_to_div_16_24	Married to Divorced (2016-2024)	Binary	2147	53	0	1
nmar_to_mar_16_24	Never Married to Married (2016-2024)	Binary	2147	135	0	1
mar_to_wid_16_24	Married to Widowed (2016-2024)	Binary	2147	64	0	1

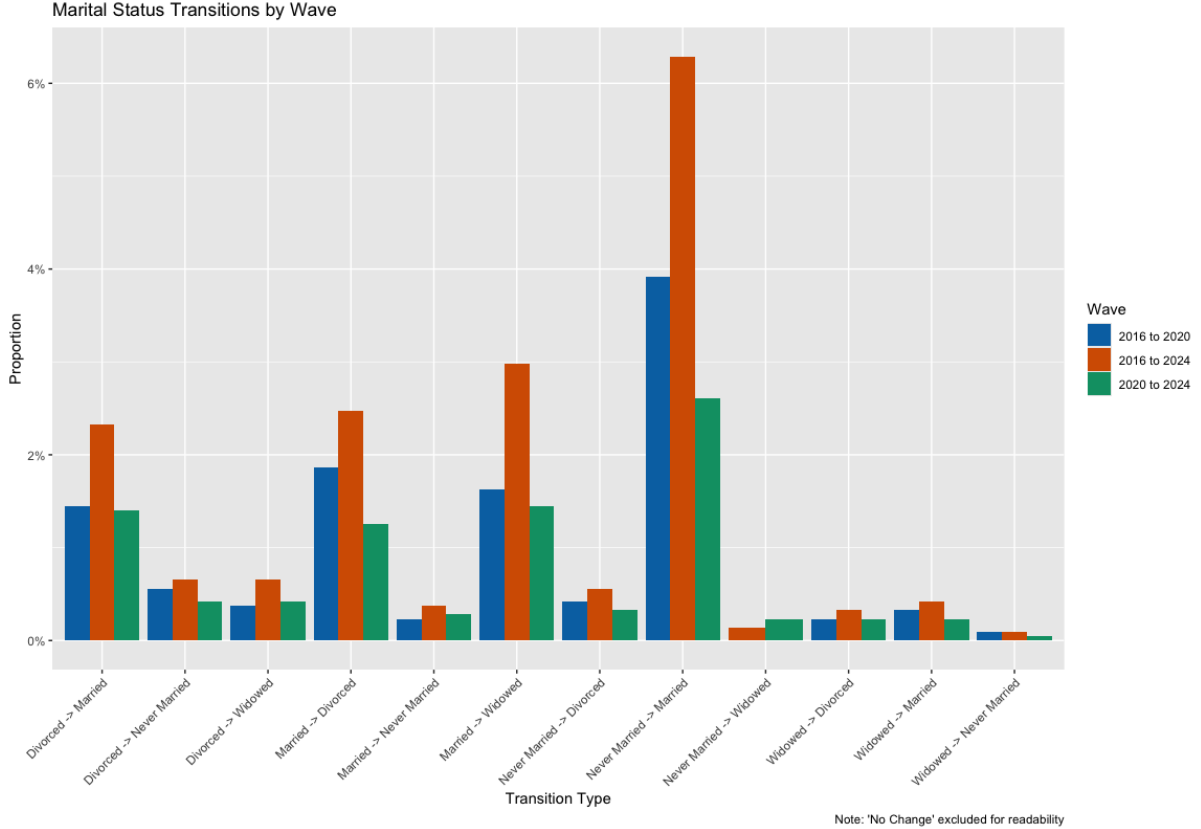


Figure 1: Marital status transitions across waves

3.2 Dependent Variable

We examine at a variety of outcomes we theorize to be influenced by marital status change. These dependent variables can be categorized as partisan identification/ideology, network interactions, religious affiliation/interest, political affect, and views on gender. Table 2 provides the full list of tested variables and relevant summary statistics for each. Our focus on these variables is theoretically driven. Given that marital status changes constitute major life events, they have the potential to radically shift how one engages and thinks politically and socially. While there are other noteworthy variables, particularly related to the respondents’ social network and political engagement, the ANES only asks those questions in the 2020 and 2024 waves, and since marital status variation is quite limited, we only focus on variables that were asked in each wave.

We explore the political effects of divorce using both Ordinary Least Squares and Logistic Regression models. When appropriate, each model contains a lagged dependent variable with all coefficients standardized on a 0-1 scale. We provide the full model specifications for each dependent variable in the appendix.

4 Married to Divorce Results

Figure 2 reports the standardized (0-1) coefficients for respondents that moved from married to divorce. Out of the outcomes tested, changing from married to divorce had only a statistically significant ($p < .05$ level) effect on ideological extremity. On average, experiencing a divorce is associated with a decrease in

Table 2: Summary Statistics: Dependent Variables

	Variable	Type	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
	party_changed	Party Change	2139	0.26	0.44	0	1
	pid_strong_24	PID Strength	1517	1.31	0.46	1	2
	ideo_7_placement_24	Ideology Placement	1924	4.16	1.70	1	7
	became_more_extreme	Ideological Extremity	1759	0.13	0.91	-3	3
	political_attention_24	Political Attention	2146	2.31	1.00	1	5
	politics_discuss_days_24	Days Discussing Politics	2048	3.27	2.35	0	7
	post_political_online_24	Posted Online Politically	2049	1.71	0.45	1	2
	born_again_24	Born Again	1504	1.58	0.49	1	2
	religion_importance_24	Religion Importance	2141	2.84	1.49	1	5
	right_track_24	Right Track	2142	1.72	0.45	1	2
	violence_justified_24	Violence Justified	2132	1.24	0.76	1	5
	trump_ft_24	Trump FT	2024	41.82	40.67	0	100
	iimmigrant_ft_24	Immigrant FT	1938	39.70	27.23	0	100
	dem_party_ft_24	Democrat Party FT	2142	45.49	33.48	0	100
	rep_party_ft_24	Republican Party FT	2143	42.74	32.72	0	100
	vote_likelihood_24	Vote Likelihood	2081	1.46	1.01	1	5
	discrimination_women_24	Women Discrimination	2005	3.20	1.05	1	5
	discrimination_men_24	Men Discrimination	2003	4.06	1.00	1	5

Note: Ordinal variables are treated as continuous and modeled using OLS

ideological extremity—respondents moderate their views—all else equal. No other variable is statistically significant at either the .05 or .10 level. It is important to note that despite having roughly 2,000 observations, only 53 individuals went from married to divorce during the survey.

5 Unmarried to Married Results

Figure 3 reports the standardized (0-1) coefficients for respondents that moved from never married to married. Only two dependent variables were statistically significant: Ideology (raw) and Women Discrimination. On average, individuals that change from unmarried to married become more liberal in their ideology, all else equal. The variable “Women Discrimination” is an ordinal variable where lower values are associated with a higher belief that women are discriminated in the United States (reverse coded). Thus the effect of changing from unmarried to married is associated with a higher belief that women face a high degree of gendered discrimination. Given that 135 respondents went from unmarried to married during the survey, these results are still marred by a lack of variation and hinder the conclusions we can draw.

6 Married to Widowed Results

Figure 4 reports the standardized (0-1) coefficients for respondents that moved from married to widowed. Only 64 individuals moved from married to widowed during the duration of the survey. The effect of moving from married to widowed had no statistical effect on any of the variables tested at the $p < .05$ level. However, the effect of moving from married to widowed has a spastically significant effect at the $p < .10$ level for network discussion, religion importance, and political affect (Trump and Republican feeling thermometers). Becoming widowed is associated with a -0.0705 unit decrease in the amount of days a respondent discuss politics with friends and family, all else equal. For religious importance (reverse coded), becoming widowed is associated $-.06$ unit decrease in religious importance—meaning on average, respondents become more religious—all else equal. Finally, respondents that became widowed are associated with higher thermometer ratings of Donald Trump and the Republican party, all else equal.

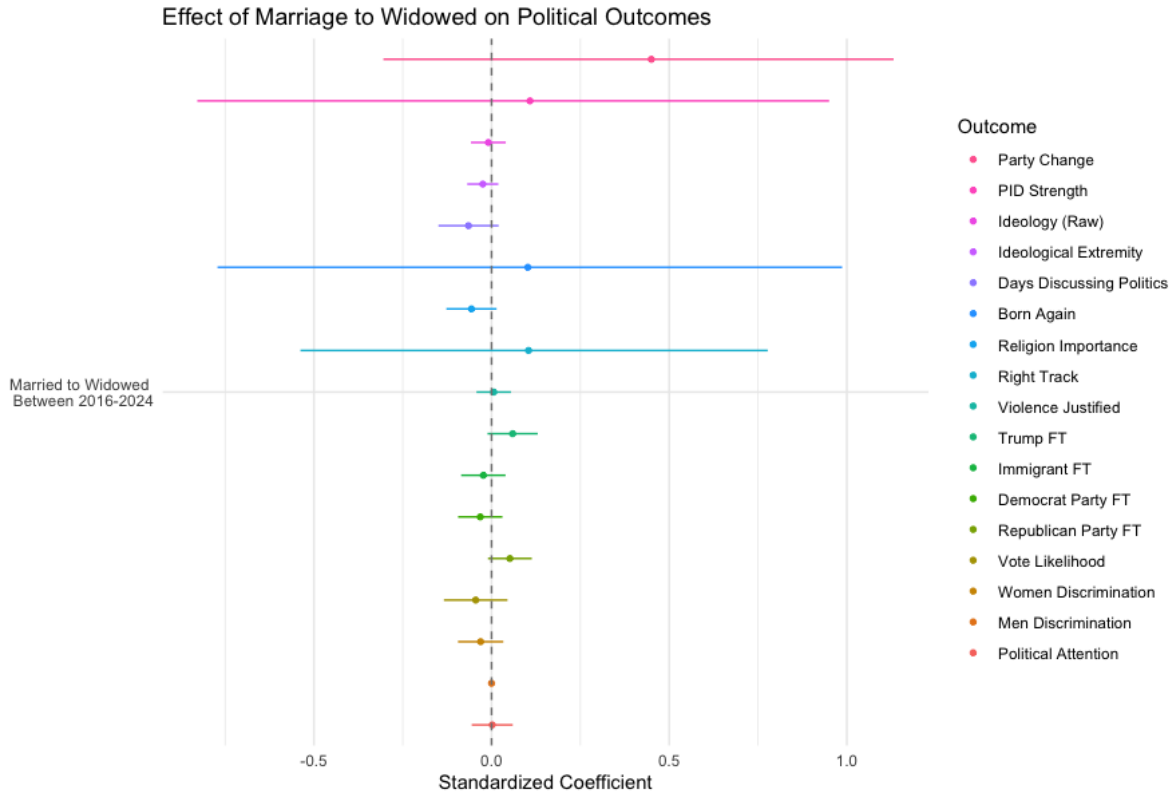


Figure 4: OLS and logit coefficients from models with all outcomes rescaled to a 0-1 range. All models include baseline (2016) controls for party identification, race, gender, education, age, income, religion, children, employment, and political attention. Confidence intervals at the 95% level.

7 Discussion

Our results across different types of marital status changes provide several intriguing insights and suggest avenues for future research. Overall, we find that marital status changes are associated with changes in political behaviors; however, the results are not fully consistent with our initial hypothesis.

First, the significant finding that divorce affects ideological extremism runs counter to our expectations. We had hypothesized that divorce would increase political extremism, yet the results suggest the opposite: divorce appears to moderate political ideology. This result is somewhat baffling, and we admittedly don't have a good explanation. One potential explanation is that divorce simply reduces interest in politics. Ideological moderation in divorced individuals might be explained by a shift in responsibilities and focus away from politics, leading one to be less focused on strongly held political convictions. While we control and test for political attention, we find marital status change to have no effect on how much an individual pays attention to politics. While not significant, the direction of the political discussion variable is negative, indicating that divorce might reduce how frequently individuals discuss politics.

Perhaps the most intriguing finding is that marriage is associated with an increased belief that women face high levels of gendered discrimination in the United States. This pattern is particularly intuitive in heterosexual couples, where male respondents may become more aware of the discrimination their spouse experiences. However, our sample size limits the robustness of this finding, and selection effects may also play a role: men who are more attuned to gendered discrimination might be more likely to marry. The fact that the coefficient flips in the married-to-divorced model suggests there are additional dynamics at play, highlighting the need for further investigation.

Two surprisingly null results emerge. First, there is no statistically significant effect of political attention in any of the models. Second, marriage appears to have no effect on the number of days respondents discuss politics with friends and family. This null finding may reflect measurement limitations within the question: while marriage could increase political discussion within the family, it may simultaneously reduce discussion with friends due to the social network convergence often observed among married couples. By contrast, widowhood is associated with a clear decline in political discussion, which may

reflect the literal loss of a spouse as a discussion partner or the broader effects of grief and social withdrawal. Although not statistically significant, divorce shows a similar pattern, suggesting that the loss of a spouse, whether through death or divorce, modestly reduces political engagement. To better assess marital status change on social network dynamics, different survey questions are needed to separate family and friendship changes.

Although further research is needed to adjudicate the directionality and significance of these outcomes, our findings reinforce prior work showing that marital status changes can influence a range of political behaviors. Data limitations, particularly among individuals who get divorced or become widowed, make it challenging to fully assess these effects. Given that divorce rates, while declining, remain relatively high (Hays, 2025), our study provides an important step toward understanding how such life transitions shape political engagement.

8 Limitations

The exploratory results we present here are encouraging but should be approached with caution. While the ANES panel dataset provides numerous political variables, the amount of variation in marital status reduces our statistical power and limits what conclusions we can draw. To accommodate this shortcoming, future iterations will incorporate additional datasets. Our initial plan was to use the ANES social media 2020-2022 panel data which had more network related questions. Unfortunately, the panel only asked the marital status of the respondent in the initial wave. Our future plans for this paper are to incorporate additional panels such as the British Household Panel Study and the UK Household Longitudinal Study. This will increase our observations and generalizability on how marital status change broadly influences political behavior.

Additionally, our current models are rather simple and the low number of waves makes it difficult to properly model the effect of marital status change. To accommodate these issues, future iterations might adopt an OrthoPanel model (Pickup et al., 2017) or a dynamic panel model (Pickup and Hopkins, 2022; Wawro, 2002). Further, some likely model specification changes can be made. For one, respondents were asked political questions about their spouse. By incorporating those variables, we might gain greater purchase on political behaviors between heterogamy and homogamy couples.

Finally, our measure of marital status change is rather blunt. We have no variables to describe the dynamics within the marriage or the reasons for the divorce occurring. A notable finding within the studies of relationship dynamics, is that marriage quality is a stronger predictor of various psychosocial and emotional states than marital status itself. Unfortunately, the ANES has no variables that capture the respondent's quality of marriage; however, it seems worthwhile in future iterations to use marital quality changes as an independent variable for political outcomes, assuming the data can be sourced.

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9 Appendix

9.1 Marital Status by Wave Bar Plot

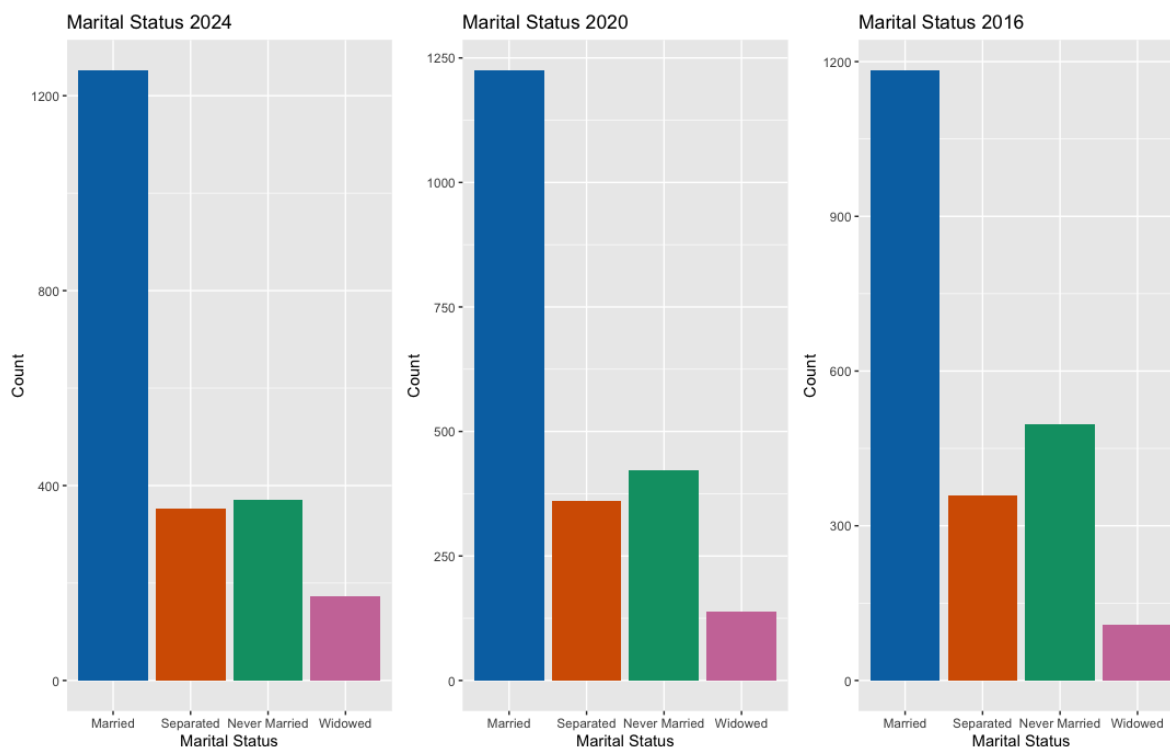


Figure 5: Marital status in each wave

9.2 Common Control Variables

Table 3: Summary Statistics: Control Variables

	Variable	Type	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
	pid_summary_16	Party ID (2016)	2140	1.94	0.94	1	3
	race_summary_16	Race (2016)	2137	1.66	1.40	1	6
	gender_16	Gender (2016)	2132	1.54	0.50	1	3
	education_5cat_16	Education (2016)	2133	3.43	1.10	1	5
	age_group_summary_16	Age Group (2016)	2147	7.14	3.52	-2	13
	income_summary_16	Income (2016)	2147	15.87	8.90	-9	28
	religion_importance_16	Religion Importance (2016)	2140	1.36	0.52	-8	2
	children_hh_16	Children in HH (2016)	2143	0.62	1.03	0	9
	political_attention_16	Political Attention (2016)	2147	2.42	1.06	1	5

Note: All controls measured at baseline (2016). Religion major group and employment status are reported separately.

Table 4: Distribution of Religious Affiliation (2016)

Category	Count	Percentage
Mainline Protestant	326	15.3
Evangelical Protestant	366	17.2
Black Protestant	13	0.6
Roman Catholic	450	21.1
Undifferentiated Christian	329	15.4
Jewish	51	2.4
Other Religion	123	5.8
Not Religious	476	22.3

Table 5: Distribution of Employment Status (2016)

Category	Count	Percentage
Employed	1365	63.7
Not Employed	354	16.5
Retired	424	19.8

9.3 Model Tables (only significant outcomes are presented)

9.3.1 Married to Divorce: Political Extremism

Table 6: OLS: Ideological Extremity

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Bivariate	Became More Extreme Some Controls	Full Controls
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Married to Divorced (2016-2024)	-0.048** (0.023)	-0.051** (0.023)	-0.052** (0.023)
Independent (2016)		0.058*** (0.014)	0.056*** (0.014)
Republican (2016)		0.003 (0.009)	0.003 (0.009)
Black, Non-Hispanic		-0.014 (0.017)	-0.013 (0.017)
Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic		-0.007 (0.022)	-0.013 (0.022)
Native American/Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic		-0.136* (0.070)	-0.129* (0.070)
Hispanic		0.022 (0.015)	0.022 (0.015)
Other/Multiple Races, Non-Hispanic		-0.031 (0.022)	-0.030 (0.022)
Female		-0.005 (0.008)	-0.007 (0.008)
Other		-0.009 (0.078)	-0.020 (0.078)
Education (2016)		-0.037** (0.015)	-0.031** (0.015)
Age (2016)		-0.018 (0.018)	-0.010 (0.019)
Income (2016)		-0.012 (0.018)	-0.011 (0.018)
Evangelical Protestant		-0.0004 (0.013)	-0.001 (0.013)
Black Protestant		0.140** (0.063)	0.138** (0.063)
Roman Catholic		-0.013 (0.012)	-0.014 (0.012)
Undifferentiated Christian		-0.014 (0.013)	-0.014 (0.013)
Jewish		-0.010 (0.024)	-0.007 (0.024)
Other Religion		-0.005 (0.018)	-0.005 (0.018)
Not Religious		-0.002 (0.014)	-0.002 (0.014)
Importance of Religion (2016)		-0.026*** (0.010)	-0.027*** (0.010)
Children (2016)		-0.011 (0.036)	-0.013 (0.036)
Not Employed (2016)		-0.023** (0.011)	-0.022** (0.011)
Retired (2016)		-0.002 (0.012)	-0.002 (0.012)
Political Attention (2016)			0.033** (0.015)
Constant	0.522*** (0.004)	0.582*** (0.022)	0.565*** (0.023)
Observations	1,759	1,684	1,684
R ²	0.002	0.036	0.038
Adjusted R ²	0.002	0.022	0.024
Residual Std. Error	0.152 (df = 1757)	0.150 (df = 1659)	0.150 (df = 1658)
F Statistic	4.386** (df = 1; 1757)	2.547*** (df = 24; 1659)	2.636*** (df = 25; 1658)

Note: Negative coefficients equals moderation

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

9.3.2 Unmarried to Married: Women Discrimination

Table 7: OLS: Perceptions of Women's Discrimination

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Bivariate	Women Discrimination (2024)	
		(1)	Some Controls
Married to Divorced (2016-2024)	-0.0946*** (0.024)	-0.0625** (0.023)	-0.0623** (0.023)
Independent (2016)		0.0452* (0.018)	0.04399* (0.018)
Republican (2016)		0.1064*** (0.013)	0.1064*** (0.013)
Black, Non-Hispanic		-0.0898*** (0.022)	-0.0892*** (0.022)
Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic		0.0447 (0.030)	0.0425 (0.031)
Native American/Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic		-0.0098 (0.095)	-0.0084 (0.095)
Hispanic		-0.0297 (0.020)	-0.0299 (0.020)
Other/Multiple Races, Non-Hispanic		-0.0699* (0.030)	-0.0693* (0.030)
Female		-0.0763*** (0.011)	-0.0774*** (0.011)
Other Gender		-0.1476 (0.117)	-0.1511 (0.117)
Education (2016)		0.00488 (0.021)	0.00746 (0.022)
Age (2016)		0.0350 (0.027)	0.0385 (0.028)
Income (2016)		-0.0632* (0.026)	-0.0629* (0.026)
Evangelical Protestant		0.0323 (0.019)	0.0322 (0.019)
Black Protestant		-0.0935 (0.066)	-0.0939 (0.066)
Roman Catholic		0.0448* (0.018)	0.0446* (0.018)
Undifferentiated Christian		0.0166 (0.019)	0.0166 (0.019)
Jewish		-0.00102 (0.037)	-0.00003 (0.037)
Other Religion		-0.0497 (0.026)	-0.0497 (0.026)
Not Religious		-0.00697 (0.019)	-0.00682 (0.019)
Importance of Religion (2016)		-0.0112 (0.014)	-0.0114 (0.014)
Children (2016)		0.0513 (0.051)	0.0511 (0.051)
Not Employed (2016)		-0.00969 (0.015)	-0.00954 (0.015)
Retired (2016)		0.00615 (0.017)	0.00617 (0.017)
Political Attention (2016)			0.0132 (0.022)
Women Discrimination (2016)		0.6595*** (0.049)	0.6595*** (0.049)
Constant	0.5549*** (0.006)	0.0317 (0.051)	0.0240 (0.052)
Observations	2,003	2,145	2,145
R ²	0.0077	0.2617	0.2618
Adjusted R ²	0.0072	0.2518	0.2515
Residual Std. Error	0.260 (df = 2001)	0.227 (df = 1866)	0.227 (df = 1865)
F Statistic	15.6*** (df = 1; 2003)	26.46*** (df = 25; 1866)	25.44*** (df = 26; 1865)

Note:

†p<0.1; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001

9.3.3 Unmarried to Married: Political Ideology

Table 8: OLS: Ideology Placement

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
		Ideology Placement (2024)	
	Bivariate (1)	Some Controls (2)	Full Controls (3)
Married to Divorced (2016-2024)	-0.079*** (0.026)	-0.032* (0.018)	-0.032* (0.018)
Independent (2016)		0.104*** (0.016)	0.103*** (0.016)
Republican (2016)		0.129*** (0.013)	0.129*** (0.013)
Black, Non-Hispanic		-0.029 (0.019)	-0.029 (0.019)
Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic		0.001 (0.024)	-0.001 (0.025)
Native American/Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic		0.020 (0.078)	0.023 (0.078)
Hispanic		0.022 (0.017)	0.022 (0.017)
Other/Multiple Races, Non-Hispanic		-0.008 (0.024)	-0.008 (0.024)
Female		-0.029*** (0.008)	-0.030*** (0.009)
Other		0.046 (0.087)	0.041 (0.087)
Education (2016)		-0.046*** (0.017)	-0.043** (0.017)
Age (2016)		0.038* (0.022)	0.042* (0.022)
Income (2016)		-0.005 (0.020)	-0.004 (0.020)
Evangelical Protestant		0.005 (0.015)	0.004 (0.015)
Black Protestant		-0.086 (0.071)	-0.087 (0.071)
Roman Catholic		-0.011 (0.014)	-0.012 (0.014)
Undifferentiated Christian		0.003 (0.015)	0.003 (0.015)
Jewish		-0.010 (0.027)	-0.009 (0.027)
Other Religion		-0.004 (0.020)	-0.005 (0.020)
Not Religious		-0.013 (0.015)	-0.013 (0.015)
Importance of Religion (2016)		-0.034*** (0.011)	-0.035*** (0.011)
Children (2016)		0.046 (0.040)	0.045 (0.041)
Not Employed (2016)		-0.015 (0.012)	-0.015 (0.012)
Retired (2016)		-0.008 (0.013)	-0.008 (0.013)
Political Attention (2016)			0.016 (0.017)
Ideology (2016)		0.626*** (0.024)	0.626*** (0.024)
Constant	0.532*** (0.007)	0.188*** (0.026)	0.181*** (0.028)
Observations	1,924	1,684	1,684
R ²	0.005	0.660	0.660
Adjusted R ²	0.004	0.654	0.654
Residual Std. Error	0.283 (df = 1922)	0.168 (df = 1658)	0.168 (df = 1657)
F Statistic	9.512*** (df = 1; 1922)	128.512*** (df = 25; 1658)	123.586*** (df = 26; 1657)

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01