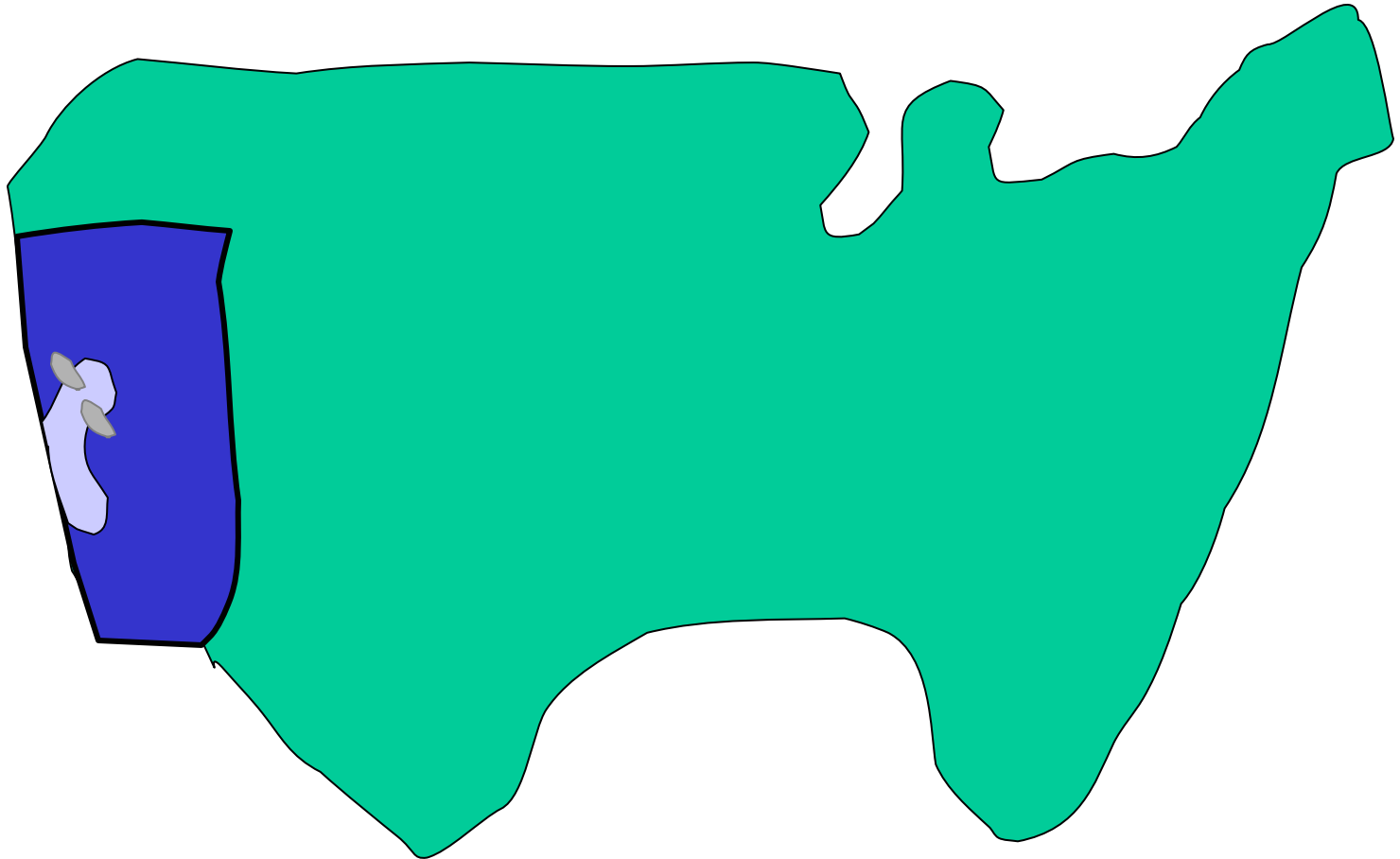


Congressional Candidates

17.251

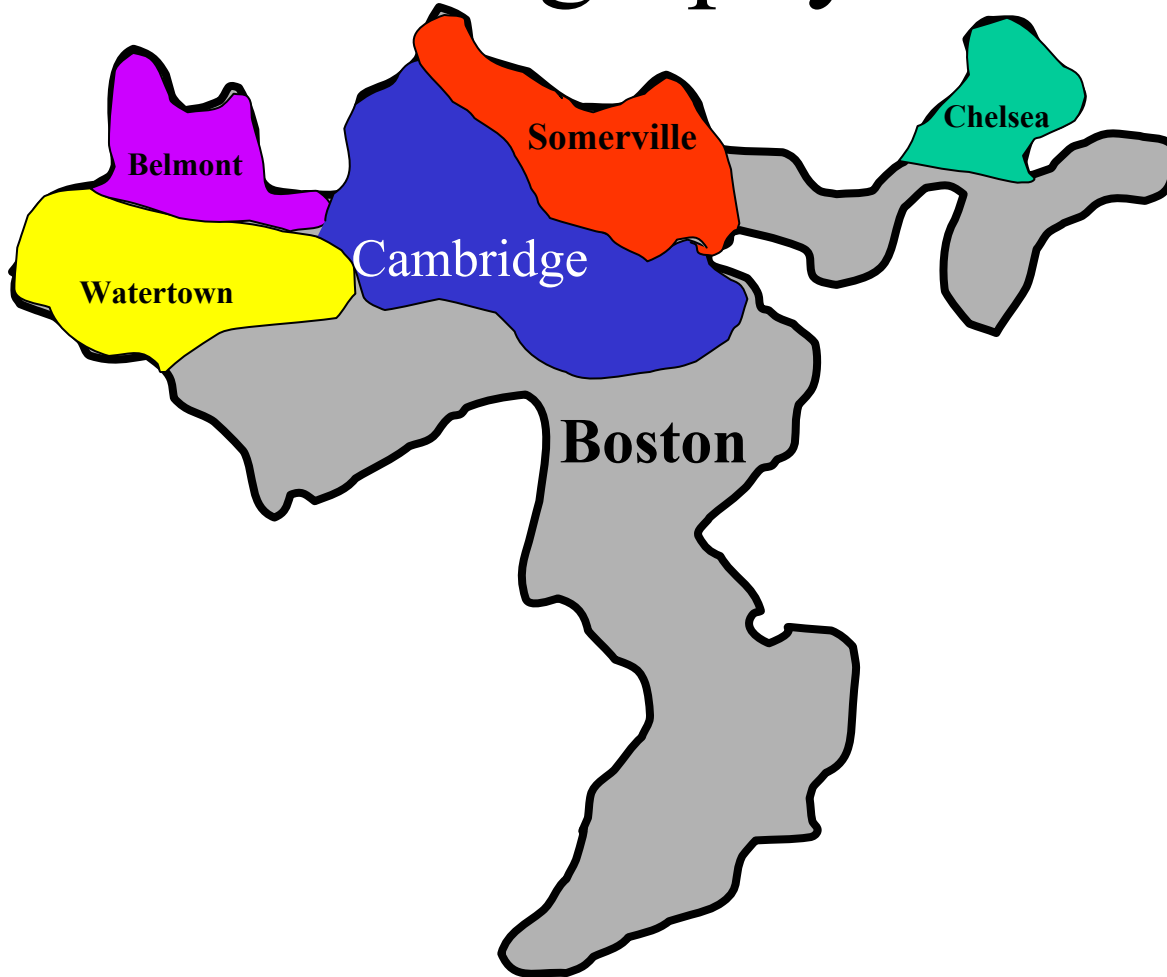
Fall 2004

The Hierarchical Structure of Running for Office



8th District 1998

Geography



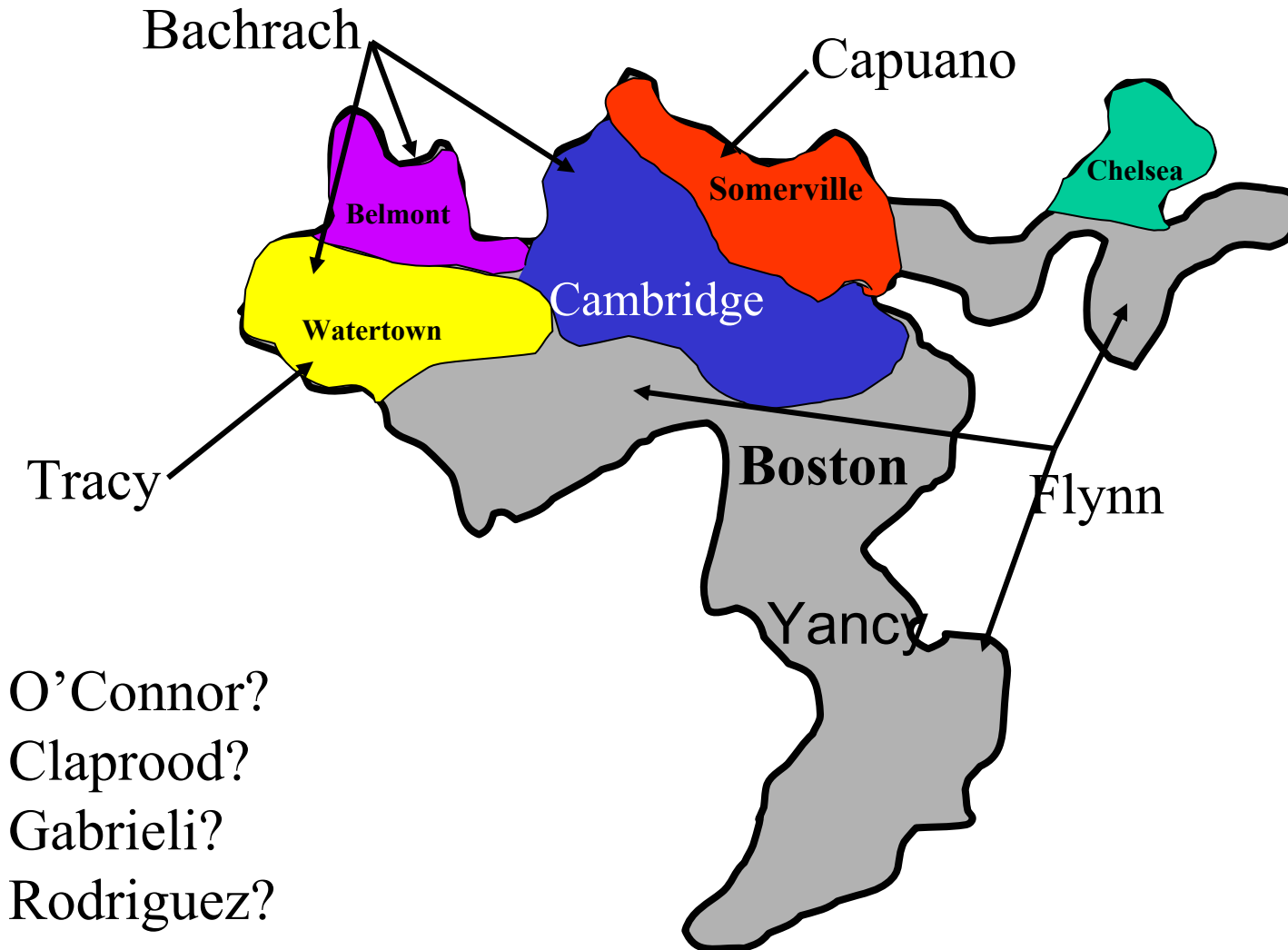
8th District 1998

Candidates

- Mike Capuano (Somerville mayor) (19,439)
- Ray Flynn (former Boston Mayor) (14,829)
- George Bachrach (former state sen.) (12,166)
- John O'Connor (rich husband) (11,035)
- Marjorie Claprod (former state rep & radio personality) (10,358)
- Chris Gabrieli (rich guy) (5,732)
- Chris Yancy (Boston city council) (4,460)
- Susan Tracy (former state. Sen.) (2,855)
- Tom Keane (Boston city council) (2,150)
- Alex Rodriguez (1,799)

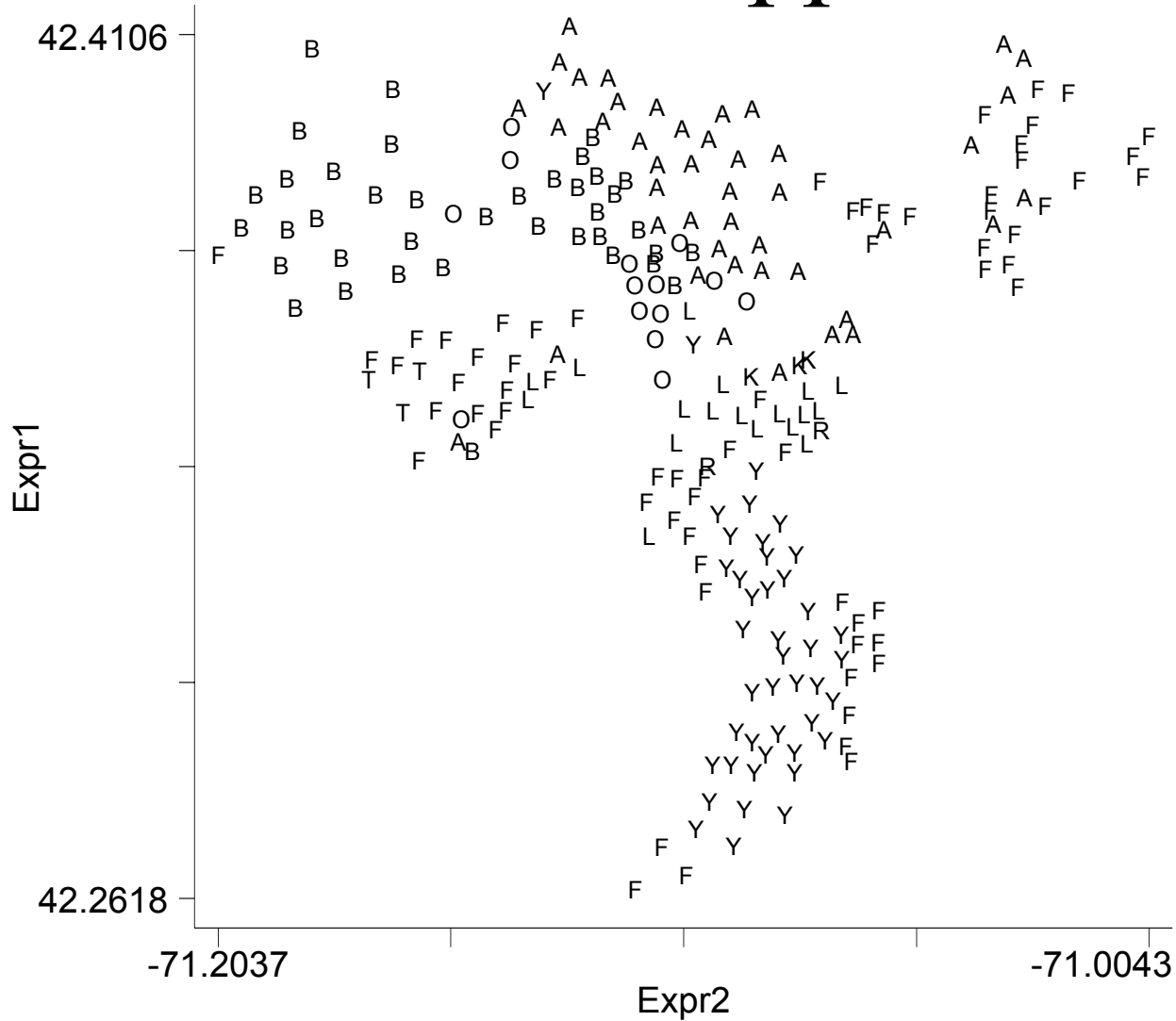
8th District 1998

Schematic of support



8th District 1998

District Support



Strategic Choice and Political Careers

$$E(a_i) = P_i U_i - C_i$$

$$E(a_j) = P_j U_j - C_j$$

Some important considerations

- Variations in variable values
 - across time
 - cross-sectionally
- Factors that affect the calculus of progressive ambition

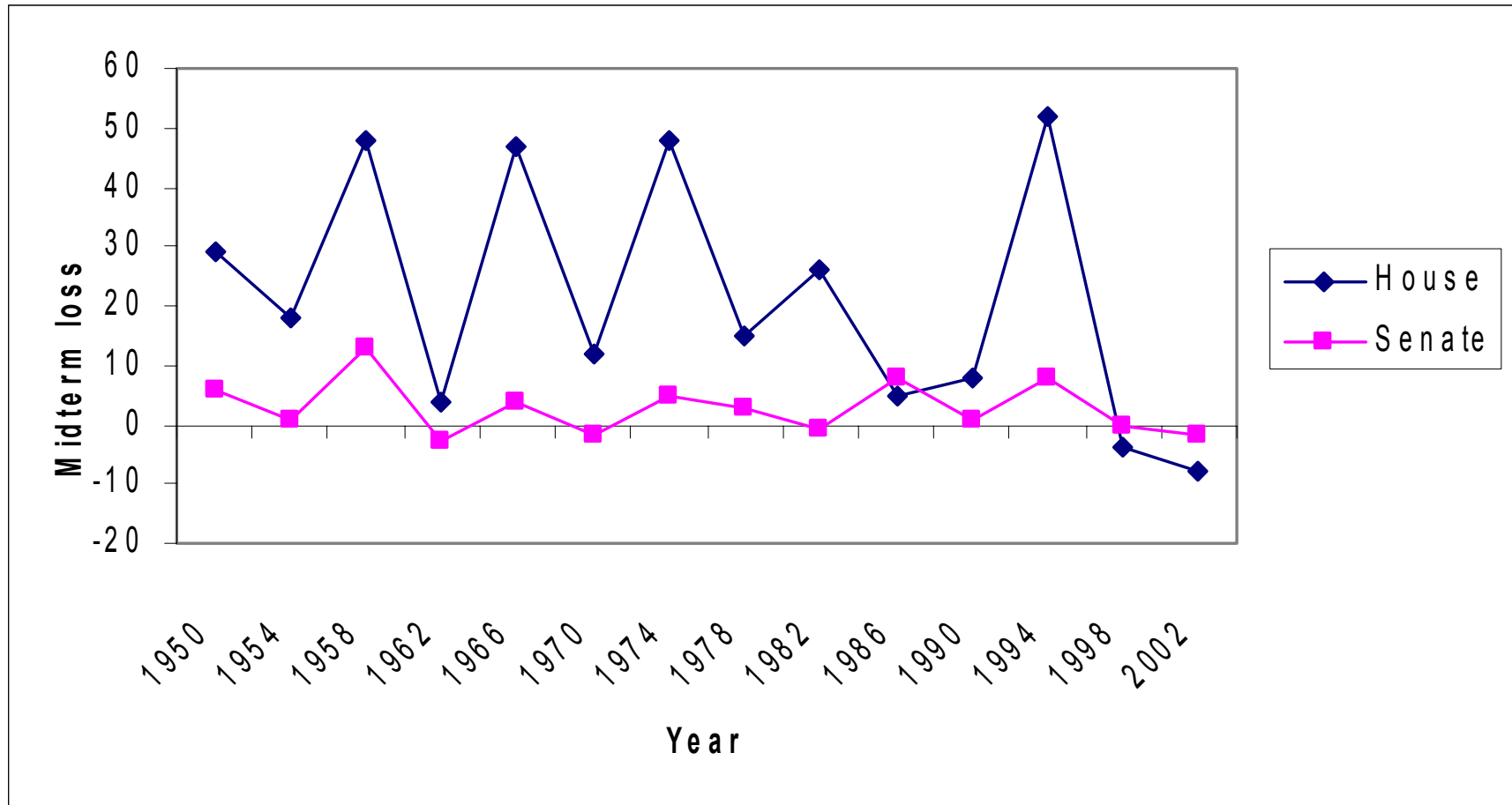
Factors that Affect the Calculus of Progressive Ambition

B_L vs. B_H	P_L vs. P_H	C_L vs. C_H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Scope of legislative authority -Political and policy resources within the institution -Pay and perquisites -Springboard effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National forces -Party identification in the districts -Redistricting -Scandal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Opportunities foregone -Number and quality of challengers -Fund-raising efficiency -Efficiency of translating money and volunteer time into votes

Pay and Perquisites (some examples)

State	Stipend	Travel allowance
Alabama	\$10/day (C)	\$2,280/month plus \$50/day for three days during each week that the legislature actually meets during any session
Georgia	\$16,200/year	\$128/day, set by the legislature.
Massachusetts	\$50,122.80/year	From \$10/day-\$100/day, depending on distance from State House, set by the legislature.
New Hampshire	\$200/two-year term	No per diem is paid.
Rhode Island	\$11,236/year	No per diem is paid.
West Virginia	\$15,000/year	\$115/day during session, set by compensation commission. \$150/Day for attendance during interim.

National tides

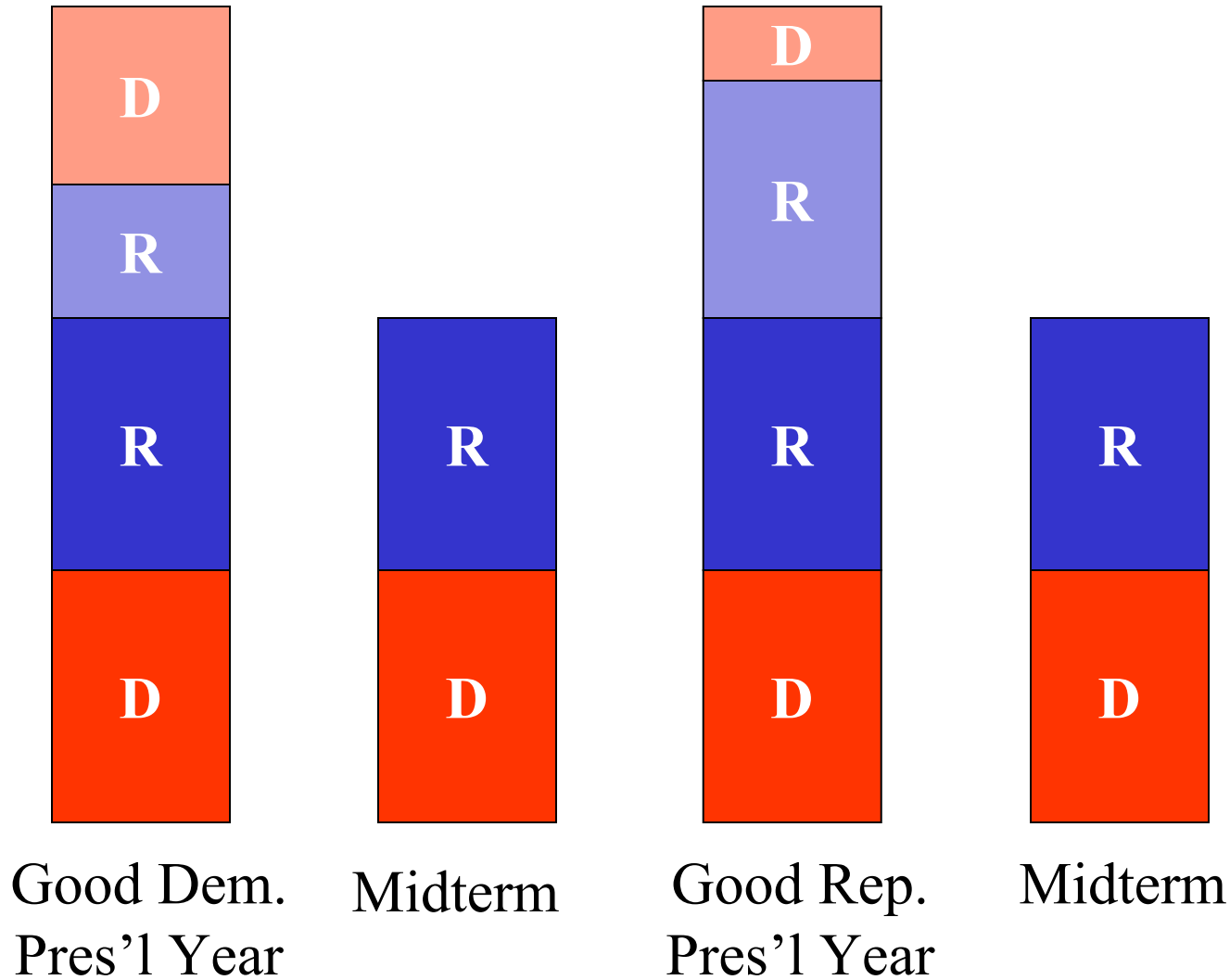


Why the midterm loss?*

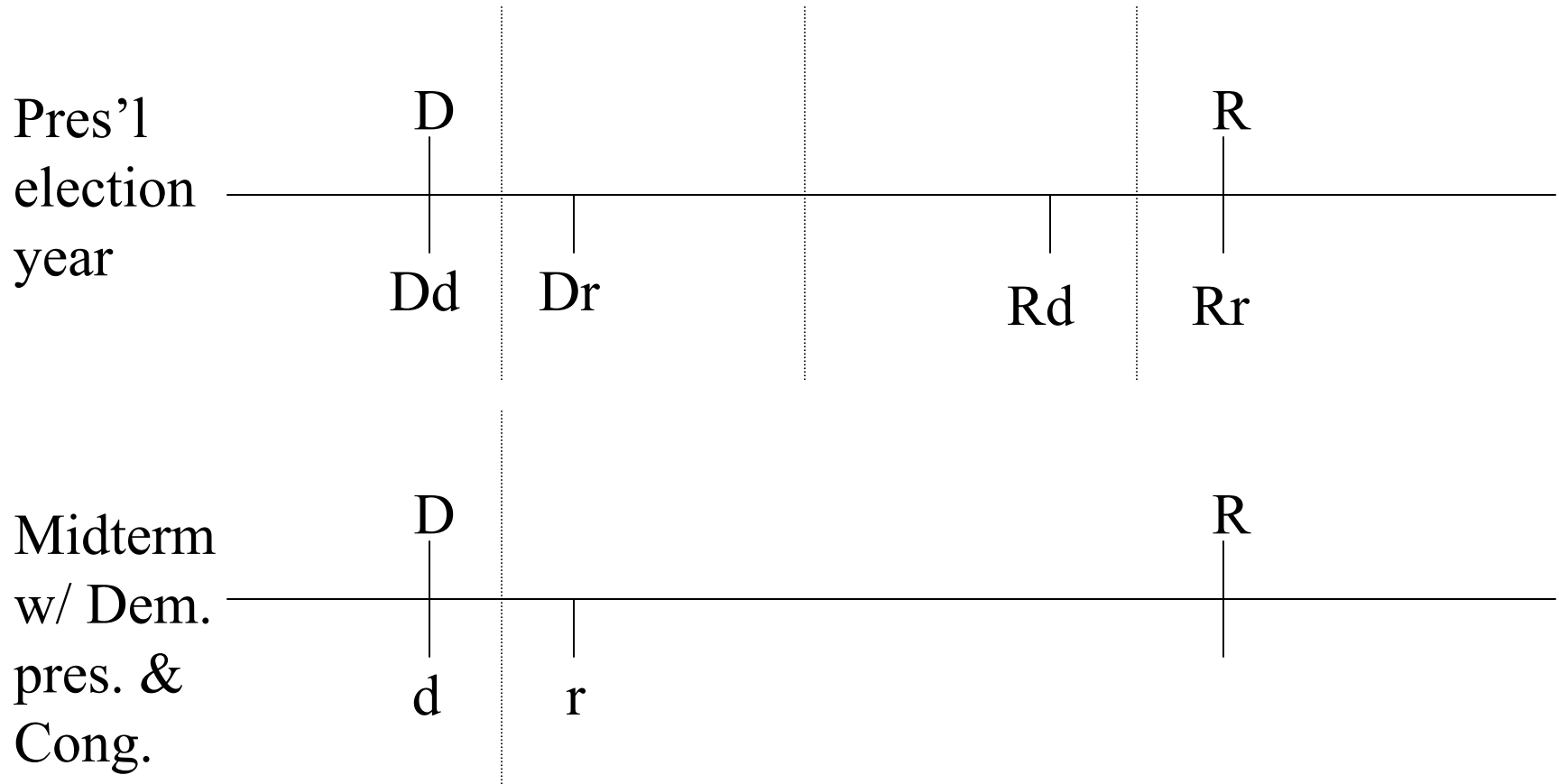
- Surge and decline effect
- Strategic voters
- Strategic politicians

*And where did it go?

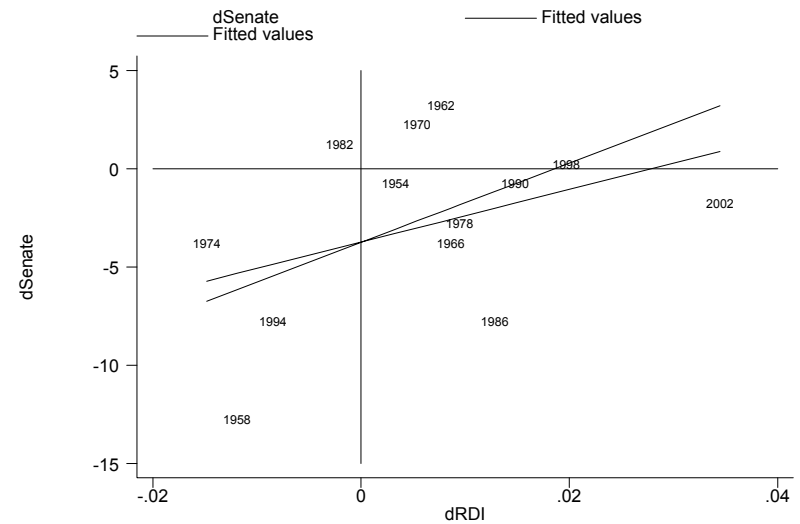
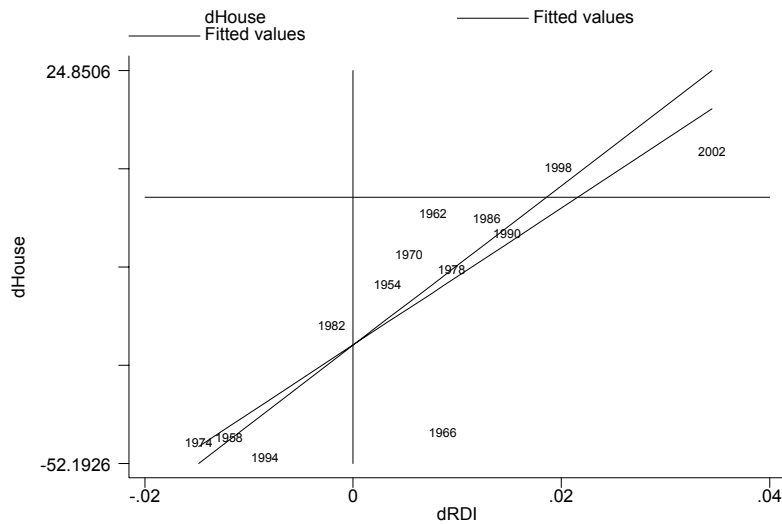
Surge and decline effect



Strategic voters



Strategic Candidates



$$dhouse = -29.0 + 1343dRDI_{q1}$$

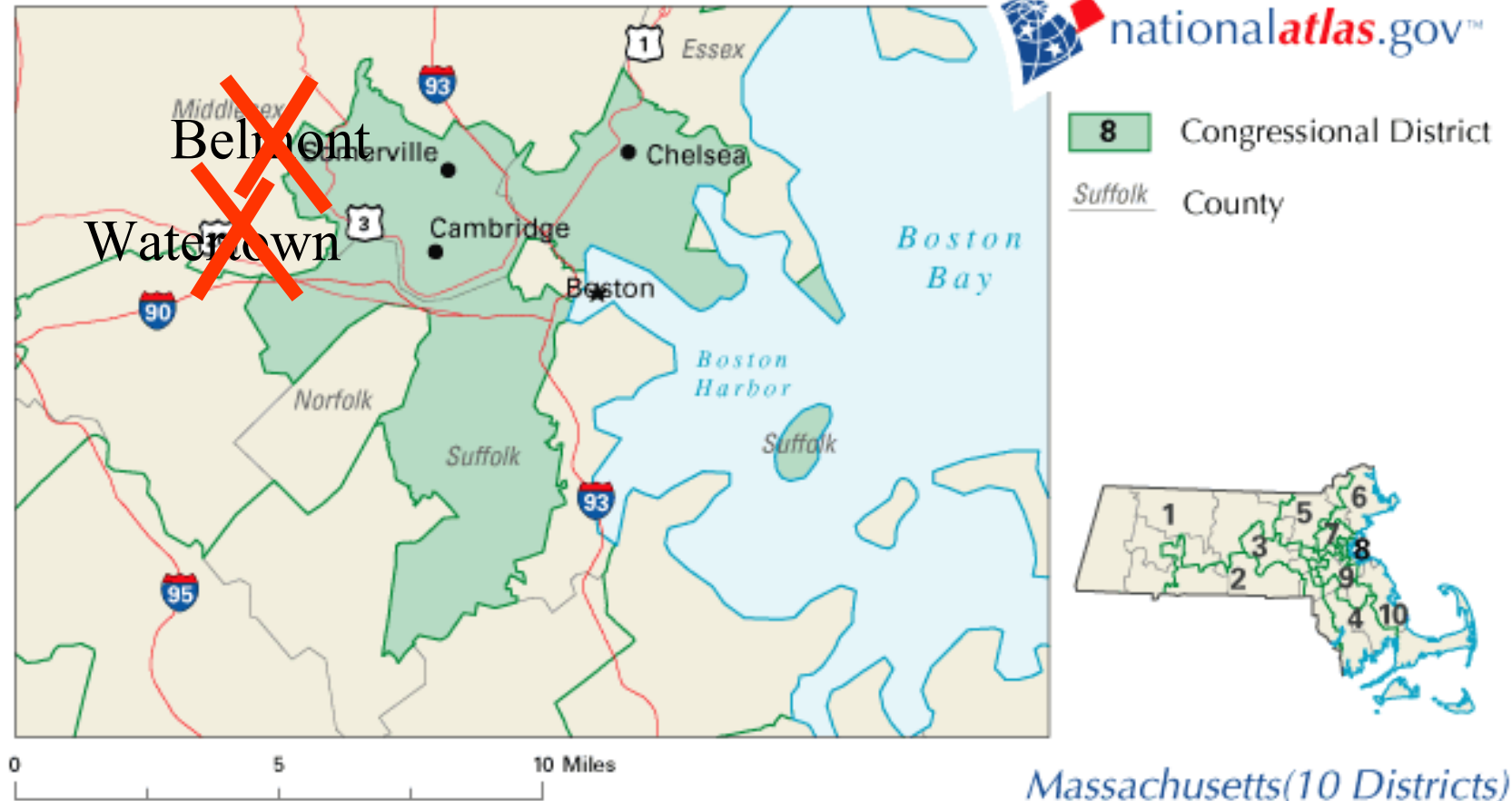
$$R^2 = .71$$

$$dsenate = -3.7 + 134dRDI$$

$$R^2 = .16$$

Incumbent-protection gerrymandering

Congressional District 8



Limit to incumbent protection

- By removing parts of the district from an incumbent in which s/he has developed an “incumbency advantage,” an incumbent can be hurt, *even if added parts of the district share the incumbent’s partisanship.*

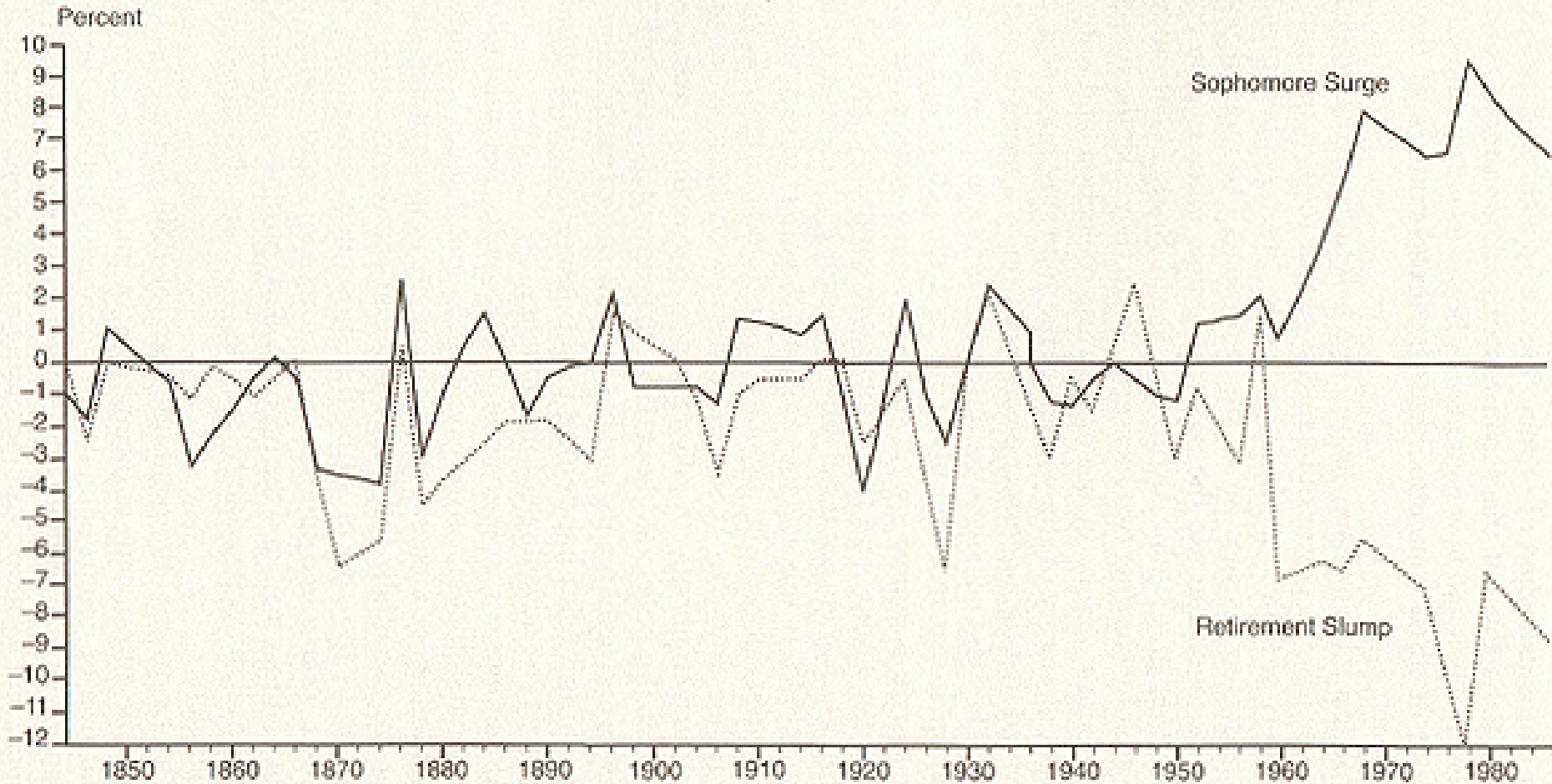
Incumbents, challengers, and open seat candidates

- Incumbents
 - Incumbency advantage
- Challengers
 - Challenger quality
- Open seat candidates
 - The free-for-all

Incumbency advantage:

The Picture

FIGURE 2
U.S. HOUSE ELECTION WITH MAJOR PARTY OPPOSITION, 1846-1986



Note: No data shown for election years ending in "2" and "4".

Source: John R. Alford and David W. Brady (1991: 23).

Incumbency advantage

- Why does it exist?
 - Franking, etc.
 - Constituency service
 - Redistricting
 - Smarter candidates