DFP 2022 Polling Accuracy

November 9, 2022 (Updated as of November XX, 2022)

Over the coming weeks we will share more about the methodological improvements we've made over the past two years, and our findings from polling races this cycle. In the meantime, we'd like to share a few observations and findings we've made.

Our Accuracy

On Monday, Data for Progress released our final round of electoral polling in key battleground states for the Senate and governorships. As the final results are tallied by election officials, it is clear that Data for Progress outperformed the polling averages, and was more accurate than any other pollster, with an average margin error of **XX** across the states we polled.

Our average margin error was the lowest of the **XX** polls we analyzed from pollsters released in the last three weeks of the cycle. When compared to other Democratic pollsters, we led the pack, with the average margin error **XX** percentage points lower than the group's average **XX.**

Data for Progress correctly called **XX%** of races this cycle, which is a large improvement compared to our 2020 rate of 70%.

Senate [REPLACE PLACEHOLDER BELOW WITH ACCURACY TABLE]

Governer [REPLACE PLACEHOLDER BELOW WITH ACCURACY TABLE]

Note: results here are posted once the Associated Press or The New York Times consider 95% of votes counted.

How NY-19 Changed Our Thinking

Early in the 2022 cycle, our polling of the NY-19 special election — which underestimated the performance of Representative Pat Ryan by nearly 7 percentage points — revealed the impact of large differential turnout among Democrats. At the time, we projected that the Biden share of the special electorate (using a recall question) would be roughly similar to the share of the vote received in 2020, relative to Trump's vote share, underestimating the relative share of Biden voters in the 2022 special electorate. With corrected weighting targets, we reduced the projected Republican margin from 8 to 2 percentage points, well within our margin of error.

Using individual vote history and our proprietary vote choice model ("EI" or **ecological inference**), we estimate that the NY-19 special electorate swung to be nearly 7 percentage points more friendly to Democrats than the district was in 2020. In the graph below, we've run the same analysis for all the races in which we have access to individual vote history.

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