

1 Demographic and Political Change: The Great Migration's
2 Impact on the Ideological and Policy Preferences of Elected
3 Officials

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5 February 18, 2020

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7 **Abstract**

8 The first and second Great Migrations were two of the largest demographic
9 events in American history, and they fundamentally changed the social, cultural,
10 and economic makeup of the Northeast, Midwest, and West. However, existing
11 data limitations and threats to inference have made identifying their impact on the
12 political system challenging. Using a novel dataset, identification strategy, and his-
13 torical passenger railroad routes as an instrumental variable, this project identifies
14 the causal impact that the Great Migrations had on the ideological and policy pref-
15 erences of Congress members in the Midwest and Northeast. Results show that this
16 demographic event affected the preferences of elected officials in some, but not all,
17 areas that received Black migrants, that Black migration was associated with a shift
18 to more liberal ideological and policy stances, and that Congressional districts with
19 major North-South rail lines received the largest number of Black migrants. This
20 paper not only contributes to our understanding of the dynamics of constituent -
21 Congress member relations, but also to the way large demographic events affect the
22 political system.

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23 **Introduction**

24 How does politics change? This question has long fascinated political scientists, and
25 forms the core of many subfields within the discipline. Whether through shifts in public
26 opinion, electoral realignments, or changes in party platforms, myriad explanations have
27 been forwarded that explain why, and how, politics does not exist in a static state.

28 Shifts in public opinion serve as one possible explanation for political change. In this
29 scenario, widespread changes to individual-level attitudes and opinions shift aggregate
30 opinion, with subsequent impacts on elections and public policy. Yet, there is mixed
31 evidence of the degree to which changes in public opinion occur. Some studies support
32 the assertion that aggregate opinions change and evolve over time (Shaw 2009; Berinsky
33 et al. 2011). However, a large body of research also shows that individual-level attitudes
34 remain relatively stable over the life cycle, and that aggregate attitudes seldom shift
35 (Campbell et al. 1960; Page and Shapiro 1992). Altogether, there is mixed evidence
36 that aggregate shifts in opinion occur, and, as a result, we may be unsure as to whether
37 changing opinions serve as a catalyst for political change.

38 Political elites have been explored as a possible source of political change, as well.
39 This research suggests that elites are responsible for cultivating public opinion by taking
40 stances on issues, which, in turn, affects the public's stances on key topics (Brady 2001;
41 Layman and Carsey 2002). This holds especially true for issues that exist in a low-
42 information environment (Sniderman, Brody, and Tetlock 1991; Gilens and Murakawa
43 2002), one in which the public looks to leaders for direction. Despite the purported
44 impact of elites, however, some scholarship shows that public opinion is relatively un-
45 affected by changes in elite preferences (Edwards III 2009), or that elites, in fact, may
46 respond to public opinion (Page and Shapiro 1992; Sobel 2001).

47 Another strand of literature probes electoral realignments. By nature, electoral re-
48 alignments undoubtedly create political change, but the impetus behind these changes

49 is debated. Some argue that realignments are cyclical in nature, and that they operate
50 under some well known causal mechanisms (Key 1955; Burnham 1965; Sundquist 1973).
51 However, competing research claims that many of these mechanisms are only plausible
52 at best (Mayhew 2002). Mayhew (2002), for instance, takes issue with the commonly ac-
53 cepted notions that electoral realignments occur because of fluctuations in voter turnout,
54 that strong showings by third party candidates can lead to realignments, and that they
55 are driven by ideological polarization.¹ All told, while realignments may be a cyclical
56 feature of political systems, the underling causes of them are not well understood, or are
57 highly debated.

58 Additional work shows that economic catastrophes, war, and other sociopolitical
59 events can impact the political system (Kelleher and Wolak 2006; Bartels 2013). Events
60 such as these can have dramatic impacts on socialization into politics (Hershey and Hill
61 1975; Erikson and Stoker 2011), shift public opinion (Bishop 2014), affect partisan iden-
62 tification (Dunlap and Wisniewski 1978), and influence election outcomes (McAllister
63 2006; Jacobson 2010). Despite this, isolating the impact of salient events can be difficult
64 because they do not occur at regular intervals. Moreover, they are challenging to define,
65 and difficult, if not impossible, to predict. Last, grounding seemingly random events in
66 theory is challenging, sacrificing our ability to identify their impact(s) on the political
67 system.

68 While politics is ever-changing, the impetus behind these changes is not well under-
69 stood. What, then, produces mass shifts in public opinion, explains long term changes
70 in voting patterns, describes the gradual evolution in policy preferences, and dictates
71 other forms of political change over time? I argue that political change of this sort can
72 be understood through demographic shifts. That is, changes to the demographic com-
73 position of electorates fundamentally affect the political system in profound ways. By
74 way of demographic processes, the distribution of an electorate's aggregate set of polit-

¹In total, Mayhew lists fifteen features that, in the existing literature, are core features of realignments. Mayhew critiques each of these features *seriatim*.

75 ical preferences, attitudes, and actions changes, which, in turn affects, aggregate public
76 opinion, voting, elections, and policy. Over time, the gradual replacement of members
77 in an electorate, either through the exit of some, or the entrance of new members, fun-
78 damentally changes the electorate’s ideological foundation, which, through voting and
79 other forms of political engagement impacts the political system.

80 This paper develops a novel theory of political change to illustrate the effect that
81 demographic shifts have on politics. I leverage one of the largest demographic events
82 in American history, the Great Migration, to show that the entrance of millions of
83 Black migrants to congressional districts largely devoid of their presence fundamentally
84 changed the ideological and policy preferences of congressmembers representing these
85 districts. To do so, I combine a 40 year demographic panel for all congressional districts
86 in the US with DW-Nominate scores and historical railroad routes to identify the impact
87 of this demographic event. I show that congressmembers representing districts receiving
88 Black migrants become considerably more liberal, and are more likely to vote in favor of
89 the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The results are robust to multiple identification strategies,
90 including fixed effect models, instrumental variables, and pooled OLS.

91 The remainder of the paper proceeds as follows. In the next section, I develop my
92 theory of political change. I then describe the Great Migration and situate it as the case
93 used throughout the paper. I introduce the data and measures used in the paper, show
94 the results, and end with a discussion and conclusion.

95 **A Theory of Political Change**

96 As populations change, so can an electorate’s preferences. Whether through mortality,
97 fertility, or migration, compositional changes to the demography of an electorate alter
98 its preferences because its constituent units change. Through these three processes,
99 existing individuals may leave the electorate (i.e., mortality and out-migration), and new

100 individuals may enter it (i.e., fertility and in-migration). Assuming that individuals who
101 leave, or enter, the electorate hold different political preferences than those who remain
102 in it, aggregate preferences change because the underlying distribution of preferences in
103 the electorate changes.

104 Population change operates through three channels: mortality, fertility, and migra-
105 tion. Mortality describes total deaths, fertility is total births, and migration is the dif-
106 ference between in-migration and out-migration. These features can be used to describe
107 population size at time t by:

$$P_t = P_{(t-n)} + (B_{(t-n,t)} - D_{(t-n,t)}) + (IM_{(t-n,t)} - OM_{(t-n,t)}) \quad (1)$$

108 where P_t is population size at time t . P_t is determined by population size at the begin-
109 ning of the previous period, $P_{(t-n)}$, the difference between total births and total deaths
110 between the previous period and the current period, $(B_{(t-n,t)} - D_{(t-n,t)})$, and the differ-
111 ence between in-migration and out-migration over the same periods, $(IM_{(t-n,t)} - OM_{(t-n,t)})$.

112 This equation makes clear how mortality, fertility, and migration alters an electorate's
113 population composition. Fluctuations in death and fertility rates have direct impacts on
114 the removal and introduction of individuals to an electorate, by determining who dies and
115 who is born. Moreover, increased mortality rates among different population subgroups
116 (e.g., older cohorts) can affect a population's median age. Relatedly, differential fertility
117 rates can have a similar effect, but in determining who is born into an electorate.

118 Migration also affects the population composition of an electorate. Naturally, if the
119 total number of out-migrants is larger than the number of in-migrants, an electorate's
120 population size will, *ceteris paribus*, decrease. The opposite holds true when in-migration
121 is greater than out-migration.

122 In addition to explaining population size, equation 1 also implies that fundamental
123 demographic processes can affect an electorate's aggregate political preferences, as well.

124 When population change occurs, status quo preferences may be upset by new individu-
125 als exiting, or entering, the electorate who hold preferences that are different from the
126 average of the electorate itself. This is because individuals responsible for population
127 change likely hold preferences. When they bring their preferences into (or out of) an
128 electorate, the electorate's preferences change because the distribution of preferences
129 changes in the aggregate. All told, while the primary consequence of demographic pro-
130 cesses are changes in population size and the descriptive demographic composition of an
131 electorate, a secondary effect includes the way that the preferences associated with the
132 individuals creating this change get absorbed into the electorate, and change its status
133 quo.

134 Two main assumptions are needed for this process to occur. The first is that individ-
135 uals leaving, or entering, and electorate hold different political attitudes and preferences
136 than those who remain in it. The second is that attitudes and preferences remain stable.
137 In the discussion below, I explain these assumptions in greater detail, and argue that
138 they are reasonably likely to hold.

139 For demographic change to have any impact on an electorate's aggregate preferences,
140 those entering the electorate must hold preferences and attitudes that are different from
141 those already in it. If attitudes and preferences were the same between these groups, then
142 the addition (subtraction) of certain individuals would simply maintain the status quo
143 preference set of the electorate. This situation would arise if, for instance, demographic
144 processes affected all groups in an electorate equally such that death rates, fertility, and
145 migration was equally likely to occur across all possible populations. Alternatively, this
146 could occur if individuals exiting (entering) an electorate held identical preferences to
147 those who remain, or already exist in it.

148 However, it is well documented that demographic processes do not affect subpopula-
149 tions equally. Mortality rates, for example, vary by age and country (Zheng, Yang, and
150 Land 2016; Torre et al. 2016), certain racial and ethnic groups (Hummer et al. 1999; Bos

151 et al. 2005), and individuals from particular socioeconomic backgrounds (Guest, Alm-
152 gren, and Hussey 1998; Huie et al. 2003). Additionally, migration is more likely to occur
153 among individuals with either high or low education levels (Caponi 2010), and fertility
154 rates have historically been higher among certain immigrant groups in the United States
155 (Kahn 1994; Carter 2000; Parrado and Morgan 2008).²

156 Importantly, political attitudes and preferences have also been shown to vary con-
157 siderably across demographic groups, as well. Preferences and attitudes, for instance,
158 are shown to vary by race/ethnicity (Sanchez 2006; Tate 2010; Segura 2012), income
159 (Ellis 2017), age (Wong 2000; Tilley 2002), and gender (Verba, Burns, and Schlozman
160 1997). Because demographic processes vary across population subgroups, and because
161 political attitudes and preferences also vary across these groups we can be confident that
162 population change effectively brings, or removes, individuals and groups from electorates
163 that are different from the status quo, both demographically and politically.

164 Even when demographic change occurs, its potential impact on an electorate’s ag-
165 gregate preferences would be stymied if individual-level attitudes within subpopulations
166 change. This is because initial changes to an electorate’s preferences would be overrun
167 by long-term shifts back toward the original status quo. In one scenario, for instance,
168 demographic change could introduce a new population into an electorate, one that holds
169 preferences different from the status quo. However, this group could, over time, experi-
170 ence a gradual shift in its attitudes that brings it in alignment with the status quo. In this
171 scenario, short-run disruptions to the existing electorate’s preferences would gradually
172 taper off because the new group comes to parallel its preferences in the long run.

173 There is ample evidence indicating that attitudes and preferences remain relatively
174 stable over one’s life. At the individual-level, attitudes can become crystallized during
175 early adulthood (Osborne, Sears, and Valentino 2011), and remain stable into adulthood

²I am careful to note that Parrado and Morgan (2008) shows that fertility rates for Mexican-American immigrants converge to that of whites over time, even though they initially hold higher fertility goals. A similar argument is made by Carter (2000), as well.

176 and later life (Alwin, Newcomb, and Cohen 1992; Sears and Funk 1999). Moreover,
177 individuals are less open to change as they age (Stoker and Jennings 2008). This is
178 especially true for partisanship and central issues that form the core of one's political
179 identity (Jennings and Markus 1984; Krosnick and Alwin 1989). A similar pattern exists
180 in the aggregate, and it has been shown that, even if individual-level attitude change
181 occurs, aggregate attitudes remain stable (Campbell et al. 1960; Page and Shapiro 1992).
182 Certainly, attitudes and preferences may change, but there is ample evidence indicating
183 that such changes are trumped by long-term attitudinal stability.

184 When these two assumptions hold, as I argue, demographic processes can change an
185 electorate's ideological and preference set, and political change can occur as a result.
186 A practical difficulty, however, lies in identifying examples of demographic change that
187 can be used to elucidate this point. Data limitations, threats to inference, and merely
188 identifying examples of demographic change create this challenge. In the United States,
189 however, arguably the most salient example of demographic change that can be used to
190 test the above theory is the Great Migration, the movement of millions of Blacks from
191 the South to the North, Midwest, and West during the 20th Century. I leverage this
192 mass migration to show that demographic change affects preferences and ideology in the
193 way described above. I introduce this case in the next section and situate it within the
194 context of this study.

195 **The Great Migration**

196 The Great Migration represents the mass movement of Blacks from the South to the
197 Northeast, Midwest, and West, during the 20th Century. The migration can be broken
198 into two eras that correspond to World War I (WWI) and World War II (WWII). This
199 first migratory wave began at the beginning of WWI, when a labor shortage in the North

200 and Midwest emerged because of an exodus of male laborers to join the war effort.³
201 Southern-born Blacks migrated to these areas in search of work and better economic
202 opportunities (Collins 1997). Cities with relatively small Black populations experienced
203 a sudden surge in their population, and Black population centers became established in
204 these areas. Black migration continued after the war ended, and even increased in the
205 years thereafter (Boustan 2017)

206 A second migratory wave emerged during WWII. Again, labor market shortages
207 and economic opportunities in the non-South attracted Blacks to the North, Midwest
208 and, now West. Emergent wartime airline and shipbuilding industries, along with other
209 economic opportunities, in the Pacific states brought Black migrants to areas that did
210 not experience their migration during the first wave of migration (Nash 1985; Johnson
211 1994). In total, during the 1950s approximately 2.5 million southern-born Blacks resided
212 in the North, Midwest, and West (Tolnay 2003, p. 210). Black out-migration from the
213 South continued, but slowed, in the decades following, and reverse migration began to
214 occur during the 1990s (Frey 2004; Boustan 2017).

215 The Great Migration was one of the largest demographic events in US history, and
216 it serves as a useful case to understand the impact that demographic change has on the
217 political system. The migration brought millions of Black people to areas largely devoid
218 of their presence, both physically and politically. Black migrants brought their political
219 ideologies and preferences with them, voted, shared their opinions, and exerted force
220 on the political system. Using novel data and identification, I leverage this source of
221 exogenous demographic change to provide robust evidence for the theory developed in
222 the previous section. All told, the results indicate that, indeed, demographic change can
223 have a profound impact on the political system, and when the composition of electorates
224 change, so do its preferences, and those of its elected officials.

³See Yokelson (1998) for a detailed description of military service during World War I.

225 **Data**

226 *Congressional District Data*

227 Congressional district demographic data is from the Congressional District Data File
228 (Adler, n.d.). This data contains information on economic, social, and geographic vari-
229 ables for the 78th through 105th congresses (1943 - 1998), for each congressional district
230 in the United States. For example, select variables include population-level characteris-
231 tics such as total Black population, total population, and economic characteristics such
232 as number unemployed, and number of manufacturing jobs located in the district.

233 Much of the social, economic, and demographic data contained in this dataset was
234 compiled from US decennial censuses' Congressional District Databooks or the Census
235 of Population. Geographic information such as whether the district is on the coast or
236 within 100 miles of Washington DC is from geographic data sources such as United
237 States Geological Survey maps, Rand McNally Road Atlases, and congressional district
238 maps. In total, I use data from each congress in this data set, covering the period from
239 1943 to 1998. Data from this sources forms the core of the demographic explanatory
240 variables in my analyses.

241 *DW-Nominate and Voteview*

242 The primary dependent variable is an ideal point estimate of congressmembers' ideo-
243 logical position. This is taken from DW-Nominate's first ideological dimension, which
244 represents the typical liberal-conservative ideological spectrum in American politics, for
245 each House of Representatives member (Lewis et al. 2019). Additional data includes
246 roll call votes for each House member. Together, this is merged with the congressional
247 district data for to create a panel dataset of district-level social, economic, and demo-
248 graphic characteristics, as well as ideological and roll call vote data for each district's
249 respective House member(s). This results in a panel dataset covering the 78th through

250 105th congresses.

251 *District Shapefiles and Railroad Routes*

252 I use railroad routes as an instrumental variable in part of the empirical analysis. The
253 instrument is created from two data sources: congressional district shapefiles (Lewis
254 et al. 2013), and a shapefile of railroad routes in the continental US (Atack 2016). The
255 district shapefiles cover the 78th through 105th congresses. The railroad data covers
256 major railroad routes in the continental US that were in operation between 1830 and
257 1972. The two data sources were combined such that, for every congress, the Euclidean
258 distance between the centroid of a congressional district and the nearest railroad line
259 was calculated.⁴ This operation is performed for each congress-district dyad, and the
260 final distances are merged with the demographic and political data discussed above.

261 **Design and Identification**

262 *Panel Setup*

263 The unit of analysis is the congressional district. Congressional districts are used because
264 demographic data is available at this geographic level. Additionally, I can couple this
265 information with DW-Nominate scores to observe how the ideological position of con-
266 gressmembers representing these districts changes over time. Effectively, I characterize
267 this as observing how a district's ideology shifts in response to demographic change.

268 I balance the panel to include districts that are observed in each of the 78th through
269 105th congresses, covering the period from 1943 to 1998. This time period is advanta-
270 geous because the beginning of the second Great Migration began in the early 1940s,
271 when the United States entered World War II (Gregory 2009). As such, I can model the

⁴Please see Appendix for an intimate discussion on how railroad routes were selected. This is also discussed in the section describing identification and research design.

272 beginning of the second wave of migration, and observe population change over multiple
273 decades. In total, each congressional district is observed 28 times.

274 The following two-way fixed effects model is estimated:

$$Y_{dt} = \alpha_d + \lambda_t + \rho \log(\text{Black}_{dt}) + X'_{dt}\beta + \epsilon_{dt} \quad (2)$$

275 where Y_{dt} is the outcome of interest, α_d is a district fixed effect, and λ_t is a time effect
276 for the congressional session. The primary independent variable is $\rho \log(\text{Black}_{dt})$ which
277 represents district d 's logged total Black population in year t , and $X'_{dt}\beta$ is a vector of
278 control variables for district d in year t . The main fixed effect models in the analysis
279 use this specification.⁵

280 *Instrumental Variables*

281 In addition to the fixed effects models, I use instrumental variables (IV). Although two-
282 way effect models are beneficial because time-invariant confounders can be controlled for,
283 and because time-varying characteristics can be explicitly modeled, there may remain
284 a correlation between the treatment and the error term. In the context of this study,
285 such a scenario could arise if $\rho \log(\text{Black}_{dt})$ is correlated with unmodeled aspects of the
286 treatment assignment process, such as the ease of navigating existing migration routes.
287 To combat this possible source of confounding, I instrument district d 's total Black
288 population in year t as a function of the distance between the centroid of district d in
289 year t , and the nearest rail line. That is, for each time period, I minimize the distance
290 between the centroid of a district and the nearest railroad line.

291 Because of the panel structure of the data, I am able to estimate a panel fixed
292 effects instrumental variables (PFEIV) estimator. This is similar to cross-sectional in-
293 strumental variables, but allows for within-unit changes over time to be modeled, and

⁵Note that this specification remains the same even when the dependent variable changes, and the pool of district-congressional term dyads change, as well.

294 for unobserved time-invariant confounders to be differenced out of the equation. Effec-
 295 tively, this leverages the benefits of traditional panel fixed effects models together with
 296 IV estimators that create exogeneity for the endogenous regressor(s).

297 The first stage of this equation is modeled as:

$$\log(Black_{dt}) = \alpha_d + \lambda_t + \tau \log(Distance_{dt}) + X'_{dt}\beta + \epsilon_{dt} \quad (3)$$

298 where, as in (1), there are unit and time effects, as well as a vector of controls. In
 299 this setup, however, logged total Black population is the endogenous regressor that is
 300 modeled as a function of these covariates, as well as the instrument, $\tau Distance_{dt}$, which
 301 is the minimum distance between the centroid of district d in time t and the nearest rail
 302 line, in meters. The second stage is modeled as:

$$Y_{dt} = \alpha_d + \lambda_t + \rho \log(\widehat{Black}_{dt}) + X'_{dt}\beta + \epsilon_{dt} \quad (4)$$

303 which is identical to equation (1), but with predicted values for logged total Black
 304 population ($\rho \log(\widehat{Black}_{dt})$), taken from the first stage equation.

305 PFEIV estimators rely on the following assumptions for consistent estimation (Mur-
 306 tazashvili and Wooldridge 2008; Wooldridge 2010):

- 307 1) $\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{dt} | z_{d1}, z_{d2}, z_{d3}, \dots, z_{dT}) = 0$, for $t = 1, \dots, T$
- 308 2a) $\text{rank} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}(\dot{z}'_{dt} \dot{z}_{dt}) = L$, where $\dot{z}_{dt} = z_{dt} - \bar{z}_d$, and L is a $(1 \times L)$ vector of
 309 instruments.
- 310 2b) $\text{rank} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}(\dot{z}'_{dt} \ddot{x}_{dt}) = K$, where $\ddot{x}_{dt} = x_{dt} - \bar{x}_d$, and K is a $(1 \times K)$ vector of
 311 independent variables.
- 312 3) $\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_d \epsilon'_d | z_d, c_d) = \sigma_e^2 \mathbf{I}_T$

313 Importantly, and as Wooldridge (2010) notes, PFEIV does not rely on the assump-

314 tion that $\mathbb{E}(z'_{dt}c_d) = 0$. Considering this, we need not make the assumption that the
315 instrument is unrelated to the unobserved effect.⁶ I rely on PFEIV for the majority of
316 the instrumental variables analysis.

317 **Treatment Assignment and Railroads**

318 The logic behind distance as an instrumental variable is because of the migratory pro-
319 cess. During much of the Great Migration, a primary source of transportation for Black
320 migrants was passenger railroads. During the period of the migrations, many Southern
321 railroads either had direct service to Midwestern and Northeastern states, or shared a
322 connection with a major rail line that passed through these areas. For example, Gross-
323 man (1989) writes that a particularly noteworthy passenger railroad for Black migrants
324 was the Illinois Central Railroad, which linked Midwestern cities such as Chicago and
325 St. Louis with Southern cities such as Memphis, and New Orleans.

326 Railroads not only served as a form of transportation, but also as a source of employ-
327 ment, as well. During the migrations, railroad companies in need of labor offered free
328 transportation for northern-bound Black migrants who pledged to work on the railroad.
329 This was true, for instance, of the Pennsylvania Railroad (Bodnar, Simon, and Weber
330 1982), which recruited over 16,000 Black migrants in 1916 (*The Great Migration* 2014).
331 In this way, railroads not only operated as a transportation source alone, but also as a
332 source of employment for northern-bound Blacks.

333 Given the historical relevance of railroads during the Great Migration, leveraging
334 them to improve estimates of the impact of Black migration is useful. Theoretically, it
335 is likely that, *ceteris paribus*, congressional districts located nearer historically-relevant
336 rail lines received more Black migrants. Simply, it is less costly to migrate to a destina-
337 tion location that is nearer and, as a result, we are likely to see that migrants settled in
338 districts that were proximate to railroad routes. In the mind of a potential migrant, s/he

⁶This is similar to traditional fixed effect models, where $\mathbb{E}(x'_d c_d) = 0$ need not hold to generate consistent estimates of x .

339 might choose to move to a location that is near because it reduces the costs associated
340 with doing. Modeling this aspect of the treatment assignment process is crucial if un-
341 biased estimates are to be generated. However, because traditional fixed effects models
342 can not account for this process, the coefficient for ρ may be biased.

343 To model the migratory process in the first stage, I create a measure of the distance
344 between the geographic center of each district in every time period, and the point on
345 a rail line that is closest to the centroid of each district. This process relies on data
346 from two sources: the congressional district and railroad shapefiles discussed earlier,
347 and it proceeded in three steps. First, I manually identified all rail lines that connected
348 the South to the Northeast and Midwest.⁷ This was a first cut to identify a potentially
349 relevant set of railroads. I then identified whether each rail line was named to a particular
350 railroad company or route. If it was, I checked the name against the historical record
351 to identify whether it was, or could have been, used during the Great Migration. If a
352 rail line was mentioned in the historical record as being relevant or used by migrants,
353 I kept it in the final sample. Railroad lines that did not meet these three criteria were
354 excluded from the analysis. While this may omit potentially relevant railroad routes, it
355 is, by design, intentionally so as to reduce the potential for Type I errors.

356 After this final set of rail lines was established, I manually inspected each spatial line
357 segment of each rail line to ensure that it was, in fact, associated with the rail line that
358 was named. I did this because some sections of rail lines were not named, despite them
359 being a part of, or next to, named, relevant lines. If portions were not named, I deleted
360 them from the full line segment to ensure that only rail lines that were verified to have
361 a name *and* be relevant were kept for the final sample. Doing so safeguards against
362 including potentially irrelevant or erroneous lines in the sample, which would increase
363 measurement error.

364 After the final sample of railroads was identified, I used the congressional district

⁷Due to the comparatively sparse railroad network in the Western US, I exclude this region from the IV analyses.

365 shapefiles to calculate the distance metric. This was done iteratively for each congres-
366 sional session for which there was available congressional district demographic data. In
367 total, distances were calculated for all congressional districts located in the Midwest and
368 Northeast, from the 78th through 105th congresses.

369 *Exclusion Restriction*

370 Obtaining unbiased estimates of ρ in the PFEIV setting requires that instrument and
371 the error-term in the second stage are unrelated (i.e., Assumption 1 from above). If they
372 were not, then the instrument would have a direct effect on the outcome, violating the
373 exclusion restriction, and sacrificing our ability to generate consistent estimates. While
374 this assumption is not directly testable, I argue in this section that it is likely to hold.

375 For the instrument to have a direct impact on the outcome in the second stage
376 and violate the exclusion restriction, it would have to directly impact the ideological
377 preferences of elected congressmembers. This is unlikely for two reasons. First, the
378 railroad routes used to make the instrument were built between 77 and 108 years prior to
379 1943, the first year of measurement for this study. Given the time gap between railroad
380 construction and the first year of observation in this study, railroads and ideological
381 preferences are likely unrelated because the congressmembers in office between the 78th
382 and 105th congresses could have had no impact on railroad routes that were created
383 roughly one century before.

384 Second, while railroads may have affected economic and labor market outcomes that,
385 in turn, affected the ideological preferences of congressmembers during the period under
386 study, these possible sources of confounding are controlled for by $X'_{dt}\beta$ in the PFEIV
387 models. For example, one possibility is that railroads could have increased employment
388 in certain sectors of the economy such as manufacturing and blue collar jobs. In re-
389 sponse, this may have attracted certain types of migrants to districts that experienced
390 increased economic activity in these sectors. Alternatively, congressmembers may have

391 changed their ideological preferences to accommodate new industries by becoming more
392 conciliatory toward industries that were experiencing growth. However, these possible
393 sources of confounding are teased out by the vector of control covariates in equation (3).
394 So, in the least, the exclusion restriction would hold, even if it is conditional on X'_{dt} .

395 There are also geographic factors that lend credence to the exclusion restriction.
396 First, the exact siting of railroad routes is partly a function of fluctuations in geography,
397 terrain, and topography (Yi 2017). As such, the distances used in the instrument may
398 operate as a partial function of geographic features that vary because of the particular
399 route that a railroad is, geographically, forced to take. The particular location of the
400 node that is most proximate to the centroid of a given district would therefore occur
401 because of random variation in railroad routes. Atack and Passell (1994), for example,
402 show that subtleties in physical geography determined the exact placement of railroad
403 routes.

404 Relatedly, the Great Migration was primarily to urban areas in the non-South (Cahill
405 1974; Tolnay and Beck 1992; Baldwin 2007; Price-Spratlen 2008). While, in theory, it
406 might make sense to calculate distances between railroad routes and these areas because
407 of the relevance of cities and large towns, doing so would correlate the instrument with
408 city-level political characteristics that might affect a congressman's ideology. This
409 is because cities and major urban areas had direct impacts on the migration process
410 *and* congressman ideology. The former occurs because cities served as primary labor
411 markets that migrants selected into, and the latter is because congressmembers would
412 have naturally been affected by the political climate of large cities, perhaps because of
413 a strong electoral base in these areas. By setting the distance metric to the centroid
414 of a district it is orthogonal to urban-area characteristics that attracted Black migrants
415 and influenced congressman ideology. In this way, the centroid is agnostic to the
416 economic and political characteristics located in urban areas that could correlate the
417 instrument with the outcome, and violate the exclusion restriction.

418 Existing literature also suggests that railroad routes and distance metrics can be
419 an effective instrument. Black et al. (2015) uses the distance between place of birth
420 and railroad lines as an instrument for migration to identify the impact of the Great
421 Migration on Black mortality. Work by Ananat (2011) also leverages railroads as an
422 instrument, but uses the railroad length as an instrument to identify how inflows of
423 Black migrants affected spatial segregation in the US. As argued above, Ananat (2011)
424 suggests that railroads routes are a valid instrument because their placement had less to
425 do with social and economic concerns and more to do with business leaders and engineers
426 who sited them according to their proximity to surrounding locations and ground slope
427 (See also Atack and Passell 1994 and Wellington 1911).

428 There are additional studies that leverage distance as an instrumental variable, as
429 well. Card (1993) uses geographic proximity to university as an instrumental variable to
430 estimate returns to schooling. Later work by McCleary and Barro (2006) uses distance
431 from the equator to estimate the effects of economic development on levels of religiosity,
432 and Voors et al. (2012) uses distance to Bujumbura as an instrument for violent conflict.
433 Further work in economics uses the distance between African ethnic groups and the coast
434 during the slave trade to identify the effect of the trade on mistrust in Africa (Nunn and
435 Wantchekon 2011).

436 Medical research has also used geography as an instrumental variable. Travel time
437 between a mother's home and the nearest neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) is used to
438 examine whether superior NICU facilities reduce childhood mortality among high risk
439 infants (Baiocchi et al. 2010). In Baiocchi et al. (2010), travel time is calculated as the
440 time from the centroid of a mother's zip code to the nearest high- and low-level hospitals
441 (p. 1286). McClellan, McNeil, and Newhouse (1994) leverage differential distances to
442 hospital-type to estimate the effect of treatments for acute myocardial infarction and
443 elderly.

444 Although the exclusion restriction is not directly testable, there is evidence that it

445 holds in the context of this study. As discussed, the railroad lines used for the instrument
446 were sited approximately one century before the first year of observation in this study.
447 Given the large time gap, ideology and the instrument are plausibly unrelated. Even if
448 they were, the controls included in the instrument are likely to soak up potential sources
449 of confounding. Additionally, the natural geographic variation that determined railroad
450 siting, along with using the centroid of a district, likely make the instrument orthogonal
451 to factors affecting both Black migration *and* congressman ideology. Last, there
452 are myriad studies using distance as an instrument generally, and a handful that use
453 railroad routes specifically for the analysis of the Great Migrations, specifically. This
454 lends credence to similar identification used in this study. Altogether, there is ample
455 evidence that the instrument is plausibly exogenous, and that the exclusion restriction
456 is not violated.

457 *Stable Unit Treatment Value Assumption*

458 A related concern is whether district d 's outcomes are independent of the treatment
459 statuses of other districts. Formally, this is represented by SUTVA, which states that
460 the potential outcomes of unit d are unaffected by the treatment assignment mechanism
461 and the treatment status of other units (Morgan and Christopher 2017). In this set-
462 ting SUTVA would be violated if demographic change occurring in neighboring districts
463 affects the potential outcomes of unit d itself.

464 I argue that SUTVA is not violated in this context. Congressmembers are responsible
465 for their particular district, and it is unlikely that they would respond to demographic
466 changes occurring in neighboring districts. This is motivated by the fact that congress-
467 members are elected by voters in their district alone, and, to have the best shot at wining
468 an election or remaining in office, they must act according to their electorate's prefer-
469 ences (Mayhew 1974). Considering this, it is unlikely that congressman ideology and
470 policy preferences are affected by demographic change occurring around them. Even if

471 this assumption is relaxed such that representatives are aware of what is going on in
472 neighboring districts, it is still unlikely that this awareness would affect their ideological
473 preferences because they must heed to the demands of their particular electorate, not
474 those they are surrounded by.

475 **Measures**

476 The primary independent variable is $\rho Black_{POP_{dt}}$. This represents the total Black pop-
477 ulation in district d in year t , and can be conceptualized as the treatment. There are
478 multiple district-level control variables used, as well. These variables are intended to
479 soak up important social, economic, demographic, and labor market characteristics that
480 may be associated with an elected official's ideology *and* total Black population (i.e.,
481 endogenous variables). Select control variables include number total number of individ-
482 uals employed in manufacturing jobs, number of blue collar workers, total population,
483 and percent unionized in the state.

484 There are two core dependent variables used in the analysis. The first is DW-
485 Nominate's first ideological dimension. This dimension is the represents the typical
486 liberal - conservative ideological spectrum in American politics, and ranges between [-1,
487 1]. Values closer to -1 indicate are more liberal and values closer to 1 are more con-
488 servative. For each district-congressional term dyad, the mean score on this variable
489 is calculated. The mean is used because in some cases there are multiple elected con-
490 gressmembers for a single district (e.g., death, retirement). In all, this variable is used
491 to observe ideological change among elected officials in response to demographic change
492 within their district.

493 The second dependent variable is the roll call vote on the Civil Rights Act (CRA). I
494 leverage this variable to observe how demographic change might affect observed roll call
495 voting behavior among elected officials. For example, it could be that congressmembers

496 representing districts that experienced a larger increase in the Black population were
497 more likely to vote in favor of the Civil Rights Act because of increased pressure from
498 the Black electorate. I test for this by running a similar model to the one described
499 above, but by restricting the regression for the 88th Congress, the term in which the act
500 was voted on. The fixed effect and PFEIV models use a near identical specification, but
501 the latter uses predicted Black population from the first stage.

502 Results

503 Fixed Effect Models

504 Equation 1 is estimated on the entire sample, across all years. As Table 1, column 1,
505 shows, the coefficient for the log of total Black population is -0.09, and is significant to
506 $p < .01$.⁸ Substantively, this means that a one percent increase in total Black population
507 is associated with a .0009 unit decrease in the nominate score. This aligns with the
508 theoretical expectation that increased Black presence is associated with a leftward drift
509 in a district representative's ideology.⁹ The log of total population is significant, as well,
510 but is positively associated with the nominate score, meaning that increased population
511 size is associated with an ideological shift to the right. Logged total number employed in
512 construction is significant to $p < .01$, and is associated with a rightward drift in ideology,
513 and the log of number employed to the same significance level, but is associated with a
514 leftward drift in ideology.

515 I subset the above model to only include states located in the Northeast and Midwest,
516 and run the same specification.¹⁰ Table 1, column 2, shows that the estimates are roughly

⁸All standard errors are estimated at the congressional district level.

⁹Note that this can occur because of an ideological shift over time for an incumbent official, or because more liberal officials are being elected. I make no such claim as to which is occurring here.

¹⁰The states included in this regression are Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Rhode Island, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. These states were chosen on the basis of being located in regions that received Black migrants during the Great Migrations. States in the West are not included because railroad densities are not high enough to create the instrument used in later regressions. To keep the sample

517 similar to those observed in the full sample. The log of total Black population remains
518 of the same sign and significance. Total population is no longer significant in this model,
519 however. Logged total manufacturing jobs is associated with a leftward shift in the
520 nominate score, though it is only significant to $p = .07$. The coefficients for construction
521 and unemployment remain the same direction as in the full sample, though the former
522 is now significant to $p < .01$.

523 **Instrumental Variables**

524 I first test the instrument's association with the endogenous regressor with an F-test.
525 Effectively, this tests whether there is a first-stage effect, and helps rule out the possibility
526 of bias that could arise if the instrument and endogenous regressor were only marginally
527 related. The F-test rejects the null hypothesis that the two variables are only marginally
528 related, and the F-score is greater than 10 ($F = 262.74, df = 4679, p < .001$). This
529 suggests that the instrument's relationship with the endogenous regressor is strong,
530 ruling out possible sources of bias.

531 I estimate the PFEIV model for the same set of Midwestern and Northern states in
532 the panel model above. In the PFEIV model (Table 1, column 3), the log of total Black
533 population remains of the same sign as in the prior panel models, but the coefficient
534 is larger at $-.19$. The null is again rejected to $p < .01$. Here, a one percent increase
535 in a district's Black population is associated with a $.0019$ point shift to the left on the
536 nominate score. Total population remains of the same sign as the prior panel models,
537 but is now only significant to $p < .05$. The coefficient for total number of construction
538 workers is no longer significant, but the coefficient for total unemployed is, albeit now
539 to $p < .05$. The coefficient remains of the same sign (i.e., negative).

540 I estimate an additional IV model, but only with time effects. This is because
541 PFEIV relies on within-unit variation for the instrument, and, depending on the scope

consistent, I omit western states from the analyses.

542 of redistricting, some congressional districts may not have changed shape. In this case,
543 the distance between a district centroid and the nearest railroad route would remain
544 constant, and the instrument would have little predictive power. Table 1, column 4,
545 reports results from a pooled IV with time effects. The results are the same as the
546 PFEIV model, and, again, the log of Black population is significantly associated with
547 an ideological shift to the left among congressmembers ($p < .01$). The estimates for
548 the other independent variables remain of the same sign as those in the PFEIV model,
549 though some become statistically significant. This is because unit-level effects are not
550 included in this specification.

551 **The Civil Rights Act**

552 I extend the above analysis to measure the impact that Black migration had on ideo-
553 logical change during the Civil Rights Movement, as well as observed voting behavior.
554 Serendipitously, the Civil Rights Act, voted on during the 88th Congress, was legislated
555 roughly 20 years after the second wave of migration began. This aligns nicely with the
556 time period I have data for.

557 I begin by leveraging the same panel analyses as above for the fixed effect and
558 instrumental variables models, but restrict the observations to fall between the 77th
559 and 88th Congresses. This allows me to observe how ideology changed as a function of
560 shifts in the Black population during the period up to, and including, the Civil Rights
561 Movement. For the traditional fixed effect models using the full panel, the results are
562 similar to those reported above, as Table 2, column 1, illustrates.¹¹ The same is true
563 for the PFEIV model. However, the coefficient for the log of total Black population is
564 larger, and significant to $p < .05$. The only other significant variable is the log number
565 of union jobs, and this coefficient is also negative, and significant to $p < .05$. In all,
566 the results comport to our theoretical expectations, and mirror those of the previous

¹¹On the restricted sample for the Northeast and Midwest, the coefficients are no longer significant, but remain of the same sign. Please see Table 2, column 2, for details.

567 analyses.

568 In addition to measuring ideological shift, I use the linear probability model (LPM)
569 to estimate the effect that total Black population had on the probability that a con-
570 gressmember voted in favor of the CRA. I do so because a larger Black presence within
571 a congressman's district may have pressured them to vote in favor of the act. In
572 this setup, the outcome is now a binary variable equalling 1 if a congressman voted
573 in favor of the CRA, and 0 if not. This setup is now a simple cross section of the 88th
574 Congress, and I simply pool the observations together. I estimate both OLS models and
575 an IV model, and each uses the same specification.

576 Table 3 provides estimates from these regressions. As is shown in column 1, the log
577 of total Black population and the probability that a congressman votes in favor of
578 the CRA are negatively related on the full sample, and the null of no relationship is
579 rejected to $p < .01$. This contrasts with the OLS and IV models shown in columns 2 and
580 3, which are subset to include only Midwestern and Northeastern districts. The results
581 from the OLS (column 2) and IV (column 3) models depict a statistically significant
582 *positive* relationship between total Black population and CRA vote. It is likely that the
583 sign for total Black population changes from positive to negative when subsetting for
584 Midwestern and Northeastern districts because, at the time that the CRA was voted on,
585 a plurality of Blacks still lived in the South (Iceland, Sharp, and Timberlake 2013)¹²,
586 where conservative congressmembers were not favorable to racial equality, nor the CRA
587 itself. Ergo, on the full sample, the coefficient for total Black population isn't picking
588 up the effect of demographic change, but the lasting vestiges of racial antipathy found
589 among many Southern congressmembers.

¹²Iceland, Sharp, and Timberlake (2013) estimate that 41.4% of all Blacks resided in the South in 1970.

590 Who Were the Migrants?

591 Relationship with Government

592 The above analyses show that the demographic change brought about the Great Mi-
593 gration affected congressman ideology and policy preferences. Across model speci-
594 fications, identification strategies, and dependent variables, increased Black presence is
595 associated in a congressional district is associated with more liberal ideological and pol-
596 icy stances for congressmembers representing that district. But, why does this occur? Is
597 it because southern Black migrants were more liberal than their northern counterparts
598 which, in turn, pushed their elected officials to the left? Or, is it because of critical
599 mass? That is, did the mere presence of more Blacks, regardless of their sociopolitical
600 orientations, have this effect?

601 I am examine these questions using data from the *Racial Attitudes in Fifteen Ameri-*
602 *can Cities Survey*. This survey explored social attitudes toward various racial and urban
603 issues in the United States, and the sample consisted of northern-born and migrant
604 Blacks who, at the time of the survey, lived in one of 15 northern major cities (Campbell
605 and Schuman 1968).¹³ The survey was conducted in early 1968, and there are 2809
606 observations across the entire sample.

607 I begin by examining trust in government, measured as a composite score of different
608 variables. The score ranges from 3 to 9, and higher scores indicate less trustworthiness
609 toward the government. The primary independent variable is a dummy that indicates
610 whether the respondent lived in the South or North for the first ten years of life. Also
611 included in the model are controls for age, total family income, education, and sex. Also
612 included in the regression are a vector of sampling weights.

613 As is shown in Table 4, column 1, Blacks whose homestate region is in the South
614 are more .39 points more trusting in government, and the effect is significant to $p <$

¹³There is an additional sample of Whites, but the survey questions are not consistent across the Black and White samples. Because of this, I exclude the White sample from the analyses.

615 .01. Family income is positively associated with trust, but the effect is only marginally
616 significant ($p = .06$).¹⁴ No other variables are significantly associated with the outcome.

617 I use the LPM to estimate an additional model with a binary dependent variable that
618 takes the value of 1 if the respondent feels that laws and persuasion are the only way
619 to increase Black well-being in the United States. I use this measure because congress-
620 members may experience more political pressure from individuals who see legislation
621 and political persuasion as a means to achieve civil rights. In this scenario, increased
622 pressure from the electorate may push an elected, or would-be, congressman in the
623 ideological direction of the electorate itself. If Black migrants were more (less) likely
624 to feel this way, then their increased presence in the North could have directly affected
625 congressman ideology in host districts.

626 The coefficient estimates in Table 4, column 2, show that Blacks who spent their first
627 ten years in the South are no different than their northern counterparts on this measure
628 ($p = .10$). Age and education are significantly associated with the outcome, the former
629 to $p < .01$, and the latter to $p < .01$.¹⁵ The results are the same when the dependent
630 variable is coded as 1 if laws and persuasion are mentioned in any way, whether alone
631 or in combination with other tactics, to increase Black well-being.

632 Similar results are found when the dependent variable is changed measures the de-
633 gree to which the respondent feels that the federal government is working to solve the
634 problems of their city. This variable ranges from 1 to 3, with higher values indicating
635 that the respondent feels that the government is trying less hard to solve problems. I
636 use this measure to proxy whether they feel that the government is involved in their
637 daily lives. Respondents who feel that the government is working to address issues may
638 feel more efficacious toward government and, therefore, more participatory.

639 As with the previous regression, the coefficient for homestate is not significant ($p =$

¹⁴With this, and all subsequent regressions using this data, I omit all units that respond as “do not know”, or “not applicable” from the analysis.

¹⁵Note that the sample is restricted to individuals who, at the time of the survey, were of voting age.

640 .33; Table 4, column 3). The coefficients for total family income and education are
641 positive, and each is significant to $p < .05$. Black migrants are not different from their
642 northern-born counterparts as it relates to this measure.

643 **Leaders and Organizations**

644 The survey also asked respondents to indicate their support for various civil rights lead-
645 ers. This provides an opportunity to examine whether Black migrants displayed differing
646 levels of support for Civil Rights holding different platforms. Civil rights leaders were
647 not monolithic, and they displayed a great amount of variation in terms of political, so-
648 cial, and economic philosophies, organizing tactics, religious preferences, and end goals.
649 I use this variation to examine whether support for particular civil rights ideologies and
650 leaders differed between migrant and non-migrant Blacks. If differences emerge, then
651 the shifts in congressman ideology and policy preferences reported above could be
652 the result of the injection of Black migrants who advocated for Civil Rights practices
653 that were different than the status quo in the North.

654 I examine support for four leaders and one organization: the Reverend Dr. Martin
655 Luther King Jr., Roy Wilkins, Stokely Carmichael, H. Rap Brown, and the National As-
656 sociation for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Support is measured on a
657 three point scale, ranging between approve, partly approve/disapprove, and disapprove,
658 with higher values indicating *less* approval. The primary independent variable is home-
659 state region during the first ten years of life, and I use controls for age, family income,
660 education, and sex.

661 Black migrants are significantly more supportive toward Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
662 than their northern counterparts (Table 5, column 1). The coefficient estimate for this
663 variable is $-.10$, and the effect is significant to $p < .01$. Southern-born Blacks are also
664 $.06$ points more supportive of Roy Wilkins ($p < .05$; Table 5, column 2). There is no
665 difference in support for Stokely Carmichael, however (Table 5, column 3). Although,

666 older, higher income, and more highly educated individuals are all significantly less
667 supportive of him. Men, however, are significantly more supportive of him. The same
668 is true for H. Rap Brown, who sees no difference in support between migrant and non-
669 migrant Blacks (Table 5, column 4). The additional control variables exhibit the same
670 pattern as with Stokely Carmichael, however, and each is statistically significant. Black
671 migrants are .06 points more supportive of the NAACP, and the coefficient is significant
672 to $p < .01$ (Table 5, column 5). Men are significantly less supportive of this organization
673 ($p < .05$).

674 I also use the LPM to measure whether a respondent contributed money to a civil
675 rights organization between 1963 and 1968. The outcome measure is a binary variable
676 equaling 1 if the respondent has contributed money, and 0 if not. I use the same model
677 specification as the previous regressions using this data. The null of no difference between
678 migrants and non-migrants fails to be rejected ($p = .68$; Table 6). Each of the additional
679 covariates is significant to $p < .001$, and the effects are not unexpected. Older, higher
680 income, and more highly educated individuals were more likely to contribute. The same
681 is true for men, who were more likely to contribute, as well.

682 Results from the *Racial Attitudes in Fifteen American Cities Survey* present mixed
683 evidence for the role that Black migrants played in affected congressman ideology.
684 Black migrants were more trusting in government, but did not differ in the degree to
685 which they felt that laws and persuasion were the only way to increase Black well being.
686 Moreover, they were no different in the perception of the federal government's role in
687 solving everyday problems in the cities they settled in.

688 However, they were significantly more supportive of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
689 and Roy Wilkins, and more supportive of the NAACP. Both Dr. King and Roy Wilkins
690 were more conservative in their approach to civil rights than Carmichael and Brown,
691 and southern Black migrants may have been more supportive King and Wilkins for this

692 reason.¹⁶ This is further reflected by increased migrant support for the NAACP, as
693 well, an organization that has traditionally been associated with a more temperate view
694 toward civil rights than other organizations (Marger 1984). In all, a more conservative
695 view of civil rights among Southern Blacks at the time may have translated to higher
696 levels of support for more conservative leaders and organizations.¹⁷

697 In all, there is mixed evidence that the intrusion of Black migrants pushed congress-
698 member ideology to the left because they brought with them more liberal ideological
699 and policy stances themselves. Despite this, they were more supportive of two impor-
700 tant civil rights leaders, more supportive of a major civil rights organization, and were
701 more trusting in government. If these political sentiments made their way to the ballot
702 box or other political arenas, southern Black migrants may have acted as catalysts for
703 congressman ideological change because they were proponents for major civil rights
704 leaders and organizations. Congressmembers and candidates vying for office may have
705 recognized the sentiments of Black migrants and aligned with them to win, or remain,
706 in office.

707 Even if Black migrants did not push congressmembers to the left because they were
708 more liberal than northern Blacks, they may have done so through critical mass. An
709 increasingly Black electorate, regardless of the ideological preferences of Black migrants
710 and non-migrants, may have, through sheer strength, forced congressmembers to adopt
711 more liberal policy stances and ideological preferences. In this way, Black migrants may
712 not have brought with them new political sentiments to the North and Midwest, but
713 may have increased the size of Black electorates in these regions to the point where
714 elected officials had to listen to, and act in accordance with, them. Overall, however,
715 the evidence presented here suggests that a combination of forces was at work: critical

¹⁶Carmichael, for instance, promoted the use of the phrase “Black Power”, which Dr. King was skeptical of, and Rap Brown was a member of the Black Panther Party which, in many ways, was more progressive than the NAACP, and organization that Roy Wilkins served as executive director of.

¹⁷Note that I am not stating that these leaders and organizations were conservative in their own right. Rather, I am noting that, relative to other leaders and organizations at the time, they were more conservative in their approach to Civil Rights.

716 mas surely added pressure to elites to adopt political preferences that were in greater
717 lockstep with the increasingly large Black electorate, but southern Blacks were also more
718 supportive of certain civil rights leaders and organizations, and this may have pressured
719 elites in a similar way.

720 **Discussion**

721 The results of this paper show that demographic change affects political preferences
722 and ideology. As Black populations increased throughout the non-South, electorates'
723 ideologies and preferences in the aggregate likely moved to the left, especially on racial
724 issues. In turn, congressmembers became more liberal, perhaps in an effort to stay
725 in ideological alignment with this emergent part of their electorate and increase their
726 (re)election chances. In this way, demographic change not only affected the aggregate
727 preferences and ideologies of electorates. It may also affect the preferences and ideologies
728 of elected officials, either because of ideological drift among elected officials who wish to
729 stay in alignment with the electorate, or through the election of new congressmembers
730 who were in better alignment with the emergent electorate.

731 This speaks not only to the impact of demographic change, but also to congressmember-
732 constituent relations. Effectively, this paper chronicles what happens to elite-level ideol-
733 ogy when demographic change occurs within their electorate. A longstanding argument
734 in political science is that elected officials must stay in alignment with their electorate to
735 increase (re)election chances (Mayhew 1974), and that they actively engage with their
736 electorates to do so (Fenno 1978). This paper may provide novel evidence of this re-
737 lationship. Surely, congressmembers were aware of the demographic changes that the
738 Great Migration brought with it, and it is likely that they faced increased pressure from
739 the emergent Black population to pursue liberal Civil Rights and social policies. In turn,
740 incumbent officials may have drifted in the direction of their electorates, or first-time

741 candidates may have presented a more liberal platform to begin with. Either way, these
742 results speak to the way in which elected officials heed to the demands of the electorate.

743 Interestingly, southern Black migrants shared similar opinions about major govern-
744 mental and civil rights issues of the day. In the theory section, I note that for demo-
745 graphic change to have any impact, those who enter (exit) and electorate must hold
746 different preferences from those who remain, or are already, in it. Black migrants held
747 different attitudes on some issues that northern born Blacks, but their preferences are
748 remarkably similar.¹⁸ This suggests that a critical mass scenario may have been at work:
749 the mere presence of a large, and growing, Black population pressured congressmembers
750 to the left, even though the migrants were quite similar to the existing population.¹⁹

751 Striking is the persistent effect of the Black population. Across nearly all specifica-
752 tions the coefficient estimate for total Black population is significant, and predictive in
753 the way anticipated. This includes both shifting elite-level shifts to the left, and vot-
754 ing in favor of the CRA. This suggests that demographic change brought about by the
755 Great Migration may have been a root feature of shifting elite-level party platforms on
756 civil rights observed during the 1960s. During this era, the Republican and Democratic
757 parties shuffled positions on racial issues, and this may have been a direct result of Black
758 migration experienced in the decades prior. Schickler (2016) notes that the Democratic
759 party identified Blacks as a potential source of support during the 1930s, partly due
760 to the upheaval that the Great Depression caused. I show that not only may this be
761 true, but also that a growing Black presence in the North and Midwest in the decades

¹⁸Note that these findings do not violate the second assumption set forth in the theory section. This is because I am not using the *Racial Attitudes in Fifteen American Cities Survey* to measure the impact of demographic change on an electorate's preference set, but am examining preferences for Black people as a whole. Because electorates are not being studied with this data, the results gleaned from the analysis should be treated with caution when relating them to the assumptions devised above. Moreover, on multiple measures migrant Blacks are different than non-migrant Blacks, on core issues and attitudes.

¹⁹Note that this does not discount the theory developed in the paper. This is because Black migrants likely held preferences and attitudes that were to the left of the *average* of the districts they migrated into. This is primarily because districts were comprised of individuals from many different racial groups, and attitudes toward civil rights and other social issues varied considerably by race. So, even though Black migrants may have been similar to northern born Blacks, they were likely to the left of other racial groups that already existed in the districts they migrated to.

762 after may have paved the way for a continued alliance between these two groups, and
763 that elites may have shifted pursued liberal civil rights stances to remain (or become)
764 in alignment with this voter pool.

765 The results are robust to the inclusion of theoretically-relevant controls, and two-way
766 fixed effects. Economic and labor market factors present a mixed bag of results. Total
767 manufacturing jobs is associated with a leftward shift in elite-level ideology, but total
768 construction jobs the opposite. Total number of unemployed is strongly indicative of a
769 leftward shift in ideology, as well, but total number of union workers the opposite. Total
770 population size is either not significant, or predictive of a rightward shift in ideology.
771 These discrepant findings may be explained by the geographic location of certain indus-
772 tries. For example, it may be that locations with more manufacturing jobs are simply
773 located in more liberal places. However, labor unions have traditionally been associated
774 with liberal policies, yet they are associated with more conservative congressman
775 ideologies here.

776 **Conclusion**

777 Future work should examine other demographic events, such as aging, fertility, and
778 mortality. Equation 1 makes clear that mortality and fertility affect population size,
779 and they may affect politics as well. Differential mortality rates among birth cohorts
780 that hold varying preferences and ideologies may affect the political systems in a way
781 similar to what is shown in this paper. The same is true for fertility rates. Analyzing
782 these complementary aspects of demographic change would be fruitful to gain a more
783 comprehensive understanding of the relationship between demography and politics.

784 Moreover, controlling for parallel changes in ideology among individuals within an
785 electorate would be useful as well. One of the core assumptions of the theory developed
786 in this paper is that preferences and attitudes remain constant among individuals, and,

787 while this has been shown for core attitudes and preferences in other research, I am
788 unable to examine whether this holds in this paper, due to data constraints. To effectively
789 do so, I would need individual-level data for the congressional districts in this paper, over
790 the same study period. To my knowledge, data of this sort does not exist. Nonetheless,
791 existing research suggests that the assumption of no ideological change likely holds, even
792 if for core issues.

793 Last, further examination of the way that demographic changes affects congressman-
794 constituent relations is warranted. There is a categorical difference between aggregate-
795 level ideological shifts within an electorate that occur because of shifts to individuals
796 already within the electorate, and the addition (subtraction) of individuals to the elec-
797 torate who hold altogether different attitudes. Congressmembers may be more willing
798 to stay in ideological alignment with constituents they are already familiar with, rather
799 than new entrants. However, it might also be the case that congressmembers create
800 political alliances with emergent populations that can be leveraged for political gain.
801 Evaluating this relationship can shed light on yet undiscovered connections between
802 elected officials and their constituents. As this paper argues, however, a relationship
803 between the two exists, and it can be driven by demographic change.

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Table 1: Panel Models (77th through 105th Congresses)

	DW-Nominate Score			
	Model Type:			
	<u>PFE</u>		<u>PFEIV</u>	<u>IV</u>
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Black (log)	-0.098*** (0.011)	-0.057*** (0.013)	-0.188*** (0.056)	-0.131*** (0.007)
Total Population (log)	0.224*** (0.061)	0.155 (0.113)	0.363** (0.153)	-0.029 (0.079)
Manufacturing (log)	-0.006 (0.033)	-0.093* (0.051)	-0.126** (0.059)	-0.056*** (0.020)
Blue Collar (log)	0.011 (0.044)	0.082 (0.070)	0.137 (0.087)	0.094** (0.037)
Construction (log)	0.088*** (0.023)	0.096*** (0.034)	0.017 (0.053)	0.213*** (0.049)
Unemployed (log)	-0.101*** (0.023)	-0.200*** (0.034)	-0.104** (0.049)	-0.239*** (0.026)
Union (log)	0.012 (0.045)	0.028 (0.073)	-0.021 (0.083)	0.261*** (0.034)
Unit FE	✓	✓	✓	
Time FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Instrumented			✓	✓
Sample	Full	NE/MW	NE/MW	NE/MW
<i>N</i>	9832	4944	4888	4888

* $p < .1$; ** $p < .05$; *** $p < .01$.

Notes: Standard errors, clustered at the district level, are in parentheses. All regressions use DW-Nominate's first ideological dimension, for the 77th through 105th Congresses. Column 1 shows estimates for the two-way panel fixed effects model on the entire sample; column 2 is the same, but for districts in the Northeast and Midwest; column 3 provides two-way panel fixed effect instrumental variables estimates for the Northeast and Midwest; column 4 as the PFEIV model, but only uses time effects.

Table 2: Panel Models (77th through 88th Congresses)

	DW-Nominate Score		
	Model Type:		
	<u>PFE</u>		<u>PFEIV</u>
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Black (log)	-0.049*** (0.018)	-0.031 (0.022)	-0.377** (0.177)
Total Population (log)	0.112 (0.074)	0.226 (0.168)	0.334 (0.244)
Manufacturing (log)	-0.079* (0.043)	-0.107 (0.102)	-0.077 (0.126)
Blue Collar (log)	-0.081* (0.046)	-0.158 (0.144)	-0.128 (0.260)
Construction (log)	0.112*** (0.033)	0.119 (0.083)	0.165 (0.131)
Unemployed (log)	0.019 (0.028)	-0.065 (0.047)	0.154 (0.115)
Union (log)	-0.119*** (0.046)	-0.115 (0.077)	-0.257** (0.129)
Unit FE	✓	✓	✓
Time FE	✓	✓	✓
Instrumented			✓
Sample	Full	NE/MW	NE/MW
<i>N</i>	3860	1944	1922

*p < .1; **p < .05; ***p < .01.

Notes: Standard errors, clustered at the district level, are in parentheses. All regressions use DW-Nominate's first ideological dimension, for the 77th through 88th Congresses. Column 1 shows estimates for the two-way panel fixed effects model on the entire sample; column 2 is the same, but for districts in the Northeast and Midwest; column 3 provides two-way panel fixed effect instrumental variables estimates for the Northeast and Midwest.

Table 3: CRA Vote (88th Congress)

	CRA Vote		
	Model Type:		
	<u>OLS</u>		<u>IV</u>
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Black (log)	-0.048*** (0.013)	0.038** (0.018)	0.109** (0.047)
Total Population (log)	0.154 (0.195)	-0.108 (0.290)	-0.231 (0.335)
Manufacturing (log)	0.195*** (0.070)	0.348* (0.186)	0.288 (0.208)
Blue Collar (log)	-0.287* (0.158)	-0.337* (0.181)	-0.190 (0.195)
Construction (log)	0.016 (0.102)	0.012 (0.131)	0.007 (0.137)
Unemployed (log)	0.097 (0.083)	-0.018 (0.104)	-0.156 (0.120)
Union (log)	0.496*** (0.046)	-0.136 (0.163)	-0.188 (0.207)
Constant	-2.379 (1.530)	2.445 (2.225)	3.862 (2.484)
Instrumented			✓
Sample	Full	NE/MW	NE/MW
<i>N</i>	340	173	171

*p < .1; **p < .05; ***p < .01.

Notes: All regressions use representative *i*'s vote on the Civil Rights Act as the dependent variable, equaling 1 if they voted in favor of the CRA and 0 if not. Column 1 shows estimates for an OLS model on the entire sample; column 2 is the same, but for districts in the Northeast and Midwest; column 3 provides instrumental variables estimates for the Northeast and Midwest.

Table 4: Migrant Characteristics (Government and Laws)

	Attitudes Toward Government		
	Model Type:		
	<u>OLS</u>	<u>LPM</u>	<u>OLS</u>
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Southern Homestate	-0.397*** (0.099)	-0.038* (0.022)	-0.037 (0.038)
Age	-0.0004 (0.004)	0.003*** (0.001)	-0.0002 (0.001)
Total Family Income	0.029* (0.015)	-0.004 (0.003)	0.015** (0.006)
Years of Schooling	-0.008 (0.019)	0.014*** (0.004)	0.016** (0.007)
Male	-0.096 (0.094)	-0.017 (0.021)	-0.049 (0.036)
Constant	5.883*** (0.275)	0.227*** (0.064)	1.647*** (0.104)
<i>N</i>	1,911	2,286	2,253
R ²	0.012	0.009	0.010
Adjusted R ²	0.009	0.007	0.008

*p < .1; **p < .05; ***p < .01.

Notes: All dependent variables are a scale ranging from 1 to 3, with higher levels indicating *less* support toward the respective leader/organization. Southern Homestate is a binary term coded as 1 if the individuals spent the first 10 years of life in a southern state. Column 1 measures trust in government, and higher levels indicate *less* trust. Column 2 uses the LPM to estimate whether respondents feel that laws and persuasion are the only way to increase Black well being, coded as 1 if yes and 0 if no. Last, column 3 measures how hard respondents feel that the government is trying to solve problems in their city, and higher levels indicate that the government is perceived as trying *less* hard.

Table 5: Migrant Characteristics (Leaders and Organizations)

Civil Rights Leaders and Organizations					
Support For:					
	MLKJ	RW	SC	RB	NAACP
Southern Homestate	-0.097*** (0.023)	-0.064** (0.027)	-0.002 (0.038)	-0.029 (0.037)	-0.061*** (0.020)
Age	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.004*** (0.001)	0.011*** (0.001)	0.013*** (0.001)	-0.0004 (0.001)
Total Family Income	-0.004 (0.003)	0.0002 (0.004)	0.013** (0.006)	0.012** (0.006)	-0.004 (0.003)
Years of Schooling	0.006 (0.004)	-0.001 (0.005)	0.021*** (0.008)	0.047*** (0.007)	0.007* (0.004)
Male	0.086*** (0.022)	0.045* (0.026)	-0.204*** (0.037)	-0.169*** (0.036)	0.038** (0.019)
Constant	1.303*** (0.065)	1.427*** (0.079)	1.692*** (0.111)	1.514*** (0.105)	1.169*** (0.056)
<i>N</i>	2,487	1,710	1,764	1,829	2,374
R^2	0.017	0.017	0.057	0.074	0.009
Adjusted R^2	0.015	0.014	0.054	0.072	0.007

* $p < .1$; ** $p < .05$; *** $p < .01$.

Notes: All dependent variables are a scale ranging from 1 to 3, with higher levels indicating *less* support toward the respective leader/organization. Southern Homestate is a binary term coded as 1 if the individuals spent the first 10 years of life in a southern state. Columns titled “MLKJ”, “RW”, “SC”, “RB”, and “NAACP” represent support for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Roy Wilkins, Stokely Carmichael, H. Rap Brown, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, respectively.

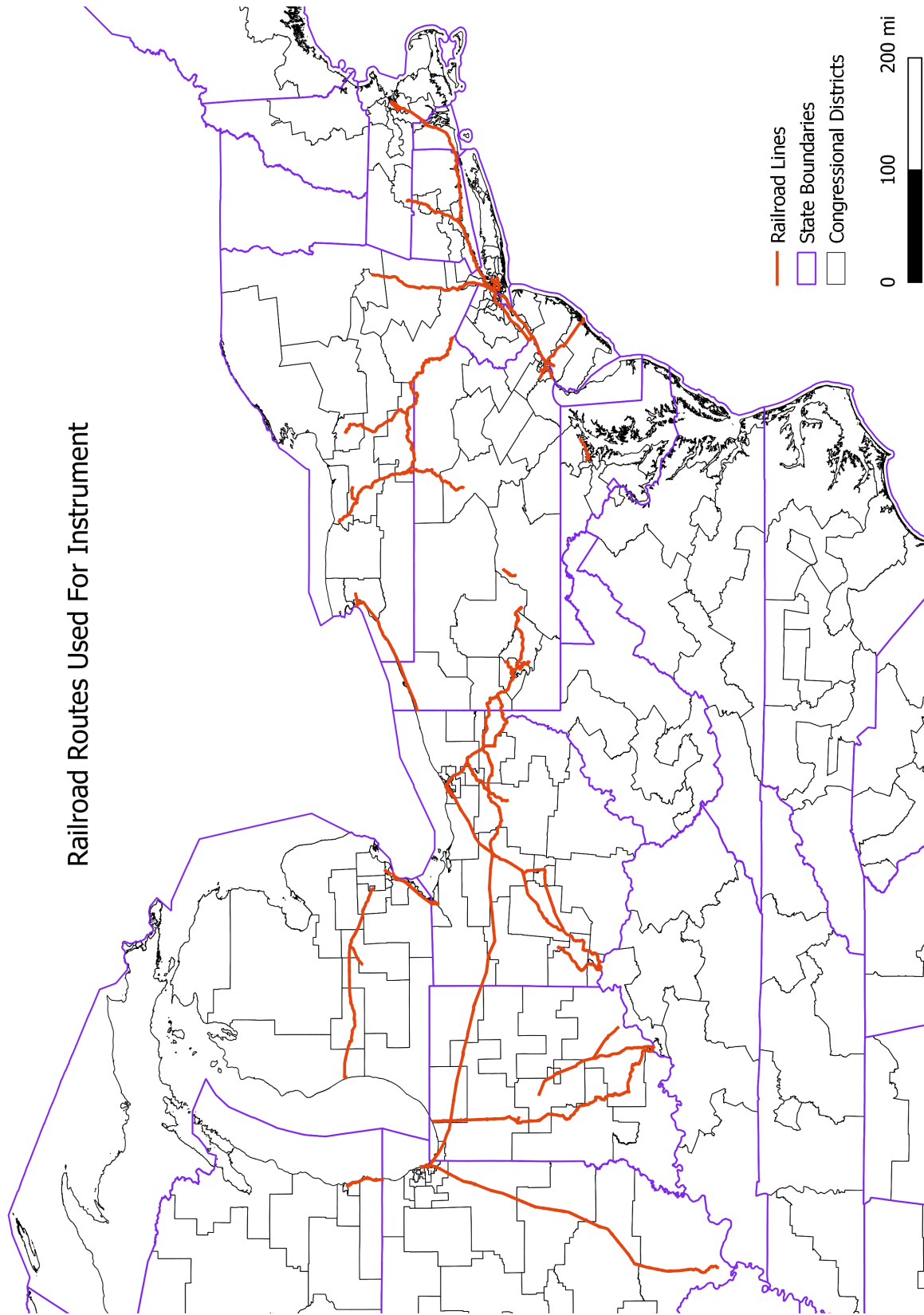
Table 6: Migrant Characteristics (Contributions)

	Contributions
	Model Type:
	<u>LPM</u>
	(1)
Southern Homestate	0.008 (0.019)
Age	0.010*** (0.001)
Total Family Income	0.027*** (0.003)
Years of Schooling	0.047*** (0.004)
Male	0.098*** (0.018)
Constant	-0.672*** (0.052)
<i>N</i>	2,597
R ²	0.177
Adjusted R ²	0.175

*p < .1; **p < .05; ***p < .01.

Notes: The dependent variable is a dummy equaling 1 if the respondent has contributed money to a Civil Rights organization, and 0 if not. Southern Homestate is a binary term coded as 1 if the individuals spent the first 10 years of life in a southern state.

Figure 1: Railroad Routes



Note: Shown are railroad routes used to create the instrument. These include railroad routes located in the North and Midwest, only. Railroad routes were cleaned and the final set included only those that were named. Map created in QGIS.