

Local Exit Polling

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- Over the past three elections we have done exit polling in Iowa City, Coralville, and this year in North Liberty and Penn Twp.
- Typically took about 8 minutes to do the poll. Interviewers were students in my classes.
- Polled from 7:30 AM until 7:00 PM.
- Poll does NOT include early voters! (About 40% of all voters!)
- A total of 2,662 Interviews completed over these three elections

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Questions included voting, local issues, and attitudes towards political corruption.

Today I will focus on differences we've seen between men and women in our polling.

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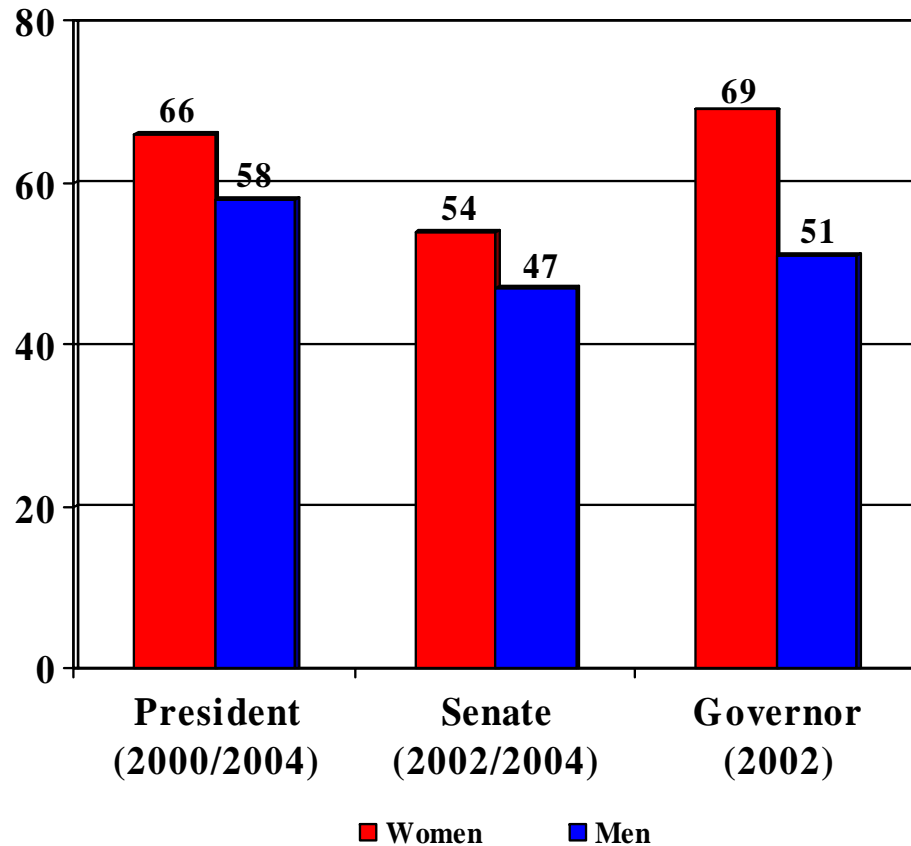
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First, the so-called GENDER GAP.

Political scientists and the media have suggested there is a gender gap – women vote for Democrats while men vote for Republicans.

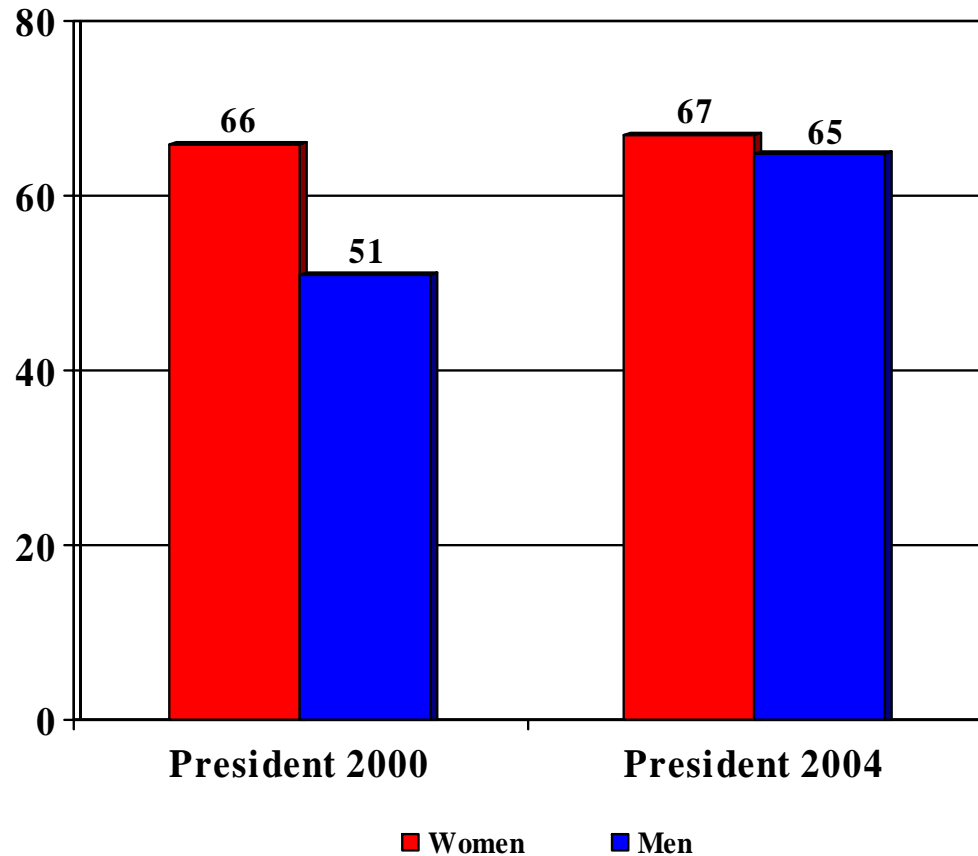
Gender Gap?

Women/Men voting for Democrats



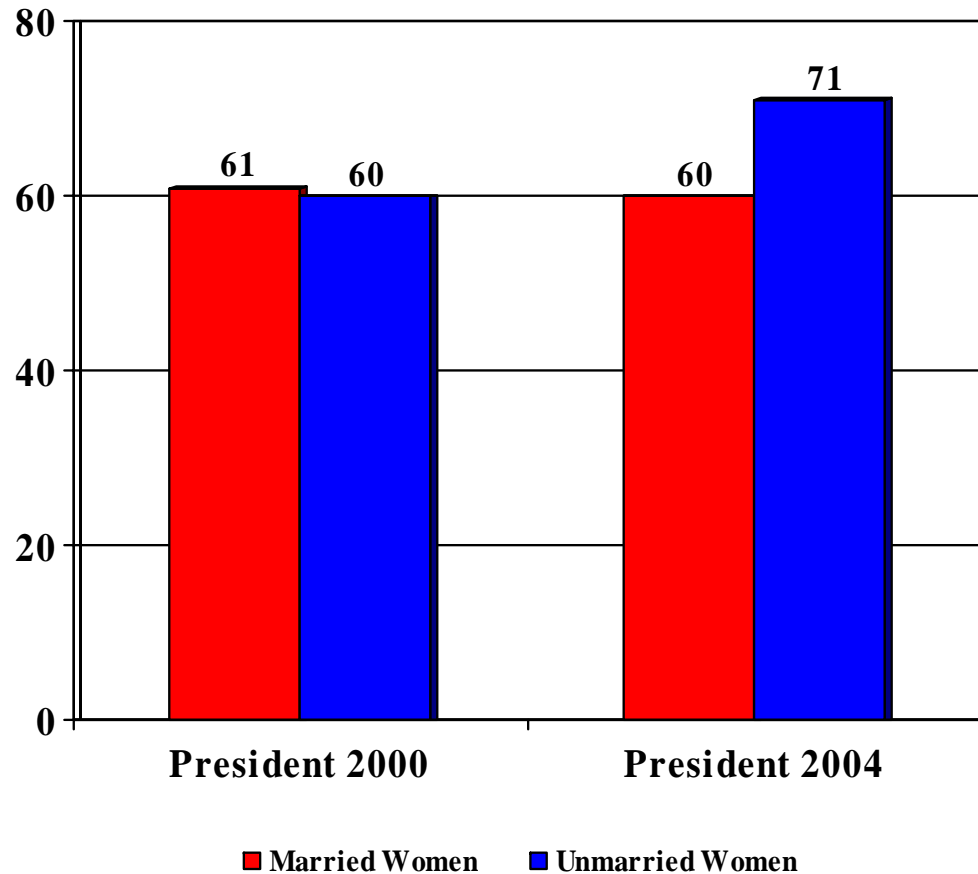
- Across all of our elections women have consistently been more likely to vote for Democratic candidates than have men.

Gender Gap? 2000 vs. 2004 Presidential



- The gender gap closed locally in 2004. In 2000, women were far more likely than men to vote Democrat for President, but in 2004 both genders look the same.
- The gap in the Senate vote closed from 13 points in 2002 to 5 points in 2004.

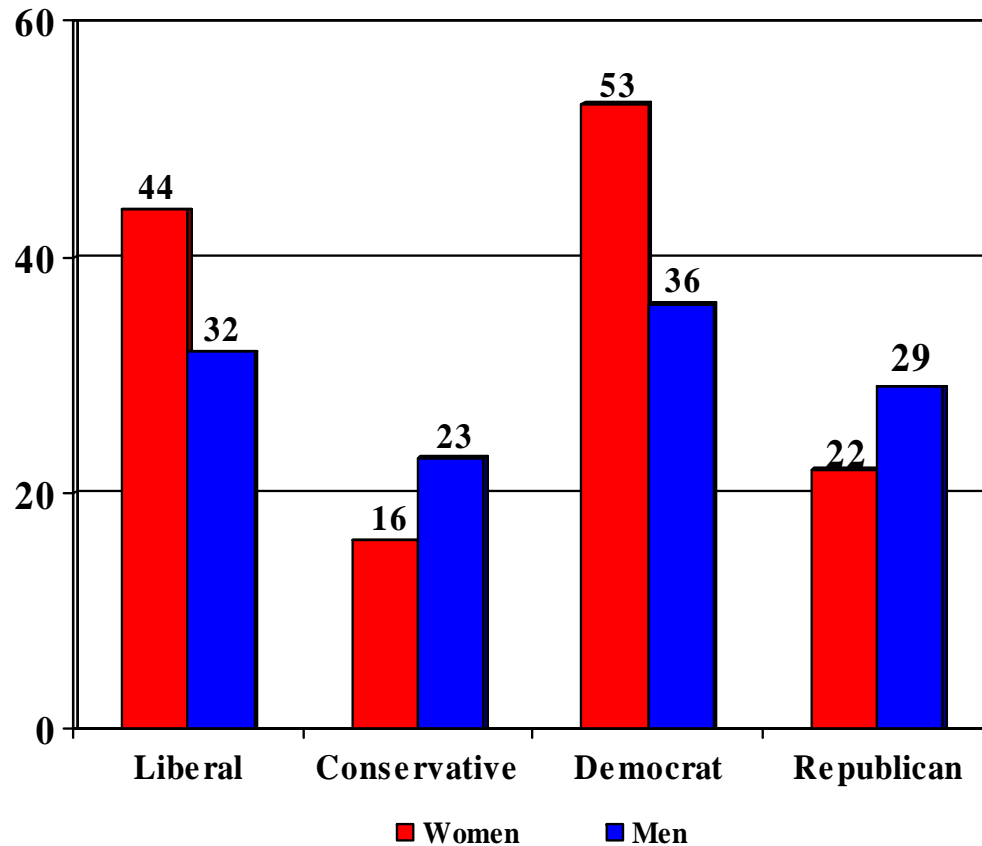
Gender Gap? Or is it a Marriage Gap?



- In 2000 married and unmarried women in our sample voted the same way – about 60% Democrat.
- But in 2004 unmarried women were far more likely to vote for the Democrat than married women.
- And married women are significantly less likely to call themselves liberal compared to unmarried women.

Gender Gap?

Ideology and Partisanship



- Women are much more likely to be liberal and Democratic, while men are conservative and Republican.
- This could obviously account for the differences we see in the vote choice.
- While the voting gap has changed over time, the ideology/party gap has remained roughly the same.

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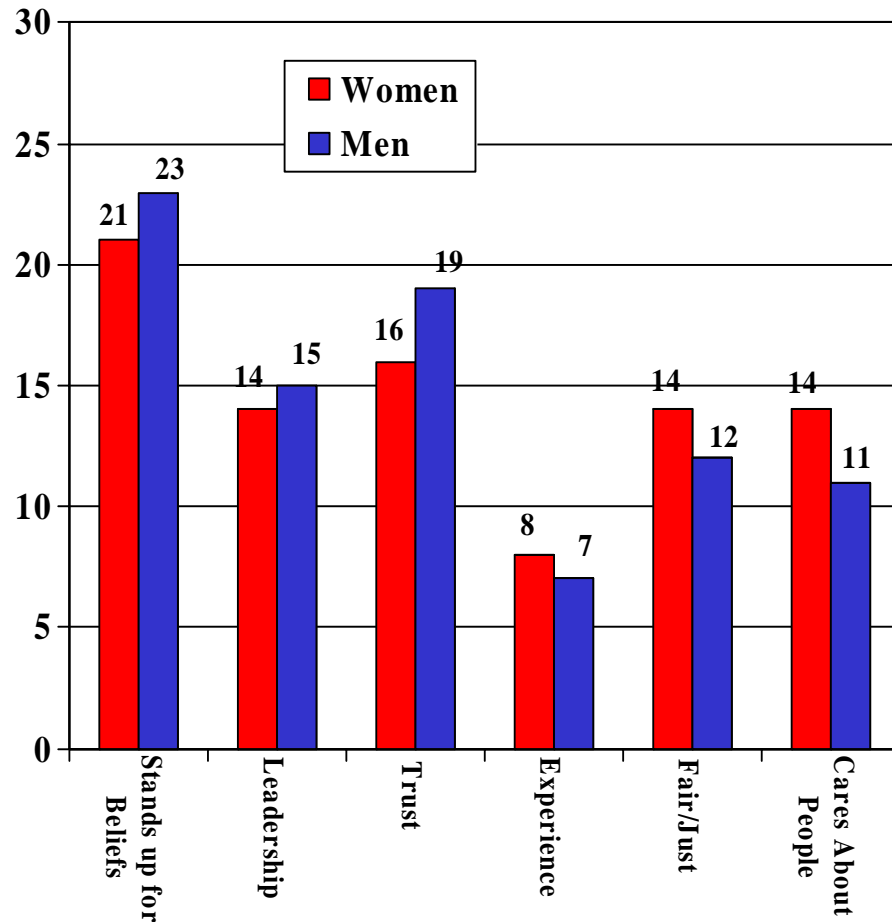
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Let's look at how women and men respond on a few political issues and attitudes.

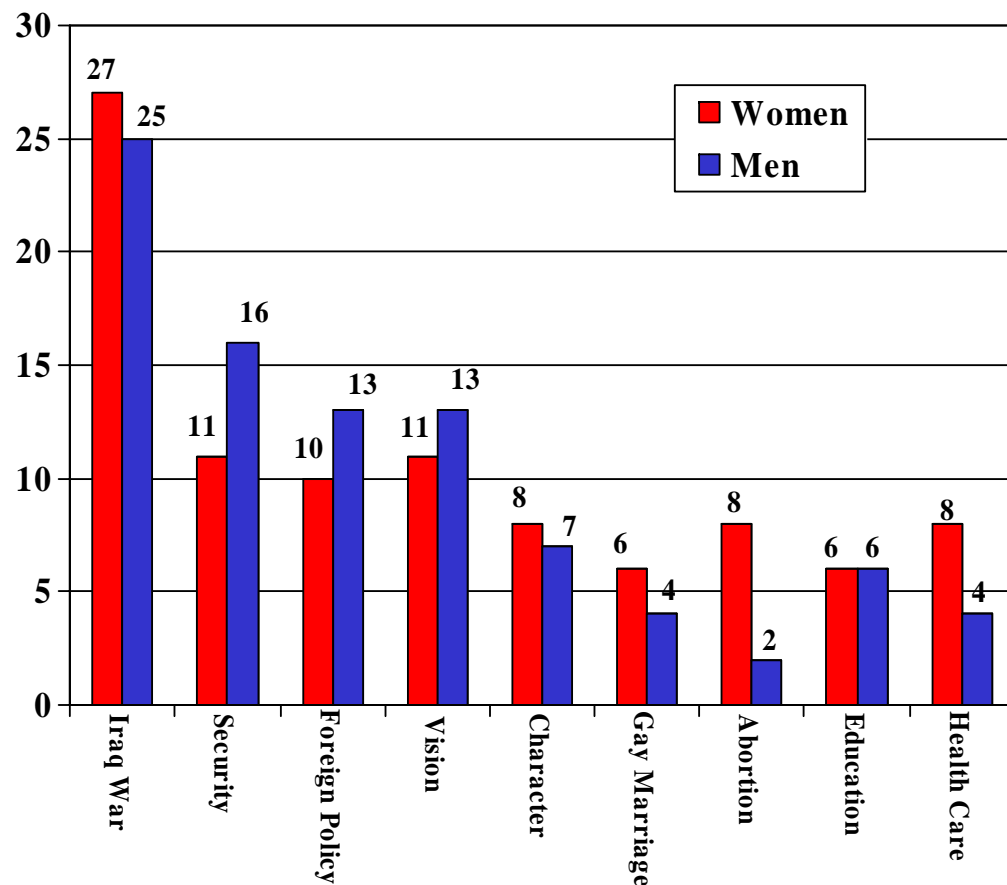
We asked a number of questions about candidate qualities, important issues and the like.

Vote by Candidate Qualities (All Years)



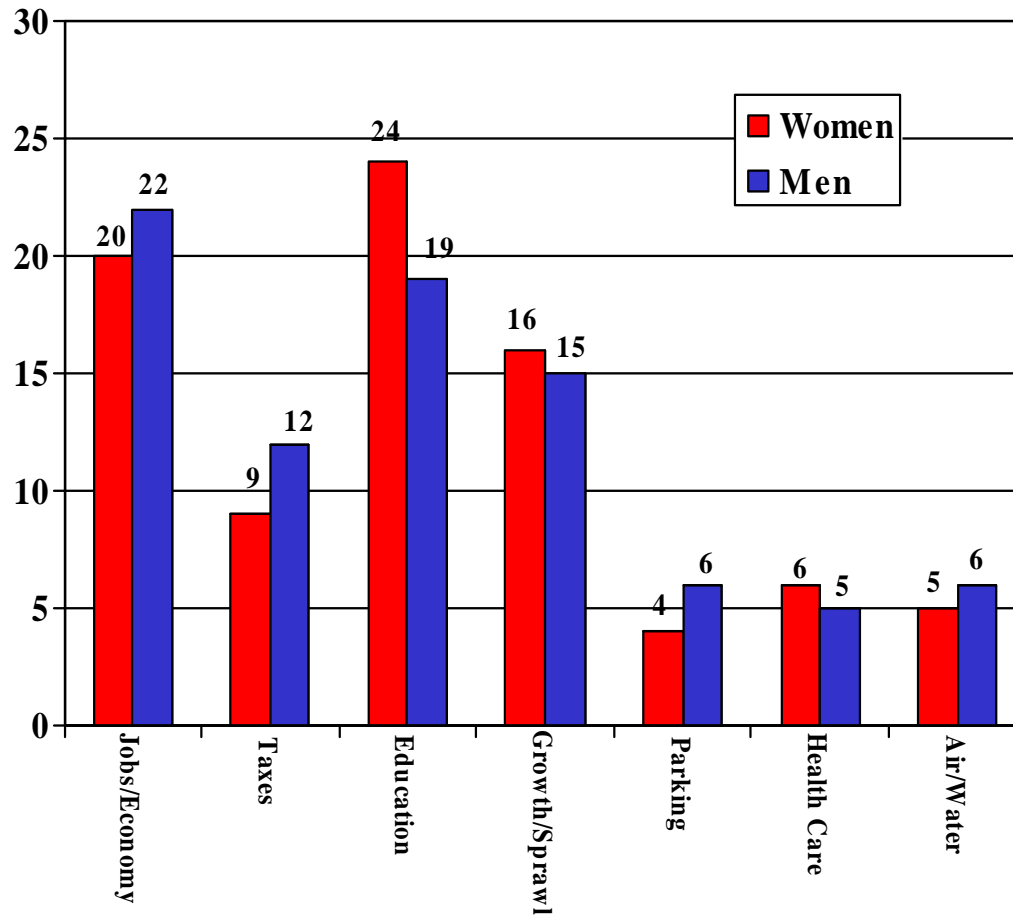
- Overall there just isn't all that much difference here between women and men, despite the stereotypes.
- Women are slightly more likely to pick fairness and caring, and men are slightly more likely to pick beliefs and trust. But these differences are small.

Reason for the Presidential Vote by Candidate (2004 only)



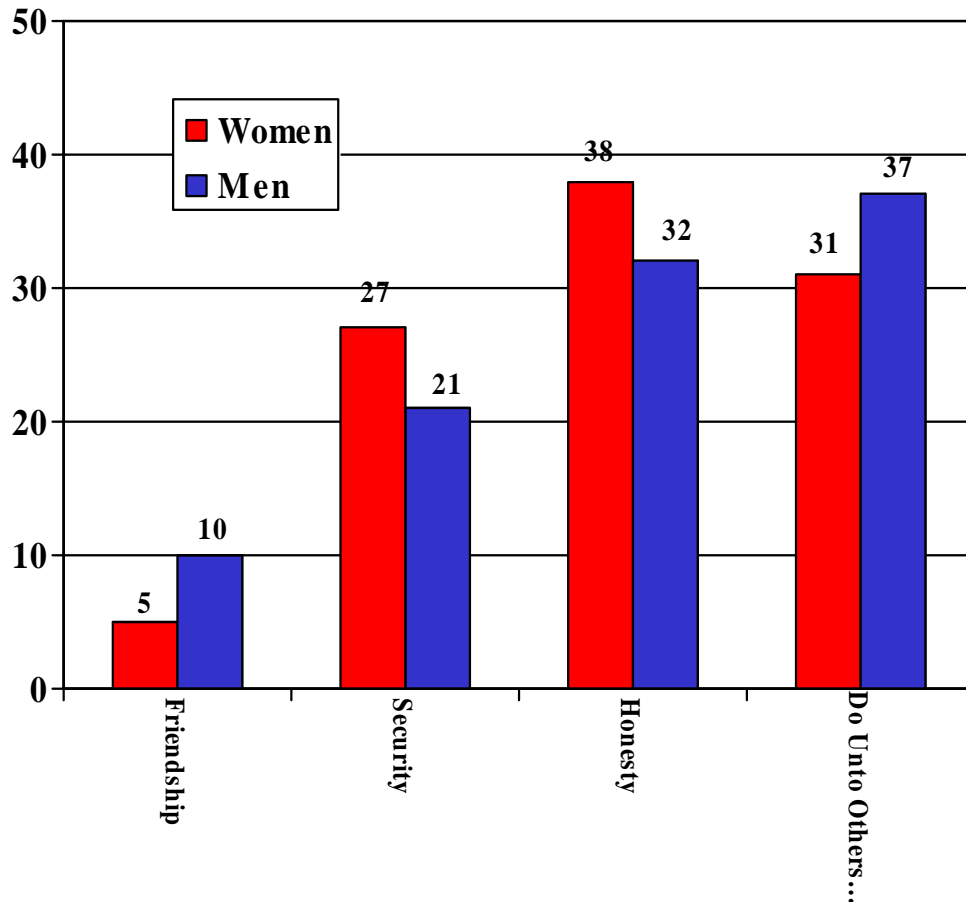
- Both men and women picked the Iraq War as their most important reason for their vote.
- Men were more likely to pick security and foreign policy than women, while women were more likely to pick social issues like abortion, gay marriage, and health care.

Most Important Local Problem



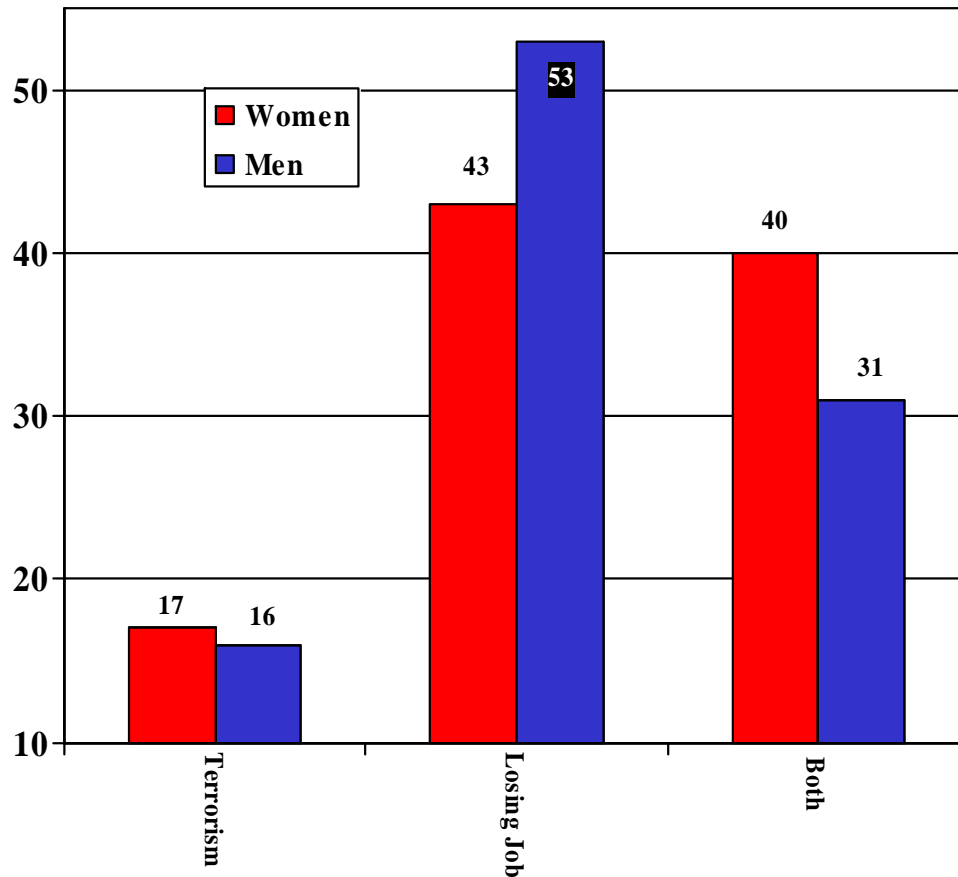
- Fitting some stereotypes, women are more likely to pick education as the most important local problem, while men focus more on economic-type issues: the economy and taxes.
- As with the vote, what differences there are were stronger in 2000 than they are in 2004.

Most Important Value (Asked in 2000)



- We asked people to which of these four values they thought most important to them.
- Women focused more on honesty and security, while men focused on friendship and reciprocity.

Which worries you more? (2002 & 2004)



- We asked whether terrorist attack, losing a job, or both worried our voters.
- Again, men seem more focused on economic concerns, while women are more likely to say both possibilities worry them.

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At least in our area, there are no really stark differences in attitudes between men and women, though women are a bit more likely to focus on values and issues that represent caring and community, while men focus more on perhaps “business-oriented” values such as reciprocity and trust.

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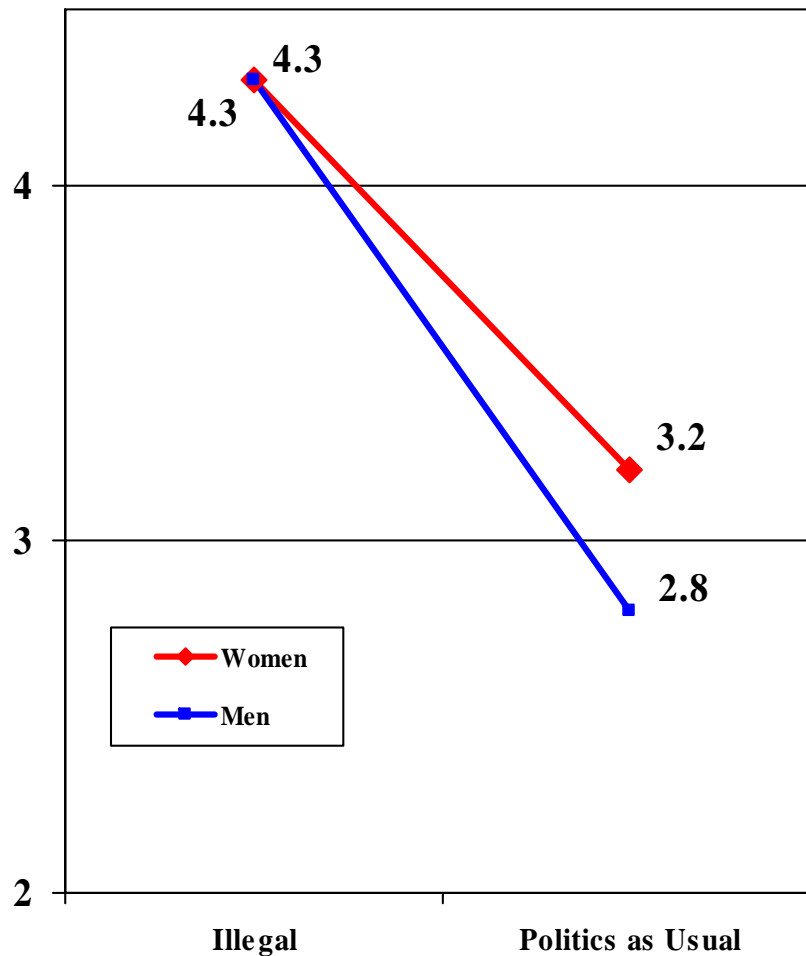
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We also have a battery of questions on perceptions of corruption we have been asking every time.

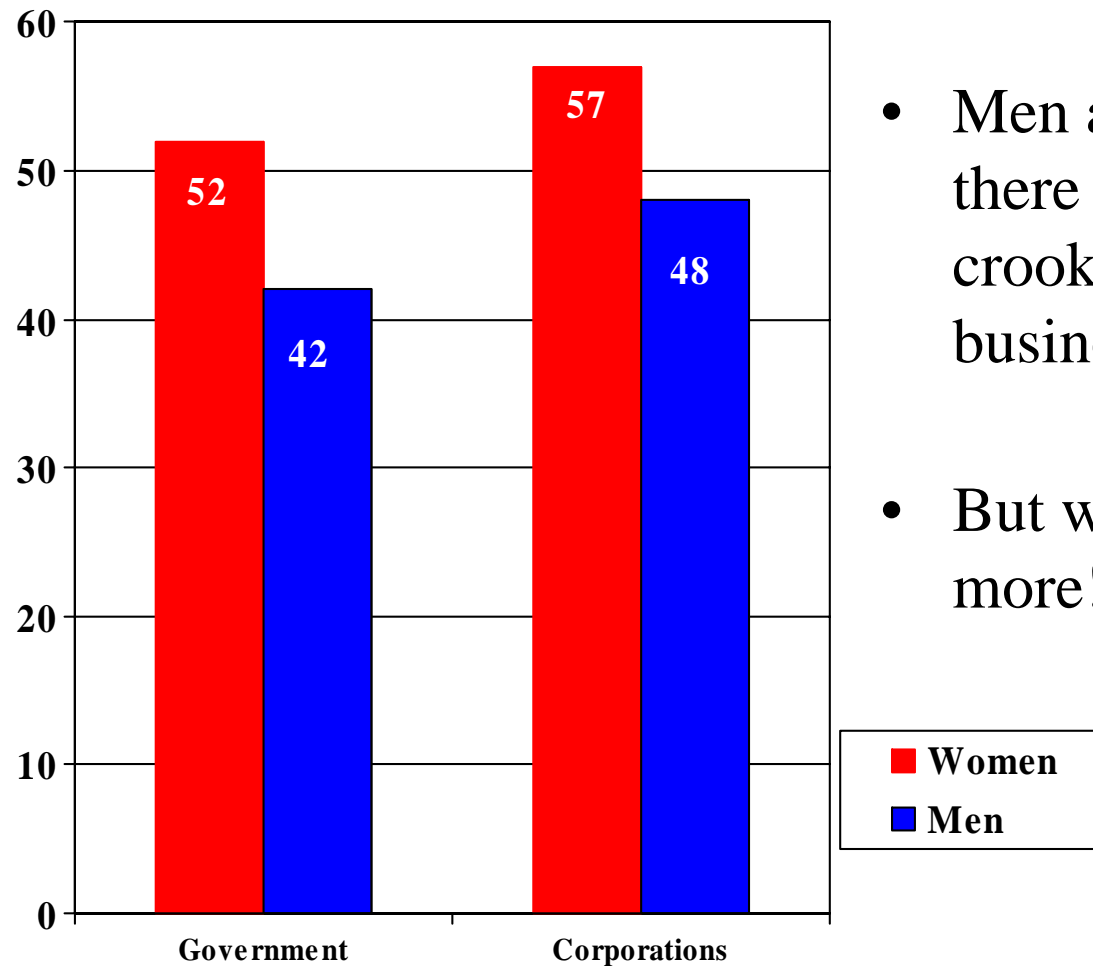
Are men and women different on this scale?

Attitudes towards Corruption



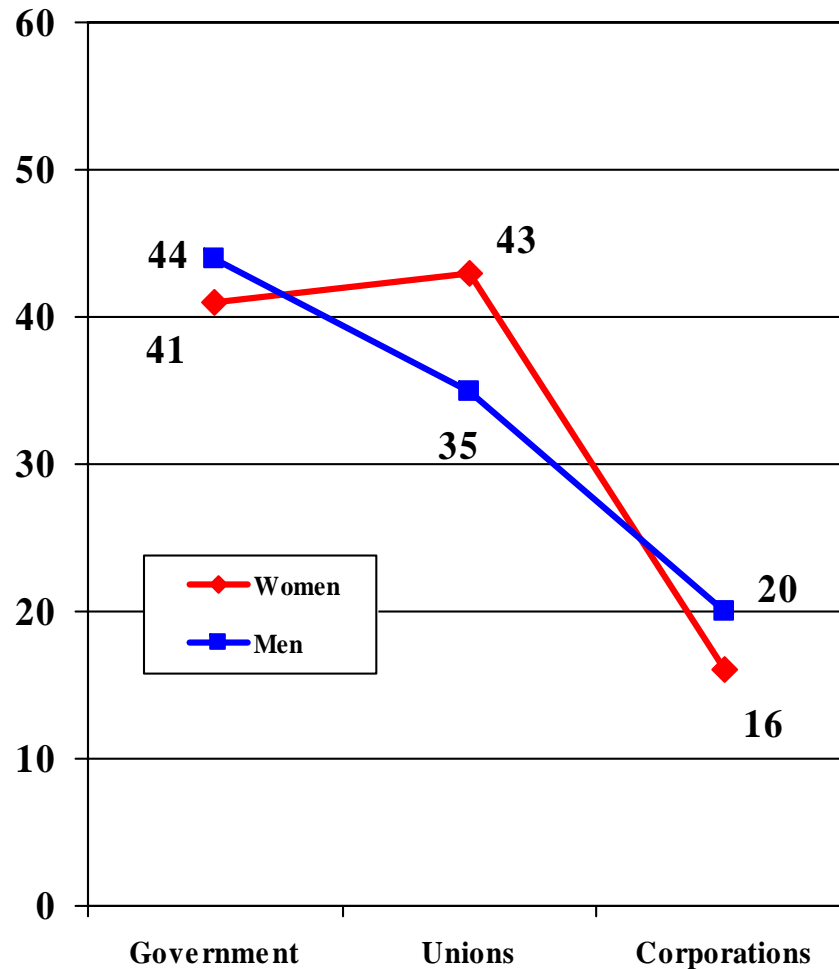
- We asked a series of questions about various scenarios that might be corrupt. Voters rated them from 1 (not at all corrupt) to 5 (extremely corrupt).
- Both men and women considered clearly illegal activities such as bribery to be highly corrupt.
- But women were more likely to condemn things we might call politics as usual, like promises of tax cuts and pothole filling for supporters.

“Crooks” in Government & Business



- Men and women both think there are “quite a few” crooks in government and business.
- But women think there are more!

Trust and Gender



- We asked voters which they trusted more – government, corporations, or unions.
- Men were a bit more likely to trust government and corporations, while women were more trusting of unions.

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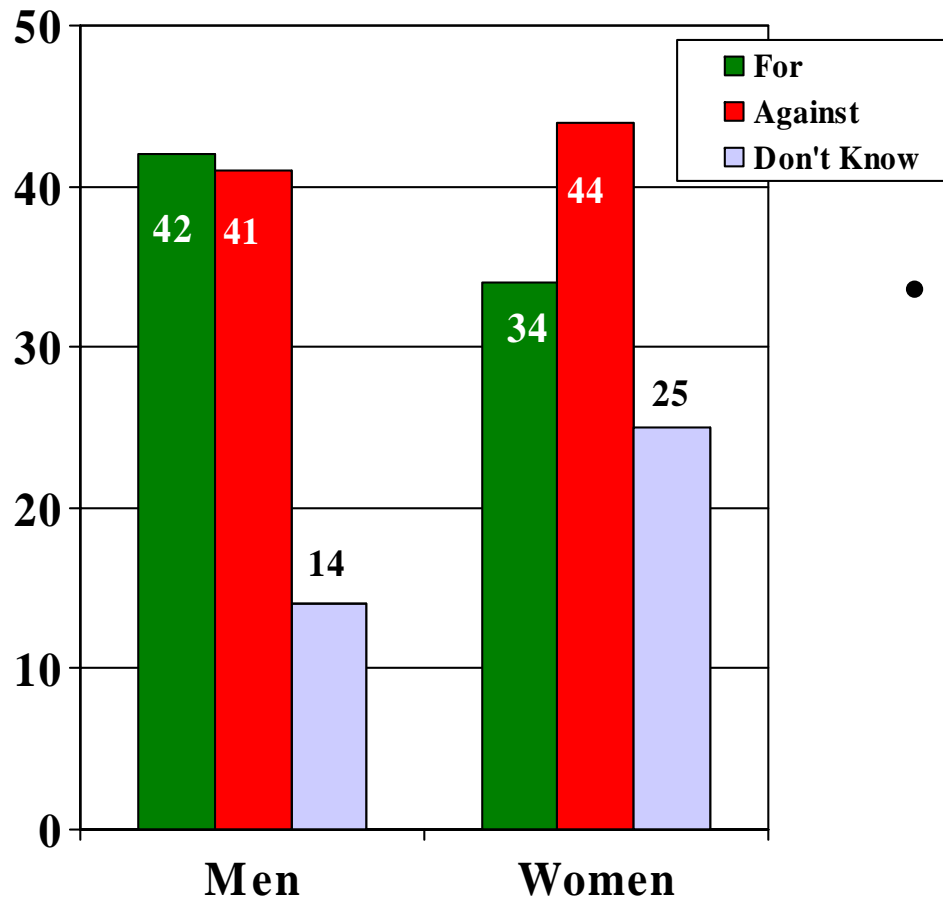
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Finally, let's look a bit at the differences by gender in support for some local issues.

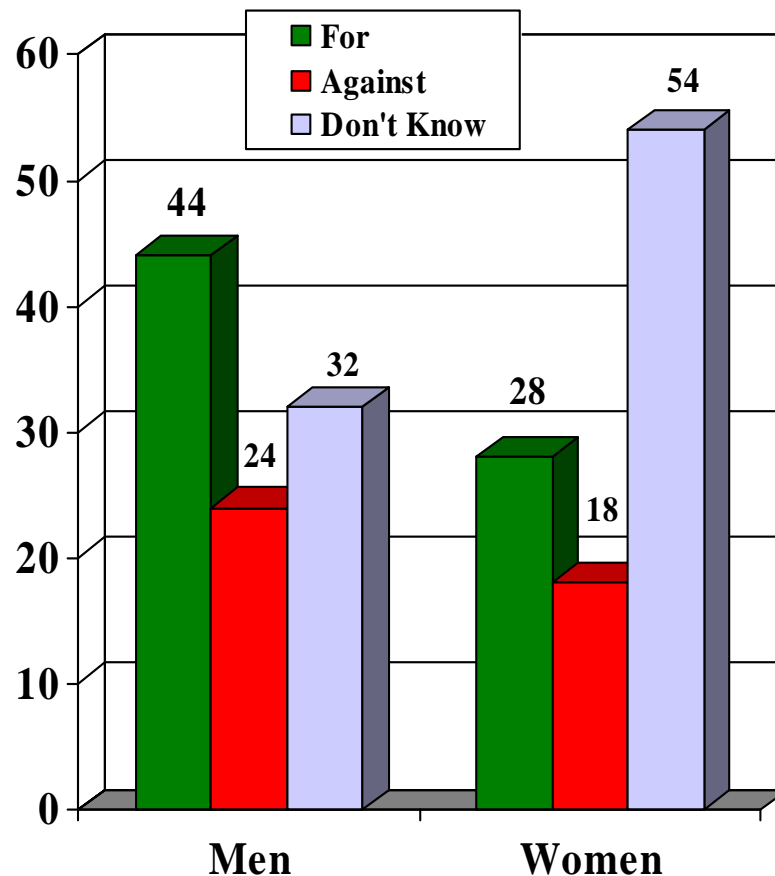
This year we asked about public power, about the Coralville rainforest, and about drinking and the bars.

Rainforest Support



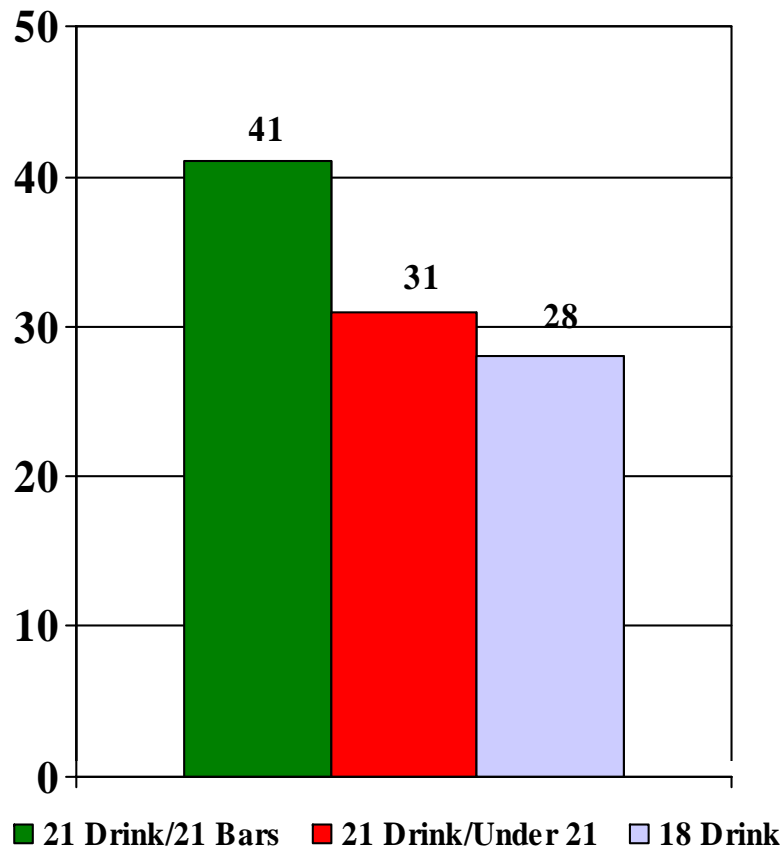
- Men are more likely to support the rainforest proposal than women, while women are nearly twice as likely to say they don't know where they stand on this.

Support for “Public Power” in Iowa City



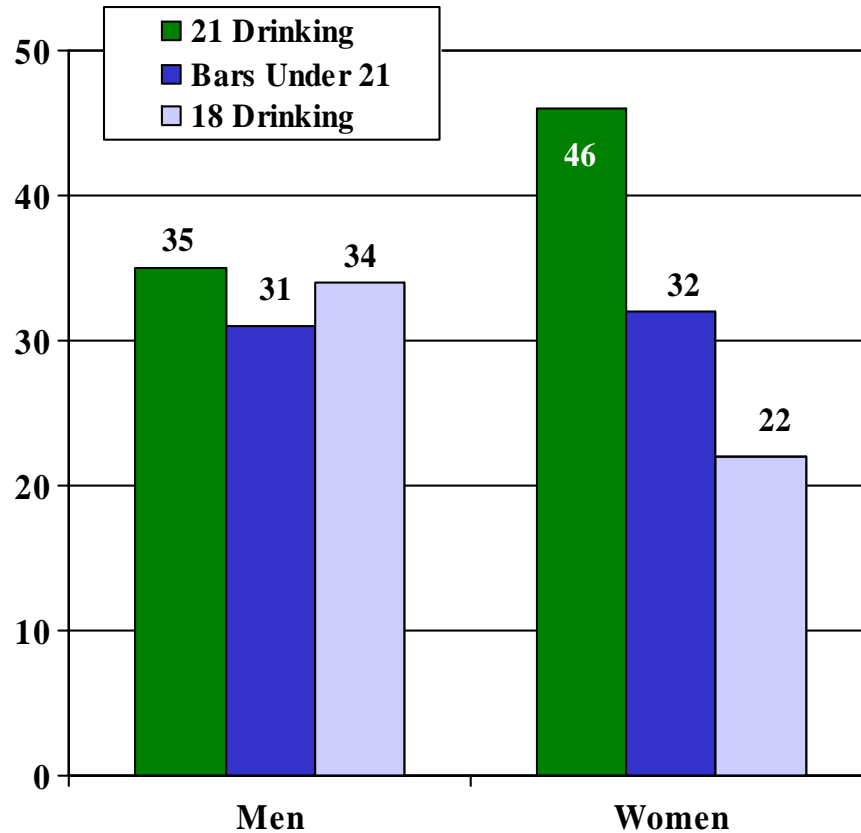
- The biggest gender difference in all our data!
- Men are much more likely to support public power right now than women.
- But it isn't that women oppose public power, it's that they just don't know where they stand on this issue.

Drinking, Bars, and Students



- There is some support for maintaining both the 21 drinking age and a “no one under 21 in bars”
- But the combined support for either allowing under-age people into bars OR lowering the drinking age is greater.

Bars and Drinking Age by Sex



- Women support the 21 drinking age and limited bar access.
- Men are equally split, but 2/3 want under 21 access to bars, compared to 54% of women.
- Only 19% of non-college women support a drinking age of 18, compared to 30% of non-college men.
- Twice as many college women (26%) support 21 age/21 access as college men (13%).

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Overall, while there are certainly some differences in political attitudes and voting between men and women, these differences are not all that great in the local area.

Where they exist, they appear to have a somewhat economic base, that is, men and women seem to differ most on issues that have some connection to the economy and growth.

Women do show somewhat greater moralist attitudes (drinking, corruption) and are somewhat more politically liberal than men in this area.

Women also show some tendency to focus more on caring and fairness than do men, as well as showing a somewhat greater focus on social issues over economic issues.

For More Information

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