

The Effect of Voter Information on Party Polarisation and Voter Welfare

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Abstract: We study the effect of the level of policy-relevant information of voters and politicians relevant on party polarization. In our model, after policy-motivated parties announce their platforms, voters receive informative signals and update their policy preferences. We allow voters and politicians to disagree on the precision and correlation of the informative signals. In case of no disagreement, we show that more precise information leads to more polarization. This does not need to hold in case of disagreement. We also consider the case of biased signals and the effect of information on voter welfare.