

The Yin and Yang of American Elections

By [Name withheld by request]

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Recently someone asked why it seems that Republicans seem to win more off-year elections and Democrats seem to win more elections during the Presidential cycle.

Good question! To clarify, however, the question extended to all elected positions and includes the school board, city council, state positions, as well as the US House and Senate.

My first thought was whether the premise was true. A quick trip to google provided the answer: yes. Most of the time, the Democrats have a worse showing when a Presidential candidate is not on the ballot.

The next question is, *why*? All the people with the fancy brains, upper level degrees in political science, and years of experience in professional stereotyping (demographics) came up with a laundry list of different reasons but they all had one thing in common: turnout.

Once that fact bubbled to the surface the answer was clear.

Republicans understand that government is a group effort and that lowly beings such as county commissioners and state senators are important members of the group.

Democrats tend to believe that the President is all powerful and will solve every problem that arises in their daily lives from dealing with Iran to whether or not they have a cell phone.

Democrats turn out in higher numbers in presidential election years and Republicans turn out in higher numbers in off-years.