*Appendix A*

Descriptive (Weighted) Statistics for Variables in Study 1

(Means|SD unless listed otherwise)

\_\_

**Dependent variables**

Hard news consumption 15.17 | 5.44

Soft news consumption 10.26 | 4.20

*% who use*:

FOX News 46

CNN 42

MSNBC 19

ABC 49

NBC 35

CBS 37

BBC 23

**Independent variables**

INFO sumummated 14.38 | 3.95

INFO composite 3.60 |.99

Digital news consumption 11.48 | 4.12

TV news consumption 4.68 | 1.58

Newspaper use 2.90 | 1.82

Radio news consumption 3.43 | 1.83

Facebook use 4.44 | 1.87

Other social media use 10.35 | 5.94

Time spent online (median) 3.95 | 1.16

Party identification (% Repub., Dem., independent) 31.2, 37.6, 31.2

Political ideology (% conservative, moderate, liberal) 30.4, 46.1, 23.5

Age 47.41 | 18.17

Gender (% female) 51.1%

Education (interquartile range) 3 - 6

Unemployed (%) 7.5%

Urban resident (%) 79.4%

Income (interquartile range) 4 - 8

Identifies as White / Persons of color (%) 69.2% / 30.8%

*Appendix B*

Descriptives (weighted) for Variables in Study 2

**Descriptive (**\*Mean|SD unless noted)

**Political Knowledge Questions Correct** 6.30 | 2.44

**INFO summated** 13.36 |3.93

**INFO composite** 3.34 | .98

**INFO as four groups**

Highest 18.96|.90

High 15.36|1.08

Low 11.85|.99

Lowest 6.48 |1.88

**News Consumption**

TV 4.57|1.66

Newspaper 2.57|1.73

Smartphone 4.36|1.92

Computer 4.01|1.87

Radio 3.24|1.83

Political news consumption (hard news) 41.3%

Entertainment news consumption (soft news) 36.1%

**Social Media Use**

Facebook 4.22|1.97

Twitter 2.45|1.90

Instagram 3.22|2.17

TikTok2.32|1.91

**Political Party Identification**

Republican 28.5%

Democrat 36.2%

Independent 27.6%

Other 7.7%

**News Organization Reliance**

FOX News 36.7%

MSNBC 15.6%

CNN 37.9%

BBC 15.9%

**Demographics**

Age 44.24|18.13

Gender (female) 53.7%

Education (median) 4

Income (median) 5

Identifies as nonwhite 40.0%

*Appendix C*

Political Knowledge Questions in Study 2 and Percentages of Correct Responses

\*Order of both questions and of answers was randomized in the survey. Correct answers emboldened/underlined

U.S. political processes:

1. Which/who among the following determines if a law is unconstitutional?

1. **The Supreme Court** b) The Senate c) The House of Representatives d) The President

*82.2% Correct*

2. The next Congressional elections will be held…

1. **Next year** b) 2024 c) 2023 d) This year

*58.3% Correct*

3. In the case of a tied vote in the U.S. Senate, the deciding vote is cast by…

1. **The Vice President** b) The President c) The Senate majority leader; d) The Senate sergeant at arms

*65.7% Correct*

U.S. current political affairs:

4. Which political party currently controls the U.S. House of Representatives?

1. **Democrat** b) Republican c) Neither

*76.6% Correct*

5. Who is the U.S. Secretary of State?

1. **Anthony Blinken** b) Kamala Harris c) Hillary Clinton d) Cory Booker

*66.3% Correct*

6. Which of the following statements is correct? (choose only one): “Former U.S. President Donald Trump was \_\_\_.”

1. **Impeached twice** b) Impeached once c) Not impeached d) Impeached three times

*63.7% Correct*

Foreign affairs:

7. Which of the following countries has Islamabad as its capital?

1. **Pakistan** b) Oman c) Nepal d) Iran

*67% Correct*

8. President Joe Biden has said…

1. **His administration is open to negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran**
2. His administration has signed a nuclear deal with Iran
3. His administration will never negotiate a nuclear deal with Iran
4. The U.S.-Iran nuclear deal was never actually invalidated during the Trump administration

*52.2 % Correct*

9. True or False? The United Kingdom is still part of the European Union.

1. **False**
2. True

*64.6% Correct*

10. Who is the president of Mexico?

1. **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador**
2. Felipe Calderon
3. Jair Bolsonaro

*60.7% Correct*

ANOVA from Study 2: Four INFO groups and consumes political news predicting political knowledge

Mean Sq. Hyp. Mean Sq. Err. F Sig.

Intercept 25582.52 607.76 42.01 .101

INFO .833 9.1 .092. .001 Pol. news consumption 614.03 8.11 75.71. .001

Pol. news consumption\*INFO 9.1 4.99 1.82. .141