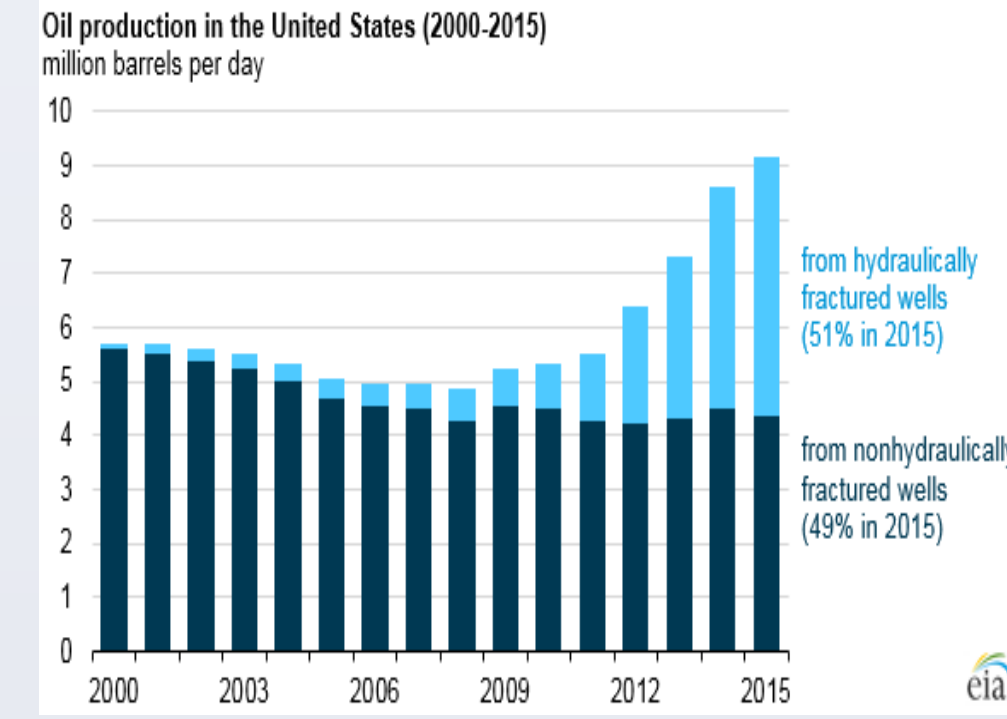
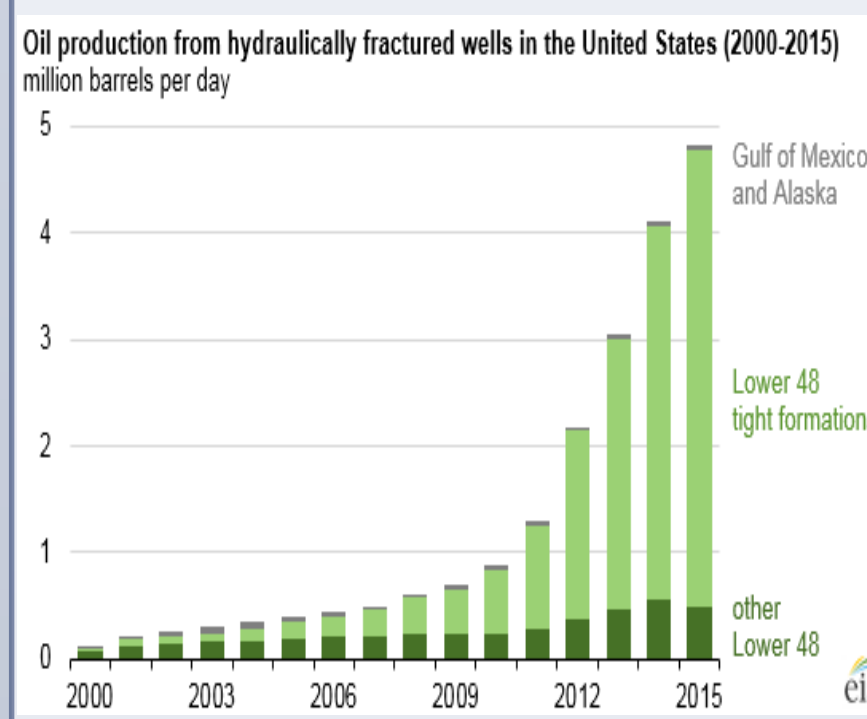


# The Impact of Fracking on Local Politics

By Jacob Hoeflich

## Introduction

What is fracking? Why is it worth studying?



## Research Questions

- Does fracking cause an increase in political corruption?
- Does fracking cause an increase in political participation?

## Operationalizations

### Political Corruption

- Misuse of public office
- Private interests prioritized over public interests
- Misallocation of political resources

### Political Participation

- Voluntary civic engagement
- Distinction between formal and informal modes of participation

## Hypotheses

### Fracking causes an increase in political corruption

- Resource Curse
- Lobbying to buy individual votes
- Misallocation of political resources in violation of the principle of equality

### Fracking causes an increase in political participation

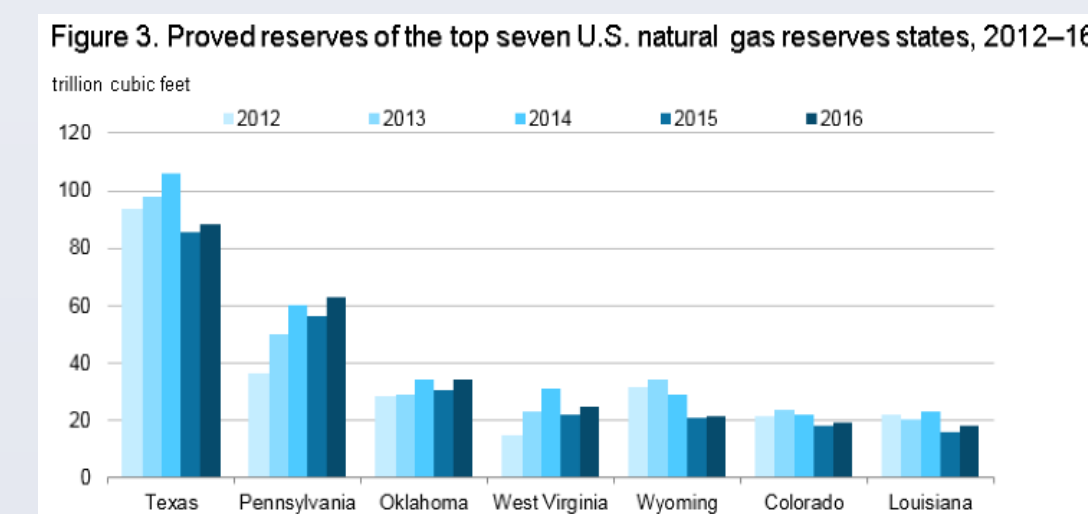
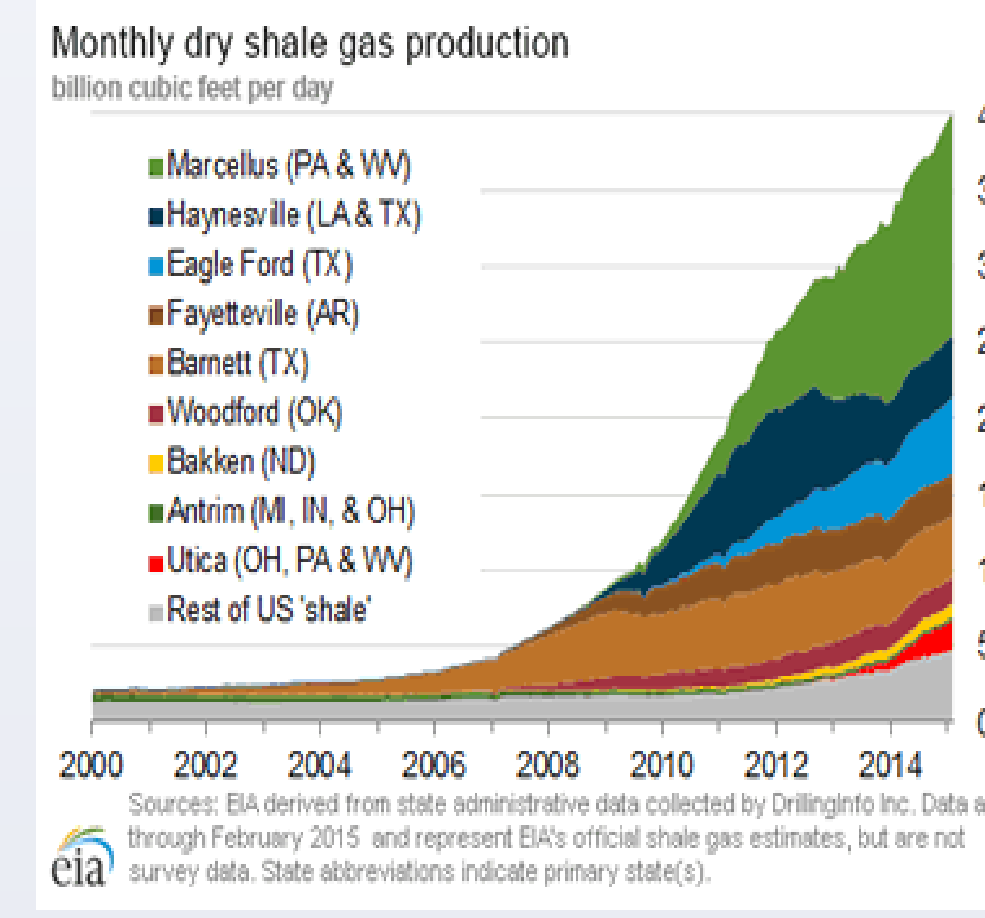
- Rational Choice
- Resource model of political participation
- Boomtown

### Model

- Fracking causes an increase in political corruption, which in turn causes an increase in political participation

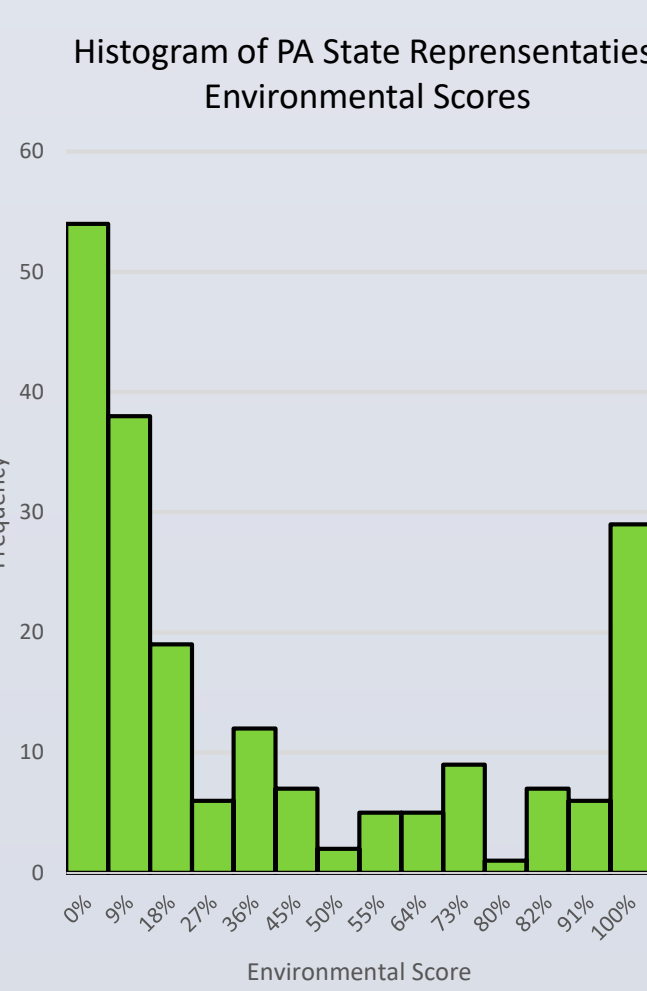
## Methods

- Case study
- Process tracing

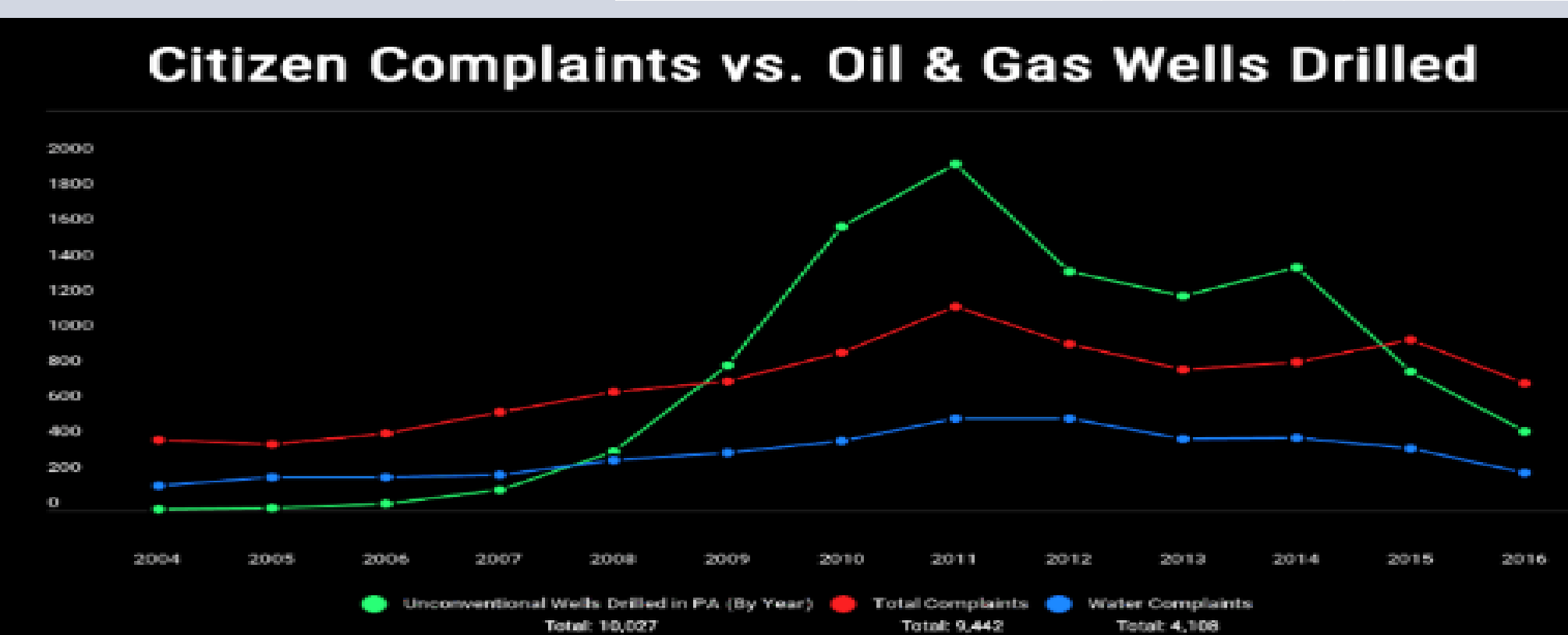


## Process Tracing

- Regression
- Difference in difference
- Ethnography

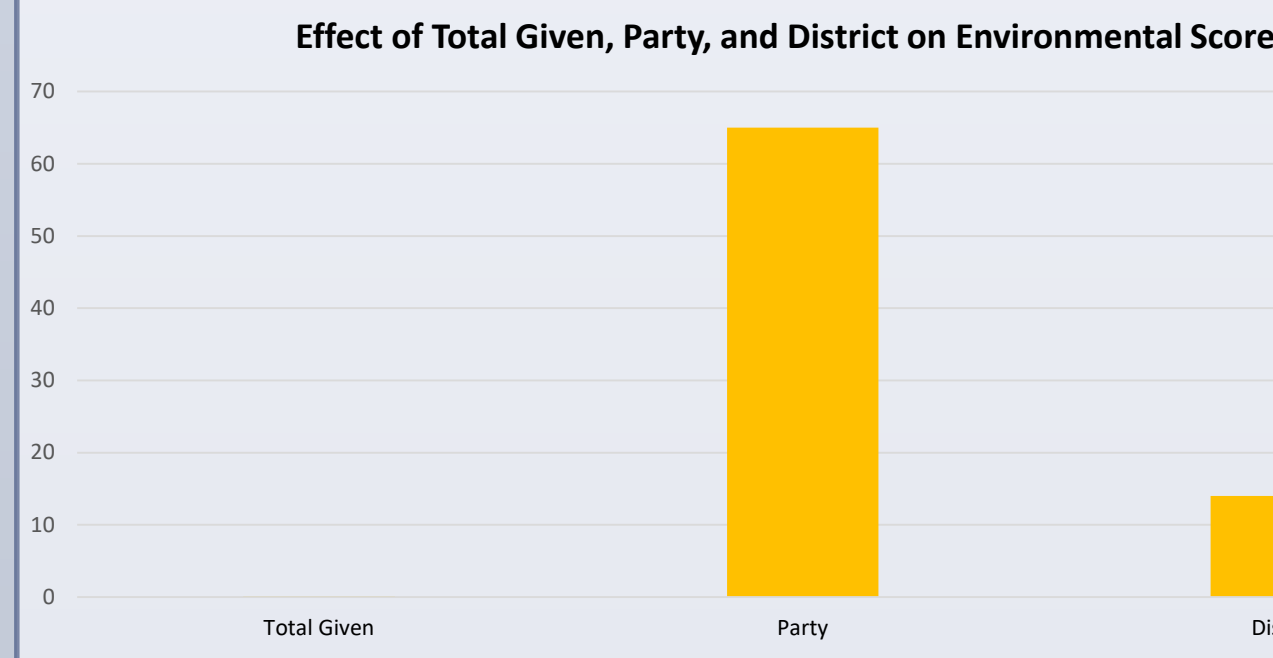
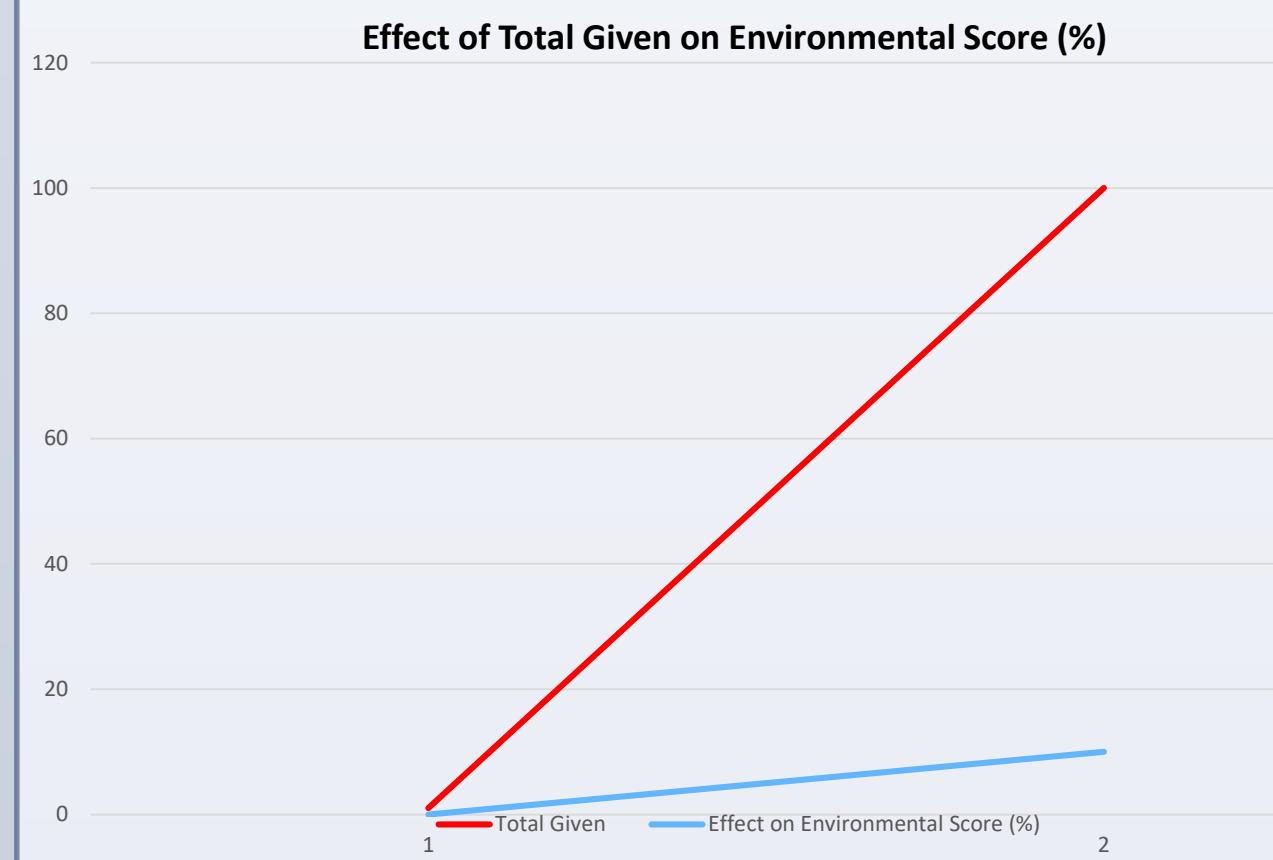


Name of Bill, Amendment, or Motion	Description	Pro-Fracking Vote	Result
House Bill 965-Final Passage (10/20/2015)	Grant a few legislatures in the General Assembly the power to block new environmental and public health regulations.	Support	Passed by a 113-84 Vote
House Bill 695-Vitali Amendment A 2556 (10/15/2015)	Limited the ability of the group to block regulations	Oppose	Defeated by a 115-80 vote
House Bill 1327-Final Passage (4/12/2016)	Remove fiscal oil and gas development regulations	Support	Passed by a vote of 111 to 81
House Bill 2013-Final Passage (6/28/2016)	Allow commercial development of state parks	Support	Defeated by a 112-77 vote
House Bill 2013-Vitali Motion (6/27/2016)	Refer Bill 2013 to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee	Oppose	Defeated by a 112-82 vote
Senate Bill 562-Vitali Amendment A 2096 (6/7/2016)	Grant a few senators the power to block new environmental and public health legislation. The amendment would have limited the ability to block regulations	Oppose	Defeated by a vote of 119-67
Senate Bill 279-Final Passage (6/15/2016)	Roll back gas development regulations and created a council to oversee gas development with members in support of the gas industry.	Support	Passed by a vote of 141-46
Senate Bill 279-Vitali Amendment A8194	Propose more equal representation on the drilling advisory council by expanding the scope of representation to include a broader range of voices	Oppose	Defeated by a vote of 130-65
Senate Bill 279-Vitali Amendment 8133	Prevent the roll back of oil and gas development regulations	Oppose	Defeated by a vote of 140-55
Senate Bill 1195-Final Passage (6/15/16)	Delayed implementation of the EPA's Clean Power Plan	Oppose	Passed by a vote of 147-
Senate Bill 1195-Vitali Amendment A 8303 (6/14/16)	Reduce the delay of the implementation of the clean power plan	Support	Failed by a vote of 137-58

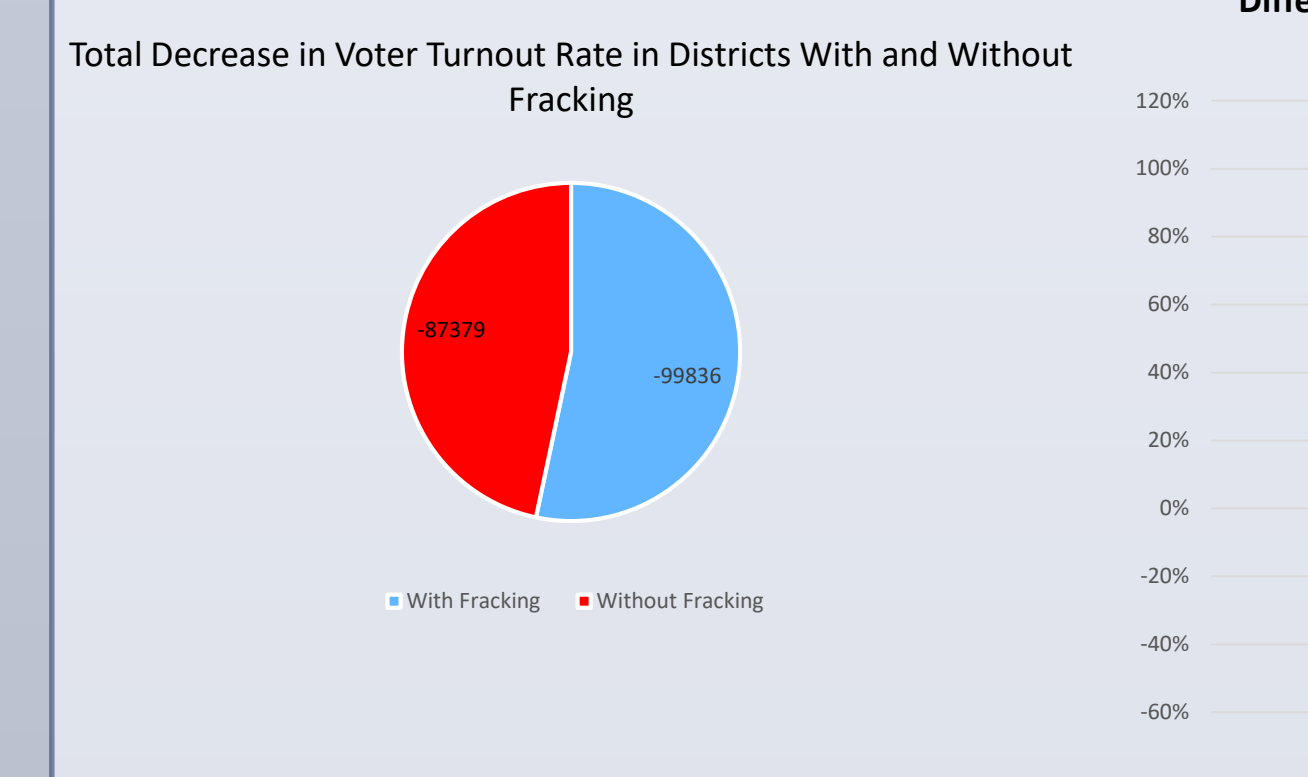


## Outcomes

### Regression



### Difference in Difference

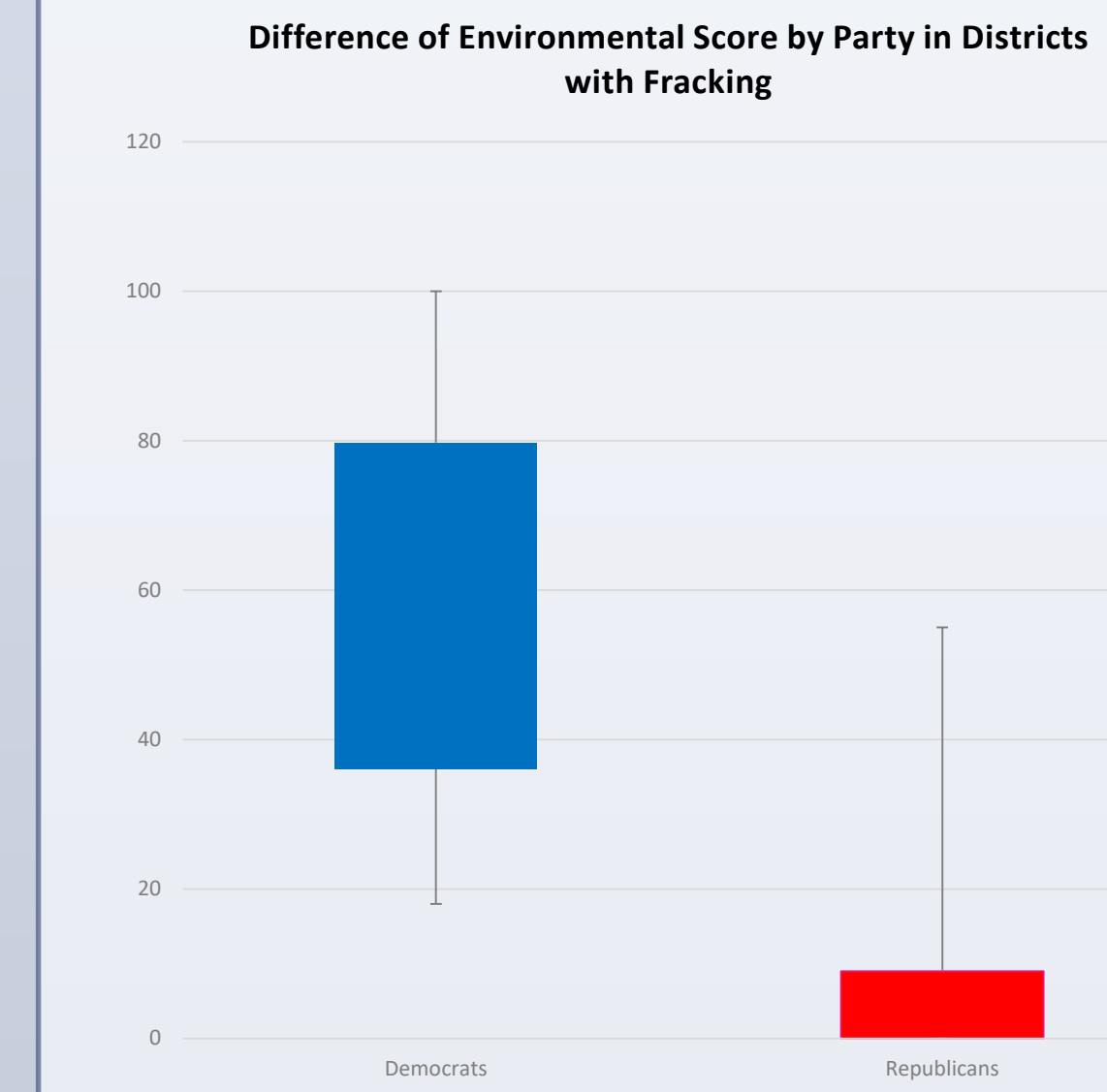


### Ethnography

Name	Occupation	Political Beliefs	Views on Fracking	Fracking's impact on political corruption	Fracking's impact on political participation
Carol Parenzan	Works for Susquehanna River Keeper to protect public waters from polluters	Democrat	Moderately anti-fracking	Causes an increase because the benefits are unequally distributed, and because the government essentially authorizes the harm of citizens due to fracking's impact on the environment and public health	Causes an increase in the amount of people who participate in protests as well as a general increase in protests
Diane Blair	Unemployed	Democrat	Extreme anti-fracking	Causes an increase due to negligence if harm caused by fracking on behalf of both the industry and local government	Increased her own levels political activism because her experience of being personally harmed by natural gas development drove her to directly contacting political officials, attending town-hall meetings and community gatherings
David Buck	Owner of a small business called Endless Mountain Outfitters, and also a real-estate agent	Republican	Moderate anti-fracking	Causes an increase because the government and natural gas industry do not sufficiently inform people of the risks involved in the process	Causes an increase in town meetings and community dialogues between citizens, the natural gas industry, and local government.
Brook Lenker	Runs a website called fractracker.org which provides maps and communicates the risks of oil and gas development	Democrat	Extreme anti-fracking	Causes an increase by resulting in inappropriate political behavior, such as the industry buying super bowl tickets for lawmakers	Increased his political activism by creating a website to communicate the risks of oil and gas development to a concerned public, to promote renewable energy, and to support efforts intended to protect the environment
Barb Jarmoska	Organizer for an anti-fracking organization called the "Responsible Drilling Alliance" (RDA)	Democrat	Extreme anti-fracking	Causes an increase because some government officials that are responsible for permitting natural gas development are incentivized to allow it because they stand to personally gain from it	Increased her own political engagement in response to her personal experience of being harmed by natural gas development by organizing campaigns to prevent natural gas development around Williamsport.
Jonathan Williamson	Political science professor at Lycoming college, and the president of the Williamsport City Council	Republican	Moderate pro-fracking	No impact	Causes an increase in community meetings
Jennifer Wilson	President and CEO of the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania	Republican	Moderate pro-fracking	No impact	Causes an increase in both the amount of people who contact public officials to express their concerns about natural gas development as well as the rate at which people to directly contact officials.

## Discussion

### Political Corruption



### Political Participation

- Participation Gap

### Model

- Possible causal link
- Trust
- Efficacy

## Methodological Limitations

- Only one case
- Small sample size
- Voting behavior of specific legislatures not examined
- Time constraints

## Conclusion

- Fracking causes an increase in political corruption through lobbying as a legislative subsidy to the Republican Party
- Fracking causes an increase in formal political participation and a decrease in informal political participation
- Political corruption might cause a decrease in formal political participation and a increase in informal political participation

## Future Research

- Definition political corruption
- Mechanisms of lobbying as a legislative subsidy
- Causes of participation gap
- Political trust and efficacy

Thank you!