

Reviewer-4

The article examines an important issue – satisfaction with democracy – as a function of electoral politics and party institutionalization. Its focus is on presidential systems in the Americas 2002-2021, but it has broader implications and suggests further studies.

Yes, as a description. More engaging to readers might be: Do election outcomes and party institutionalization impact satisfaction with democracy? A comparative analysis.

Mostly. The article begins slowly with a lot of repetition, e.g., “satisfaction with democracy” appears seven times on the first page! The writing improves as the author proceeds. I would urge a rewrite of the introduction.

Section 1: Satisfaction with Democracy: the author seems to assume a linkage between ideology and policy. That needs to be discussed. Section 2: Party Institutionalization and Satisfaction with Democracy: Okay Research Design: the author might include some discussion of the accuracy of self-reports of voter choices. There is some evidence that voters tend to claim they voted for the winner whether or not they did. The measures of party institutionalization are very interesting and I appreciated the author’s concluding suggestion for further studies here. The economic performance controls could be mentioned earlier in the article, i.e., as an alternative explanation for satisfaction? Results: this section presents the results clearly and concisely. Conclusion: The suggested future studies are intriguing. I think the argument here could be extended further to the role of elections per se in satisfaction with democracy. Also, the author might consider the implications of satisfaction, i.e., why does it matter for democratic legitimacy? Stability? Etc. This issue could also be engaged in a more robust introduction.

My only suggestion would be to consider Elaine Spitz, Majority Rule, to flesh out the discussion of various types of democracy and the importance of competitive elections.