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## How Well Do Republican Delegates Represent Other Utah Republicans

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# How Well do Republican Delegates Represent Other Utah Republicans?

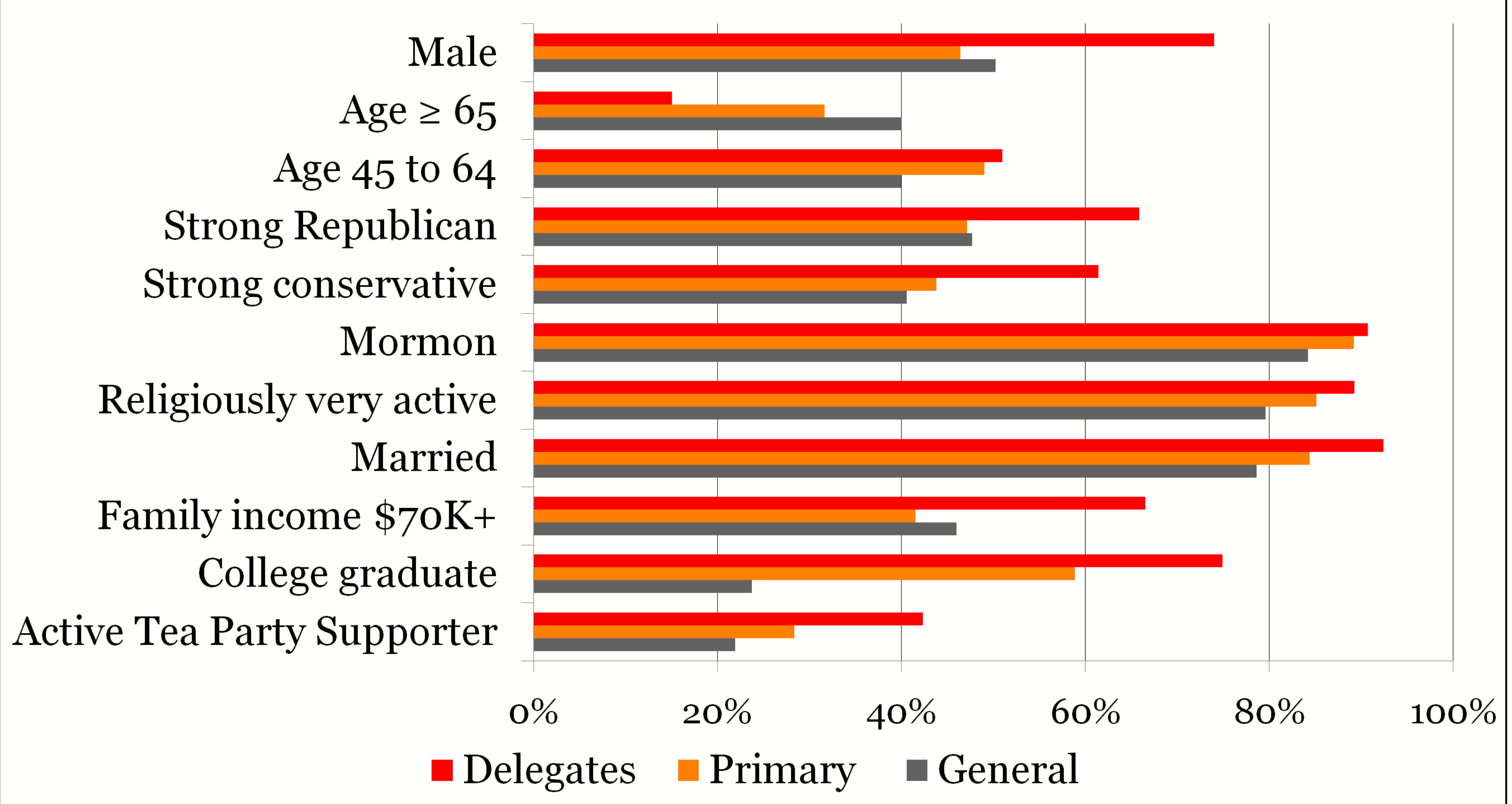


CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY  
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

## INTRODUCTION

Utah gives more power to nominating convention delegates than does any other state. In May 2010, Senator Robert Bennett was removed from office without facing a primary. Could the outcome have been different if another system were in place?

## How similar are delegates and other voters?



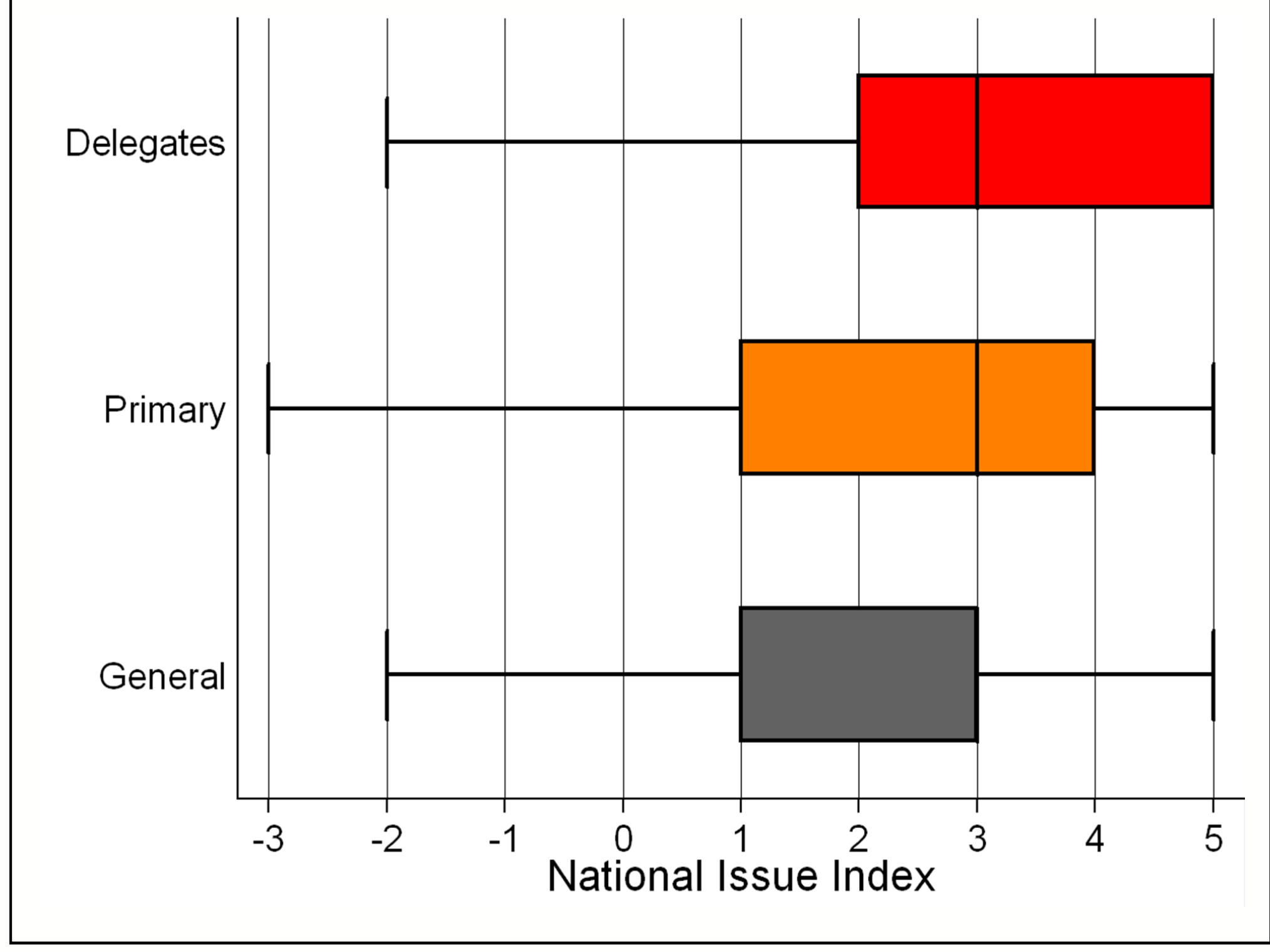
## METHODOLOGY

Using original survey data, I compare the demographics of Republican delegates to primary and general election Republicans. Then, I compare their issue positions using an index created from the following issues:

- Reauthorizing the State Children’s Health Insurance Program
- The 2009 stimulus package
- Health insurance reform
- The 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Package
- Funding for a troop increase in Afghanistan

The resulting “National Issue Index” ranges from -5 to 5 with higher values representing Republican positions.

## How similar are delegates and voters on the issues?



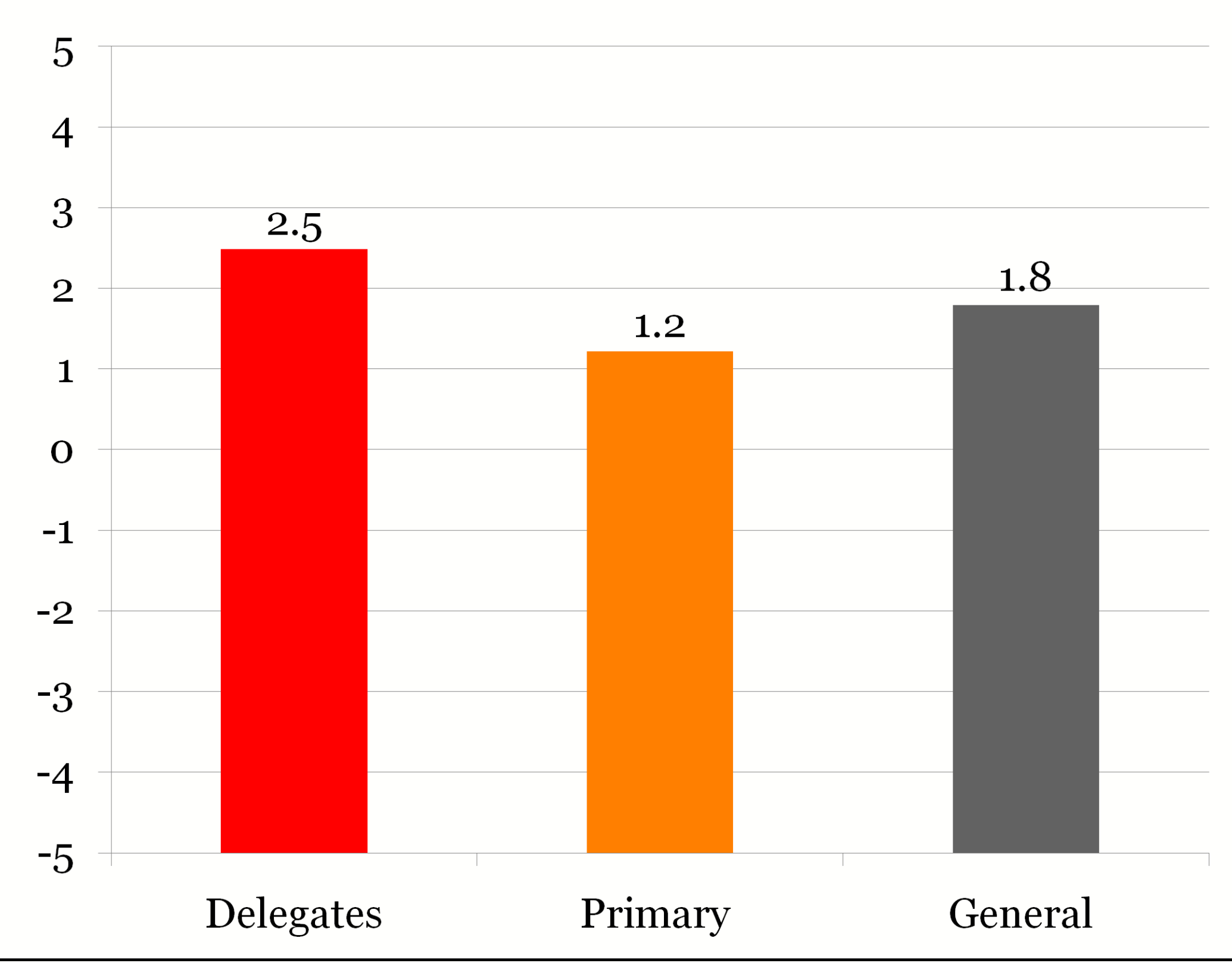
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## IMPLICATIONS

Delegates are neither demographically nor substantively representative of Utah Republican voters.

While our data does not speak specifically to the ousting of Senator Robert Bennett, it is clear that a more representative nomination system could lead to very different results.

## How similar are the typical delegate’s issue positions to those of other voters with the same characteristics?



Note: The bar chart above reports the predicted National Issue Index scores for a hypothetical person with the following attributes: 50-years-old, male, strong Republican, \$70 and \$85K annual income, Mormon, religiously very active, and employed by another person.

