

Immigrants' Political Participation in Canada

Hongshu Wang, Department of Sociology, Western University | Supervisor: Dr. Howard Ramos

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Introduction

Importance:

- Over 20% of foreign-born Canadians are immigrants (Statistics Canada, 2022)
- Political Participation is a key measure of integration

Existing Literature:

- Cultural factors:** Immigrants from Asia are less likely to participate in politics (Pye & Pye, 2009)
- Experience of discrimination** is a barrier to integration (Bloemraad et al., 2015; Grant et al., 2014)
- Socio-economic:** Higher education level, more likely to participate in politics (Laxer et al., 2020)
- Province of residence:** Immigrants in Quebec are less likely to participate in politics due to less inclusive policies for immigrants (Bilodeau et al., 2022)
- Sex/gender** differences (Li, 2020)

Gaps:

- No recent studies compare the sociocultural, human capital, and political economy factors
- No recent quantitative studies measure non-institutional political participation

Methods

Dataset: 2020 General Social Survey Cycle 35: Social Identity, by Statistics Canada

Method: logistic regression

Outcome: vote in any election (76% Yes), petition (35% Yes), public meeting (11% Yes), support or demonstration (14% Yes)

Independent and control:

- Landed immigrant status (74% non-immigrants, 13% Asia, Oceania and other, 6% Europe, 4% Americas, 3% Africa)
- Discrimination: racial, ethnic, or cultural
- Socio-economic status: family income, university degree
- Demographic: gender, province of residence, gender, partner's birthplace, age

Descriptive (Weighted):

- Sample size: 34,044. Weighted population: 31,255,852

Results

* $P \leq 0.05$ ** $P \leq 0.01$ *** $P \leq 0.001$

Fig. 1: weighted regression of participation by immigrants' birthplace with control (Ref: non-immigrants/unstated)

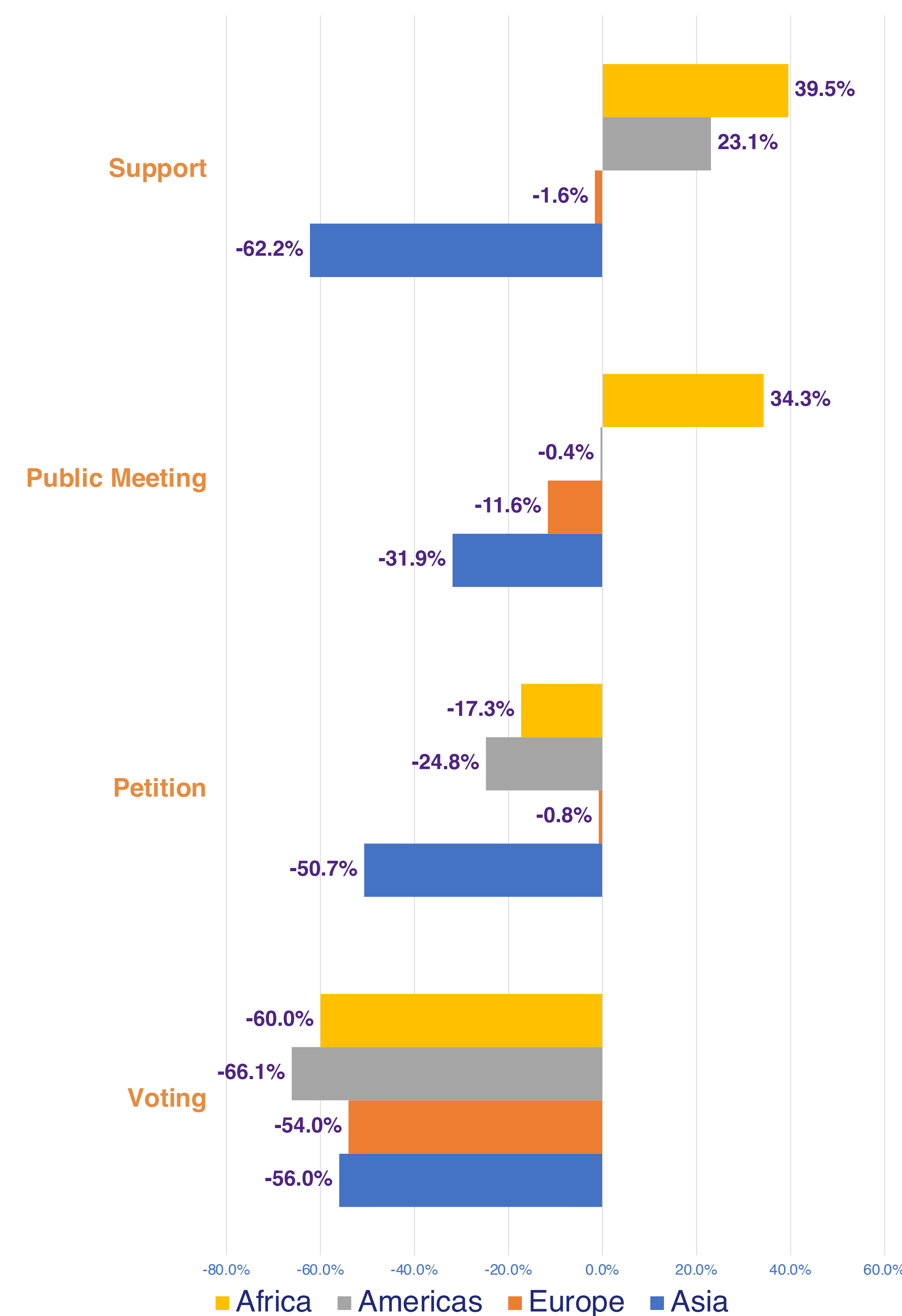
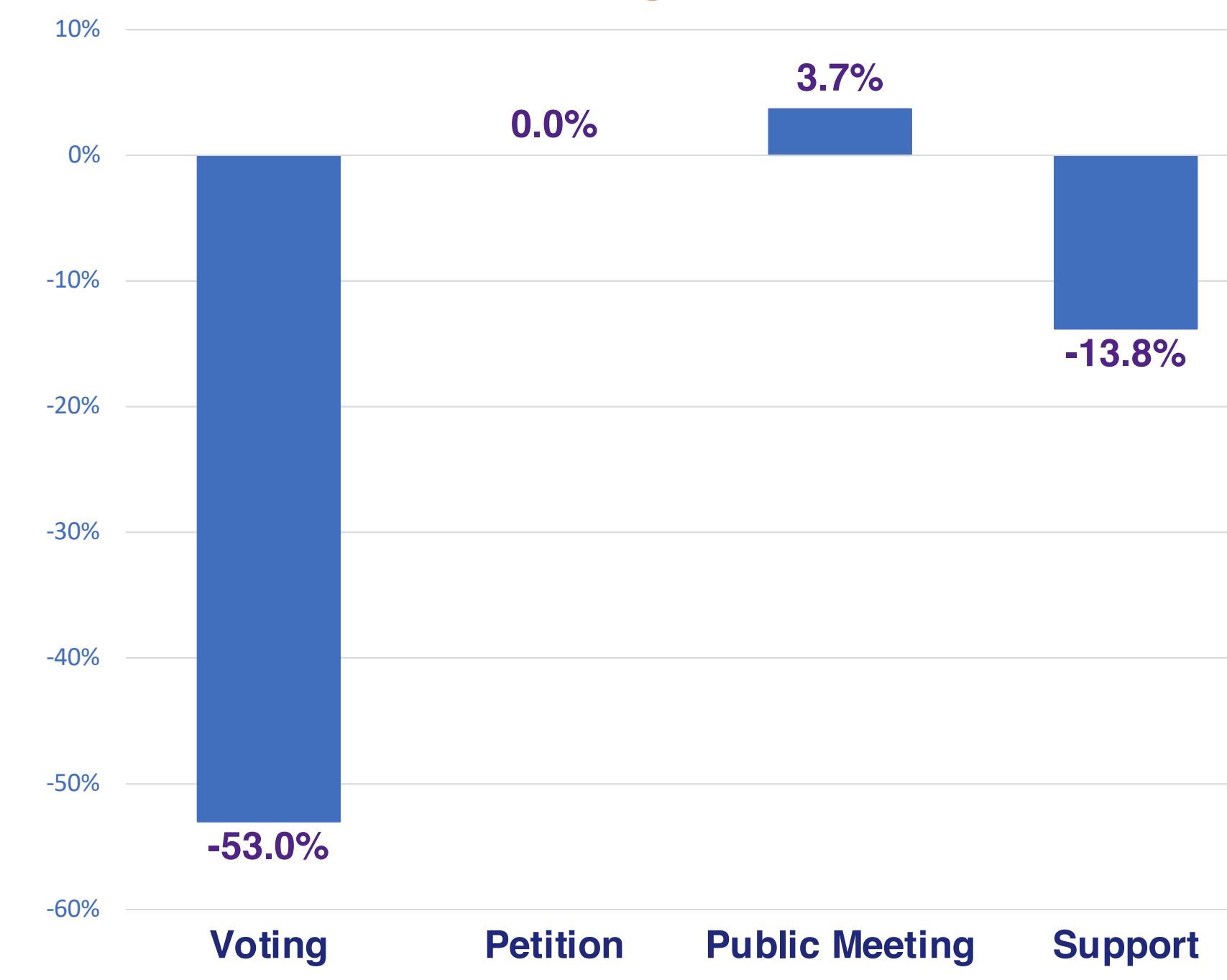
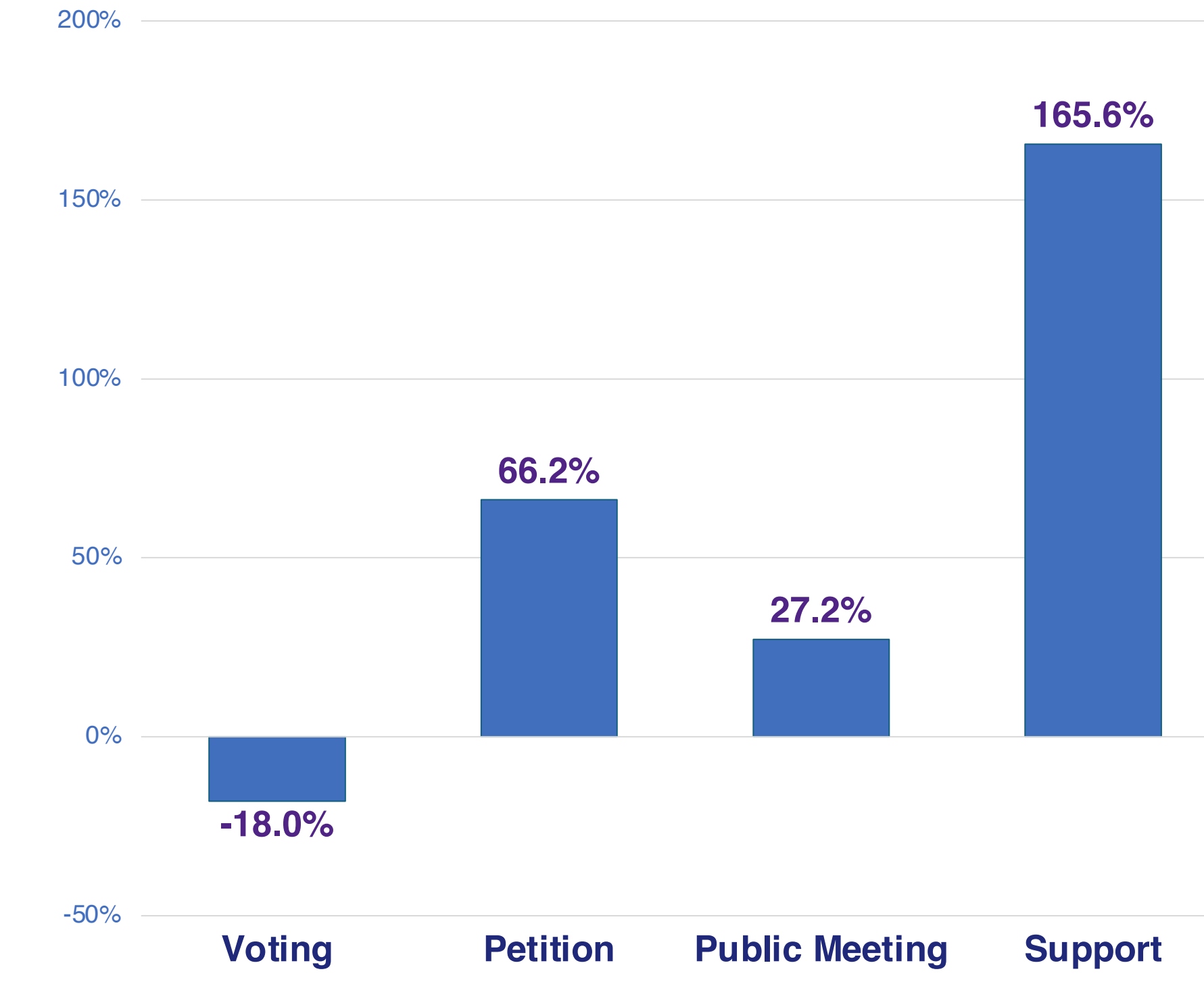


Fig. 2 to 5: weighted regression of interaction variables

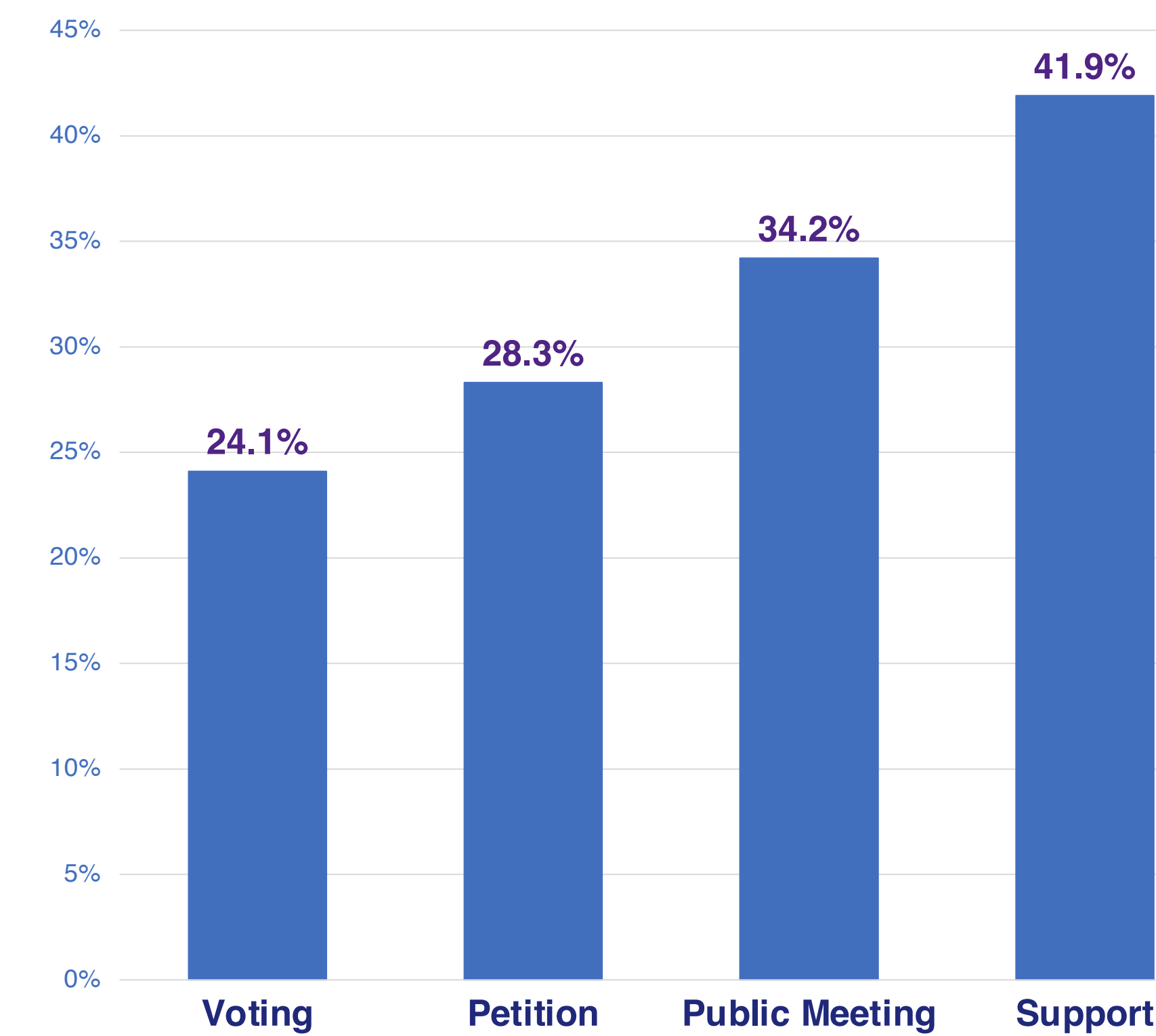
Immigrants with a University Degree



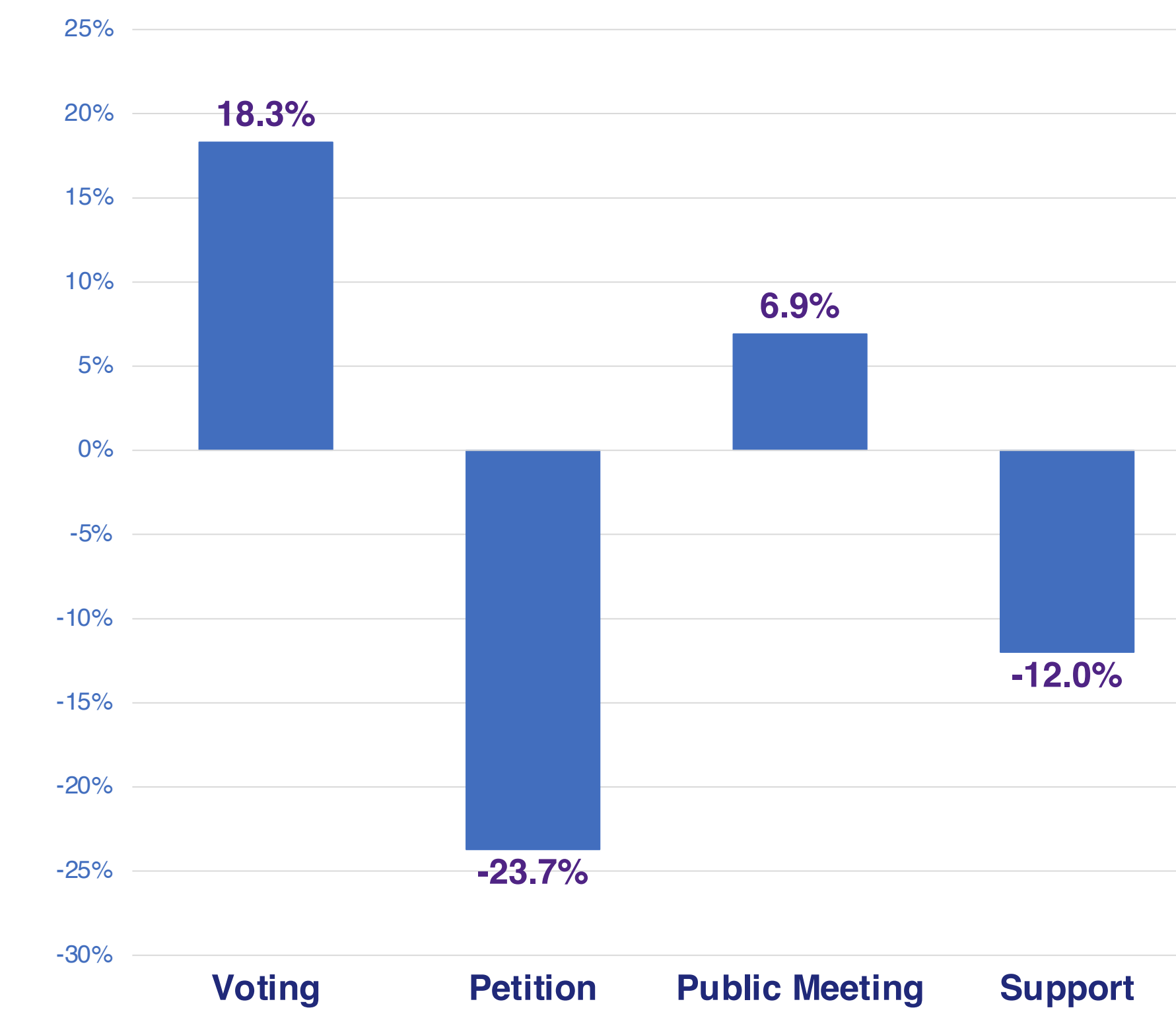
Immigrants living in Quebec



Immigrants above 65 years old



Immigrants experienced discrimination



Conclusions

- Immigrants **born in Asia**: less likely to vote than non-immigrants, least likely to participate in (the three) noninstitutional political activities
- Immigrants **experienced racial, ethnic, or cultural discrimination**: less likely to sign a petition or show support or demonstrate but more likely to vote and attend a public meeting
- People with a **university degree**: more likely to participate in politics, but not immigrants with a **university degree**
- Immigrants in **Quebec**: less likely to vote but more likely to participate in noninstitutional politics, especially showing (visible signs of) support (for a political or social cause) or demonstrate
- People **above age 65**: more likely to vote and attend a public meeting but less likely to sign a petition or show support or demonstrate, while immigrants **above 65 years old** are more likely to vote and participate in noninstitutional politics