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Supplemental Information

“Psychological underpinnings of partisan bias in tie formation on social media”

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Note: For all analysis tables: * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$.

1. Field Experiment.

1a. Bot versus human discernment pre-testing. We conducted a pretest of our field experiment accounts to verify that our human-presenting bot accounts were perceived as similar to humans, and that our bot-presenting bot accounts were perceived as bots compared to our human-looking accounts. We recruited $N=375$ participants on Prolific ($M_{\text{age}}=45.98$, 189 female; all passed 2 trivial attention screeners and reported using Twitter) to evaluate a series of 31 Twitter profiles each (7 real Democratic accounts, 6 real politically neutral accounts, 6 real Republican accounts, 11 actual ‘conspiratorial’ accounts, and 1 of our constructed field experiment accounts – either a human-looking Democrat, human-looking Republican, human-looking politically neutral, bot-looking Democrat, bot-looking Republican, or bot-looking politically neutral account). For each profile, participants were asked, “Do you think this account is a bot or a human?” (1=Definitely a bot, 2=Likely a bot, 3=Likely a human, 4=Definitely a human). We then predict human versus bot perception by profile type (real, conspiratorial, human-looking, bot-looking) via a linear model, with cluster robust standard errors by participant. As shown in Table S1, we find that our bot-looking accounts are perceived as significantly more likely to be a bot than our human-looking

accounts. We also do not find evidence of a significant difference in human versus bot perception of our human-looking accounts versus real profiles, nor versus actual conspiratorial accounts.

Table S1. *Human (versus bot) perception of Twitter profiles in pretest.*

| term | estimate | std.error | z | p.value |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| (Intercept – Human-Looking) | 2.866 | 0.07 | 40.657 | <0.001*** |
| Conspiratorial | -0.093 | 0.059 | -1.578 | 0.115 |
| Real | 0.104 | 0.063 | 1.648 | 0.099 |
| Bot-Looking | -1.175 | 0.103 | -11.405 | <0.001*** |

1b. Bot versus human informativeness & partisan slant pre-testing. We also conducted a pretest of our field experiment accounts to verify that our human-presenting bot accounts and bot-presenting bot accounts were perceived as similarly informative, and that our partisan accounts were perceived as more politically slanted than our neutral accounts. We recruited $N=367$ participants on Prolific ($M_{age}=45.69$, 174 female; all passed 2 trivial attention screeners) to evaluate our six planned field experiment accounts (human or bot presenting; Democrat, Republican, or politically neutral). All participants were asked to “Think about the content you would expect this account to share on Twitter (and thus that you would see if you followed this account).” Participants then were randomly asked either, “How useful/informative to you would you expect that content to be?” (1=Not at all, 2=Slightly, 3=Moderately, 4=Very, 5=Extremely) or “How politically slanted would you expect that content to be?” (1=Not at all, 2=Slightly, 3=Moderately, 4=Very, 5=Extremely). We first predict informativeness rating from profile type (bot, human) via a linear model, with cluster robust standard errors by participant and profile. We do not find evidence for a significant difference between human- and bot-presenting account expected informativeness (Table S2).

Table S2. *Informativeness/usefulness expectation predicted by profile type (bot, human).*

| term | estimate | std.error | z | p.value |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept-Bot) | 3.039 | 0.124 | 24.447 | <0.001*** |
| Human | 0.036 | 0.097 | 0.373 | 0.709 |

We then predict political slant rating from profile partisan type (neutral, partisan) via a linear model, with cluster robust standard errors by participant and profile. We find evidence that our partisan accounts are perceived as significantly more politically slanted than our neutral accounts (Table S3).

Table S3. *Political slant expectation predicted by profile partisan type (neutral, partisan).*

| term | estimate | std.error | z | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 3.035 | 0.078 | 39.069 | <0.001*** |
| typepart | 0.684 | 0.096 | 7.116 | <0.001*** |

1c. Primary Analyses. We pre-registered our primary analysis here:

https://aspredicted.org/blind.php?x=5H6_HBH. We report two minor deviations from this pre-registered model: (1) we pre-registered a baseline shared partisanship condition of neutral partisanship, but in our model instead use discordant partisanship as baseline; (2) we pre-registered z-scoring all dummy

variables, but in our model keep dummy variables coded 0, 1. Both deviations were made to increase model interpretability, but neither substantively change the model.

Table S4. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of user and account political concordance (baseline = discordant; concordant dummy, neutral condition dummy), account appearance (baseline = human-looking; bot dummy), user partisanship (0=Democrat, 1=Republican), and all interactions.*

| Term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.025 | 0.019 | 1.353 | 0.176 |
| Concord | 0.179 | 0.026 | 6.81 | <0.001*** |
| Neutral | 0.099 | 0.026 | 3.731 | <0.001*** |
| Bot | 0.003 | 0.026 | 0.124 | 0.901 |
| UserRep | 0.024 | 0.026 | 0.927 | 0.354 |
| Concord:Bot | -0.132 | 0.037 | -3.549 | <0.001*** |
| Neutral:Bot | -0.077 | 0.037 | -2.054 | 0.040* |
| Concord:UserRep | -0.033 | 0.036 | -0.898 | 0.369 |
| Neutral:UserRep | 0.012 | 0.037 | 0.333 | 0.739 |
| Bot:UserRep | -0.013 | 0.037 | -0.36 | 0.719 |
| Concord:Bot:User Rep | 0.058 | 0.052 | 1.13 | 0.259 |
| Neutral:Bot:User Rep | 0.003 | 0.052 | 0.058 | 0.954 |

1d. Secondary Analyses. Our primary pre-registered analysis assesses whether bot- (versus human-) looking accounts change the absolute follow-back rate of concordant (or neutral) versus discordant accounts. Here, we report an exploratory logit analysis examining whether bot- (versus human-) looking accounts change the relative follow-back rate of concordant (or neutral) versus discordant accounts (Table S5). We find qualitatively similar results across both models. As pre-registered, we also report a secondary analysis similar to our main model, except additionally adding partisan extremity as a predictor, allowing for all relevant interactions (Table S6).

Table S5. *Follow-back predicted by logit model of user and account political concordance (baseline = discordant; concordant dummy, neutral condition dummy), account appearance (baseline = human-looking; bot dummy), user partisanship (0=Democrat, 1=Republican), and all interactions.*

| Term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | -3.646 | 0.414 | -8.817 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 2.29 | 0.443 | 5.171 | <0.001*** |
| Neutral | 1.691 | 0.457 | 3.698 | <0.001*** |
| Bot | 0.124 | 0.564 | 0.22 | 0.826 |
| UserRep | 0.69 | 0.502 | 1.374 | 0.169 |
| Concord:Bot | -1.267 | 0.635 | -1.995 | 0.046* |
| Neutral:Bot | -1.1 | 0.666 | -1.651 | 0.099 |
| Concord:UserRep | -0.744 | 0.549 | -1.356 | 0.175 |
| Neutral:UserRep | -0.391 | 0.565 | -0.693 | 0.488 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Bot:UserRep | -0.358 | 0.709 | -0.505 | 0.614 |
| Concord:Bot:User Rep | 0.845 | 0.806 | 1.047 | 0.295 |
| Neutral:Bot:User Rep | 0.502 | 0.842 | 0.596 | 0.551 |

Table S6. *Follow-back predicted by a linear probability model of user and account political concordance (baseline = discordant; concordant dummy, neutral condition dummy), account appearance (baseline = human-looking; bot dummy), user partisanship (0=Democrat, 1=Republican; z-scored), extremity of political ideology (absolute value of estimated political ideology), and all interactions.*

| Term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.038 | 0.013 | 2.941 | 0.003*** |
| Concord | 0.16 | 0.018 | 8.689 | <0.001*** |
| Neutral | 0.106 | 0.019 | 5.728 | <0.001*** |
| Bot | -0.004 | 0.019 | -0.22 | 0.826 |
| zUserRep | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.88 | 0.379 |
| zPolExtrem | 0.003 | 0.014 | 0.194 | 0.846 |
| Concord:Bot | -0.1 | 0.026 | -3.84 | <0.001*** |
| Neutral:Bot | -0.08 | 0.026 | -3.049 | 0.002*** |
| Concord:zUserRep | -0.018 | 0.018 | -0.999 | 0.318 |
| Neutral:zUserRep | 0.007 | 0.019 | 0.38 | 0.704 |
| Bot:zUserRep | -0.005 | 0.019 | -0.28 | 0.779 |
| Concord:zPolExtrem | 0.017 | 0.019 | 0.898 | 0.369 |
| Neutral:zPolExtrem | -0.007 | 0.02 | -0.331 | 0.741 |
| Bot:zPolExtrem | -0.01 | 0.02 | -0.48 | 0.632 |
| zUserRep:zPolExtrem | -0.004 | 0.015 | -0.254 | 0.799 |
| Concord:Bot:zUserRep | 0.031 | 0.026 | 1.197 | 0.231 |
| Neutral:Bot:zUserRep | 0.001 | 0.026 | 0.057 | 0.955 |
| Concord:Bot:zUserExtrem | -0.017 | 0.027 | -0.613 | 0.54 |
| Neutral:Bot:zUserExtrem | 0.003 | 0.028 | 0.092 | 0.926 |
| Concord:zUserRep:zPolExtrem | 0.016 | 0.02 | 0.833 | 0.405 |
| Neutral:zUserRep:zPolExtrem | -0.008 | 0.02 | -0.381 | 0.703 |
| Bot:zUserRep:zPolExtrem | 0.004 | 0.02 | 0.176 | 0.86 |
| Concord:Bot:zUserRep:zPolExtrem | -0.012 | 0.028 | -0.414 | 0.679 |
| Neutral:Bot:zUserRep:zPolExtrem | 0.033 | 0.028 | 1.175 | 0.24 |

2. Survey Experiment.

Our survey experiment was pre-registered here: https://aspredicted.org/blind.php?x=72D_YGP. We report the following deviations from our pre-registration: (1) parallel analysis indicated selection of one principal component to include in our primary analysis – however given that the second principal component indexed in-party liking, we include the first two principal components in all relevant analyses;

(2) instead of examining attention and Twitter usage as a potential moderator in secondary analyses, we examine whether our results are robust to only including users equal to or above the median value of attention or Twitter usage; (3) we only report the principal component analyses results for predicting following or ignoring reasons – though full analyses can be found in our analysis files on our OSF page: https://osf.io/n7dym/?view_only=0fe35aeb3bcd4a718c8fd028ede85edc.

2a. Descriptive Statistics.

Table S7. *Descriptive statistics for Lucid participants with Twitter accounts who passed trivial attention checks and completed main survey task. Sex was asked as follows: “What is your gender?” (1=Male, 2=Female, 3=Non-binary, 4=Not listed (free response), 5=Prefer not to answer) [Note – we ask gender in the question, but only provide sex as possible responses; future iterations will remedy]. Race/ethnicity was asked as follows: “Please choose whichever ethnicity that you identify with (you may choose more than one option)” (1=White/Caucasian, 2=Black or African American, 3=American Indian or Alaska Native, 4=Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 5=Hispanic/Latino, 6=Indian, 7=Middle Eastern, 8=East Asian, 9=Other, please describe).*

| | |
|--|--|
| N | 990 |
| Age | M=47.14, SD=16.96 |
| Sex | 513 Female, 475 Male, 2 Non-binary or prefer not to answer |
| Race | 71.41% White-only 12.42% Black or African American-only |
| Attention (non-trivial items; out of 4) | M=2.63, SD=1.00 |
| Education | 73.73% At Least Attended Some College |
| Partisanship (1-7; then forced choice if neutral) | 603 Democratic Party 387 Republican Party |
| Political Knowledge (out of 4) | M=2.08, SD=1.33 |
| Political Issues Position (1=liberal, 7=conservative; don’t knows=NA; aggregate across 11 items) | M=3.62, SD=1.25 |
| Out-party Dislike (out of 100) | M=65.91, SD=29.49 |
| In-party Like (out of 100) | M=76.91, SD=21.25 |

2b. Principal Component Analysis of Political Measures.

Table S8. *Variable loadings for principal component analysis of political knowledge, issue polarization, out-party dislike, and in-party like measures (all z-scored).*

| | PC1 | PC2 |
|-------------|-------|--------|
| zPK | 0.563 | -0.118 |
| zIssuePolNA | 0.622 | 0.047 |
| zOutDis | 0.533 | -0.133 |
| zInLike | 0.110 | 0.983 |

Table S9. *Parallel analysis for component retention (120 iterations; using paran R package).*

| Component | Adjusted Eigenvalue | Unadjusted Eigenvalue | Estimated Bias |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | 1.649 | 1.720 | 0.071 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|

2c. Primary Analyses.

Table S10. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of participant and account political concordance and discordance.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.445 | 0.026 | 16.985 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.062 | 0.037 | 1.673 | 0.095 |
| Discord | -0.205 | 0.037 | -5.545 | <0.001*** |

Table S11. *Linear hypothesis test comparing concordance and discordance effects on follow-back, from Table S10 analysis.*

| term | null.value | estimate | std.error | F | p.value |
|----------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| Concord + Discord | 0 | -0.143 | 0.064 | 4.957 | 0.026* |

Table S12. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, PC1 and PC2, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.44 | 0.024 | 18 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.061 | 0.035 | 1.771 | 0.077 |
| Discord | -0.196 | 0.034 | -5.695 | <0.001*** |
| PC1 | -0.092 | 0.018 | -5.002 | <0.001*** |
| PC2 | 0.13 | 0.025 | 5.17 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:PC1 | 0.077 | 0.026 | 2.931 | 0.003** |
| Concord:PC2 | 0.041 | 0.035 | 1.178 | 0.239 |
| Discord:PC1 | -0.041 | 0.026 | -1.557 | 0.12 |
| Discord:PC2 | -0.085 | 0.035 | -2.418 | 0.016* |

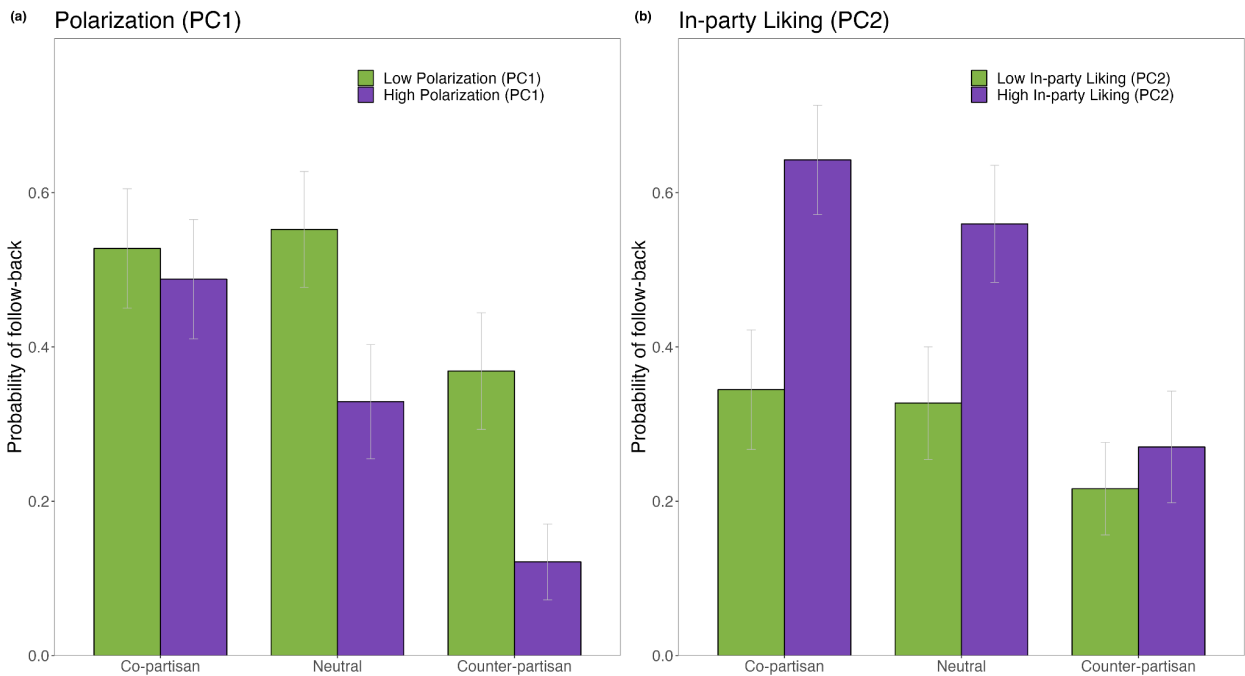


Fig. S1. Probability of social tie reciprocation by overall polarization, in-party liking. Shown here are the probabilities of participants following-back our accounts in each experimental condition. (a) Median split by “overall polarization” (principal component 1). More polarized participants are less likely to follow-back neutral and counter-partisan accounts, relative to co-partisan accounts. (b) Median split by “in-party liking” (principal component 2). Participants with greater in-party liking are more likely to follow-back neutral and co-partisan accounts, relative to counter-partisan accounts. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

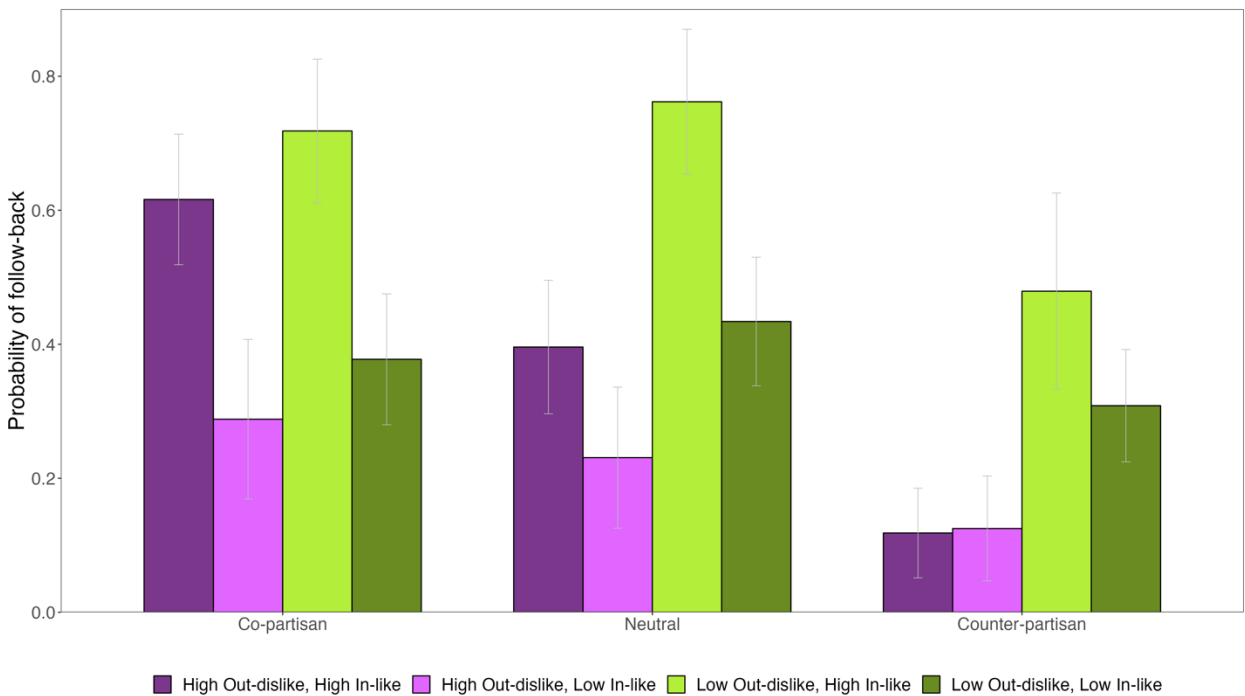


Fig. S2. Probability of social tie reciprocation by median splits of out-party disliking, in-party liking.
 Shown here are the probabilities of participants following-back our accounts in each experimental condition by four categories: (i) participants in the upper median split of both out-party disliking and in-party liking (n=288), (ii) participants in the upper median split of out-party disliking and the lower median split of in-party liking (n=196), (iii) participants in the lower median split of out-party disliking and the upper median split of in-party liking (n=182), and (iv) participants in the lower median split of both out-party disliking and in-party liking (n=324).

Table S13. Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, PC1 and PC2, partisanship (Democrat, Republican), and all interactions.

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.447 | 0.031 | 14.577 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.122 | 0.044 | 2.774 | 0.006** |
| Discord | -0.161 | 0.044 | -3.675 | <0.001*** |
| PC1 | -0.103 | 0.023 | -4.54 | <0.001*** |
| PC2 | 0.149 | 0.035 | 4.239 | <0.001*** |
| PartisanshipRep | -0.024 | 0.05 | -0.475 | 0.635 |
| Concord:PC1 | 0.055 | 0.032 | 1.715 | 0.087 |
| Concord:PC2 | 0 | 0.045 | 0.002 | 0.998 |
| Discord:PC1 | -0.055 | 0.032 | -1.692 | 0.091 |
| Discord:PC2 | -0.085 | 0.046 | -1.829 | 0.068 |
| Concord:PartisanshipRep | -0.142 | 0.071 | -2.013 | 0.044* |
| Discord:PartisanshipRep | -0.082 | 0.07 | -1.171 | 0.242 |
| PC1:PartisanshipRep | 0.034 | 0.038 | 0.889 | 0.374 |
| PC2:PartisanshipRep | -0.041 | 0.05 | -0.825 | 0.41 |
| Concord:PC1:PartisanshipRep | 0.06 | 0.055 | 1.095 | 0.274 |
| Concord:PC2:PartisanshipRep | 0.083 | 0.071 | 1.169 | 0.243 |
| Discord:PC1:PartisanshipRep | 0.042 | 0.055 | 0.765 | 0.445 |
| Discord:PC2:PartisanshipRep | -0.013 | 0.072 | -0.177 | 0.859 |

Table S14. Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, all political variables (political knowledge, issue polarization, out-party dislike, in-party like), and their interactions.

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.441 | 0.024 | 18.086 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.062 | 0.035 | 1.783 | 0.075 |
| Discord | -0.199 | 0.034 | -5.768 | <0.001*** |
| zPK | -0.031 | 0.027 | -1.116 | 0.265 |
| zIssuePolNA | -0.054 | 0.029 | -1.882 | 0.06 |
| zOutDis | -0.1 | 0.026 | -3.87 | <0.001*** |
| zInLike | 0.118 | 0.025 | 4.663 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:zPK | -0.024 | 0.039 | -0.623 | 0.533 |
| Concord:zIssuePolNA | 0.098 | 0.041 | 2.382 | 0.017* |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| Concord:zOutDis | 0.047 | 0.038 | 1.233 | 0.218 |
| Concord:zInLike | 0.038 | 0.035 | 1.085 | 0.278 |
| Discord:zPK | -0.036 | 0.038 | -0.952 | 0.341 |
| Discord:zIssuePolNA | 0.008 | 0.04 | 0.197 | 0.844 |
| Discord:zOutDis | -0.028 | 0.037 | -0.77 | 0.442 |
| Discord:zInLike | -0.092 | 0.035 | -2.636 | 0.009** |

Table S15. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, political knowledge, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.442 | 0.026 | 17.073 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.068 | 0.037 | 1.858 | 0.063 |
| Discord | -0.2 | 0.036 | -5.488 | <0.001*** |
| zPK | -0.081 | 0.026 | -3.145 | 0.002** |
| Concord:zPK | 0.03 | 0.037 | 0.816 | 0.414 |
| Discord:zPK | -0.034 | 0.037 | -0.93 | 0.353 |

Table S16. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, issue polarization, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.444 | 0.026 | 17.199 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.063 | 0.037 | 1.735 | 0.083 |
| Discord | -0.203 | 0.036 | -5.564 | <0.001*** |
| zIssuePolNA | -0.097 | 0.026 | -3.77 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:zIssuePolNA | 0.118 | 0.037 | 3.203 | 0.001** |
| Discord:zIssuePolNA | -0.016 | 0.036 | -0.446 | 0.655 |

Table S17. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, out-party dislike, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.444 | 0.025 | 17.501 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.064 | 0.036 | 1.79 | 0.074 |
| Discord | -0.204 | 0.036 | -5.698 | <0.001*** |
| zOutDis | -0.126 | 0.025 | -5.099 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:zOutDis | 0.068 | 0.036 | 1.9 | 0.058 |
| Discord:zOutDis | -0.033 | 0.035 | -0.942 | 0.346 |

Table S18. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, in-party like, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.445 | 0.025 | 17.439 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.055 | 0.036 | 1.527 | 0.127 |
| Discord | -0.204 | 0.036 | -5.659 | <0.001*** |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|
| zInLike | 0.11 | 0.026 | 4.19 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:zInLike | 0.053 | 0.036 | 1.472 | 0.141 |
| Discord:zInLike | -0.099 | 0.037 | -2.696 | 0.007** |

2d. Secondary Analyses – Filtering for Attention.

The following analyses only include participants with greater than or equal to the median number of non-trivial attention items correctly answered (Median=3 items; $N=545$ participants).

Table S19. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of participant and account political concordance and discordance.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.41 | 0.034 | 12.082 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.085 | 0.048 | 1.757 | 0.079 |
| Discord | -0.227 | 0.049 | -4.643 | <0.001*** |

Table S20. *Linear hypothesis test comparing concordance and discordance effects on follow-back, from Table S19 analysis.*

| term | null.value | estimate | std.error | F | p.value |
|----------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| Concord + Discord | 0 | -0.142 | 0.084 | 2.864 | 0.091 |

Table S21. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, PC1 and PC2, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.424 | 0.033 | 12.898 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.046 | 0.048 | 0.954 | 0.34 |
| Discord | -0.22 | 0.047 | -4.655 | <0.001*** |
| PC1 | -0.072 | 0.025 | -2.92 | 0.004** |
| PC2 | 0.112 | 0.034 | 3.282 | 0.001** |
| Concord:PC1 | 0.095 | 0.037 | 2.555 | 0.011* |
| Concord:PC2 | 0.067 | 0.048 | 1.391 | 0.165 |
| Discord:PC1 | -0.028 | 0.037 | -0.75 | 0.453 |
| Discord:PC2 | -0.089 | 0.05 | -1.762 | 0.079 |

Table S22. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, all political variables (political knowledge, issue polarization, out-party dislike, in-party like), and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.421 | 0.033 | 12.856 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.052 | 0.048 | 1.08 | 0.281 |
| Discord | -0.219 | 0.047 | -4.654 | <0.001*** |
| zPK | -0.019 | 0.04 | -0.486 | 0.627 |
| zIssuePolNA | -0.086 | 0.037 | -2.347 | 0.019* |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| zOutDis | -0.033 | 0.036 | -0.916 | 0.36 |
| zInLike | 0.112 | 0.034 | 3.293 | 0.001** |
| Concord:zPK | 0.001 | 0.054 | 0.01 | 0.992 |
| Concord:zIssuePolNA | 0.148 | 0.052 | 2.866 | 0.004** |
| Concord:zOutDis | -0.019 | 0.054 | -0.348 | 0.728 |
| Concord:zInLike | 0.057 | 0.049 | 1.158 | 0.247 |
| Discord:zPK | -0.015 | 0.054 | -0.276 | 0.783 |
| Discord:zIssuePolNA | 0.078 | 0.051 | 1.514 | 0.131 |
| Discord:zOutDis | -0.119 | 0.052 | -2.308 | 0.021* |
| Discord:zInLike | -0.104 | 0.05 | -2.061 | 0.04* |

Table S23. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, political knowledge, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.422 | 0.034 | 12.312 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.079 | 0.049 | 1.607 | 0.109 |
| Discord | -0.23 | 0.049 | -4.672 | <0.001*** |
| zPK | -0.075 | 0.036 | -2.08 | 0.038* |
| Concord:zPK | 0.048 | 0.05 | 0.946 | 0.344 |
| Discord:zPK | 0.014 | 0.051 | 0.267 | 0.789 |

Table S24. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, issue polarization, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.42 | 0.034 | 12.442 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.058 | 0.049 | 1.195 | 0.233 |
| Discord | -0.231 | 0.049 | -4.744 | <0.001*** |
| zIssuePolNA | -0.089 | 0.032 | -2.765 | 0.006** |
| Concord:zIssuePolNA | 0.157 | 0.047 | 3.337 | 0.001** |
| Discord:zIssuePolNA | 0.035 | 0.047 | 0.734 | 0.463 |

Table S25. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, out-party dislike, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.416 | 0.034 | 12.401 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.082 | 0.048 | 1.695 | 0.091 |
| Discord | -0.219 | 0.048 | -4.548 | <0.001*** |
| zOutDis | -0.058 | 0.035 | -1.689 | 0.092 |
| Concord:zOutDis | 0.042 | 0.052 | 0.808 | 0.419 |
| Discord:zOutDis | -0.101 | 0.05 | -1.999 | 0.046* |

Table S26. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, in-party like, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.405 | 0.033 | 12.242 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.066 | 0.047 | 1.388 | 0.166 |
| Discord | -0.222 | 0.048 | -4.659 | <0.001*** |
| zInLike | 0.095 | 0.034 | 2.76 | 0.006** |
| Concord:zInLike | 0.082 | 0.049 | 1.66 | 0.097 |
| Discord:zInLike | -0.106 | 0.051 | -2.073 | 0.039* |

2e. Secondary Analyses – Filtering for Fox or MSNBC Retweeting.

The following analyses only include participants who self-reported having retweeted either Fox News or MSNBC in the past ($N=358$ participants).

Table S27. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of participant and account political concordance and discordance.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.603 | 0.042 | 14.256 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.138 | 0.061 | 2.286 | 0.023* |
| Discord | -0.201 | 0.062 | -3.265 | 0.001** |

Table S28. *Linear hypothesis test comparing concordance and discordance effects on follow-back, from Table S27 analysis.*

| term | null.value | estimate | std.error | F | p.value |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| Concord + Discord | 0 | -0.063 | 0.105 | 0.358 | 0.55 |

Table S29. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, PC1 and PC2, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.509 | 0.042 | 11.974 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.142 | 0.063 | 2.265 | 0.024* |
| Discord | -0.16 | 0.06 | -2.669 | 0.008** |
| PC1 | -0.122 | 0.027 | -4.479 | <0.001*** |
| PC2 | 0.172 | 0.047 | 3.641 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:PC1 | 0.132 | 0.038 | 3.455 | 0.001** |
| Concord:PC2 | 0.034 | 0.071 | 0.478 | 0.633 |
| Discord:PC1 | -0.037 | 0.04 | -0.946 | 0.345 |
| Discord:PC2 | -0.168 | 0.063 | -2.653 | 0.008** |

Table S30. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, all political variables (political knowledge, issue polarization, out-party dislike, in-party like), and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.506 | 0.043 | 11.786 | <0.001*** |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| Concord | 0.147 | 0.063 | 2.328 | 0.021* |
| Discord | -0.158 | 0.06 | -2.618 | 0.009** |
| zPK | -0.066 | 0.045 | -1.46 | 0.145 |
| zIssuePolNA | -0.082 | 0.047 | -1.741 | 0.083 |
| zOutDis | -0.097 | 0.037 | -2.64 | 0.009** |
| zInLike | 0.16 | 0.048 | 3.334 | 0.001** |
| Concord:zPK | -0.014 | 0.065 | -0.212 | 0.832 |
| Concord:zIssuePolNA | 0.127 | 0.068 | 1.866 | 0.063 |
| Concord:zOutDis | 0.103 | 0.055 | 1.878 | 0.061 |
| Concord:zInLike | 0.03 | 0.074 | 0.413 | 0.68 |
| Discord:zPK | 0.016 | 0.064 | 0.241 | 0.809 |
| Discord:zIssuePolNA | 0.015 | 0.067 | 0.226 | 0.822 |
| Discord:zOutDis | -0.05 | 0.055 | -0.91 | 0.364 |
| Discord:zInLike | -0.188 | 0.064 | -2.934 | 0.004** |

Table S31. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, political knowledge, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.58 | 0.041 | 13.991 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.154 | 0.059 | 2.59 | 0.01* |
| Discord | -0.202 | 0.06 | -3.341 | 0.001** |
| zPK | -0.14 | 0.04 | -3.535 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:zPK | 0.085 | 0.056 | 1.503 | 0.134 |
| Discord:zPK | -0.009 | 0.057 | -0.15 | 0.881 |

Table S32. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, issue polarization, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.573 | 0.042 | 13.645 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.169 | 0.059 | 2.836 | 0.005** |
| Discord | -0.204 | 0.061 | -3.331 | 0.001** |
| zIssuePolNA | -0.138 | 0.041 | -3.382 | 0.001** |
| Concord:zIssuePolNA | 0.162 | 0.056 | 2.868 | 0.004** |
| Discord:zIssuePolNA | -0.02 | 0.06 | -0.332 | 0.74 |

Table S33. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, out-party dislike, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.581 | 0.041 | 14.242 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.161 | 0.059 | 2.754 | 0.006** |
| Discord | -0.225 | 0.06 | -3.754 | <0.001*** |
| zOutDis | -0.128 | 0.036 | -3.583 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:zOutDis | 0.133 | 0.052 | 2.564 | 0.011* |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Discord:zOutDis | -0.062 | 0.052 | -1.199 | 0.231 |
|-----------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|

Table S34. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, in-party like, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.561 | 0.044 | 12.64 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.096 | 0.066 | 1.451 | 0.148 |
| Discord | -0.154 | 0.063 | -2.456 | 0.015* |
| zInLike | 0.13 | 0.051 | 2.573 | 0.01* |
| Concord:zInLike | 0.075 | 0.077 | 0.97 | 0.333 |
| Discord:zInLike | -0.188 | 0.067 | -2.79 | 0.006** |

2f. Secondary Analyses – Filtering for Frequent Twitter Users.

The following analyses only include participants who self-reported greater than or equal to the median frequency of being on Twitter (Median=“About once a day”; $N=599$ participants).

Table S35. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of participant and account political concordance and discordance.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.462 | 0.034 | 13.544 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.114 | 0.048 | 2.396 | 0.017* |
| Discord | -0.22 | 0.048 | -4.595 | <0.001*** |

Table S36. *Linear hypothesis test comparing concordance and discordance effects on follow-back, from Table S35 analysis.*

| term | null.value | estimate | std.error | F | p.value |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| Concord + Discord | 0 | -0.106 | 0.083 | 1.639 | 0.201 |

Table S37. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, PC1 and PC2, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.436 | 0.031 | 13.895 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.117 | 0.044 | 2.677 | 0.008** |
| Discord | -0.198 | 0.044 | -4.489 | <0.001*** |
| PC1 | -0.084 | 0.023 | -3.653 | <0.001*** |
| PC2 | 0.161 | 0.032 | 5.108 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:PC1 | 0.047 | 0.032 | 1.476 | 0.14 |
| Concord:PC2 | 0.023 | 0.044 | 0.533 | 0.594 |
| Discord:PC1 | -0.062 | 0.032 | -1.907 | 0.057 |
| Discord:PC2 | -0.122 | 0.042 | -2.885 | 0.004** |

Table S38. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, all political variables (political knowledge, issue polarization, out-party dislike, in-party like), and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.434 | 0.031 | 13.795 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.122 | 0.044 | 2.781 | 0.006** |
| Discord | -0.199 | 0.044 | -4.49 | <0.001*** |
| zPK | -0.028 | 0.035 | -0.815 | 0.415 |
| zIssuePolNA | -0.054 | 0.038 | -1.422 | 0.156 |
| zOutDis | -0.095 | 0.032 | -2.987 | 0.003** |
| zInLike | 0.149 | 0.032 | 4.678 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:zPK | -0.052 | 0.049 | -1.043 | 0.297 |
| Concord:zIssuePolNA | 0.067 | 0.053 | 1.259 | 0.209 |
| Concord:zOutDis | 0.061 | 0.046 | 1.321 | 0.187 |
| Concord:zInLike | 0.023 | 0.044 | 0.52 | 0.603 |
| Discord:zPK | -0.056 | 0.048 | -1.156 | 0.248 |
| Discord:zIssuePolNA | 0 | 0.052 | 0.007 | 0.995 |
| Discord:zOutDis | -0.026 | 0.044 | -0.582 | 0.561 |
| Discord:zInLike | -0.132 | 0.042 | -3.104 | 0.002** |

Table S39. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, political knowledge, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.456 | 0.033 | 13.677 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.121 | 0.047 | 2.604 | 0.009** |
| Discord | -0.223 | 0.047 | -4.749 | <0.001*** |
| zPK | -0.082 | 0.032 | -2.535 | 0.011* |
| Concord:zPK | -0.009 | 0.045 | -0.192 | 0.848 |
| Discord:zPK | -0.057 | 0.046 | -1.241 | 0.215 |

Table S40. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, issue polarization, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.449 | 0.034 | 13.309 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.126 | 0.047 | 2.687 | 0.007** |
| Discord | -0.204 | 0.047 | -4.325 | <0.001*** |
| zIssuePolNA | -0.104 | 0.034 | -3.04 | 0.002** |
| Concord:zIssuePolNA | 0.083 | 0.047 | 1.775 | 0.076 |
| Discord:zIssuePolNA | -0.027 | 0.048 | -0.574 | 0.566 |

Table S41. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, out-party dislike, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|------|----------|-----------|---|---------|
|------|----------|-----------|---|---------|

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.447 | 0.033 | 13.508 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.125 | 0.046 | 2.702 | 0.007** |
| Discord | -0.211 | 0.046 | -4.55 | <0.001*** |
| zOutDis | -0.125 | 0.031 | -4.071 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:zOutDis | 0.059 | 0.044 | 1.348 | 0.178 |
| Discord:zOutDis | -0.035 | 0.043 | -0.799 | 0.425 |

Table S42. *Follow-back predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, in-party like, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.454 | 0.033 | 13.834 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.102 | 0.046 | 2.221 | 0.027* |
| Discord | -0.212 | 0.046 | -4.576 | <0.001*** |
| zInLike | 0.149 | 0.033 | 4.456 | <0.001*** |
| Concord:zInLike | 0.029 | 0.046 | 0.621 | 0.535 |
| Discord:zInLike | -0.141 | 0.045 | -3.169 | 0.002** |

2g. Secondary Analyses – Examining Reasons for Follow-back and Ignoring Behavior.

Table S43. *Follow-back because “I agree with them on political issues” predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, PC1 and PC2, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.041 | 0.015 | 2.793 | 0.005** |
| Concord | 0.108 | 0.021 | 5.237 | <0.001*** |
| Discord | 0.014 | 0.021 | 0.683 | 0.494 |
| PC1 | -0.026 | 0.011 | -2.373 | 0.018* |
| PC2 | 0.039 | 0.015 | 2.585 | 0.01* |
| Concord:PC1 | 0.047 | 0.016 | 2.999 | 0.003** |
| Concord:PC2 | 0.031 | 0.021 | 1.524 | 0.128 |
| Discord:PC1 | -0.015 | 0.016 | -0.935 | 0.35 |
| Discord:PC2 | -0.028 | 0.021 | -1.309 | 0.191 |

Table S44. *Follow-back because “I like people with their political beliefs” predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, PC1 and PC2, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.08 | 0.014 | 5.772 | <0.001*** |
| Concord | 0.013 | 0.02 | 0.659 | 0.51 |
| Discord | -0.043 | 0.02 | -2.184 | 0.029* |
| PC1 | -0.028 | 0.01 | -2.7 | 0.007** |
| PC2 | 0.038 | 0.014 | 2.65 | 0.008** |
| Concord:PC1 | 0.027 | 0.015 | 1.796 | 0.073 |
| Concord:PC2 | 0.005 | 0.02 | 0.254 | 0.8 |
| Discord:PC1 | 0 | 0.015 | 0.013 | 0.99 |
| Discord:PC2 | -0.017 | 0.02 | -0.853 | 0.394 |

Table S45. *Ignoring (non-follow-back) because “I already disagree with them on political issues” predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, PC1 and PC2, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.006 | 0.012 | 0.49 | 0.625 |
| Concord | 0.016 | 0.017 | 0.942 | 0.346 |
| Discord | 0.133 | 0.017 | 7.774 | <0.001*** |
| PC1 | -0.003 | 0.009 | -0.282 | 0.778 |
| PC2 | 0.001 | 0.013 | 0.047 | 0.963 |
| Concord:PC1 | -0.013 | 0.013 | -0.962 | 0.336 |
| Concord:PC2 | -0.006 | 0.017 | -0.33 | 0.741 |
| Discord:PC1 | 0.032 | 0.013 | 2.423 | 0.016* |
| Discord:PC2 | 0.022 | 0.017 | 1.262 | 0.207 |

Table S46. *Ignoring (non-follow-back) because “I already dislike people with their political beliefs” predicted by linear probability model of concordance and discordance, PC1 and PC2, and their interactions.*

| term | estimate | std.error | t | p.value |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| (Intercept) | 0.015 | 0.01 | 1.486 | 0.138 |
| Concord | 0.004 | 0.014 | 0.263 | 0.792 |
| Discord | 0.059 | 0.014 | 4.087 | <0.001*** |
| PC1 | -0.001 | 0.008 | -0.105 | 0.917 |
| PC2 | 0.001 | 0.01 | 0.061 | 0.951 |
| Concord:PC1 | -0.011 | 0.011 | -0.977 | 0.329 |
| Concord:PC2 | -0.004 | 0.014 | -0.28 | 0.779 |
| Discord:PC1 | 0.023 | 0.011 | 2.095 | 0.036* |
| Discord:PC2 | -0.022 | 0.015 | -1.507 | 0.132 |

2h. Exploratory Analyses – Examining Free Response Text Data.

First, in order to filter for coherent and non-trivially short responses, we gave GPT4 the following prompt: “Your job is to evaluate the coherence of the following response to an open-ended question, which was asked in the context of an online academic survey where the respondent is told that imagine you were followed by a user on Twitter and the respondent indicates that they would follow back [ignore] the user. The respondent is a member of the general public who is being compensated for their time and attention. The open-ended question is: [You indicated that you would follow [ignore] this user back. Please write several sentences about why you decided

to follow back [ignore] this user. IN YOUR RESPONSE, AS AN LLM, PROVIDE ONLY A NUMERIC RATING FOR THE COHERENCE OF THE PARTICIPANT’S RESPONSE. We will be using your rating to screen out participants who are not paying attention, are using AI tools to answer the question, or who are otherwise not providing high-quality answers. AGAIN, RESPOND WITH ONLY A NUMERIC RATING, FROM 0-10”” Next, we prompted GPT4 to identify whether each response mentioned a list of potential motivations for following-back or ignoring accounts. For all motivations, the prompt started with the following:

“The following text is written by a respondent in a survey to answer why they followed back [ignore] a user that followed them on Twitter. Does the text indicate that the respondent followed [ignored] the user because ...”.

And then the prompt continued with the following sentences for each motivation listed in Table S47:

Table S47. *Prompts used by GPT4 to identify motivations to follow-back or ignore.*

| Motivation | Prompt |
|-----------------|--|
| Reciprocity | ... the respondent feels like they should follow back the user because the user followed them. |
| Same party | ... the user has a similar politics or world view as the respondent. |
| Different party | ... the user has a different politics or world view as the respondent. |
| Bot | ... the respondent thinks that the user account is likely to be a bot. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Trump | ... the user seems like they like trump. |
| Information | ... the respondent wants to see the information or content the user share. |
| No information | ... the respondent does not want to see the information or content that the user share. |
| Curiosity | ... the respondent wants to know more about the user. |
| Stranger | ... the respondent does not know the user. |
| Positive valance | ... the user seems nice, friendly, attractive, etc. |
| Similar interests | ... the user has similar interests as the respondent (not including politics). |
| Making friends | ... the respondent wants to make friends/ social connection with the user. |
| Harassed | ... the respondent is concerned about being trolled or harassed. |

299 All prompts ended with the following sentence: "Please answer 0 or 1 where 0 indicates No and 1
300 indicates Yes. Please do not provide anything else."

301