Preview "Handout"

for

Fall 2022 LIR Seminar:

2022 Midterm Elections: Federal, State and Local

Moderator: Jay Russell

Mondays 1:30-3:30 in Conference Room 204, of the Smith College Campus Center
                                                                                    Elm st

All of last year and for the first few weeks of this year, I promised myself that I would not moderate, or agree to co-moderate, another election seminar. Then, I realized that I would undoubtedly be following the midterm elections as closely as ever anyway and that I would enjoy discussing the candidates, issues and related topics with fellow political junkies in a weekly roundtable discussion format, rather than in the traditional LIR seminar mold of each member's giving a single 20-35 minute presentation over the course of the seminar.

Format of seminar. Beginning September 26th, for the first seven weeks of the seminar prior to election day, each meeting will consist of four segments. Each of first three 25 minute segments will cover a particular topic determined by the members (explained below) prior to Labor Day. As an example, one week's topics could be New England gubernatorial races (MA & ME), a major campaign issue (e.g., immigration), and the impacts of Congressional redistricting in one or more states. Either I or another member will lead off the discussion of each topic with a brief 3-5 minute introduction after which other members will have a chance to offer thoughts and comments. The fourth segment each week will provide an opportunity to review developments relating to topics discussed in previous weeks, to discuss events of the preceding week, to highlight upcoming events, and to continue the discussion of any of that day's topics. The week after the election (after commiserating or celebrating), we will review and analyze the results of the election. The final meeting of the seminar, two weeks after

the election, will assess the implications of the election results for the next two years and for 2024.

Topics.   After the LIR office distributes the class list, I will send everyone a preliminary list of possible discussion topics that I have been compiling so that members can suggest additional possible topics. In July, I'll distribute an updated list that includes everyone's suggestions with a request that each member choose the 10 topics they would most like to have the seminar discuss. Based on those responses (perhaps with the assistance of Dominion Voting Systems or another firm with Venezuelan or Chinese connections!), I will tabulate the 20 most popular topic choices and organize them into a schedule by Labor Day. Once I send out that schedule, people can volunteer to introduce one of the 20 topics.

Resources. There is no required reading for this seminar, just an expectation that members, at a minimum, continue reading, listening to or watching the sources they already rely on for political/election information and analysis. For past election seminars, I have compiled, and will send everyone, a list of periodicals, websites and network and cable news shows that may supplement our customary sources and broaden our perspectives.