

Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on strategic voting in the first round of the presidential election of the Czech Republic in 2023. In the theoretical part, the author describes the basic concepts of strategic voting and the psychological influence of electoral systems on voter's decision-making. The main goal of the thesis is to discover the extent to which strategic voting occurred in the first round of the presidential election in the Czech Republic in 2023. For this purpose, the Naše společnost - 2022 listopad dataset processed by CVVM Sociologického ústavu Akademie věd ČR is analysed in the practical part. The analysed dataset consists of 901 respondents, the share of strategic voters was measured on an adjusted sample comprised of 492 respondents. In this sample, a share of 5,89% strategic voters has been identified. This result has been recognised as comparable with the results of foreign research on this topic. The analysis indicates that strategic voters consider the advance of their chosen candidate to the second round of the election to be of similar importance as sincere voters. From the available data, Andrej Babiš has been identified as the candidate who received a higher number of votes in the first round of the 2023 presidential election thanks to strategic voting. The thesis outlines the limitations of the research, which limit the ability to generalise the collected results. This is the first paper seeking to examine strategic voting in specific domestic presidential elections, which is acknowledged as its main contribution. Finally, further research on the topic is recommended.