

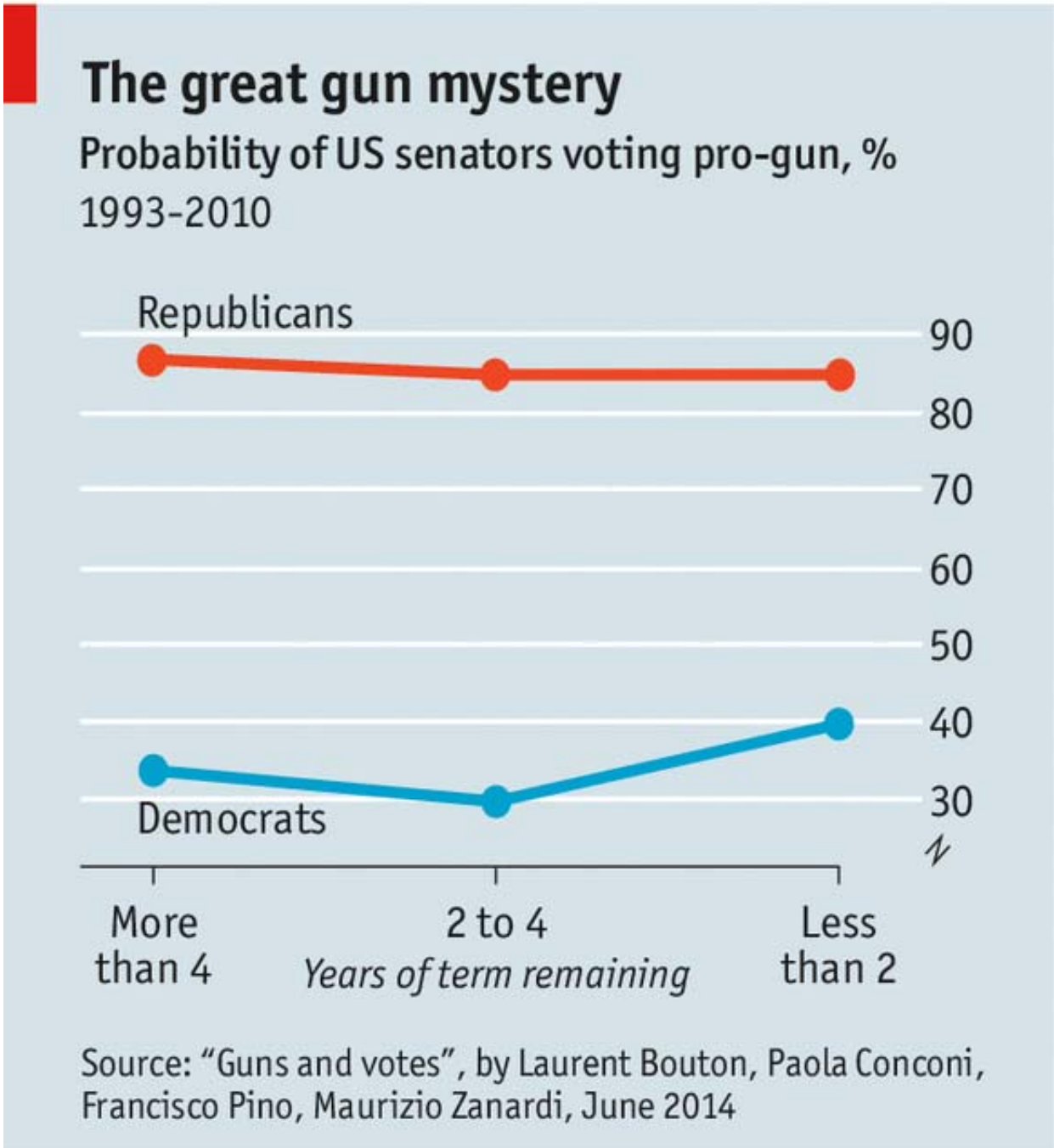


Guns and the Senate

Why Democrats flip-flop on guns

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This week the



Senate mulled a law to encourage hunting and shooting on federal land. Cynics suspect that the

real aim of the “Sportsmen’s Act” is to let vulnerable Democrats in rural states sponsor a law that sounds pro-gun, thus stroking a passionate subset of voters. A new study of nearly two decades of votes in the Senate suggests that the cynics may be on to something. Republican senators are consistently pro-gun (see chart). Most Democrats want to vote the other way, but many lose the courage of their convictions as an election draws near. Funny, that.

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