Average Income in Relation to Political Stance

Ellea Ediger  
*Fort Hays State University, e_ediger2@mail.fhsu.edu*

Sam Schreyer  
*Fort Hays State University, smschreyer@fhsu.edu*

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As average income rises in a state, there will be a higher percentage of Republican voters. The following research shows the variables that presumably affected voting behavior in the presidential election of 2016. Our research compares different factors (average income, crime rates, location and unemployment) to the amount of republican votes per capita in each state, the goal being to observe which factors play a part in influencing voter behavior.

Introduction

The following research shows the variables that presumably affected voting behavior in the presidential election of 2016. Our research compares different factors (average income, crime rates, location and unemployment) to the amount of republican votes per capita in each state, the goal being to observe which factors play a part in influencing voter behavior.

Hypothesis

As average income rises in a state, there will be a higher percentage of Republican voters.

Methodology

The state election data in 2016 was collected from NBC News which included the total number of votes for the Republican and Democrat candidates. For the regression, the label prep refers to the percentage of Republican votes out of total votes in each state. When it comes to information on United States citizens, there is no more accurate data than that of the United States census. In the following research, the U.S. census was accessed to gather information regarding the average income per state. For the regression, the label kai is used in reference to the average income per state in thousands (ex: 41.2 = $41,200). The data used to study state population and crime rates was derived from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. All state populations were extracted as well as the amount of violent crimes committed annually per state. As for the regression, cpc is used in reference to the number of crimes committed per capita (the total number of crimes per state divided by the total population per state). CPC serves as a control variable in our comparison between political stance and average income.

Locations of States is also referenced as a control variable. The United States map is typically divided into 5 regions, so each state was placed in its desired region and made 5 dummy variables. Only four of those five variables are used to avoid the dummy variable trap.

Conclusion

This study was used to examine the relationship between a states average income and party identification. After running this regression, several control variables were added such as crime rates per capita, unemployment and location. We found state average income is negatively correlated with percentage of republican voters. This went against the hypothesis, because it was speculated that a higher average income would lead to more republican voters in a state.

This study has possible limitations, including impractical geographic regions and using state rather than national averages. The 5 geographical regions we used for our study are not uncommon, but there is some controversy over whether or not they split the country accurately. Some studies divide the state into 4 regions, 6 regions, or 7 regions. Using a different approach to geographical regions has the ability to effect regression results. Secondly, our study strictly analyzes average income and voting per state, not overall. Future studies might be more useful to study household voter behavior nationwide rather than state averages.

Keywords: Regression, Income, Unemployment, United States, Regression Analysis, Political Stance, Election, Republican, Democrat, Stats.