

An Analysis on the Effects of Voter ID Laws and Minnesota's Decision to Vote Against It

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Political Science Senior Thesis

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Introduction

- The *Bush v. Gore* Florida recount
- Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002
- Since 2003, nearly 1,000 bills concerning voter ID have been introduced in a total of 46 states
- The Minnesota state legislature passed a voter ID bill in 2011 that was vetoed by Governor Dayton
- A constitutional amendment on voter ID was put on the ballot to be voted on by the people during the 2012 general election

Importance

- The voter ID debate has centered on the arguments presented by each of the major political parties
- These arguments appear to be relying on rhetoric and assumptions rather than facts and data
- With the prospect of voter ID being added to our state constitution, it's important that we take a deeper look into the possible effects of voter ID laws and whether the benefits outweigh the costs (both monetary and social)

Literature Review

Voter Fraud:

- Ansolabehere, S. (2008) Voter Fraud in the Eye of the Beholder: The Role of Public Opinion in the Challenge to Voter ID Requirements. *Harvard Law Review*.
- Minnite, L. (2007) The Politics of Voter Fraud.

Literature Review (cont.)

Disenfranchisement:

- Brennan Center for Justice (2006) Citizens Without Proof: A Survey of Americans' Possession of Documentary Proof of Citizenship and Photo ID
- Milyo, J. (2007) The Effects of Photo ID on Voter Turnout in Indiana: A County Level Analysis
- Alvarez, Bailey, & Katz (2007) The Effect of Voter ID Laws on Turnout

Literature Review (cont.)

Costs:

- Anhut, Huntington, & Young (2011) Voter Identification: The True Costs. *The Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs*.

Election Results

“Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require all voters to present valid ID to vote and to require the state to provide free IDs to eligible voters?”

Result	Number of Votes	Percentage
Yes	1,362,009	46.16%
No	1,539,044	53.84%

Source: The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, 2012

Research Question

- An analysis of the voting results on the voter ID amendment by county
- What factors may have led to a majority of that county voting either yes or no
- Did counties with a higher percent of the identified groups that are said to be affected most by voter ID laws vote against the amendment?

Methodology

Data:

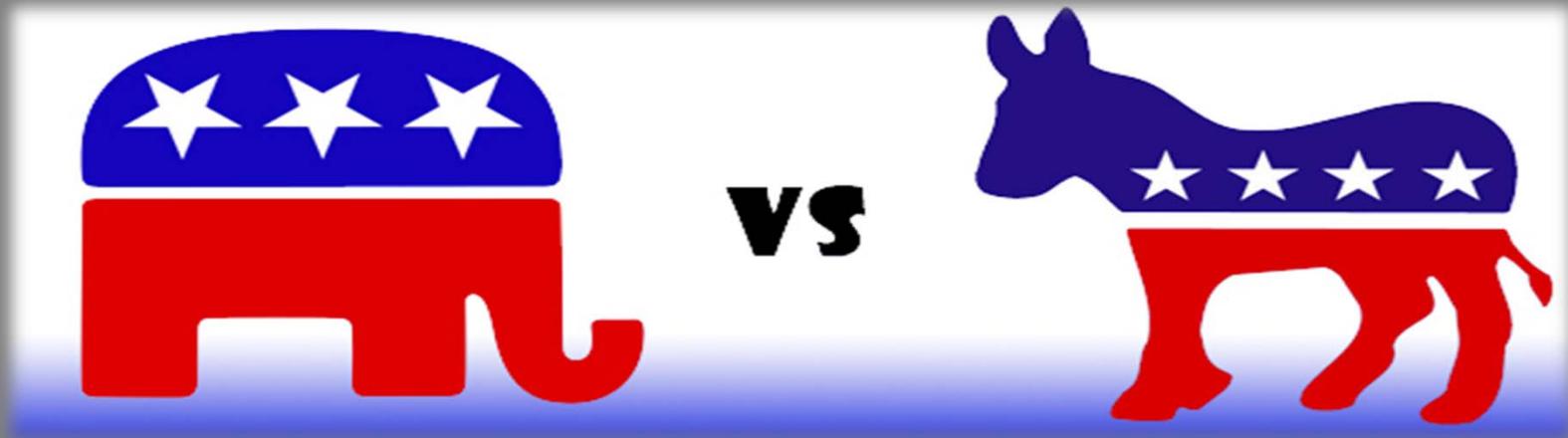
- American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau)
- Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Types of Analysis:

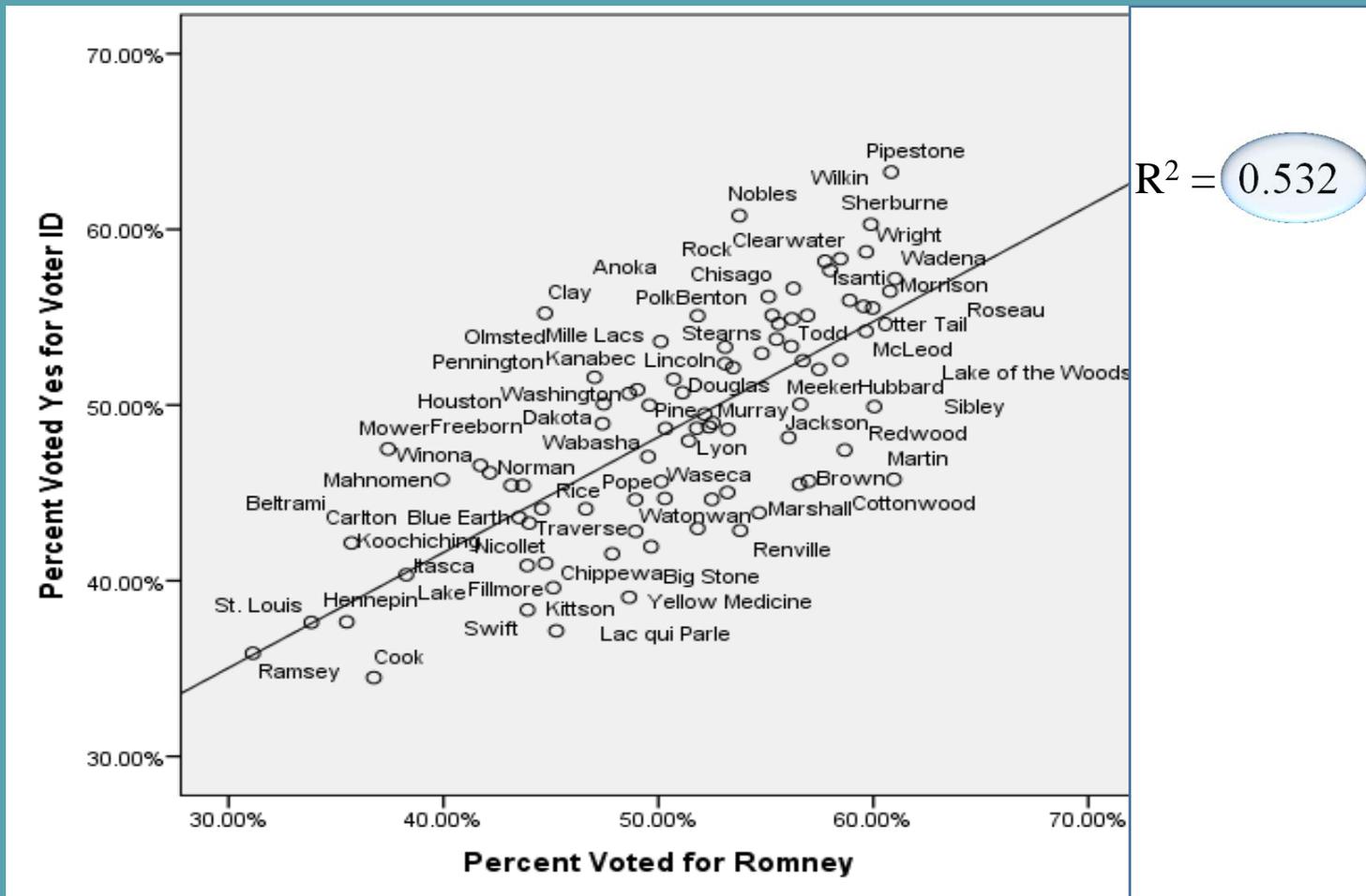
- Scatterplot
- Bivariate Correlations

Hypothesis

In a comparison of Minnesota counties, those with a higher percentage of votes for presidential candidate Mitt Romney will be more likely to have a higher percentage of people who voted yes for the voter ID amendment than will those who voted for Barack Obama.



Percent Voted Yes for Voter ID and Percent Voted Yes for Romney – Scatterplot



Source: Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Hypothesis

In a comparison of Minnesota counties, those with a higher percentage of minorities will be less likely to vote yes on the voter ID amendment than those with a lower percentage



Percent Voted Yes for Voter ID and Race

Bivariate Correlation

		Percent Voted Yes for Voter ID
Percent African-American	Pearson Correlation	-.161
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.135
	N	87
Percent Hispanic	Pearson Correlation	.023
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.833
	N	87
Percent Native-American	Pearson Correlation	-.083
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.446
	N	87
Percent White	Pearson Correlation	.137
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.207
	N	87

Sources: American Community Survey, Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Significance: *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

Hypotheses

In a comparison of Minnesota counties, those who have a higher percentage of 18 to 24-year-olds will be less likely to vote yes on the voter ID amendment than those who have a lower percentage.

*Same hypothesis with 65-year-olds and older



Percent Voted Yes for Voter ID and Age

Bivariate Correlation

		Percent Voted Yes for Voter ID
Percent Age 18-24	Pearson Correlation	-.067
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.536
	N	87
Percent Age 25-44	Pearson Correlation	.177
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.100
	N	87
Percent Age 45-64	Pearson Correlation	-.191
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.077
	N	87
Percent Age 65 and older	Pearson Correlation	-.215*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.045
	N	87

Sources: American Community Survey, Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Significance: *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

Hypothesis

In a comparison of Minnesota counties, those who have a higher percentage of people with lower levels of educational attainment will be less likely to vote yes on the voter ID amendment than those who have a lower percentage



Percent Voted Yes for Voter ID and Education

Bivariate Correlation

		Percent Voted Yes for Voter ID
Percent High School Graduate	Pearson Correlation	.009
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.934
	N	87
Percent Some College	Pearson Correlation	.238*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.026
	N	87
Percent Associate's Degree	Pearson Correlation	.216*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.044
	N	87
Percent Bachelor's Degree	Pearson Correlation	-.123
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.256
	N	87
Percent Graduate's Degree	Pearson Correlation	-.131
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.227
	N	87

Sources: American Community Survey, Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Significance: *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

Hypothesis

In a comparison of Minnesota counties, those who have a higher percentage of individuals earning low incomes will be less likely to vote yes on the voter ID amendment than those who have a lower percentage



		Percent Voted Yes for Voter ID
Percent Income 10-15k	Pearson Correlation	-.155
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.151
	N	87
Percent Income 15-25k	Pearson Correlation	-.241*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.025
	N	87
Percent Income 25-35k	Pearson Correlation	-.196
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.068
	N	87
Percent Income 35-50k	Pearson Correlation	-.056
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.607
	N	87
Percent Income 50-75k	Pearson Correlation	.003
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.975
	N	87
Percent Income 75-100k	Pearson Correlation	.224*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.037
	N	87
Percent Income 100-150k	Pearson Correlation	.211*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.050
	N	87
Percent Income 150-200k	Pearson Correlation	.125
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.250
	N	87
Percent Income over 200k	Pearson Correlation	.054
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.616
	N	87

Percent Voted Yes for Voter ID and Income Bivariate Correlation

Sources:

American Community Survey,
Office of the Minnesota Secretary
of State

Significance:

*Correlation is significant at the
0.05 level

Conclusions