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A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, Bemidji State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator.

Union voters swung behind Trump,
Richard Trumka says



**It Looks Like Donald Trump Did Really Well
With Union Households. That's A Bad Sign
For Unions.**



Donald Trump got Reagan-
like support from union
households



Teacher unions smarting after many members vote for
Trump



Unions investigate their poor showing for
Clinton



Analyzing Union Voting by Workforce Sector in the 2016 Presidential Election

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BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY POLITICAL SCIENCE THESIS



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What is a Labor Union?

An organization of workers dedicated to improving the work place.

- Wages
- Hours
- Working Conditions

How? Collective bargaining.

Funded by its members' union dues.

A person can be either a member of a union, or covered by one.

Private (Blue-collar workers) vs Public Union (White collar workers)



Literature Review

- “Unions, Voter Turnout, and Class Bias in the U.S. Electorate, 1964-2004” Jan Leighley and Jonathan Nagler
 - They research the impact of unions on turnout and assess the consequences of dramatic changes in union strength and the composition of union membership.
- “The Union Household Vote Revisited”- Jake Rosenfeld and Patrick Denice
 - Research the vote-share of unions from 1980 to 2016 between the two parties, and found that there has been a somewhat of a continuing realignment from the Democrats to the Republicans.
- “2016 Presidential Election: The Pivotal Role of Pennsylvania and the Rustbelt”- Paul Clark
 - Clark evaluates yet another key area, that being the rustbelt, which makes up a number of the swing states that are also highly unionized. He further supports Rosenfeld and Denice by researching whether the 2016 Election “is a singular anomaly resulting from the unique candidacy of Donald Trump, or a longer-term realignment of voters.”
- “The Changing Face of Unions and White Labor Support for the Democratic Party”- John Camobreco
 - Realizing the decrease in private unionization and increase in public unionization, Camobreco evaluates whether public sector members (which are generally more white collar than private union members, tend to support Democrats more. In his methods, he does so from 1950 until the early 2000’s.



Purpose of Study

- Similar to the research done by John Camobreco, I am conducting this research in order to see whether this “anomaly” can be further examined by a state-by-state basis, by further testing the roles of public and private sector unions and their part in the 2016 Presidential election.
- Additionally, to see if there was a similar increase in public union voting as there was in private union voting.



Hypothesis

1. States with higher rates of private unionization (blue collar workers) will have an increase in support for Trump over Romney.
2. States with higher rates of public unionization (white collar workers) will also show less support for Trump over Romney.



Data Used

- The union data used in this study derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, using Current Population Survey data from 2016
- Consists of 7,191,185 Public Union members and 7,586,637 Private Union members from all 50 states.
- The presidential voting data comes from Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections
- The data used subtracts from Donald Trump's vote share by Mitt Romney's vote share. (DT: 53% - MR: 46% = +7% increase towards Trump)

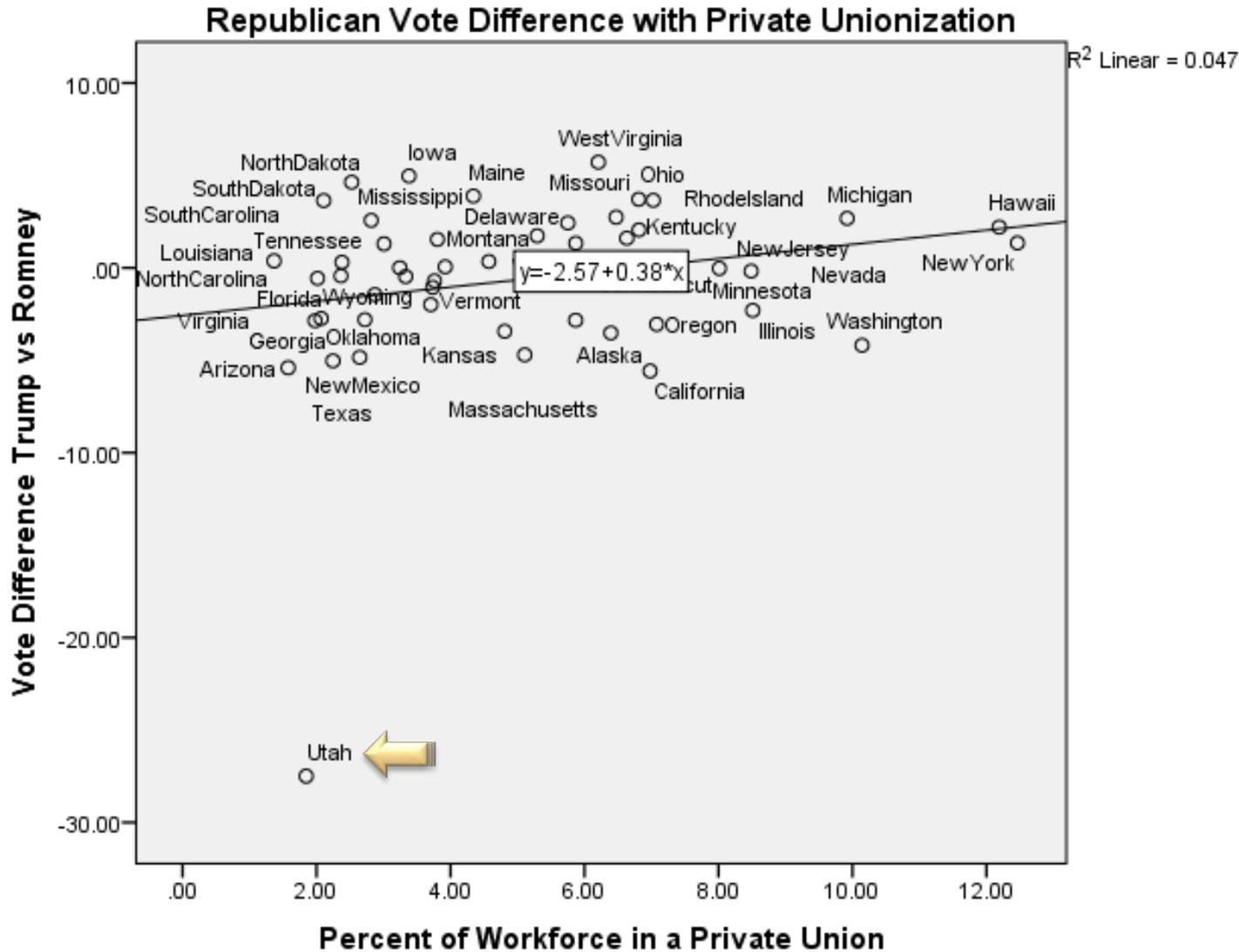


Methodology

- Combining two different sources of data
- Evaluating states and their total private and public unionization
- Then comparing both sectors with the change in vote from 2012 to 2016 using scatterplots
- Evaluating specifically on swing states
- Lastly, I use a Correlation matrix to test the strength in correlation



Hypothesis 1: States with higher rates of private unionization will have an increase in support for Trump over Romney.

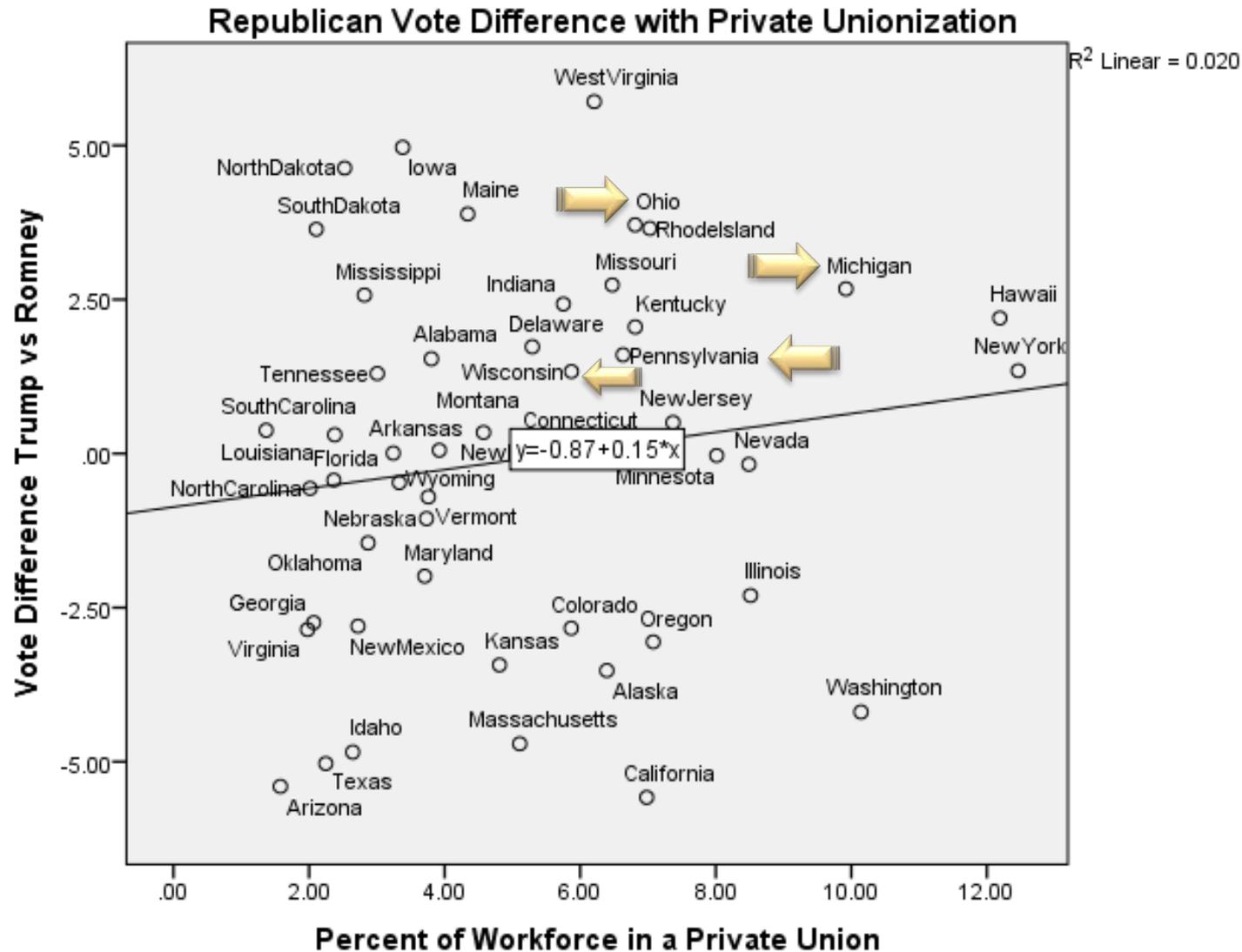


Further to the right, means higher the unionization; higher on the y-axis means largest amount of change

Utah?



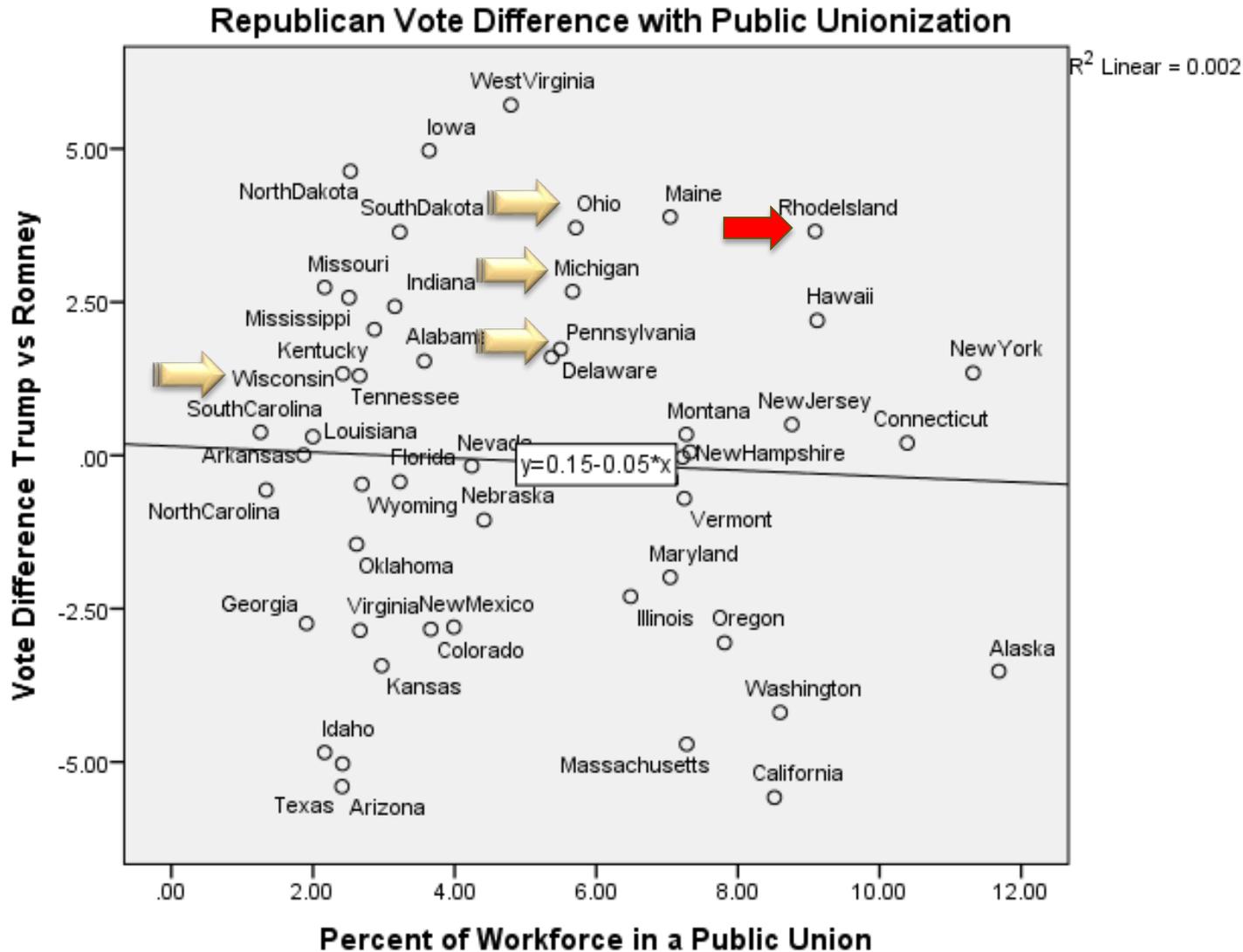
Hypothesis 1: States with higher rates of private unionization will have an increase in support for Trump over Romney.



- Positive Slope, although it is not significant
- 22 states that are under 4% of private unionization
- But 10 of them did have increased support towards Trump
- New York, Trump's home state, saw little change, but had high unionization
- **Swing states:** Ohio, Iowa, Florida, Nevada, Colorado, North Carolina, Virginia, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin
- Handful of states like Michigan, Hawaii, Ohio, Rhode Island, Missouri, Kentucky, and West Virginia somewhat agree with the hypothesis



Hypothesis 2: States with higher rates of public unionization will show also show an increase in support for Trump over Romney.



- Downward slope
- Higher dispersion all over the scatter plot
- Many swing states on the higher part of the y-axis
- Inconclusive



Correlation Strength of Unionization and Vote			
	Vote Difference Trump vs Romney	Percent of Workforce in a Private Union	Percent of Workforce in a Public Union
Vote Difference Trump vs Romney	1	0.141	-0.048
		0.333	0.746

- If the coefficient is from 0 to .20, it means it has a very weak to no relationship at all, while .20 to .40 means that is a weak relationship
- If the P-value is over .05, that means it is **not** statistically significant, and should be rejected.



Results and Conclusion

- Hypothesis 1 & 2 to be rejected
- Future Research Question?



Questions?



References

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