

Story 1: Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act Funding Allocation:

by Glen Dale Davis, DATA 608, FALL 2023

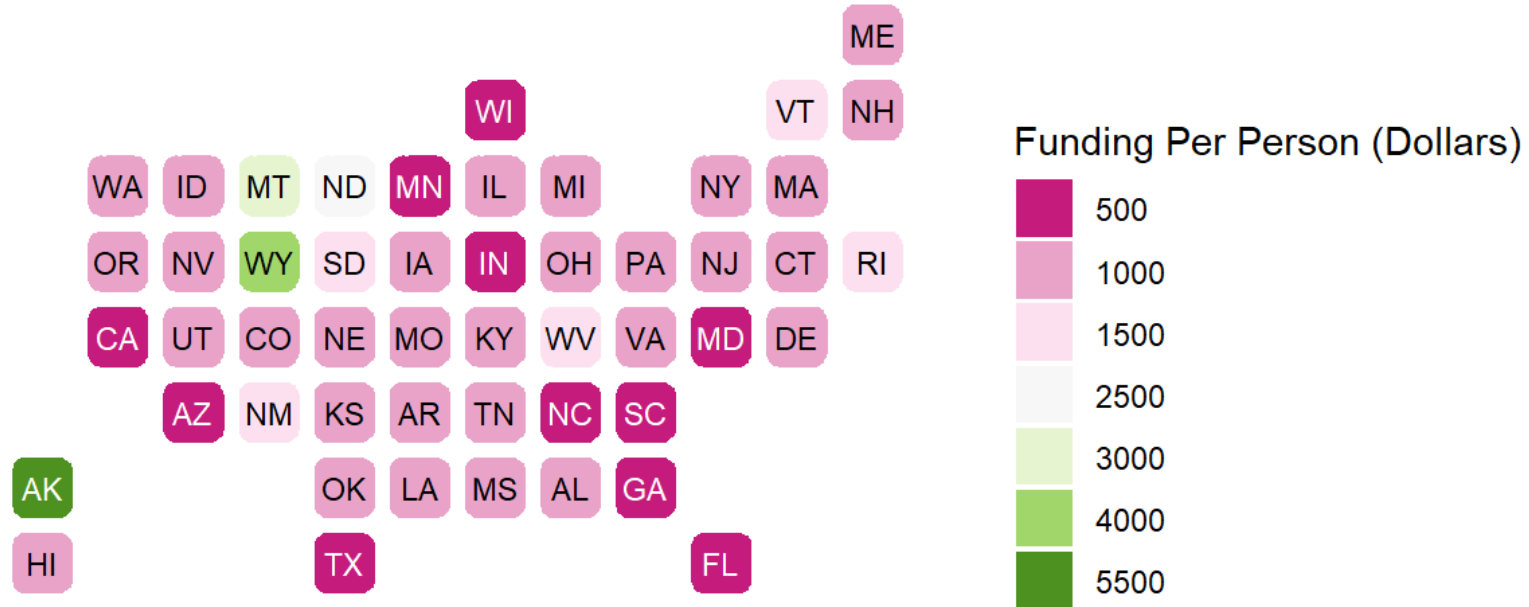
Based on the present allocation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding by State and Territory, we answer the following questions:

1. Is the allocation equitable based on the population of each of the States and Territories, or is bias apparent?*
2. Does the allocation favor the political interests of the Biden administration?**

*Tribal Communities have funds allocated for them, but population data was not available, so they have been removed from analysis regarding the first question.

**Since the Territories either do not vote in the presidential election, or their votes aren't counted, they have all been removed from analysis regarding the second question.

Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Funding Allocation



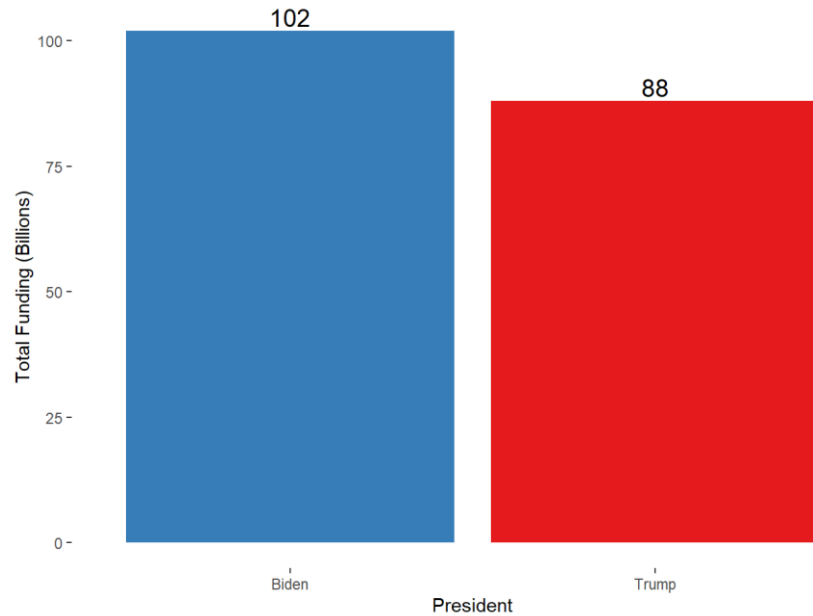
The allocation of funding is not equitable based on the populations of the states. We can see above that the funding per person in fact varies widely from \$500 or less in states like Texas and Florida, which happen to have large populations, to over \$5,000 per person in Alaska, which happens to have a small population.

TERRITORY	FUNDING _ BILLIONS	FUNDING _ PER _ PERSON _ DOLLARS
AMERICAN SAMOA	0.0686	1380
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1.1	1637.38
GUAM	0.1426	926.96
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	0.0833	1760.02
PUERTO RICO	0.9937	308.43
US VIRGIN ISLANDS	0.1483	1701.74

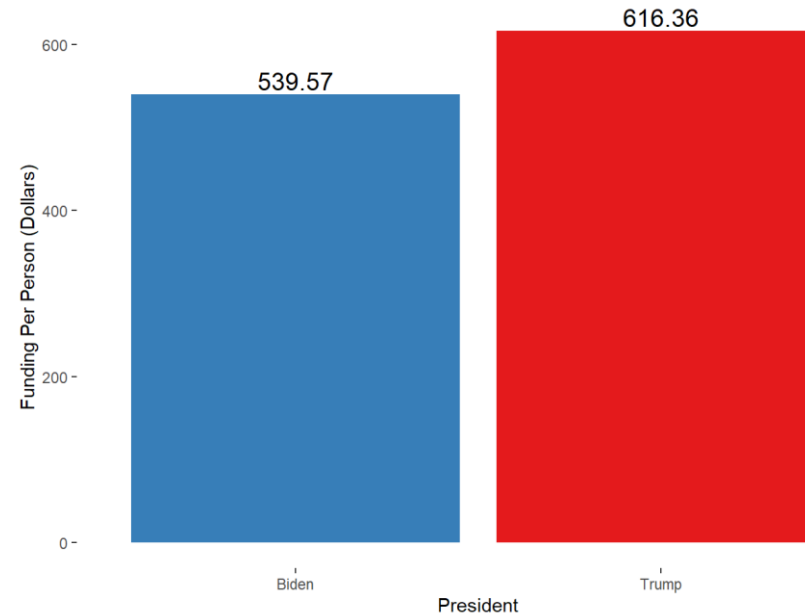
The allocation of funding is also not equitable based on the populations of the territories. Puerto Rico receives less than \$500 per person, while the Northern Mariana Islands receive more than \$1500 per person.

The allocation cannot be said to favor the political interests of the Biden administration. Although more money **in total** was allocated to states that voted for Biden in the 2020 presidential election than to states that voted for Trump, more money **per person** was allocated to states that voted for Trump.

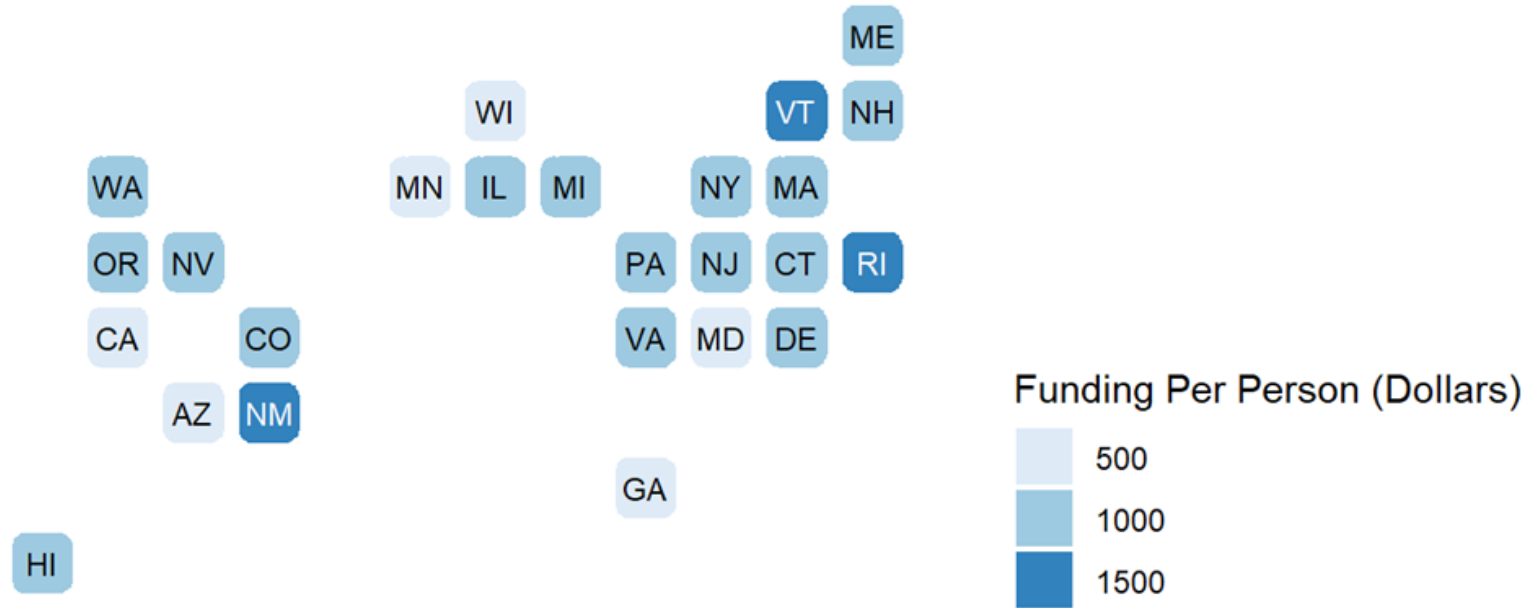
1) Total Funding (Billions)



2. Funding Per Person (Dollars)

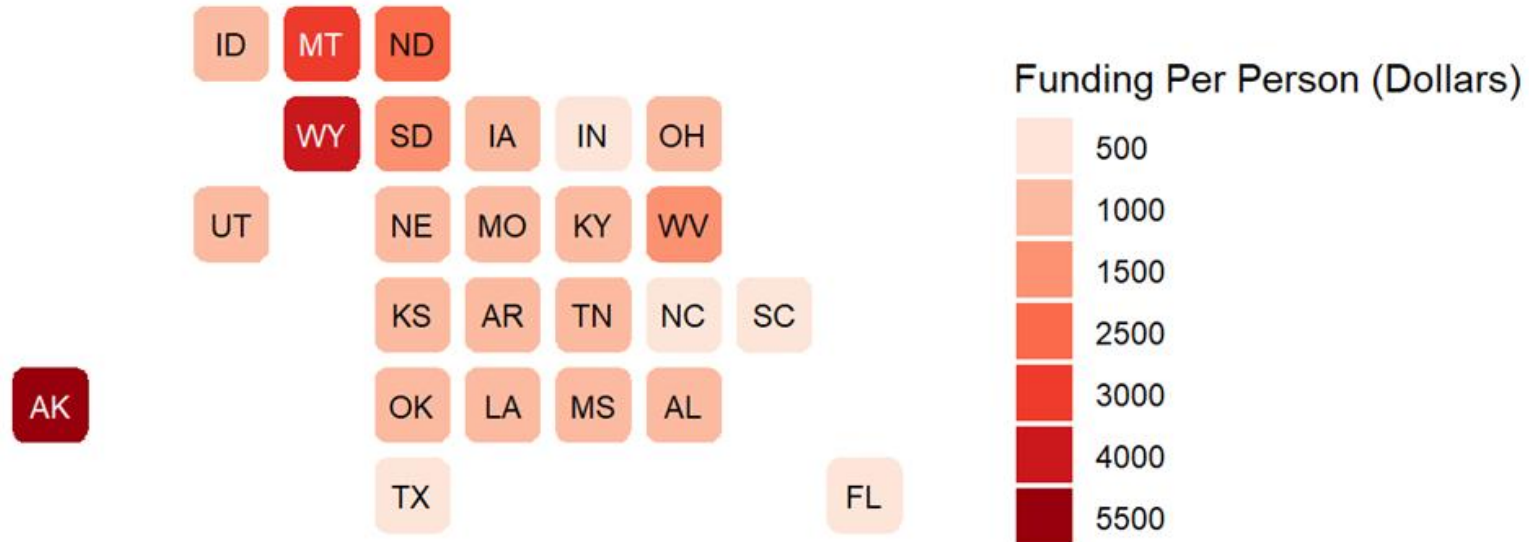


IIJA Funding Allocation for Biden States



Zooming in on the states that voted for Biden, we can see that all the states that voted for Biden received less than \$1500 in funding per person.

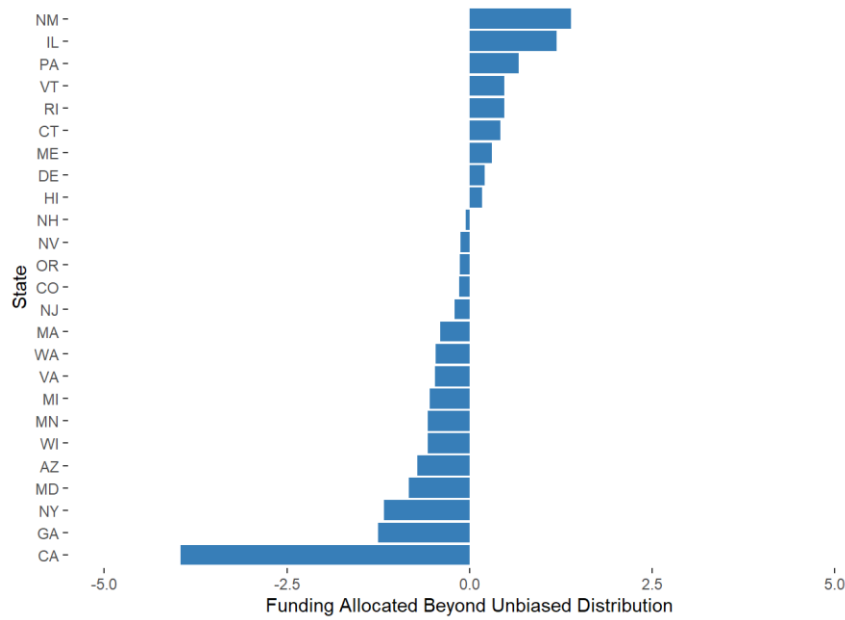
IIJA Funding Allocation for Trump States



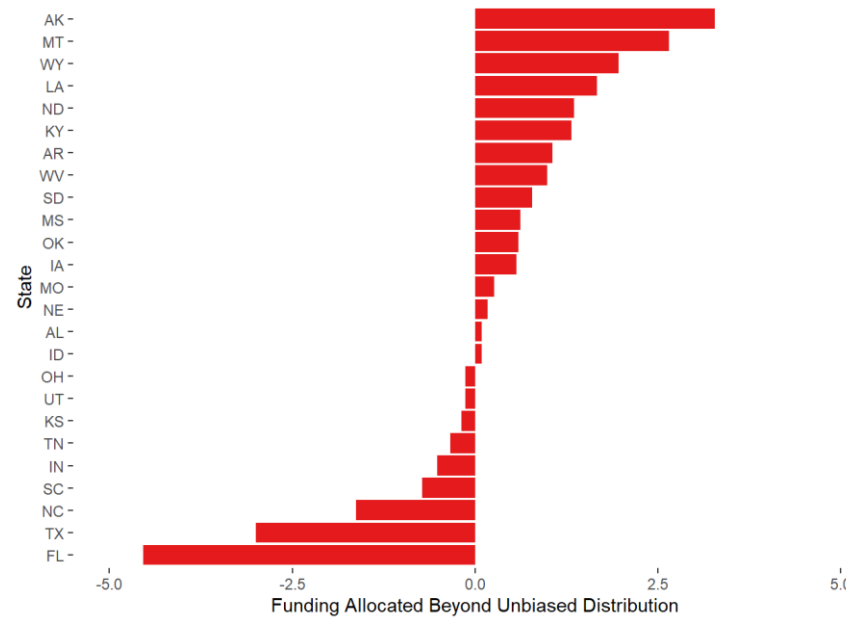
On the other hand, when we zoom in on the states that voted for Trump, we see that the outlier states that received the highest amounts of per person funding all voted for Trump.

We have measured the difference in billions between the funding allocated to each state and what they would have received if funds were allocated equitably per person. More Biden states received less funding than would be equitable, while more Trump states received higher funding than would be equitable. The biggest negative discrepancy was for Florida, a Trump state, but the biggest positive discrepancies were all for Trump states as well.

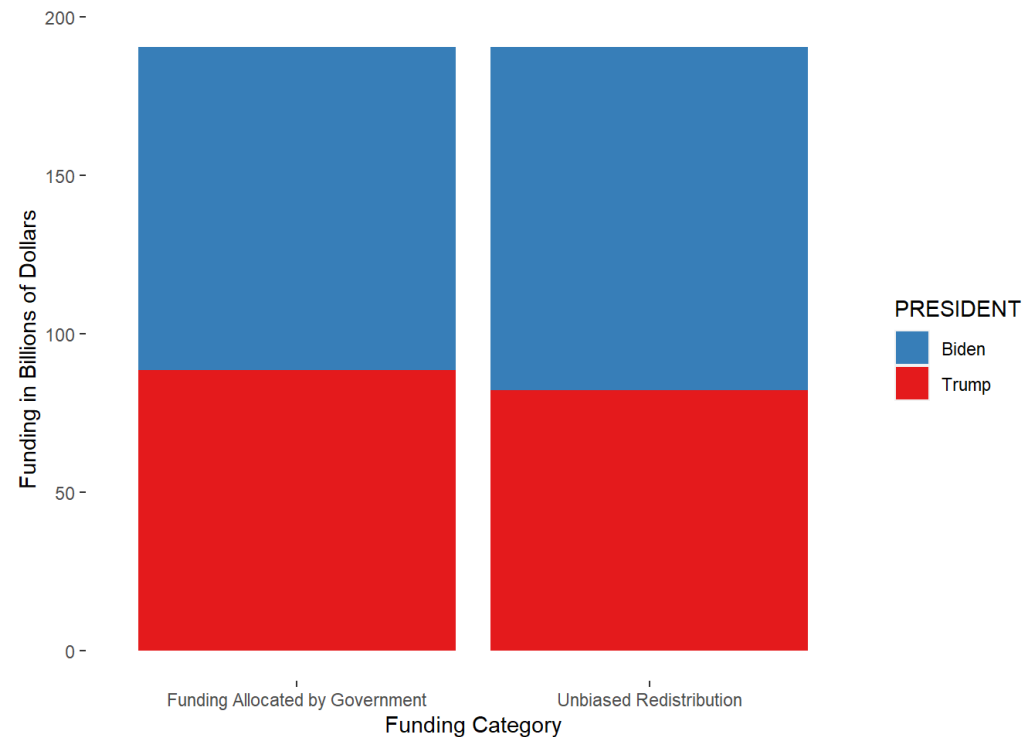
Biden States:



Trump States:



To conclude: Since there were positive and negative adjustments across the political divide, and there are big and small states on both sides as well, reallocating the funds equitably per person would not dramatically change the distribution, as we see here. There are also probably good reasons why the funds were not allocated equitably per person to begin with.



Sources:

- ▶ Population Data:

- ▶ <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html>
- ▶ <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/10/first-2020-census-united-states-island-areas-data-released-today.html>

- ▶ 2020 Presidential Election Results Data:

- ▶ <https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/2020>