

Voting Behavior

Below, I will examine voting behavior in United State's 2016 presidential Election. Particularly, I am interested to know what characterized election participants who voted for Donald Trump. Hence, my outcome variable is vote for Donald Trump (var: "vote_for_trump"). I assess behaviors of voters by looking at many predictor variables with the following hypothesis in the order that is presented in Table 1:

H1: Conservative voters tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H0: Conservative voters don't tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H2: Voters who opposed 2010 Health Care Law tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H0: Voters who opposed 2010 Health Care Law don't tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H3: Voters who have negative evaluation of economy tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H0: Voters who have negative evaluation of economy don't tend to vote for Donald Trump

H4: Voters who are identified as strong republicans tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H0: Voters who are identified as strong republicans don't tend to vote for Donald Trump

H5: Voters who favor building a wall with Mexico tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H0: Voters who favor building a wall with Mexico don't tend to vote for Donald Trump

H6: Older voters tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H0: Older voters don't tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H7: Voters with high level of education tend to vote against Donald Trump.

H0: Voters with high level of education don't tend to vote against Donald Trump.

H8: White voters tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H0: White voters don't tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H9: Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino voters tend to vote against Donald Trump.

H0: Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino voters don't tend to vote against Donald Trump.

H9: Voters who think that Trump's 2005 video about women does not matter tend to vote for Donald Trump.

H0: Voters who think that Trump's 2005 video about women does not matter don't tend to vote for Donald Trump.

Table 1: Voting Behavior in U.S. 2016 Presidential Election

	Vote for Trump
Respondent's self-placement on the liberal-conservative spectrum (1 = extreme liberal, 7 = extreme conservative)	0.552* (0.0954)
Disapproval of 2010 Health Care Law	0.114* (0.0468)
Evaluation of the economy	0.414* (0.107)
Party identification	0.573* (0.0577)
Attitude towards building a wall with Mexico (1 = favor a great deal, 7 = oppose a great deal)	-0.419* (0.0434)
Respondent's age, in years	0.0168* (0.00559)
Respondent's highest level of school completed	-0.0788+ (0.0441)
Self-identified race includes "white"	1.239* (0.286)
"Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?"	-0.279 (0.372)
Does Rep Presidential cand Trump 2005 video about women matter (1 = his comments matter a great deal, 5 = his comments don't matter at all)	1.064* (0.0801)
_cons	-8.729* (1.095)
<i>N</i>	2434
Pseudo. <i>R</i> ²	0.7462

Standard errors in parentheses

+ $p < 0.10$, * $p < 0.05$

Looking at the data, I reject the null hypotheses of no relationship for the first five political opinion independent variables. The first four independent variables have positive relation as stated in the related hypothesis. The negative relation in "attitude towards building a wall with Mexico" variable is indicative of people who opposed building a wall voted against Trump.

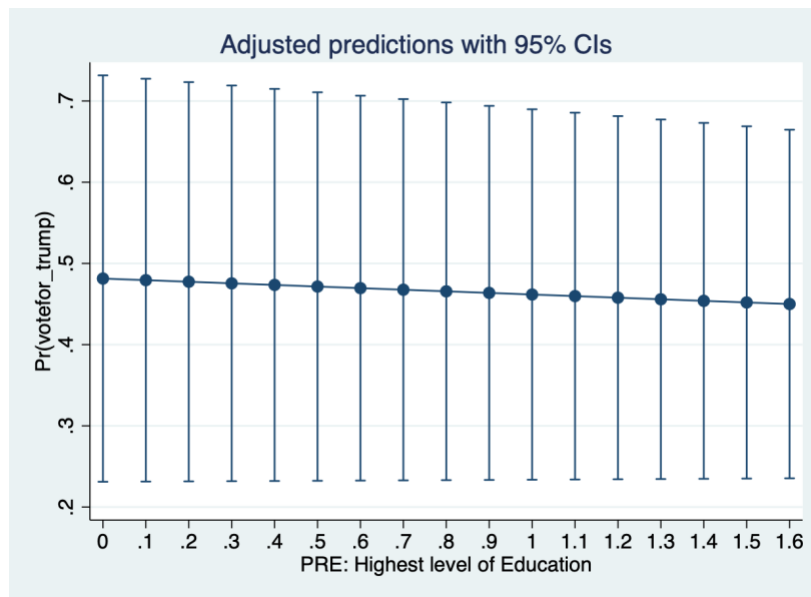
I also reject the null hypotheses for age variable and self-identified white voters. However, to my surprise, I failed to reject the null hypothesis for the negative relation between education level and voting for Trump, as well as the Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino people voting against Trump.

I also I assumed that people who thought that Donald Trump's 2005 video about women, in which he made some negative comments, does not matter may be inclined to vote for him. My hypothesis is supported by the model and I reject the null hypothesis. The overall fit of the model looks very good with Pseudo R^2 of 0.74.

The initial model was showing an estimated coefficient of $-.089$ for the impact of education level in voting for Trump with p-value of 0.013 . Hence, as education level was increasing, the probability of voting for Trump was decreasing. Here, I could reject the null hypothesis. However, after I added another independent variable (attitude towards Trump 2005 video about women), the coefficient slightly decreased and the p-value went above the threshold of 0.05 to 0.074 . The second model does not support a negative relation between education level and vote for Trump. Therefore, I failed to reject the null hypothesis.

As visualized by Figure 1, when holding other variables at their sample means, the negative relation is supported. There is less probability that a college-educated person or someone with Master's degree vote for Trump comparing to high-school educated person.

Figure 1: Education level and vote for Trump



Keeping other variables at their sample means, the probability of voting for Trump increases as voters' political ideology goes up toward conservative in the spectrum. Someone with extreme liberal ideology is less likely to vote for Trump comparing to moderates and conservatives. A person with strong conservative ideology is more likely to vote for Trump than those with less conservative ideology.

Table 1: Margin Commands for Political Ideology
(1= extreme liberal, 7 = extreme conservative)

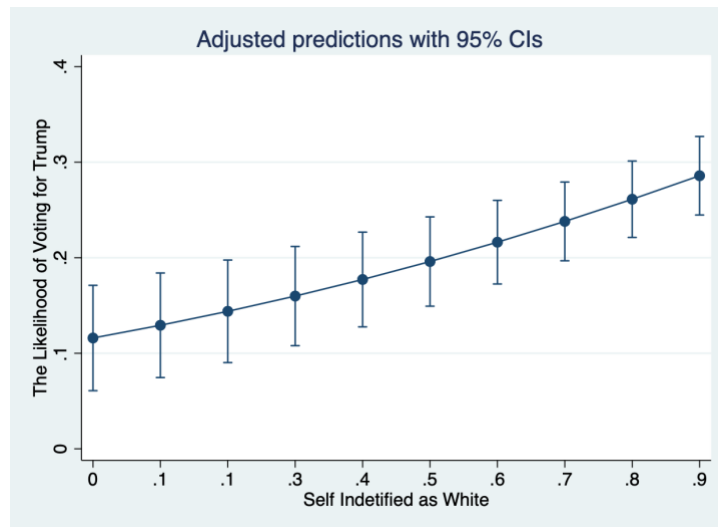
At	Margin	P > z
1	0.0372498	0.013
2	0.0392807	0.011
3	0.0414177	0.009
4	0.0436656	0.008
5	0.0460296	0.006
6	0.0485152	0.005
7	0.0511278	0.004
8	0.0538731	0.003

1. Which of the model's significant predictors has the largest effect on the likelihood of voting for Trump, when controlling for other significant factors?

To find out which of the predictors had largest effect on the likelihood of voting for Trump, initially, I looked at the coefficients in the model. I noticed that people's self-identification as white has a strong relation with probability of voting for Trump. I wanted to know if this prediction is reliable, or it could be the effect of other predictor variables. To that end, I ran a model for the variable alone while keeping other independent variables at their sample means.

As visualized in Figure 2 below, variable of people's self-identification as white seems to have a strong relation with the probability of voting for Trump, supporting the initial model.

Figure 3: White People Voting Behavior



As I hypothesized at the start, the probability of voting for Trump increases as people care less about his comment on women in a 2005 video. Here, 1 indicates people think that his comment in the video matter a great deal, while 5 indicates it does not matter at all.

Figure 3: Importance of Trump's Negative Comments about women on voting behavior

