

PLSC 502: “Statistical Methods for Political Research”

Exercise Eight

December 2, 2022

Introduction

This homework is an opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of bivariate linear regression. The topic is one that is likely near and dear to our heart: The 2022 general election in Pennsylvania. This exercise does *not* have a simulation component.

Exercise

The data for this exercise – which are available in the course [Github repository](#), in the folder labeled “Exercises” – contain information on the 67 counties in Pennsylvania. They include a number of variables, most relevantly:

- Voter registration data: The number and percentage of voters in each county registered as Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, Greens, and “other.” These data are from early November 2022, and were pulled from the website of the [Pennsylvania Department of State](#).
- The number and (two-party) percentage of votes for each of the two major-party candidates in the 2022 races for governor (Josh Shapiro - D and Doug Mastriano - R) and U.S. Senate (John Fetterman - D and Mehmet Oz - R).¹ Those data were pulled from the Department of State’s [Election Reporting Center](#).

Your assignment is to use OLS regression to examine the relationship between the percentage of the two-party vote received by *one* of the major-party candidates for governor or senator and the percentage of voters registered as *one* of {Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, Greens}. For the exercise, prepare a short (1000 words or less) report on that relationship, as if you were writing up the results for a paper or journal submission. Accordingly, your report should contain *at least* the following:

1. Very brief summaries of the dependent and independent variables, including a graphical presentation of the relationship;
2. Results of your OLS estimate(s), including coefficients, standard errors, and other relevant statistics;
3. A discussion, in words, of those results, including matters relating to marginal effects and statistical inference; and
4. A brief discussion of model fit.

This homework should be submitted electronically, in the usual fashion. It is due by 11:59 p.m. ET on **Friday, December 9, 2022**, and is worth 50 points.

¹The file also contains detailed breakdowns of vote totals by voter mode (in-person, mail-in, provisional); you need not pay these numbers any attention right now.