

Where is the Infrastructure Money Going?: IIJA Funding Allocation Analysis (2023)

Overview

This report looks at the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" funding as of March 2023. I wanted to see if the money is being handed out fairly based on how many people live in each state, and if there is any sign that the Biden administration is favoring the states that voted for them.

How I Checked the Data

I took the official funding list and combined it with two things:

1. **Population:** How many people live in each state (using 2023 Census estimates).
2. **Politics:** Who won each state in the 2020 Election.

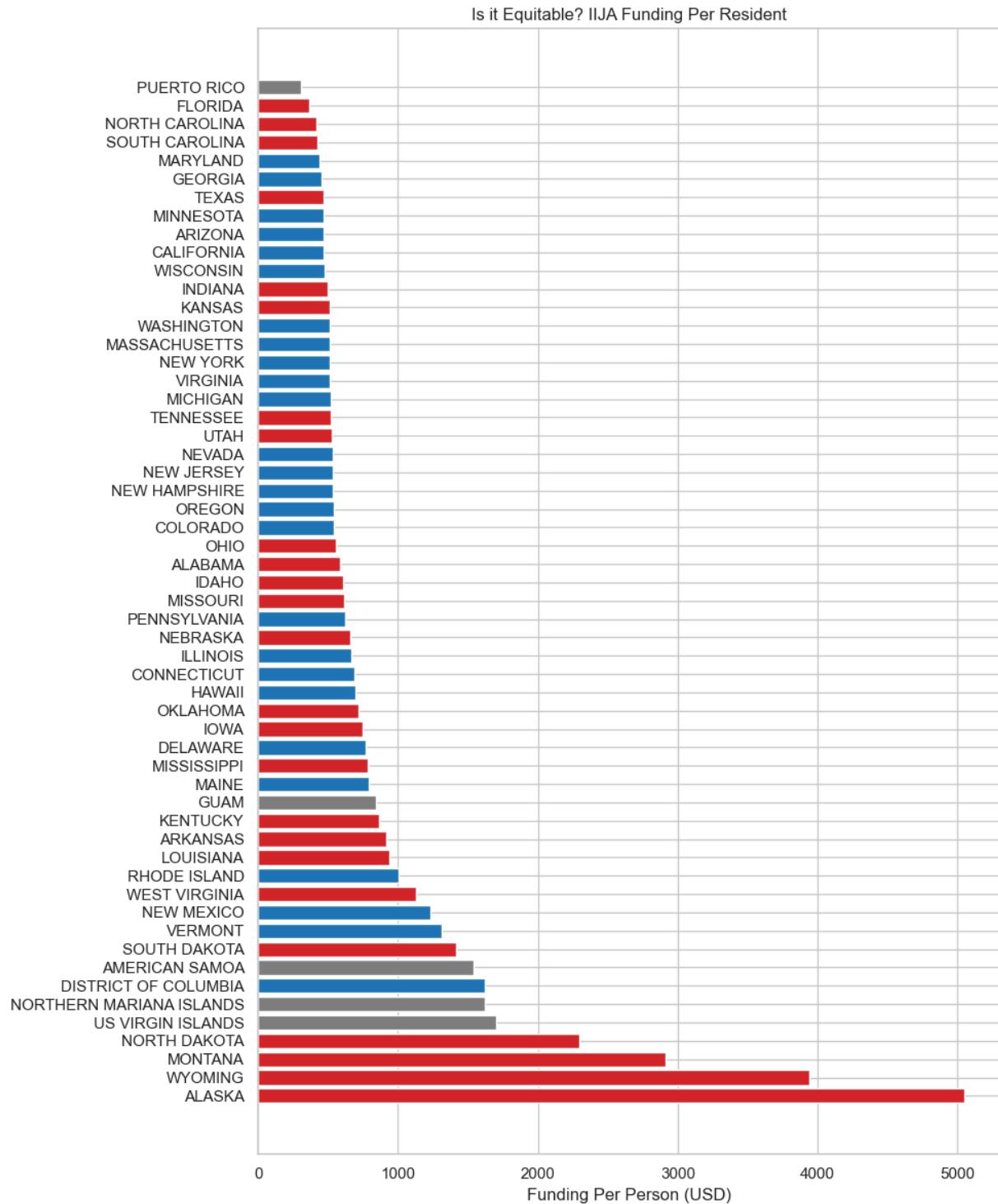
Instead of just looking at the total billions, I calculated the "**Funding Per Person.**" This is the best way to compare a huge state like California to a small state like Vermont.

Is it fair based on population?

The short answer is **no**. If you just look at the number of people, the split isn't equal at all.

- **The Findings:** Small, rural states are getting way more money per resident than big, crowded states.

- **The Proof:**



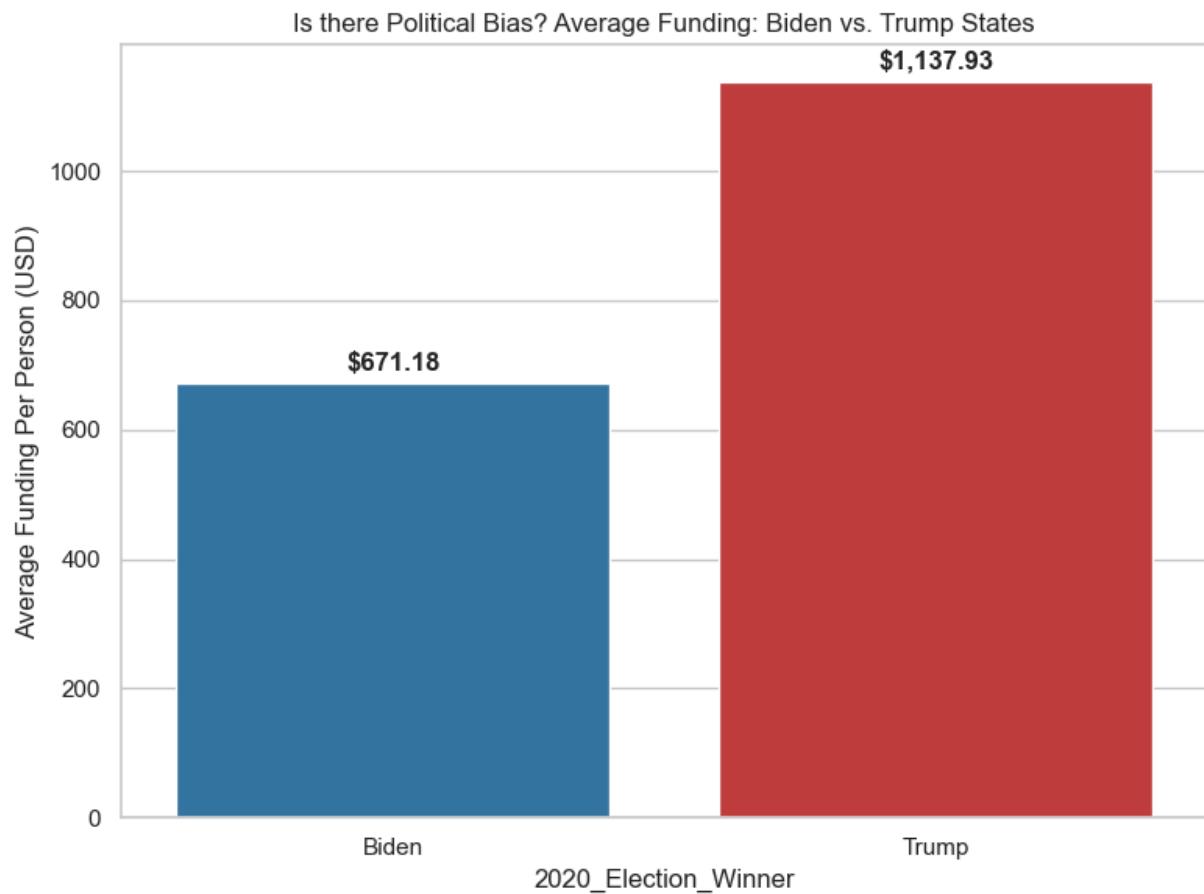
- **The Numbers:** Alaska is at the top, getting about **\$5,045 per person**. On the other end, Puerto Rico and large states like Florida and Texas are among the states getting the least per person.

- **Why?** This happens because it costs a lot to maintain thousands of miles of roads and bridges in states where very few people live. The government uses formulas that look at "miles of road" rather than just "number of people."

Is there political bias?

A lot of people assume the administration would send more money to "Blue" states, but the data shows the **opposite**.

- **The Findings:** There is no sign of political favoritism. In fact, "Red" states are coming out ahead in this bill.
- **The Proof:**



- **The Numbers:** States that voted for **Trump** received an average of **\$1,138 per person**. States that voted for **Biden** averaged about **\$671 per person**.
- **Why?** Most "Red" states are rural with huge infrastructure needs (like power grids and long highways). Since the bill focuses on fixing those specific things, those states naturally end up with more money per resident.

Conclusion

The money isn't being split up by population, and it isn't being used to reward political friends. Instead, the funding seems to be going where the physical work is needed most, mostly in rural, spread-out states that have a lot of ground to cover.