

# Early Voting Behavior in the 2016 Presidential Election

Ethan Ellis, Dean Gladish, Walter Paul

## Abstract

In our statistical analysis, we investigated relationships between early voting during the 2016 Presidential Election, political party preference, and the number of days a state allowed early voting. Specifically, we asked two key questions: First, *in the 2016 Presidential Election, was there a relationship between a voter's party preference and whether they voted early or not?* Second, *was there a relationship between the number of days before Election Day states allowed early voting and whether people voted at all, or whether they voted early?*

To find out whether there was an association between party preference and early voting, we used a chi-squared test. We found that, when looking at Democrats, Republicans, and Independent, there appeared to be an association between early voting and party preference. However, when just looking at, Democrats and Republicans, a person's party preference had no effect on whether they voted early in the 2016 Elections or not. Thus, we could not conclude that more Democrats tend to vote early than Republicans or vice versa. Next, we found that there was no significant relationship between the number of days a state allowed early voting and whether people voted at all. However, when just looking at those states that allowed early voting, there was a relationship between the number of days before Election Day a state allowed voting and how early they voted. Specifically, the earlier a state allowed early voting the less likely people were to vote early. This was the opposite when we looked at all states, where the earlier the states allowed early voting the less likely people were to vote early. The full details of our findings are within the attached report.