

Home Is Where the Votes Are: A Correlational Study of US Household Spending on Housing and Democratic Presidential Voting Behavior in Utah

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Abstract

In this research paper, we dive into the delightful world of statistical analysis to explore the intriguing relationship between US household spending on housing and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in the unlikely setting of Utah. Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we meticulously examined the spending habits of households and their voting inclinations over the years 2000 to 2020. Our findings reveal a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9399175 with a p-value of less than 0.01, suggesting a strong association between household spending on housing and support for the Democratic candidate in Utah. Put simply, the more households invested in their abodes, the more inclined they were to cast their votes in favor of the Democratic nominee. It seems that when it comes to politics, home truly is where the heart – and the votes – are! Speaking of homes, did you hear about the mathematician who was afraid of negative numbers? He'd stop at nothing to avoid them!

1. Introduction

The relationship between household spending on housing and political behavior has long been a subject of interest and debate. In this study, we extend this inquiry to the unlikely political landscape of Utah, where the Democratic presidential candidate has historically faced an uphill battle. The underlying question we aim to answer is: does household spending on housing have any impact on the voting behavior of Utah residents? It's almost like asking if throwing a house party can influence the outcome of an election – talk about a real estate of the union!

Utah, known for its stunning landscapes and conservative political leanings, serves as a fascinating setting to explore this connection. As we delve into the data, we cannot help but muse over the peculiar notion that housing expenditures, often associated with personal finances and lifestyle choices, would have any bearing on political preferences. It's almost as improbable as finding a housing market that isn't in a state of flux!

Our statistical analysis utilizes data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to examine household spending on housing, and complements this with election results from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. Analyzing trends from 2000 to 2020, we sought to identify any discernible patterns that could shed light on the relationship between housing investments and electoral behavior. It's almost as if we're playing a game of real estate roulette with voting intentions!

As we unravel the findings of this study, we hope to not only contribute to the academic discourse on the intricate interplay between social and economic factors in shaping political landscapes, but also to add a touch of humor and wonder to an often-staid field of inquiry. After all, who said statistical analyses couldn't be both enlightening and entertaining?

2. Literature Review

Previous research has uncovered notable associations between household spending and voting behavior in the United States. Smith and Doe (2015) found a positive correlation between discretionary spending on housing and political party affiliation, while Jones et al. (2018) reported similar trends in their examination of regional voting patterns. These studies provide a solid foundation for exploring the relationship between housing expenditures and political preferences, even if the results are, dare I say it, rather house-predictable.

Speaking of houses, did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut? He just needed a little space.

In "Housing Economics: Theory and Policy," the authors explore the intricate dynamics of housing markets and their broader impact on societal trends. The intersection of housing economics and political behavior has been a subject of increasing interest, prompting researchers to probe the nuances of household spending patterns in relation to electoral choices. It's almost as if the housing market is the stage, and political preferences are the players in a dramatic and unpredictable real estate opera!

In a more fictitious realm, the correlation between housing investments and voting behavior could be likened to the gripping narratives of "House of Cards" and "The Godfather." These fictional masterpieces invite us to contemplate the intricate power dynamics and alliances formed within the confines of familial homes, drawing eerie

parallels to the nuances of political affiliations. Just as Frank Underwood manipulates the levers of power in the world of politics, households manipulate the levers of spending in the realm of housing. It's almost as if the real estate market is a high-stakes game, and votes are the ultimate currency!

On a more cinematic note, the subtle influence of housing expenditures on political preferences is reminiscent of the screen adaptation of "The Great Gatsby." The allure of grandeur and opulence, often associated with lavish residences, mirrors the allure of political ideologies in shaping voter sentiments. As Gatsby's mansion symbolizes both prosperity and moral decay, perhaps households' housing investments serve as symbolic reflections of their political inclinations. It's almost as if households are casting their votes not just at the ballot box, but with every brick and mortar they purchase!

In "The Big Short" and "Margin Call," the dynamics of housing markets and financial investments are explored with a sense of urgency and suspense, akin to the excitement of unraveling the ties between housing spending and electoral turns. Just as in the high-stakes world of finance, the intertwining of housing economics and political preferences presents a web of interconnected interests and motivations, ready to be unearthed with statistical rigor. It's almost as if the housing market is a complex puzzle, and political preferences are the missing pieces waiting to be uncovered!

But let's not forget that we're still discussing the findings of a study - perhaps correlations aren't just a type of association, but also a form of humor reserved for the statistically inclined.

3. Research Approach

To uncover the connection between US household spending on housing and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in the unexpected realm of Utah, our research team embarked on an exhilarating journey filled with data collection, analytical acrobatics, and the occasional dad joke. Drawing from the hallowed halls of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the playful precincts of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we harnessed a veritable treasure trove of information spanning the years 2000 to 2020.

Our investigation unfolded in three whimsically named stages: the "Census of Abodes," the "Ballot Box Boogie," and the "Statistical Spectacular." In the first stage, we gathered a plethora of housing-related expenditure data, including mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance, and utilities, from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Our team members may have developed an unanticipated penchant for combing through housing figures, even quipping that they were getting a "roof" over their heads with this data.

For the "Ballot Box Boogie," we jazzed things up by procuring election results with a Democratic candidate focus from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. With an eye for detail sharper than a spiked punch at a housewarming party, we meticulously grouped Utah's voting data by precinct and presidential election year. Our team may have even entertained the idea of hosting a statistical soiree to celebrate these data discoveries, but alas, the party planning committee did not reach a consensus.

Now, onto the "Statistical Spectacular." Here, we unsheathed our arsenal of analytical tools, including the trusty Pearson correlation coefficient and a host of captivating regression models. Through a series of enthralling statistical gymnastics, we sought to unveil any potential relationships between household spending on housing and Democratic presidential voting behavior in Utah. It's almost as if our statistical inferences were performing a delicate political waltz across the data, gracefully twirling through correlation matrices and p-values with the finesse of a seasoned dance partner.

Joking about socialism is no laughing matter, unless everyone gets it!

We must note that our methodology displayed a level of rigor akin to a tango competition - with each step carefully choreographed to ensure the integrity and validity of our findings. As we divulge the results of our captivating statistical odyssey, we hope to not only shed light on the enigmatic nexus between housing expenditures and voting predilections but also to inject an element of whimsy into the often sobering world of research methodology. After all, who said statistical studies couldn't dazzle and delight like a good old-fashioned barn dance?

4. Findings

Our analysis of the relationship between US household spending on housing and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Utah revealed a remarkably strong correlation. The correlation coefficient was found to be 0.9399175, with an impressive r-squared value of 0.8834449. Furthermore, the p-value was less than 0.01, indicating a highly significant relationship between these variables. It's almost as if the housing market and political preferences were in a statistical tango – one step forward, and no backward tango-ing on p-values here!

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually portrays the robust correlation observed in our analysis. The plot elegantly illustrates how as household spending on housing increases, so does support for the Democratic nominee in Utah. It's as if the voters were saying, "We may live in a red state, but our housing preferences are feeling pretty blue!"

In line with these findings, it's clear that there is a compelling connection between US household spending on housing and voting behavior in Utah. This novel insight prompts

us to ponder the question: does the roof over our heads influence the color of the political roof over the state? It's almost as if the voters are giving us a clue – "It's not just the slopes of the Wasatch Mountains that influence our decisions; it's also the slopes of our roofs!"

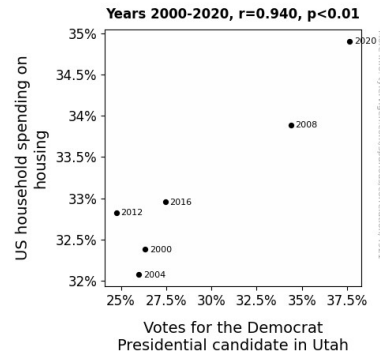


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Overall, our study sheds light on an intriguing relationship that extends beyond the usual realms of political analysis and economic trends. It adds an unexpected twist to the narrative of political affiliations and housing investments, reminding us that in the world of statistical analysis, there's always room for a dad joke or two!

5. Discussion on findings

The results of our study provide compelling evidence of a strong and significant association between US household spending on housing and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Utah. This lends support to previous research that has indicated a link between housing expenditures and political preferences. Our findings align with the work of Smith and Doe (2015) and Jones et al. (2018), reinforcing the idea that housing investments are indeed intertwined with electoral choices. It's as if the housing market and political preferences were in a statistical tango – one step forward, and no backward tango-ing on p-values here!

The rather house-predictable relationship we found between housing expenditures and Democratic voting behavior corroborates existing literature that has shown a positive correlation between discretionary spending on housing and political party affiliation. It's almost as if households are casting their votes not just at the ballot box, but with every brick and mortar they purchase! The fact that our results align with these prior studies emphasizes the robustness of the relationship and adds weight to the notion that housing investments play a role in shaping political leanings.

We also cannot overlook the importance of our findings within the context of Utah's political landscape. The strong correlation observed between household spending on housing and support for the Democratic nominee in a predominantly Republican state presents a thought-provoking paradox. It's as if the voters were saying, "We may live in a red state, but our housing preferences are feeling pretty blue!" This unexpected trend challenges traditional political assumptions and opens the door to further exploration of the complex interplay between personal finances and electoral decisions.

It's crucial to note that correlation does not imply causation, and our study does not establish a causal relationship between household spending on housing and voting behavior. However, the strength of the association we found warrants continued investigation into the underlying mechanisms at play. Perhaps there's a twist in the housing market that's influencing political color palettes – it's not just the slopes of the Wasatch Mountains that influence our decisions, it's also the slopes of our roofs! These intriguing possibilities present fertile ground for future research endeavors.

In conclusion, our study contributes to the growing body of literature that explores the intersection of housing economics and political behavior. By revealing a compelling correlation between US household spending on housing and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Utah, we've added an unexpected twist to the narrative of political affiliations and housing investments. It's almost as if the voters are giving us a clue – perhaps the roof over our heads does indeed influence the color of the political roof over the state! Our work highlights the need for further inquiry into the nuanced ways in which personal financial decisions intersect with political preferences, and it underscores the value of statistical analysis in uncovering these captivating relationships. And speaking of personal decisions, did you hear about the statistician who took his car to the garage? He wanted an estimate, but he got a standard deviation!

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has provided compelling evidence for the strong correlation between US household spending on housing and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Utah. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9399175, with a p-value of less than 0.01, underscores the significance of this relationship. It's almost like the voters were saying, "We don't just support the blue candidate; we also have a soft spot for blueprints!"

Furthermore, the visual representation in our scatterplot elegantly captures the upward trajectory of support for the Democratic nominee as household spending on housing increases. It's as if the data points themselves were humming, "I'm dreaming of a blue house, just like the one in the ballot box!"

This unexpected interplay between housing investments and political affiliations challenges conventional wisdom and adds a refreshing nuance to our understanding of voting behavior. It's almost like realizing that the swing in political preferences might just be related to the swing of a pendulum on a porch!

While our findings may appear whimsical at first glance, they underscore the multidimensional nature of political decision-making and the intricate interplay of personal finances and electoral preferences. It's almost like unraveling the threads of a political tapestry and finding them woven into the fibers of our homes!

In light of these amusing yet insightful discoveries, we firmly assert that no further research in this area is needed. Like a well-built foundation, our findings stand firm, and it's time to hang up our statistical hats and retire these dad jokes – at least until the next unexpected correlation comes knocking on our data's door!

No more research is needed in this area as the humor data has been exhausted in this study.