

Codebook for “(Where) Do Campaigns Matter? The Impact of National Party Convention Location”

This is a county-election dataset of electoral results in U.S. presidential elections between 1956 and 2012. Variables included are defined as follows:

- **Convention:** Type of convention exposed to, based on media markets. *D*: Democratic convention, *R*: Republican convention; *N*: Neither convention.
- **LagDemMargin:** Previous margin of victory of Democratic presidential candidate; if negative, Dem. candidate ‘lost’ that county in the previous election.
- **DeltaDemMargin:** Change in margin of victory of Democratic presidential candidate. Defined as Current Margin – Previous Margin.
- **DeltaStateDemMargin :** Change in margin of victory of Democratic presidential candidate *in the state the county belongs to*. Defined as Current State Margin – Previous State Margin.
- **DeltaNatDemMargin:** Change in margin of victory of Democratic presidential candidate *at the national level*. Defined as Current National Margin – Previous National Margin.
- **DeltaBlackProp:** Change in proportion black population from one election to the next.
- **DeltaWhiteProp:** Change in proportion white population from one election to the next.
- **DeltaBel25Prop:** Change in proportion population younger than 25 from one election to the next.
- **DeltaAb65Prop:** Change in proportion population older than 65 from one election to the next.
- **totvote:** Total number of votes cast in county.
- **TotPop:** Total population in county.
- **year:** Year of election.
- **fips:** 5 digit FIPS code of each county.
- **DeltaTurnout:** Change in county turnout with respect to past election.
- **Turnout:** Proportion of population over 18 that turnout out to vote.
- **pop.density:** Population density (persons per km²).
- **x.RNC:** Indicator of exposure to Republican convention, at the MSA level.
- **x.DNC:** Indicator of exposure to Democratic convention, at the MSA level.
- **CountyYearID:** Data unique identifier. State ICPSR code + County Name + election year.
- **ICPSRstate:** ICPSR state code.
- **StateDemVote:** State-wide vote for Democratic candidate.
- **StaterepVote:** State-wide vote for Republican candidate.
- **DistRNC:** Distance, in km, to nearest county exposed to Republican convention (using county centroids).

- **DistDNC**: Distance, in km, to nearest county exposed to Democratic convention (using county centroids).
- **Areakm2**: County area, in km².
- **demmargin**: Margin of victory of Democratic presidential candidate; if negative, Dem. candidate ‘lost’ that county in the current election.
- **demvote**: Number of votes cast for Democratic candidate.
- **repvote**: Number of votes cast for Republican candidate.
- **DeltaDemVote**: Change in number of votes cast for Democratic candidate with respect to previous election.
- **LagDemPerc**: Percentage of two-party votes going to Democratic candidate in the previous election.
- **DeltaDemPerc**: Change in the percentage of two-party vote going to Democratic candidate with respect to previous election.
- **DeltaStateDemPerc**: Change in the state-wide percentage of two-party vote going to Democratic candidate with respect to previous election.
- **PopChange**: Percent change in population with respect to previous election.
- **LagTurnout**: Proportion of population older than 18 who turned out to vote in the previous election.
- **ab18pop**: Number of people older than 18.
- **MMName**: Media Market Identifier.
- **StateTotVote**: Number of votes cast at the state level.
- **DeltaUrban**: Change in proportion of urban population.
- **DeltaFem**: Change in proportion of female population.
- **Delta1824**: Change in proportion of population between 18 and 24 years old.
- **DeltaAsian**: Change in proportion of Asian population.
- **DeltaNative**: Change in proportion of Native-American population.
- **DeltaHispanic**: Change in proportion of Hispanic population.
- **DeltaMarried**: Change in proportion of Married population.
- **DeltaUnemploy**: Change in proportion of Unemployed population.
- **DeltaCollege**: Change in proportion of College-educated population.
- **DeltaIncome**: Change in median income (thousands of dollars).
- **ConventionState**: Indicator of whether the county is in a state that hosted a Republican convention (*R*), a Democratic convention (*D*), or neither (*N*).