Ticket-Splitting in Montana Elections

Andrew Matheison
amatheison@carroll.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholars.carroll.edu/surf

Part of the American Politics Commons, Politics and Social Change Commons, and the Public Policy Commons

https://scholars.carroll.edu/surf/2019/all/41
Limitations

- The Exit Poll lacked explicit definitions.
- The n value of each analysis varied greatly in each poll.
- Sufficient data to perform this analysis was only gathered in Lewis and Clark County.
- The Exit Poll is unable to assess the motives of respondents; even the most extensive analysis can only suggest correlations, and respondents would need to be explicitly asked why they voted how they did to ascertain motives.

Conclusion and Next Steps

My hypothesis was supported by my findings, albeit with important qualifications:

- Party considerations appear more important than demographic considerations in determining the likelihood of an individual ticket-splitting.
- Non-major parties split their ticket more than major parties in almost all cases, and frequently did so to a statistically-significant degree.
- When comparing the two major parties, Republicans consistently split their ticket more than Democrats.
- Relatively few people split their national ticket, while FTS enjoyed greater popularity.

In moving forward, I would:

- Consider additional demographic variables like income or urban-rural status.
- Attempt to conduct the Exit Poll in more counties.
- Using this information, develop an algorithm for predicting the likelihood of ticket-splitting occurring in elections in different counties.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. Alex Street for his design and execution of the Carroll College Exit Poll and for statistical assistance. I would also like to thank Dr. Jeremy Johnson for providing valuable literature on ticket splitting. Finally, I would like to thank my classmates (of whom there is too many to list) for helping refine my poster, and Anastasia Vidger for supporting me throughout this project.