



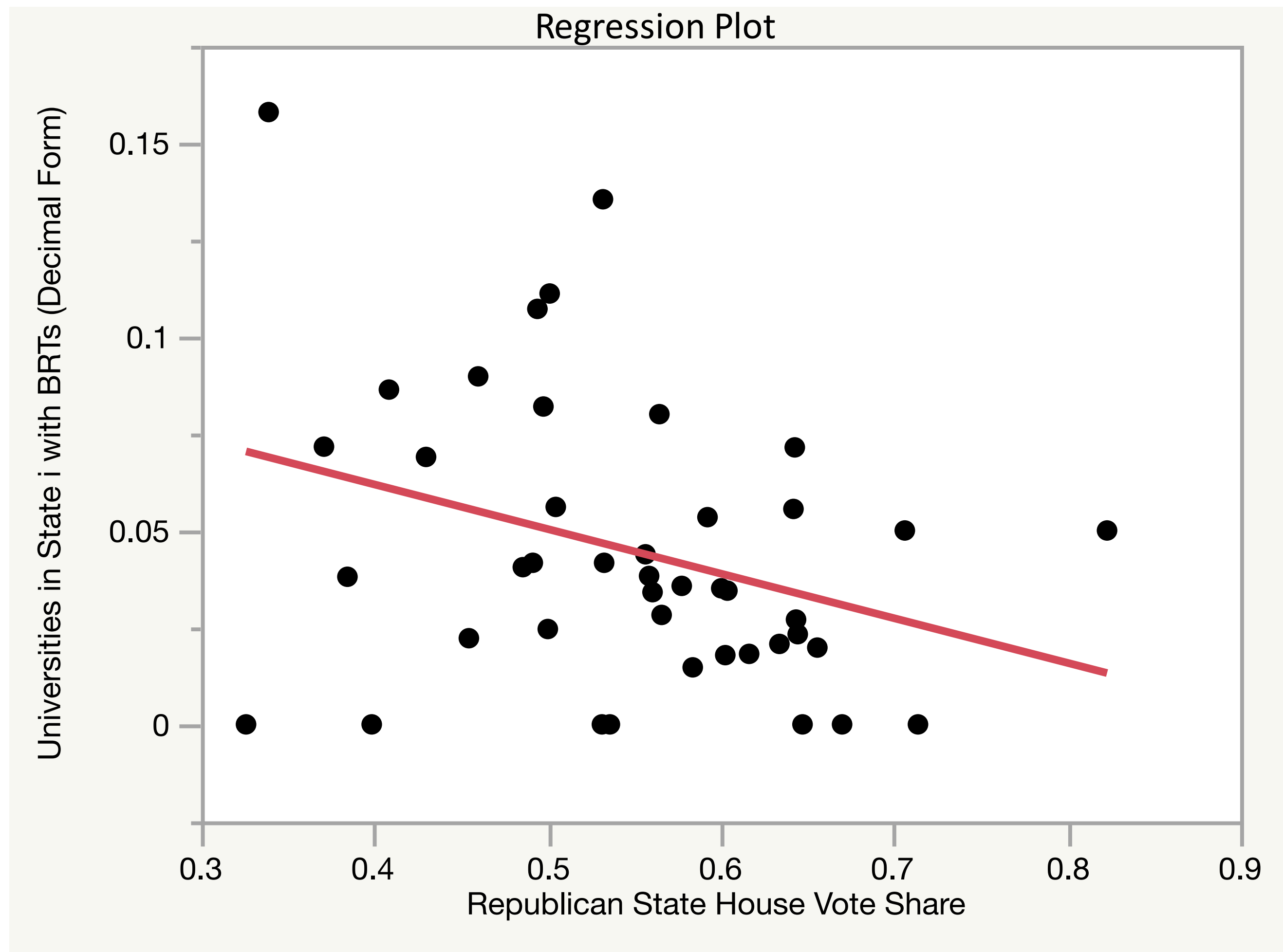
What Do Voting Results of the 2016 State Elections Tell Us About Bias Response Teams?



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Unlike the significant relationship between Republican Congressional vote share and the frequency of BRTs found in my previous study with DeGennaro (forthcoming), the presence of BRTs is not significantly related to state level vote data. However, I do find that there is a significant relationship between Republican State House vote share and the percentage of degree-granting institutions in state *i* with BRTs (see Table 2). A one-percentage point increase in the Republican State House vote share is associated with a 0.115 percentage point decline in the proportion of universities with BRTs in a state. This is rather substantial. The difference between a 45% Republican State House share and a 55% share is related to a decrease in the proportion of universities with BRTs within that state of about 7.28% of the entire range of proportions across the 50 states. This finding very much fits the general premise of this project and the previous work, which is the more a state leans to the right, the fewer BRTs one should expect.

Table 2: Regression Analysis

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Constant	0.0458	0.1100**	0.1079**
R State Senate	-0.1541	0.0002	
R State House	0.0383	-0.1179	-0.1150**
R Gubernatorial	0.1264		
Observations	12	42	43
Adj. R-Square	-0.1785	0.0667	0.0851

Numbers in the first four rows above are coefficients. ** Signifies statistical significance at the 0.05 level.

Many universities have established Bias Response Teams, or BRTs. BRTs are organizations that encourage students to report alleged bias instances. In practice, these reports are often anonymous, and they typically lead to extra legal tribunals with few due process protections for the accused. Because accusations of offense are often based on the accused person's speech and/or writings, BRTs have run afoul of the defendant's First Amendment rights. And since awareness of and support for the First Amendment differs between Republicans and Democrats (see Albanese), we ask whether election results are correlated with the existence of BRTs. In DeGennaro and Parker (forthcoming) we find that an increase in Republican Congressional vote share is associated with a small decrease in the frequency of BRTs, but Presidential vote shares, Senate vote shares, and the vote shares in the Congressional district of the university are unrelated to the frequency of BRTs. In this study, I extended those results by using the results of the 2016 US state elections.

Table 3: Logit Regression Analysis

	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7
Constant	0.812 (0.565)	1.783 (0.091)*	1.80 (0.045)**	1.72 (0.053)*
R Pres	0.050 (0.506)	0.001 (0.979)		
R Senate	0.009 (0.724)			
R House	-0.069 (0.244)	-0.041 (0.319)	-0.040 (0.029)**	-0.031 (0.048)**
Private	0.099 (0.880)	0.008 (0.988)		
R Local	-0.000 (0.961)	0.008 (0.331)	0.008 (0.329)	
Observations	93	130	130	130
Pr>Chi-Square For Regression	0.812	0.272	0.076*	0.041**

Numbers in the first four rows above are coefficients. ** Signifies statistical significance at the 0.05 level. * Signifies statistical significance at the 0.10 level.

I ran several logit regressions to test the relationship between the presence of BRTs and state level vote share data. As mentioned above, there was no statistically significant relationship between the state level data and the presence of BRTs. I also ran a regression that adds the new state level data into the previous regression (with federal level data) that DeGennaro and Parker ran. I did not find any new significant relationships. Thus, this result reinforces the results in DeGennaro and Parker (see Table 3, above).

Table 1: Sample Statistics

Variable	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
BRT	130	0.4923	0.5019	0.0000	1.0000
R State Senate	105	0.5433	0.1107	0.2192	0.7671
R State House	110	0.5559	0.0850	0.3261	0.7140
R Gubernatorial	21	0.5254	0.0780	0.4561	0.7000
BRT%	50	0.0437	0.0353	0	0.1579

Data are for the 130 Division I Football Bowl Subdivision programs. Nine states have no university with a Division I Bowl Subdivision program.

Table 4: t-tests

Variable	Mean if BRT (N)	Mean if No BRT (N)	t-ratio (p-value)
R State Senate	0.5370 (55)	0.5502 (50)	0.61 (0.5421)
R State House	0.5463 (57)	0.5662 (53)	1.23 (0.2226)
R Gubernatorial	0.5167 (13)	0.5396 (8)	0.64 (0.5279)

Numbers are results from several t-tests testing whether vote share differs if a University has a BRT.

I ran several t-tests testing whether vote share differs if a University has a BRT. As can be seen above, none of the differences are statistically significant, but all three variables at the state level in individual t-tests are positive. In addition to that, all three t-values are pointing in the same direction as the federal data (see DeGennaro and Parker, forthcoming). Although these test results do not show a significant difference, the data are pointing in the same direction seven out of seven times, which is very likely not the result of random chance. Thus, there is likely a mild relationship between vote share and the presence of BRTs.

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