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The 2000 Mexican Presidential Election: Factors in Party Support

This paper will examine the impact of socio-economic explanatory factors on party support in the 2000 Mexican Presidential Election. This was a particularly important election as the PAN ended the decades-long dominance of the PRI. The 2000 election pitted the three largest parties: the PAN on the right; the centrist PRI; and the left-leaning PRD. While Vicente Fox handily won the election, it is plausible to surmise that various socio-economic variables could explain some differential support among the three parties.

The data utilized here is a national, random sample of 2400 Mexican citizens who voted in the 2000 election. The data set can be found in the ICPSR as Study # xxxx.

Hypothesis 1.

In many countries party vote varies somewhat between urban and rural areas. For example, in Texas the Democratic Party is strongest in the urban centers; while the Republicans tend to dominate the rural areas.

The tables below show the percentage of the vote for Labastida (PRI), Fox (PAN, and Cardenas (PRD) in urban versus rural areas of Mexico. The cross-tabulation does not suggest any particularly strong relationship. The vote for the PRI is almost identical between urban and rural areas. The PAN vote is somewhat stronger in urban areas; and the PRD support is also a bit stronger among voters from the rural regions of Mexico. But the Chi Square statistic shows that this is not a significant relationship. The significance value is .073 (highlighted below), which indicates that the relationship is not significant (i.e., the probability that the null hypothesis is true is 7.3%--above the 5% level for significance).

Presidential Vote, 2000 * Urban or Rural Crosstabulation

% within Urban or Rural

		Urban or Rural		Total
		URBAN	RURAL	
Presidential Vote, 2000	FRANCISCO LABASTIDA- PRI, center	32.8%	32.1%	32.7%
	VICENTE FOX-PAN, right	54.6%	49.0%	53.3%
	CUAUHTÉMOC CÁRDENAS-PRD, left	12.5%	18.9%	14.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.237 ^a	2	.073
Likelihood Ratio	4.965	2	.084
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.710	1	.191
N of Valid Cases	842		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 27.47.