

Mapping the Pro-Commonwealth and Pro-Statehood Votes in the General Elections of Puerto Rico since 1960

Objectives:

. To determine the spatial pattern of diffusion of the two major political parties on the island, the pro-Commonwealth and pro-statehood parties, that have existed since 1960 in Puerto Rico.

Hypothesis:

- . A defined pattern of diffusion, regarding their electoral development, does not exist for any of the two major political parties on the island, the pro-Commonwealth and pro-statehood parties.
- . There has been a decrease in the votes for the pro-commonwealth party and an increase in the votes for the pro-statehood party.

Method:

Information sources and procedures

- . Data of every election that has taken place on the island since 1960 (State Commission of Elections of Puerto Rico (CEEPUR).)
- . The analysis of the information gathered at CEEPUR lead me to use the results of the elections for governor of the two major political parties of the island.
- . Nineteen choropleth maps were elaborated for every election and decade being analyzed using an adjusted formula of ratio instead of percentages. The maps reflected the amount of votes that the pro-statehood party acquired for every one hundred votes the pro-Commonwealth party received.
- . Compared and contrasted each political party's development throughout the years examined. This helped us bold the electoral differences in each of the Puerto Rican municipalities. The maps also showed each party's electoral magnitude and a wider scope of the regional variations within the island.
- . The maps for each of the political parties showed the results of all the thirteen elections being analyzed, from 1960 to the present, in terms of direct votes.
- . We placed all the maps by election for every political party in an animated cartography.

Instruments:

- . Documents from the State Commission of Elections of Puerto Rico (CEEPUR).
- . Excel.
- . Map Viewer.



. Funded by the Department of Education US P031S100037 and University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus.

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Results:

- . The pro-statehood political party began its expansion primarily in the urban zones in the coast of the island.
- . The diffusion of the pro-statehood political party was sporadic and random, for it was dispersed in small pockets throughout the island.
- . The pro-statehood party had a very rapid diffusion after the election of 1968. This electoral process was the first elections in which the New Progressive Party participated.
- . The pro-statehood party started consolidating its political power in regional blocks.
- . In recent years the pro-statehood party is stronger in the east and northern region of the island, as well as relatively strong in the central region.
- . During the 1960's, before the 1968 elections, the pro-Commonwealth political party was the dominant party receiving over 50% of the votes in almost every municipality in Puerto Rico.
- . The spatial contraction of the pro-Commonwealth political party started in the elections of 1968, for it began to lose ground to the pro-statehood party.
- . The pro-Commonwealth party started to lose political ground in the coastal municipalities, especially in urban cities, such as San Juan, Bayamon, Guaynabo, as well as Ponce.
- The diffusion of the pro-Commonwealth political party from 1960 to the present occurred from the central part of the island, where it maintained its electoral power.
- . In recent years the pro-Commonwealth political party is stronger in the western and southern regions of the island.



Regional Results in the General Elections of Puerto Rico since 1960



Conclusions:

- traction.
- relative increase in votes.

- cal power.

Acknowledgements:

- Carlos J. Guilbe, Ph.D.

Pro-Commonwealth Party Pro-Statehood Party



. The pro-statehood political party experienced an expansion in its diffusion while the pro-Commonwealth political party experienced a con-

Throughout the years the spatial distribution for both political parties has been relatively similar, although the pro-statehood party has had a

. The spatial diffusion of the pro-statehood party started in urban cities in the coast to the central region of the island, while the usually strong pro -Commonwealth party started loosing its electoral power in the regions the pro-statehood party was acquiring it.

. At this moment the pro-Commonwealth political party dominates the western and southern regions of the island, while the pro-statehood party dominates the eastern and northern ones.

. Contrary to the past, when the parties' power fluctuated and changed from election to election, both political parties are consolidating their political powers in each of these regions creating strongholds of politi-

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