



Measuring the Tea Party Effect in the 2010 Election



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Tea Party as Social Movement

- Social movements in U.S. are born out of dissatisfaction with political process or policies.
- Uneasy relationship with political parties
 - Coordinated, invasive, or hostile



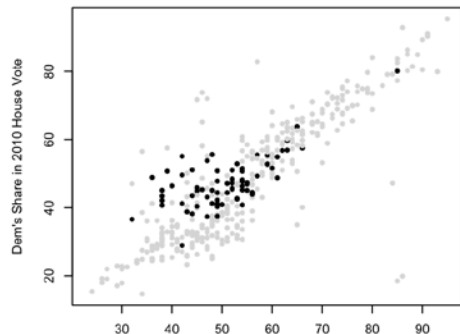
	(1)	(2)
Republican Incumbent	7.25** (1.24)	8.15** (1.33)
Democratic Incumbent	-4.50** (1.14)	-4.48** (1.17)
Obama '08 Vote Share in District	-0.78** (0.04)	-0.76** (0.04)
District Median Income (Log)	3.54** (1.05)	3.47** (1.04)
Freshman Incumbent	0.25* (0.10)	0.26** (0.10)
Candidate Quality	1.12 (0.77)	1.02 (0.77)
Democratic '08 Vote Share in District	-0.07 (0.04)	-0.07* (0.04)
Any Tea Party Endorsement	0.16 (0.58)	
FreedomWorks		2.18** (0.83)
Intercept	56.94 (11.41)	55.90 (11.40)
R-squared	0.88	0.88

General Election Vote Share Model

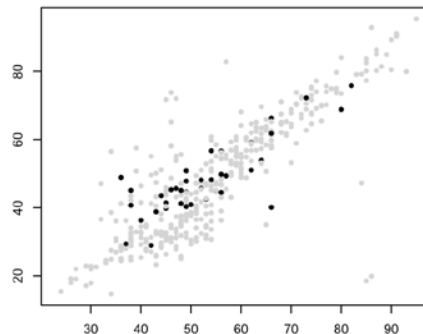


2008 Obama Vote Share by 2010 Democratic Vote Share with Tea Party Endorsements

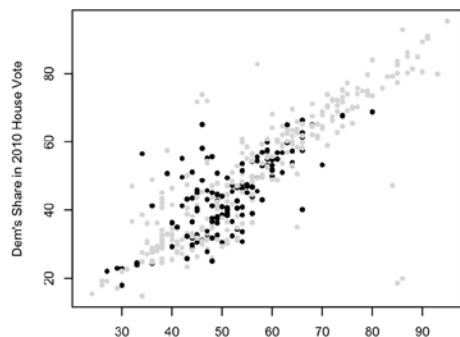
Freedomworks



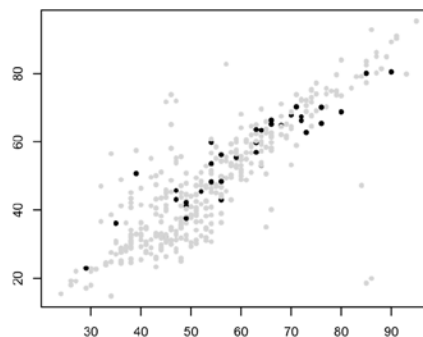
Sarah Palin



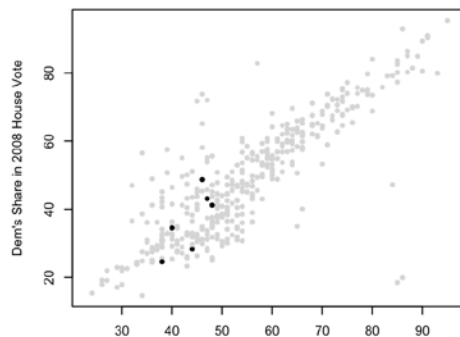
Tea Party Express



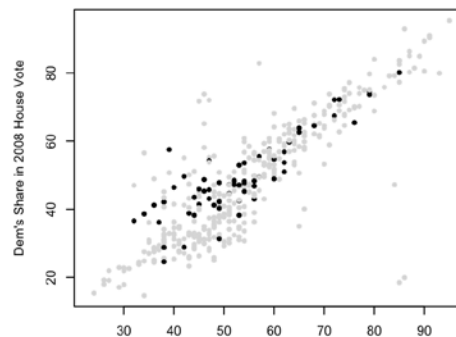
Independence Caucus



Boston Tea Party



Local Organizations



Obama's 2008 Share in the District

Obama's 2008 Share in the District



	(1)	(2)	(3)
Number of Candidates	-2.63** (0.25)	-2.70** (0.25)	-2.49** (0.22)
Incumbent	41.36** (2.03)	42.43** (2.02)	43.91** (1.82)
Obama '08 Vote Share in District	0.20** (0.05)	0.20** (0.05)	0.15** (0.04)
Tea Party Express	15.57** (3.00)		
Sarah Palin		15.61** (3.18)	
Contract from America			20.92** (1.37)
Intercept	29.23 (3.03)	29.49 (3.03)	28.31 (2.74)
Adjusted R-squared	0.46	0.46	0.56

Republican Primary Candidate Vote Share Model



Survey Analysis

- Colorado Republican Primary
 - Ken Buck vs. Jane Norton
- Utah Republican Convention
 - Mike Lee or Tim Bridgewater vs. Robert Bennett



Tea Party Questions

- Favorability: Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the political movement known as the Tea Party?
- Supporter: Do you consider yourself to be an active supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?
 - Asked of Supporters: Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following:
 - Given money to any organization associated with the Tea Party movement.
 - Attended a rally or meeting held by any organization associated with the Tea Party movement.
 - Took any other active steps to support the Tea Party movement, either in person or through email or on the internet.



Levels of Support are Very High Among Republican Participants in Nomination Process

- Utah
 - 86% favorable (47% “strongly”)
 - 43% “active supporters”
 - 92% voted for candidate other than Robert Bennett
- Colorado
 - 83% favorable (52% “strongly”)
 - 40% “active supporters”
 - 64% voted for Ken Buck



	Utah	Colorado
Strong Conservative	1.81** (0.66)	0.61 (0.48)
Moderate Conservative	0.68 (0.65)	-0.31 (0.44)
Strong Republican	-1.10** (0.27)	0.18 (0.30)
Weak Republican	-1.00** (0.33)	0.08 (0.36)
Male	0.06 (0.22)	0.50* (0.25)
White	-1.00 (0.66)	-0.13 (0.44)
Tea Party Active Supporter	1.60** (0.23)	0.65* (0.26)
Intercept	4.70 (1.18)	0.07 (1.04)
Pseudo R-squared	0.22	0.08
Log Likelihood	-384.15	-208.18
N	871	328

Logit Model for Two Tea Party Candidate Nominations

Not Shown (and not sig.): Age,
Education, Income, Religion,
and Previous Convention
Experience (Utah only)



Models of Tea Party Favorability vs. Active Support

	Coeff.	Std. Error	P value		Coeff.	Std. Error	P value
Strong Conservative	2.69	0.13	***	Strong Conservative	1.50	0.12	***
Moderate Conservative	2.15	0.11	***	Moderate Conservative	0.56	0.10	***
Strong Republican	0.39	0.12	***	Strong Republican	-0.16	0.11	
Weak Republican	0.33	0.14	**	Weak Republican	-0.30	0.13	**
Gender (Male)	0.01	0.08		Gender (Male)	0.02	0.07	
Income	-0.01	0.02		Income	-0.02	0.02	
Education	-0.11	0.04	***	Education	0.07	0.04	*
Age	0.00	0.00		Age	0.00	0.00	
Born Again	0.03	0.11		Born Again	-0.02	0.10	
Church Attendance	0.02	0.04		Church Attendance	0.05	0.03	
Race (White)	0.07	0.12		Race (White)	-0.24	0.11	**
Intercept	2.15	0.31	***	Constant	0.00	0.28	
Adjusted R-squared	0.66			Adjusted R-squared	0.29		



Conclusions

- Not too much of a Tea Party effect in the general election—if they vote, they are going to vote Republican anyway...
- Serious effects in the nomination stage (with general election implications)
- Measurement differences speak to the uneasiness of the coalition between the party and the social movement