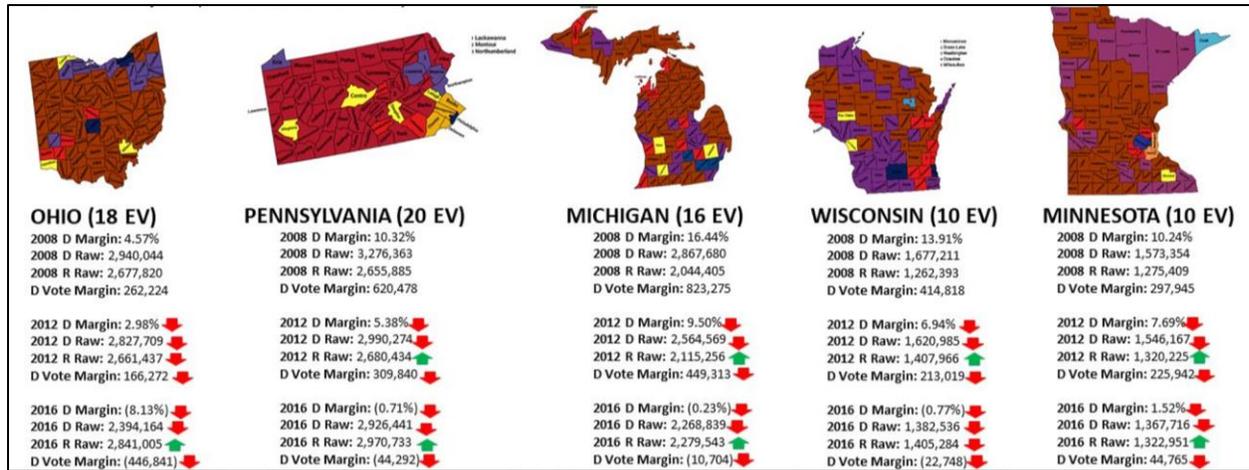


Improbable Voting Trend Reversals in Michigan

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Opening

Since President Obama swept through the Midwest (“Rust Belt”) region in 2008, winning Pennsylvania by 10 percent, Michigan by 16 percent, and Wisconsin by 14 percent, the Democratic Party has declined steadily in all successive Presidential elections in not only share of the vote, but in raw votes overall, without exception (pending the final results of the 2020 election). Pennsylvania is the only state mentioned in this paragraph which registers voters by party, and it has trended three percentage points in favor of Republicans since the 2016 election. The raw vote trends and results in these three states, plus Ohio and Minnesota, are pictured below.



These trends show the Democrats losing raw votes in every election since 2008, with the Republicans gaining in eight of 10 samples, and with the margins moving in favor of Republicans each time. This is a product of limited or stagnant population growth in these states, which given stable turnout numbers, means one party is typically going down if another is going up. In fast-growing states such as Florida, Texas, or Arizona, it should be expected for both parties to make substantial gains in a “horse race” scenario.

Michigan

President Obama’s margin of victory in Michigan from 2008 fell from 16.44% to 9.50% in his reelection campaign, and that margin moved 9.73% toward Republicans in 2016 as the working-class communities that historically favored Democrats moved to support then-candidate Donald Trump. Declining voting power from Wayne County in 2012 and 2016 was an instrumental part of this shift, as well as the shifts toward Republicans in Detroit collar counties Monroe and Macomb that began in 2012 and accelerated in 2016.

The consistent characteristic in the shift in Michigan’s political landscape is the declining Democratic Party raw vote totals, and the increasing Republican totals. Thus far, according to the Decision Desk unofficial vote tally, President Trump is substantially adding to his vote totals in every Michigan County, while his opponent adds votes at a greater percentage, often in counties that have trended steadily away from Democrats since at least 2008. The following counties, which have mostly lost Democratic votes since 2008, have now contributed more Biden votes than Obama received in 2008, when he won the state by 16.44%. Green font represents growth in raw votes. Red font represents decrease in raw votes.

County	Rep '08	Dem '08	Rep '12	Dem '12	Rep '16	Dem '16	Rep '20	Dem '20	Dem Percentage of Obama 2008 Votes
Ottawa	83,330	50,828	88,166	42,737	88,467	44,973	100,511	64,566	127.0%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	5.8%	(15.9%)	0.3%	5.2%	13.6%	43.6%	

Kent	148,336	149,909	155,925	133,408	148,180	138,683	165,318	186,753	124.6%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	5.1%	(11.0%)	(5.0%)	4.0%	11.6%	34.7%	

Gd. Trav.	24,716	23,258	26,534	20,875	27,413	20,965	30,502	28,632	123.1%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	7.4%	(10.2%)	3.3%	0.4%	11.3%	36.6%	

Washtenaw	53,946	130,578	56,412	120,890	50,631	128,483	56,241	157,130	120.3%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	4.6%	(7.4%)	(10.2%)	6.3%	11.1%	22.3%	

Antrim	7,506	6,079	7,917	5,107	8,469	4,448	9,783	7,289	119.9%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	5.5%	(16.0%)	7.0%	(12.9%)	15.5%	63.9%	

Leelanau	6,938	7,355	7,483	6,576	7,239	6,774	7,915	8,793	119.6%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	7.9%	(10.6%)	(3.3%)	3.0%	9.3%	29.8%	

Oakland	276,956	372,566	296,514	349,002	289,203	343,070	325,916	433,982	116.5%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	7.1%	(6.3%)	(2.5%)	(1.7%)	12.7%	26.5%	

Livingston	55,592	42,349	60,083	37,216	65,680	34,384	76,980	48,218	113.9%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	8.1%	(12.1%)	9.3%	(7.6%)	17.2%	40.2%	

Emmet	9,314	8,515	10,253	7,225	10,616	6,972	12,135	9,662	113.5%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	10.1%	(15.1%)	3.5%	(3.5%)	14.3%	38.6%	

Keweenaw	756	610	774	582	814	527	862	672	110.2%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	2.4%	(4.6%)	5.2%	(9.5%)	5.9%	27.5%	

Clinton	19,726	20,005	20,650	18,191	21,636	16,492	25,095	21,963	109.8%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	4.7%	(9.1%)	4.8%	(9.3%)	16.0%	33.2%	

Kalamazoo	51,554	77,051	52,662	69,051	51,034	67,148	56,283	83,674	108.6%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	2.1%	(10.4%)	(3.1%)	(2.8%)	10.3%	24.6%	

Marquette	12,906	19,635	13,606	18,115	14,646	16,042	16,288	20,465	104.2%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	5.4%	(7.7%)	7.6%	(11.4%)	11.2%	27.6%	

Houghton	8,101	7,476	8,196	6,801	8,475	6,018	10,380	7,755	103.4%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	1.2%	(9.0%)	3.4%	(11.5%)	22.5%	28.9%	

Eaton	25,900	30,742	26,197	27,913	27,609	24,938	31,798	31,299	101.8%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	1.1%	(9.2%)	5.4%	(10.6%)	15.2%	25.5%	

Charlevoix	7,306	6,817	8,000	5,939	8,674	5,137	9,841	6,939	101.8%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	9.5%	(12.9%)	8.4%	(13.5%)	13.5%	35.1%	

Allegan	30,061	24,165	31,123	20,806	34,183	18,050	41,381	24,447	101.2%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	3.5%	13.9%	9.8%	(13.2%)	21.1%	35.4%	

Macomb	187,663	223,784	191,913	208,016	224,665	176,317	264,535	225,561	100.8%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	2.3%	(7.0%)	17.1%	(15.2%)	17.8%	27.9%	

Benzie	4,687	5,451	5,075	4,685	5,539	4,108	6,600	5,480	100.5%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	8.3%	(14.1%)	9.1%	(12.3%)	19.2%	33.4%	

Ingham	46,483	93,994	45,306	80,847	43,868	79,110	47,640	94,221	100.2%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	(2.5%)	(14.0%)	(3.2%)	(2.1%)	8.6%	19.1%	
OTHER NOTABLE COUNTIES									
Wayne	228,993	660,085	213,814	595,846	228,993	519,444	264,149	587,074	88.9%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	(6.6%)	(9.7%)	7.1%	(12.8%)	15.4%	13.0%	

Saginaw	42,225	60,276	42,720	54,381	45,496	44,396	50,785	51,088	84.8%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	1.1%	(9.8%)	6.5%	(18.4%)	11.6%	15.1%	

Muskegon	29,145	53,821	30,884	44,436	36,127	37,304	44,544	45,508	84.6%
% Increase	N/A	N/A	6.0%	(17.4%)	17.0%	(16.1%)	23.3%	15.1%	

Findings

The most suspicious counties are those that showed two consecutive elections trending upward for the Republican candidate and downward for the Democratic candidate. These show a similar pattern to counties in Pennsylvania trending heavily Republican in registration, with a significant increase for President Trump in raw votes in 2020, but a smaller than expected margin due to an unexpected sharp reversal of votes for Biden in counties showing inverse trends for parties in recent elections. The only counties in this list not fitting the “two cycles downward, sudden reversal” trajectory are Ottawa, Kent, Washtenaw, and Leelanau.

Washtenaw and Ingham Counties are associated with major universities, with student turnout thought to be reaching record lows due to campus shutdowns and lack of mobilization. Those counties are 20.3% and 0.2% over 2008 Obama levels, when that candidate drew record support from young voters. These counties should be audited significantly, particularly for mail and absentee ballot fraud.

In suburban counties Kent, Livingston, Ottawa, and Grand Traverse, despite President Trump’s considerable vote growth, Biden has over 34.7% vote growth in all four, despite already large populations that should make such an increase in support for one candidate in a single cycle extremely difficult. Oakland County added 90,912 votes for Biden in a single cycle (26.5%) after decreasing steadily for two consecutive elections after Obama’s first run. All these counties should be fully audited and examined for mail fraud and electronic vote theft.

Despite ranking 81st in the state in percentage increase in voter registrations, Wayne County increased its share of Democratic votes by 13.0%, even as President Trump increased by 15.4% while supposedly securing a higher share of minority votes than any Republican since 1960. This Biden total, while reduced from Obama’s initial run, is nearly equal to Obama’s 2012 re-election performance and reverses two consecutive cycles of raw vote loss, in spite of a steadily decreasing population. Strangely, Detroit’s turnout dwarfs other regional counterparts like

Cleveland, Gary, and Indianapolis. This county is reported to have had many flagrant abuses of transparency regulations and is also known to have reported its results at 4:30 a.m. without observers present.

Bay County added just 76 Democratic voters, making it the only county within five percent of its 2016 Democratic vote share (0.2% increase). It may be worthwhile to investigate why a county of substantial size failed to match the sharp increase seen in the focus group of counties shown above, which includes counties President Trump won handily, that have shown an inverse party support trend, and which greatly increased in number of Trump votes in 2020, even with the obvious data irregularities.

All counties showing two consecutive cycles of inverse party trend (Republican up twice, Democrat down twice), with Democrats substantially up this year, may be subject to counting errors, or “glitches,” like those reported in Antrim County. These voting machines and their associated software should be audited and examined by coding professionals, especially if the recent newsworthy events regarding corrupted voting software are widespread.

The entire vote in Michigan is suspect against historical trends and should be subject to recanvass and audit, not just a recount of hundreds of thousands of illegal ballots. It appears that the major case in the state is that in spite of substantially growing his vote share in strong-Trump counties, and surging in votes in urban and suburban counties, Trump’s margin is substantially limited, even after two consecutive inverse party trends. In urban or suburban areas, Democratic vote share is soaring to record numbers, even over Obama’s totals after a 16.44% win, all while Trump surges in votes in those counties as well. Urban areas have issues with transparency and should be fully audited for mail and absentee fraud.