



The University of Chicago
Department of Statistics

MASTER'S THESIS PRESENTATION

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**A Statistical Approach to Presidential Election
Marriage Gap**

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ABSTRACT

What do people vote as they do on Election Day? The question has been long bothering generations of scholars and public policy makers. One of the most interesting phenomenon is that if only married or unmarried people had voted in the U.S. presidential elections, results would have been very different. The Marriage Gap is defined as the difference between the proportion of married and unmarried respondents who vote for the Democratic Party candidate. Oftentimes overlooked because of its insignificance in the 70s and 80s, the marriage gap is now very important for two reasons: first, with the dramatic decline of marriage rate, more single voters are entering the polls. Second, the marriage gap has grown to 19% in 2008, surprisingly even outrunning the income gap between the rich and the poor at 13%. In this paper we will use several linear models and a GLM to explore this issue with 2008 presidential election data.

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