Distributive Politics and Electoral Cycles in the American Political System, 2004-2006

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Presentation Overview

- Overview of Distributive Politics and Definition
- Previous Research/Studies on the Subject
- Research Question, Data, and Methodology
- 2004 Battleground & Non-Battleground States Map
- Bar Charts
- Linear Regression
- Conclusions and Thoughts for Modification/Improvement

Distributive Politics

- Definition: Policy of determining who gets what, when, and how much
- Grants:
  - Project
  - Formula
  - Block

Previous Research

Historical Basis:

Wallis, J. J. 1987. Politics and Economic Recovery During the Great Depression. *Review of Economics and Statistics Vol. 69, No.3 (August)*, 516-520.

Impact of the President:

Shor, B. 2003. Presidential Power and Distributive Politics: Federal Expenditures in the 50 States, 1983-2001. *Midwest Political Science Association* (pp. 1-41). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Congressional Appropriations:

Kiewiet, D. R., & McCubbins, M. D. 1985. Congressional Appropriations and the Electoral Connection. *American Journal of Political Science 47 (February)*, 59-82.
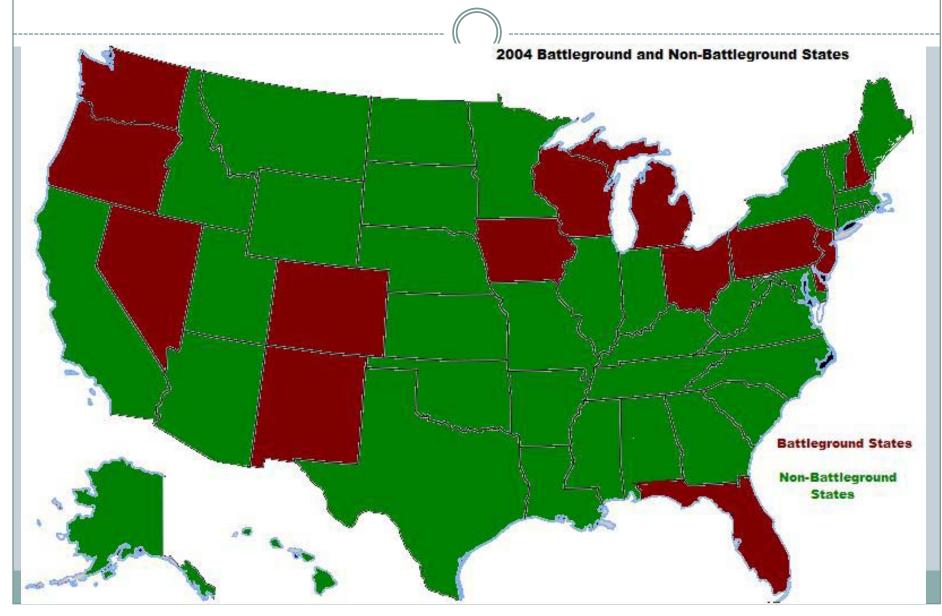
Data & Methodology

Data:

- Grants (Project, Block, and Formula)
- US House of Representatives and US Senate (political party, delegation, and control)
- John Kerry's Vote Percentage (2004)
- State populations, percentage of Black and Latino residents in a particular state, median household income, and educational attainment
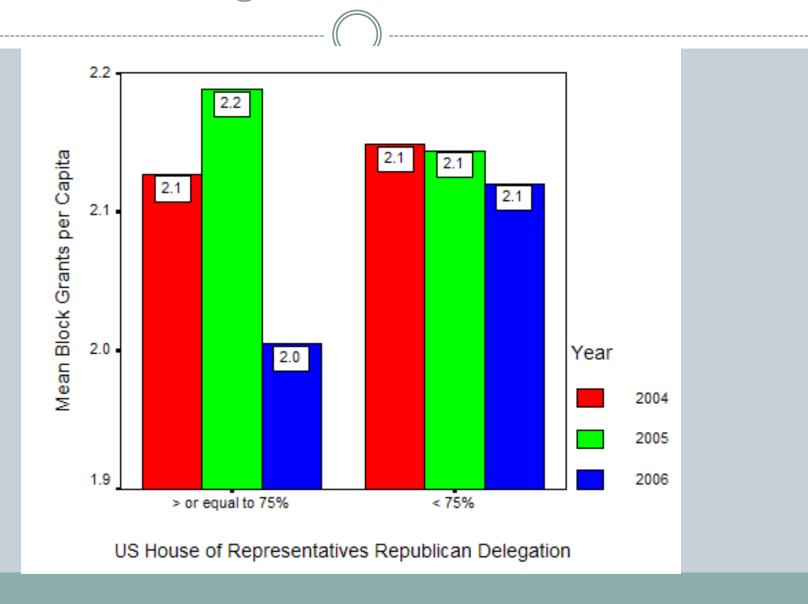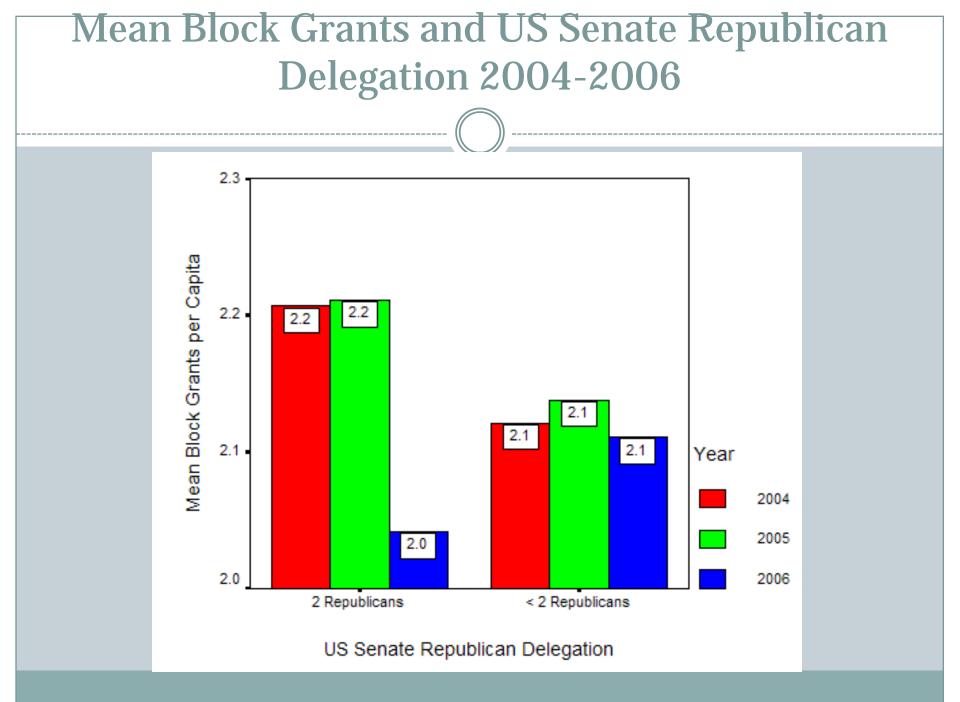
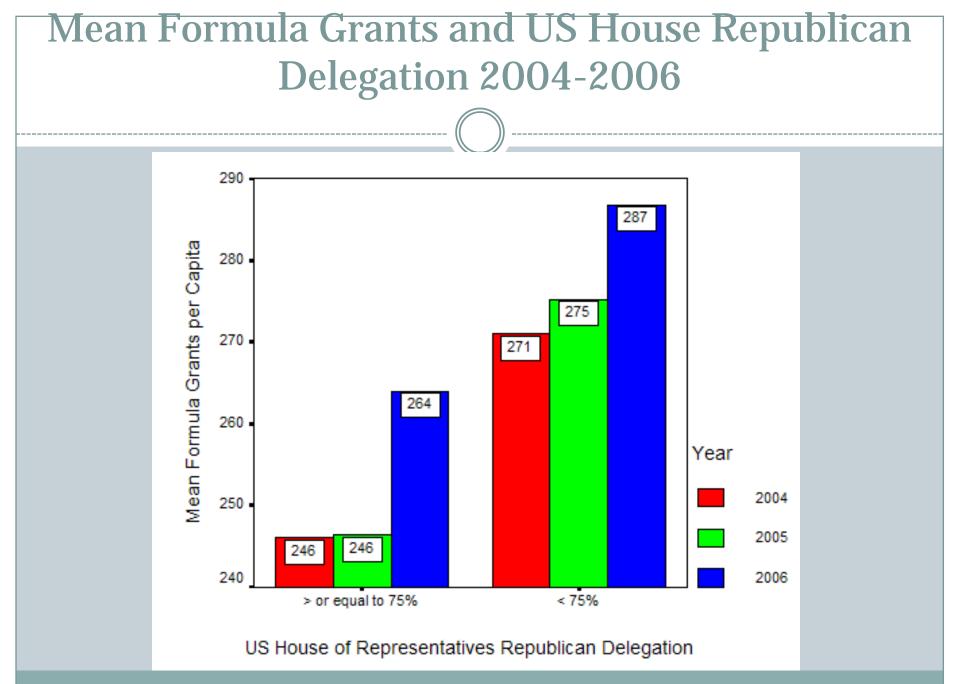**Methodology:**

- Map
- Bar Charts & Regression Analysis via SPSS

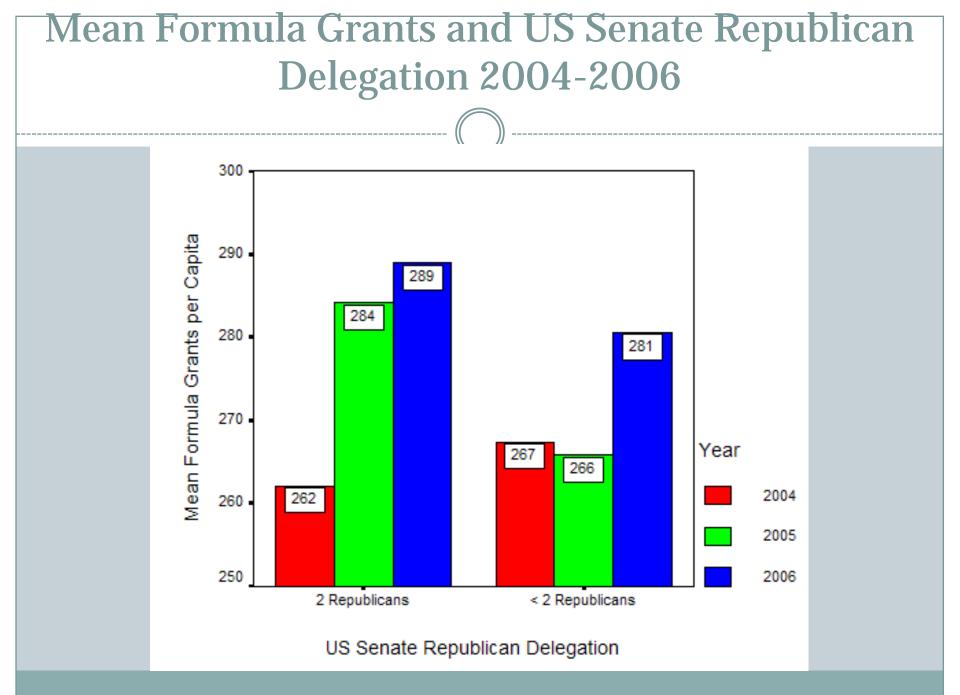# 2004 Presidential Election Battle and Non-Battleground States

2004 Battleground and Non-Battleground States

Battleground States

Non-Battleground States

Mean Block Grants and US House Republican Delegation 2004-2006

Mean Block Grants and US Senate Republican Delegation 2004-2006

Mean Formula Grants and US House Republican Delegation 2004-2006

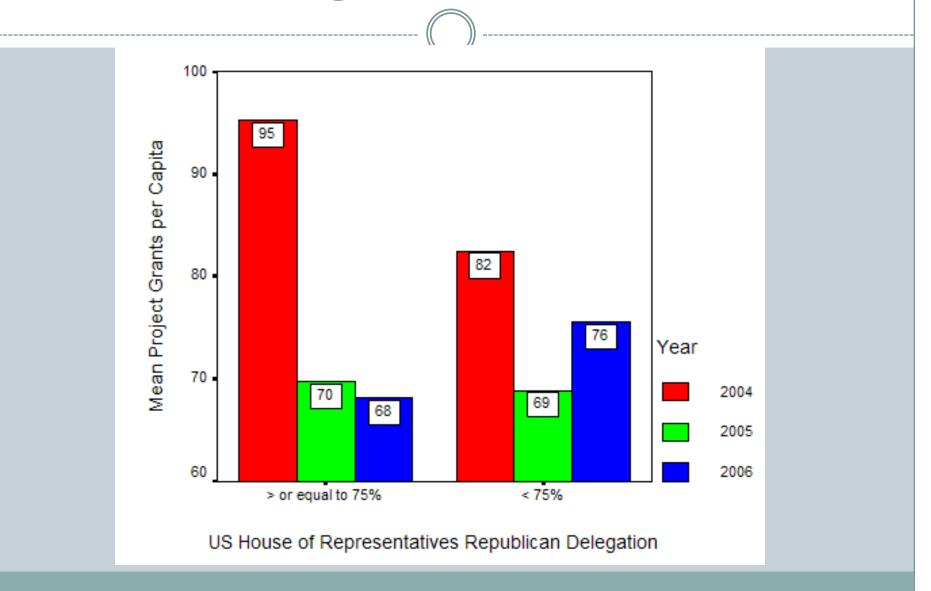# Mean Formula Grants and US Senate Republican Delegation 2004-2006
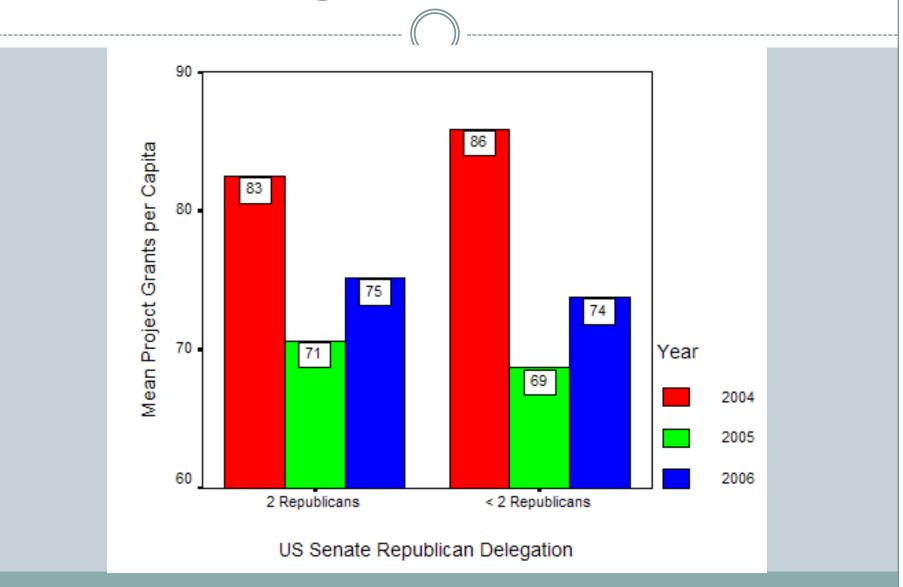
Mean Project Grants and US House Republican Delegation 2004-2006

Mean Project Grants and US Senate Republican Delegation 2004-2006

Linear Regression with Project Grants as Dependent Variable
R=.227 R-Squared=.052 Adjusted R-Squared=.037

Model	B	Standard Error	Beta	T	Sig.
Constant	59.135	30.453		1.942	.053
% Pop. w/bachelor deg.	-2.62	2.433	-.068	-1.079	.281
Median Income	2.842	.001	.179	2.837	.005
% Republican Control (House)	-27.883	10.863	-.117	-2.567	.011
% Latino	-.768	.426	-.075	-1.804	.072
% Black	.310	.493	.029	.629	.529
Battleground	-31.045	9.292	-.143	-3.341	.001
Senate Delegation	5.959	8.836	.029	.674	.500

Conclusions

- So…does distributive politics actually exist?

- Modifications to be made…