

A quick look at the June 2006 primary election results

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Here, I present several maps from the preliminary statement of vote for the June 2006 primary. I show turnout, the San Francisco measure results, and the results from the State Senate and State Assembly races. There are also a few demographic correlations to examine the results more closely, but these are kept relatively simple.

Since the results are from the preliminary statement of vote, the final results will be slightly different, but by very little. We have more than enough data for a quick analysis, and the vote proportions for the various measures and candidates will remain the same. This report is just meant to present the precinct results, examining some real cursory trends. This cannot easily take into account the strength of campaigns, targeting strategies, media outreach, and general voter marketing. Campaign workers who read this will likely glean more from the precinct results than I can. However, I will mention outreach strategies that may have affected the results where I know of them.

Turnout

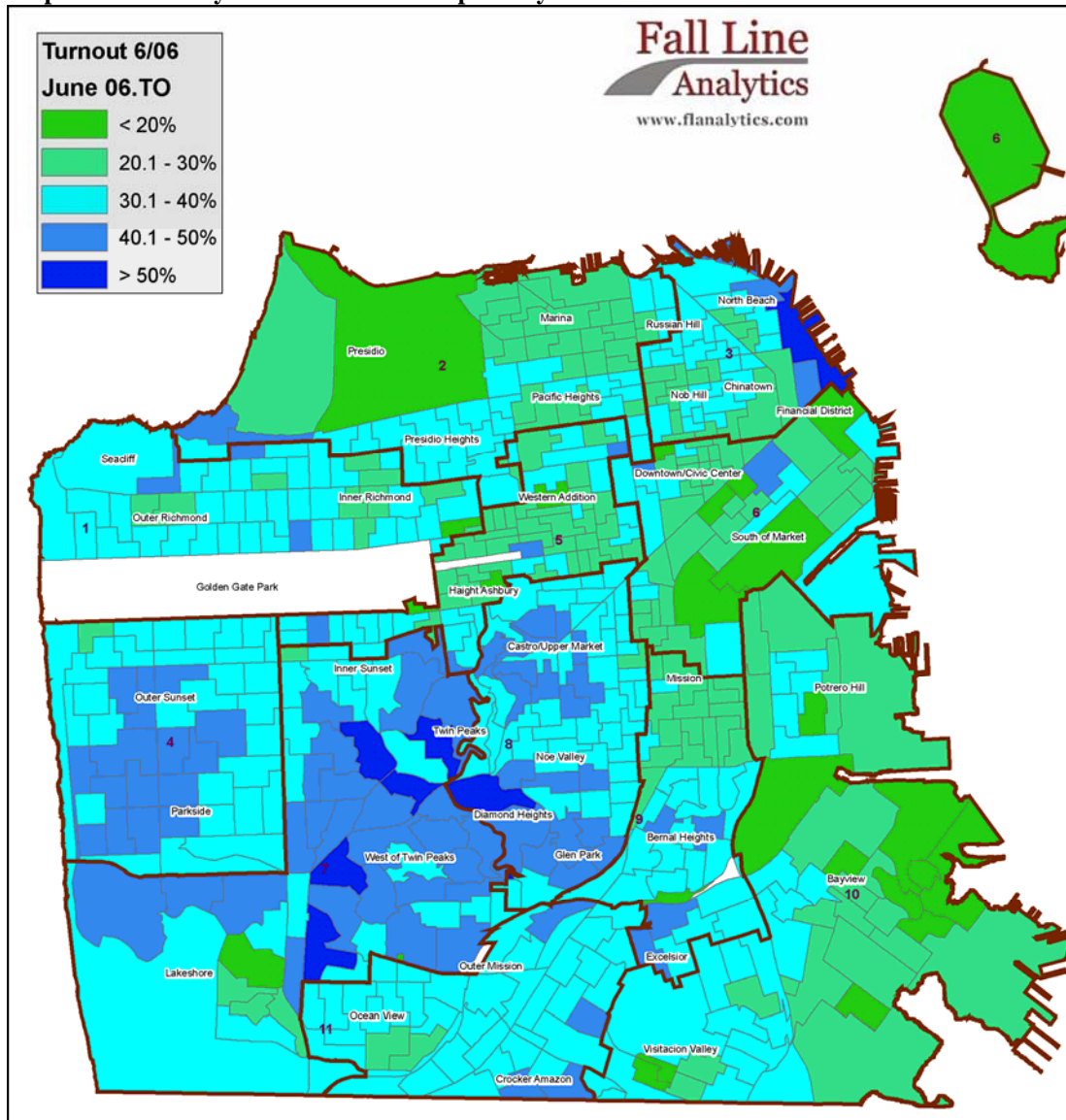
Turnout was quite low for this election, at around 37%. This isn't too surprising, given the fact this was a primary election. There was some speculation that turnout on the Westside would be higher due to the contested Assembly and Senate races. Qualitatively, at least, this appears to be true. Normally, D7 and D8 always have the highest turnout, and that's the case here. But, D1, 4, and 11—nearly all of which saw the Westside races - had a higher turnout than D3, 6, 9, 10. To really examine turnout correctly, though, one would have look at the average turnout from several past elections to establish a baseline of the difference between the eastern and western parts of the city.

Democratic turnout was around 43%. I don't show the map here, but the pattern looks similar to overall turnout, with the highest turnout concentrated in West of Twin Peaks (WoTP) and Diamond Heights. Because many people have considered the results "a bit more conservative than usual", it is important to note GOP turnout was the city average (38%) but Decline to State (DTS) turnout was extremely low (11% of DTS registered, and 9% of total ballots cast). Many people feel that the DTS portion of the electorate shades left, but Table 1 shows a pretty even distribution citywide. Thus, the low DTS turnout likely didn't have a profound overall impact on the election (but probably a small amount).

Table 1: Decline to State voters by District in San Francisco

District	DTS	District	DTS
5	12777	6	10617
4	12696	7	10278
1	11629	11	9407
8	11344	10	9222
2	11344	9	8615
3	11343		

Map 1: Preliminary turnout for the 6/06 primary

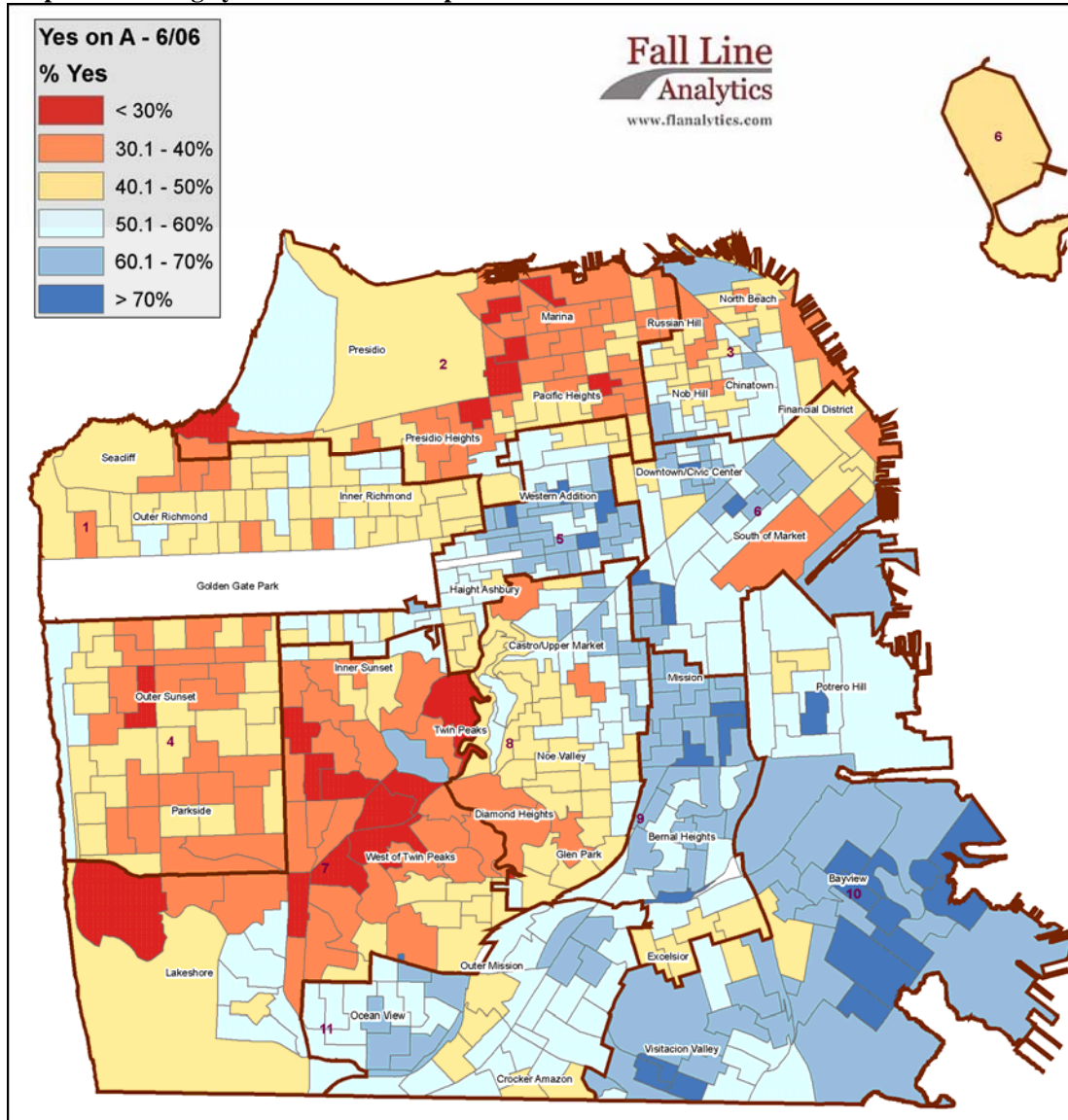


City Measures

Next, I show the precinct maps from the four citywide measures. I show a PVI correlation for A (\$10M for a homicide prevention council) and B (Ellis disclosure). I also show a homeowner correlation for B. No additional information is provided for C (Transbay Commission) and D (Laguna Honda). Note the color scales are the same for Props A through D.

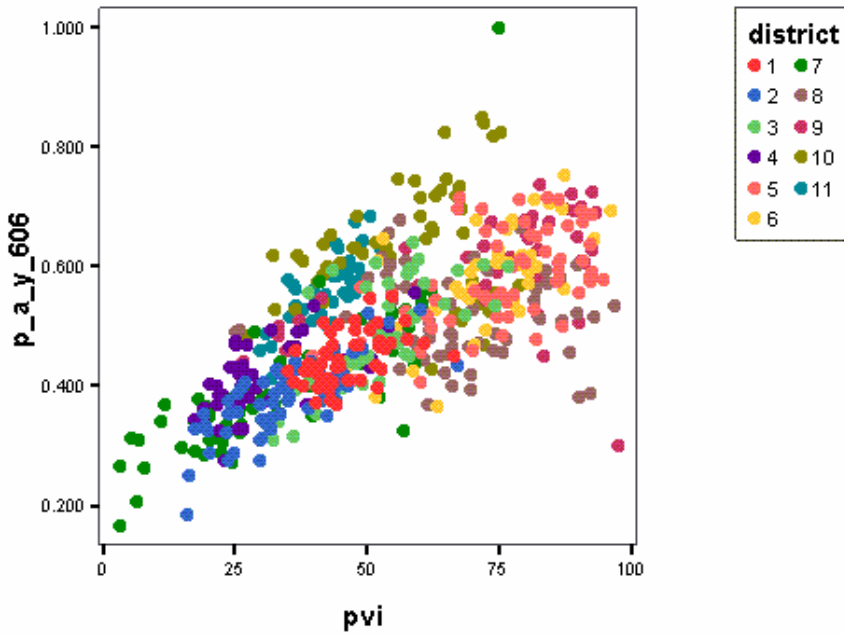
Map 2 shows the results from Prop A.

Map 2: Percentage yes on A: Homicide prevention council



The fact this lost (about 51-49%) surprised a lot of people, and is some indication of a more moderate turnout overall for the election. Yet, this didn't do well in a good chunk of D8 (especially southern, more liberal D8) and parts of liberal D3. Figure 1 shows a correlation of Yes on A with the Progressive Voter Index. Keep in mind lower PVI values are more conservative precincts. Note this did extremely well in Bayview/Hunters Point and the Western Addition, where homicides have been the biggest problem.

Figure 1: PVI vs. percentage yes on A. R^2 is 0.466.



The trend here shows a pretty standard left-right yes-no continuum. Interestingly, D8 is in the southeast quadrant, indicating it voted a bit more conservatively than usual. D8 saw a comprehensive targeting strategy from the LGBT clubs, including doorhanging and precinct walking to distribute various slate cards. The D8 results are especially surprising considering both Alice and Milk endorsed prop A.

Map 3 shows the results of Prop B, which won about 52-48%. Figures 2 and 3 display the yes percentage with precinct PVI and the percentage of owner-occupied housing units for each precinct.

Map 3: Percentage yes on B: Ellis disclosure

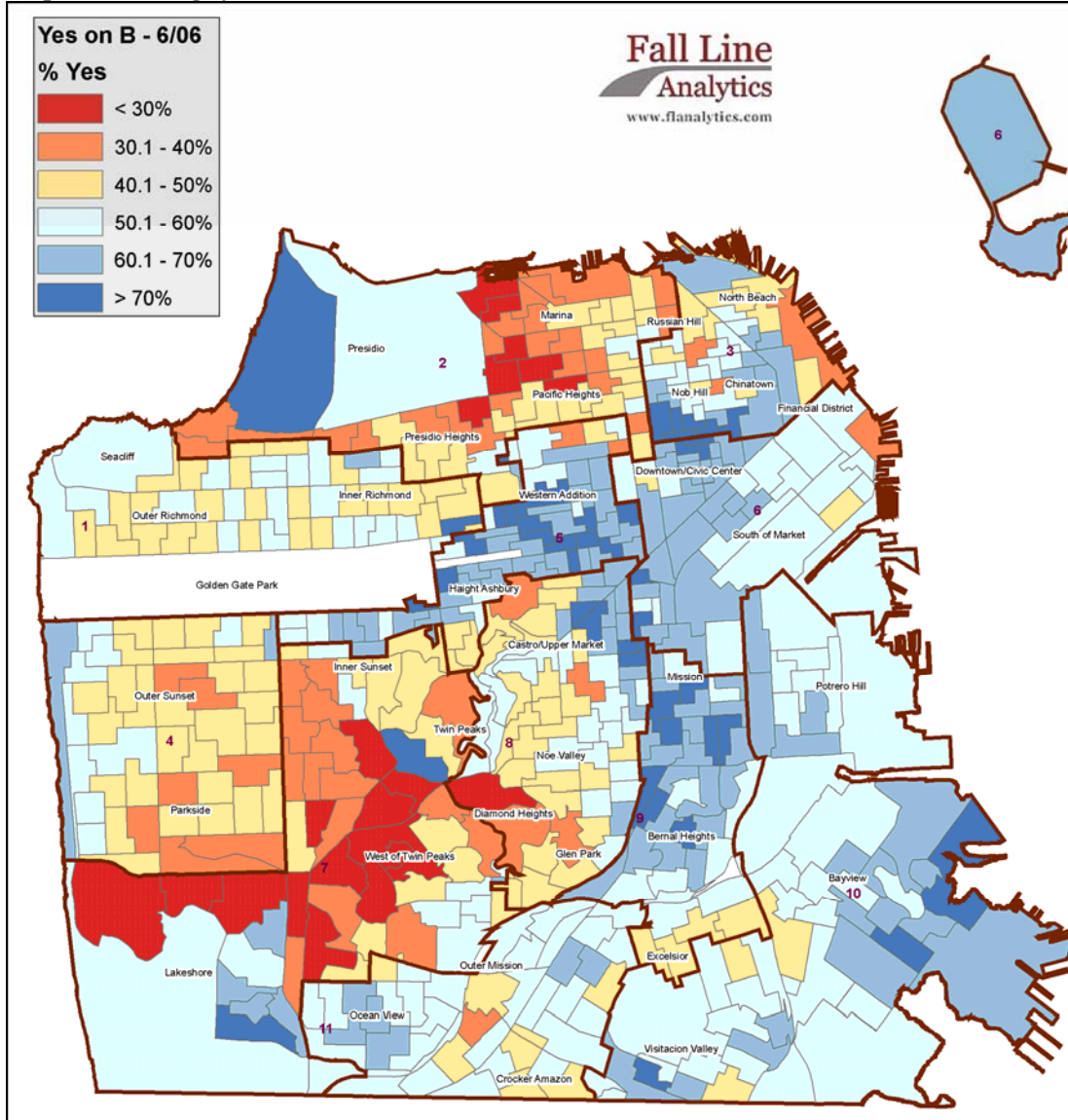


Figure 2: PVI vs. yes on B. R^2 is a strong 0.552.

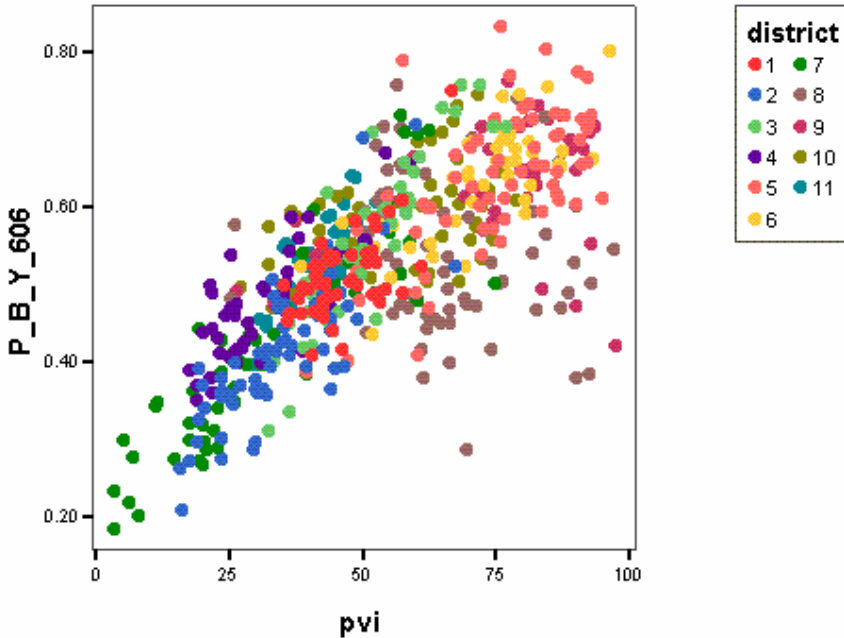
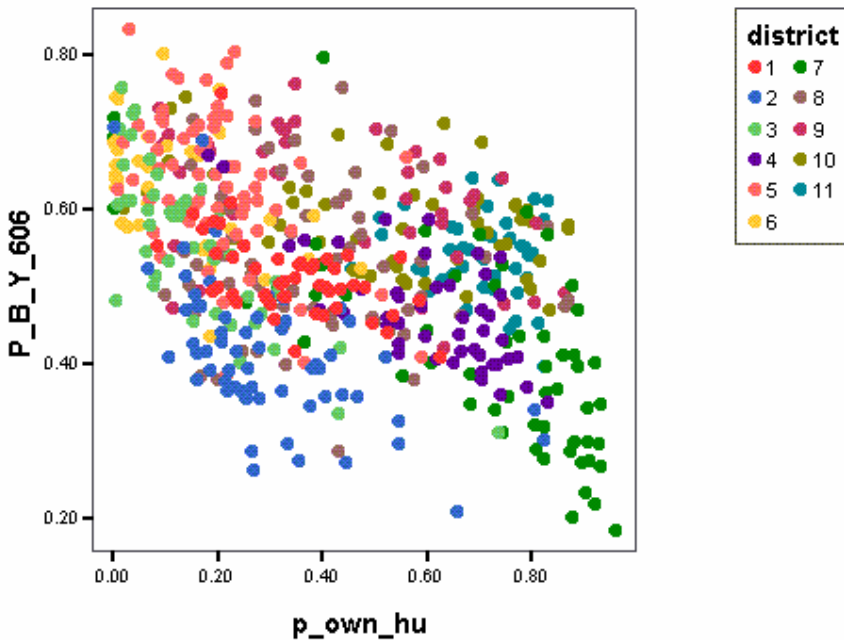


Figure 3: Homeownership vs. yes on B. R^2 is 0.231.

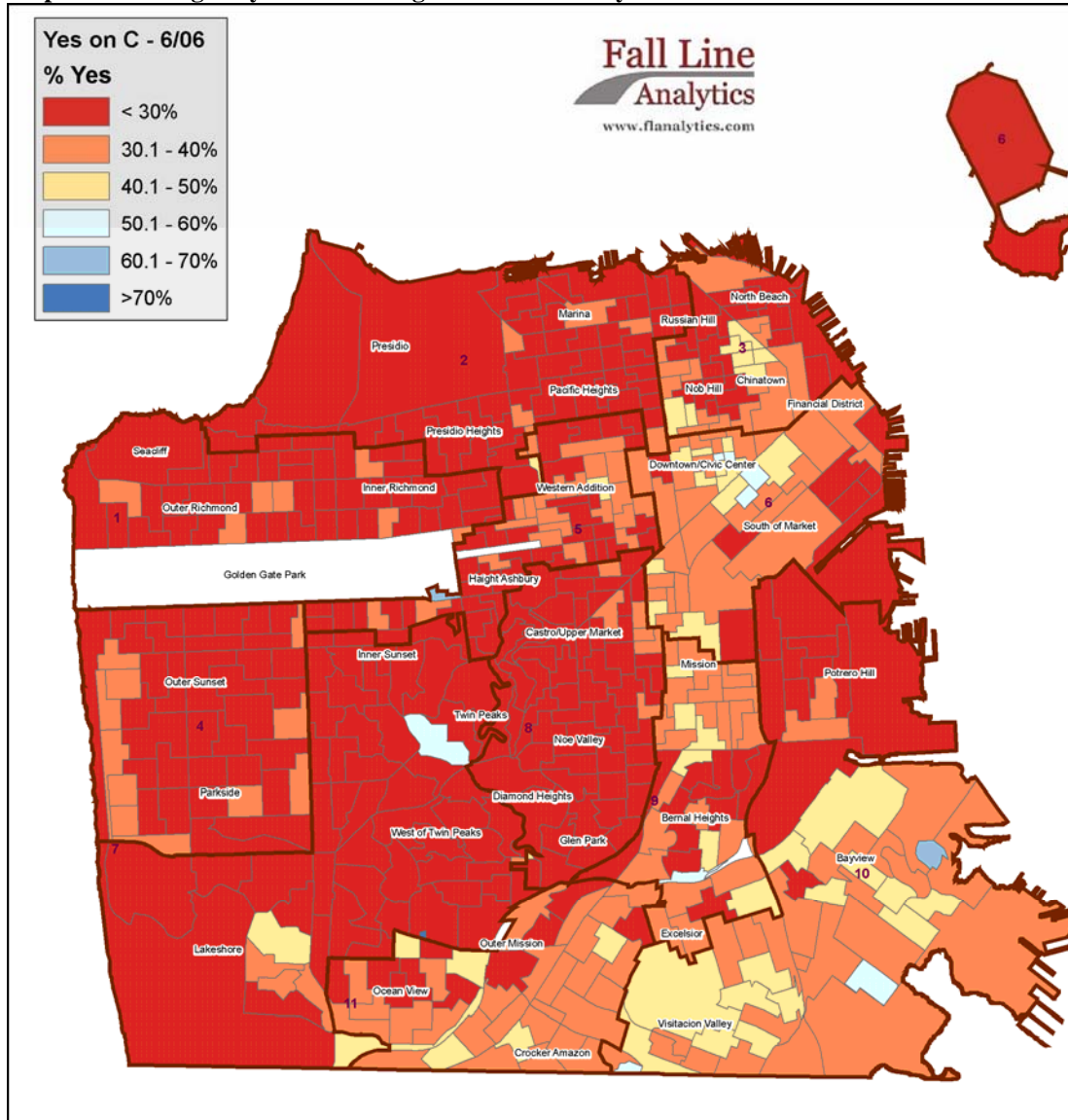


Given the renter to homeowner ratio is 2:1 in San Francisco, the yes percentage was much lower than anticipated. Without speculating the reasons for the slightly more conservative result, the PVI chart shows a pattern similar to Prop A. But, again, D8 is in the quadrant where it isn't usually found, indicating an atypical voting pattern. For the record, Alice took no position on B and Milk endorsed it, and we do see a common gradation from east to west in D8, with the Valencia corridor voting more liberally than the hill communities. The homeowner chart shows

a relatively strong and expected inverse pattern, though it is more diffuse than we often see on these issues. A lot of folks seemed divided on this one.

Map 4 shows the results from Prop C.

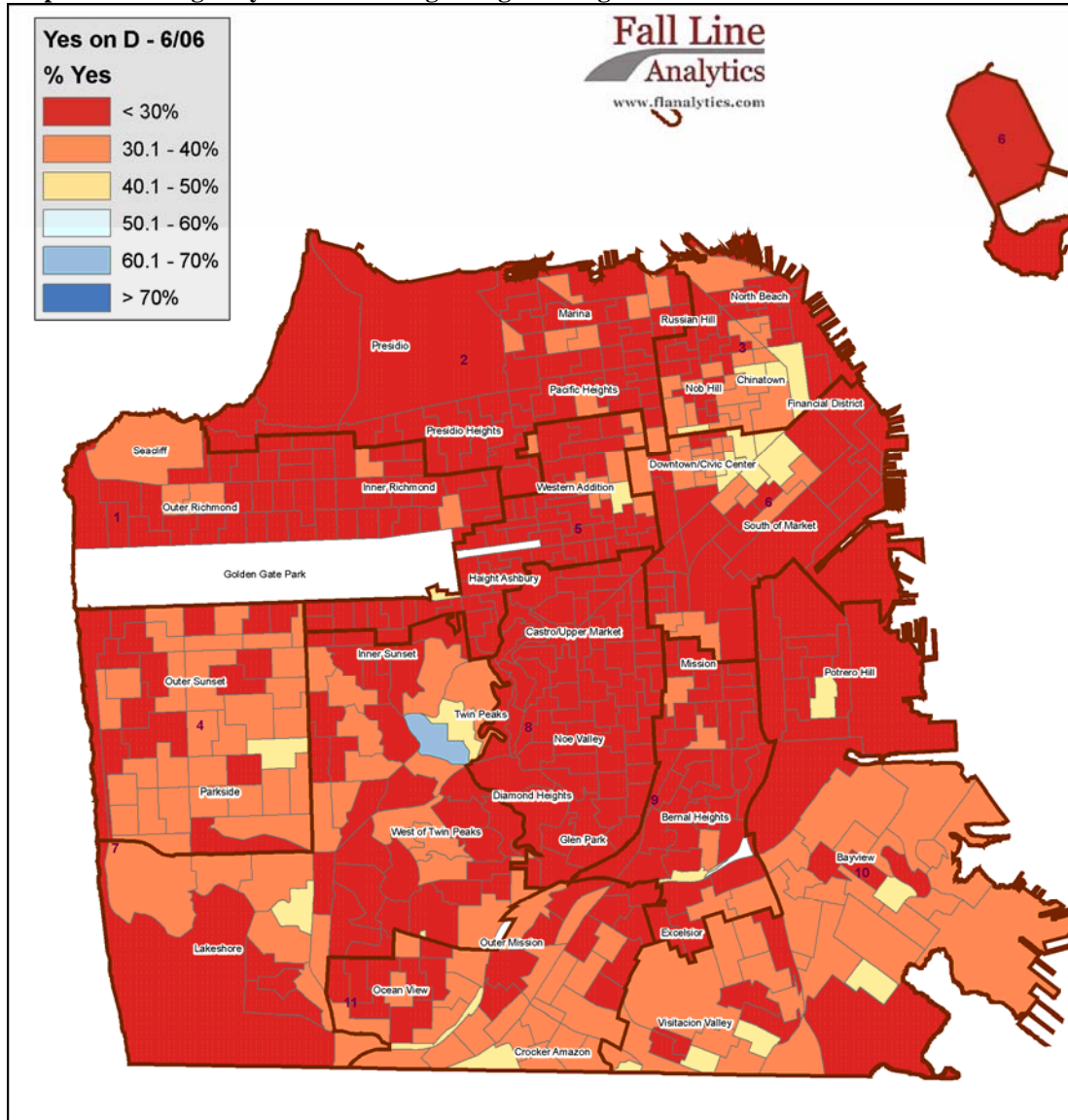
Map 4: Percentage of yes on C: changes to the Transbay commission



There's not much to say here, other than the only place C didn't do so badly was around SOMA, where the Transbay Terminal lies. However, this area is slightly to the west of the actual terminal is.

Map 5 shows the results from the contentious but ill-fated Prop D, changing the zoning laws around Laguna Honda.

Map 5: Percentage of yes on D: Zoning changes to Laguna Honda



As with Prop C, not much to talk about. The only precinct voting yes was Laguna Honda itself. Nearly every group in the city opposed this.

Candidate races

The next two maps show the results from the State Senate race, where Leland Yee won handily, and the Assembly race, where Fiona Ma defeated Janet Reilly. These maps are the same scale, and I show selected demographic analyses after each map. Taken together, it's no surprise that two Asian incumbents won on the Westside, even if they were running for different offices. The two races did have slightly different results patterns, though.

Map 6 shows the percentage yes for Yee, who won with 66% of the vote in San Francisco and 52% overall. Please note I only show the San Francisco portion of the results.

Map 6: Percentage for Leland Yee in State Senate race

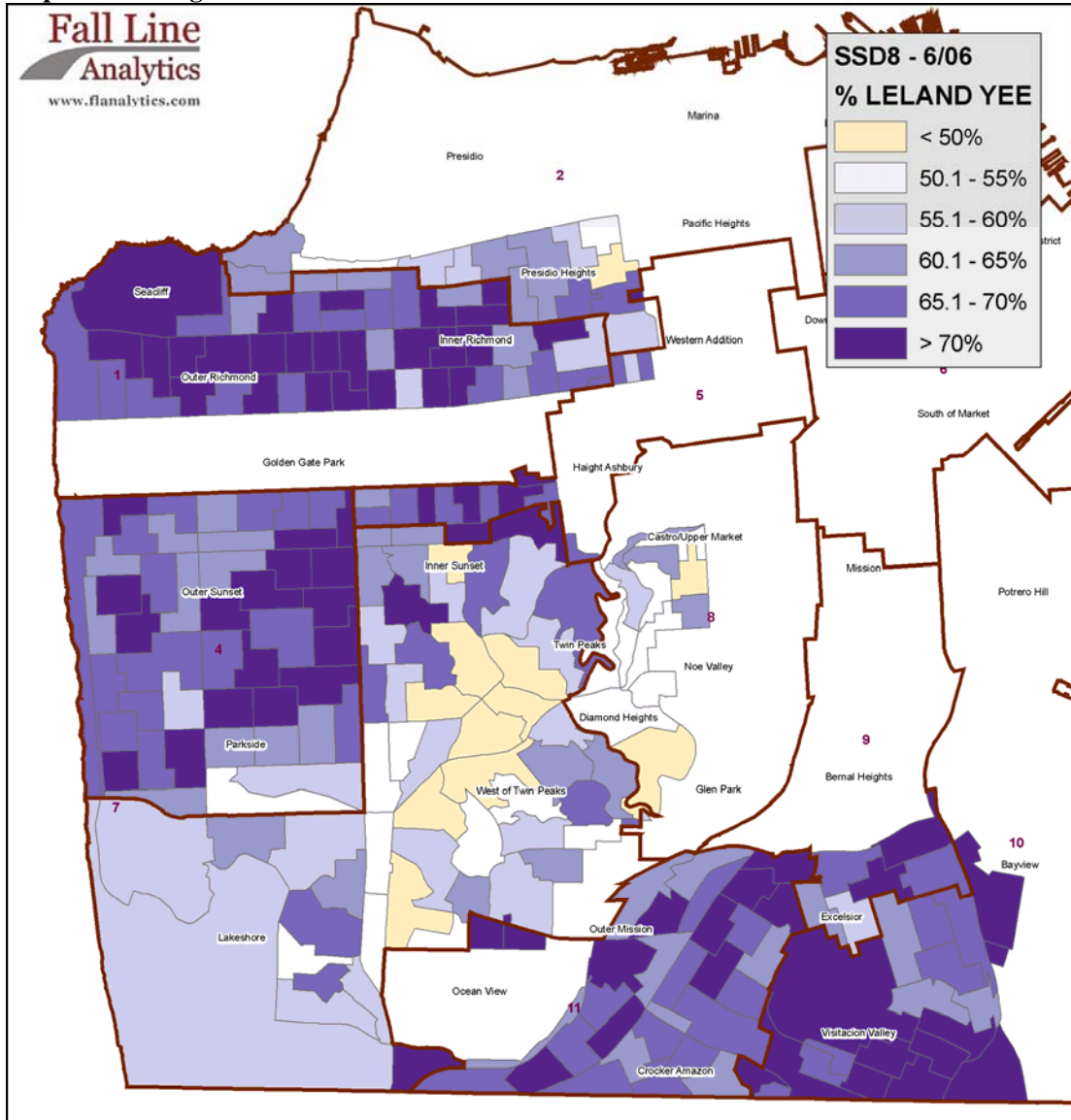
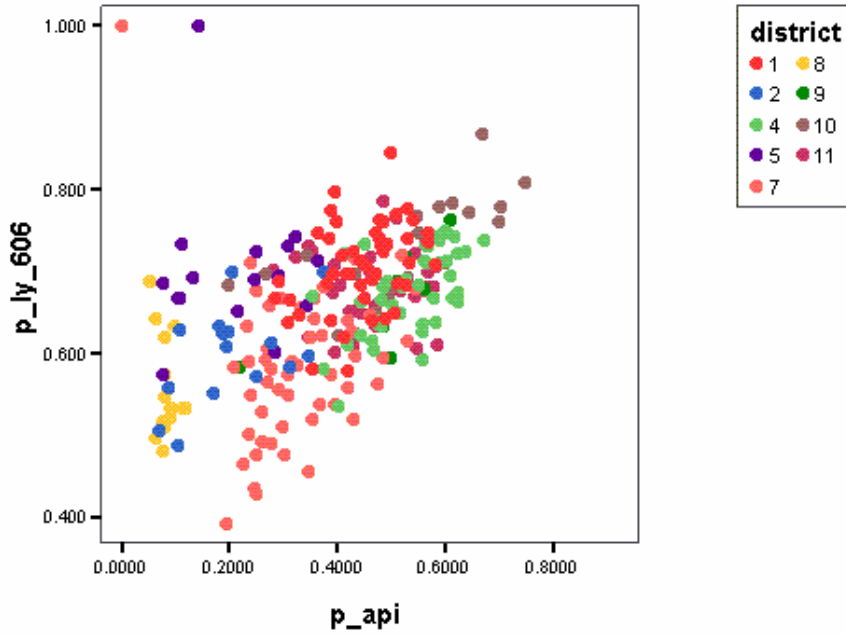


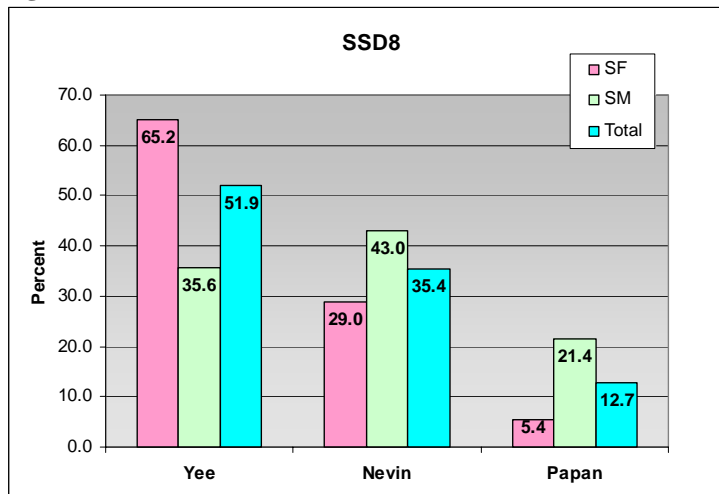
Figure 4: Asian population percentage vs. Leland Yee vote. R^2 is 0.214.



Yee did well through the district, and especially in parts of D1, D4, and D11. The correlation of Yee’s results with the Asian percentage shows a positive correlation (Figure 4), though the correlation seems to be strongest in D4 and D7. In D1 it doesn’t seem to matter as much. Yee’s opponents were two white men from San Mateo County, though both weren’t unknown in San Francisco. Mike Nevin was the better known of the two (the other was Lou Papan), as a former police officer and San Mateo Co. Supervisor.

Many people felt that Papan ran as spoiler for Mike Nevin, and while he undoubtedly took votes away from Nevin in San Mateo Co., it is unlikely Nevin would have won anyway. Figure 5 shows the county breakdown of the results. Yee did better than anticipated in San Mateo County, receiving around 36% of the vote, there. Even had Papan not run in the race, Nevin would have needed nearly all of Papan’s votes to win, and make a stronger showing in SF as well.

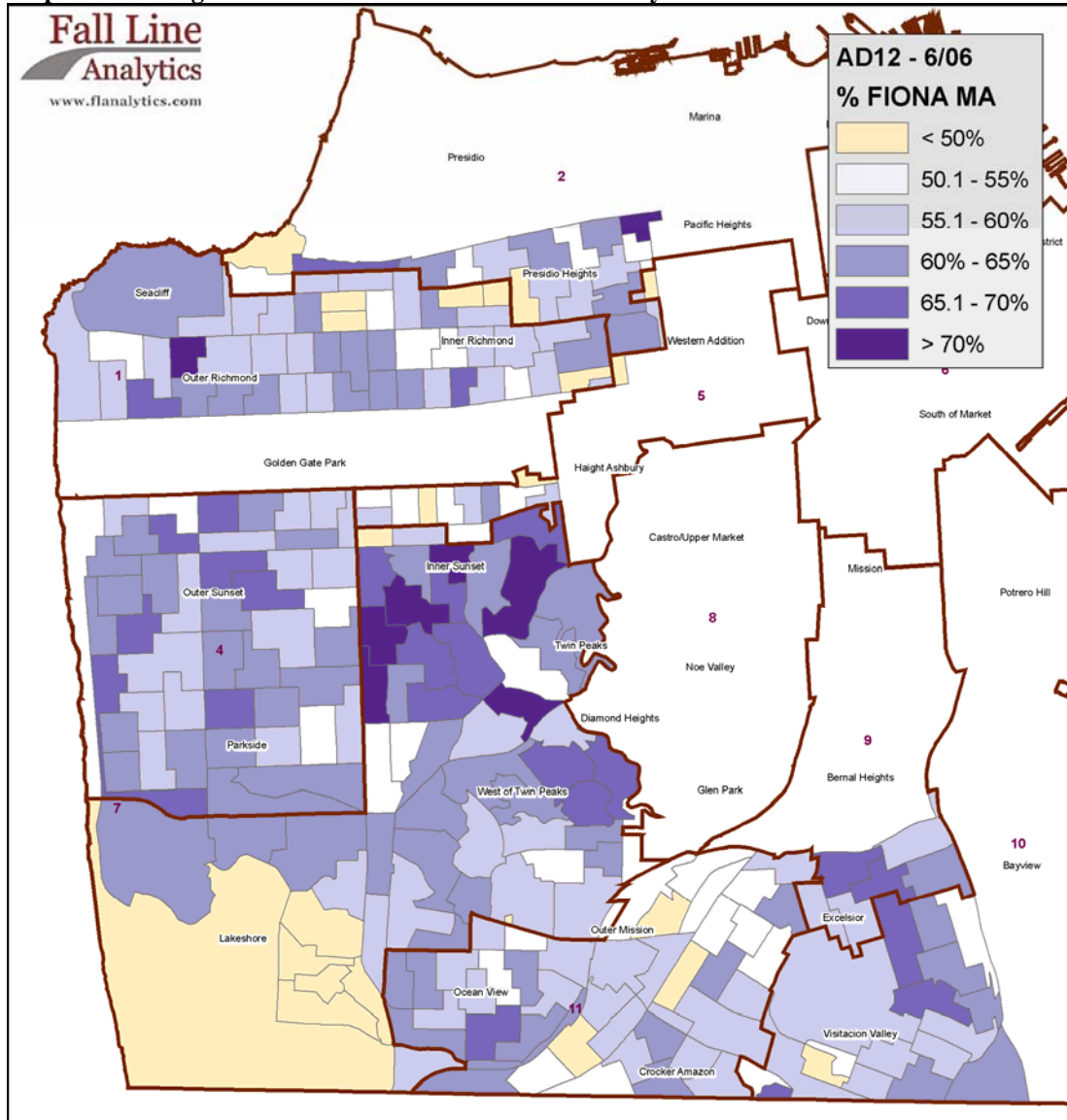
Figure 5: Distribution of votes in State Senate race



Map 7 shows the percentage for Fiona Ma in the State Assembly race, in which she won in San Francisco with 59% of the vote. This excludes the small San Mateo County portion in this race, in which Ma received 63% of the vote, but it was only a few thousand votes (~4200) total in the County.

Interestingly, the correlation between Ma and the Asian population per precinct was quite weak (Figure 6), but that may be due to the fact Ma did very well in the white parts of D7. It was pointed out to me right after the campaign that the race may have actually hinged more on homeowners than race. A basic correlation bears this out (Figure 7). Although the correlation with homeownership and Ma isn't great, it is indeed stronger than race.¹

Map 7: Percentage of votes for Fiona Ma in State Assembly race



¹ Credit Jim Ross for this observation.

Figure 6: Asian population percentage vs. Fiona Ma vote. R^2 is 0.045.

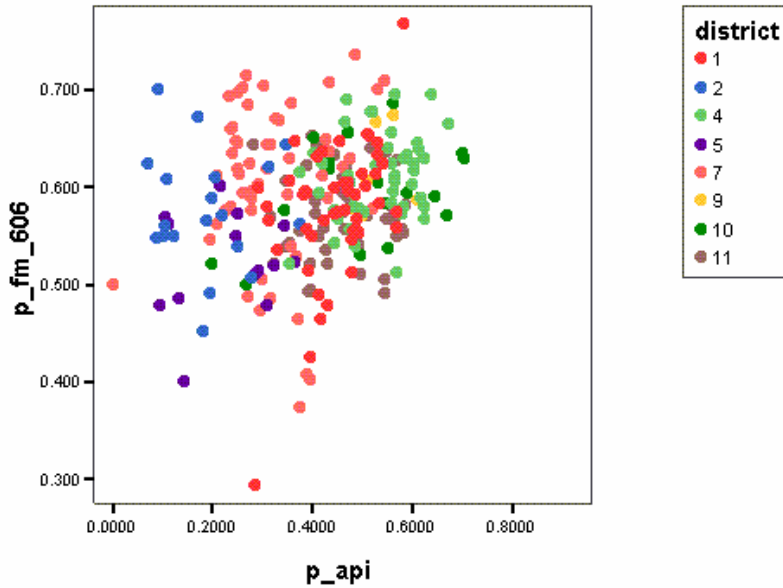
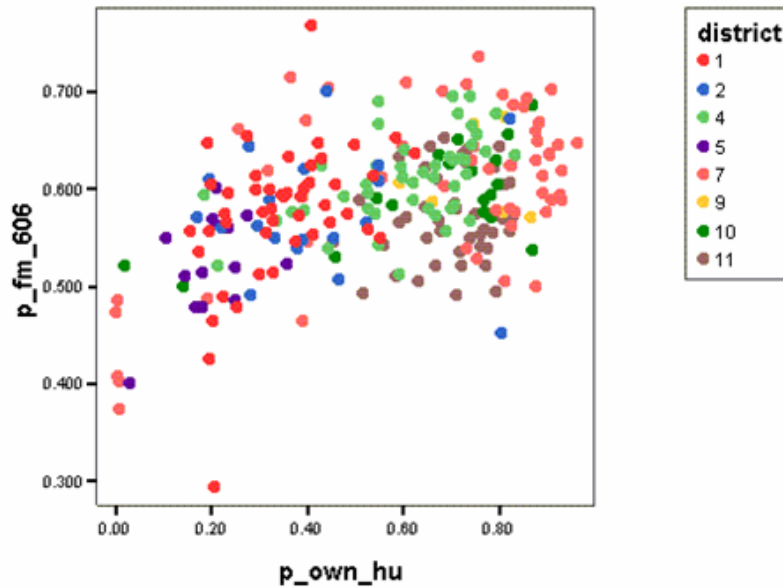


Figure 7: Homeownership vs. Fiona Ma vote. R^2 is 0.201.



Both the State Senate and State Assembly race received a lot of attention throughout the district, including mail, commercials, and volunteer time. Suffice to say these were highly publicized races. But, they were very different races. The correlation between precinct votes for Yee and for Ma show a scattered plot; thus, the correlation is weak (Figure 8). Voters separated these two races in their minds. Even filtering the Yee vs. Ma plot for precincts with a higher Asian population (>30%) shows a complete scatter ($R^2 = 0.005$), showing race—though important—was not the pivotal factor most folks thought it would be. Given this, it is likely that the power of name recognition played the crucial role in deciding the race. And if both candidates are well-known—then the incumbent will more than likely get the nod.

Figure 8: Correlation of Yee vs. Ma for Westside precincts. R2 is a very weak 0.024

