J. Gardner Thornhill

Greenwood, MS 38930 | (662) 385-6333 | jgardnerthornhill@gmail.com | gardnerstats.substack.com

Education

Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS   December 2023
Bachelor of Arts in History
- Dean's List (2 semesters); President's List (Spring 2023)
- Relevant Coursework: Statistics, Computer Programming, Comparative Politics, Public Policy, U.S. Government

University of Mississippi School of Law, Oxford, MS   August 2024 – December 2024
J.D. Candidate; voluntarily withdrew in good standing
- Completed first semester of 1L curriculum: Torts, Civil Procedure, Contracts, Legal Research and Writing, Professional Development

Projects

Travis County Election Dashboard, Greenwood, MS   February 2026 – Present
Full-Stack Election Dashboard | Python, FastAPI, React, TypeScript, Leaflet, GeoJSON
- Built a live election analytics dashboard that tracks early voting, election-day turnout, and 2026 primary results for Travis County in near real time.
- Created a Python data pipeline that ingests raw CSV, Excel, and geospatial election files, cleans and validates them, and publishes web-ready datasets automatically.
- Implemented forecasting models to project turnout and partisan splits from incomplete hourly returns, including uncertainty ranges for more defensible estimates.
- Developed and deployed an interactive React and TypeScript application with charts and precinct maps, translating complex election data into clear, decision-ready insights.

NYC Poll Tracker, Greenwood, MS   May 2025 – Present
Full-Stack Web Application | Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS
- Built an interactive NYC polling dashboard that maps voting sites and live wait times, turning public election data into a clear, real-time view of voter access across the city.
- Engineered a geospatial matching pipeline to reconcile inconsistent records across ID, name, and district fields, improving accuracy and maintaining coverage when live data is incomplete.
- Added multi-level district analysis across Assembly, Election District, City Council, State Senate, Congressional, and Borough boundaries so users can compare polling conditions across political lines.
- Generated over 100,000 combined views across web and social media platforms, establishing the site as a high-traffic resource for NYC election data.

Pennsylvania 2024 Post Mortem, Greenwood, MS   March 2026 – Present
Data Journalism and Statistical Analysis | Python, R, Census Data, Precinct-Level Election Returns
- Assembled and cleaned a precinct-level dataset spanning all 67 Pennsylvania counties, drawing on election returns, Census demographic data, and historical voting records.
- Applied statistical methods including regression modeling and cluster analysis to identify which types of communities drove statewide results and why, with a focus on patterns obscured by the top-line narrative.
- Analyzed demographic group shifts between 2020 and 2024 by comparing precinct-level outcomes to historical baselines, distinguishing communities where voters stayed home from those where voters actively switched.
- Examined split-ticket voting patterns across all 67 counties to isolate which portions of the result were candidate-specific versus driven by broader environmental factors.

College Football Transfer Portal Analysis, Greenwood, MS   October 2025
Statistical Research and Data Journalism | R, Pro Football Focus Data, Substack
- Collected and cleaned a dataset of roughly 530 Group-of-Five players who transferred to Power-Five programs between 2022 and 2024, merging playing time and performance grades across two competitive levels.
- Applied regression and correlation analysis to measure how well performance at one level predicts success at a higher level, broken down by position group.
- Identified meaningful differences across position groups in both playing time retention and performance consistency, and produced charts and visualizations to communicate findings to a general audience.
- Published the completed analysis on Substack, reaching a broad sports readership and demonstrating ability to translate quantitative work into accessible narrative.

Experience

Elections Today, Starkville, MS   August 2020 – May 2021
Creator and Editor (15 hours/week)
- Investigated and exposed a fabricated pre-election poll ahead of the 2020 Massachusetts U.S. Senate primary; sourced and verified primary documents through direct contact with involved parties.
- Compiled corroborating evidence and published a data-driven story that received over 10,000 views in a single day, shared by journalism professor and author Dan Kennedy.
- Researched presidential and midterm election swing data across multiple states, identifying county-level partisan trends that directly preceded current quantitative work.

Camgian AI, Starkville, MS   January 2022 – April 2022
Counting Intern (25 hours/week)
- Audited tracking software output accuracy by systematically comparing automated counts against ground-truth data across a five-person team.
- Reviewed accuracy reports in weekly team meetings, flagged discrepancies, and contributed to data-quality improvement processes.

Leadership and Service

Starkville Derby, Starkville, MS   August 2025 – Present
Advisor (5 hours/week)
- Serve as a primary consultant for event logistics and marketing strategy, directly advising leadership on growth initiatives.
- Developed actionable marketing concepts that increased engagement and brand awareness for the event.
- Provided critical operational feedback to streamline event execution and improve attendee experience.

Starkville Public School Ticket Drive, Starkville, MS   October 2021
Co-Founder (10 hours/week)
- Facilitated donation of Mississippi State/Kentucky football tickets to Starkville Public School students, coordinating free pickup locations for recipients.
- Promoted the drive on Twitter and Mississippi State message boards, generating 357 ticket donations and over $3,500 in additional revenue for the Athletics Department.

Bernie Sanders 2020 Presidential Campaign, Greenwood, MS   November 2019 – March 2020
Outreach Volunteer (7 hours/week)
- Text-banked for the campaign, focusing efforts on voter mobilization ahead of the 2020 primary.

Mike Espy 2020 U.S. Senate Campaign, Greenwood, MS   November 2019 – March 2020
Outreach Volunteer (3 hours/week)
- Text-banked for the campaign, focused on courting support from undecided voters.

Skills and Interests

Technical: Python, R, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, FastAPI, React, TypeScript, Pandas, Leaflet, GeoJSON, GeoPackage, REST APIs, Netlify, Git
Methods: Regression analysis, OLS modeling, cluster analysis, time-series projection, data visualization, statistical modeling