The Trump Birth Time Question

Here's some information (and hopefully a clarification) on Donald Trump's birth data and sources. Although these have been reported as 'mysterious', as a data collector myself they look pretty straightforward to me.

In April 1992, Lois Rodden's 'Data News' (Issue 34) published the following:

'Finally we have data for The Donald! I am reluctant to say "private source" as that is so ambiguous as to mean nothing. However in this case I have to say that I accept the reliability of my source but cannot divulge it. The story is that he laughed at the question and then called his mother to ask what time he was born.'

Lois gave the data as 14 June 1946, 9:51 am EDT, Queens, NY. The time gives 17° Leo rising. I presume he only gave the birth time; the date and place probably came from various published information about Trump. (I have a copy of this issue of 'Data News' in my library.)

From this date forward, astrologers such as Lois Rodden and Lynne Palmer used this birth time when writing about the businessman in their books. I placed it in my Clifford Data Compendium for Solar Fire (1997 and 2000 editions) and in my book 'The Astrologer's Book of Charts' (Flare, 2009). (Later, Sy Scholfield took charge of updating the Solar Fire data files and, when the birth certificate was published, he changed the birth time in my Compendium to the 10:54 a.m. time.)

In 2011, when in full flow attacking the citizenship of Barack Obama, Trump himself released his own hospital record to the media, followed by his full length birth certificate. Both confirm the date (14 June 1946) and record that his birth took place in Jamaica Hospital in the Richmond Hill area of Queens, New York. But both the hospital record and birth certificate give a birth time of 10:54 a.m. (resulting in 29° Leo on the Ascendant). This is the time many astrologers now use.

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Gertificate of Birth
This Certifies that Bould John Jump
Zwas born to Mr. May Boat C. Trump
(in this Hospital at 10 54 a.m. Friday.
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In Witness Whereof the said Hapital has caused this Certificate to be signed by its duly authorized
officer and its Official Seal to be hereunto affixed.
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In this age of misinformation (highlighted by the recent square between Saturn and Neptune in Jupiter's signs) and a widespread mistrust of reportage, there is now a rumour among some that Trump decided to mislead astrologers by changing his birth data from 9:51 a.m. to 10:54 a.m. and falsifying his hospital record and birth certificate. Various reasons are given: from a deliberate attempt to move his Ascendant to the then-degree of Regulus ... to a decision to 'confuse the enemy' ... to simply 'because he's a duplicitous Gemini'!

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Online http://keplercollege.org/home/index.php/articles/using-astrology/item/580-donald-trump-birthtime, there's an article that outlines the various 'mysterious' facts around the birth data and suggests that we use the earlier, original time for Trump (17° Leo on the Ascendant) for the following six reasons. With respect to the reporter (astrologer Christine Arens) and her extensive article, I've challenged these points by adding my notes/answers in italics after each one:

- 1) The originally published chart by astrologer Lynne Palmer (1994).

 This was most likely based on the info Lois Rodden received in 1992. Lynne subscribed to 'Data News' and gave out her celebrity client data to Rodden at various times.
- 2) The compelling question posed by astrologer Alphee Lavoie.

 Lavoie has spent many years rectifying charts for clients; his 'compelling question' to astrologers is simply whether Trump has a 12th or 1st house Mars.
- 3) The off-hand comments made by astrologer Bill Meridian.

 Meridian quoted Lois's original source, and mentioned that an unnamed astrologer was consulted by Melania Trump and one of the Trump daughters and apparently they use the 9:51 a.m. chart. The problem here is that we don't know what took place in that conversation, and when it took place (i.e. before the release of the certificate and hospital record in 2011). Did they get the birth time from Donald Trump? Did they know the birth time already or did they or the astrologer simply reference the then-known birth time from the internet (or chart database files)? As a data collector and consultant, I've sometimes said to a well-known client, 'This is the birth data I already have from your birth record/parent etc. Is it correct?' Sometimes they're able to check, other times they simply go with what I've got in my collection.
- 4) The Astro-Databank "Source Notes" for Trump's chart.

 These simply say, 'Since the document was evidently posted by Trump, some caution is advised even though there is no evidence that the document was altered.'

 Astrodatabank give the 10:54 a.m. birth time a top 'AA' rating.
- 5) The 'flip-flop' in the data source/comments in Solar Fire.

 My Clifford Data Compendium was updated by Sy Scholfield for later versions of Solar Fire. An old version of the file may have found its way into a newer version of Solar Fire, but the update, source and new time of 10:54 a.m. appear in the latest versions.
- 6) Trump's own penchant for misleading and misdirected information.

 Whatever some people think of the current president, it is questionable that Trump would present a doctored document when trying to force Obama to reveal his own birth certificate (and later spending so much time questioning the authenticity of the birth document Obama published). In addition, no one has come forward to say that Trump's document is a forgery.

But, even with corroborating evidence, birth certificates and hospital records can and sometimes do contain incorrect information. I have in my files conflicting information between hospital tags/cards and birth certificates. Registrars, midwives and parents make mistakes reporting birth details. And sometimes birth times are recorded as later or earlier than the actual moment of birth. The mother's memory may well be correct.

We cannot be 100% sure that the 10:54 a.m. time is accurate but, as a data collector, having both a hospital record and a birth certificate state this birth time amounts to more substantial evidence than a mother's memory some (probable) forty years after the event. I'd recommend using the 10:54 a.m. time, but would encourage astrologers (when they have the opportunity) to check this with events in Trump's life leading up to his becoming president. As every day of his presidency appears to be drama- and crisis-filled, rectifying his birth time based on current and recent events may not be the easiest to do.

- Frank Clifford, August 2017