Presidential Poll Project Proposal

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I. PROJECT MOTIVATION

Our expected outcome of this project would be to accurately generate various data visualizations (such as maps and graphs) of how the USA has shifted demographically on a political spectrum throughout history. We also should be able to produce other metrics that could help us predict where the country will go in the future. The trends that we expect to see are still predominantly unknown. However, we anticipate there to be differences in political demographics between urban and rural locations as well as there to be both gradual and sudden changes in political demographics over time. We expect to complete the project on time and in a way such that people could learn something about how our country has been polarizing and shifting in demographics. If we finish our anticipated goals earlier than expected, we may try and focus on analyzing the data more in-depth or applying our method at a more local level or to different countries/data sets. In conclusion, we hope to be able to generate a meaningful analysis of how the USA's political demographic has changed over time as well as where it may be headed.

II. DATA TO BE OBTAINED

There will be both "neutral" and partisan data. Neutral data will be obtained from .gov data bases and political thinktanks that have no clear allegiance to any political party. Partisan data will include data from data banks controlled/owned by the Republican and Democratic parties. Both neutral and partisan data will be representative of federal and local level elections. As for how local we want to make our data will depend on the progression of the project. The first set to collect will be neutral data covering presidential elections. We will then be able to move on to congressional and senatorial races at the federal level. Once both neutral and partisan data are successfully collected, we will move on to state gubernatorial and maybe even mayoral elections. In order to acquire the data, we will learn and implement different collection techniques. Things that we will most likely learn, and use include Python, Mongo, and sql.

III. TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Our team will collectively work on pieces together, with some specific roles for each team member to specialize in. Zachary and Omar will be focusing on data collection for the project. They will source information from a few different places and cross reference them to make sure they have similar data, then include them in our code. Christian, Justin, and Emory will be focusing on using that data and generating a sort of map that we can look at for a visual representation. This is the part of the code that actually puts everything together and produces some information so that we can make sure that our data is correct. The data collection will primarily be something everyone can contribute in, look for major sources of information, help with formatting and reading in the information and all of the other stuff that will need to be looked at when reading in the code. Then Zach and Omar will work on making a prediction for the assignment as well as all the group members expanding our data to include senatorial years and years that the house representatives can vote. The difficult part of the project will be in expanding our scope from the basic to the more complex, so we will try our best to work on that part of the project together. Because it is the most difficult and the most missing information, we predict that this will take most of our time.

IV. TIMELINE OF MILESTONES

We will have data collection finished by mid-October and the manipulation and visual representations finished by the end of October. This would

include basic web scraping from a site, or multiple sites, as well as graphs and hopefully a basic "map" visualization. These graphs and visualizations will include maps of America painted red and blue, charts displaying how counties trend in one direction to another from election to election and other metrics that can be displayed. From October until the end of November, we will be working on expanding the program to include more territories and expanding our data from presidential years to every two years. This will also allow for more accurate insight into the ongoing political changes throughout the country. We intend to have further detailed graphs, and perhaps a more visually appealing representation of all our data. Finally, we will consider other metrics such as independent party data, or individual candidate data as last priority and will be considered more towards the later stages of the month assuming we are able to build a strong foundation off of the necessary data.

V. EXPECTED OUTCOME

Our expected outcome of this project would be to accurately generate various data visualizations (such as maps and graphs) of how the USA has shifted demographically on a political spectrum throughout history. We also should be able to produce other metrics that could help us predict where the country will go in the future. The trends that we expect to see are still predominantly unknown. However, we anticipate there to be differences in political demographics between urban and rural locations as well as there to be both gradual and sudden changes in political demographics over time. Not to mention that we are expecting to see shifts after presidential scandals or presidential successes. Such as Lincoln leading the nation through the civil war would increase the number of republicans, or Nixon in the Watergate scandal would decrease the number of republicans. We expect to complete the project on time and in a way such that people could learn something about how our country has been polarizing and shifting in demographics. If we finish our anticipated goals earlier than expected, we may try and focus on analyzing the data more in-depth or applying our method at a more local level or to different countries/data sets. In conclusion, we hope to be able to generate a meaningful analysis of how the USA's political demographic has changed over time as well as where it may be headed.