Team5K
Paul Bryzek, Doris Cohen,
Josh Kedzierski & Kanika Singh

2020 Swing State Presidential Election Predictions

For our final project, we studied donation and voting data in six swing states (Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin). Our team found this topic fascinating and of great importance. We had the combined interest of researching presidential election information. This was important to us, given the current state of affairs and all that is happening in our country with financial and health crises, during an election year. We thought it would be beneficial to study election information to see if we could learn anything about voting and how decisions are made. We decided to follow the money. Looking at donation data helped us understand a lot about Democratic and Republican parties per county and state in six historically swing states.

This project afforded me the opportunity to work in a team environment to accomplish one common goal. This was a huge yet rewarding task. My responsibilities revolved around the GitHub, data analysis, statistical data, Tableau and project documentation. I assisted with some of the machine learning and data gathering tasks.

The team worked very well together. We had protocols in place that allowed us to focus on specific aspects of the project. We met regularly, thru Zoom and communicated daily, via Slack. Now, 20 meetings, hundreds of hours of planning, preparation and coding as well as hundreds of Slack messages later, we were able to deliver our segments completed and on time. We worked together to complete tasks and follow thru on every part of the Mastery level section of the weekly rubrics. We usually agreed on the project and process. Where we didn't agree, we discussed it and came to a resolution. Everyone brought a tremendous amount of skill and expertise to the table. Kanika is skilled in project planning and coordination, she helped keep us organized. Josh is very good at strategic planning, managing big datasets and technical details. Paul engineered our machine learning and flask protocols. I, Doris, was responsible for data and statistical analysis. We presented our project to the UCBE staff and students in a professional and timely fashion. We received positive reviews from our instructor, TA and fellow students. Completing the project was very rewarding!

A word of advance to a new cohort; communicate clearly and often. Set aside time to meet via Zoom or in-person. Assign tasks evenly and assist one another when necessary. Do not go it alone, the team mentality will be important. Everyone has to participate for the project to come together and be successful.