An Exploratory Analysis on US Election Results for 1992 in Preparation for Prediction Tasks

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Objective

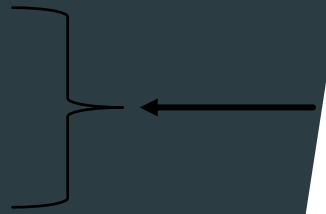
1. Is there a difference in demographic measurements between counties that Bill Clinton lost and won?
2. Can we predict the results of an election using *only* census information and ignoring time? Baseline model?
3. Which variables are the most important?

Democratic Candidate: Bill Clinton

Incumbent: George H. W. Bush

Outline

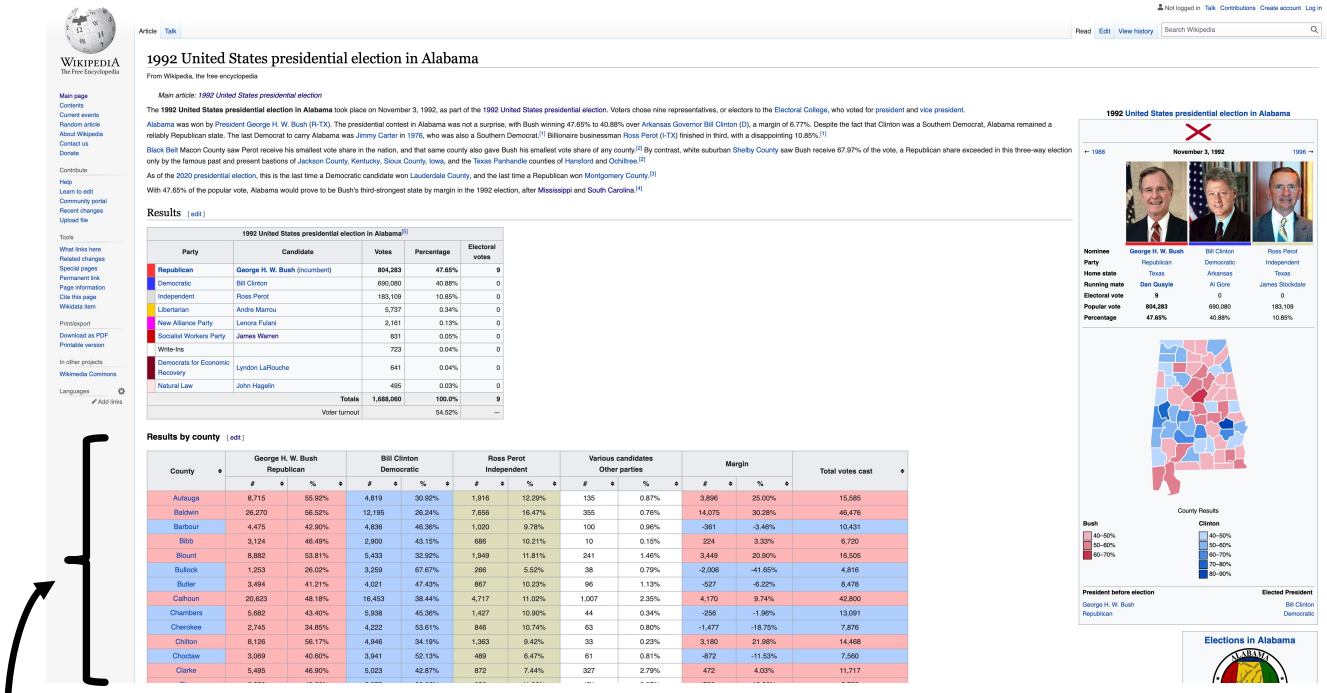
1. Data-Sourcing
2. The Data
3. Exploratory Data Analysis
4. Answer to Question 1
5. Answer to Question 2
6. Answer to Question 3
7. Conclusion
8. Extra Graphs – MANOVA Assumptions
9. Useful Python Packages



Focus of this presentation

Data-Sourcing

- Two Sources
  - Ufl.edu – demographic variables by county
  - Wikipedia – election results by county
- EXTENSIVE Data-cleaning was needed



1992 United States presidential election in Alabama

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Main article: 1992 United States presidential election

The **1992 United States presidential election in Alabama** took place on November 3, 1992, as part of the 1992 United States presidential election. Voters chose nine representatives, or electors to the Electoral College, who voted for president and vice president.

Alabama was won by President George H. W. Bush (R-TX). The presidential contest in Alabama was not a surprise, with Bush winning 47.65% to 40.88% over Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton (D), a margin of 6.77%. Despite the fact that Clinton was a Southern Democrat, Alabama remained a reliably Republican state. The last Democrat to carry Alabama was Jimmy Carter in 1976, who was also a Southern Democrat.[1] Billionaire businessman Ross Perot (I-TX) finished in third, with a disappointing 10.85%.[1]

Black Belt Macon County saw Perot receive his smallest vote share in the nation, and that same county also gave Bush his smallest vote share of any county.[2] By contrast, while suburban Shelby County saw Bush receive 67.97% of the vote, a Republican share exceeded in this three-way election only by the famous past and present bastions of Jackson County, Kentucky, Sioux County, Iowa, and the Texas Panhandle counties of Hansford and Ochiltree.[2]

As of the 2020 presidential election, this is the last time a Democratic candidate won Lauderdale County, and the last time a Republican won Montgomery County.[3]

With 47.65% of the popular vote, Alabama would prove to be Bush's third-strongest state by margin in the 1992 election, after Mississippi and South Carolina.[4]

Results [edit]

1992 United States presidential election in Alabama[5]

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage	Electoral votes
Republican	George H. W. Bush (incumbent)	804,283	47.65%	9
Democratic	Bill Clinton	690,080	40.88%	0
Independent	Ross Perot	183,109	10.85%	0
Libertarian	Andre Marrou	5,737	0.34%	0
New Alliance Party	Lenora Fulani	2,161	0.13%	0
Socialist Workers Party	James Warren	831	0.05%	0
Write-Ins		723	0.04%	0
Democrats for Economic Recovery	Lyndon LaRouche	641	0.04%	0
Natural Law	John Hagelin	495	0.03%	0
	Totals	1,688,060	100.0%	9
	Voter turnout		54.52%	—

Results by county [edit]

County	George H. W. Bush Republican		Bill Clinton Democratic		Ross Perot Independent		Various candidates Other parties		Margin		Total votes cast
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Autauga	8,715	55.92%	4,819	30.92%	1,916	12.29%	135	0.87%	3,896	25.00%	15,585
Baldwin	26,270	56.52%	12,195	26.24%	7,656	16.47%	355	0.76%	14,075	30.28%	46,476
Barbour	4,475	42.90%	4,836	46.36%	1,020	9.78%	100	0.96%	-361	-3.46%	10,431
Bibb	3,124	46.49%	2,900	43.15%	686	10.21%	10	0.15%	224	3.33%	6,720
Blount	8,882	53.81%	5,433	32.92%	1,949	11.81%	241	1.46%	3,449	20.90%	16,505
Bullock	1,253	26.02%	3,259	67.67%	266	5.52%	38	0.79%	-2,006	-41.65%	4,816
Butler	3,494	41.21%	4,021	47.43%	867	10.23%	96	1.13%	-527	-6.22%	8,478
Calhoun	20,623	48.18%	16,453	38.44%	4,717	11.02%	1,007	2.35%	4,170	9.74%	42,800
Chambers	5,682	43.40%	5,938	45.36%	1,427	10.90%	44	0.34%	-256	-1.96%	13,091
Cherokee	2,745	34.85%	4,222	53.61%	846	10.74%	63	0.80%	-1,477	-18.75%	7,876
Chilton	8,126	56.17%	4,946	34.19%	1,363	9.42%	33	0.23%	3,180	21.98%	14,468
Choctaw	3,069	40.60%	3,941	52.13%	489	6.47%	61	0.81%	-872	-11.53%	7,560
Clarke	5,495	46.90%	5,023	42.87%	872	7.44%	327	2.79%	472	4.03%	11,717

1992 United States presidential election in Alabama

← 1988 | November 3, 1992 | 1996 →

Nominee	George H. W. Bush	Bill Clinton	Ross Perot
Party	Republican	Democratic	Independent
Home state	Texas	Arkansas	Texas
Running mate	Dan Quayle	Al Gore	James Stockdale
Electoral vote	9	0	0
Popular vote	804,283	690,080	183,109
Percentage	47.65%	40.88%	10.85%

County Results

Bush: 40–50%, 50–60%, 60–70%

Clinton: 40–50%, 50–60%, 60–70%, 70–80%, 80–90%

President before election	Elected President
George H. W. Bush Republican	Bill Clinton Democratic

Elections in Alabama

An example of a Wikipedia table that was scraped

The Data

- Census Variables - Predictor Variables
  - Median Age (years) – num./Cont.
  - Mean Savings ($) – num./Cont.
  - Per Capita (PC) Income ($) – Num/Cont
  - Percent In Poverty (%) – num./cont.
  - Percent Veterans (%) – num./cont.
  - Percent Female (%) – num./cont.
  - Population Density (?) – num./cont.
  - Percent In Nursing Homes (%) – num./cont.
  - Crime Index Per Capita (?)- numerical/cont.?

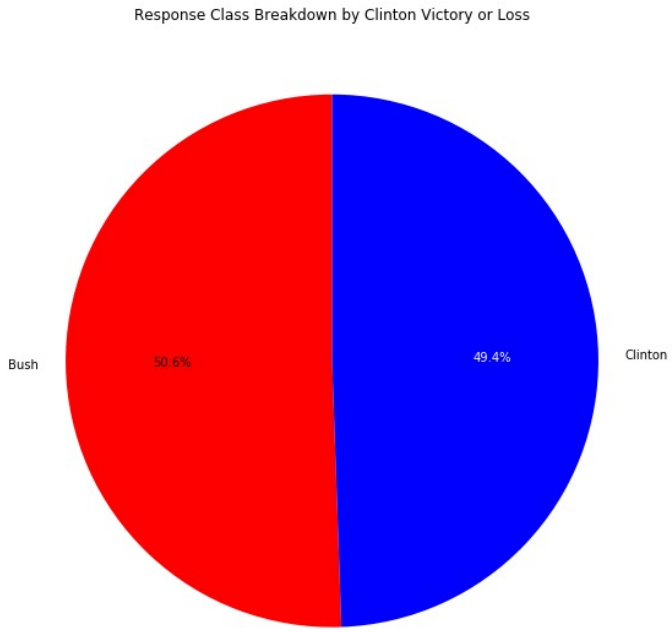
- Response
  - Clinton Win – Binary, nominal

- 2413 Observations (counties)
- 9 predictors, 1 response
- 1220 counties that Bush won
- 1193 counties that Clinton won
- Subpopulations almost equivalent

County Name	…Census Variables…	Clinton Win
Autauga	…….	FALSE
Baldwin	…….	FALSE
Barbour	…….	TRUE
Blount	……..	FALSE

Response Variable – Class Imbalance?

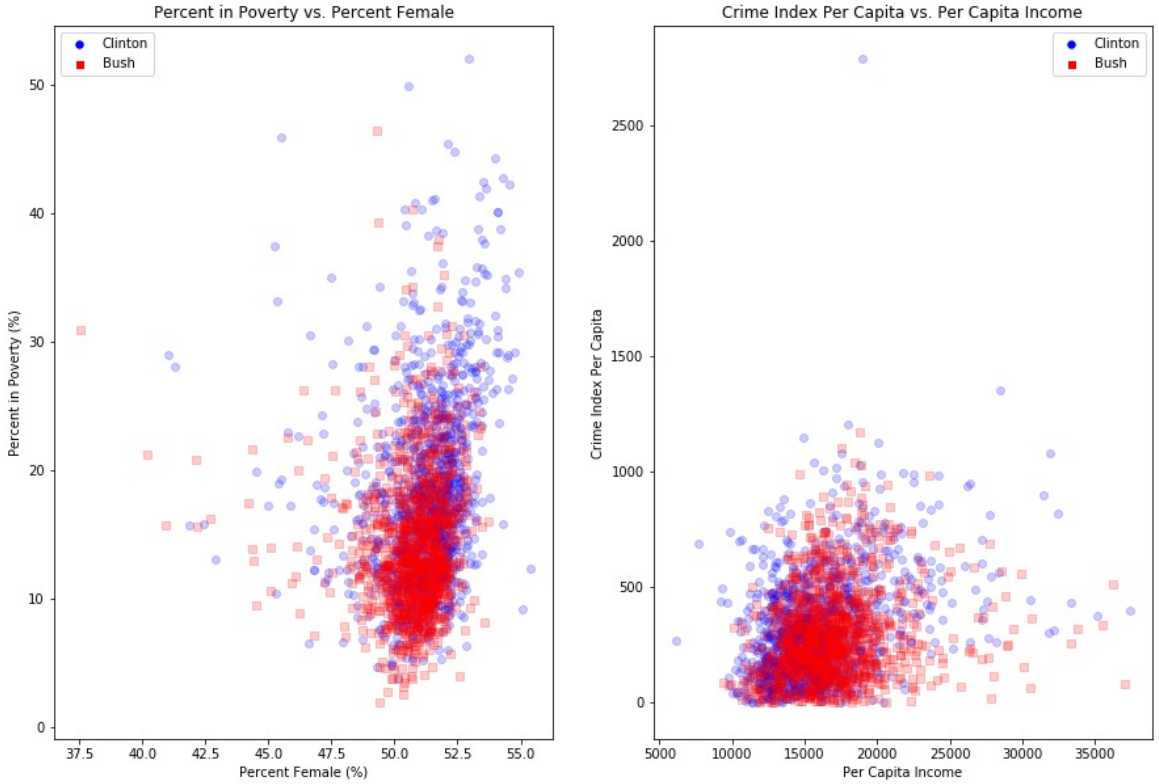
- 1220 counties that Bush won
- 1193 counties that Clinton won



Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

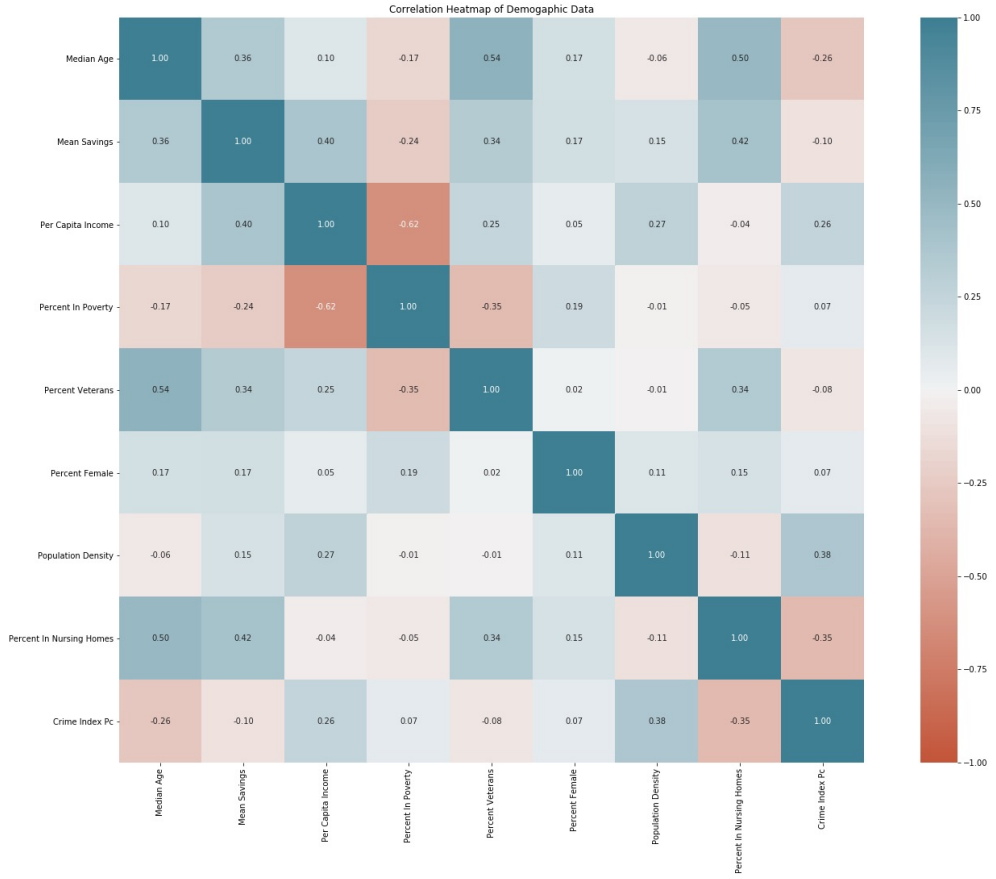
- From the scatterplots – no clear decision boundary
- Nonlinear classifiers will be needed

Class separation:
NONLINEAR



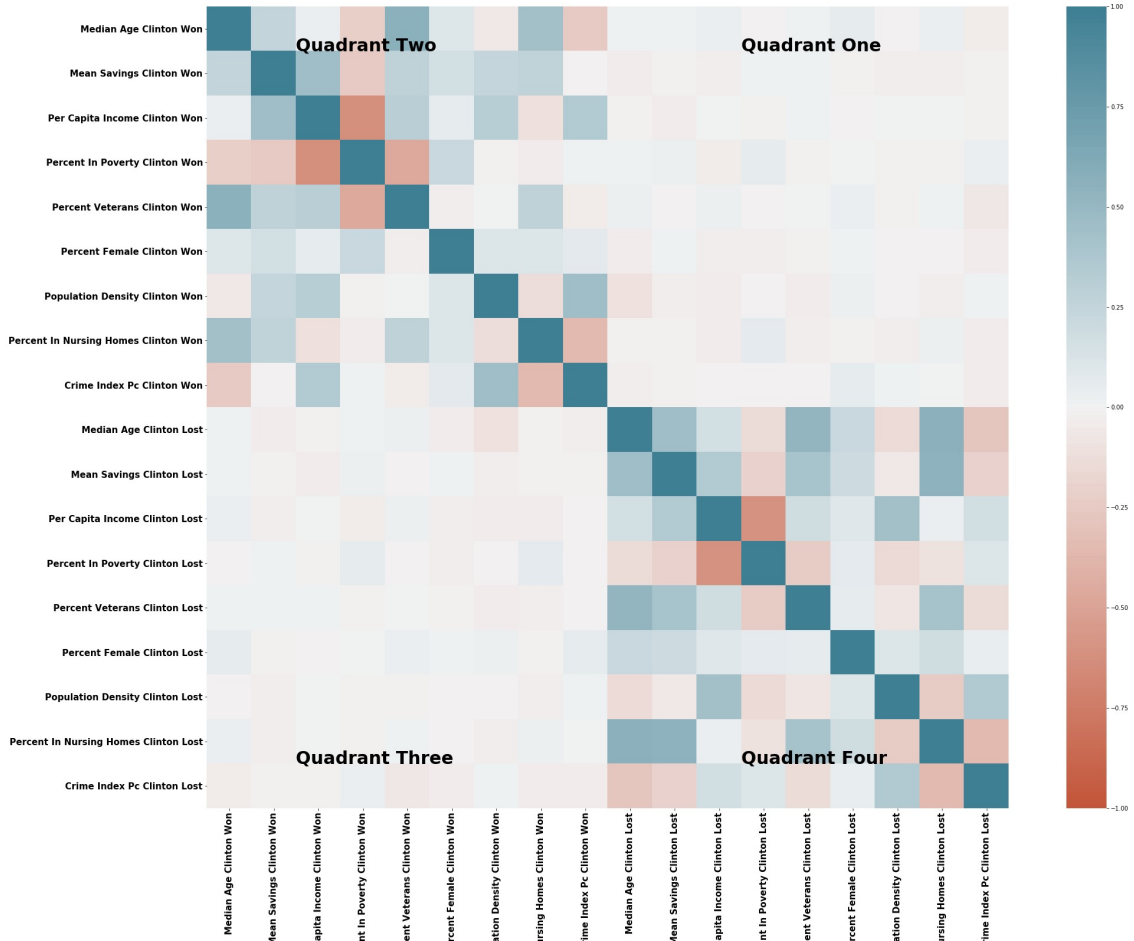
More EDA

- Moderately strong correlation between variables
- PCA is appropriate



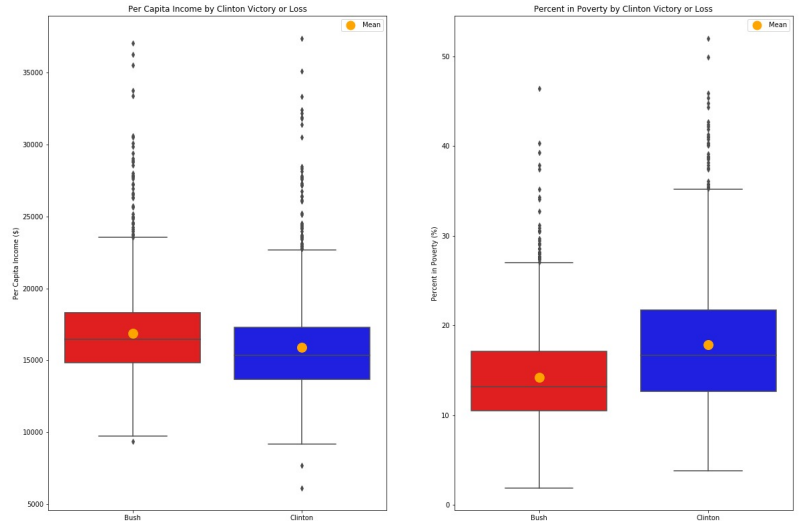
EDA – Between Sample Dependence

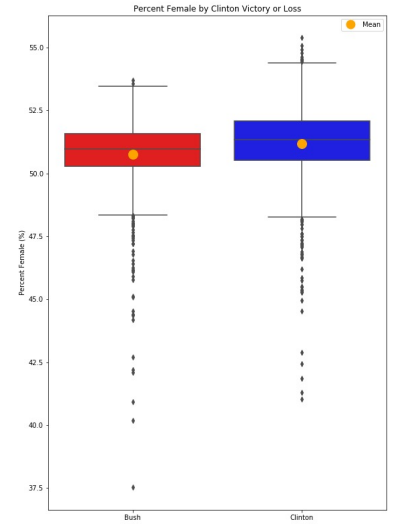
- MANOVA assumption – samples from different populations are independent
- The assumption holds for linear correlation holds
- If there is nonlinear correlation, then it will show up in MANOVA residuals and we can trouble shoot from there

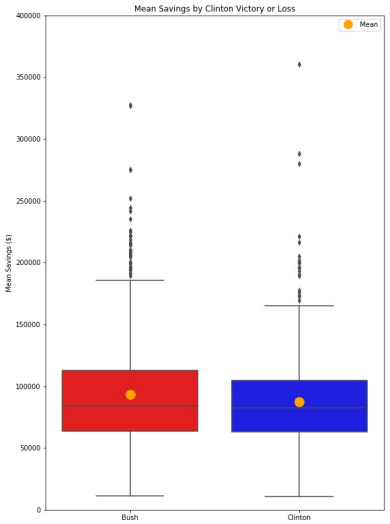


More EDA

- Appearance: small difference between different census measure
- Large sample size -> more power
- If assumptions of MANOVA hold, then the null hypothesis will likely be rejected due to large sample size

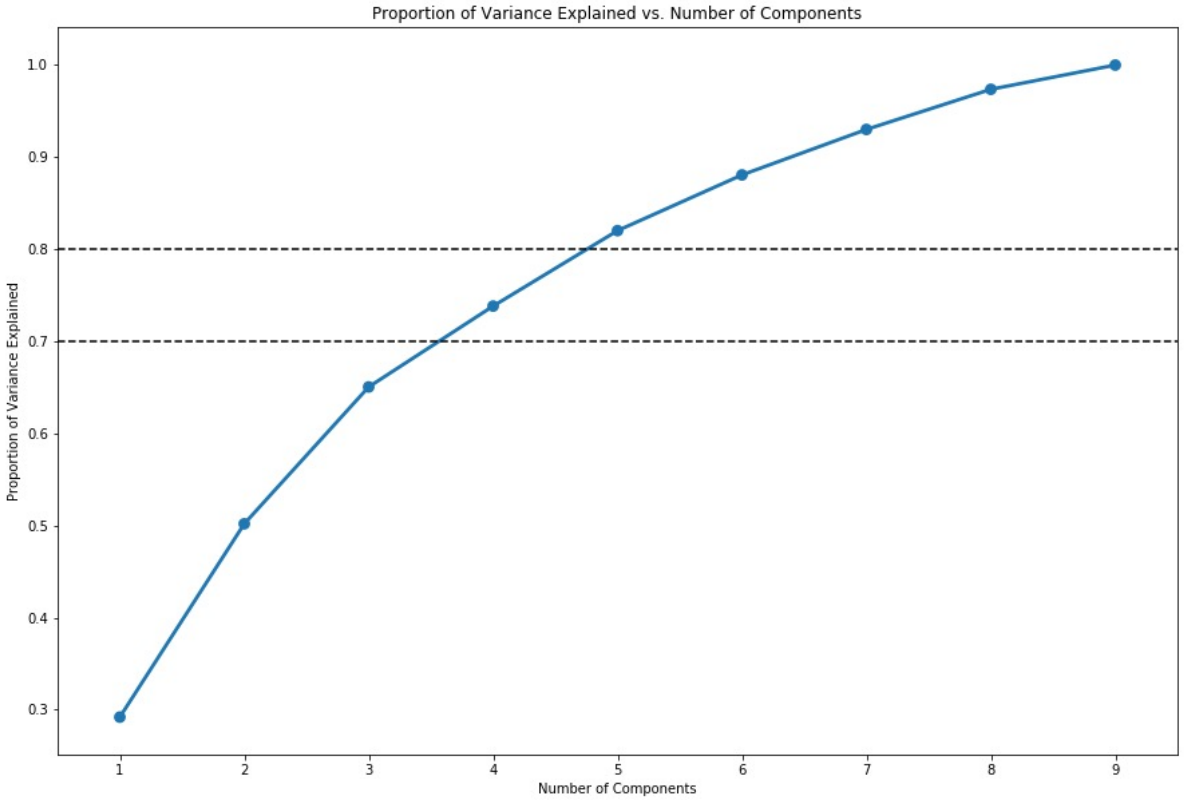






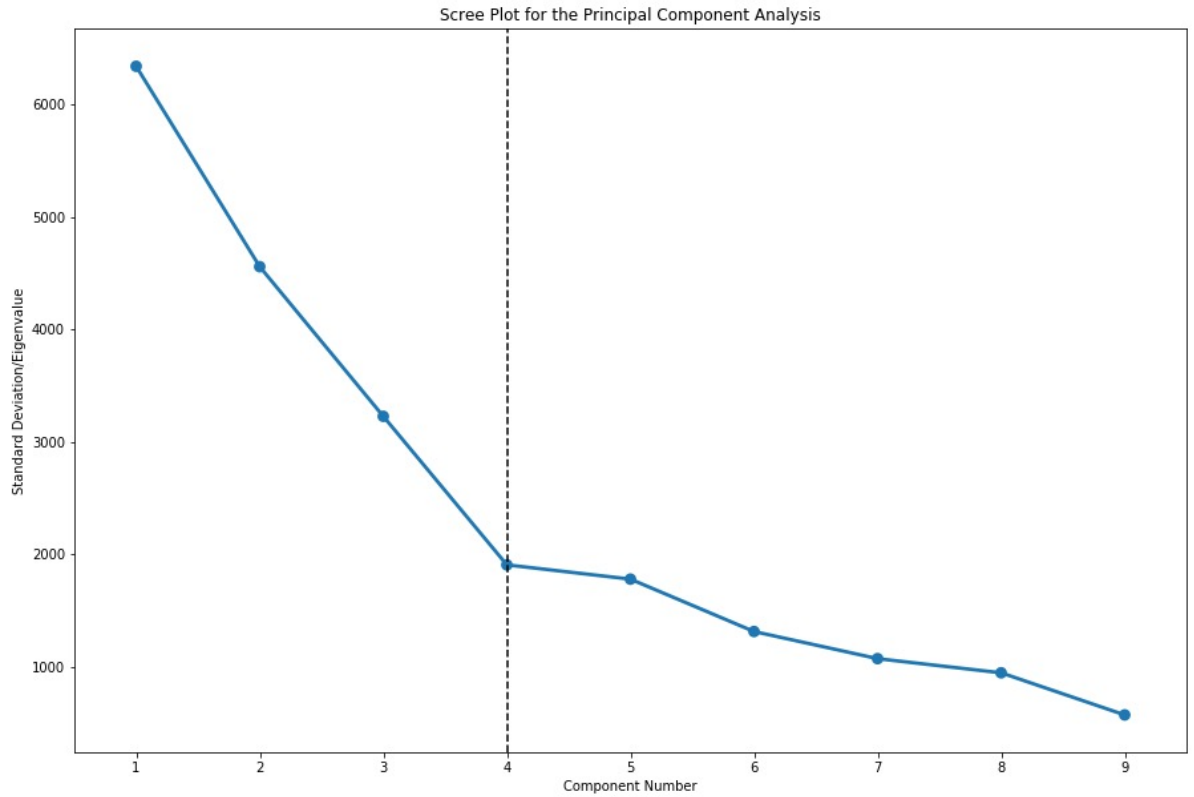
PCA – How Many Components

- 4th component – 75% of the variance explained
- Since 70% > of variance explained by 4 components, retain only 4 components



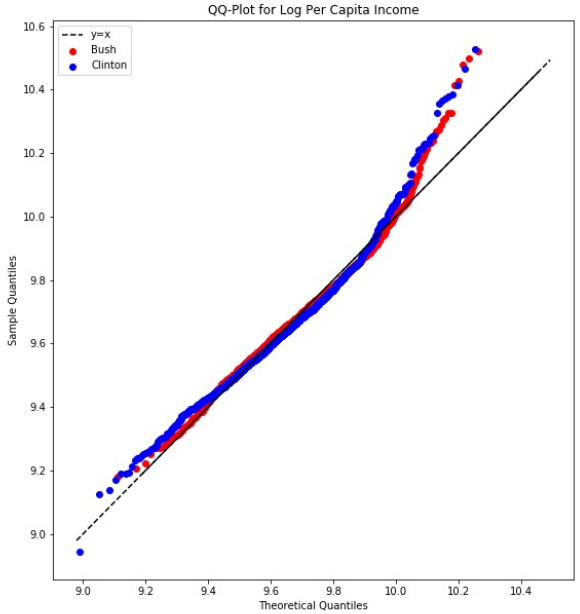
PCA – How Many Components

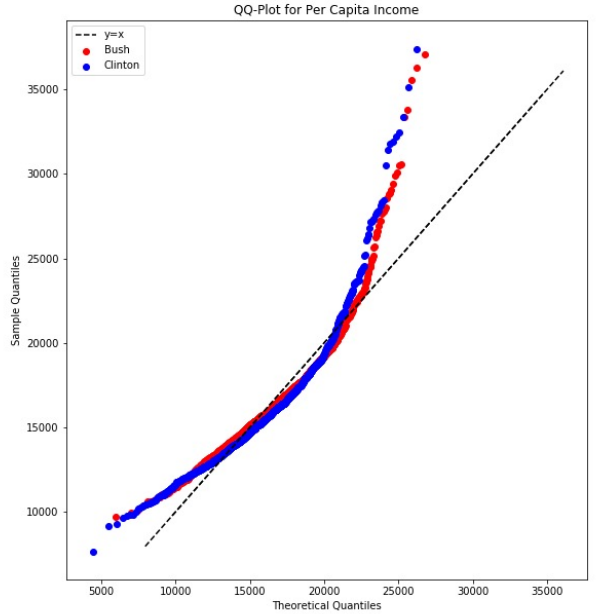
- Scree plot – Find the elbow in the graph and retain that number of components
- Elbow happens at 4 components – retain 4 components



Distribution of the Subpopulations

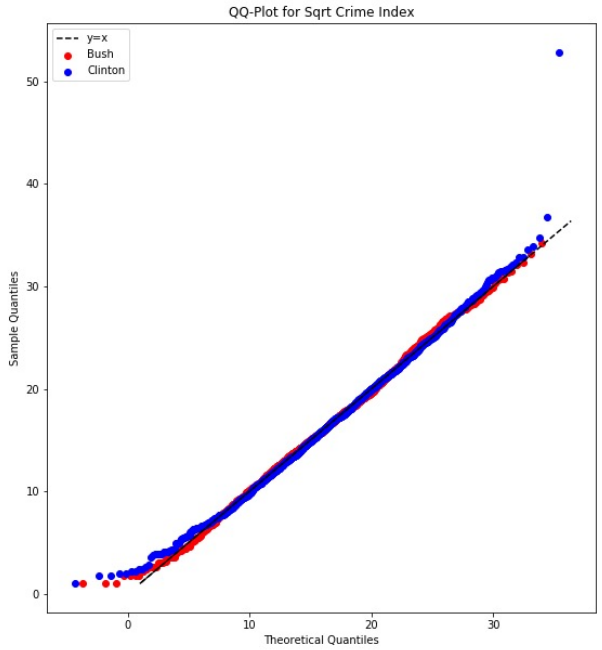
- Untransformed variables -> most of the non-normal with 1-2 exceptions
- Transformed variables -> approximately normal or at least do not stray far from normality
- Per Capita Income – Not normal
- Log(Per Capita Income) - Normal

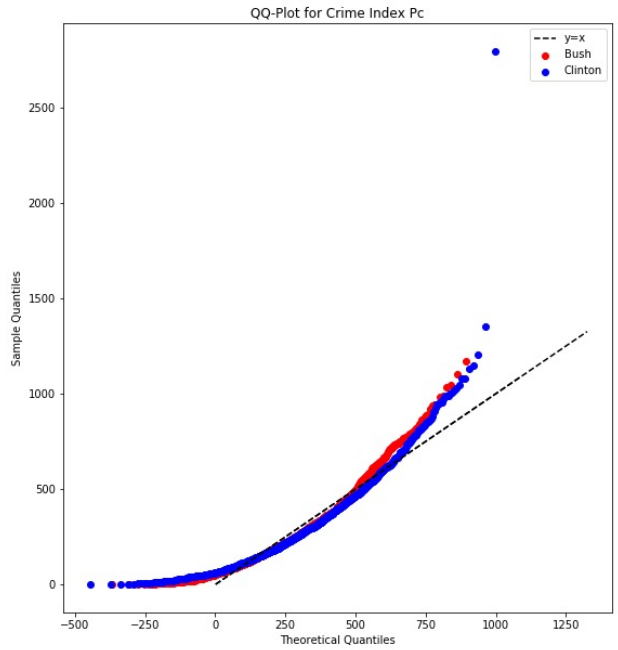




Distribution of the Subpopulation (continued)

- Crime Index Per Capita – not normal
- Sqrt(Crime Index PC) – approximately normal





Conclusion

- There are differences in census measurement that voted for democratic vs. republican
- Modeling elections is difficult, but possible
  - Current baseline: random forest
  - Future: Time-series model, RNN
- Population density, % female, PC income, % in poverty – similar to individual ANOVA results

- Future Work:
  - Add interaction effects between important variables
  - Consider statistical models
  - Time-series models
    - Ignored cyclical and temporal structure
  - Optimize Parameters (grid search)
  - Use my PCA from my report as input to models
  - Use cross-validation