Katy Schmitt and Md Sayemul Islam Data Analysis Project (due 10/15/2023 after extension)

**Topic:** Immigrants in the United States and their role on county political leanings.

**Research Background**: Immigrants have always been an integral part of the US. With the growing number of immigrants, it will be interesting to see their political stance and how they can influence their neighbors’ politics and the results of the US presidential election. With that in mind, we look forward to exploring the effect of immigrants on the election of the USA.

**Research questions**:

1. Descriptive Research Question

Have rural counties in the US experienced growth in immigrant populations from 2000-2020?

1. Causal Research Question

Does a larger proportion of immigrants in a county affect if the county votes democrat or republican in a presidential election?

1. Predictive Research Question

Predict the outcome of the 2024 presidential election?

**Data**: Here our main independent variable of interest is the number of naturalized immigrants by counties (who are legalized to vote) and our dependent variable is the Election outcomes by counties. Our probable control variables will be: Educational attainment rate by county, Unemployment rate by county, Rural county classification, Proportions of young voters by state.

**Data on Politics:**

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=6689930&version=11.0>

MIT Election Data and Science Lab, 2018, "County Presidential Election Returns 2000-2020", <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/VOQCHQ>, Harvard Dataverse, V11, UNF:6:HaZ8GWG8D2abLleXN3uEig== [fileUNF]

Data on each presidential election 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020. Variables included are state, county, total votes for Republican, Democratic, Green, or ‘other’ candidates. This data is compiled by the MIT Election Data Lab.

**Data on immigration:**

Data on foreign-born US immigrants, foreign-born naturalized US citizens by counties for 2000, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, 2021 and 2022. Some of the variables we have: County name, Place of birth, US citizenship status, Educational attainment, household type.

United States Census Bureau (2023). Selected social characteristics in the United States. American Community Survey. <https://data.census.gov/table?q=foreign+born&g=010XX00US$0500000&tp=false>