

# **Whether the Political Philosophies from Both 2016 Democratic and Republican Candidates Consistent with the Preferences of the Voters Who Voted for Them?**

Jingbin Cao

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The presidential debate in 2016 is a good platform to show the political philosophy of both candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, even though both of them spent many times on accused each other with personal attacks.

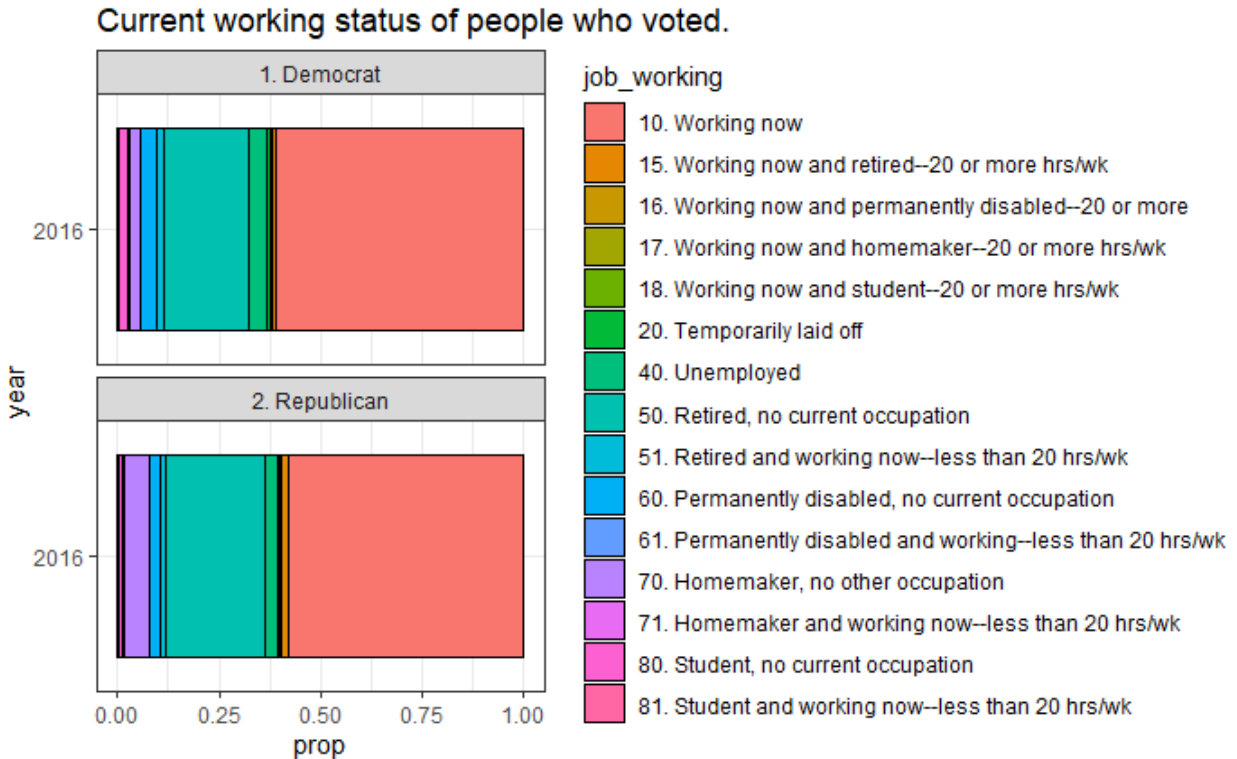


In this project, I would like to ask whether the political philosophies from both 2016 Democratic and Republican candidates consistent with the preferences of the voters who voted for them?

I firstly summarized key policies and philosophies from both candidates during the debate. Then, I analyzed the graphs summarizing from ANES dataset, grouped by people who voted for Clinton or Trump. Finally, I analyzed some features that both groups are different from others and answered the scientific question that we asked at beginning.

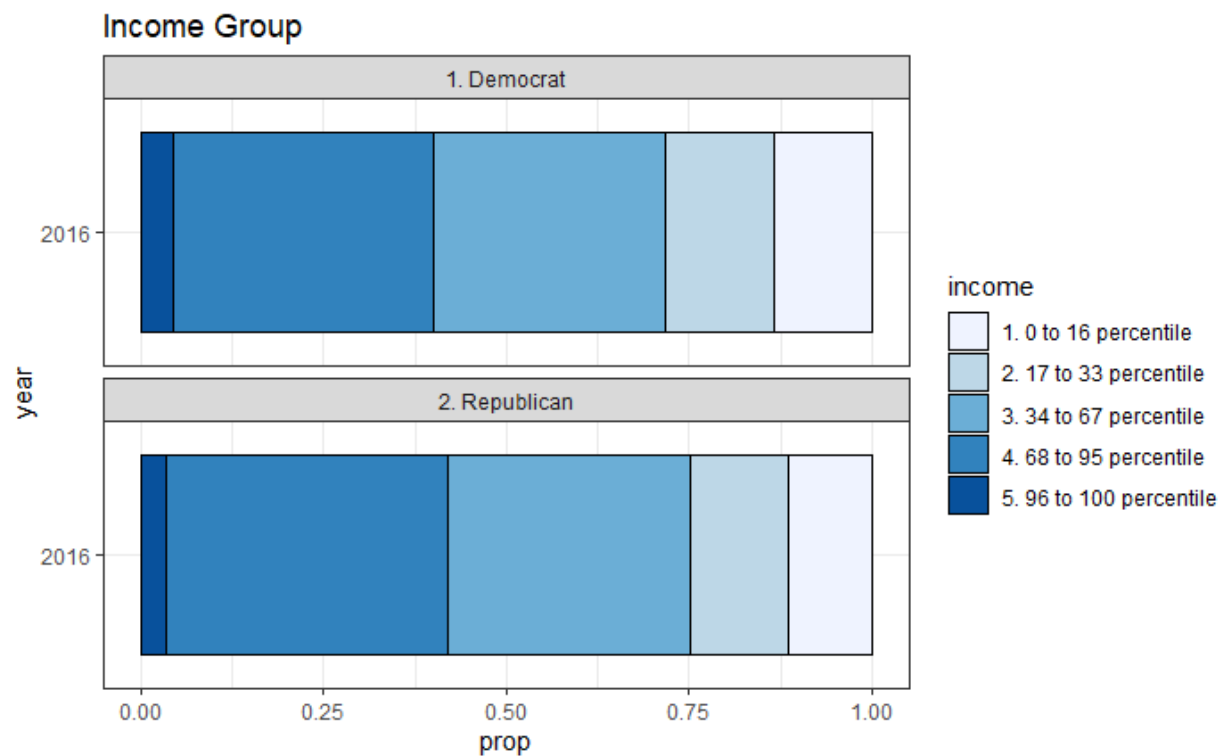
## Voters' Status

The first graph shows their working status. From the graph, we can see the majority of voters are working. However, comparing both groups, we can see that there are more percentages of the students voted for Clinton, and there are more percentages of the homemakers and retired people voted for Trump. Besides, the percentage of the people who voted for Clinton and working now is higher than the people who voted for Trump and working now.

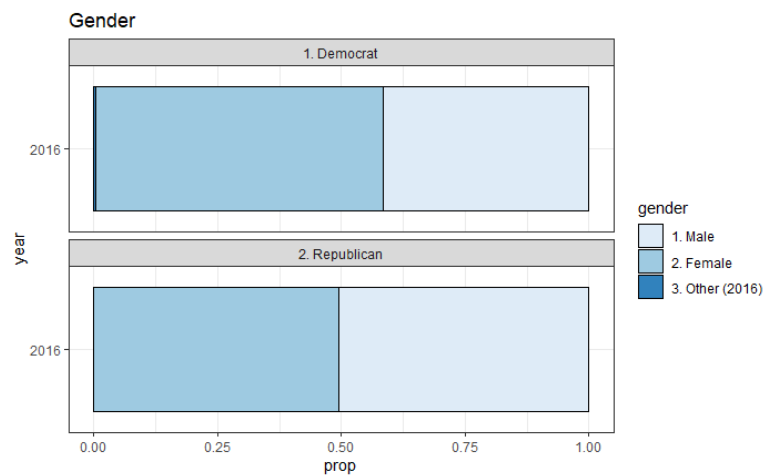


In the first presidential debate, Clinton mentioned that she will decrease the college tuition, and she mentioned “we can invest in your education, your future,” so we can assume that Clinton’s performance during the debate matches voters’ preferences in which there are more percentage of students among the people who voted for her.

The second graph shows their income status. From the graph, we can see that there are more percentage of the richest people as well as the poorest people (0 to 16 percentile and 96 to 100 percentile) who voted for Clinton.

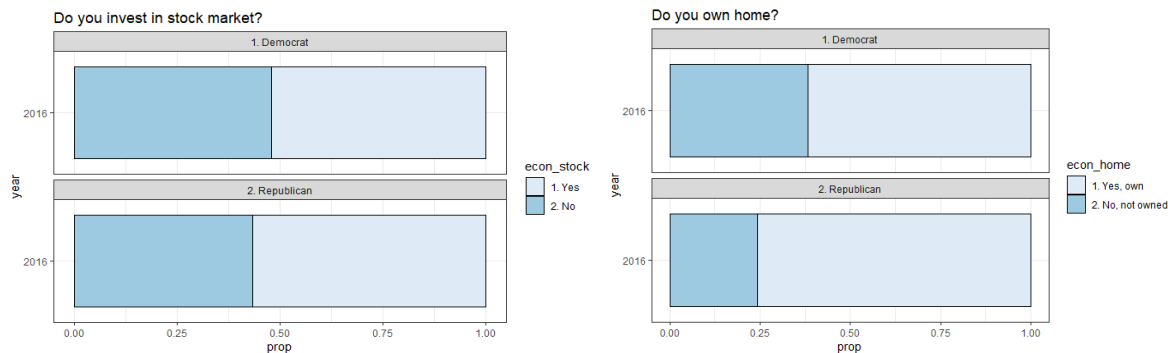


The third graph shows the gender of the people who voted. We can see that there are more percentage of women voted for Clinton.



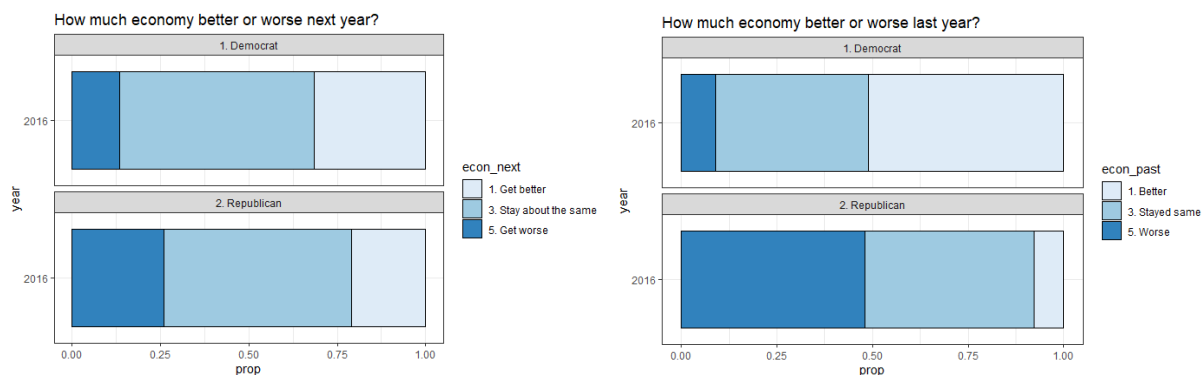
During the first presidential debate, Clinton mentioned “equal pays for women’s work” and she also denounced Trump’s discriminative sentences again women, so the voting result in terms of the gender group aligns with the ideologies of the candidates during the presidential debate.

Two graphs below show the assets status for both groups. We find that more percentage of the people who voted for Trump invest in stock market and own home(s).



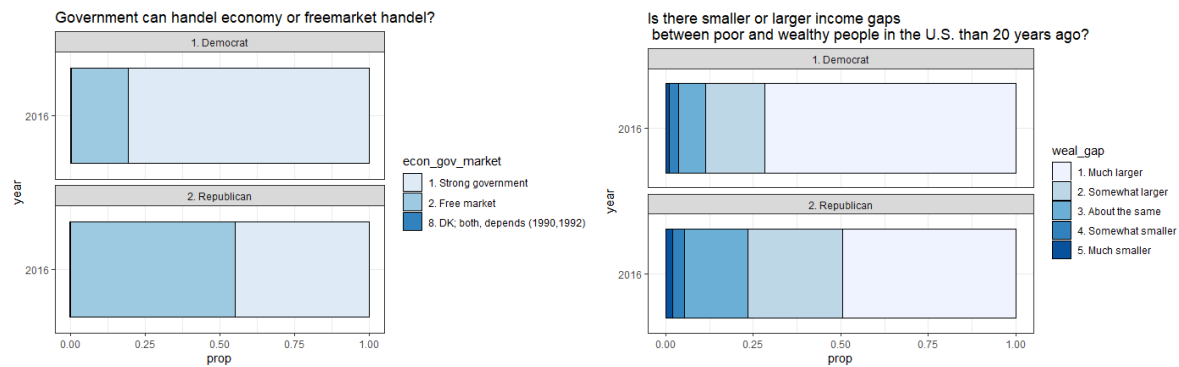
## Economy

Economy is a big part of presidential debates. During the debates, Trump mentioned many concrete economic plans, but Clinton focused more on the middle class. In general, from the two graphs below, we can find that more percentage of the people who voted for Trump believes that the economy was bad last year and will be bad next year. The voting result seems aligned with the political plans from both candidates. However, recall the second graph “Income Group,” we find that there are more percentage of the people voted for Trump from the middle class. Therefore, we do not have a clear conclusion for the economy in general.

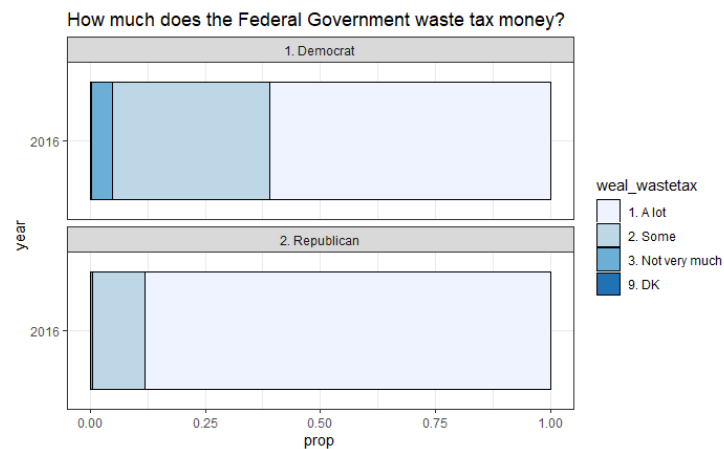


In terms of tax, during the presidential debate, Clinton claimed that big companies should take responsibility in the economy, but Trump would decrease the tax from all businesses “from 35% to 15%.” In other words, Clinton wanted the government to interfere with big companies which are the major components of the market, but Trump would reduce intervention by reducing the tax. Furthermore, Trump would like to bring more competition around companies when he talked about insurance reformation during the second debate. In the ANES survey, more percentage of people who voted for Clinton believed that strong government control could solve economic problems rather than the free market, so the voters’ preferences match the political ideologies of both candidates.

Another perspective would be the income gaps. There is much more percentage of the people who voted for Clinton believe that the income gaps in the U.S. are much larger. Clinton also criticized Trump that he wanted to reduce taxes for rich people. Therefore, their political concepts also match voters' preferences.

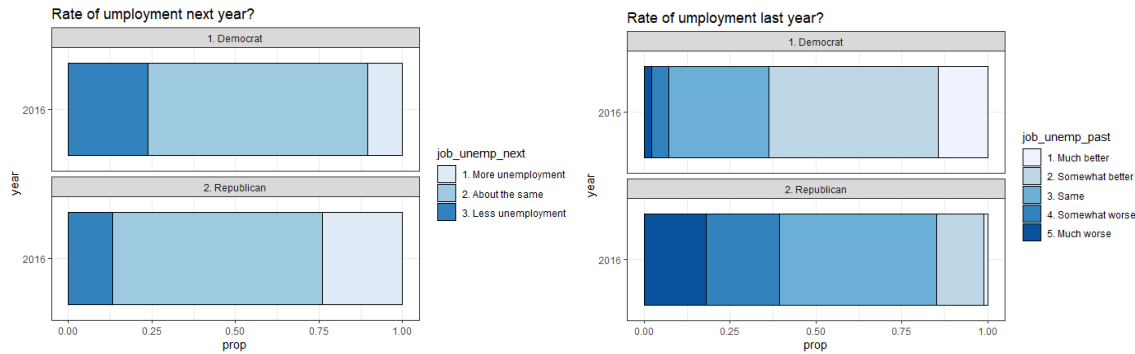


During the third presidential debate, Trump claimed that he would stop funding some international institutions and allies. Besides, Trump believed that Clinton would increase the tax, but he would decrease the tax. From the voting result below, there are more percentage of the people voted for Trump thinks that government wastes a lot of tax money, so the performance of Trump during the presidential debate matches the voting result.

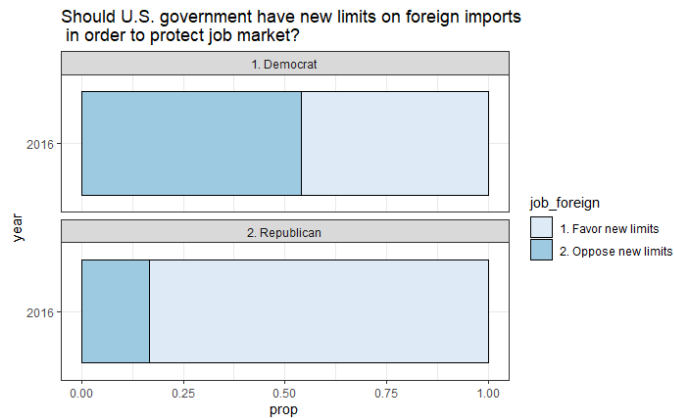


## Jobs

Jobs are highly related with the economy. From the two graphs below, we can find that more percentage of the people who voted for Trump believes the unemployment rate was bad last year and will be bad next year. The result is same as people's attitudes on general economy which showed above.

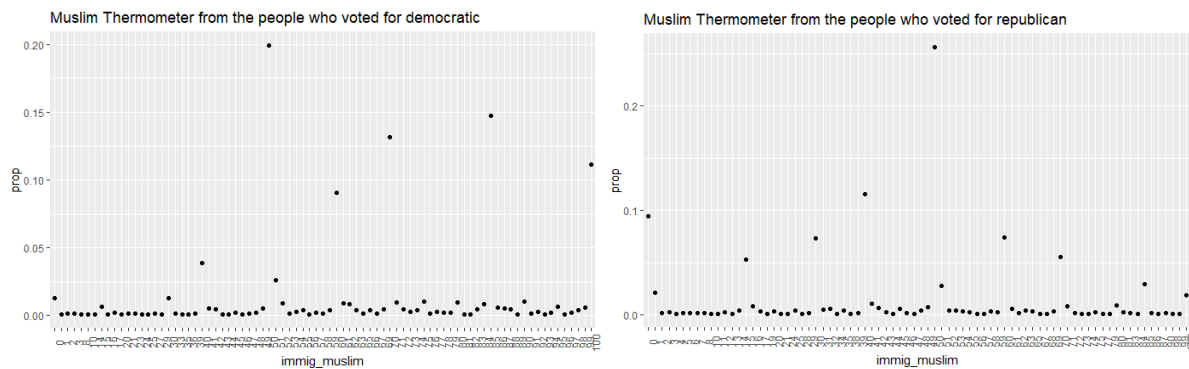


From the presidential debate, one major concern is to increase job opportunities. Clinton wanted to create new job opportunities, but Trump wanted to bring back the jobs that “are fleeing the country.” The result from the ANES survey matches their different attitudes. More percentage of the people voted for Trump thinks that U.S. should have new limits on foreign imports to protect job market.



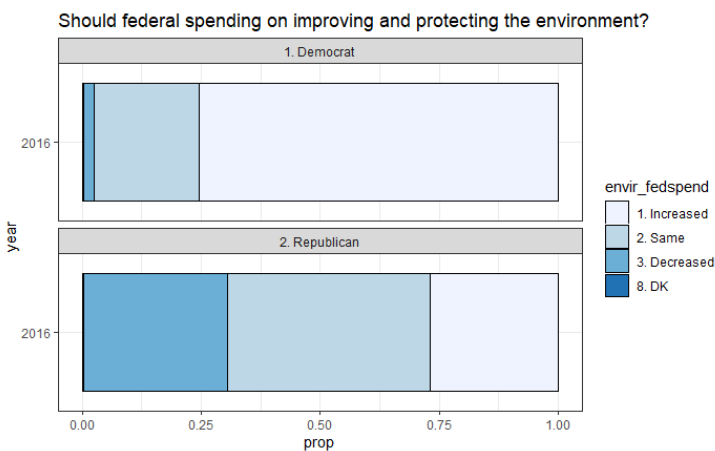
## International relationship

During the first presidential debates, Clinton mentioned her concrete plan on fighting ISIS including working with allies and targeting group leaders, but Trump only had a “secrete plan” (or “no plan” criticized by Clinton). From the two graphs below, we can see that the thermometer on Muslim is generally higher for people who voted for Clinton. In other words, the people who voted for Trump might not care about Muslim or international issues comparing with the people who voted for Clinton. Therefore, the ideologies from both candidates on fighting ISIS match the voters’ preferences.



## Environment

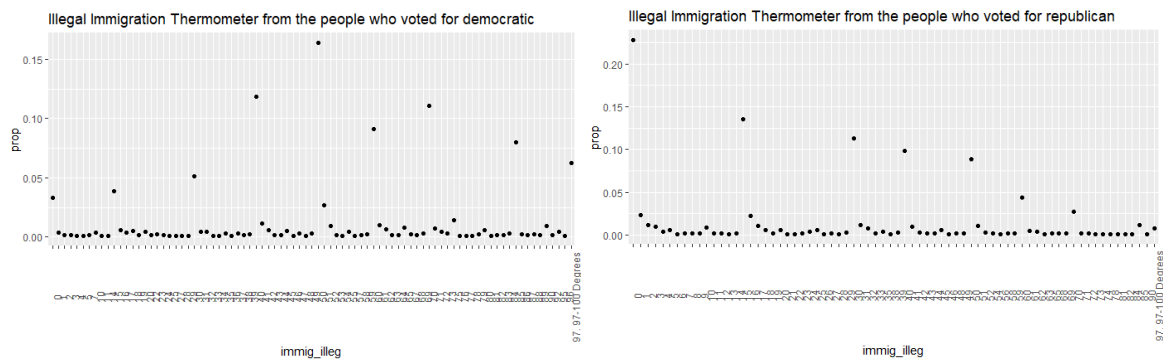
During the first debate, Clinton mentioned her plans for clean energy. She thought about deploying “a half billion more solar panels” and building a “new modern electrical grid.” She also wanted the U.S. to be independent for clean energy. However, Trump wanted revitalized the traditional energy industry. From the ANES survey, we can find that much more percentage of the people who voted for Clinton want the government to spend more on improving and protecting the environment. Therefore, their ideologies shown in the debate match voters’ result.



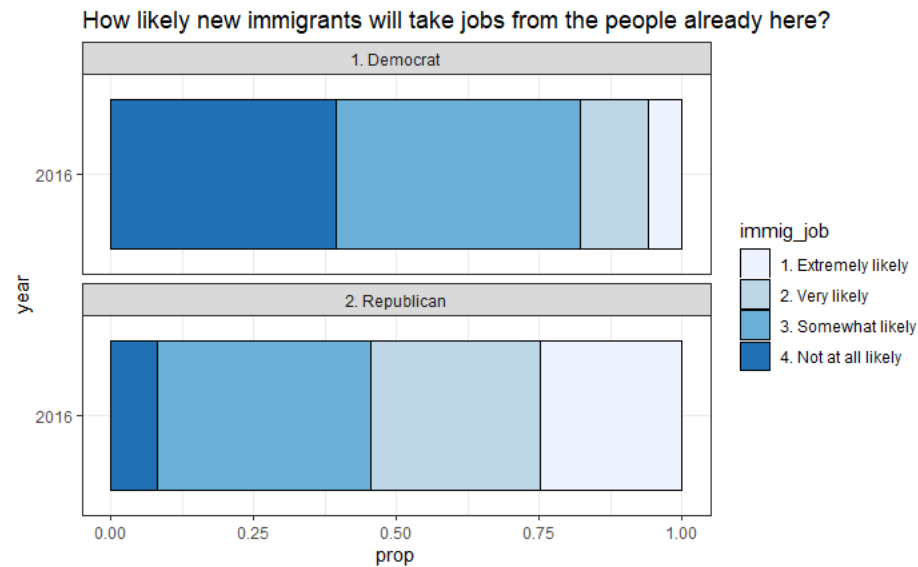
## Immigrants

There are two parts in immigration issues. The first part is illegal immigrants, and the second part is the immigrants who might take jobs from people who already in the U.S.

For the first part, Trump did want illegal immigrants in the U.S. He mentioned that “illegal immigrants are bad people, and they are dangerous,” he wanted to “build a wall,” and he wanted to repatriate all the illegal immigrants. By contrast, Clinton had a completely opposite strategy. She advocated the equality of illegal immigrants in the first debate and she did not want to repatriate illegal immigrants as mentioned in the third debate. Like the previous Muslim question, the thermometer of the people who voted for Trump is lower than the people who voted for Clinton. It seems like people who voted for Clinton are care more about illegal immigrants. However, both candidates cared about illegal immigrants, so there might not be a strong relationship between voters’ preference and debate performances of both candidates.



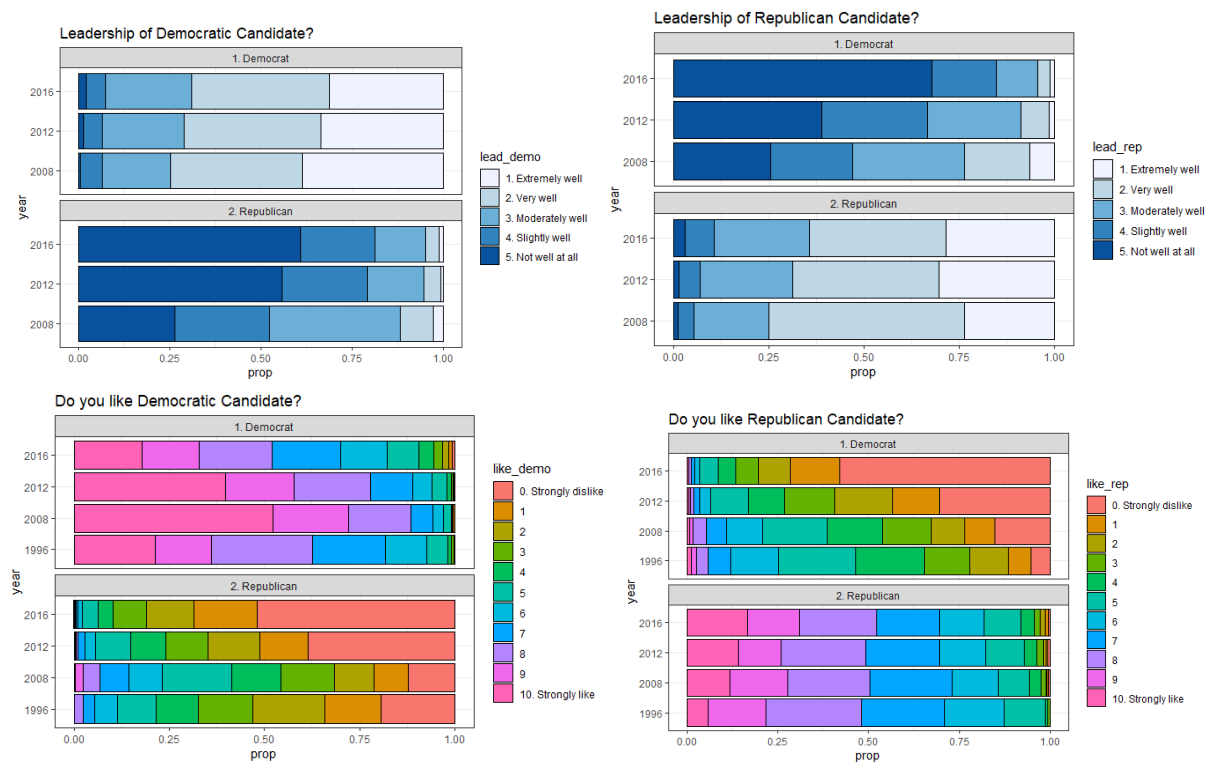
However, the political philosophies from both candidates match voters’ preferences. From the survey, we can find that there are much more percentage of the people who voted for Trump who believes that new immigrants will take jobs from the people who already in the U.S.





In conclusion, most of the political philosophies that we analyzed in this project and from both candidates align with the preferences from the voters who voted for them. Therefore, we might conclude that the voting result might be affected by voters' similar ideologies with the specific candidate. However, do voters vote for a specific candidate only due to the similar ideologies? Voters might also appreciate some traits from that specific candidate. For example, from the graphs below, more percentage of the people who voted for Clinton likes Clinton and appreciates her leadership, and much more percentage of the people who voted for Clinton do not like Trump, and do not believe in his leadership.

Another interesting aspect is that the percentage of the people who voted for Clinton and appreciate her leadership or like her is **less** than the percentage of the people who voted for Clinton and dislike Trump and do not believe his leadership. It seems that the candidate the voters who voted for are based on hating the other candidate rather than having a strong belief in the candidate who voted for. Over the years, this phenomenon has become more apparent.



In this project, I assumed a possible relationship between voters' preferences and candidates' ideologies from 2016 presidential election. We might use future surveys to test this relationship.