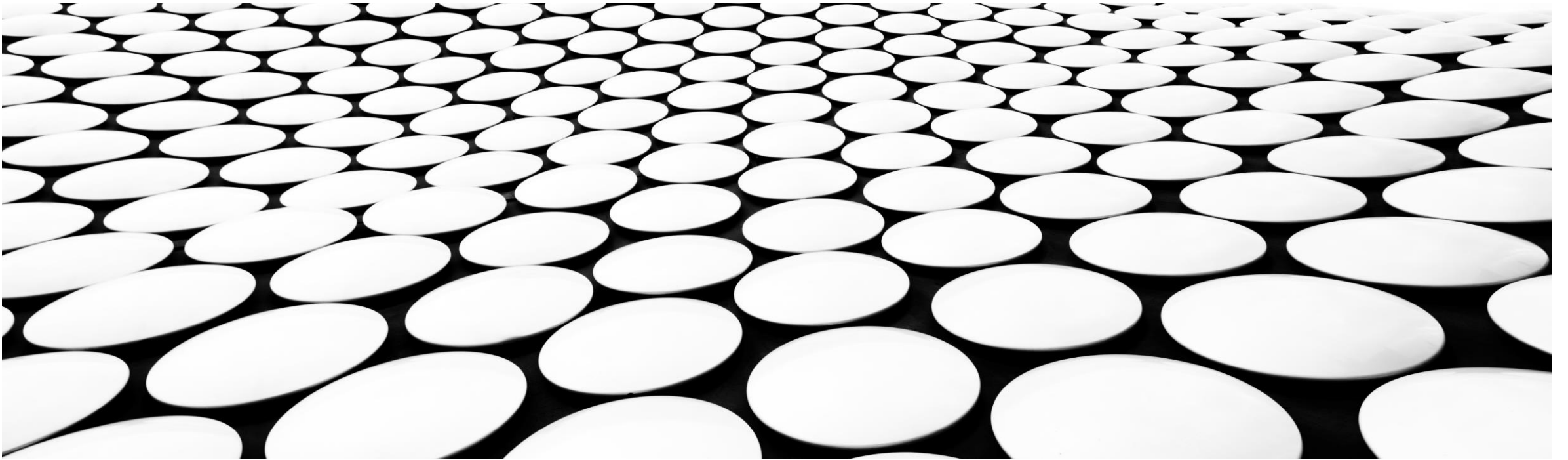
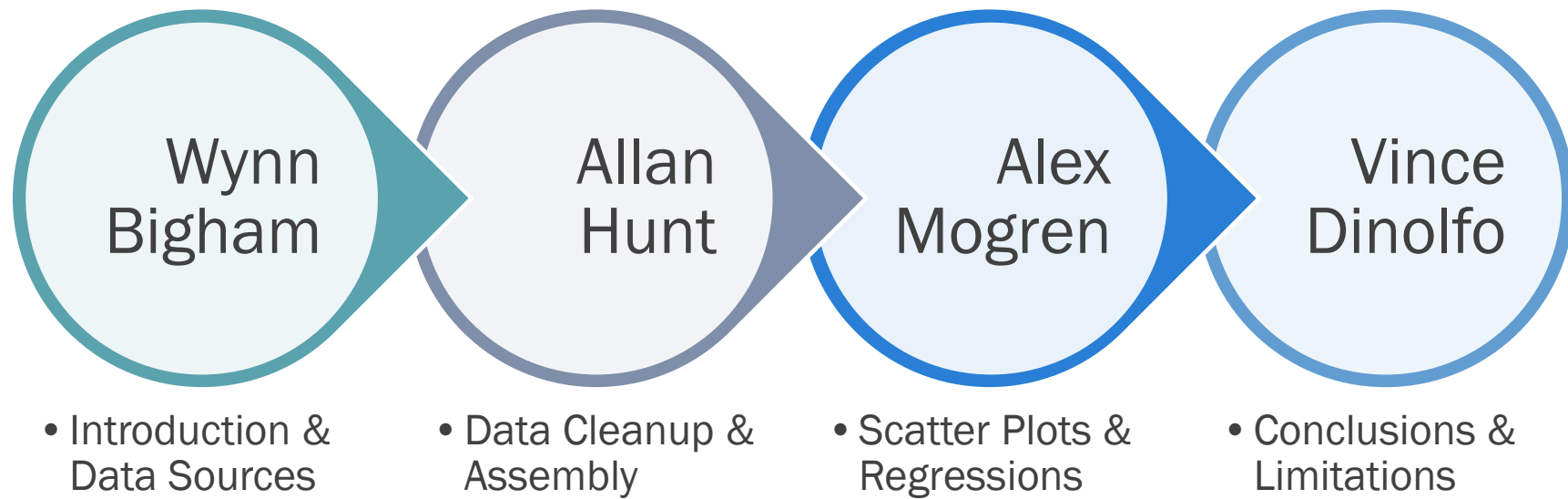

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS VS. INTEREST IN GUN OWNERSHIP

TEAM 8



TEAM 8



SOURCES

INTEREST IN GUN OWNERSHIP

- **Background Checks:** FBI
National Instant Criminal
Background Check System
(NICS)

ELECTION RESULTS

- **Results by Election Year:**
Federal Election Commission
(FEC)

CLEANUP & ASSEMBLY

Per State/DC & Presidential Election Year:

BACKGROUND CHECKS:

- All purchase scenarios
- All months in the year
- **Change into the next year**

ELECTION RESULTS:

- **Percentage of the Democratic vote**
- Count of Democratic victories

STATE GROUPINGS:

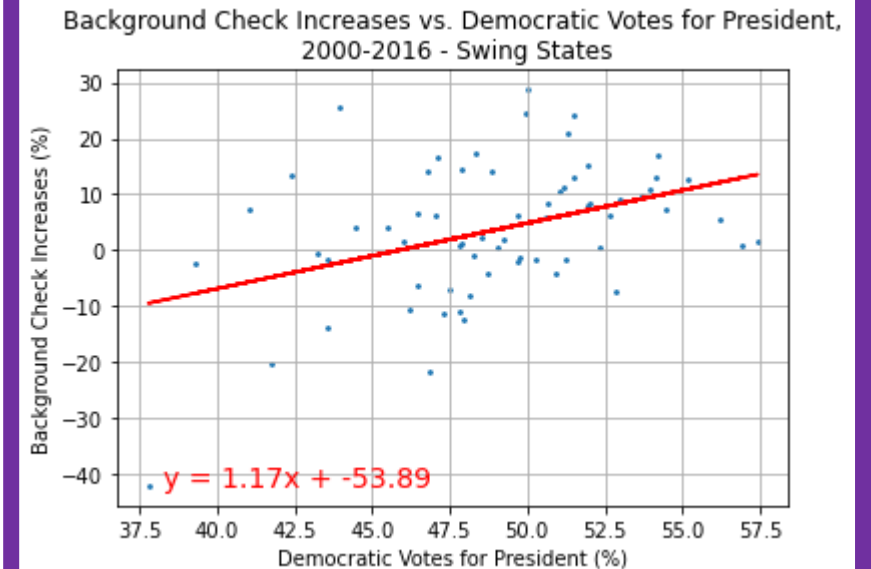
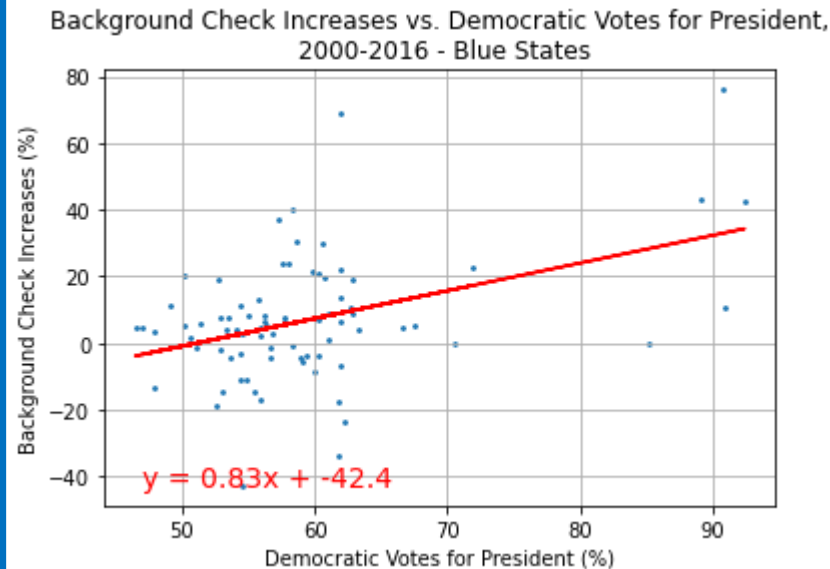
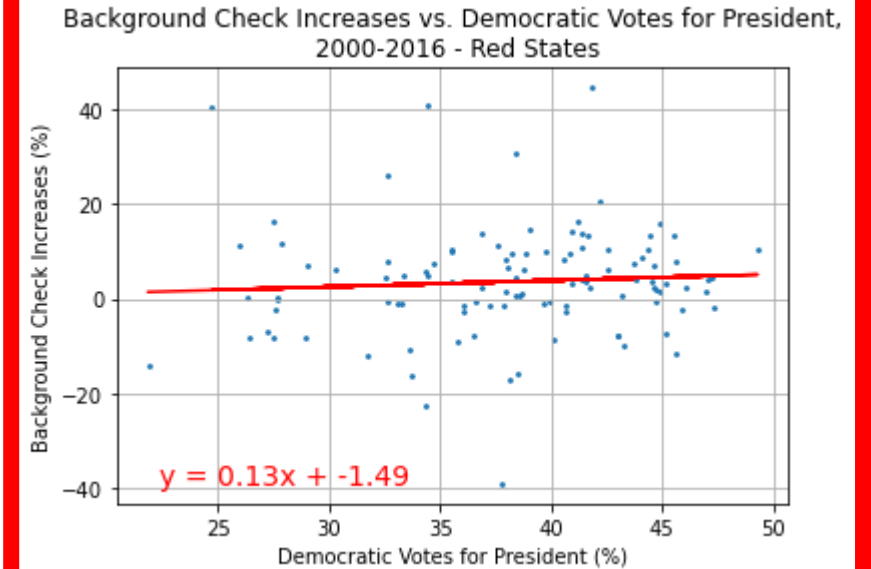
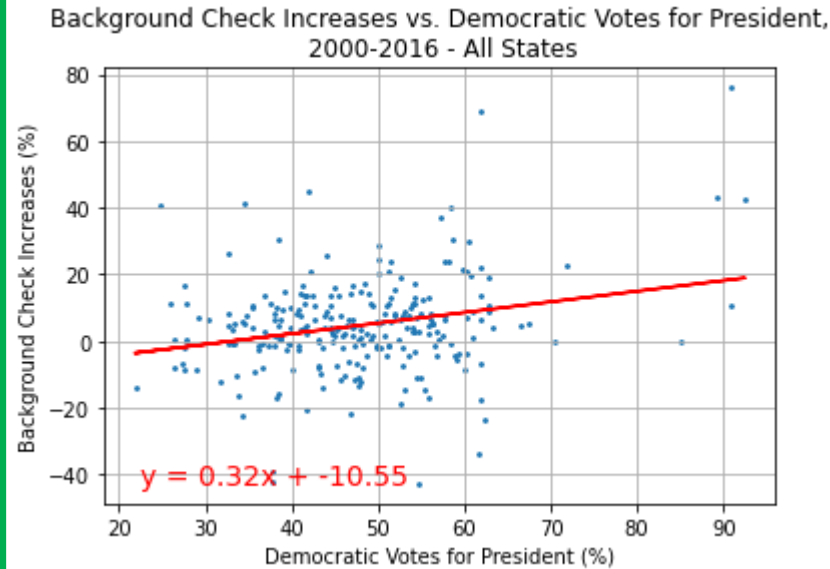
- **Red:** 0 Democratic wins (22)
- **Blue:** 5 Democratic wins (16)
- **Swing:** All others (13)

2000–2016

All presidential elections corresponding to the available background check data

r^2 values:

- All: 0.0636
- Red: 0.0048
- Blue: 0.1742
- Swing: 0.1576



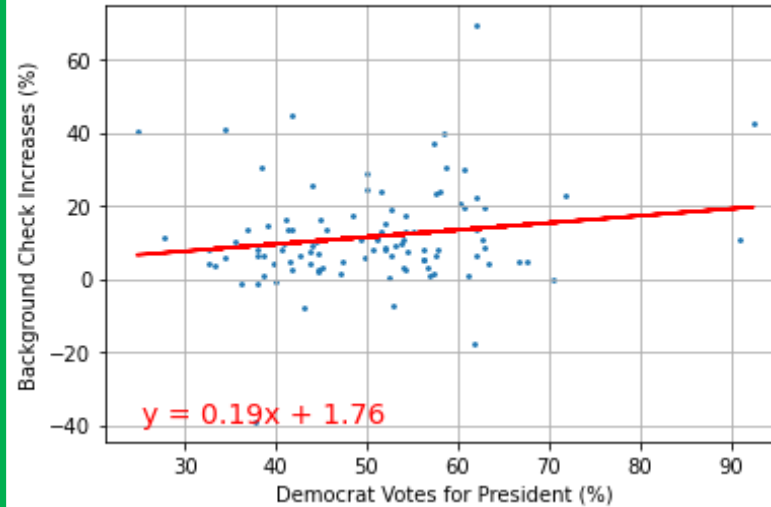
2008 & 2012

Only the elections won nationally by the Democratic candidate

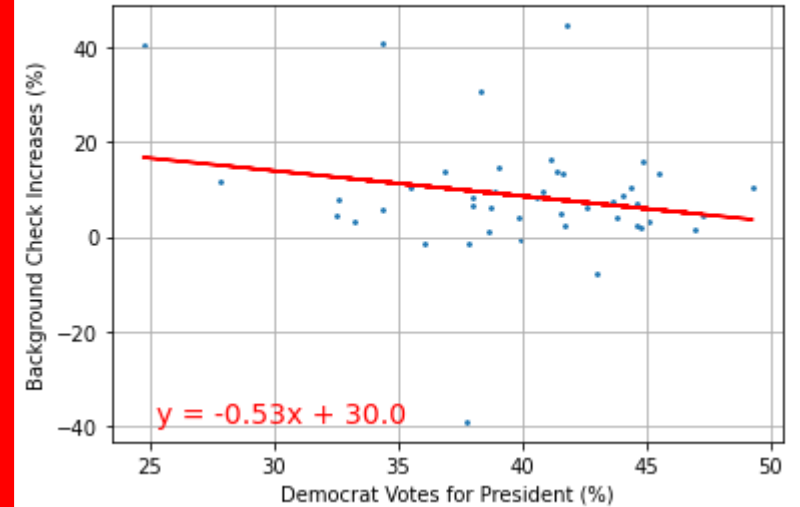
r^2 values:

- All: 0.0271
- Red: 0.0426
- Blue: 0.0162
- Swing: 0.3214

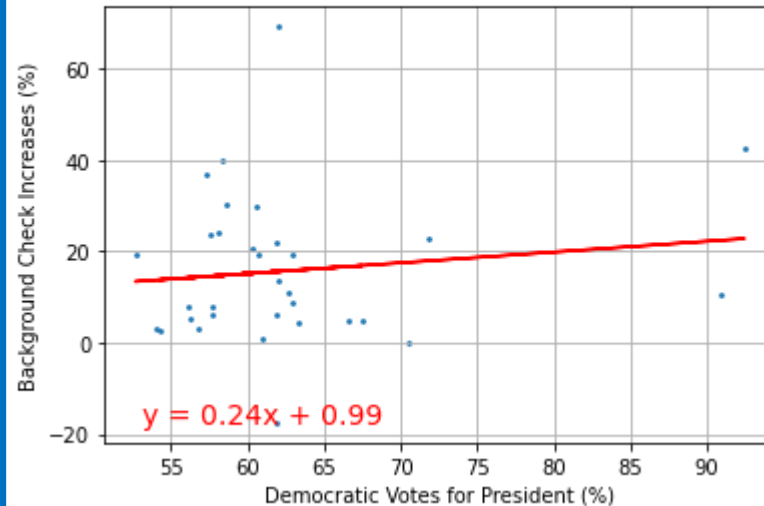
Background Check Increases vs. Democrat Votes for President, 2008 & 2012 - All States



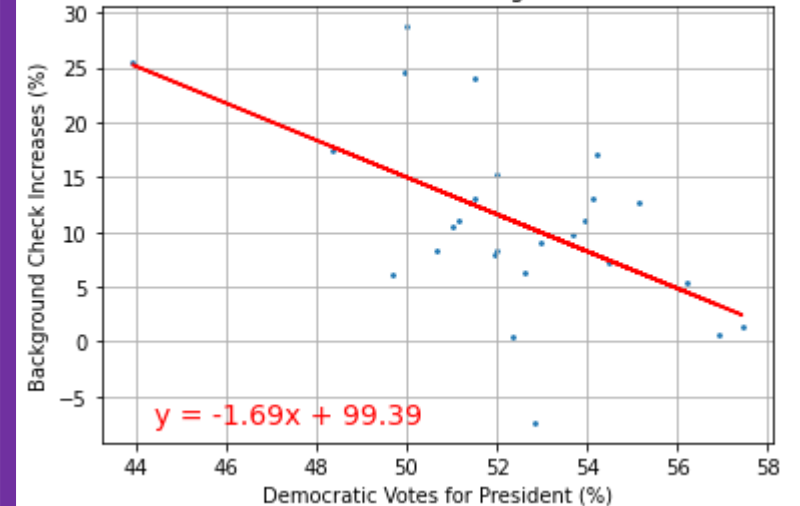
Background Check Increases vs. Democrat Votes for President, 2008 & 2012 - Red States



Background Check Increases vs. Democratic Votes for President, 2008 & 2012 - Blue States



Background Check Increases vs. Democratic Votes for President, 2008 & 2012 - Swing States



RESULTS OVERVIEW

- **Unable to disprove the null hypothesis:** There is no relation between success of Democrats and an increase in interest in gun ownership in that state, even if the Democrat wins the national election
 - **Results** go against the conventional, anecdotal assumed relationship: that people will apply for guns after a Democrat is elected in fear of increased gun regulations making it more difficult to get guns in the future
 - Our findings are **limited** due to looking at only presidential election, and total votes across the entire state
 - Based on these findings, **if we were to do this analysis again** it would be worth exploring election results within states, county by county to understand which types of voters responded to election results

APPENDIX: RESULTS DETAIL

Results

- Results were opposite of what we anticipated and go against the conventional, anecdotal assumed relationship; that people will apply for guns after a Democrat is elected in fear of increased gun regulations making it more difficult to get guns in the future
 - The strongest relationship was in swing states following Barack Obama's election and re-election, where background checks decreased the following years
 - Results showed the weakest relationship in red states, which goes against our hypothesis given we assumed these states would have the strongest, positive relationship
 - Although it was a weak relationship, results suggest that background checks were more positively related with Democratic candidate success in blue states

Limitations

- Our findings are limited due to looking at only presidential election, and total votes across the entire state
- Additionally, looking at only background check applications, rather than actual gun purchase, may not tell the whole story since:
 - Those that already have background checks may increase gun purchases following election results
 - There are ways to purchase guns that avoid the need to apply for a background check

Next Steps

- Based on these findings, if we were to do this analysis again it would be worth exploring election results within states, county by county to understand which types of voters responded to election results
 - Would be interesting to see relationship in blue states, which typically have much of the state counties vote republican but democrat in the population centers
- Would also be good to look at firearm purchases rather than background checks