Group 1

**Presentation: District Data (24.03.2020)**

1. **Overview of the US Elections in 2020**

**2020 Senate Race:**

* 35 seats out of 100 up for election on November 3, 2020 (33 Class 2 senators and 2 special elections in Georgia and Arizona)
  + 12 democrats and 23 republicans
  + Elected for 6 years, except for Georgia and Arizona (2 years)
* For vacant seats: <https://cookpolitical.com/ratings/senate-race-ratings>
* are directly elected by the people of each state
* 2 senators for each state

**2020 House Race:**

* Biennial election for representatives from all 435 Congressional Districts will take place on November 3, 2020
* For vacant seats: <https://cookpolitical.com/ratings/house-race-ratings>
* Elected for two years
* are directly elected by the people of each state divided into districts
* size of representatives of each state depends on size of population
* List of district representatives: <https://www.house.gov/representatives>

**2020 Presidential Election:**

* November 3rd, 2020
* Each major party will choose a nominee for the 2020 presidential election through a series of primaries and caucuses, culminating in a national convention held in mid-2020
* is elected indirectly by the people of each state, through an Electoral College

Ein Bild, das Karte, Text enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

**General Election Calendar for 2020:**

<https://www.270towin.com/2020-election-calendar/>

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**Sources:**

<https://www.270towin.com/2020-house-election/>

<https://www.electionprojection.com/presidential-elections.php>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_United_States_elections>

Our basic dataset is based on <https://www.cookpolitical.com> and [https://www.ballotpedia.org](https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page).

Our basic dataset includes the Name, District and Party affiliation of the candidates in competitive races. We added the following variables and included all running congressional candidates as of right now.

**2. Demographic information on the Candidates of House and Senate**

We plan to collect the data for the demographical categories listed below. These categories are derived from GESIS. GESIS is a renowned institute for survey methodology. That way, we can assure that we cover all important demographics. (<https://www.gesis.org/fileadmin/upload/dienstleistung/tools_standards/demsta99.pdf>)

**Information via Wikipedia (Individual Page of Each Candidate)**

1. Age
2. Sex (Male/Female)
3. Marital status (Single/Married/Widowed/Divorced/Separated)
4. Number of children
5. Incumbency (yes/no) of Senate Candidates
6. Race (White/ Black or African American/ American Indian or Alaska Native/Asian/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander/ Some other   
   🡪Categories derived: <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>
7. Ethnicity (Hispanic/Latino/Spanish)  
   🡪 Categories derived: <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>

**Information via Cook Political Report** (<https://cookpolitical.com/>)

1. Name
2. District
3. Incumbency (yes/no) of House Candidates

**Information via Ballotpedia** (<https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page>)

1. Compensation
2. Education (Less than high school degree/High school degree or equivalent/Some college but not degree/associate degree/Bachelor’s degree/Master’s degree/Graduate degree)
3. Religion (Protestantism/Catholicism/No religion/Other)
4. Profession

**Information via Congressional Research Service** (<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45583.pdf>)

🡪 Gives an overview over the demographics of the current congress and allows a double check of the information individually collected for the (incumbent candidates) that run again

*Notes on the distinction between Race and Ethnicity*

To classify a person by their race may seem disconcerting to us, however in the US it’s a common procedure of documenting demographics. The race categories listed above are aligned with the 2020 US (<https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>)

In the United states, ethnicity refers to a person’s origin, i.e. the country of birth of their ancestors before arriving in the US, and in 2020 there are three categories, Hispanic, Latino or Spanish. People who identify as any of those three can be at the same time of any race

🡪 Categories from Census: <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>

“The **United States Census Bureau** adheres to the 1997 Office of Management and Budget **standards on race and ethnicity**. Census participants may report more than one race and do so based on self-identification. [ ] The racial categories attempt to reflect a social definition of race rather than a biological, anthropological or genetic one.”

* Ballotpedia. 2015. “*Race and Ethnicity on The United States Census*.” <https://ballotpedia.org/Race_and_Ethnicity_on_the_United_States_Census>, accessed: 16.03.2020.

This shows how important race and origin still is in the United States. Therefore, we found it to be important to include these demographic variables.

**3. Information on Electoral Districts**

**Population of each district**

* For an overview (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_congressional_districts>)
  + From this website, each state’s districts are listed and you can go to information in each state’s congressional districts (e.g. link to Alabama’s congressional districts, Arizona’s congressional districts….)
* Main information on 2018 House race in all states ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018\_United\_States\_House\_of\_Representatives\_elections#Results\_summary\_and\_analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections" \l "Results_summary_and_analysis))
  + From there, you can go to each state’s results (e.g. Link to 2018 US House of Representatives elections in Alabama, etc.) with voting percentage, and number of people who voted.
  + From state’s results, you can go to Wikipedia site of each district and look up population
* People eligible to vote in each district = Citizen Voting Age Population (table 1 on <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/congressional-voting-tables.html>)

**Information via Website of US Cenus Bureau on Districts of 116th Congress** (<https://www.census.gov/mycd/?st=04&cd=01>)

The following variables are based on raw numbers so percentages would need to be calculated if necessary

1. Average Voter’s Age

🡪What is the general composition of the electorate. Are there many old people in the district? How high is the percentage of those being 25 or younger? By knowing this, hypotheses on voting behavior of certain age groups can be generated.

1. Sex

🡪What is the gender composition of the electorate? What is the male to female ratio?

1. Race (White/Black of African American/ American Indian and Alaskan Native/Asian/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander/ Some other race)  
   🡪 How many people of a race live in one district?  
   🡪 States with higher homogeneity might produce different electoral outcomes that states with high ethnic heterogeneity, or the type of dominant race might affect the outcome
2. Ethnicity (Hispanic/Latino/Spanish)  
   🡪How many people of an ethnicity live in one district?  
   🡪 For instance: States with higher homogeneity might produce different electoral outcomes that states with high ethnic heterogeneity, or the type of dominant ethnicity might affect the outcome
3. Unemployment Rate  
   🡪How many unemployed people live in a district?
4. Income per year => Median Household Income
5. Percentage of people whose income has been below poverty level in the past year
6. Percentage of people who have proper health insurance coverage (With health insurance coverage/ With private health insurance/ With public coverage/ No health insurance coverage)  
   🡪Might be interesting especially at the moment but also because many people cannot afford it and it is a political issue
7. Highest education achieved on average (High school/ Bachelor or higher)

All of these variables allow us to develop specific and meaningful hypotheses and paint a realistic picture of each candidate’s district.