CMSC 12200 Project Proposal

Understanding the Changes in U.S 2016 Elections

Group Members:

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Objectives:

- This project aims to identify significant changes in the voter preferences on county-basis by comparing the elections results from 2012 and 2016.
- After the identification of significant regional changes in the voter preferences, our analysis will further investigate the reasons behind these significant changes. Our main goal with this project is to verify the popular speculations about the recent election results such as influences of immigration policies, trade agreements, education level, poverty rates, unemployment rates, average income, etc. Our project will examine correlations between the changes in the previously listed parameters and changes in the voter preferences.
- In addition to investigating socio-economic and demographic reasons behind the changes in voter preferences, our project also aims to examine likelihood of Bernie Sanders voter voting for Donald Trump. We will compare the primary results and how well Donald Trump has done in counties with high Bernie Sanders support.

Sources of Data:

- Department of Commerce – US Census Bureau (demographics of business owners)
  - https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t
- County Level Primary Results -WSJ
  - http://graphics.wsj.com/elections/2016/all-primary-caucus-results-2016/
- County Level Election Results
  - https://github.com/tonmcg/County_Level_Election_Results_12-16
- ERS USDA – County Level Datasets (population, poverty, education, unemployment, education rates)
  - https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/county-level-data-sets
- Department of Commerce – US Census Bureau (immigration estimates)
  - https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/population-estimates

Timeline:

6th Week: Analysis of Election Results, identifying major changes on county level

8th Week: Clearing the data for other parameters and investigating possible regressions

9th Week: Preparation of Final Analysis and website/search tool