

Project Proposal

Beating Nate Silver

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Data Sets:

[Kaggle Data Set: 2016 US Election](#)
[United States Census Bureau](#)

Background:

The current election cycle has become one of, if not the most polarizing election in modern times. The stakes for this election are very high in terms of public, domestic, and international perception. Thus, for each respective candidate and their supporters, it is extremely important to identify the most valuable predictors of support. Candidates are attempting to both figure out the best way to appeal to the public and which sector to appeal to (and why). Candidates are also trying to find suitable donors for their campaigns. The election will change the shape of the US for years to come.

Objective:

Based on census data and county facts, can we predict which factors are the most important in deciding which candidate to vote for? Will volatility of wages in certain counties affect which candidate it votes for? What are the most important socioeconomic traits of individuals and groups of people (i.e. counties, similar backgrounds) that determine who one could vote for? What's the biggest trait of undecided and independent voters? Using these questions and primary results, can we predict which counties will vote for each candidate?

Results:

Would this information also help for future elections? Can factors or a change in certain factors be a solid predictor of voting outcome?