Introduction

The media often classifies states as being as being red, meaning Republican, or blue, meaning Democrat, by the voting results from that state. It is not known if people based their migration decisions on the results of these elections. Do people who are Democrats avoid going to states with Republicans or vice versa? Or do factors such as economic growth factor greater into the decisions of people? With recent elections having flipped many key states from usually red states to blue states, it is possible that migration might have influenced these outcomes. This study looks to correlate migration from blue to red states to see if this might factor into the states being flipped in Presidential elections.

Data

The migration data for this study was pulled from the U.S. Census website at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/geographic-mobility/state-to-state-migration.html>. We looked to pull data from the years 2017,2018,2019, and 2020 to evaluate the results for the 2020 election. However, the 2020 data was not available at the time of the study. Due to the fact that 2020 was the year of COVID-19, these seemed acceptable because mobility was greatly constrained due to the fact of lockdowns due to COVID-19.

The election data was pulled from [https://electionlab.mit.edu/data for the U.S](https://electionlab.mit.edu/data%20for%20the%20U.S). Presidents from 2016-2020. This data contains the results for each presidential candidate for those years.

There was some data manipulation that was needed to get the data into a format to test our hypothesis.

The migration data needs to be pivoted and condensed into red and blue state migration. We used the year 2016 election to determine the state affiliation. We then summed up the migration from Democratic states and Republican states into a variable called totalMigration. After this we created a variable named skew which was Democratic votes- Republic votes. Therefore, a positive skew would mean Democratic migration while a negative value would mean Republican migration. We did this for 2016 and 2020, so we had a total skew for both elections.