



## Proposal Status | MAIN ►

**Organization:** Washington University

### Review #8

**Proposal Number:** 1152472  
**NSF Program:** Political Science  
**Principal Investigator:** Montgomery, Jacob  
**Proposal Title:** Collaborative Research on Ensemble Methods for the Prediction of Political Outcomes  
**Rating:** Good

### REVIEW:

What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

The PIs propose to develop methods focused on prediction.

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

The applications will be wide ranging and policy relevant.

Summary Statement

The PIs propose to extend statistical methods for prediction. They will also develop software for these methods and provide that freely. This proposal is focused on forecasting models. The PIs propose to extend Ensemble Bayesian Model Averaging methods. EBMA methods are not new, but the current models and software have not been implemented for dichotomous variables. The pdfs that have been currently worked out are normal, poisson, or gamma, but much data in political science (especially international relations) is binary.

The extension here is straightforward. While this is an example of good normal science, the proposal and project are not transformative. The PIs give examples of how this work can be used to make forecasts in international relations, presidential elections, and Supreme Court decisions. These are all interesting applications.

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