

# More Money, More Problems: Analyzing the Effects of PAC Money on US Politics

Edmund Chitwood

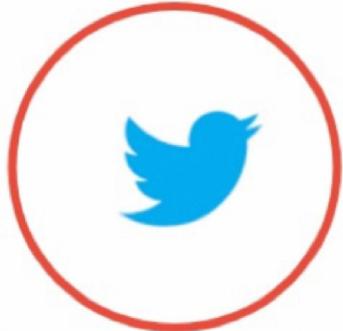
# Campaign Finance in the 21st Century

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# Project Workflow

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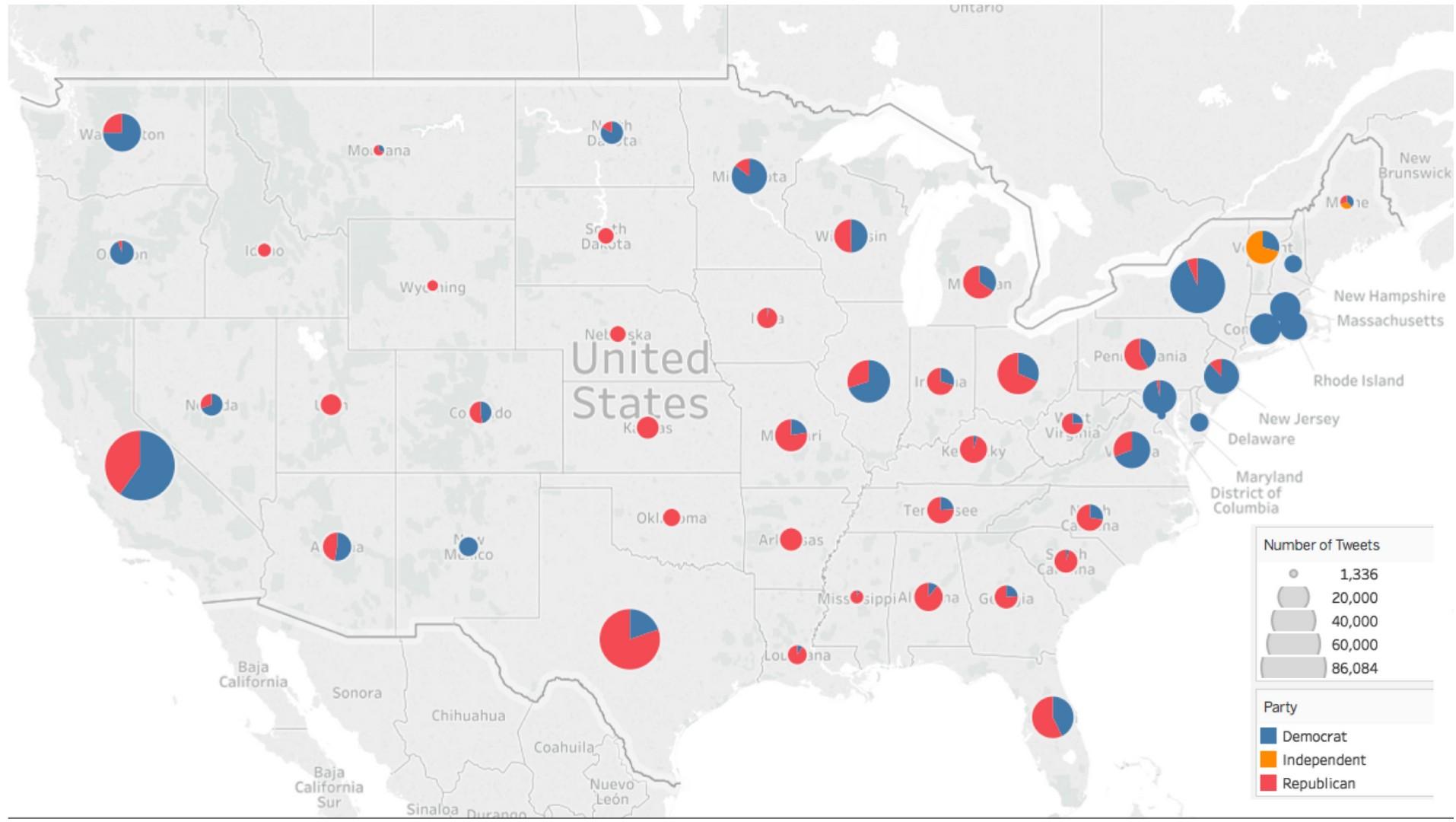


Used PyQuery to get  
Tweets and Read  
them into AWS

Explored and  
Cleaned Data with  
Pandas

Preprocessed  
Tweets with Natural  
Language Toolkit

Topic Modeling with  
gensim



# Most Liked Tweet

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Bernie Sanders

@SenSanders

Follow



President Trump, you made a big mistake. By trying to divide us up by race, religion, gender and nationality you actually brought us closer.



- Tweet by Bernie Sanders
- Jan 21, 2017
- 436,290 Retweets
- 947,663 Likes

# Topic Modeling with Latent Dirichlet Allocation

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50 Topics Identified in Tweets, Including:

## Veterans Benefits

Veterans, Associations, Take, Federal, Better, Government, Ensure, Deserve, Benefits

## Health Care

Health, Americans, Care, Millions, Still, Show, Safety, Insurance, Republicans

## Tax Reform

Tax, Reform, End, Stand, Cuts, Class, Middle, Families, Long

## Crises and Conflicts

World, Change, Crises, Climate, War, Iran, Fair, Immigration, Lead, US

# Most Common Topics by Most PAC Money

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**Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA)**

- \$5.9 Million from PACs Last Election
- Tweets about **Meetings, Honors, Congress, the American People, Hearings**



**Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)**

- \$5.8 Million from PACs Last Election
- Tweets about **Meetings, Supporting the Troops, Honors, Congress, Legislation**



**Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)**

- \$5.5 Million from PACs Last Election
- Tweets about **Meetings, Honors, Hearings, Students, Looking Forward**

# Most Common Topics by Least PAC Money

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**Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO)**

- No Money from PACs Last Election
- Tweets about **Meetings, Congress, Support the Troops, Health Care, Legislation**



**Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)**

- No Money from PACs Last Election
- Tweets about **Students, Special Investigation, Visiting Places, Health Care, Meetings**



**Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL)**

- No Money from PACs Last Election
- Tweets about **Honors, Hearings, US Economy, Meetings, Congress**

# Conclusions

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- More Money, Less Substance
- Old Problem, New Solutions
- Get Out the Vote



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