



Overview

The Democratic Party faces an uncertain political future.



EMG Consulting has been retained to build a model to predict election outcomes to help the party better utilize its resources.





The Approach

- Roughly 1,600 records and 27 columns of county-level demographic and presidential election data from 2008-2020 approx. 50/50 Democratic/Republican split
- Make predictions based on similarity to counties with known outcome in these elections
- Emphasis on creating a model that makes few predictions where the Republican victory comes as a surprise

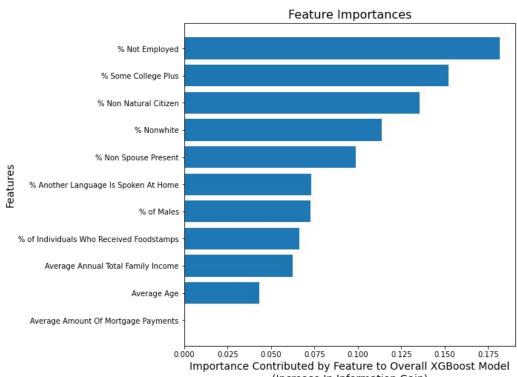


Recommendation #1: Keep a particularly careful eye on counties where a large proportion is not in the labor force.



Proportion of the population out of the labor force is important.

- Includes retirees a key Republican constituency
- In a different model, increase of ~6.5% percent in this proportion of the population was associated with a ~28% increase in likelihood of Republican victory



(Increase In Information Gain)

Recommendation #2: To prioritize avoiding surprising election losses, use a model that classifies counties based on similarity to counties with known outcomes.



We have a few important metrics:

Accuracy

How often are we right?

Total proportion of correct predictions.

Recall

How often are we surprised in a bad way?

False negatives mean surprise Republican victories.

Precision

How often are we surprised in a good way?

False positives mean surprise Democratic victories.



- 160

- 140

- 120

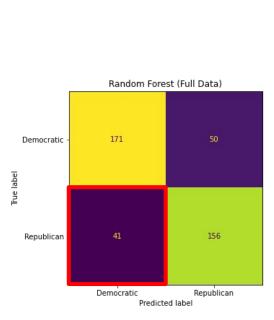
- 100

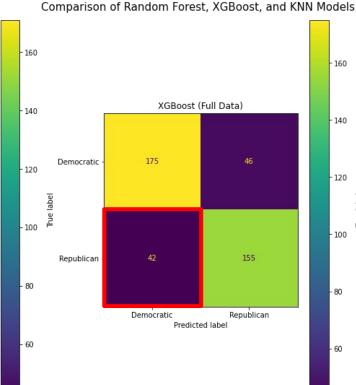
- 80

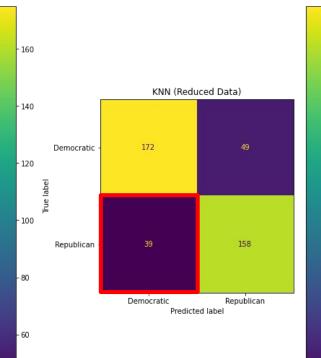
- 60

Model Performance









Recommendation #3: Work to shore up the party's base in communities of color and higher-educated communities.



The Map Is Shifting. The Party Must Adapt.

