Presidencies and the People

Harshil Patel

Colorado State University – Global Campus

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The topic I chose to investigate is related to past and current presidents and the conditions that people lived in under those presidents. I want to see if most people are better off under Democratic presidents, Republican presidents, or whether it does not matter at all. I will investigate how much better off they are based on changes in income levels, employment rates, medical coverage, and other factors consistent with a good quality of life. Early research here points to the economy faring better under Democratic presidents which seems odd considering that usually democratic presidents equate to higher taxes and increased interest rates leading to lower business. It will be very interesting to see how people’s lives are affected by the monetary, fiscal, and public policies of presidents of the past.

I will be using R for this research and one of the main data sets that I will be using will come from the US Census and their data surrounding income levels. I may also investigate the data for the National Health Interview Survey since they provide quarterly updates to personal health questionnaires. I also hope to use the US Bureau of Labor Statistics data to examine changes in employment levels.

Through initial research the only data visualization tool that I may use is the maps package for R to show changes based on presidency across the US and also to help assess whether certain states that vote Republican or Democrat are better off having if political party wins the presidency. By the end of the project I hope to understand the key differences between the presidencies of Democrats and Republicans and see if there really is conclusive proof that one is drastically better for the country than the other.

References

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