

## Draft on the Project Proposal v3

Some people at first, thought Trump's election as a joke. However, Trump has won big on the republican primaries. Trump's success is a surprise for many people, including political observers who have paid close attention to American politics. People start to search for the reasons behind Trump's huge success. There are many angles towards this phenomenon, from global issues to internal economic change. Among them, two interrelated questions raised by articles from media like CNN and the Washington Post are at the focus of this project for the time being.

*"Is the US election 2016 a political race or a class race?"*

*"Is Donald Trump leading a realignment of the GOP?"*

*(The details about the background of these problems can be found in the next chapter  
"Background of InfoVis Problems")*

However, as an HCI project, the **primary focus** of this project is not to give an answer for a specific political research questions mentioned above, or do prediction on the election. Instead, the goal of this project is to provide **a tool** for people who is interested in the trump phenomenon to view, explore and interact with the data available, so as to gain inside of the Trump's phenomenon.

Nevertheless, those two questions mentioned above can serve as a **guideline** for this project, and provides a focus for the data collection as well as the design of the visualization. To help answer those questions, a better understanding about the **structure of the supporters** for each candidate and each party is required. As a result, the project is going to keep its eyes on the **data of the people behind Trump** and the other candidates (from both the current election and previous elections). The project is going to focus on several key attributes of the supporters from **race, gender, education, social class and ideology**, and facilitate user interactions among them, so as to find out if the election is still a "political race"? And if so, is there a realignment of the power of the two parties? On the other hand, the project is not going study global issues, or money behind the candidates(if it is related, then it might be included later).

As an HCI project, a complete process from user study, user testing and development will be carried out. The potential users can be any web users who are interested in this topic. However, to be more specific, focus group meeting with data analytics and political observers, is favored for the user study, since they can provide more detailed and targeted information for such an infovis. A study of the existing information visualization on the election and related political topics will be carried out to summarize different scenarios, as well as pros and cons of them. The anticipated interactions include exploration data such as **zooming and clicking**, comparison between **candidate vs candidate, attribute vs attribute, candidate vs attribute**,

by combining and differentiating the data. The key users' interactions should be identified and categorized after the user study. Corresponding tests will be carried out. As a web project, A/B testing and google analytics can also help assist in the user testing.

With the focus of the structure of the supporters, the current available data are the voting result as well as the county facts from **US census**. The county facts data can provide user an idea of the social class and other general demographic information about the people. There is not a direct measure of the ideology data found now, but there is indirect data based on the media consumption.

*Exploring Political Bias with the Bitly Media Map*

<https://datascience.berkeley.edu/data-media-map-bitly/>

**Other potential data source are**

*Federal Election Commission*

<http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/ftpdet.shtml>

*Sunlight Foundation*: Free, third party resource

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/>

*Opensecrets*: Federal races, news and analysis, Fundraising summaries

<https://www.opensecrets.org/>

*Pew Research Center*

<http://www.pewresearch.org/data/>

*NYT demographic*

<http://www.nytimes.com/projects/census/2010/map.html>

*Stanford Database on Ideology, Money in Politics, and Elections(DIME)*

<http://data.stanford.edu/dime>

*Other polling data from CNN...*

# Background of the InfoVis Problems

## Political race or class race?

Some people believe that the popularity of Trump is due to people's frustration and anger towards the current political system, which is dominated by political elites in DC and bankers in wall street, and people are tired of "political correctness". The election seems not a political race but rather a class race. Trump not only receive criticism from democratic but also some big names in republic, but, on the other hand, he is also winning supports from some of the Sanders's backers. Even though Obama and Trump are from different parties and different races, I wonder if there is an overlap between the supporters for Obama and Trump, as they are(was) both representing amateur politicians different from the political elite like Hillary Clinton.

### Related articles

*US Election 2016: The Trump Protectionist Party*

<http://www.bbc.com/news/election-us-2016-35836102>

*Megyn to Trump: When Did You Actually Become a Republican?*

<http://insider.foxnews.com/2015/08/06/video-megyn-kelly-donald-trump-when-did-you-actually-become-republican>

*Top Republicans Say Donald Trump is Changing the Political Playbook*

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/top-republicans-say-donald-trump-is-changing-the-political-playbook-1463339320>

*Our politics are broken and toxic: How both party elites betrayed our trust, birthed Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump*

[http://www.salon.com/2016/03/10/our\\_politics\\_are\\_broken\\_and\\_toxic\\_how\\_both\\_party\\_elites\\_betrayed\\_our\\_trust\\_birtherd\\_bern\\_sanders\\_and\\_donald\\_trump/](http://www.salon.com/2016/03/10/our_politics_are_broken_and_toxic_how_both_party_elites_betrayed_our_trust_birtherd_bern_sanders_and_donald_trump/)

## Realignment of GOP?

Some views Trump's success as a signal or result of the realignment of GOP. To study this issue we need to focus on Trump's supporters again and do comparison with other republican candidates, both from the current election and past elections.

### Related articles

*Is Donald Trump leading a realignment of the GOP? Maybe not.*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/03/21/is-donald-trump-leading-a-realignment-of-the-gop-maybe-not/>

*The Great GOP Realignment - Bloomberg*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-02-04/the-great-gop-realignment>

*Why Trump Can't Break the G.O.P. - The New York Times*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/03/opinion/campaign-stops/why-trump-cant-break-the-gop.html>

*The Rise of Partisanship and Super-Cooperators in the U.S. House of Representatives*

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0123507>

*Political Polarization in the American Public*

<http://www.people-press.org/2014/06/12/political-polarization-in-the-american-public/>

## Other Thoughts: Trump vs Brexit

The success of Trump are also linked with UK's referendum, which might indicate a rise of protectionism and a threat to globalization.

*The UK's Donald Trump moment*

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/22/politics/eu-referendum-brexit-donald-trump/>

*Trump and Brexit: How they're similar — and different*

<http://www.cnbc.com/2016/06/15/trump-and-the-brexit-how-theyre-similar--and-different.html>