

Web Scraping Mini Project

Project Idea:

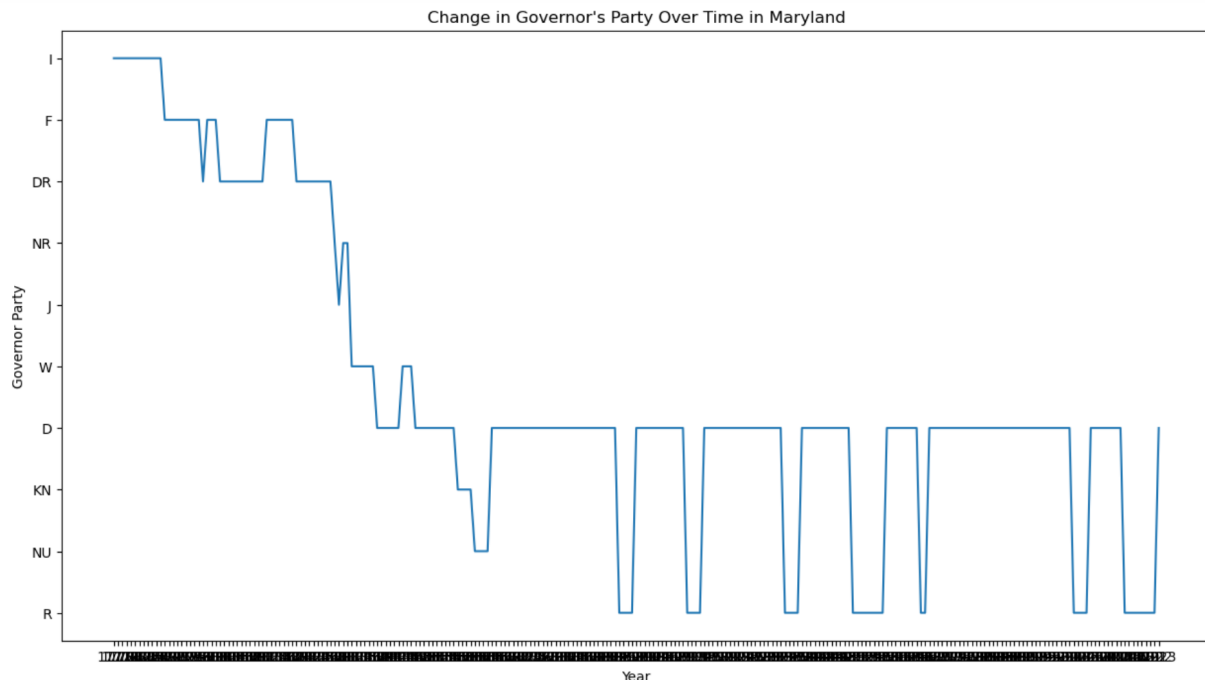
The goal of this project is to collect information from a Wikipedia article that tracks the evolution of political party power in Maryland. The year, the governor, the governor's political party, the outcome of the presidential election in which Maryland cast its electoral votes, and the political party of the president are all included in this data. Following these political processes through time allows one to spot patterns and trends that provide light on the state's political history.

This project may have many uses, particularly in the areas of data analytics, journalism, and political science research. Stakeholders can build tactics, predict outcomes, or simply gain a deeper understanding of Maryland's political history by detecting trends and changes in the political scene throughout time.

Execution of the Project Idea:

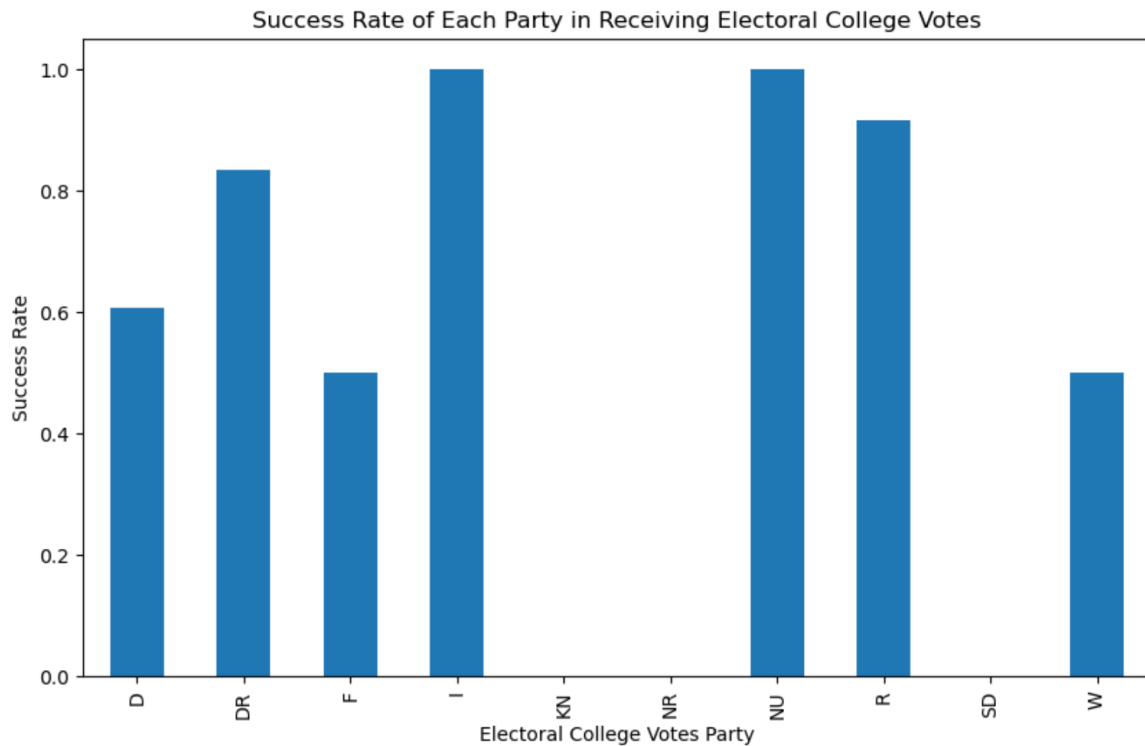
The task involves extracting data from the Wikipedia page using Python, in particular the BeautifulSoup package. Using pandas, this data was cleaned and organized into a DataFrame, making it simple to use and analyze. The information scraped contains the year, the Maryland governor, whether the presidential candidate who earned Maryland's electoral votes won, and the president's political party.

Results and Visualizations:



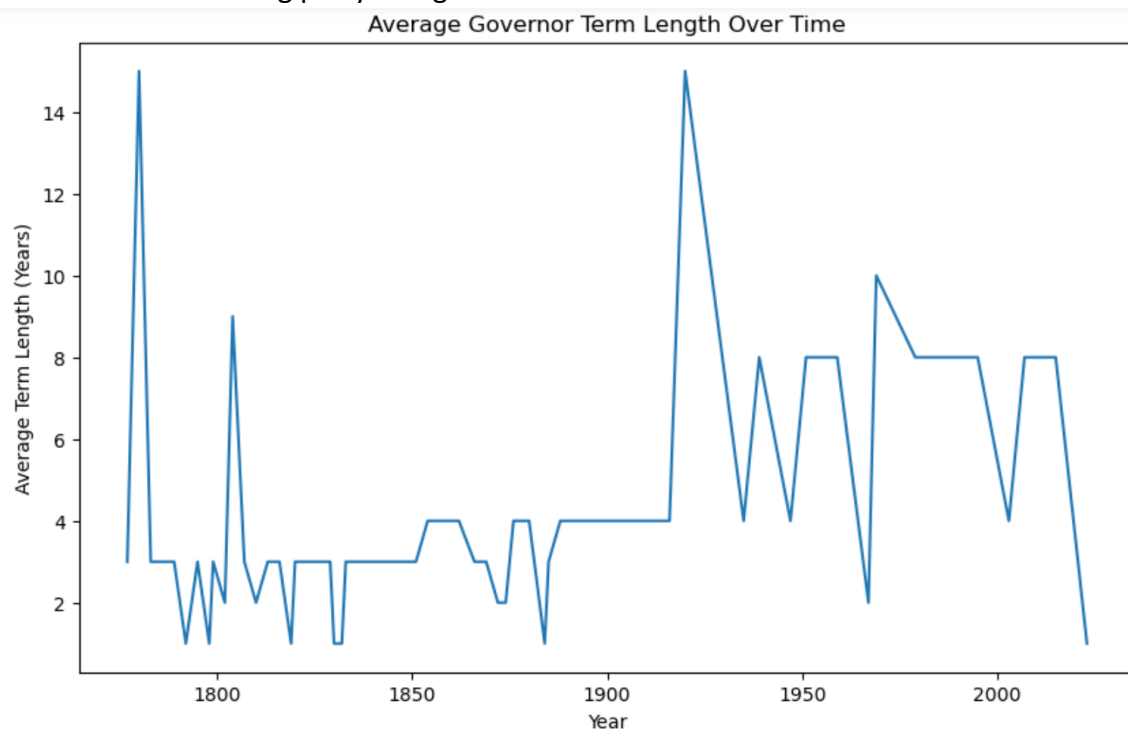
Fig(1)

In this visualization we can see the change in the Governor's party affiliation over time in Maryland. We see the shift over time to the Democrat/Republican two party system and how the Democratic Party dominates governorship over the past one hundred years.



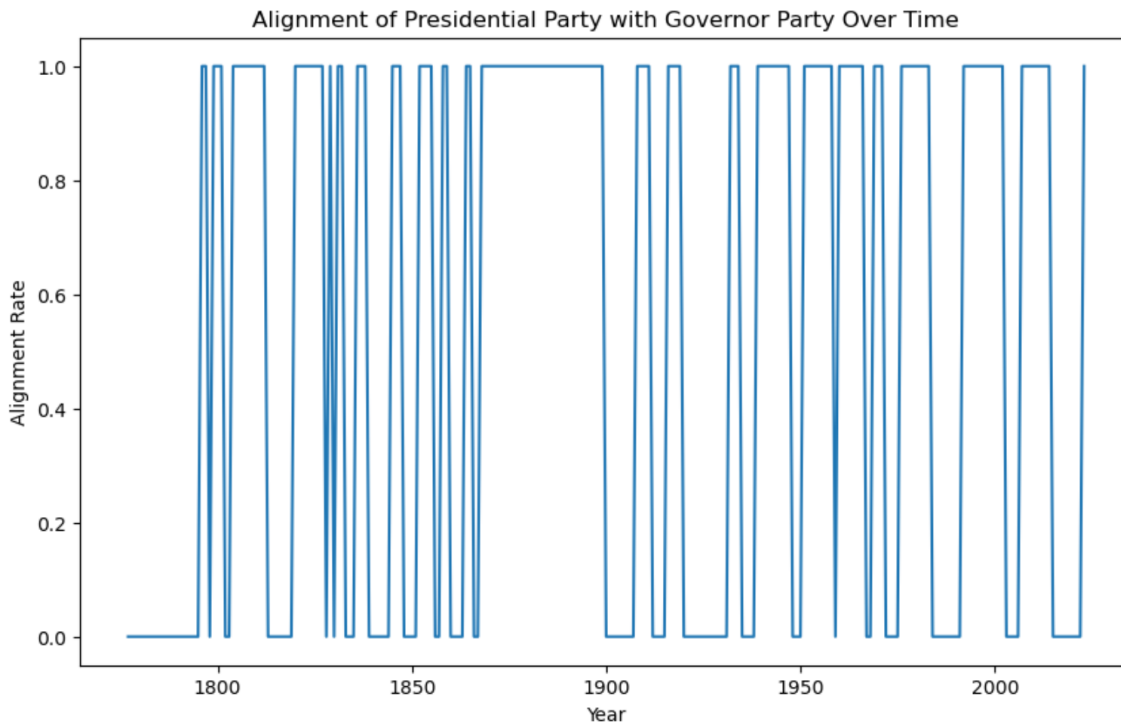
Fig(2)

In the above graph, we can see which parties are more successful in receiving electoral college votes from Maryland, with the Independent and National Union parties being the most successful and the Whig party being the least.

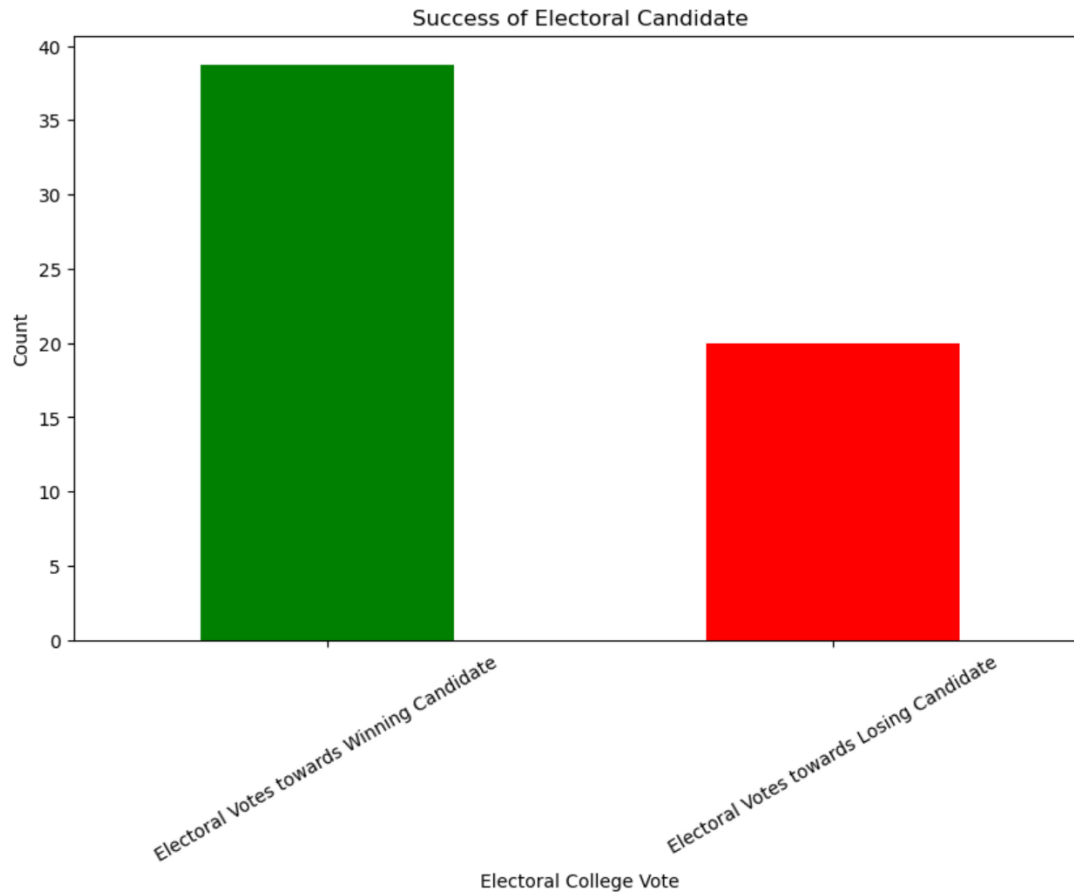


Fig(3)

In the above graph we see the average governorship length over time. There are two noticeable governorships that lasted more than 14 years in the late 1700s and the 1930s. The majority of governorships last 3-10 years.



As we can see above, there is little consistency with the party of the governor and the party of the elected presidential candidate matching over time, except in the years leading up to the 1900s. The alignment of parties fluctuates over time.



In the figure above, we see that Maryland's electoral votes have gone to the winning candidate about twice as often as they've gone to the losing candidate. This data includes re-elections, hence the count being greater than the number of presidents that we have had.