**(Slide 1)**

I’m Michael Peeler, and this summer my project was measuring party affinity and trends in ranked choice elections. But before we talk about what I did specifically, let’s do a quick explanation of ranked choice voting.

**(Slide 2)**

In a normal election, you’ll have a number of parties competing against each other, and you will have the option to pick one of those parties by marking the party you want to win.

**(Slide 3)**

But this means that sometimes, you won’t be able to pick the party you like the most, because they aren’t likely to get enough votes to win, which promotes tactical voting – voting for a party you don’t like the most, but that instead has a chance of winning.

**(Slide 4)**

What ranked choice voting allows you to do is rank the parties in terms of how much you like them – your first choice, then second, then third – and if your first choice doesn’t have enough votes to win, your vote moves to the second choice, then the third, and so on. And what’s amazing is that some places that used ranked choice actually release the data on how every vote was ordered, so we can look at this data and analyze it.

**(Slide 5)**

So, since we have access to this data, we developed several measures that we could apply to it to see what the voter ranking reveals about how the parties are related.

**(Slide 6)**

The first measure we developed was the spectrum. What this measures is how close between two