

Nathan Chan
Haoyu Gao
2/18/19
STA 141C
Professor Fitzgerald

Project Proposal

The question:

How does the political party in power affect US government spending?

Why is this question interesting?

This question is interesting because the public has different views of how Democrats and Republicans spend money; typically Democrats are known for spending more money while Republicans usually want to spend less. We can find out if this is true (since Republicans tend to want to spend more money on the military). Answering this question would be useful for political analysts/economists who want to understand how political dynamics affects government spending (for example: how political gridlock, or lack thereof, impacts the type of government spending).

How we're going to answer this question:

We'll use Python for this project.

Exploratory data analysis, data visualization

- Look at dates for certain transactions (total spending, spending per department/agency)
- Figure out which parties were in power for certain time intervals (House/Senate/President)

Create a more specific csv with only the relevant information we need: the date, amount, funding agency. Can also include which parties are in control of House/Senate/President.

Map role of the agency to agency name/ID.

Look for patterns/statistical analysis. Graph from 2001 to present of total spending, can mark on the time axis which parties control which part of the government.

- Can do the same for specific topics of government spending (military/education/healthcare)