Impact of Abortion Rights on US Midterm Elections 2022

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ABSTRACT

Abortion has always been a controversy around the world. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court determined the verdict of the case of Roe vs. Wade. This decision proved to be a landmark one for the nation. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the decision whether to continue or terminate a pregnancy depends on the individual, not the government. However, in June 2022, the Supreme Court reversed the decision of Roe vs. Wade and declared that there is no longer a federal constitutional right to an abortion. In the light of these recent events, it seems that this issue will have a high impact on the midterm elections of the United States.

In this project, we intend to gain an overview of the general public and their thoughts on this particular issue and how it will affect the midterm elections being held in November of this year. Social media is the best option to gather data for this. Using the data we collected, we will build a dashboard that will allow for interactive querying.

1   INTRODUCTION

Abortion is one of the top issues among voters for the upcoming 2022 midterm elections. A few months ago, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the decision of Roe w. Wade and [1] "sent the question of abortion back to the states – making state legislators and governors extremely important in determining the laws and policies that regulate the procedure." The political races with mixed party control will be vital.

Republicans "are primarily focusing on voters' concerns about the economy, inflation, and crime. In some cases, they're attempting to distance themselves from some of the most severe abortion restrictions that have taken effect since this" summer. On the other hand, Democrats are concerned with inflation, the economy, and are questioning [1] "what degree the energy unleashed by this summer's U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* can be harnessed at the polls, and to what extent that energy can overcome voters' economic worries."

We decided it would be interesting to see how abortion rights will impact the 2022 midterms. We have collected data during the month of November primarily. From the analysis performed in the second project, we have an understanding of the type of data we are dealing with. Using the data we collected, we intend to build a dashboard that will allow for interactive querying.

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2   DASHBOARD FEATURES

The dashboard will answer the following research question:

- How conclusive is the sentiment of people on social media towards abortion rights, when it comes to the elections?

It will also have the following two interactive features:

- **Display the top 5 hashtags for a topic.** This query uses a text keyword as an input and displays the top 5 hashtags related to the search.

- **Display the amount of data collected.** This query takes in a particular date or a date range as input. The total amount of data collected based on the input will be displayed. This query can be used to get the results for just one, a combination, or all of the sources of data (Twitter, Reddit, and YouTube).

3   TOOLS

We will be using Flask, a micro web framework. A web framework [2] represents numerous libraries and modules that allow web application developers to develop applications. It is a python module that develops web applications easily. Flask is one of the most popular web frameworks used by developers.

REFERENCES

[1] McCammon, S. *Here are the places where abortion is on the ballot (in one way or another) this week. NPR.org*. Retrieved November 7, 2022 https://www.npr.org/2022/11/07/1134535372/abortion-midterm-election-michigan-kentucky-amendment-roe-dobbs

[2] 2021. *What is Flask Python.* Retrieved December 4, 2022 from https://pythonbasics.org/what-is-flask-python/.