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Final Project Abstract
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In the 2013 Supreme Court decision *Shelby v. Holder*, the court made Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act ineffective, a clause which protected polling places counties throughout the United States. Many of these counties were in the electoral swing state of Arizona, according to the Leadership Conference Education Fund's 2016 report¹. Much work has been done to analyze how racial minorities have been impacted by these poll closures, but less has been done surrounding other socioeconomic factors.

This project will look at polling places post-*Shelby*, looking at who must travel the farthest to vote. This project will evaluate socioeconomic factors including but not limited to race and see how these numbers change the farther away one gets from a polling place (considering a potential lack of isotropy). The factors analyzed will be:

- Race
- Age
- Disability
- Average Income
- Public Assistance Beneficiary
- Gender

The counties of interest will be Cochise County, AZ and Pima County, AZ, two counties which combined have closed 91 polling places. These are two areas of interest because (1) they belong to a swing state and take up a large portion of the voting population (2) the counties were a source of controversy in the 2016 Presidential Elections.

Polling place data and election polling data can be found on the Election Outreach Dataset from ArcGIS². Socioeconomic statistics can be found from the US Census Bureau's Tiger Shapefiles. Ethnographic information can be found from the Race/Ethnicity Census Tract found on the ArcGIS hub³.

Research done around the outcomes of *Shelby v. Holder* have found that communities of color are the most impacted by poll closures. The 2018 midterm elections had longer wait times in these counties and an increase in instances of voter suppression. I do not expect these results to change and theorize that the most marginalized and poorest communities will have the hardest time voting in terms of distance to their polling place. This will be most likely be represented through isopleth mapping with the polling places as the centroid. One map will be made for each of the factors analyzed.

¹ <http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/reports/2016/poll-closure-report-web.pdf>

² <https://solutions.arcgis.com/local-government/help/election-outreach/>

³ https://hub.arcgis.com/datasets/f64104fe9a07488da9d9f95c2c5238a1_7?geometry=-121.624%2C19.620%2C-91.982%2C26.685