A Review of the 2016 Election, using Good Judgment Forecasting Data

During the 2016 election, *The Monkey Cage* posted a series of political questions on Good Judgment Open that required users to forecast the outcome of the presidential race and various congressional contests. So how accurate were the predictions? Explore the visualizations below to see for yourself.

Select a Question Type
- ● General Presidential Election
- ○ Presidential Primaries
- ○ Congressional/Gubernatorial Races
- ○ Other

Question

Who will win the 2016 US presidential election?

Responses
- 🟦 A Democrat
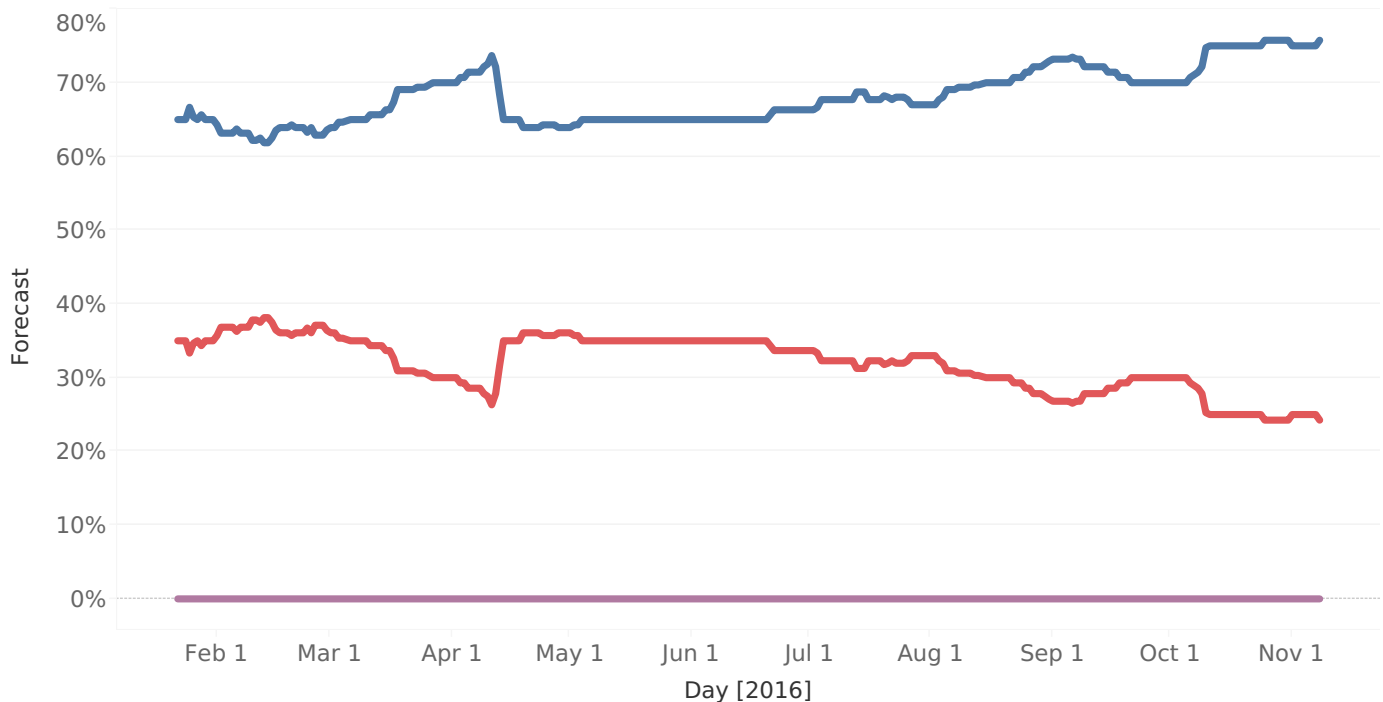- 🟥 A Republican
- 🟪 Other

Correct Answer:

A Republican

Probability of Correct Answer on Last Day

24.2%

How did the forecasted probability of each outcome evolve over time?

A Review of the 2016 Election, using Good Judgment Forecasting Data

How accurate were Good Judgment forecasters?	What words did they use frequently in comments?	What websites did GJ forecasters cite most often?	What sentiment did they express in updating foreca..

Good Judgment Open users have the ability to input a "comment" along with their forecasts. A comment may serve as a place for reflection, where forecasters can lay out the rationale for their current estimate. We've combed through the 18,967 comments submitted on *The Monkey Cage*'s 2016 election questions, looking for commonly cited one-word and two-word phrases. Here are the results:

Select a Question Type
- ◉ All
- ◯ General Presidential Election
- ◯ Presidential Primaries
- ◯ Congressional/Gubernatorial Races
- ◯ Other

Question

All Questions

Phrase Length
- ◉ 1 word
- ◯ 2 word

which one-word phrases did forecasters use most often in comments?

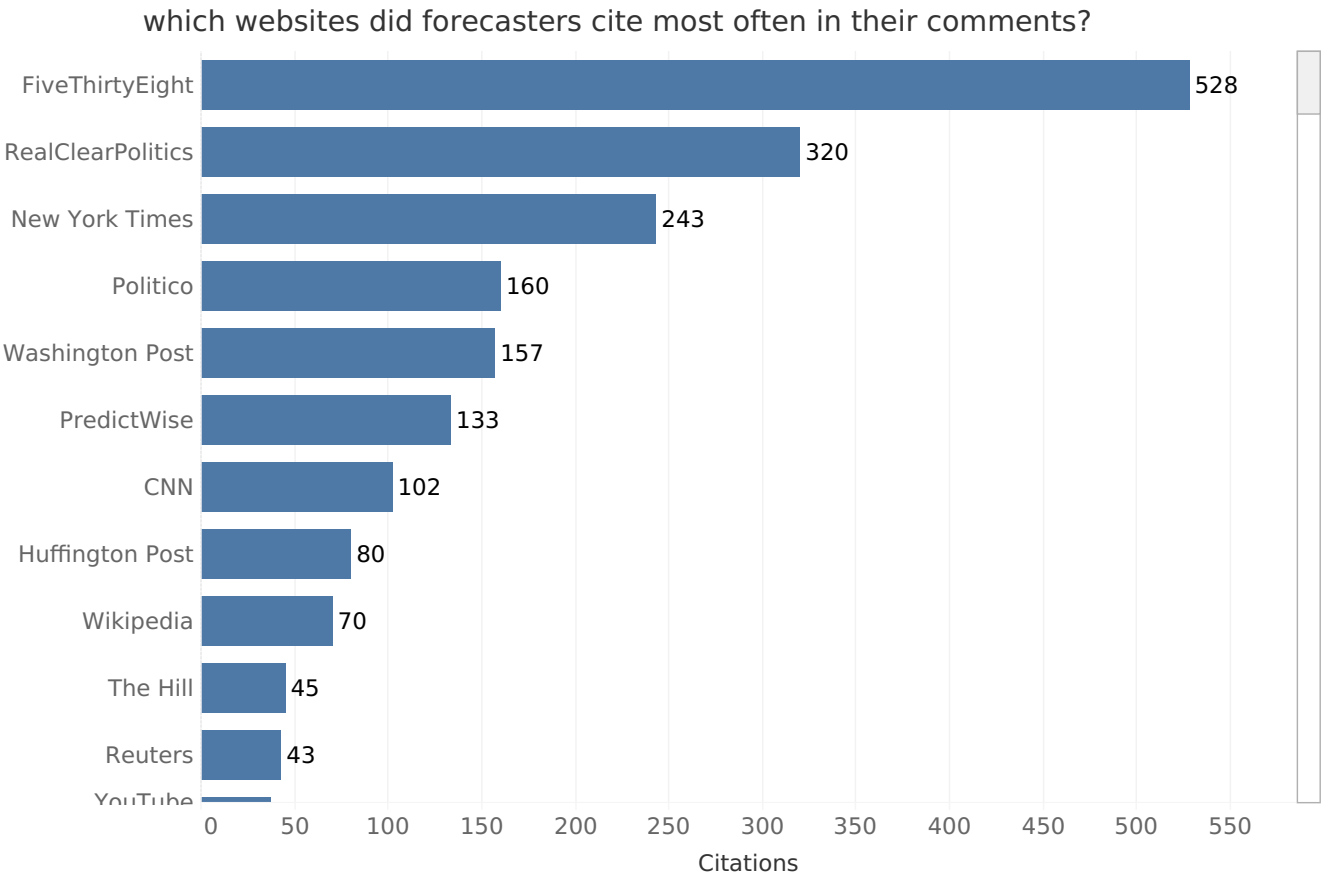# A Review of the 2016 Election, using Good Judgment Forecasting Data

In roughly 5.6% of comments, forecasters linked to another website. These links often served as references to articles that supported their current position on a given question. By analyzing the websites that appeared in comments, we can get a sense of the sources of information that influenced GJ users this election season.

Select a Question Type
- ● All
- ○ General Presidential Election
- ○ Presidential Primaries
- ○ Congressional/Gubernatorial Races
- ○ Other

Question

All Questions

which websites did forecasters cite most often in their comments?

Website	Citations
FiveThirtyEight	528
RealClearPolitics	320
New York Times	243
Politico	160
Washington Post	157
PredictWise	133
CNN	102
Huffington Post	80
Wikipedia	70
The Hill	45
Reuters	43
YouTube	

Citations

A Review of the 2016 Election, using Good Judgment Forecasting Data

We took the comments that GJ users inputted with their forecasts and ran them through a sentiment analyzer. The analyzer assigned a score to each comment from -1 (most negative) to +1 (most positive), depending on the proportion of words that carried a positive connotation. First, we looked at how the sentiment in forecasts on *The Monkey Cage's* questions varied over time. It seems that GJ forecasters became more bitter as the campaign wore on.

sentiment in comments declined over the course of the campaign
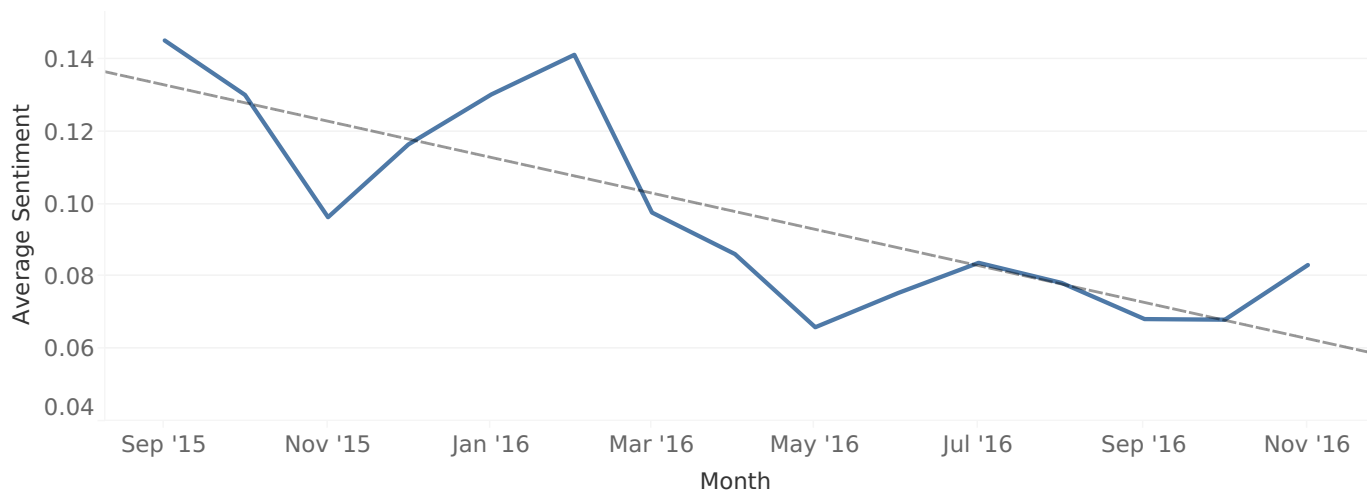
We then looked at how positively users reacted *on average* when they increased or decreased the probability of an outcome on a given question. Were they happier, say, when raising the probability that "A Democrat" will win the White House?

Question

Who will win the 2016 US presidential election?

how positively did forecasters react when they changed the probability of an outcome?

Answer T..	Change	Value
A Democrat	Increased Forecast	0.103
	Decreased Forecast	0.073
A Republican	Increased Forecast	0.077
	Decreased Forecast	0.101