Assessing our models

Gov 1347: Election Analytics

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November 17, 2022

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Today's agenda

1. Cocktail party simulation: Election (hot) takes pt.2
2. How did the **538** and **The Economist** models do?
3. Breakout room exercise: Evaluate your prediction models with a like-minded friend

Cocktail party simulation: Election (hot) takes pt.2

Share one interesting/surprising/memorable/confusing observation about the 2022 election!

- It can be related to any aspect of this election
- It does not have to be about predictions and their accuracy

How did the 538 and Economist model do?

`Dem predicted (forecast) - Dem actual (observed)`

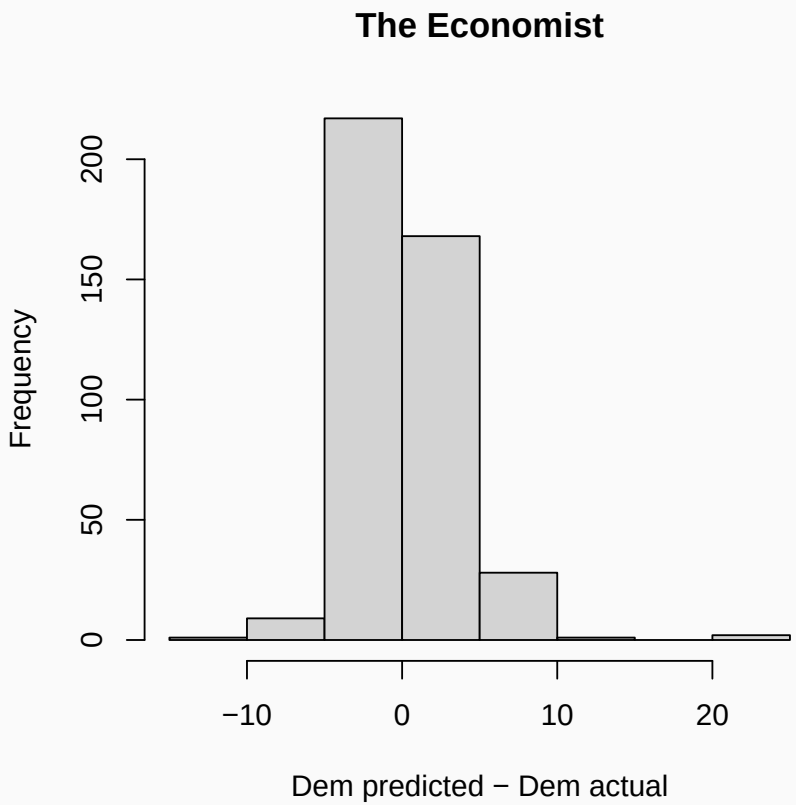
	FiveThirtyEight	The Economist
National 2 party vote share	-0.34	2.537
National seat share	-7	-3
RMSE (district, pv2p)	3.99	3.39
Brier score (district)	0.032	0.035
Classification accuracy	95	96

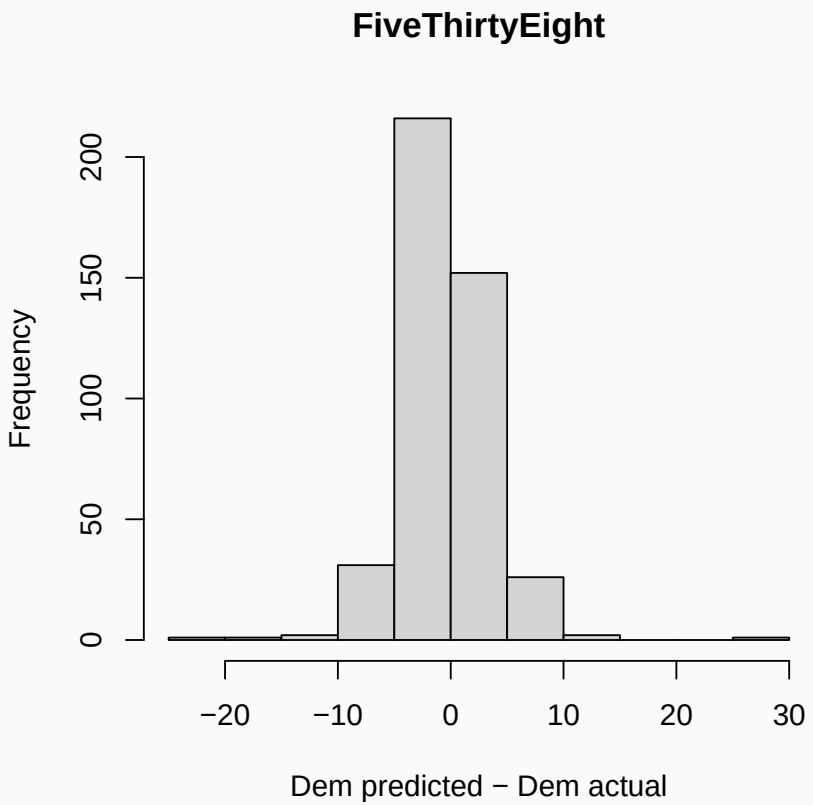
In which districts did we see (systematic) error?

	FiveThirtyEight	The Economist
Districts missed	"WA-3" "VA-2" "RI-2"	"AZ-1" "CA-13"
	"PA-7" "PA-17"	"CA-22" "CA-27"
	"OR-6" "OH-13"	"CO-8" "MS-2"
	"OH-1" "NY-4" "NY-3"	"NE-2" "NM-2"
	"NY-22" "NY-19"	"NV-1" "NY-17"
	"NY-17" "NV-3"	"NY-19" "NY-22"
	"NV-1" "NM-2"	"NY-3" "NY-4"
	"NH-1" "MS-2" "CO-8"	"OR-5" "PA-8"
	"CA-22" "CA-13"	"RI-2" "WA-3"
	"AZ-1" "AK-1	

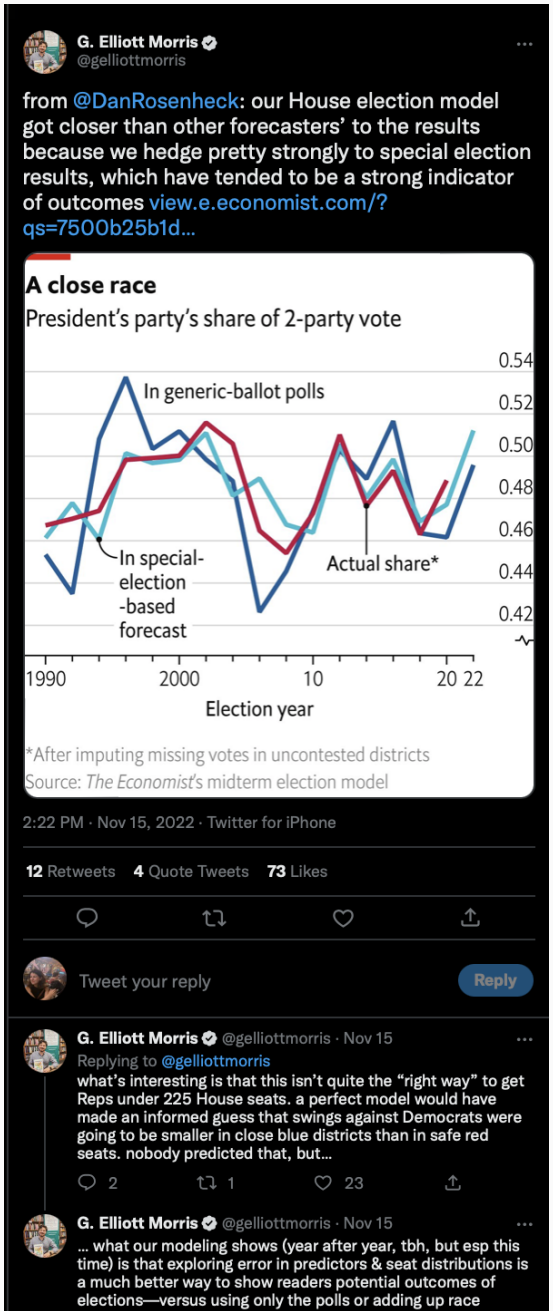
- With your neighbor, briefly discuss potential reasons why these districts were called incorrectly.
- What do these districts have in common? Would you expect these districts to be called incorrectly? Open 'district_error_538.csv' and 'district_error_economist.csv' to see how close the calls were (size of error)

How did the 538 and Economist model do?





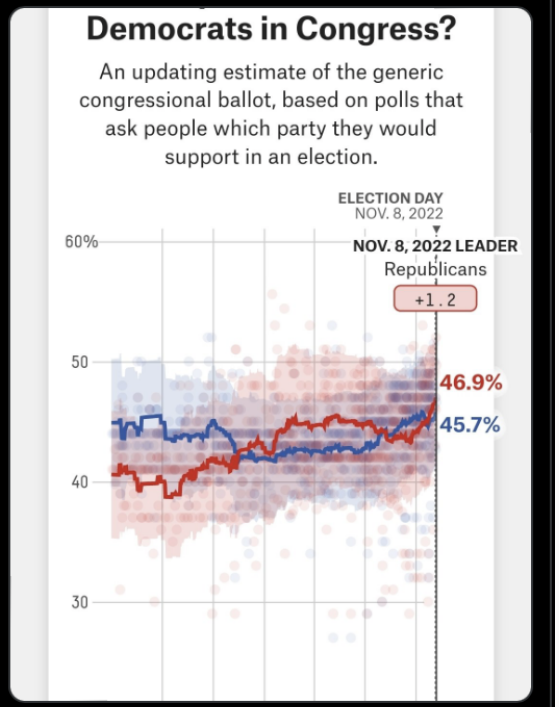
Some reflections on their forecasts: The Economist



Some reflections on their forecasts: 538

Nate Silver @NateSilver538 · Nov 13

Generic ballot polling average did very very good.



Patrick Ruffini @PatrickRuffini · Nov 13

This has now shifted to R 50.0, D 48.0 with yesterday's vote drops. Points to an R+1 environment accounting for uncontested seats, which is a perfect mirror of the R+1 makeup of the post-Dobbs primary electorates.

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69 76 522

Nate Silver @NateSilver538 · Nov 13

D overperformance in swing states/districts, though. In most though not all cases, this *was* in line with the polls, too. But less in line with theories of uniform swing. The below is a really interesting question.

Matthew Zeitlin @MattZeitlin · Nov 13

i wonder if voters are getting more informed and "better" at voting, ie that even though there was probably a GOP popular vote victory, voters who knew they were in high leverage districts/states paid systematically more attention to what's going on and voted differently

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Before moving on to the breakout room exercise. . . Next week,

- Thanksgiving break so **NO lab sections** next week!
- Reflection assignment due Tuesday 11/22 by 9pm

Breakout room: Evaluate your prediction models (30 minutes)

Groups (based on a characteristic feature of your forecast): * Poll believers * Inucumbency matter! * Expert ratings matter! * Everything matters!

1. **Describe** your models to each other. Which variables and models did you use? If you did a district-level prediction, which districts did you predict incorrectly? (5 min)
2. Generate a number or a plot showing the **accuracy** of your model using datasets provided in the lab sessions folder. (10 min)
3. Share the number or plot with each other. Share **hypotheses** for why your model was accurate/inaccurate. Give feedback on each others' hypotheses. (10 min)
4. Discuss a (hypothetical) quantitative **test** for your hypotheses. (5 min)