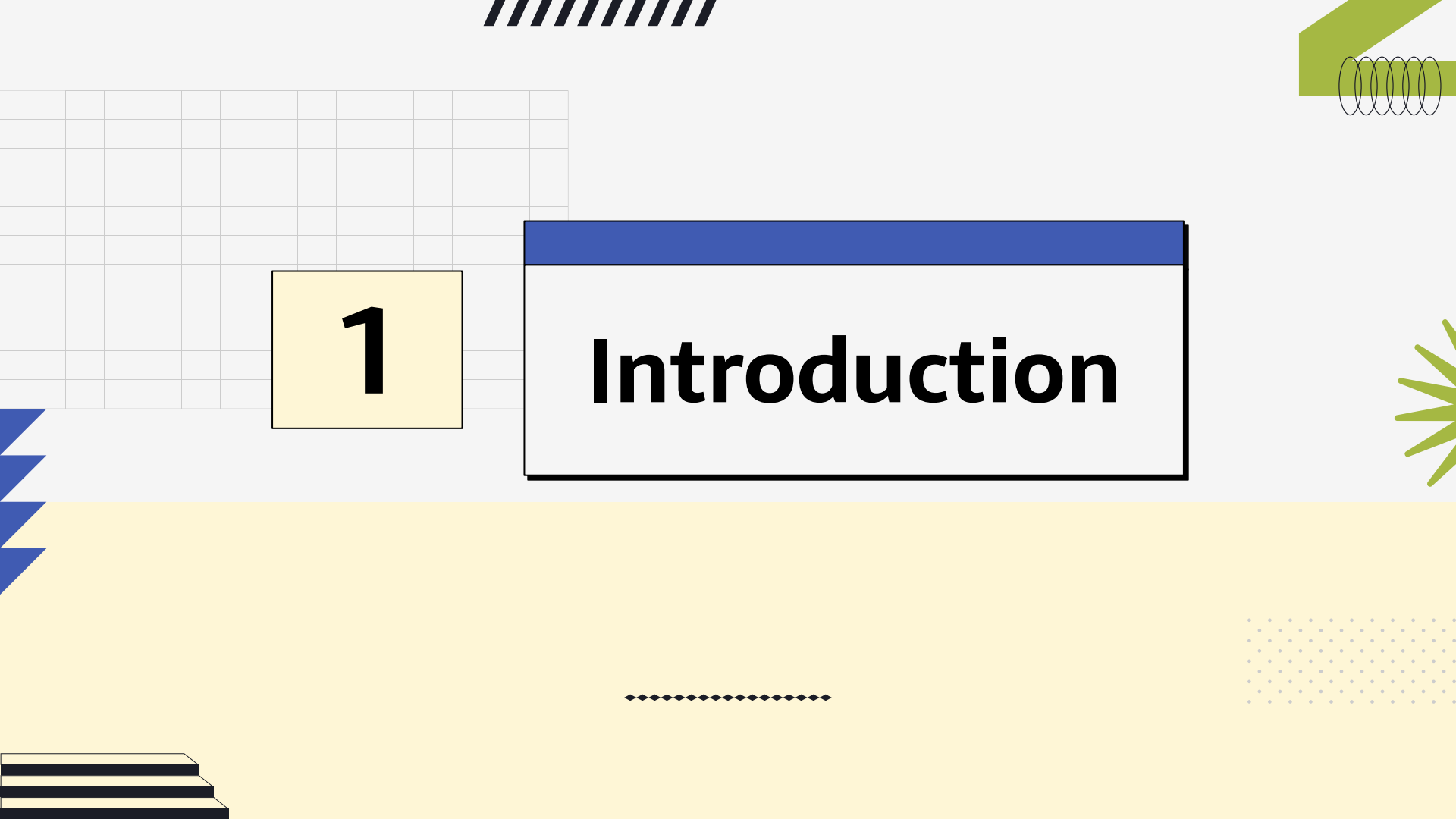




# **Working Class Wins:**

## **What contributes to the success of working class individuals in high-level government elections?**

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Helen Pertsemlidis, Alina Yin




**1**

# Introduction





# White-Collar Government

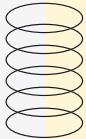


***Millionaires make up 3% of the United States population but represent a majority of officials in the House of Representatives, Senate, and Supreme Court.<sup>1</sup>***

**Why?**

cost of campaigns,  
time-commitment, political  
parties favoring white collar  
candidates

What factors contribute to Working-Class Candidates' success in high-level elections?



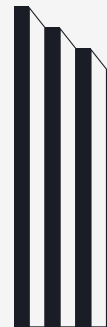
<sup>1</sup>Burden, B. C. (2007). The Personal Roots of Representation. Princeton: Princeton University Press.






# Our Dataset: Candidates

- ★ US House of Representatives Primaries
- ★ 2008-2016
- ★ 7869 Total Candidates
- ★ 24 Variables
  - Variety of factors related to election results:
    - Vote share
    - Fundraising
    - Incumbency status,
    - Education level
    - Ideology





# Our Approach

- ★ Research Question: What factors contribute to votes in working class representatives' favor?
  - ★ Hypothesis: biggest predictors are
    - total\_primary (total dollars contributed toward a candidate's campaign funds and outside spending in dollars)
    - quality\_candidate (incumbent/quality status of the candidate)
    - qualnumber (number of quality opponents)
- 





**2**



# Methodology





## Independent variables:

factors related to the candidate's vote share

**(selected 14 total)**

**Examples:** the state the candidate is from, count of opponents, candidate party

## Dependent Variable:

candidate's vote share in the primary election

**(candpct)**



1

Filter the dataset to working class workers

2

Perform forward and backward model selection with stepAIC


- ★ select the model with the lowest AIC
- ★ conclude prominent factors

3

Run an interactive model with the factors selected to see if it works better

4

Visualize the relationship between the response variable and the top three explanatory variables





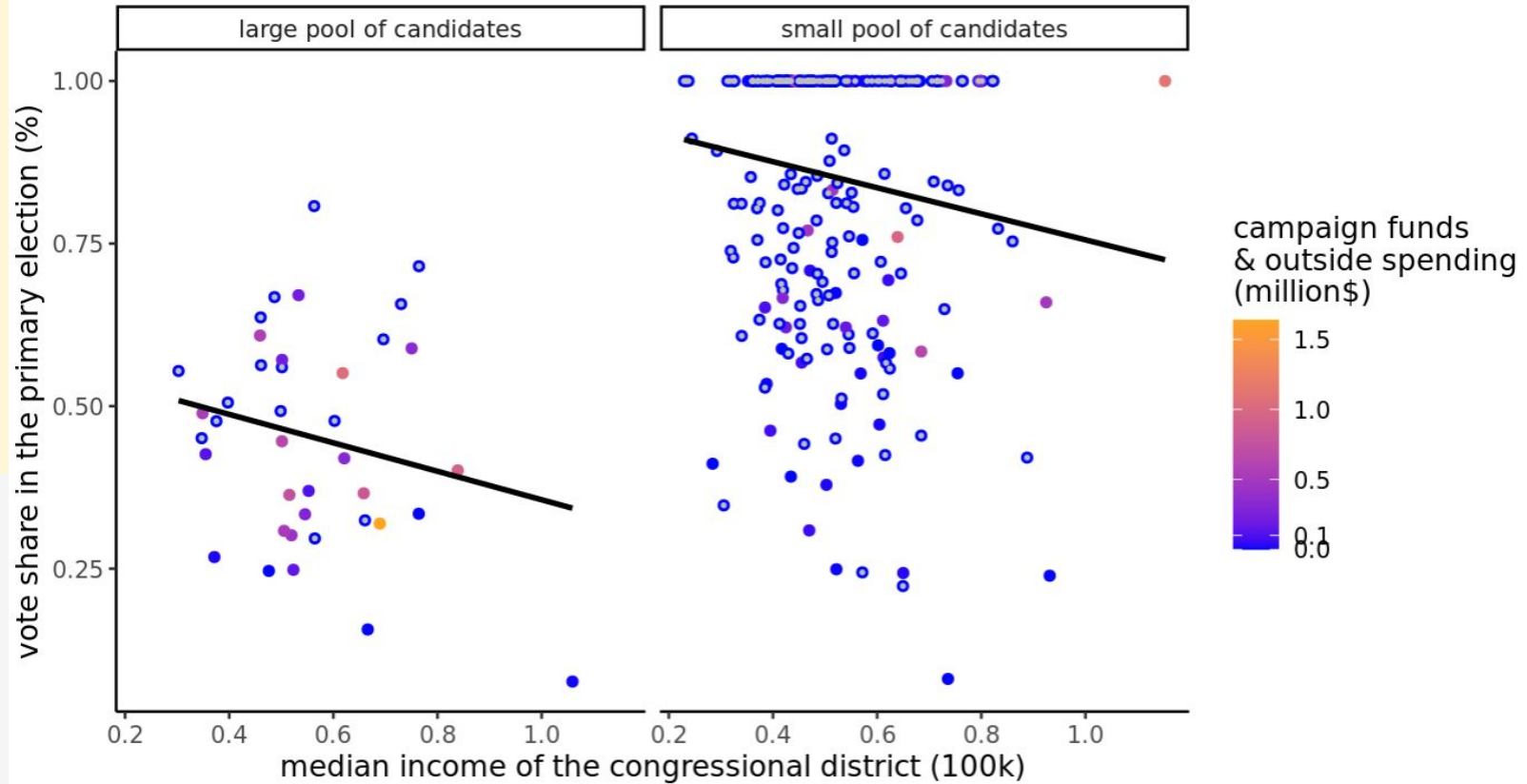
**3**

# **Results & Discussions**







## Primary predictors to working-class candidates vote share among candidates that won the primary elections









# Most Prominent factors

- 
- Candnumber
  - Dist\_income
  - Total\_primary
- 

## Interpretations:

- **The money contributed toward a candidate's campaign funds** positively influences a candidate's success (as hypothesized).
  - **The median income of the congressional district** negatively influences a candidate's success (did not expect in the hypothesis).
  - **The number of opponents** rather than the quality of them has a significant negative correlation with success (different from the hypothesis).
- 
- 
- 
- 



# Implications

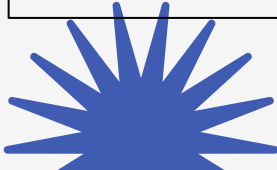
Future working class candidates and their teams should consider:

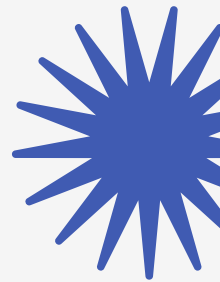
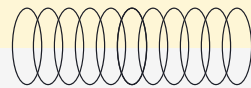
- Putting more emphasis on generating donations from donors for campaign funds.
- Note and apply targeted measures based on the median income of the congressional district and the number of opponents.

# Limitations



- Correlations vs. causations
- Limitations in applications since some factors can not be changed
- Could consider some influential factors that are less prominent




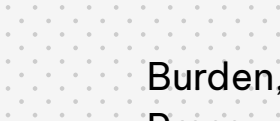


Thanks!





# References



Burden, B. C. (2007). The Personal Roots of Representation. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

