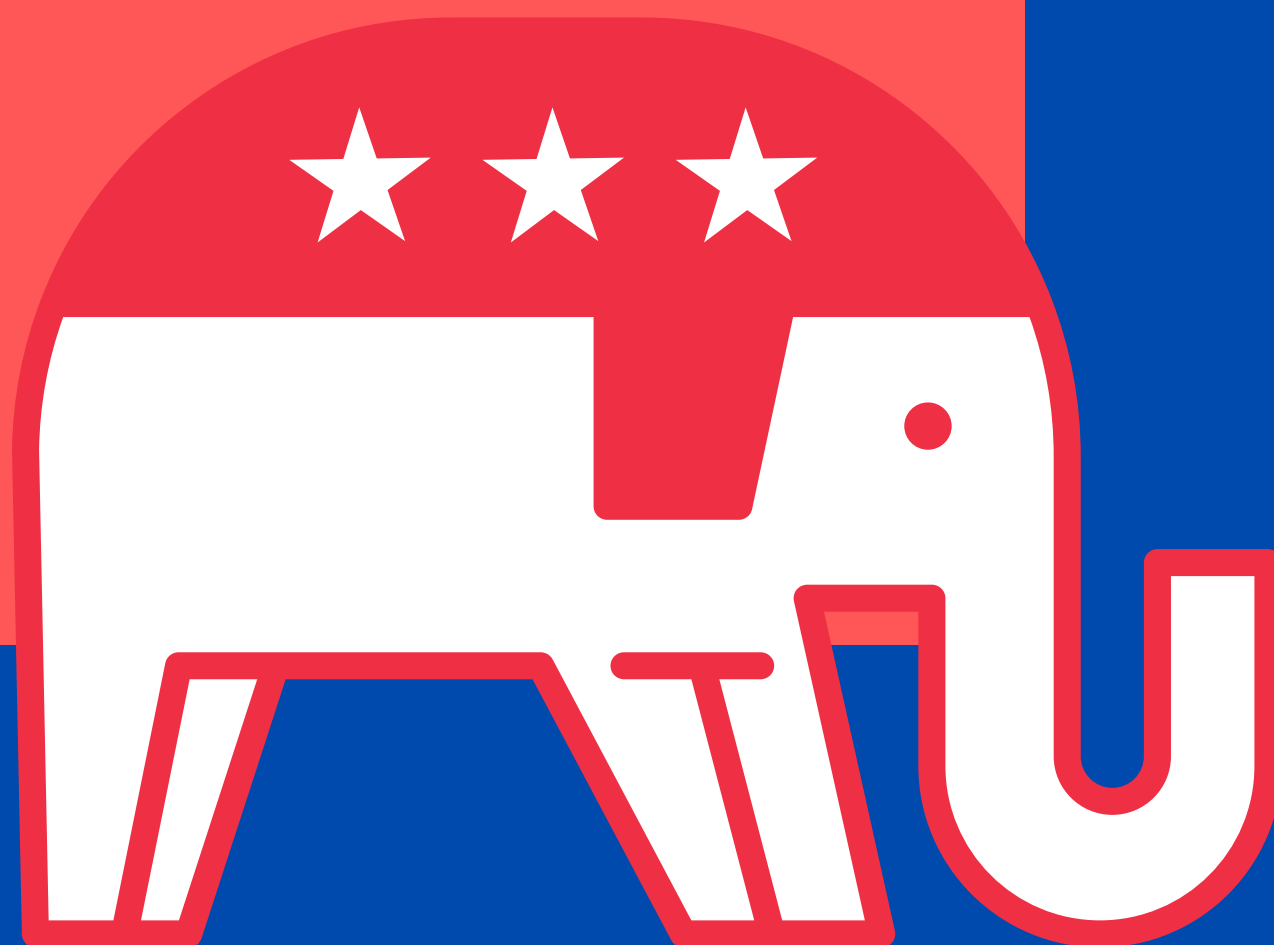


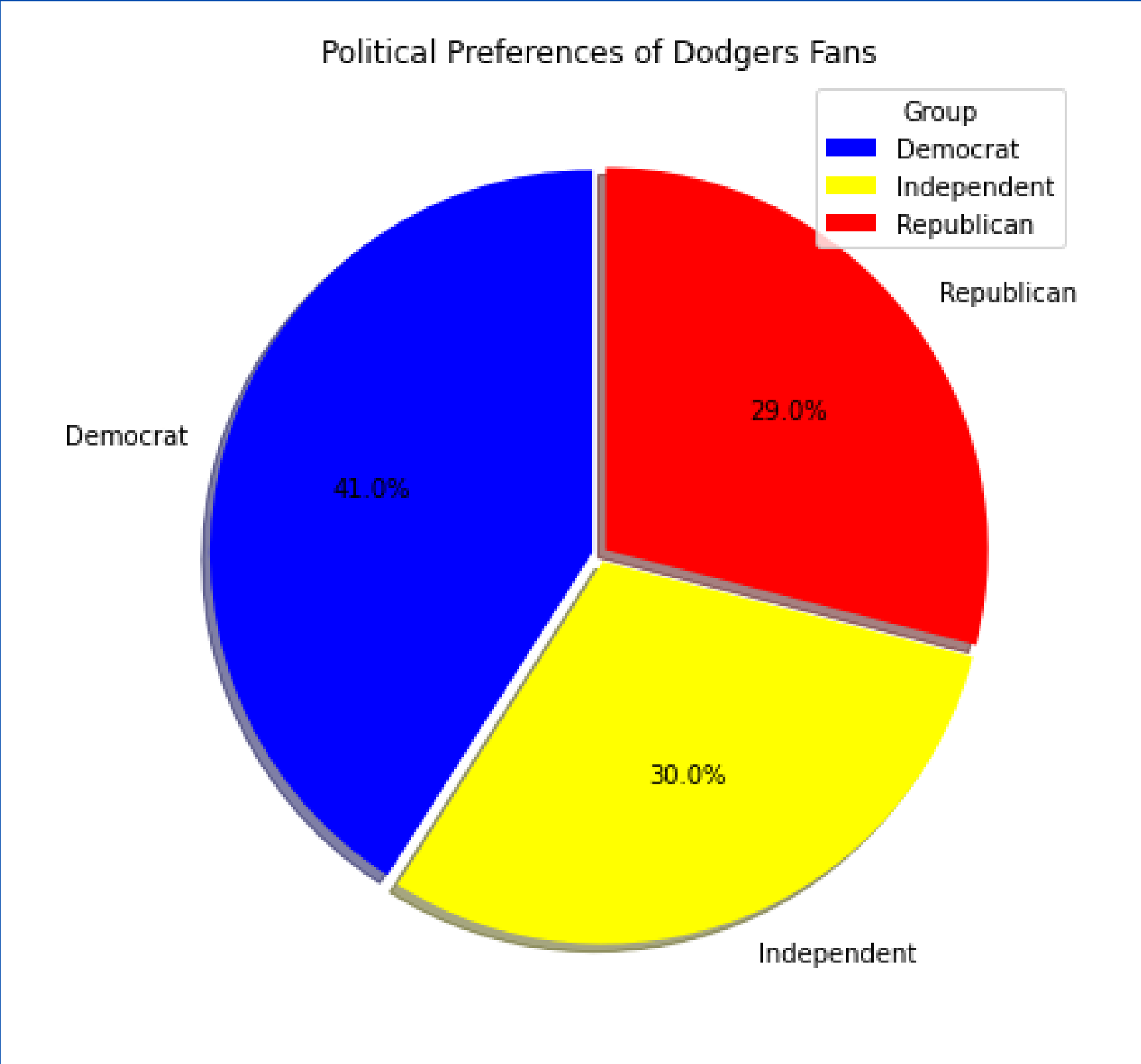
**DO LA DODGERS
OWNERS POLITICAL
PREFERENCES**

**REFLECT
THE POLITICAL
PREFERENCES OF
THEIR CONSTITUENTS?**



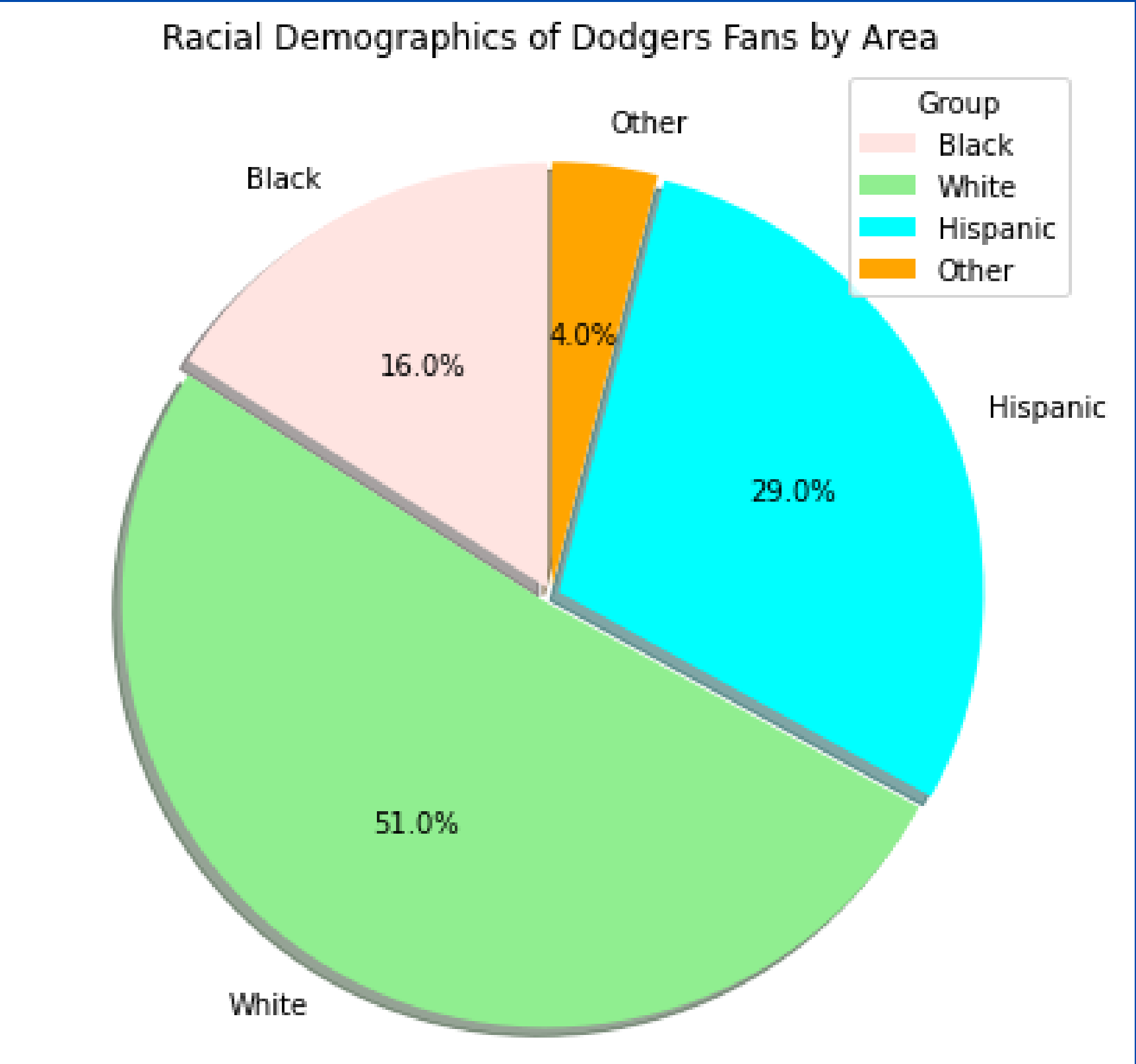
background information

In "The Complicated Relationship between Latinos and the Los Angeles Dodgers," the complicated history of baseball's influence on Latino history and culture in Los Angeles is explored. The Smithsonian article narrates the history of forceful gentrification of Mexican American neighborhoods in the mid 20th century while describing the pride that swelled amongst low-income Latinx youth who saw fellow Latinos ascend to greatness through baseball.



A 2020 data set collected by Morning Consult reveals that the political preferences of Dodger fans are overwhelmingly Democratic and above the national average of 38 percent of MLB fans who identify themselves as Democrats.

The racial demographics of the fans of the Los Angeles Dodgers also reveal that the Latinx / Hispanic population of the Los Angeles Dodgers skews higher than the average Hispanic MLB fan base composed of 20% Latinos.



Given FiveThirtyEight's recent article. "Inside the Political Donation History of Wealthy Donors" found that American professional sports owners have contributed nearly "\$47 million in federal elections since 2015". More interesting, though, is the revelation that there is a strong Republican lean in donations, with American professional sports donors as a whole contributing \$10 million to Republicans and \$1.9 million to Democrats as of October 2020 preceding the 2020 presidential election.

methodology



FiveThirtyEight

```
data = pd.read_csv("sports-political-donations.csv")
```

The data set utilized was borrowed from FiveThirtyEight, a data analytics website that uses "statistical analysis-hard numbers-to tell compelling stories about politics, sports, science, and economics". Given the prevalence of Democrat politics and the rocky history that Los Angeles has with the predominantly immigrant, Latinx communities in the areas surrounding Dodger stadium, the question of whether the sport's owners of the LA Dodgers also skew Republican was compelling to me.

Owner	Team	League	Recipient	Amount	Election Year	Party
Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	WRIGHT 2016	\$4,000	2016	Democrat
Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT	\$2,800	2020	Democrat
Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	CORY 2020	\$2,700	2020	Democrat
Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	Kamala Harris for the People	\$2,700	2020	Democrat
Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	Win The Era PAC	\$2,700	2020	Democrat

I first removed the dollar signs and commas from the amounts donated to make the data easier to analyze. I also changed the name of the Election Year category to make the column easier to parse by using the groupby function.

```
df1 = data['Amount'] = data['Amount'].str.replace('$', '')
```

```
data['Amount'] = data['Amount'].str.replace(',', '')
data['Amount'] = data['Amount'].str.replace('$', '')
```

```
df = data['Amount'] = pd.to_numeric(data['Amount'])
df = data.rename(columns={'Election Year': 'election_year'})
```

The updated data set: .

	Owner	Team	League	Recipient	Amount	election_year	Party
0	Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	WRIGHT 2016	4000	2016	Democrat
1	Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT	2800	2020	Democrat
2	Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	CORY 2020	2700	2020	Democrat
3	Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	Kamala Harris for the People	2700	2020	Democrat
4	Adam Silver	Commissioner	NBA	Win The Era PAC	2700	2020	Democrat

methodology

EXPLORING THE DATA SET

```
Initial covariate analysis:

MLB = np.count_nonzero(data['League']=='MLB')
print("MLB count: ", MLB)

MLB count: 746

NBA = np.count_nonzero(data['League']=='NBA')

NBA count: 462

NFL = np.count_nonzero(data['League']=='NFL')
print("NFL count: ", NFL)

NFL count: 444

NASCAR = np.count_nonzero(data['League']=='NASCAR')
print("NASCAR count: ", NASCAR)

NASCAR count: 79

WNBA = np.count_nonzero(data['League']=='WNBA')
print("WNBA count: ", WNBA)

WNBA count: 274

population = NASCAR + WNBA + NBA + NFL + MLB
print("population: ", population)

population: 2005

def percentage(covariate):
    return (covariate/population)*100

league_array = np.array([MLB, NBA, NFL, NASCAR, WNBA])
league_percent_array = percentage(league_array)
print("The league percentages were as follows (MLB, NBA, NFL, NASCAR, WNBA respectively):")
print(league_percent_array)

The league percentages were as follows (MLB, NBA, NFL, NASCAR, WNBA respectively):
[37.20698254 23.04239401 22.1446384 3.94014963 13.66583541]
```

Testing the covariates using np.count_nonzero(), I found that the data I was working with was substantive considering the highest percentage of data points were in the Major League Baseball League.

	Amount
Party	
Bipartisan	7562.558974
Bipartisan, but mostly Democratic	2160.000000
Bipartisan, but mostly Republican	6777.325000
Democrat	10981.149837
Independent	4500.000000
Republican	21074.471385

I created a new table that grouped the data according to party so that I could compare the sums of the amounts donated amongst Major League baseball donors according to the Political Party.

```
a = len(df.query('Amount >=50000')) / len(df)*100
print("The percent of donors who donate more than 50k is:", a )
```

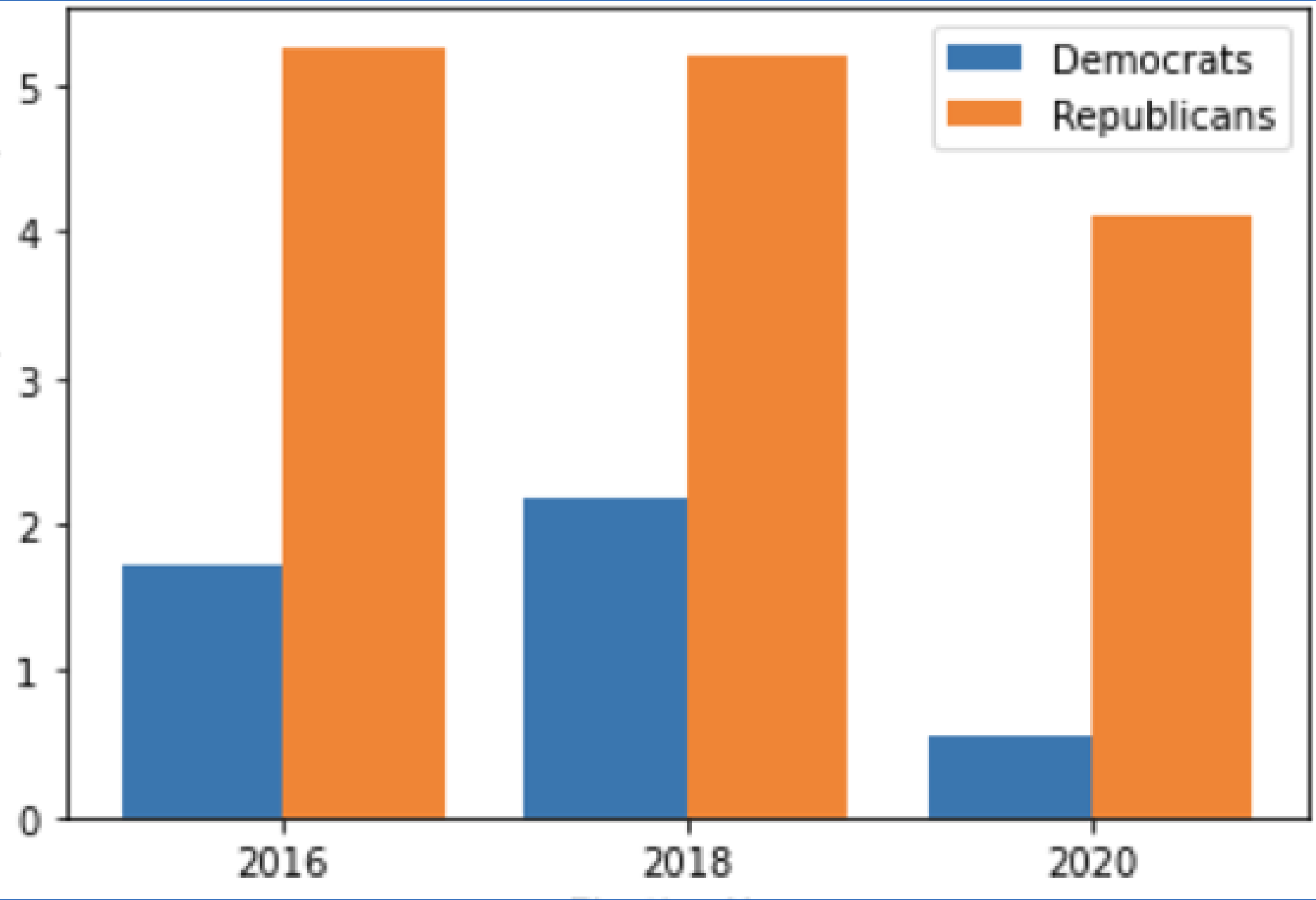
The percent of donors who donate more than 50k is: 5.789849892780557

I utilized query() to filter by team and party and figure out comparisons generally between what party Major League Baseball donors give their money to and to what extent.

Republicans pay 91.91% more than Democrats on average.

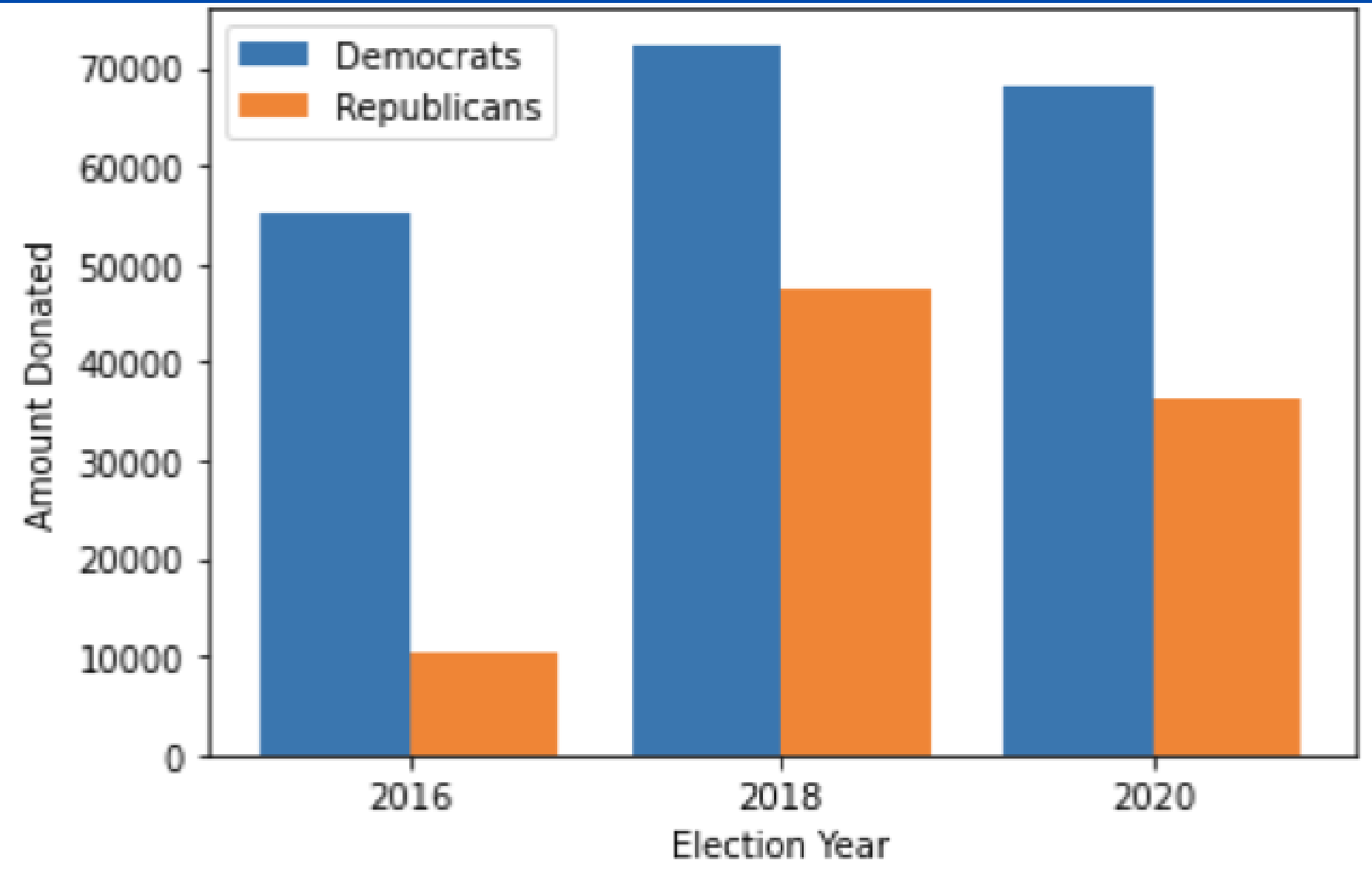
findings and data visualization

AMOUNT DONATED BY DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS
BY ELECTION YEAR BY ALL MLB DONORS IN TRILLIONS



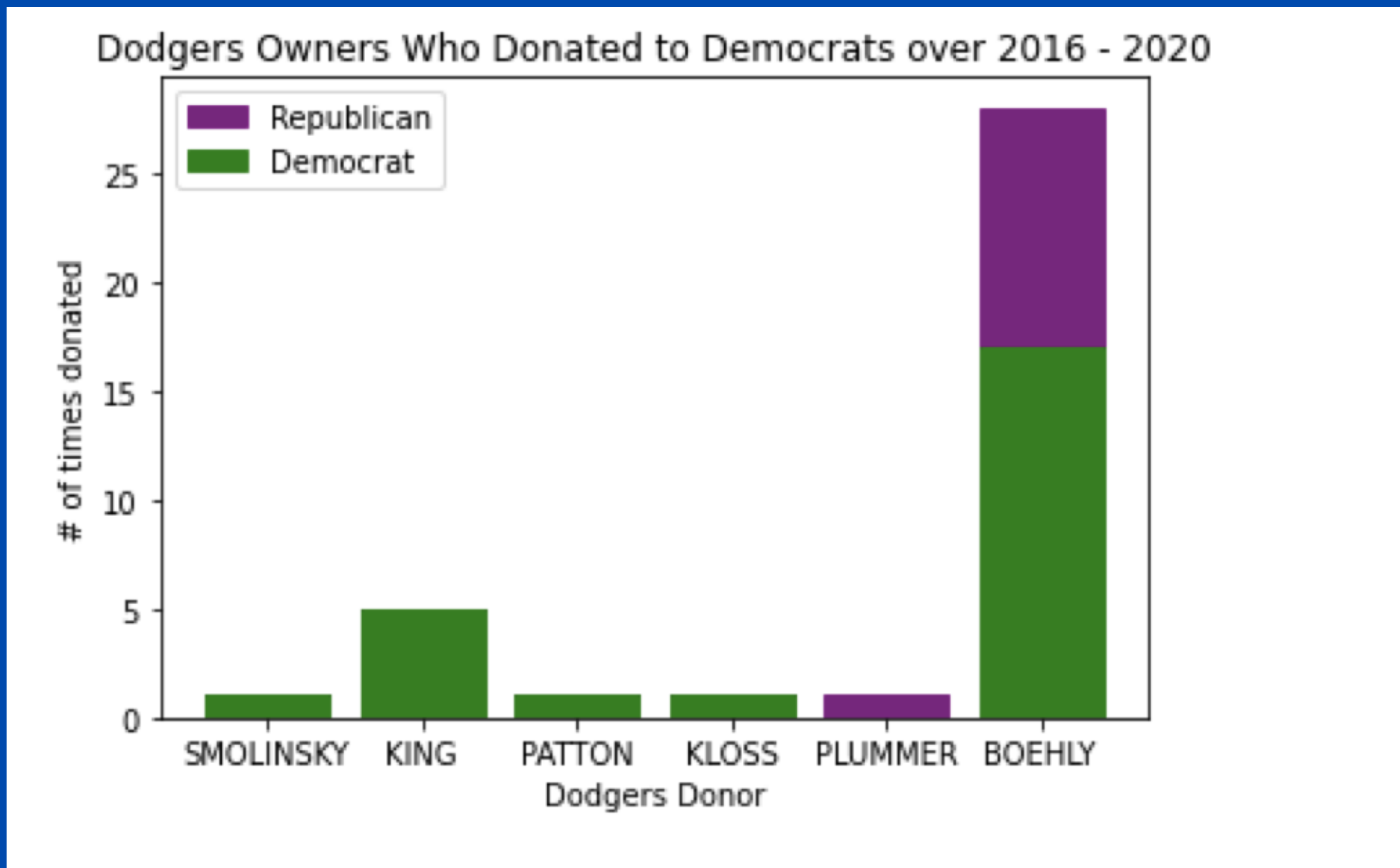
Looking at all of the Major League Baseball Donors, it is clear that Major League Baseball Donors tend to donate to Republicans far more than they do to Democrats.

AMOUNT DONATED BY DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS
BY ELECTION YEAR BY LOS ANGELES DODGERS
DONORS



This trend does not seem to persist amongst LA Dodgers donors throughout the years. In fact, looking at the donations of multiple Dodgers owners to various political campaigns, it is clear that Republican donors are not nearly as favorable.

findings and data visualization



What is even more compelling is that Dodgers Owners even tend to vary in their support of Republican and Democrat candidates even within themselves at different time periods.

conclusion and implications

Through analyzing data on the political donation preferences of LA Dodgers as compared to the general MLB owners political preferences, it is clear that despite being wealthier and perhaps insulated from the struggles of their Mexican-American and more broadly, Latinx Democrat fans, there is a correlation between the political preferences of LA Dodgers and their constituents. Though the data does not reveal any particular pattern in fluctuations between donations to Democrats and Republicans depending on which election cycle is being donated to (2021 statistics revealed that the 2020 election pushed LA constituents and Latinos to lean more left, according to CNN), I would be curious to see if the political preferences of fans bear any weight on the political donations of their team donors. Given these findings, I also would be interested in finding out to what extent political sports donors are informed on the political demographics of their team's fan base.

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