

RED RIFTS

XAVIER ADOMATIS
LIGHTNING TALK

PPOL 683

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A BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF THE GOP

- 2016 EXPOSED RIFTS IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY THAT ORIGINATED IN THE TEA PARTY WAVE
- GOP HAS LOST EASY RACES, LIKE ALABAMA IN 2017, SC-1 IN 2018, ALASKA IN 2022
- LESS ELECTABLE CANDIDATES CONTINUE TO WIN PRIMARIES

VOTESHARE BY PRECINCT,
2016 GOP PRIMARY



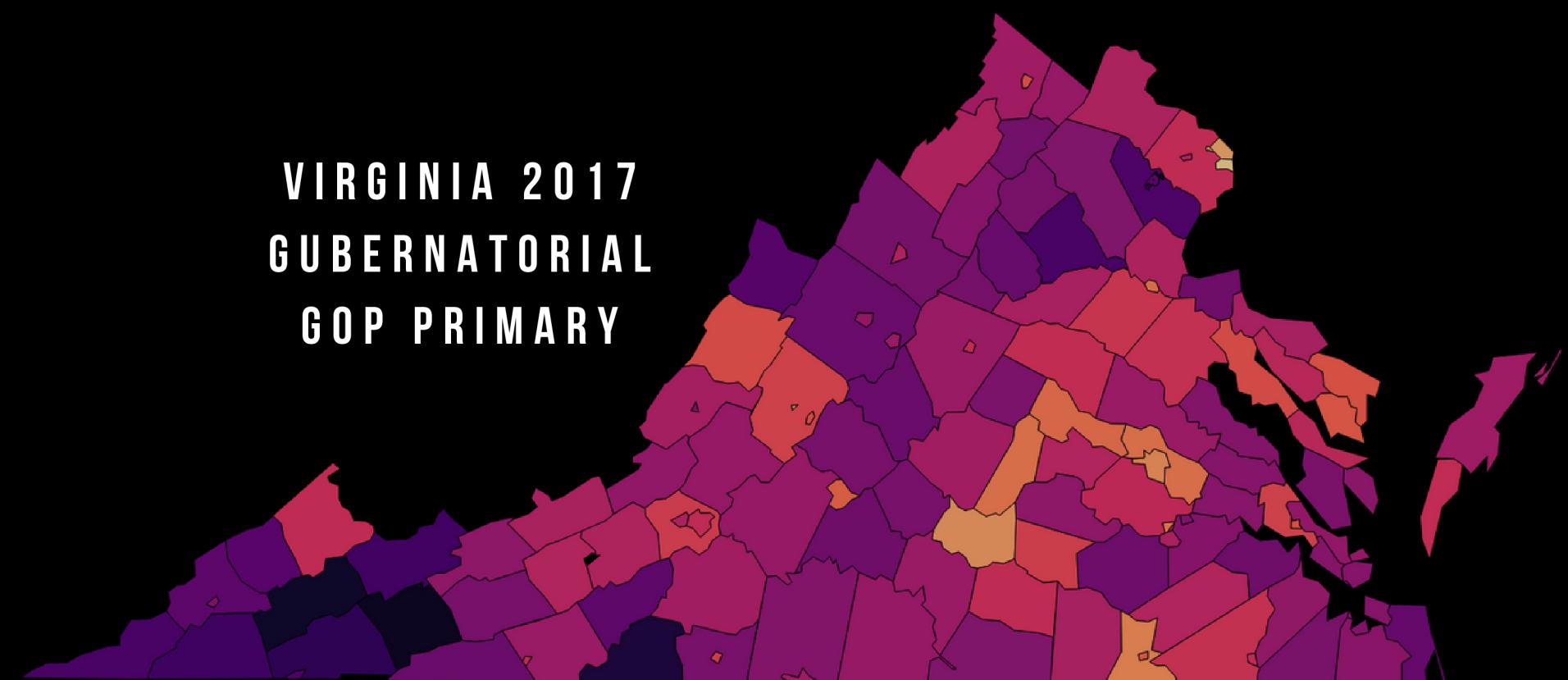
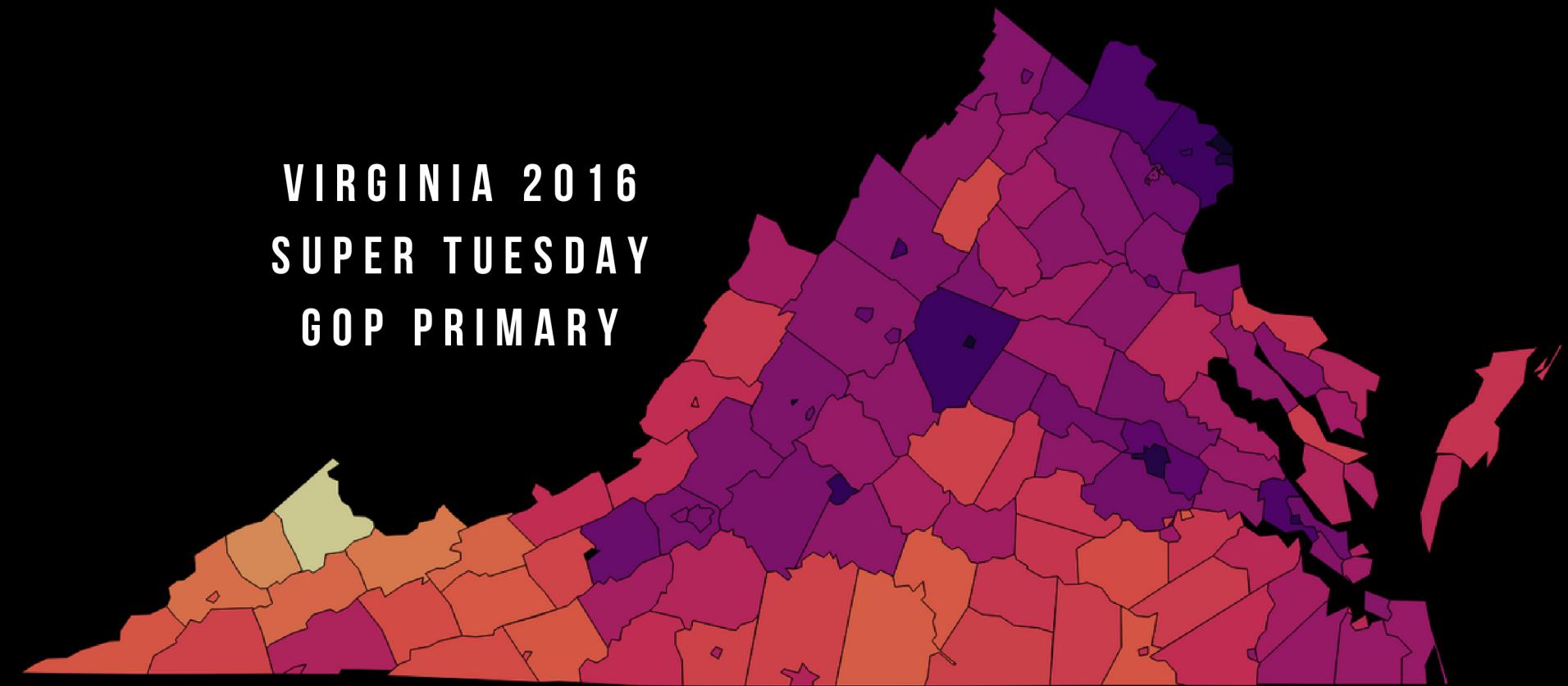
WINNER BY PRECINCT,
2016 GOP PRIMARY



DATA FROM VIRGINIA DEPT. OF ELECTIONS AND OPEN PRECINCTS

CASE STUDY: VIRGINIA

- HAS HELD MULTIPLE COMPETITIVE GOP PRIMARIES SINCE 2016
- CROSS SECTION OF MUST-WIN AREAS FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS, WITH HEAVY SUBURBAN POPULATIONS
- ONLY SUCCESSFUL RECENT ELECTION, YOUNGKIN IN 2021, DID NOT CLEAR A PRIMARY



DATA FROM VIRGINIA DEPT. OF ELECTIONS

EXISTING RESEARCH

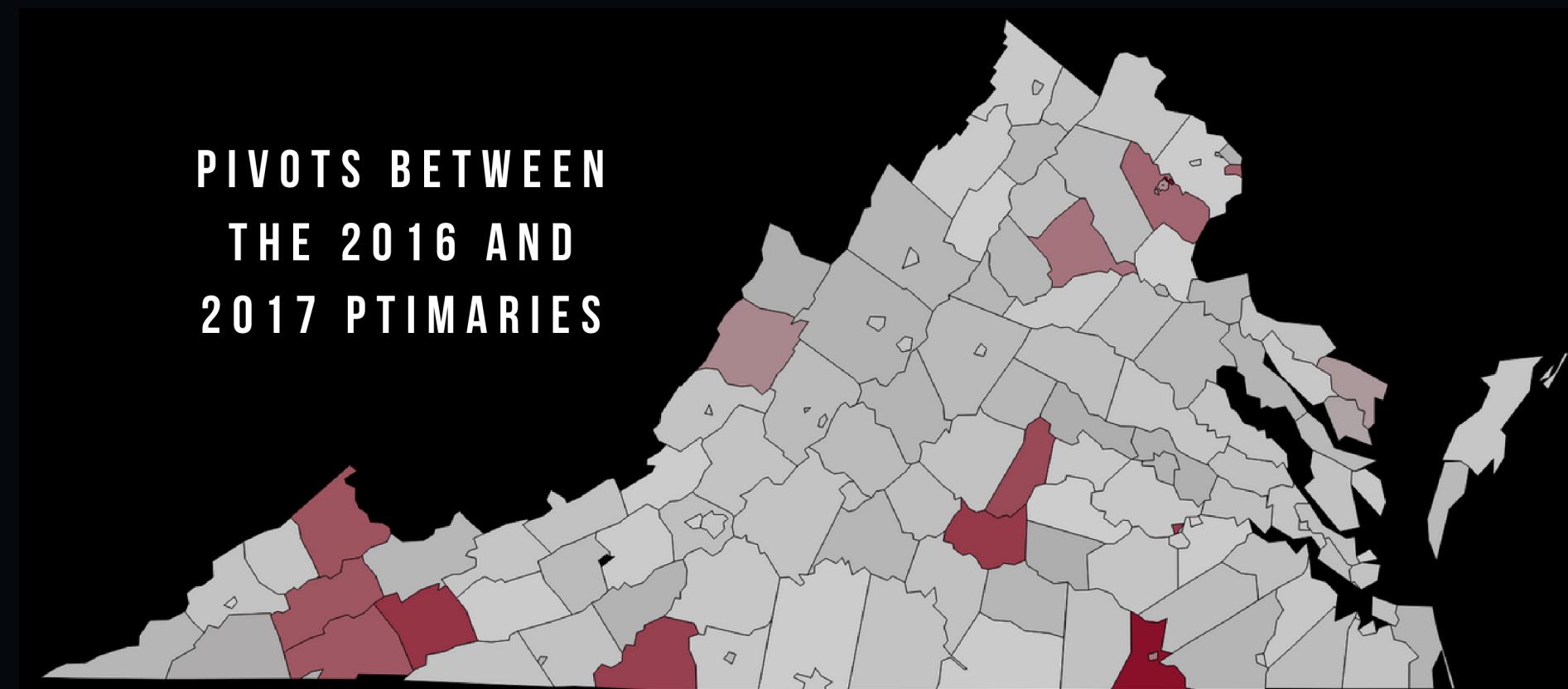
- RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE EVIDENT IN BOTH PRIMARIES AND GENERAL ELECTIONS(DURKAN 2021)
- PROTEST VOTING INCREASING, LEADS TO ELEVATION OF FAR-RIGHT CANDIDATES (RICKARDSSON 2021)
- RELIGION AND CULTURE HIGHLY IMPORTANT IN PRIMARIES (FISHER 2016, BRADBERRY 2016)

OPPORTUNITIES

- SPARSE RESEARCH ON INTRA-PARTY FACTIONS
- NO RESEARCH ON PRIMARY SWING CONSTITUENCIES

NO RE

PIVOTS BETWEEN
THE 2016 AND
2017 PRIMARIES



DATA FROM VIRGINIA DEPT. OF ELECTIONS

QUESTION

- DOES THE GOP HAVE DEFINED INTRA-PARTY FACTIONS?
- IF SO, WHAT ARE THE SWING DEMOGRAPHICS?

HYPOTHESIS

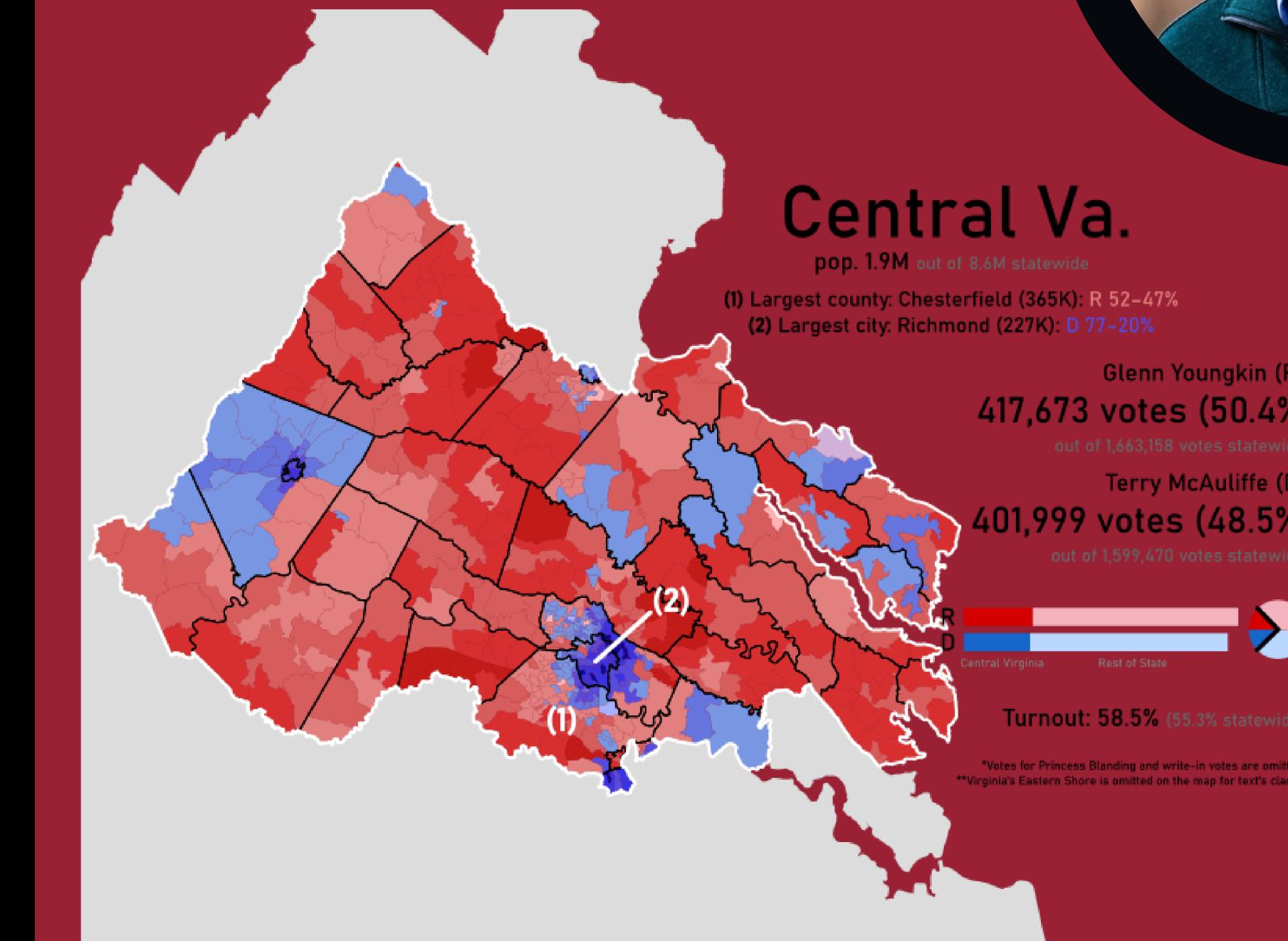
- INTRA-PARTY DIVIDES EXIST AND PRIMARILY FORM BASED ON FACTORS CONSISTENT WITH POPULATION DENSITY

PREDICTION

- PRECINCT RESULTS WILL BE HEAVILY SELF-CORRELATED
- LOW-DENSITY AND HIGH-DENSITY AREAS WILL CONSISTENTLY BE AT ODDS

IMPACT

- TRADITIONAL GOP CANDIDATES CAN TARGET SWING AREAS TO WIN PRIMARIES



I'M GLENN AND I WON BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE TO SURVIVE A PRIMARY



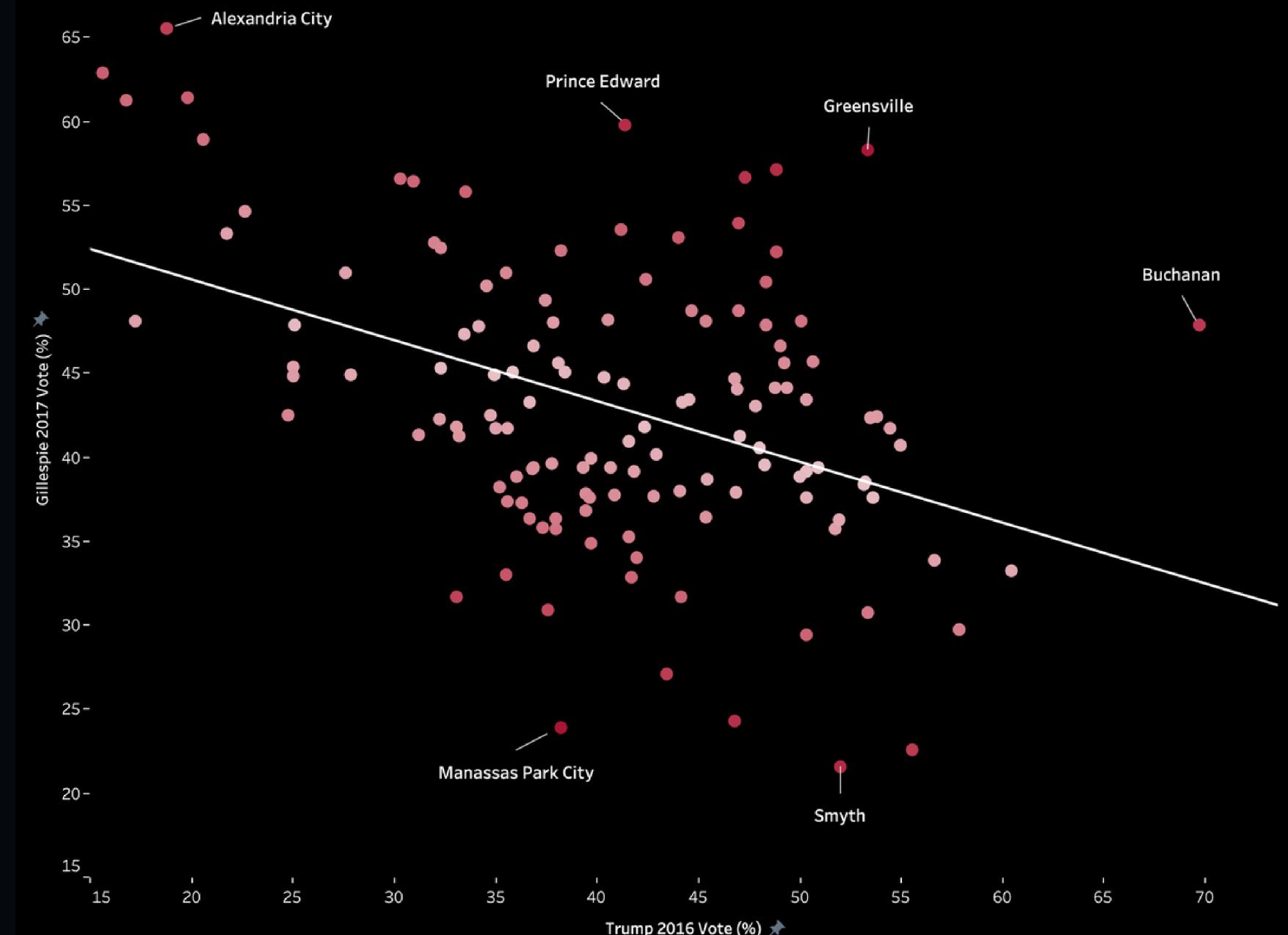
METHODOLOGY

- REGRESS SEVERAL YEARS OF ELECTION RESULTS ON THE PRECINCT LEVEL
- ADD CONTROLS FROM SALIENT GEOGRAPHIC VARIABLES LIKE POPULATION DENSITY, RELIGION, AND COAL MINES
- CLUSTER CANDIDATES BASED ON VOTER LOCALITIES
- USE RESIDUALS TO IDENTIFY SWING AREAS

PROOF OF CONCEPT

COUNTY-LEVEL RESULTS SHOW CORRELATION AND SWINGS!

GOP Primary Results 2016 vs. 2017
County-level analysis



DATA FROM VIRGINIA DEPT. OF ELECTIONS