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One Person - One Vote: Addressing Gerrymandering in Oklahoma Through Policy and Mathematics

Thomas Milligan, Ph.D., Liz Lane-Harvard, Ph.D., &
Raegan Mach

Abstract

The purpose of this project is to mathematically analyze the current Oklahoma House and Senate districts, as well as create new models for these districts based on population, communities of interest, and party affiliation. My research will be directed towards understanding what is fair regarding legal issues and current policy on the matter. Beyond this, our group of researchers plan to utilize this background information and data collected through surveys and focus groups to formalize which issues affect perceptions of fairness to better understand which should be implemented into the mathematical model to be created.

The Past, Present, and Future of the European Union and Brexit

Colby Karcher

Abstract

In recent political climates, isolationism has taken a prominent place. An example of this isolationist trend is Brexit. This paper will not only cover Brexit itself, but also the effects we may observe as a result of Brexit. This poster will use metrics such as polling data, economic forecasts, and sociological predictions. Further, this poster will also look at the European Union and propose solutions to enable the European Union to last the Brexit referendum. Overall, this poster will seek to further the understanding of Brexit, its impacts on the international stage, as well as in the European region.

The Rise of the Women's Movement in Oklahoma

Cheryl Van Den Handel

Abstract

This paper investigates the incentive structures underlying the rise of the women's movement in Oklahoma. The women's movement has been slow to emerge in Oklahoma, exemplified early on, and for many decades, by singular women rising to prominence in leadership roles, making slow progress in women's rights and representation against "traditionalists" in the legislature and local governments. Oklahoma has existed as a deeply Republican state after the election of 1948 (with the exception of the 1964 landslide election of Lyndon Johnson), where a majority of the population adheres to traditional roles and family structures and upholds a conservative ideology.

While many other Oklahoma women have made significant political contributions, we contend that a movement per se has only appeared in the state since 2016. In the 2016 election women stood for offices across Oklahoma in unprecedented numbers and participated in the Women's Marches and Teacher's Marches. It's important to understand how and why the uptick in women's political participation has contributed to the rise of a women's movement in the state.

The leaders of various women's organizations in the state have been interviewed and an open-ended survey has been sent to the memberships of these organizations to determine their incentive structures guiding their participation (currently in process). Responses will be coded and analyzed.

“AMERICAN WOMEN”

Dan Brown

Abstract

'AMERICAN WOMEN" WILL REVIEW THE EVOLUTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM.WOMEN RECEIVED THE RIGHT TO VOTE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT IN 1920.DURING THE LAST 100 YEARS, WOMEN HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE POSITIONS OF GOVERNOR,UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE UNITED STATES SENATE. MOST RECENTLY, WOMEN HAVE GAINED POSITIONS IN THE STATE AND FEDERAL JUDICIARY INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. THE SOLE REMAINING QUESTION IN THIS ANALYSIS IS WHEN THE CITIZENS WILL ELECT A WOMAN TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Assessing International Studies Identity Through Artificial Intelligence Strategies, Ethics, and Practices

Ryan Kiggins

Abstract

The nation-state with the best national artificial intelligence strategy, will dominate global politics in the near future. This claim rests on the shift in military affairs to AI directed semi-autonomous and autonomous weapon system development concomitant with the innovation and implementation of value creation propositions that utilize the surveillance economy on which AI economics is based. Nearly forty nation states have announced national artificial intelligence strategies for the purpose of ensuring military and economic relevancy during the fourth industrial revolution. This panel, scrutinizes national AI strategies for the purpose of assessing how international studies scholars must adjust and adapt scholarly identities, ideas, and institutional practices necessary for conducting research in the global AI society.

The Effects of Race and Socioeconomics on Voting in the 2000 and 2008 Presidential Elections

Sarah Scott

Abstract

This paper takes the demographics of race and socioeconomics in modern times from the southern and western regions of the United States. Race and socioeconomics have been an issue that has impacted presidential elections since its implementation. This is designed to show how the demographics of these regions impacted the state's presidential vote. I hypothesize that both race and socioeconomics held relatively equal weight in the outcome of how the states in these regions voted in these two elections. I plan to use data from the GSS and NES to show how these two demographics impacted voters within the states on an individual level. Which in turn effected the electoral vote to a given presidential candidate. I conclude that my potential findings could hold some validity and how these findings might have and could affect future non-incumbent presidential elections.

U.S. Military Force: Necessary or Negligent?

Pierce Warn

Abstract

This poster will go over how the U.S. military has shown the use of force both domestically and internationally. It will use examples of domestic conflicts such as, but not limited to, Kent State. Furthermore, examples of international conflicts such as North Korea and Iran will be utilized. Examination of the moral decline due to these engagements will be discussed. In conclusion, this presentation will seek to justify the necessities of these military actions.

StingRay: Security or Invasion of Privacy?

Jesus Manzano

Abstract

This poster goes over the ramifications of the controversial cellular phone surveillance device StingRay on local-state-federal collaborations and its undermining of the principles of federalism and separation of powers. Furthermore, it will cover how Stingray utilization exposes lack of accountability and transparency among our police agencies and raises serious questions about the security of individual rights.

Influencing Factors on an Individual's Attitudes Towards Abortion

Maci Fox

Abstract

Research has shown that there are many factors that contribute to abortion attitudes. This paper is going to study the factors that influence individual's attitudes towards abortion. Using data from the GSS I test the hypothesis that three factors are positively correlated with attitudes on abortion; the individual's scientific knowledge, their education level, and income. I then conclude the paper by discussing the implications of findings along with outlining some places where further research into this topic can go.

What Motivates Swing Voters?

Brandon Ramirez

Abstract

The term “swing voter” has become a media and political buzzword in recent years with candidates at nearly all levels of elections vying for their support. The importance of these crucial voters cannot and should not be understated. President Donald Trump broke the Democrats’ vaunted “Blue Wall” in 2016, pulling swing voters away from the coalition built by President Obama in 2008 and 2012. This tide turned in many respects in 2018 when millions came to the polls, setting turnout records, in mid-term elections handing control of the House of Representatives back to Democrats while also electing record numbers of women to Congress. My research will explore the motivations of swing voters. I will begin by defining the term itself. Swing voters should not be viewed as a monolithic group as most lean to one party but are typically described as still persuadable. I will look into what issues make swing voters support one candidate over another, including vote switching or electing not to vote at all. President Donald Trump, unlike previous Republican presidents, made the topic of immigration the centerpiece of his campaign. Despite the public’s generally favorable view of immigration, concerns over illegal immigration and security have caused a schism in opinion to form not only between the major parties, but within the parties themselves. My hypothesis is that immigration is the primary issue motivating swing voters today. I will test

Oklahoma is not "O.K.": The Rise of Opioids in the Sooner State

Kaitlyn Brown

Abstract

In recent years, Oklahoma has experienced a rise in prescription opioid deaths that have left many families grief stricken and begging for answers. Through this research I hope to uncover why opioid use has increased in Oklahomans, how Oklahomans are dealing with the loss of a loved one, and if there is a way that Oklahoma can be "O.K." again. To gather research about this topic I will be looking at drug awareness programs and their accessibility to the public, the Johnson & Johnson opioid court case, and how Oklahoma as a state is moving to decrease opioid deaths.

Factors that influence a successful re-election of an incumbent President.

Bruno Aveiro

Abstract

Conventional wisdom states that an incumbent president will be re-elected as long as the economy is good. This paper will examine the factors that influence whether an incumbent Presidents will be re-elected. To answer this question I plan on studying presidents who were not successful in obtaining a second term: George Bush Sr., Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, William Taft, and Herbert Hoover. I investigate the factors that led to their inability to get re-elected. The paper will start its analysis with how the economy was performing during their term in office. I also examine Congress's job approval rating form the public during the President's term, taking note if the President and Congress are aligned politically. If the president and Congress are divided, I will compare approval ratings for each. The paper will also examine the President's job approval rating. Another factor is campaign strategy used by the presidents. What have the one term presidents done different in their campaign that led them to lose? The remaining factor left is the social issues that might have influenced voting choices in their election. What was society facing during these president's time in office that potentially led voters to reject the incumbent president a second term? Was there a war that did not sit well with the American people that got the President kicked out of the white house? My paper will give more insight into the factors that influence a presidential electio

Oklahoma Prisons and Jails" Why Oklahoma is The Incarceration Capital of The United States

Nikolas Craig

Abstract

What makes Oklahoma so special? Why is Oklahoma ranked first in the nation in the number of people serving time behind bars? Is it due to lower socio-economic levels, easy accessibility to three major Interstate highways which intersect here, or, is it the "for profit" prison systems currently operating within our great state? Investigating and understanding how these three factors work together to create this problem might better educate us on how to solve it.

Judicial Ruling Patterns: An Analysis of the Consistency of Judicial Rulings on Abortion Cases

Rylee McKee

Abstract

This paper will specifically be looking at the ruling patterns of justices on abortion cases and will be exploring whether or not there is variation in their approach to such cases at different court levels. While much work has been done to evaluate Supreme Court decision-making and the effects of public opinion on judicial behavior, little research has been done to compare the ruling behavior of justices prior to their appointment to the Supreme Court, versus their pattern of decision-making once confirmed to the highest court in the land. I hypothesize that, the higher up a judge moves in the judicial system, the more consistent their decision making in abortion cases becomes. I will also examine what factors contribute to the increase or decrease in ruling consistency; such as public attention/opinion on cases, the higher up one moves in the judicial system. Looking at Supreme Court justices who were appointed post-Roe v. Wade (1973), I will evaluate their decision-making in abortion cases in the context of their legal and personal backgrounds, as well as the saliency of the cases they ruled on, to see if those factors influenced their ruling. I will discuss the implications of my findings along with highlighting some areas for future research.

Hungry Tigers: Food Insecurity at East Central University

Christine Pappas

Abstract

During the spring of 2019, students in Political Science Research Methods conducted a survey of ECU students about food insecurity. This study was approved by East Central University's Institutional Review Board. Surveys were deployed in PS 1113 US Government classes as well as online through Survey Monkey. A total of 117 surveys were collected. Found that 49 out of 117 or 42% said that they had skipped a meal because they could not afford food while a student at ECU. They worry about money and they believe this worry affects their mental health. ECU students do not believe that their academic performance has been affected by their financial situation. As a result of this need, ECU has now created a food bank for students and employees through the Food Bank of Oklahoma.

History of Tribal Compacts and How they affect Oklahoma

Shelby Yates

Abstract

In 1870 the Supreme Court ruled on The Cherokee Tobacco case and decided that congress can replace treaties when conducting relations with Native Americans. In 1871 the United States stopped creating treaties with Tribes. States looked to compacts as a way to make agreements with the Native Americans. This is a special type of relationship, there is no other Government in the world that has a relationship similar to this. The State of Oklahoma has many compacts in place that concern issues such as tobacco sales, gaming, and license plates. This poster analyzes the history of compacts in Oklahoma and evaluates the recent conflict over the gaming compact.

Protecting Oklahoma's future by preserving our history through state parks

Derek Odom

Abstract

The importance of Oklahoma state parks can't be elaborated enough. Whether you live in a rural or urban area, you can always learn something new at a state park. We can learn about our native trees and grasses, native animals, and how they interact with one another to continue to flourish. We get a break from the stress of everyday life when we can go camping, fishing, and hiking, or just take a quick drive around the park. It is up to every one of us to help keep up the preservation of our state parks. From the beauty of the naturally formed Alabaster Caverns to Lake Murray (built by the Civilian Conservation Corps), we have and should always work to preserve the beauty of our state. This research also evaluates the feasibility of charging additional fees to visit states parks.

Analyzing the Factors and Policy Decisions Associated with Increased Forced Displacement from the Northern Triangle

Samantha Cowan & Aaron Cornell

Abstract

Since 2011, there has been a significant increase in forcibly displaced peoples entering the United States from the Northern Triangle of Central America (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala). These displaced migrants have been leaving their home countries due to gang violence, economic instability, and drought. This has led to a humanitarian crisis at the United States southern border as the number of asylum seekers and those arrested crossing the border has exponentially increased. The situation has only been exacerbated by misdirected policy decisions and fallacious rhetoric.

Our presentation will explain the major factors behind this crisis, while presenting policy recommendations aimed at alleviating it. We will also address any myths about the crisis as presented by news media and the current administration.

The Effects of the Electoral College on Representation and Voter Turnout in Oklahoma

Ruth Herman

Abstract

This research will investigate the relationship between states' adoption of the winner-take-all mechanism for allocating Electoral College votes on political representation and voter turnout. It is hypothesized that voters in non-battleground states believe their vote makes no impact in the course of the election due to the winner-take-all mechanism, leading to a decrease in political participation. This hypothesis will be tested by gathering quantitative and qualitative data on voter turnout as well as comparing results of states with different Electoral College voting schemes such as Maine and Nebraska. This research will be applied to the State of Oklahoma and will explore the possibilities of reform to increase Oklahoma voter turnout in presidential elections.