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Econometric Modeling of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election: Why the Results Are Far from Unusual

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ECONOMETRIC MODELING OF THE 2016
U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION:
WHY THE RESULTS ARE FAR FROM UNUSUAL

Alexandra Orsky

Mentor: Sukkoo Kim

In the wake of the 2016 Presidential Election, pollsters and the public alike are trying to piece together how Donald Trump won against all expectations. Two main hypotheses have emerged: 1. There has been a systematic shift in demographics, and 2. Voter turnout in the election was drastically different than it has been historically. This paper assesses the validity of both claims through econometric modeling and presents empirical evidence that the election results are, contrary to popular belief, consistent with demographic trends and voter turnout since 1972.