

Predicting Congressional Elections From Expert Ratings, 1964-2022

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Over the summer, I collaborated with Government Professor Michael Franz on two distinct projects. First, I conducted preliminary research on the Federal Election Commission, or FEC, learning about its role of regulating and enforcing campaign finance law. I then spent the following week updating Franz's data on the FEC cases for his paper "Federal Election Commission Divided: Measuring Conflict in Commission Votes Since 1990," published in 2021. In this process, I noted both which commissioners voted (most serve for only a few years) and how they voted. This information is useful when contextualized with the knowledge that commissioners appointed by Democratic and Republican administrations may vote differently on contentious issues.

Second, I collected and presented data for our research paper "Predicting Congressional Elections from Expert Ratings, 1964-2022." This paper examines a long-ignored question regarding election predictions: To what extent c