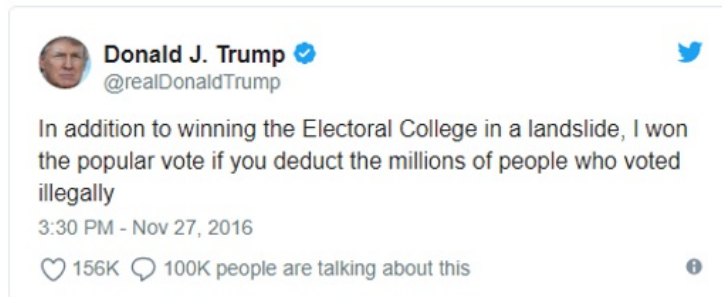




Examining the 2016 Election: Was Trump's Victory a Landslide?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



Shortly after winning the 2016 election to become the 45th President of the United States, **Donald Trump** claimed to have won in a **landslide** over **Hillary Clinton**.

While there is no official definition of a "landslide election," political experts agree that an **Electoral College landslide** occurs when a candidate wins at least **375** out of **538** electoral votes (**70%**).

This visualization examines the aforementioned criteria for an Electoral College landslide in relation to recent first-term elections, including Trump's 2016 election. **Slides 2-7** provide interactive synopses of the selected elections. These slides are arranged in order of the most electoral votes won to the fewest. **Slides 2** and **3** serve as benchmarks of Electoral College landslides. **Slide 8** is a summary of this study. **Slide 9** cites the sources used in this visualization. Use the **navigation bar** at the top to view the slides.

John J. Pitney, an author and professor of American Politics at Claremont McKenna College, has ranked all 58 US presidential elections based on the winning candidate's percentage of Electoral College votes. These rankings will also be noted in this visualization.

How accurate is Trump's statement?

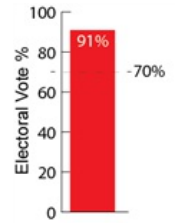
Examining the 2016 Election: Was Trump's Victory a Landslide?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Ronald Reagan 1980: 489 Electoral Votes



In the 1980 election, Ronald Reagan defeated incumbent Jimmy Carter in electoral voting, **489-49 (90.89%)**, becoming the first victorious presidential candidate to win in a landslide manner since Richard Nixon's 1972 victory (96.65%). According to Pitney, Reagan's 1980 victory ranks **9th** overall.



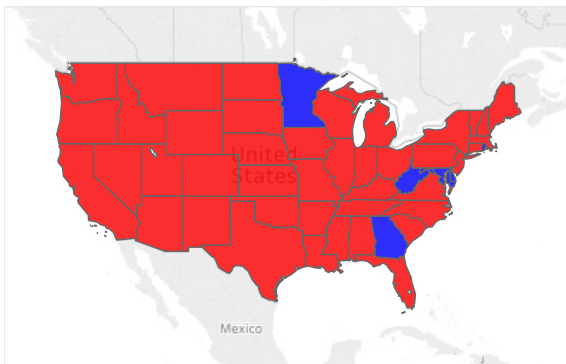
Click on a state to highlight it. Control+click to highlight multiple states. Click again on the state to de-select it. Select a region to compare results.

Select a Region:

All

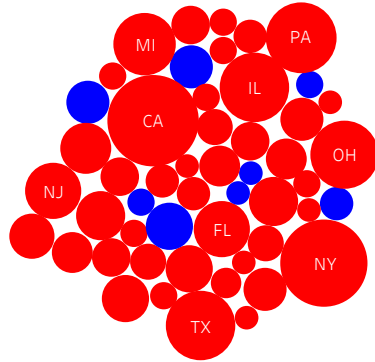


1980 Electoral Vote



Select a Region:

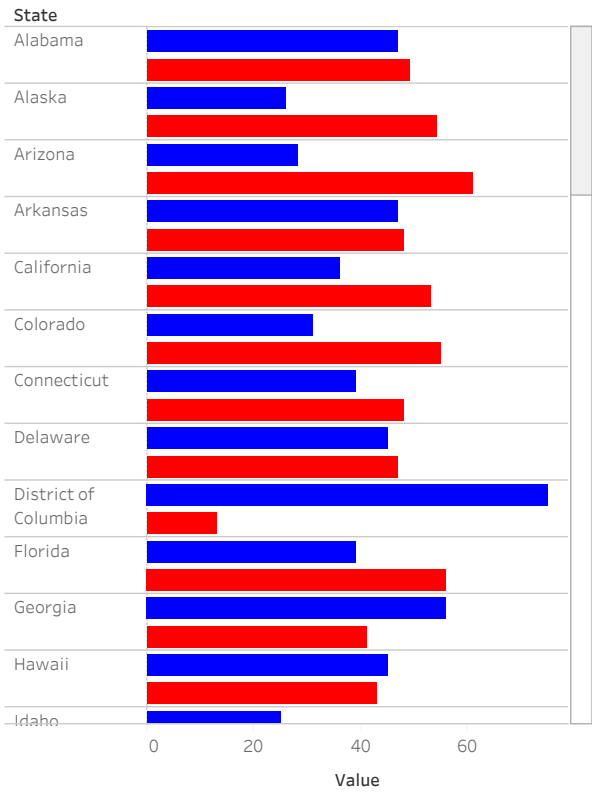
All



1980 Popular Vote %

Select a Region:

All



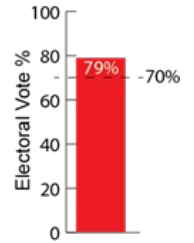
Examining the 2016 Election: Was Trump's Victory a Landslide?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

George H.W. Bush 1988: 426 Electoral Votes



Following in Reagan's footsteps, Vice President George H.W. Bush enjoyed a landslide victory over Michael Dukakis in the 1988 election, winning **426-111 (79.18%)** in electoral voting. According to Pitney, Bush's 1988 victory ranks **22nd** out of 58 US presidential elections.



Click on a state to highlight it. Control+click to highlight multiple states. Click again on the state to de-select it. Select a region to compare results.

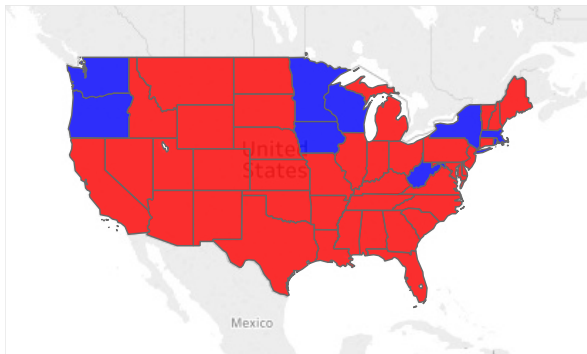
Select a Region:

Select a Region:

All

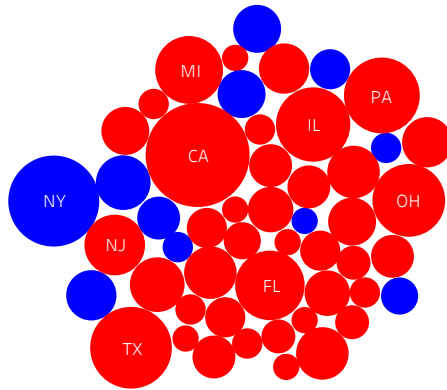


1988 Electoral Vote



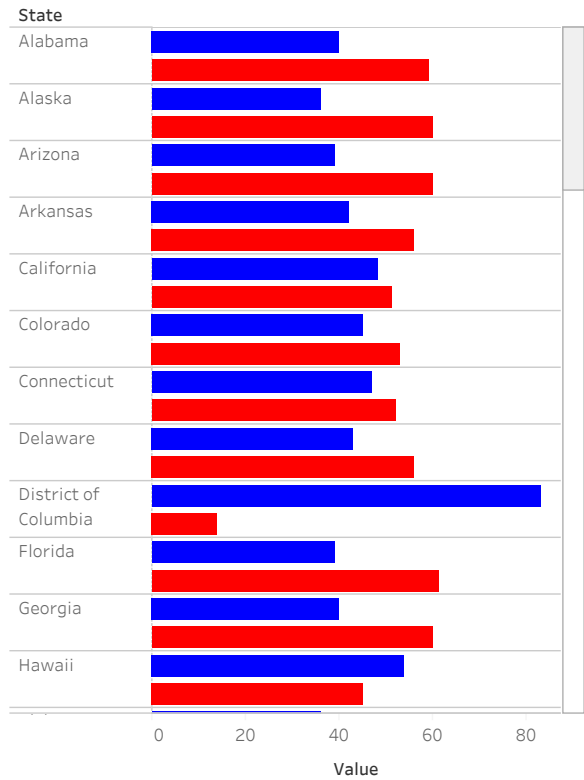
Select a Region:

All



1988 Popular Vote %

All



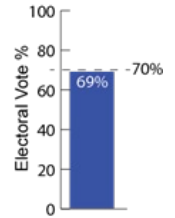
Examining the 2016 Election: Was Trump's Victory a Landslide?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Bill Clinton 1992: 370 Electoral Votes



Bill Clinton defeated incumbent George H.W. Bush, **370-168 (68.77%)** in electoral voting. According to Pitney, Clinton's victory ranks **30th** out of 58 US presidential elections.



Click on a state to highlight it. Control+click to highlight multiple states. Click again on the state to de-select it. Select a region to compare results.

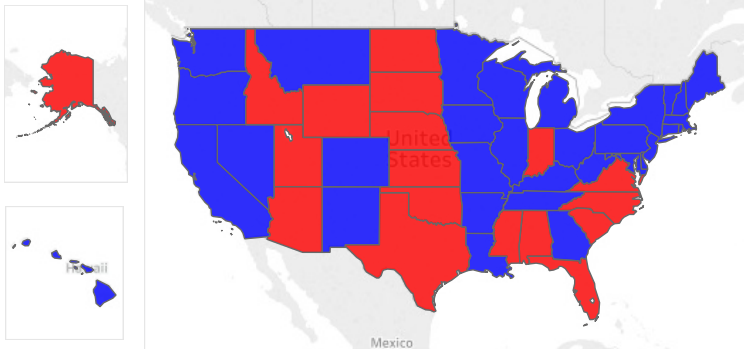
Select a Region:

All

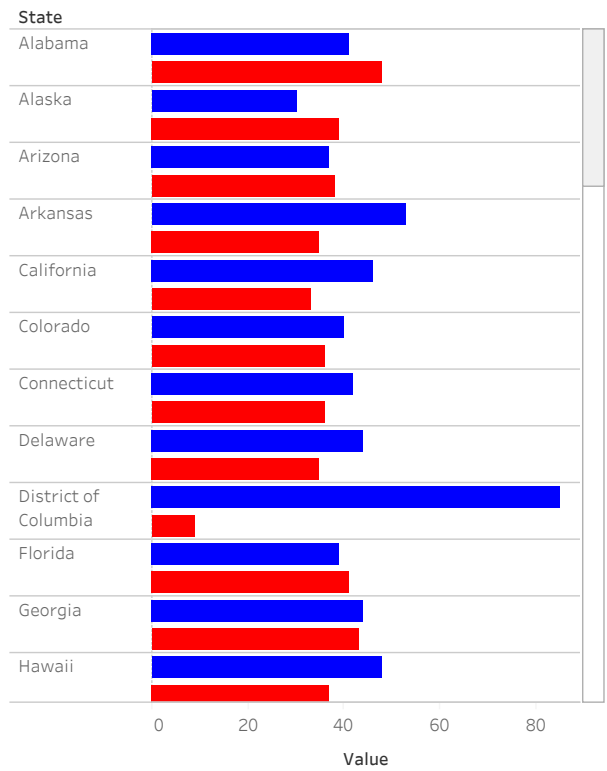
Select a Region:

All

1992 Electoral Vote

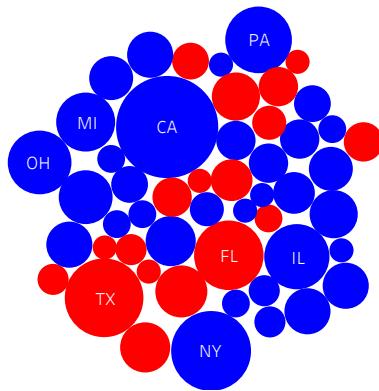


1992 Popular Vote %



Select a Region:

All



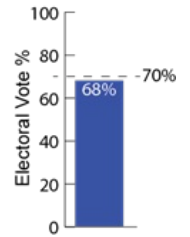
Examining the 2016 Election: Was Trump's Victory a Landslide?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



Barack Obama 2008: 365 Electoral Votes

Barack Obama defeated John McCain, **365-173 (67.84%)** in electoral voting. According to Pitney, Obama's victory ranks **32nd** out of 58 US presidential elections.



Click on a state to highlight it. Control+click to highlight multiple states. Click again on the state to de-select it. Select a region to compare results.

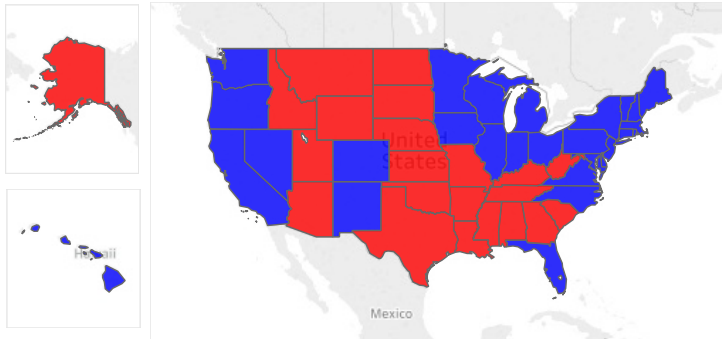
Select a Region:

All

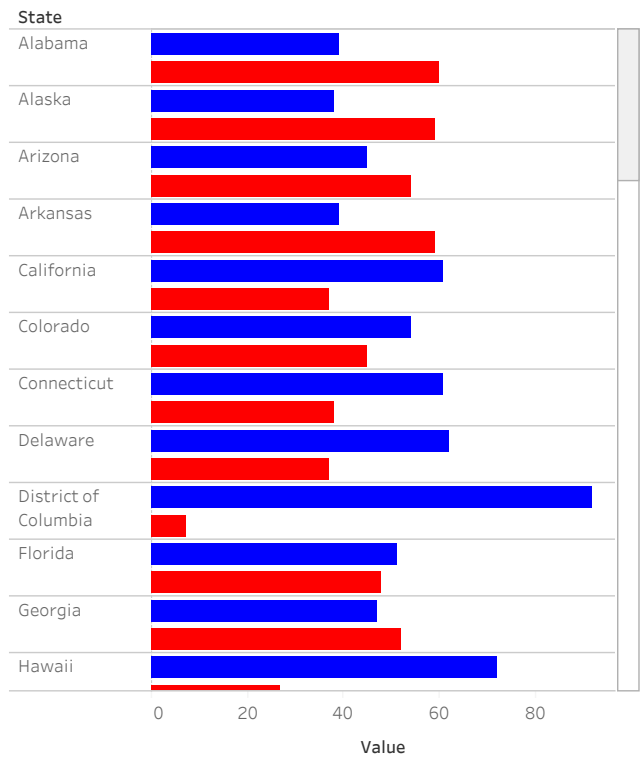
Select a Region:

All

2008 Electoral Vote

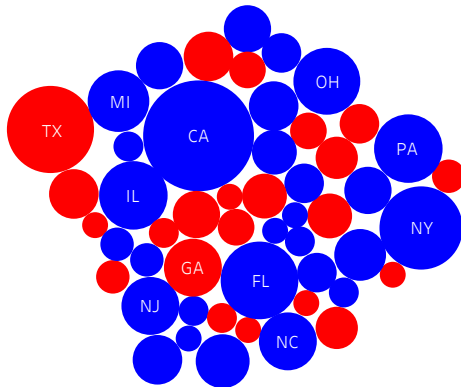


2008 Popular Vote %



Select a Region:

All



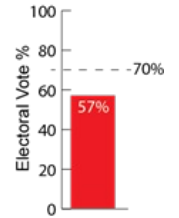
Examining the 2016 Election: Was Trump's Victory a Landslide?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Donald Trump 2016: 304 Electoral Votes



Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton **304-227 (56.88%)** in electoral voting. According to Pitney, Trump's victory ranks **46th** out of 58 US presidential elections.



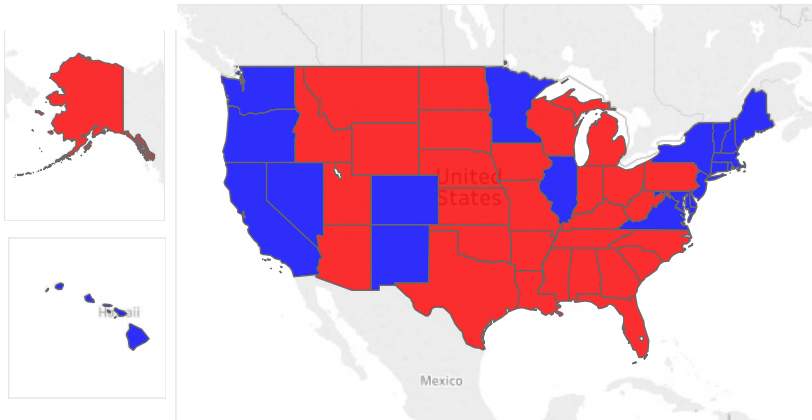
Click on a state to highlight it. Control+click to highlight multiple states. Click again on the state to de-select it. Select a region to compare results.

Select a Region:
All

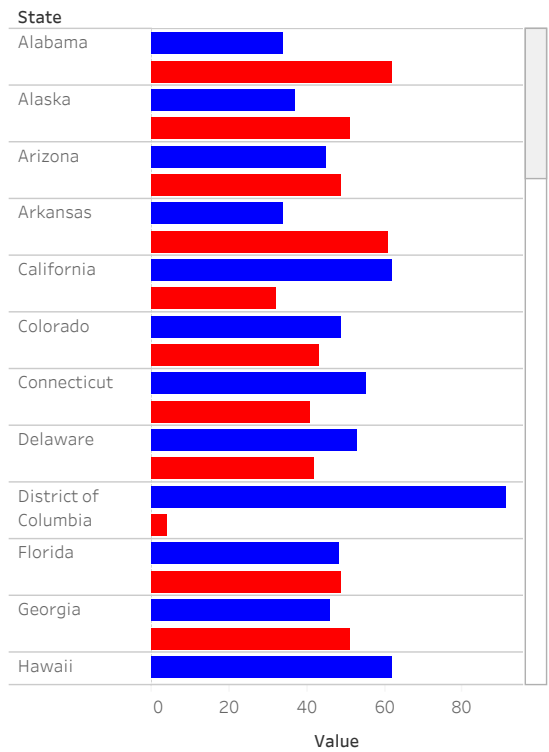
Select a Region:

All

2016 Electoral Vote

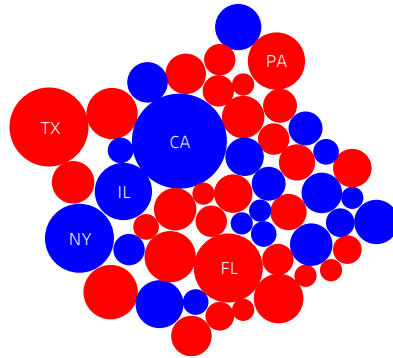


2016 Popular Vote %



Select a Region:

All



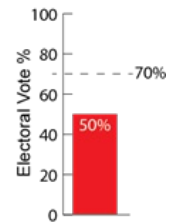
Examining the 2016 Election: Was Trump's Victory a Landslide?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



George W. Bush 2000: 271 Electoral Votes

George W. Bush defeated Vice President Al Gore, **271-266 (50.37%)** in electoral voting. According to Pitney, Bush's victory ranks **56th** out of 58 US presidential elections.



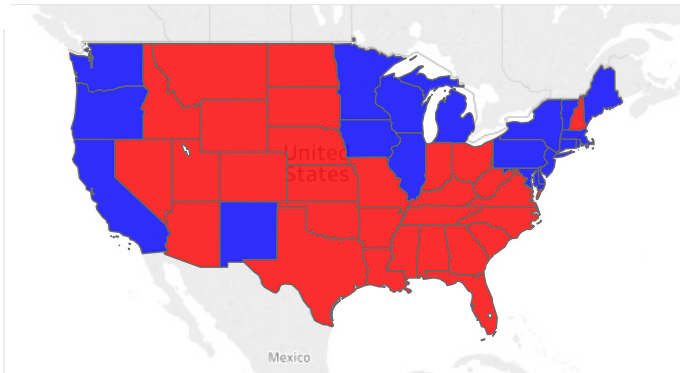
Click on a state to highlight it. Control+click to highlight multiple states. Click again on the state to de-select it. Select a region to compare results.

Select a Region:

All



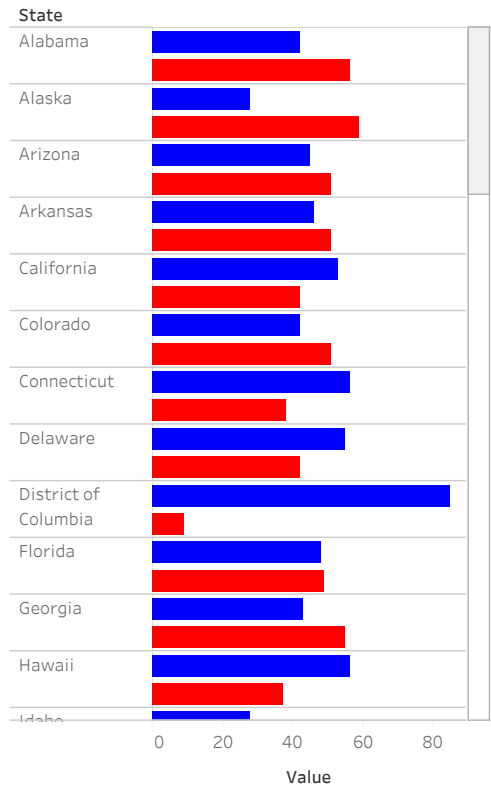
2000 Electoral Vote



Select a Region:

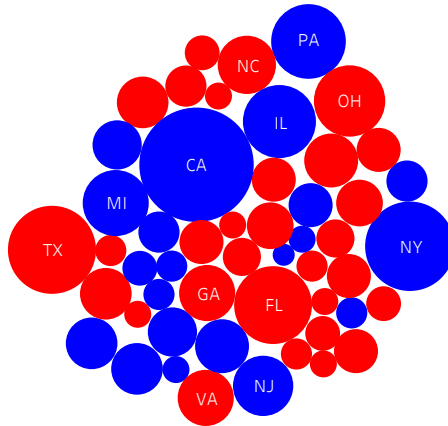
All

2000 Popular Vote %



Select a Region:

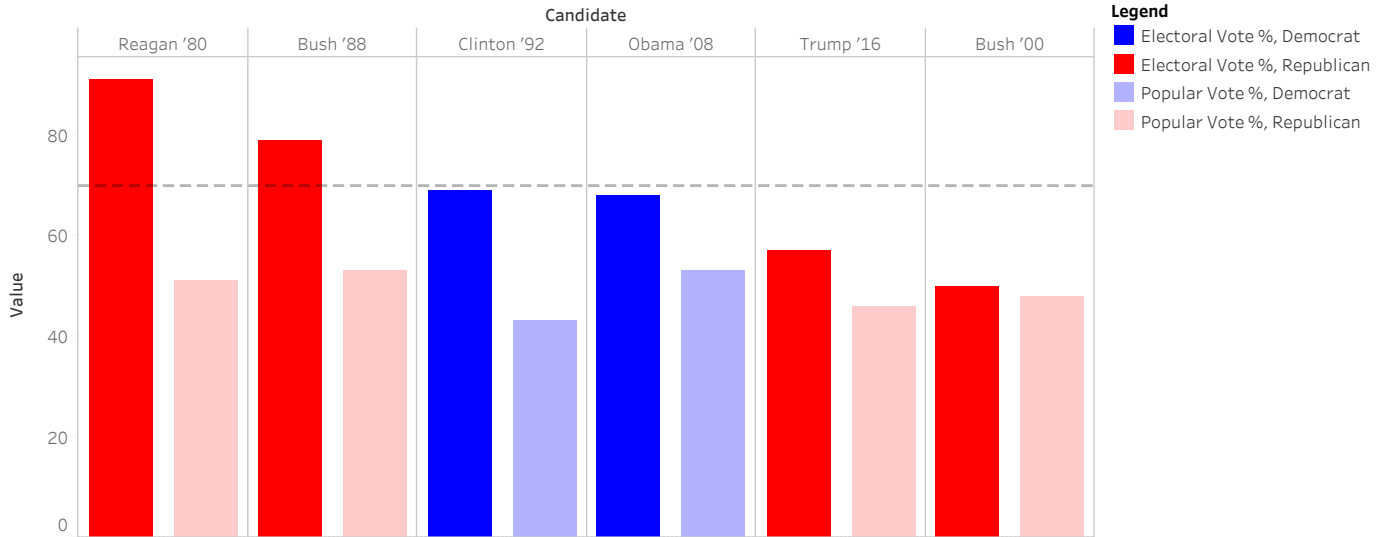
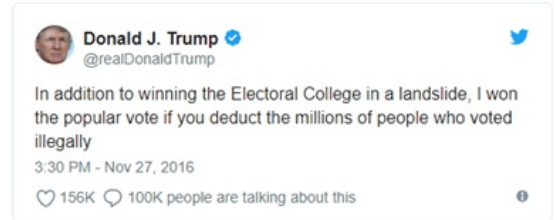
All



Examining the 2016 Election: Was Trump's Victory a Landslide?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

To achieve an Electoral College landslide, the victorious candidate must win at least **375** out of 538 electoral votes, or **70%** of the share. Based on the evidence from official election results shown below, Donald Trump's 2016 victory does not meet that criteria.



Examining the 2016 Election: Was Trump's Victory a Landslide?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Sources

1980 Presidential Election. (n.d.). Retrieved March 24, 2018, from <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/showelection.php?year=1980>

Federal Election Commission Election Results 1984-2016. Retrieved from <https://transition.fec.gov/pubrec/electionresults.shtml>

Pitney. (n.d.). Trump's Victory Ranks 46 of 58 in Electoral College Share. Retrieved February 24, 2018, from <http://www.epicjourney2008.com/2016/11/trumps-victory-ranks-46-of-58-in.html>

T. Murse. (2017, May 22). A landslide victory in: what makes a an election victory a landslide in politics. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-a-landslide-election-3367585>