FLORIDA MIDTERM ELECTIONS
2018

Data Expedition
Emma Davenport
FLORIDA MIDTERM ELECTIONS 2018

Major Figures

Gubernatorial Race

Andrew Gillum (D)  Ron DeSantis (R)
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Major Figures

Senate Race

Bill Nelson (D-incumbent)

Rick Scott (R)
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Major Figures

Donald Trump

Cory Booker  
(NJ Senator, D)

Marco Rubio  
(FL Senator, R)
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Timeline of Events

Gubernatorial Race

Andrew Gillum (D) v. Ron DeSantis (R)

Nov. 2018

Senate Race

Bill Nelson (D-incumb.) v. Rick Scott (R)

Election Day

06

AP calls the race for DeSantis; Gillum concedes

Election Day

Too close to call
Gubernatorial Race

DeSantis leads by 72,000 votes; Then by 34,000 (within 0.5%); Recount likely

Senate Race

Proceeds to machine recount

Rick Scott calls for fraud investigation; Files lawsuit

Trump tweets: “FRAUD”

07

08

09

Gillum tweets: “Count every vote”

Trump tweets: “How come they never find Republican votes?”
Gubernatorial Race
Recount announced; Gillum withdraws concession
Conservatives: #stopthesteal

Senate Race
Rubio retweets photo

Conservative protesters gather at Broward Elections Supervisor Office; Rumors of unfairness circulate; later debunked
Gubernatorial Race
Machine recounts continue

12

13

14

Senate Race
Machine recounts continue

...
Gubernatorial Race

Gillum gains only one vote; Does not concede

Machine recounts due; Broward County misses deadline by two minutes

Senate Race

Scott’s leads by only 0.15%; Manual recount triggered
Gubernatorial Race

Gillum concedes

Senate Race

Manual recount ends; Nelson behind by 10,033 (compared to 12,603); Nelson concedes
Twitter API

Number of tweets
Time period
Variables

Going backwards: “Search” API
10% sample over last 7 days

Going forwards: “Filter” API
All tweets, up to 2% total Twitter traffic
For individual users
Up to 3200 past tweets; all future tweets
User Choices

When to begin collection

Backwards? Forwards?

Collection parameters
Our Data

We began collecting Nov. 14 (during machine recount)

10% sample of tweets
from Nov. 6 (election day)
to Nov. 23 (five days after resolution)

900,270 tweets
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Twitter Data: Restrictions and Choices

**Our Data**

**Search parameters:**

#FloridaRecount
#FloridaRecount2018
#FloridaElection

#BrowardElections
#PalmBeachElections

#CountEveryVote

#Gillum

#Sayfie
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Twitter Data: Restrictions and Choices

Our Data

Variables:

- **ID**: unique ID of this specific tweet
- **User Screen Name**: screen name of person posting tweet
- **Parsed Created At**: day/time at which tweet was created
- **Text**: entire text of tweet (including hashtags, RT, @, etc.)
- **Hashtags**: #______
- **Favorite count**: number of times tweet was “liked”
- **Tweet type**:
  - original
  - retweet (RT)
  - reply (@mention)
  - quote (of another tweet; URL)
Our Data

Variables: For retweets (RT) and Replies (@mentions):

Retweet or Quote Screen Name: User name of original tweeter; for retweets
In Reply To Screen Name: User name of original tweeter; for @mentions

Retweet count: Only for retweets: number of times the original tweet was retweeted

Retweet or quote ID: ID of the tweet that is being retweeted
Our Data

Variables:

Tweet-specific additional information
- Tweet URL: Twitter URL for this specific tweet
- Media: media attached to tweet
- URLs: URLs included in the text of the tweet

User-specific additional information
- User followers count: Number of followers the user has
- User friends count: Number of people the user follows
- User statuses count: Total number of tweets the user has tweeted
- User verified: Blue check is “true”; otherwise, “false”
- User description: User’s self-determined description
- User URLs: User’s self-determined URLs