

Remembering the Alamo



Demographic change and Texas politics

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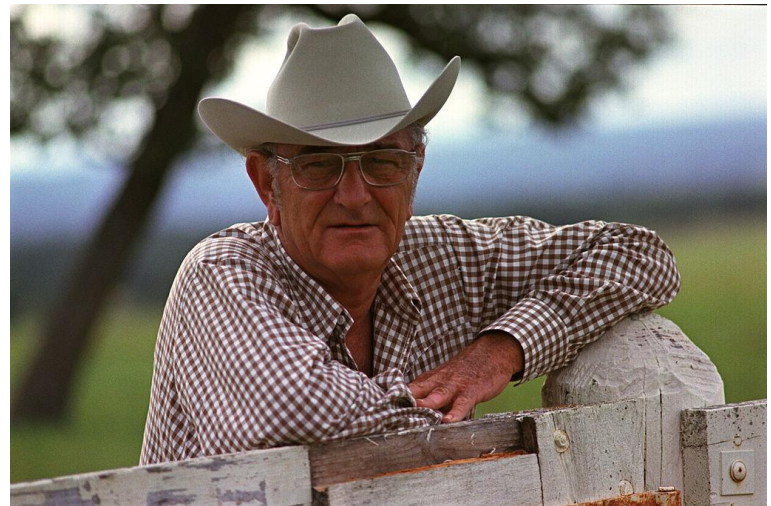
University of California, Berkeley

Pacific Chapter of American Association for Public Opinion Research conference

Student Paper Competition presentation

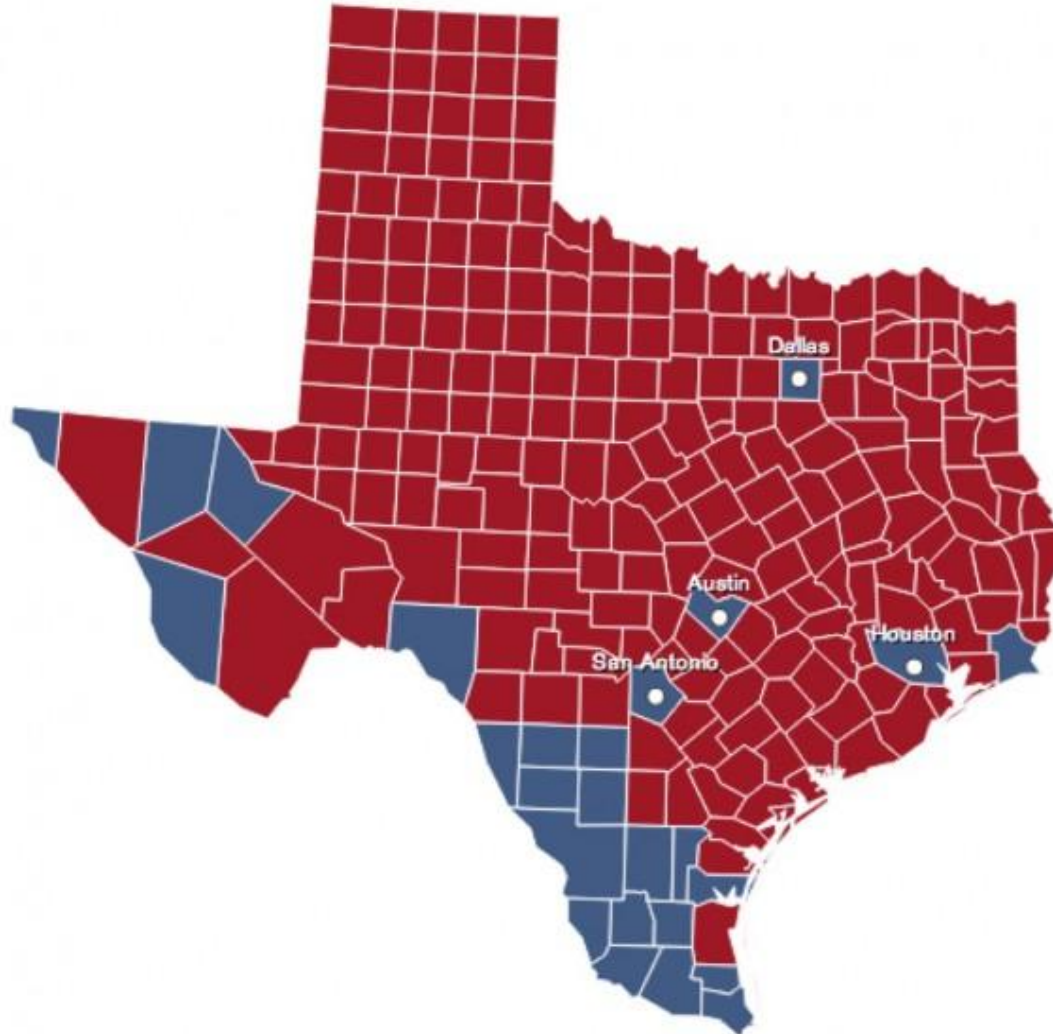
December 15, 2016

Images of Texas (yee-haw!)



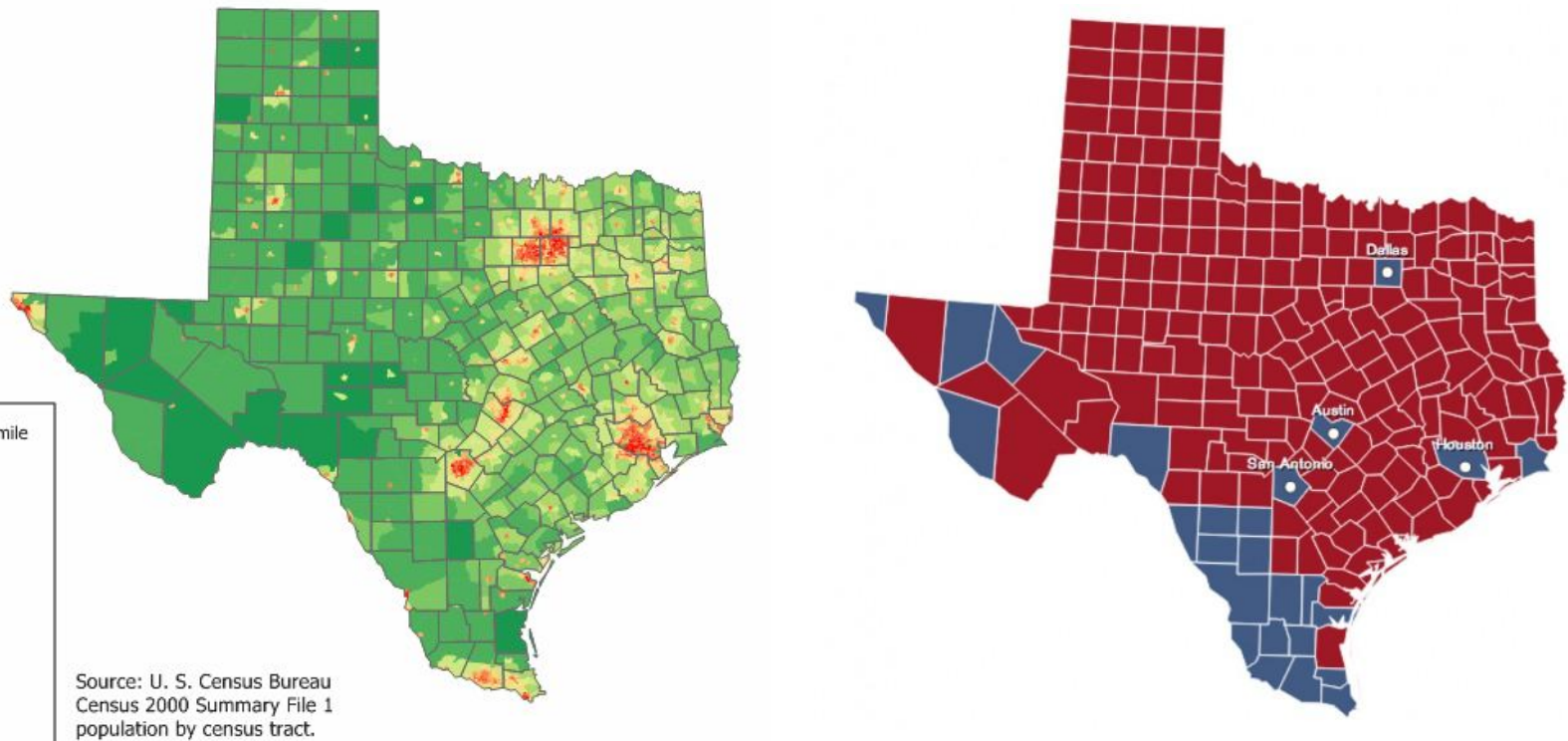
Texas, the red state

2012 Presidential election results, by county (Statewide result: Romney 57.2%, Obama 41.4%)



Texas, the not so red state

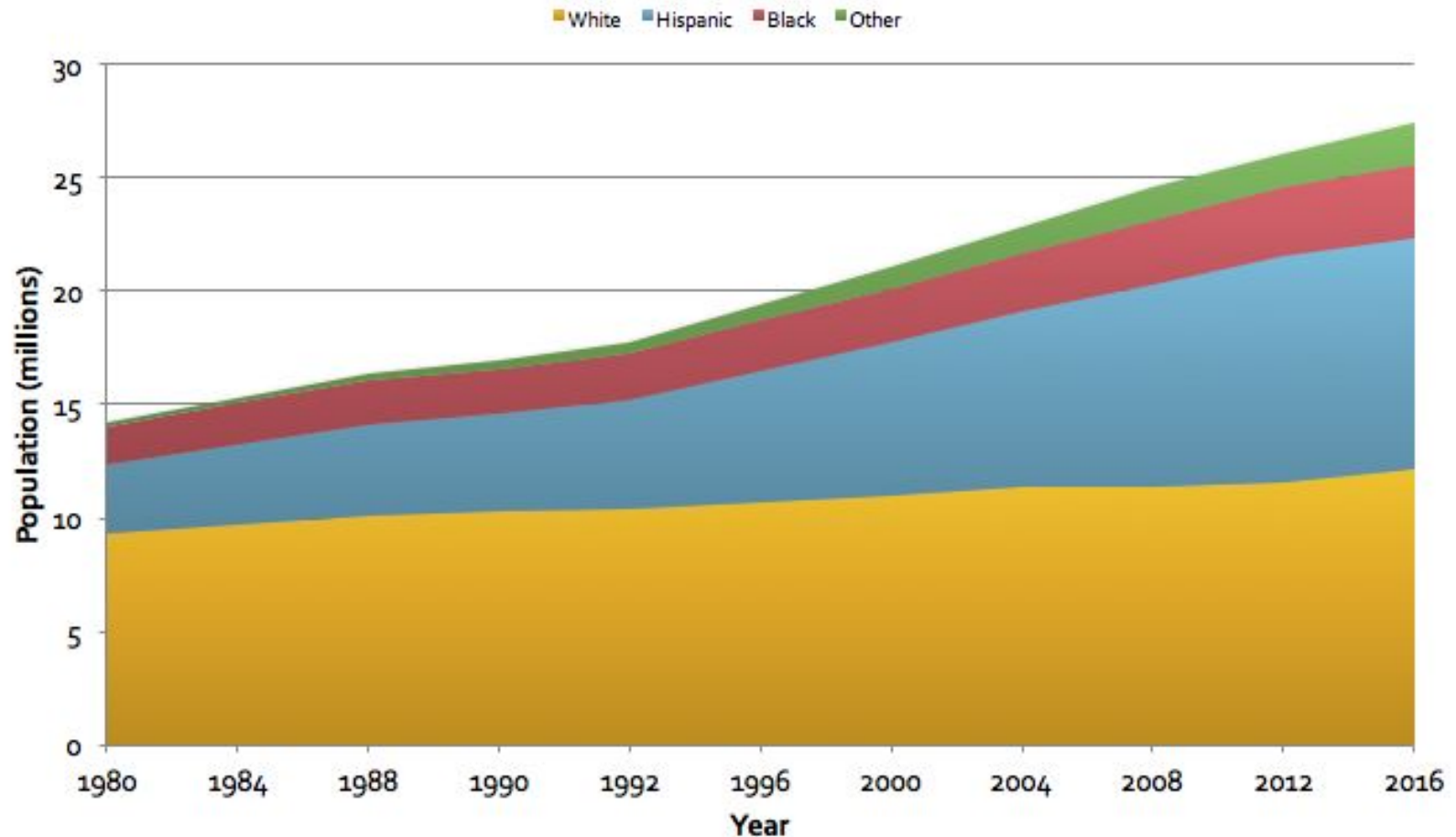
Population density and 2012 Presidential election results by county



Texas, the growing state



Texas population change by race/ethnicity, 1980-2016



Racial and ethnic composition of Texas residents, 1980-2012. 1980, 1990, and 2000 data from decennial US Census. 2001-2016 from Current Population Survey.

Texas, the blue state?



Theory: Texas will become blue

Why?

Population

- Hispanic ↑
- Black ↑
- White ≈

Voting trends

- White ≈ 30% blue
- Hispanic ≈ 66% blue
- Black ≈ 90% blue

Projections for 2032 (OSD)



		Migration rate (relative to 2000-2010)		
	Y2012 population	0%	50%	100%
White	11,552,519	11,367,218	11,770,621	12,190,458
Hispanic	10,016,354	12,974,084	15,525,361	18,617,800
Black	2,986,753	3,241,349	3,675,774	4,168,487
Other	1,503,577	1,710,719	2,485,240	3,638,800
Total	26,059,203	29,293,370	33,456,996	38,615,545

Texas demographics in 2012, and in three different migration scenarios (0%, 50%, and 100% of 2000-2010 migration rates) by the year 2032. From the Texas Office of the State Demographer.

Voting participation



Eligibility rates by ethnicity (%'s)

White non-Hispanic	78.8%
Black	70.6%
Hispanic	45.6%

National eligibility rates per census population, by race and ethnicity
(Pew Research Center)

Turnout rates among eligible voters	2004	2008	2012	Mean
White, non-Hispanic	67%	66%	64%	66%
Blacks	60%	65%	66%	64%
Hispanic, U.S.-born	46%	48%	46%	47%
Hispanic, naturalized citizen	52%	54%	54%	53%

National voter turnout rates among eligible voters, by nativity status. Native-born Hispanics lag naturalized citizens by over six percentage points, and blacks and whites by over 15 percentage points.
(Pew Research Center)

Texas Democratic voting (%'s)	2012	Weighted mean
White, non-Hispanic	30%	32%
Black	95%	93%
Hispanic, U.S.-born	63%	67%
Hispanic, naturalized citizen	76%	77%

Texas Democratic voting percentages by race and ethnicity in 2012 and previous Presidential elections, recency-weighted. Data from ANES time series, retrieved from <http://sda.berkeley.edu>

Statistical model



Data

- Population scenarios from Texas OSD
- Pew data for eligibility and turnout numbers
- ANES Historical election data for voting patterns
- Correct for Voter ID law effects

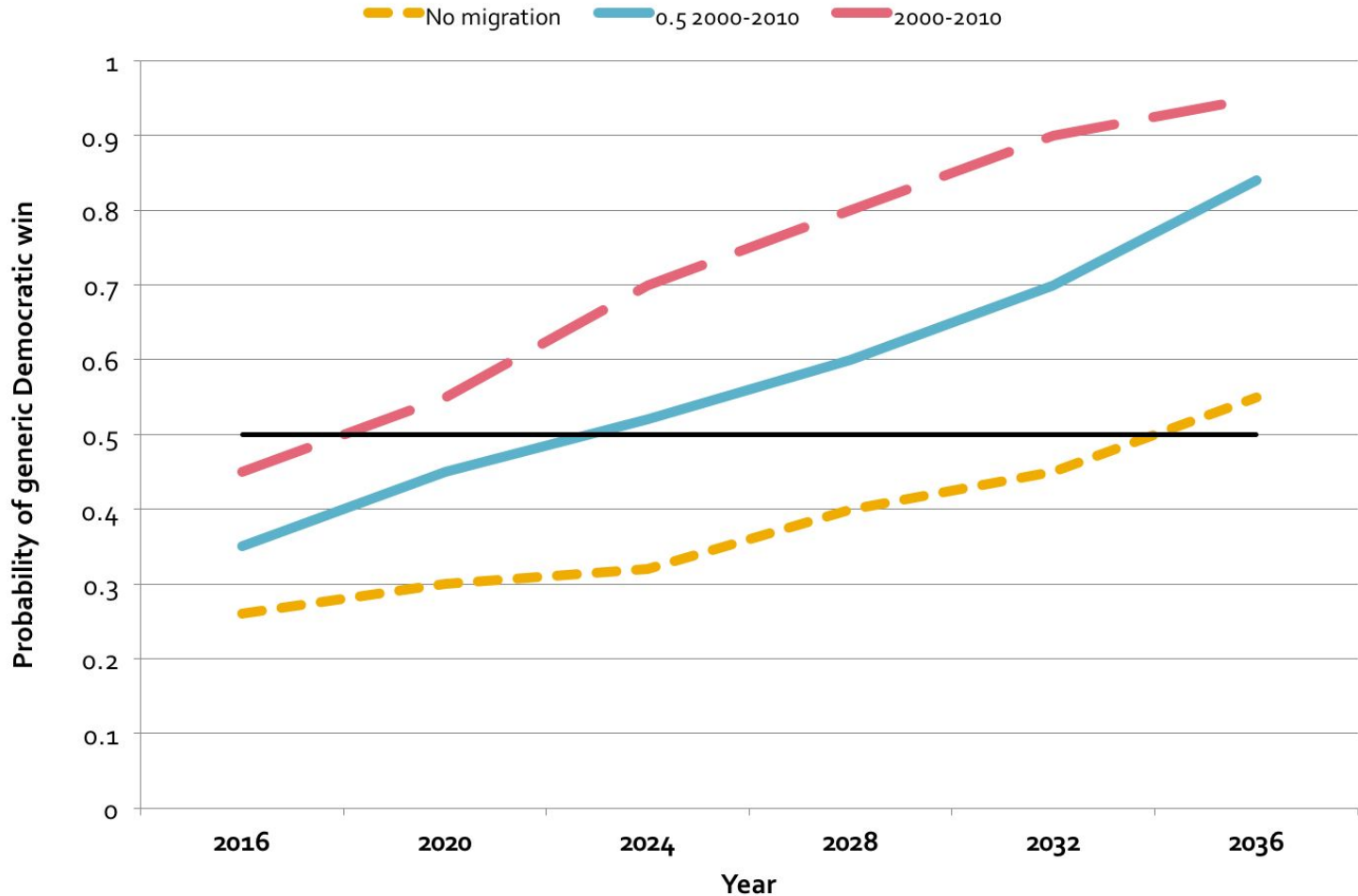
Method

- Develop statistical model in R
- Run 1,000,000 Monte Carlo election scenarios
- Count the Democratic wins

Texas sings the blues

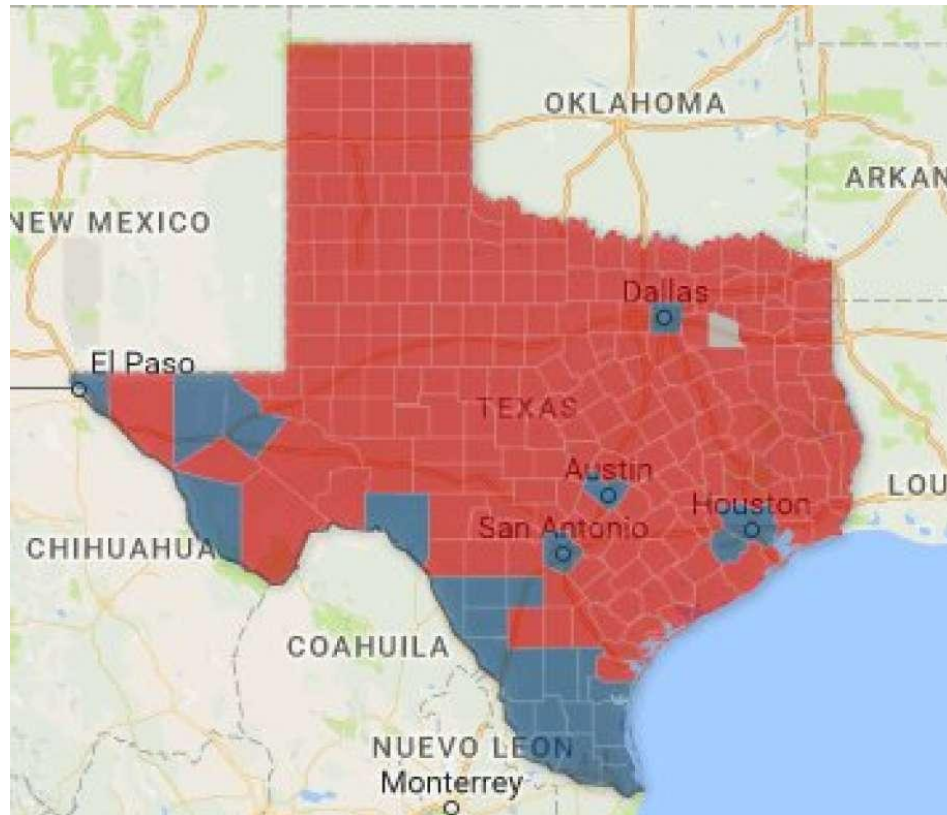


Probability of Texas blueness based on multiple migration scenarios



Election simulation for generic Democratic/Republican candidates, 1,000,000 Monte Carlo trials. Population projections from Texas Office of the State Demographer. Race/ethnic eligibility and turnout ratios from Pew Hispanic Center. Race/ethnic voting trends from ANES time series.

What happened in 2016?



Don't blame me!

Simulation didn't show flip until 2020 at the earliest

2016 exit poll data



	Texas		U.S.	
	Clinton	Trump	Clinton	Trump
White	26	69	37	57
Hispanic	61	34	66	28
Black	84	11	89	8
Asian	72	26	65	27

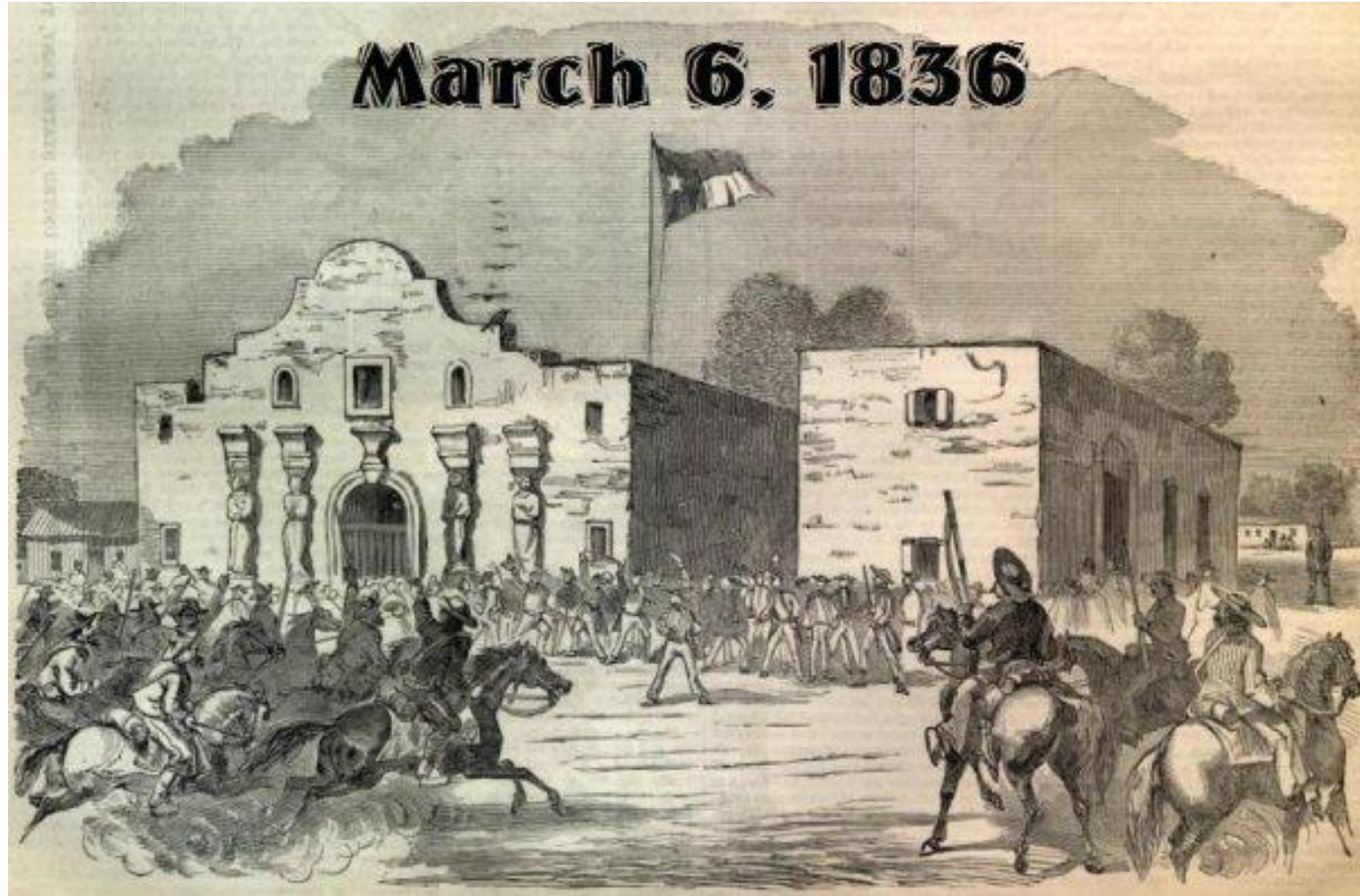
Simulation: <http://research.inl.org/>

Politics change



Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th U.S. President, and proud Texan

The Texas Revolution



The Battle of the Alamo. Image by Mike Licht, CC-BY-SA 2.0.
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