

Modeling Political Identity

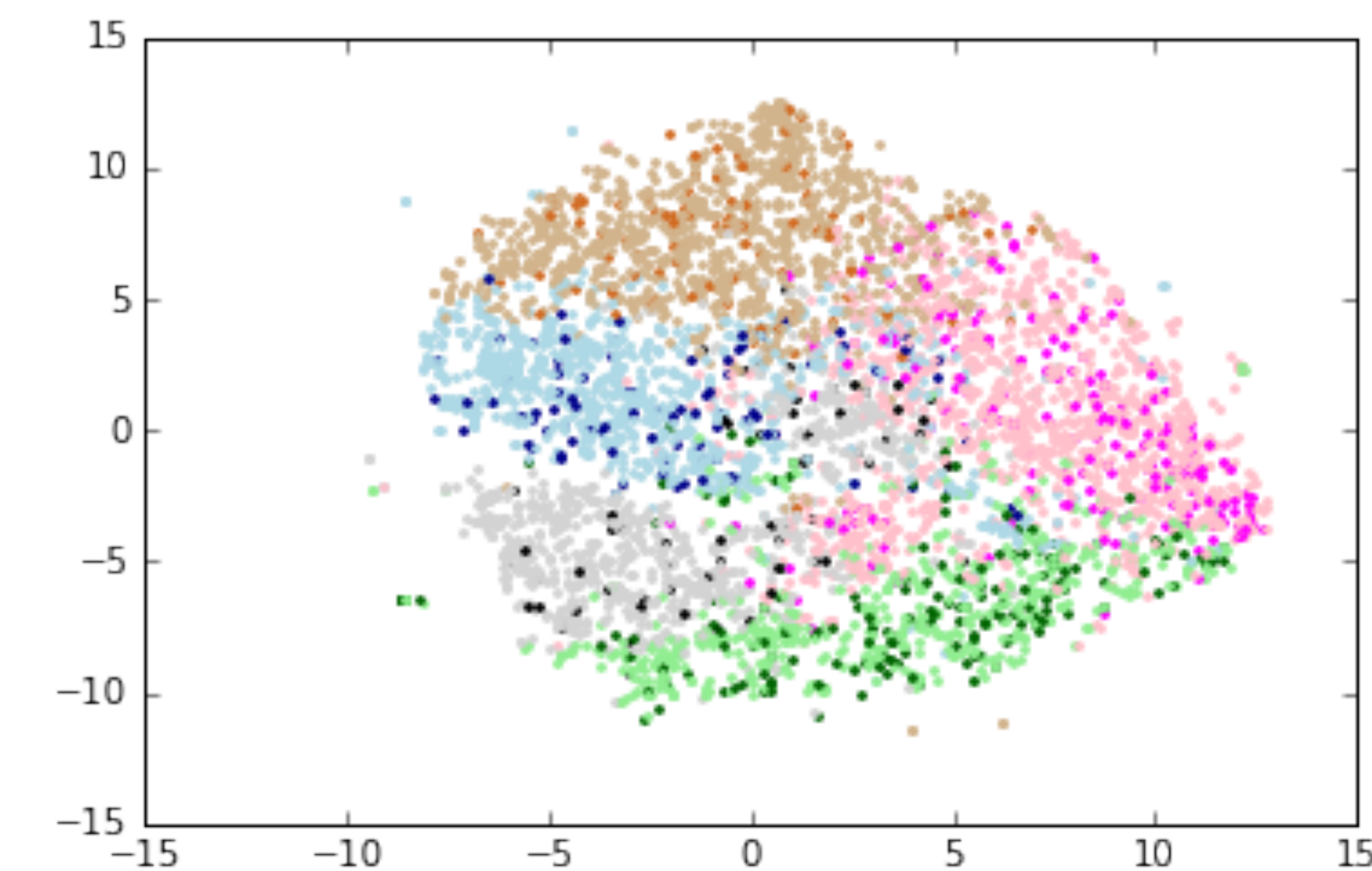
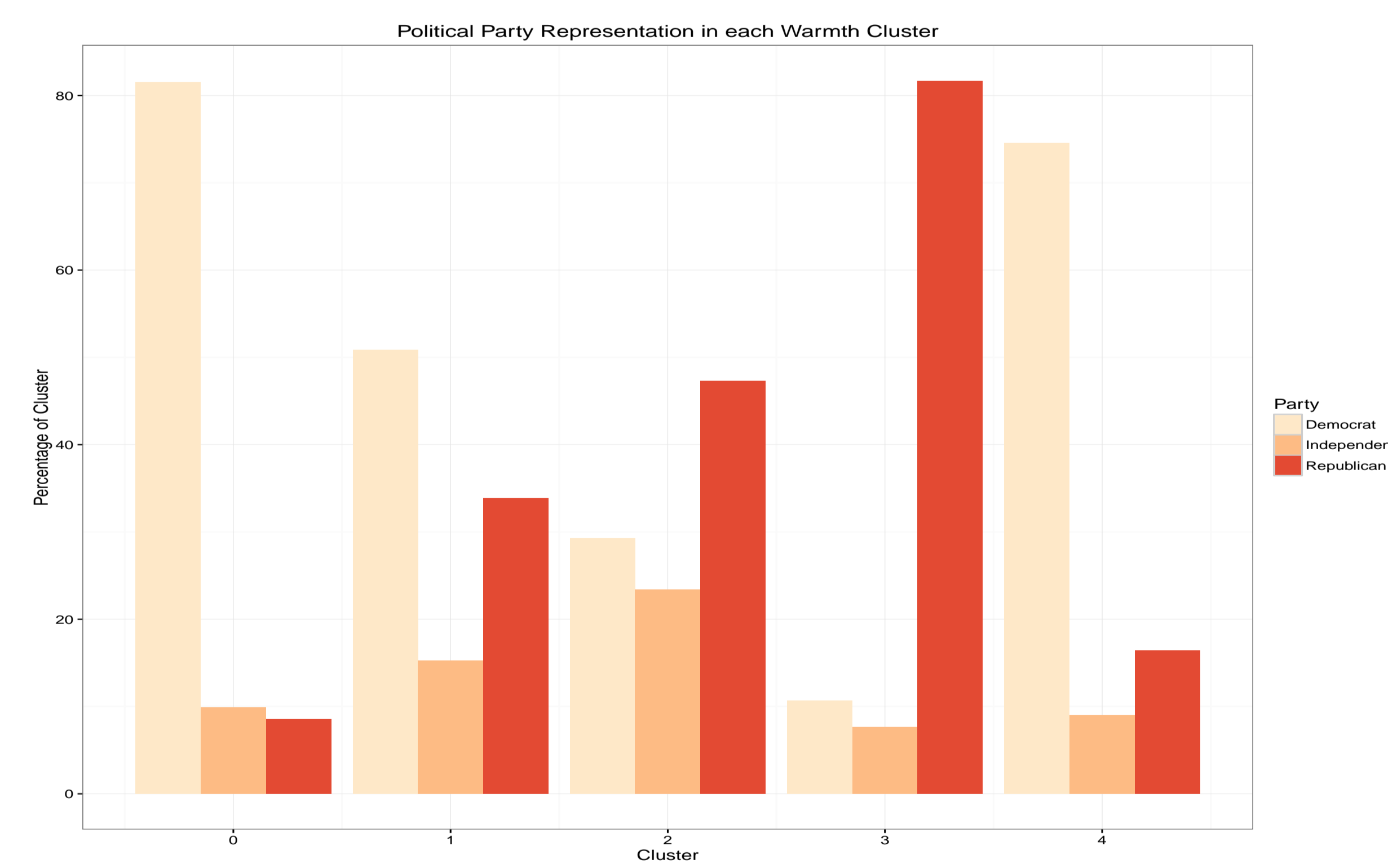
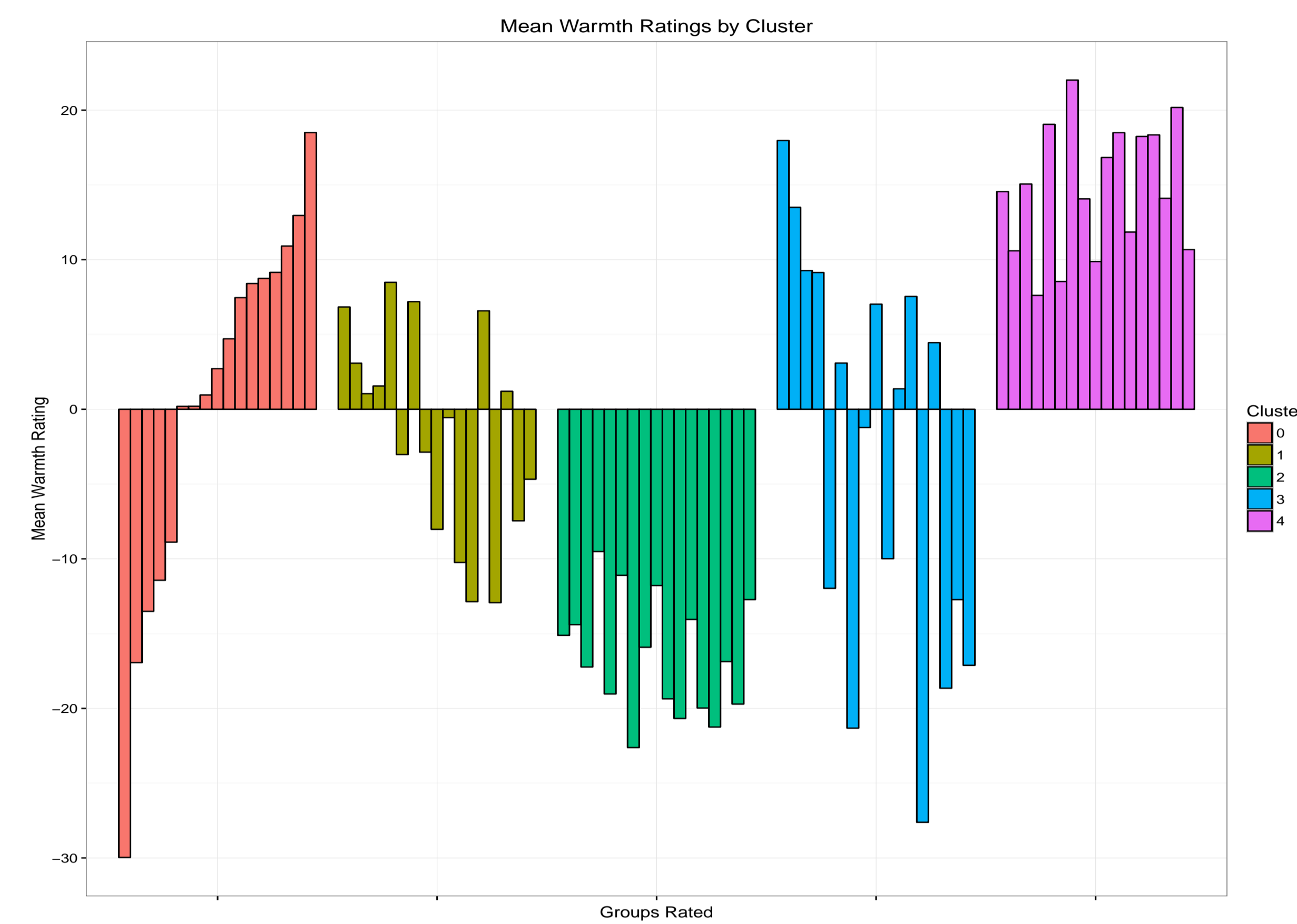
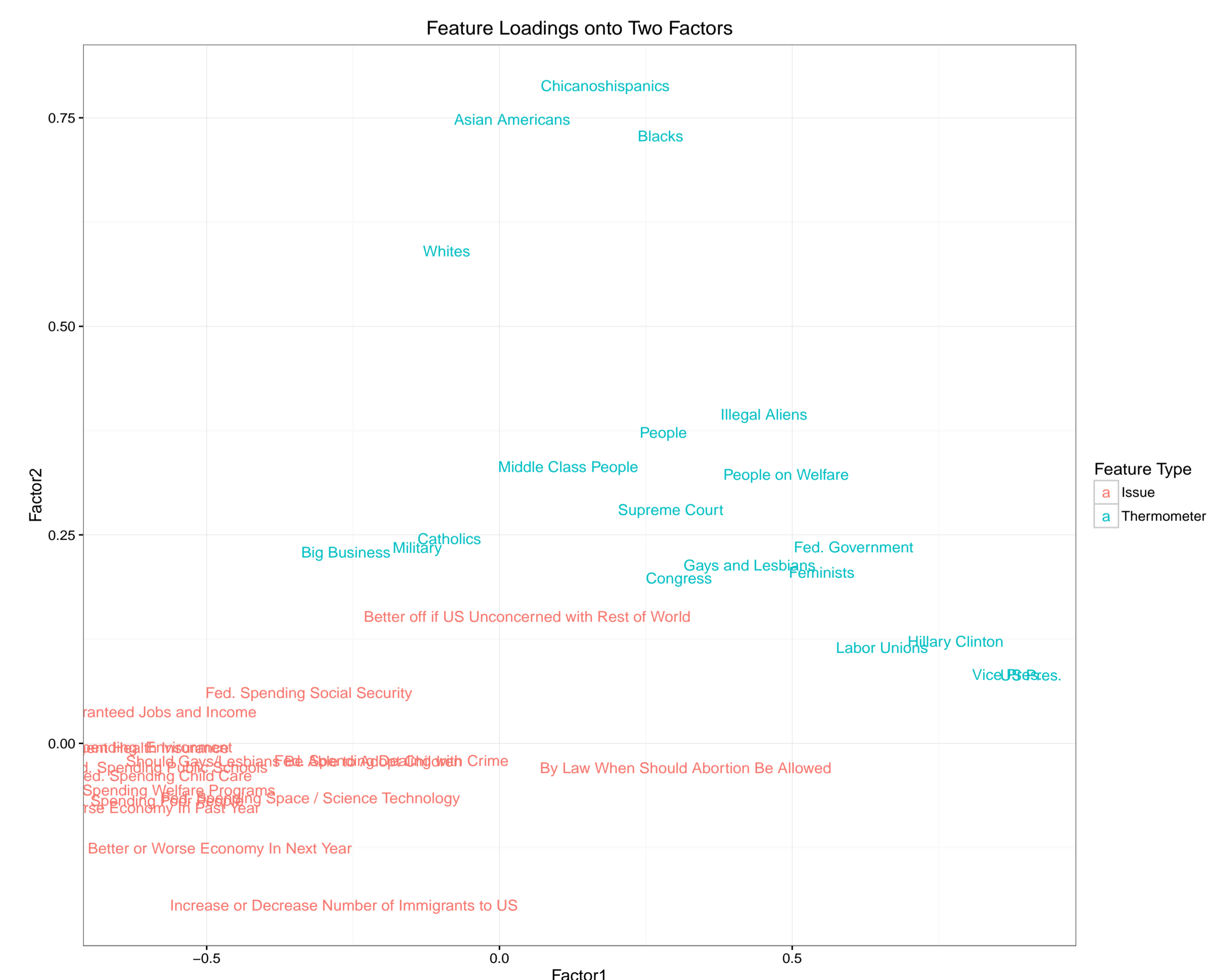
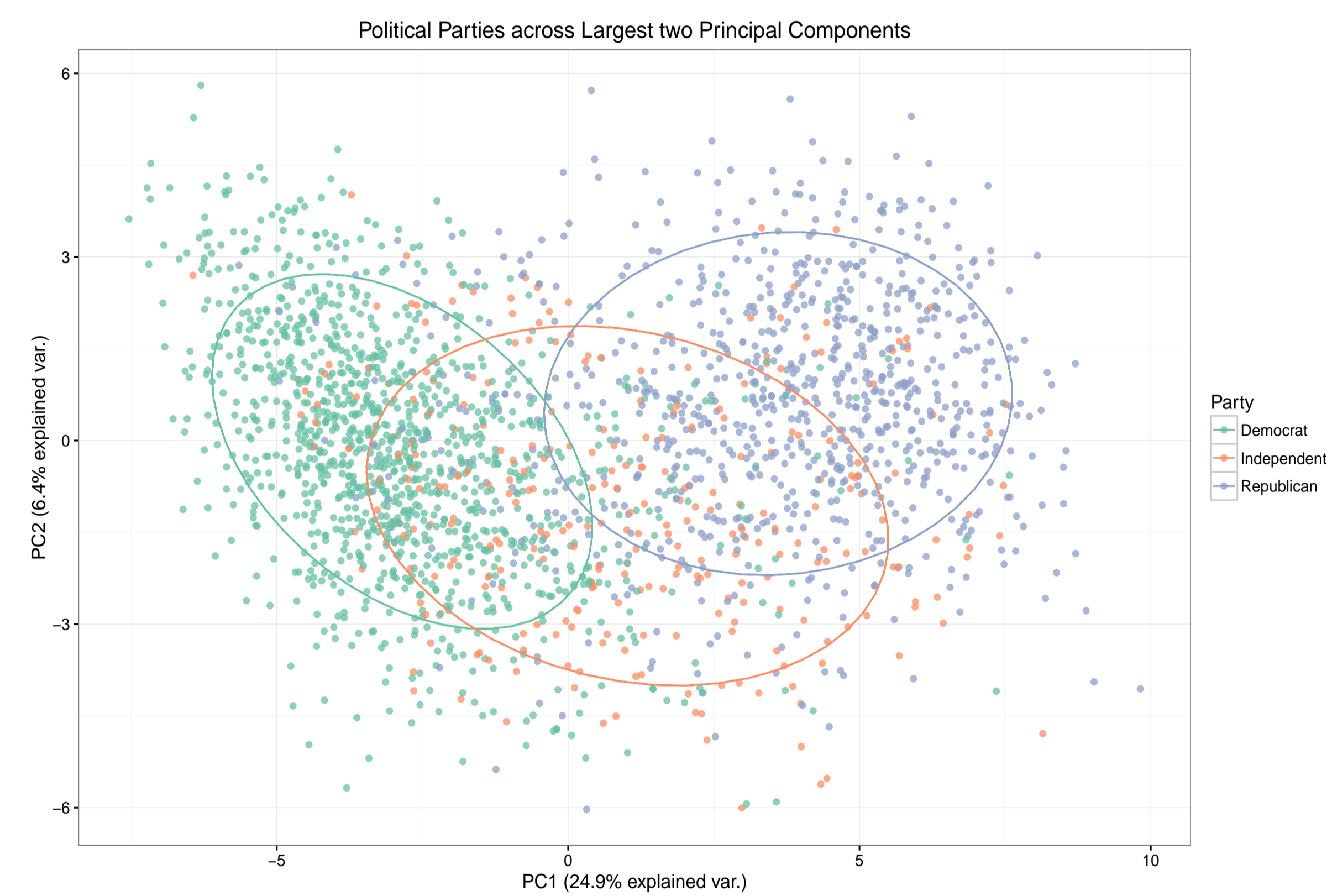
CS 229 Final Project

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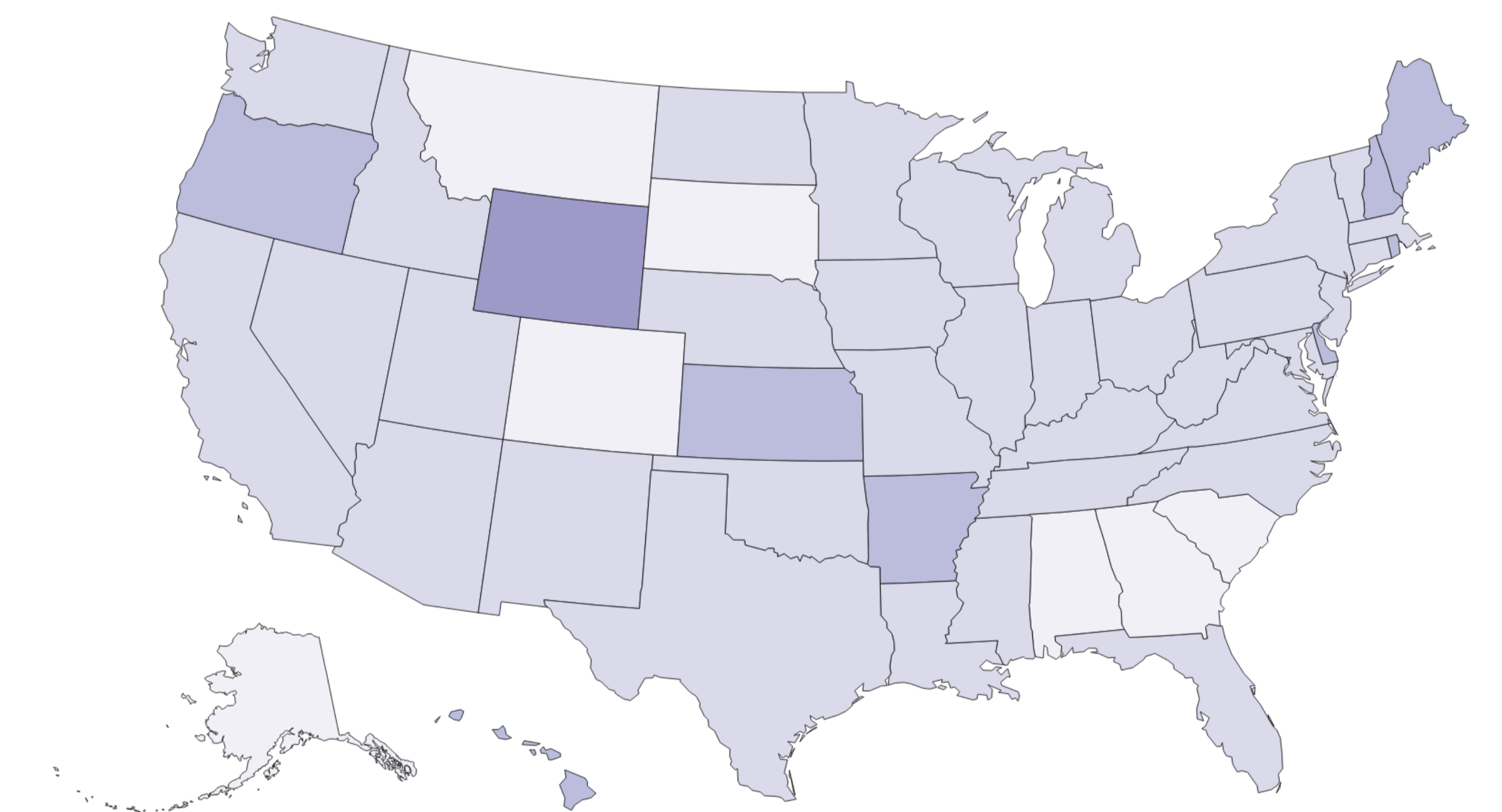
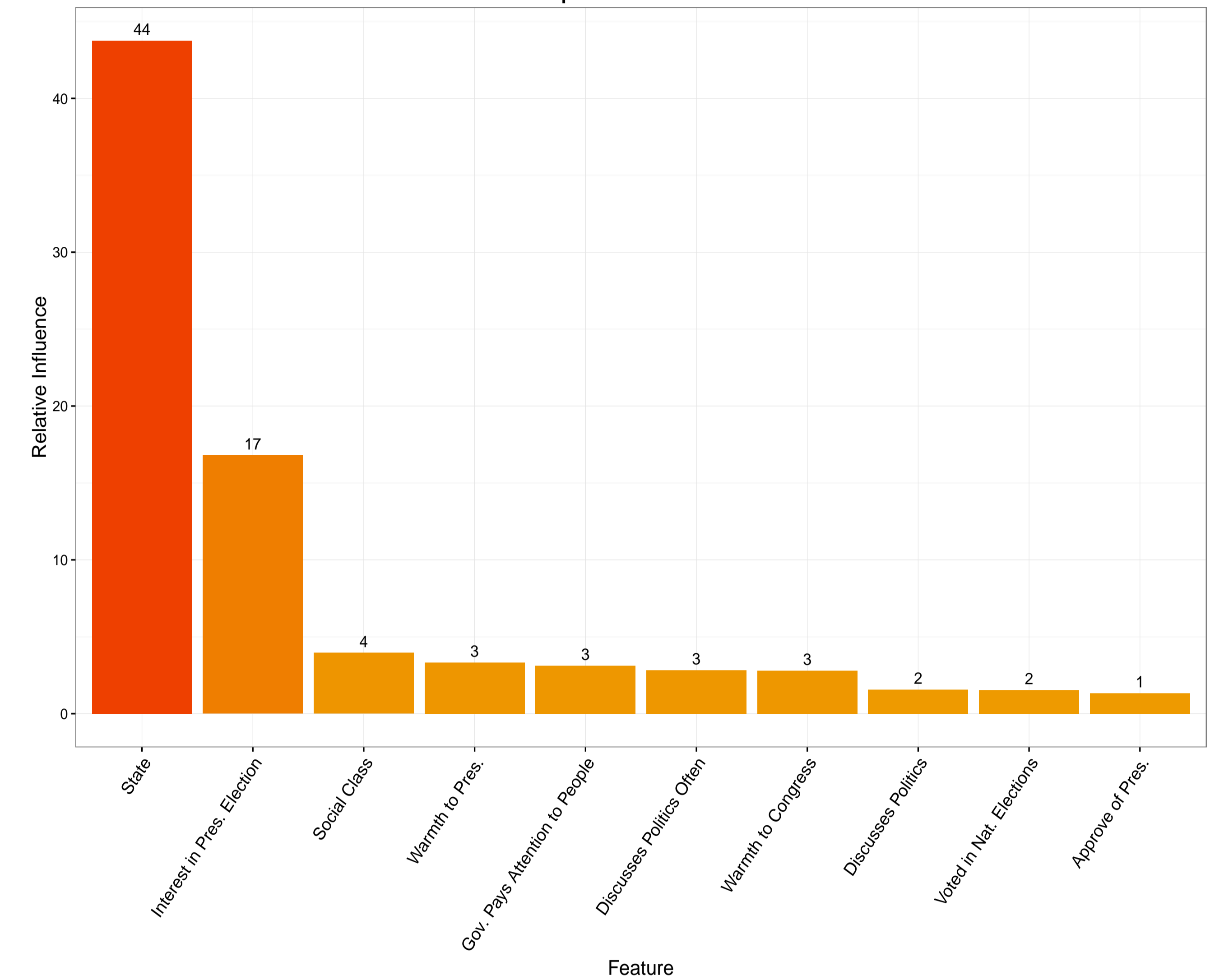
What Makes Independents Tick?

We use data from the 2012 American National Election Studies (ANES), which surveyed Americans' political attitudes. We trained our models on approximately 3,000 observations.

1. Independents' as a group cannot be easily distinguished from partisans.
2. Independents have a diversity of opinion and are captured by at least three "types."
3. Geographical location most distinguishes Independents from partisans.



Most Influential Features Predicting Political Independence
Exponential Loss



Findings

About 35 percent of Democrats, 26 percent of Republicans, and 47 percent of Independents fall into at least one of the following three groups:

1. Libertarians
2. Pessimists
3. Moderates