

Winners and Losers: Electoral Rhetoric and Democratic Norms

Faculty-led research project | UT Austin (Department of Government) | August 2024

A public account of my research-assistant contribution to a faculty-led project on how candidates communicate after electoral victory and defeat.

PROJECT CONTEXT

The broader project assembled structured evidence across U.S. presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial elections from 2000 through 2024. The research agenda, analysis, and eventual findings belong to the faculty-led project.

MY ROLE

- Built and quality-checked candidate-level election records.
- Documented party, incumbency, vote share, margins, and winner or loser status.
- Located and verified public victory and concession statements.

CODING CONTRIBUTION

I coded approximately 100 statements for indicators including unity appeals, democratic legitimacy, fraud allegations, recounts, litigation, concession timing, and communication with opposing candidates.

RESEARCH VALUE

The work turned dispersed election results, speeches, and news reporting into auditable research infrastructure with consistent definitions, source trails, and quality-control decisions.

SKILLS DEMONSTRATED

- Dataset construction and spreadsheet quality control
- Election research, source verification, and qualitative coding
- Documentation, deadline management, and confidentiality judgment

OWNERSHIP BOUNDARY

This brief describes my contribution only. It does not claim ownership of the overall question or findings and does not release the project workbook, raw coding, or nonpublic research materials.

PORTFOLIO NOTE

Unlike the six papers in this portfolio, this was a faculty-led research project; no standalone paper or page count is attributed to me.