

# Nate Silver



- “Data-driven predictions can succeed-and they can fail. It is when we deny our role in the process that the odds of failure rise. Before we demand more of our data, we need to demand more of ourselves.”
- **sabermetrics, elections, FiveThirtyEight**

Picture credit: Danielle Levitt <https://www.out.com/out-exclusives/out100-2013/2013/11/05/>

nate-silver-espn-statistician-predict

# Nate Silver on the 2016 Presidential Election

Post-election view: Should never, ever trust polls again, as they proved Secretary of State Clinton almost certain to win

## Nate Silver on the 2016 Presidential Election

Post-election view: Should never, ever trust polls again, as they proved Secretary of State Clinton almost certain to win

Really: Polls showed an uncertain and volatile race with Clinton as a modest favorite and President Trump with a chance

- myth there was a catastrophic failure for the polls. Trump outperformed his national polls by only 1 to 2 percentage points. He beat his polls by only 2 to 3 percentage points in the average swing state.

## Nate Silver on the 2016 Presidential Election

Post-election view: Should never, ever trust polls again, as they proved Secretary of State Clinton almost certain to win

Really: Polls showed an uncertain and volatile race with Clinton as a modest favorite and President Trump with a chance

- myth there was a catastrophic failure for the polls. Trump outperformed his national polls by only 1 to 2 percentage points. He beat his polls by only 2 to 3 percentage points in the average swing state.
- there were individual pollsters that had some explaining to do, especially in Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, where Trump beat his polls by a larger amount.

## Nate Silver on the 2016 Presidential Election

Post-election view: Should never, ever trust polls again, as they proved Secretary of State Clinton almost certain to win

Really: Polls showed an uncertain and volatile race with Clinton as a modest favorite and President Trump with a chance

- myth there was a catastrophic failure for the polls. Trump outperformed his national polls by only 1 to 2 percentage points. He beat his polls by only 2 to 3 percentage points in the average swing state.
- there were individual pollsters that had some explaining to do, especially in Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, where Trump beat his polls by a larger amount.
- not some sort of massive outlier; the polls were pretty much as accurate as they'd been, on average, since 1968
- FiveThirtyEight: Trump a 3 in 10 chance of winning the Electoral College. Others: 1 in 100