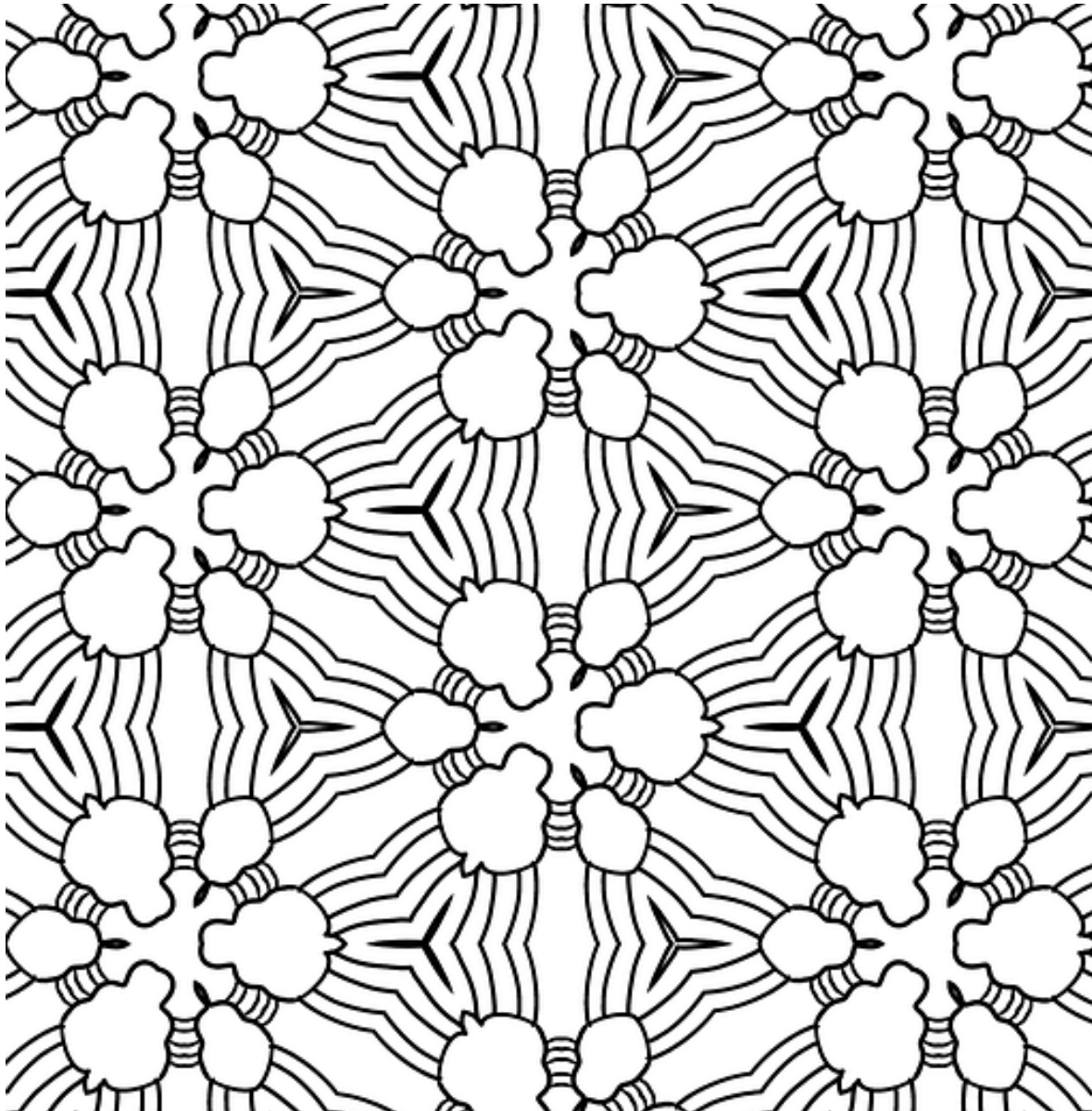# UN-BIASED VOTE.ORG

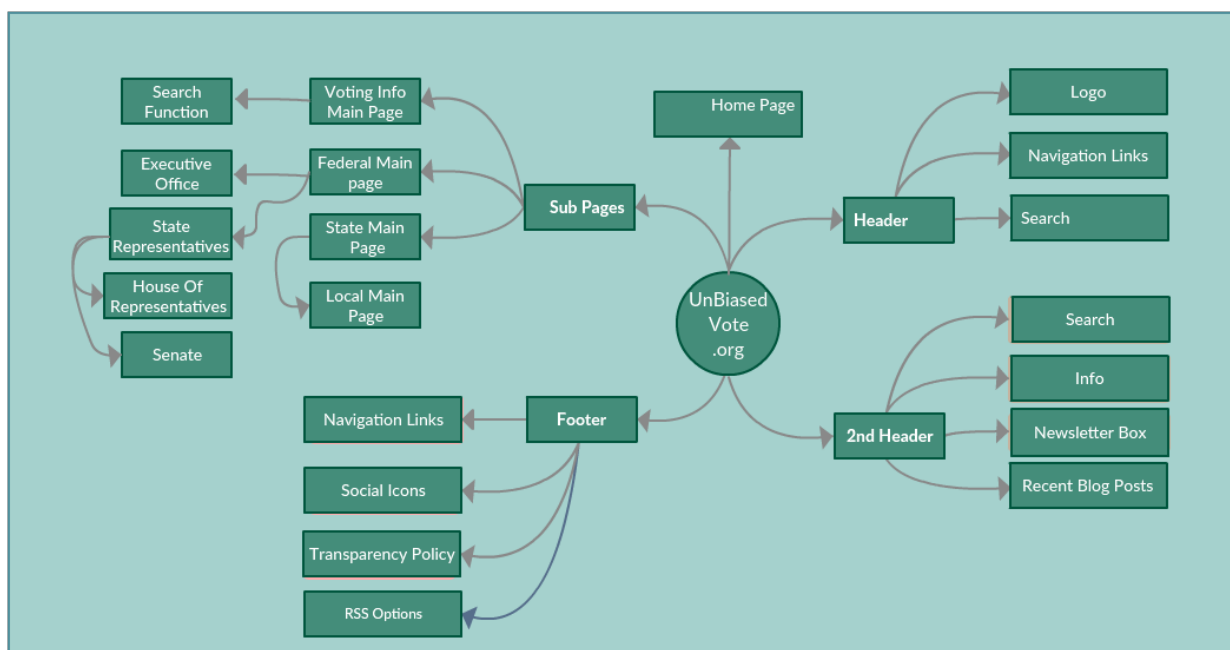Proposal for the Proposal

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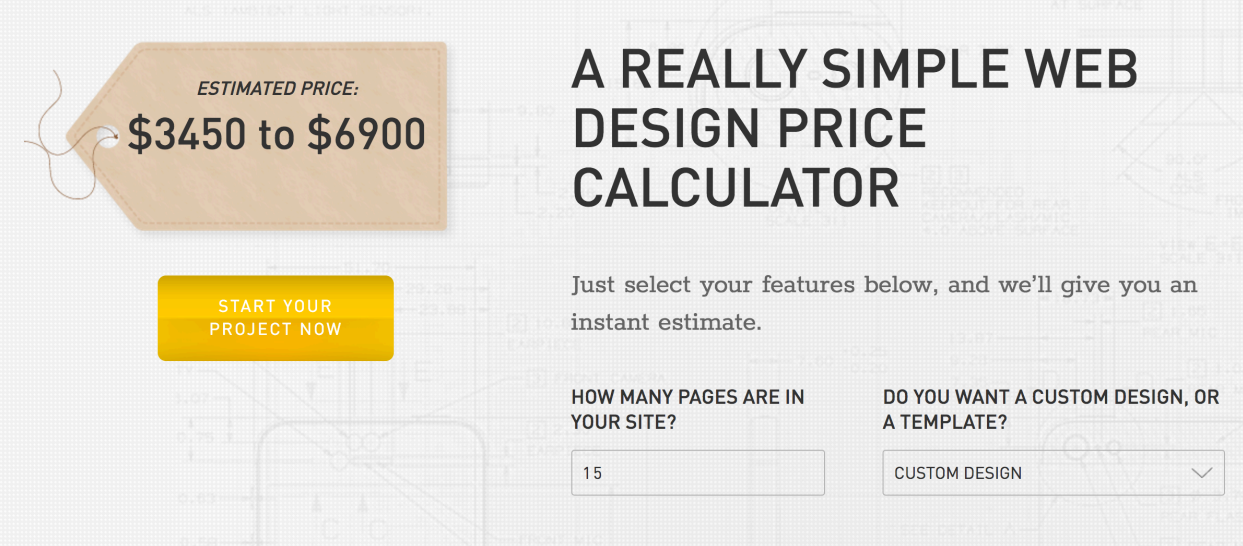Fall 2017
ENG 2575

PROJECT OVERVIEW

While it should be the responsibility of local news outlets to cover things like this, they don't. The project I would like to start would fulfill this need and more. The way to go about it is to have a Website and secondly to take a Buzzfeed approach, meaning have social media accounts and use posts on them to get information out. This is probably a final step, because such content generation is above the scope of this particular project. For now, the website will focus on one city, New York; and the two sections of electable government. This would be presidential and state representatives/ senate. Perhaps to start it would have to be only New York State for those as well. Voting charts will be created for New York City as well. Below is a preliminary breakdown of webpages included in the site.

Breakdown of Pages

This idea is not a particularly large undertaking, as it deals with information readily available over the internet and using API's perhaps to display that data in a scalable and easy to read and use format. This coupled with email/twitter/instagram/imgur or other social media alerts and pages which involve people in an easy to consume format make the project relatively simple to execute. The biggest time constraint will be the initial build, and then there will be updates necessary when voting info needs to be updated and candidates change. As far as costs are concerned a rudimentary estimator of the website Plato Web Design projected this for as many pages. This also includes an added search engine, and possible social media integration.

Project Costs estimation

ESTIMATED PRICE:

$3450 to $6900

START YOUR
PROJECT NOW

A REALLY SIMPLE WEB DESIGN PRICE CALCULATOR

Just select your features below, and we'll give you an instant estimate.

HOW MANY PAGES ARE IN YOUR SITE?

15

DO YOU WANT A CUSTOM DESIGN, OR A TEMPLATE?

CUSTOM DESIGN

PROJECT SCOPE

First I would have to make a mock up wireframe of the site. This would sort out how exactly the site would function and how users would navigate the site. Then the back end would have to be planned, including which sites any APIs would utilize and if there would be databases stored for information etc. Then the site would need to be built. I hope to build the site and then have a company or friends in the business double check whether the site is well thought out mechanically in the back end and front end.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

I will utilize GitHub for keeping track of the website build as this is a standard service used in the industry for collaborative software/ web projects. Tools and programs needed include, Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop, Atom- for coding, Git, GitHub use of HTML, CSS, Sass, JavaScript, Node JS, PHP, Etc. also the possibility of using Bootstrap to create a real website for a quick prototype but not at all the final working version of the website. Communication can be through email, or any other way the project director sees fit.

WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

The age of computers means the public expects info in a very different way than ever before, and if the information they are getting is incorrect it has a large impact on the government. The site will aim to give correct information in an enticing format and let users decide their choice.

While that is true the idea for this came from my searching the internet and finding very little information that was easy to go through and understand without looking at tons of citations and extra links. I wanted a single website i could go to with a simple interface which would let me learn about the candidates and people in office of my local area. As well as when voting dates were and for what office

we were voting a candidate into. This I think is the biggest hurdle for me personally as to why when there is a vote besides President I do not have the information I need and it leads to apathy on my part and probably on other Americans.

So little of the population cares to or knows when to vote. There is also a lack of news which tries to be non-partisan or which does not highlight news based on the rise of extremism of the left and right. This leaves the majority of people who are moderate feeling lost. Meanwhile there is the new threat of Russian bought ads and websites designed to cause strife and further divide the US. While there is no such thing as completely objective reporting as even the choice of story will reflect the journalist's point of view, I can hope to provide a trustworthy service which focuses on verifiable sourced information with which the public can make up their own minds with. I feel this service is compelling because there hasn't been anything like it before and it should be given a chance, even if it fails, to see if the public responds to it. If even one more person in the US votes because they receive an alert over twitter from this service it will have been successful.

PROJECT GOALS

I hope to start a discussion about why voting in the US seems so unappealing at a time when the news media cant get enough of politics. If the last election showed us anything it is that almost anyone with the right amount of support can win a presidency. What about smaller offices? People should know about these. And they should be inspirited to vote for candidates they see fit, not just one of the two party/ media approved ones. The internet is a powerful tool we should use, to help have fair elections. Whether this service achieves popular use or not isn't the point really, just getting this idea out there is important to me.

THE CUSTOMER

The Customer or user for this project would be web users who are semi involved in politics already, maybe through social media interaction or watching news sources, as well as or younger people who perhaps do not get their news from television but would like a source of information they can trust and that is accessible. Meaning they get automatic updates over social media or email, or just by going to the web service. They also get info they need from sources like the US government instead of shady Russian government workers trying to impede the election.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

While I have included a price estimator in the project, that is just a cost estimator for what a persons time would be worth if working on this project, I have the basic skills necessary to design a website, I have knowledge of HTML CSS and a little bit of JavaScript, as well as knowledge of other programs needed to complete a back end of a website, Node JS, using SVGs, and using My SQL etc. I think I have the experience necessary to build this website, and if I run into a problem, I can either contact my friends who do web Development or I can always contact a web development firm to do a specific part that I cannot achieve.

REFERENCES:

http://platowebdesign.com/web-design-pricing-calculator.php