Ideas for Big Data Programming political project – The Savvy Independent

* Use the google civic data API, that lets you plug in an address and get back the list of elected officials, and elections that are upcoming plus candidates
  + <https://developers.google.com/civic-information/>
  + This is pretty heavy data wise, because we can get social media info, important dates, and many other relevant pieces of information
  + How to use the API: <https://developers.google.com/civic-information/docs/using_api>
  + In our system, the responses from all registered users will be stored in our system, and will be reloaded from the API at set intervals. User will have the option to change their address, in which case our server will now pull for that new address.
* Use the Propublica Congress API to look up how representatives voted on all of their votes
  + <https://projects.propublica.org/api-docs/congress-api/>
  + Once votes have been stored, the description data will be deleted but the result that comes from it will persist so it does not need to be analyzed again
* Use Machine learning
  + Machine learning will be used to take the response from a survey of users and be able to make decisions about whether an individual would or would not support the way the candidate voted on a bill.
    - This will be done for each bill, and in the end the candidate/elected official will be assigned a score based on how often they follow along with the feelings of the user.

Understanding the user view

A user will log into the app, and at that point a list of all of their current representatives will be listed, along with their score. The user can click on a specific candidate, and there they will be presented with a list of each of their votes, along with what score each vote got compared to the users view. Back on the main screen, the user can change to a tab called “elections”, that has a list of upcoming elections. The user can click a specific election and be given a list of the candidates, along with their scores, if the candidate was previously an elected official. There would also be information about that upcoming election, such as dates, polling locations, etc.

Other ideas

* Messaging system with elected officials
  + AMA’s, town halls
* A way for the user to help the machine learning system learn
  + Can change a score to positive or negative if they agree/disagree