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Overview:

We aimed to create a comprehensive and accessible website to help users understand how campaign finance influences democracy. Websites including OpenSecrets and the Federal Election Campaign site display detailed campaign finance data, but we identified a lack of resources linking donations to their political consequences. Our website displays campaign finance data alongside election results and senate votes on bills.

The user can navigate through different pages to look at data relating to specific states, issues, senators, or committees that they are interested in. By creating this website, we will increase transparency in donations and make it easier for constituents to see if the candidates they support are aligned with parties that they support or oppose. We hope that this is one step towards making elections fairer and more transparent.

Navigation bar:

Users have a menu bar at the top. This allows users to navigate between any of the five pages at any time. Users simply have to click on the page they would like to access to navigate to that page.

States:

Users begin by being directed to a homepage where they can select a state of their choosing. States are colored by the party of the senators in a given state. When they select a state, they are able to do the following:

- Users are greeted by a table that outlines aggregate information for each year that a race happened from 1982 onwards.
- Users are able to select a specific year to view detailed information for those races. Multiple years are available for each state. The following information is available when a given year is selected:
 - o Candidate name

- o Party
- o Incumbent Status
- Total receipts for total donations. This column will highlight the winning candidate.
- o Percent vote

Users can return to the homepage with the state map by clicking on homepage at the top.

Candidates:

Users are greeted by an initial page with a list of all the different senate candidates for which information is available. Users also have a search bar available to them. Users are able to search for any candidate that is available in the data to find their complete voting history. Search bar will auto populate with the chosen candidate. Once users select a given candidate, they will be able to do the following:

- Interact with a table presenting total voting history:
 - Search for table entries.
 - o Change the number of entries per page.
 - O Sort the Congress session and vote date.
- Filter the candidate voting history table based on the following options:
 - O Which congress the vote occurred in.
 - Which way the candidate voted.
 - Which year the vote occurred in.
 - If users want to return to a candidate's home page they can click on the candidate's name at the top of the page.
- Interact with a table presenting the donations a candidate has received:
 - O Search the table for entries.
 - o Filter the number of entries per page.
 - Sort the contributors, donation amounts, and date of donations.

- Interact with a table presenting the sum total of donations a candidate has received from a given source:
 - O Search the table for entries.
 - o Filter the number of entries per page.
 - Sort the contributors, donation amounts, and date of donations.

Users can return to the candidate homepage by re-clicking on explore candidate at the top.

Committee:

Users are greeted by a table that displays the type of committee, the name of the committee, the recipient name, the donation amount, the date of the donation, and the election cycle. On this page they have the following options:

- Interact with the data based on the following options:
 - Filter recipient or committee name by using a search bar. Names will auto populate if available.
 - Filter committee type by means of a select bar.
 - o Filter dates by setting start and end dates.
 - Election cycle by means of a drop down bar.
 - Sort by name, date, or transaction amount by using a select bar.
 - O Change the number of entries per page.
 - O Users run their filters by clicking 'Find donation records!'

Once users run their filters, or before running their filters, they are also able to click on an entry to see more information on it such as its state and its type. After clicking on an entry, users are able to click on the state the party committee comes from to navigate to that state page. They can also click on a button to return to the committee homepage. Users can also use the header button for the same effect.

Issue:

Users are greeted by a table with information on different bills. Users are able to click on the bill name to be directed to the congerss.gov page on that given bill. The table lists the following information for each bill:

- Sponsor
- Cosponsors
- Subjects

Users are also able to select a senator to view legislation that they have sponsored. This will then take you to a senator page where can view the following information:

- A table with legislation that the senator has sponsored. The following variables are available:
 - o Industry
 - o Total donations
 - o Individual donations
 - o PAC donations
- Graphs with total donations on the y-axis and issue/industry on the x-axis. There are graphs for total donations, PAC donations, and individual donations.

Users are also able to click on the candidate name at the top of the page to navigate to their candidate page. Users can return to the homepage by clicking on the issues button at the top of the page.

Implications/Visualizer:

Users are greeted by a table with the following information:

- State (sortable)
- Donator
- Amount (sortable)
- Result of the candidate's election
- Percentage of the vote received (sortable)
- Issue

• Candidate

Users are also able to search in this table for specific candidates and donors.

At the top of the page there are two sets of dropdown menus. The first set allows users to filter the data based upon the following information:

- Issue type
- State
- Candidate name
- Result of the election
- Minimum amount donated

Users can apply these filters by clicking 'Filter'.

The second set of filters handles changing the features on the provided graph. Users can change the following features:

- The variable on the x-axis.
- The election result displayed.
- The palette of the graph.
- The type of the graph.

Users can create a new graph by clicking the 'create graph' button. The output of the graph is displayed at the bottom of the page. Users can save the graph by clicking the download button.