myPlatform Design Spec

# Purpose

Here at the beginning, the purpose of myPlatform is to allow a user to capture their stance on political questions.

The early draft should also have some functionality during elections, as a place to collect and evaluate information about candidates.

# Workflows and Use Cases

## Use Case: Local Election

I want to do the following

1. Enter the candidates for an upcoming election.
2. Enter notes about each candidate, indicating their policies (their platform)
3. Enter my reaction to their platform. When possible, correlate to things in my platform.

# Requirements

## User’s Platform

REQ 1-01 Provide a form that accepts user input and stores it in an SQL database.

REQ 1-02 The SQL database of REQ 1-01 shall have the following format:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **userFreeForm** | | |
| IDX | Int | Primary key index |
| username | text | hidden in form, populated by POST |
| jurisdiction | Text | examples: Federal, Wisconsin, Waukesha County, City of Waukesha, Waukesha district 13 |
| category | text | examples: education, energy, law enforcement, immigration, fiscal policy, uncategorized |
| issue | text | The issue, entered by the user |
| platform | text | This is the user's stance |
| importance | int [0,100] | How important is this issue to the user? |
| informed | int [0,100] | How informed does the user consider themselves on this issue? |
| comment | text |  |
| ref | text | references (links, publications, etc) |

REQ 1-03 The root directory shall be townhall.bryanhermsen.com/myPlatform

REQ 1-04 The text fields in the userFreeForm table above shall accept strings that contain single and/or double quotation marks.

REQ 1-05 Form entry design shall be designed for mobile devices.

## Evaluating Platforms by other Users

In addition to stating their own platforms, users can attribute a platform to another user and provide their reaction to it.

REQ 3-01 Users shall be able to enter a platform or statement and attribute it to another user.

REQ 3-02 The SQL database for REQ 3-01 shall have the following format.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **politicianPlatforms** | | |
| IDX | Int | Primary key index |
| username | text | hidden in form, populated by POST. The username of the user adding this platform and commenting on it. |
| cand | test | The username of the candidate that holds the view described in platform. |
| category | text | (Optional) examples: education, energy, law enforcement, immigration, fiscal policy, uncategorized |
| platform | text | This is the candidate’s/politician’s stance, comment, or action |
| stance | int [0,100] | How much the user agrees (100) or disagrees (0) with the platform |
| importance | int [0,100] | How important is this issue to the user? |
| informed | int [0,100] | How informed does the user consider themselves on this issue? |
| comment | text |  |
| ref | text | references (links, publications, etc) |

## Users, Candidates, and Elections

REQ 2-01 Candidates and users shall be entered into a common database. The database may have a field to indicate which users are candidates and which are constituents if a need is determined.

REQ 2-02 The SQL database of REQ 2-01 shall have the following format.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **users** | | |
| IDX | Int | Primary key index |
| username | text | (not applicable… yet. Must be unique, cannot re-use in new entries) |
| password | text | (user’s password) |
| name | text | (first and last name) |
| street\_num | text | (optional) |
| street | text | (optional) |
| city | text | (optional) |
| county | text | (optional) |
| state | text | (two characters) |
| zip | int | (optional. may be used for elections later) |
| sa\_dist | int | (optional) State Assembly District |
| ss\_dist | int | (optional) State Senate District |
| con\_dist | int | (optional) US Congressional District |

REQ 2-03 Each election will be recorded in a table with the following format

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **elections** | | |
| IDX | Int | Primary key index |
| scope | text | enumerations: Federal, State, County, City |
| jurisdiction | Text | examples: US, Wisconsin, Waukesha County, City of Waukesha, Waukesha district 13 |
| seat | text | example: President, Senator, Representative, Judge, Mayor |
| winner | int | After election, indicates winning candidate by IDX from users table |

REQ 2-04 Candidates for all elections can be recorded in one table, with the following format

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **candidates** | | |
| IDX | Int | Primary key index |
| election | int | IDX from elections table |
| user | int | IDX from users table |
| party | text | Provide a drop down or radio box, but also allow an “other” for user input. Enumerations: Republican, Democrat, Green, Independent, Other |

REQ 2-05 When the candidates table gets too big, archive a bunch of them to a similar table; same format, different name. That table can grow and its okay if it’s a little slower.

## Viewing Platforms and Stances

REQ 4-01 The app shall provide a place for the user to view all platforms they have entered.

REQ 4-02 The app shall provide a place for the user to view all platforms they have attributed to another user. These shall be grouped by the politician to whom they are attributed.

REQ 4-03 The app shall allow the user to edit the platforms and stances they have entered.

# Design

## Database

Database name: u344052086\_th

Username: u344052086\_town

Password: townhall

## index.php

index.php shall be the landing page for townhall.bryanhermsen.com/myPlatform (REQ-03)

index.php shall INCLUDE platForm.php

index.php shall list all entries of userFreeForm where username matches the current user in a table

The table containing previous entries shall take up 100% of the screen width on a mobile browser.

FUTURE: Responsive: The table containing previous entries shall take up 80% of larger screens

FUTURE: Responsive: The table containing previous entries shall be blocks, with one entry per block, the information arranged in a column in the block, and a space left between each block.

CONSIDER: Consider implementing the previous entries in a block format like described above, and float blocks within a table so that they are vertical on a mobile browser and have multiple columns on a larger screen.

## platForm.php

platForm.php shall include a form of class platForm with fields username, issue, platform, importance, comment, and ref. (REQ-01, REQ-02)

platForm.php shall display previously used categories near the text entry field for category

When the user submits form platForm, platForm.php shall call insertPlatform.php.

platForm.php shall be designed for mobile entry. CSS shall be used to make the entry fields a vertical table, so that the user can scroll down them on a mobile screen. (REQ-05)

FUTURE: CSS may be used to make the form responsive, so that it displays in a column on a mobile device, and in a row on a larger device

## insertPlatform.php

insertPlatform.php shall read POST input from platForm.php, including username, issue, platform, importance, comment, and ref.

FUTURE: username and session status should be saved in cookies instead of passed by POST. An SQL database with active sessions may be needed as well.

insertPlatform.php shall INSERT an entry into the userFreeForm table using the input from platForm.php.

If an error occurs, insertPlatform.php shall notify the user that their input could *not* be saved to the database, and shall print the user’s input to the screen.

insertPlatform.php shall notify the user that their entry has been saved

insertPlatform.php shall provide two links:

1. “Home”: back to index.php
2. “Add another”: back to platForm.php

CONSIDER: insertPlatform.php may #include platForm.php at the bottom of the page

insertPlatform.php shall use MySQLi format, as opposed to PDO.

## view.php

This page shall capture all REQ 4-xx requirements, relating to viewing platforms and stances.

Grouping the platforms by politician: REQ When the page loads, all entries made by the user in the politicianPlatforms database shall be read, and an array of unique politicians shall be generated. That list shall be sorted alphabetically. Then a loop shall iterate through the array and print all statements attributed to each politician.

# References

## Example of HTML Form in a Table

<table>

<form action="insertPlatform.php" method="post">

<input type="hidden" name="username" value="<?php echo $username; ?>" >

<tr>

<th>Issue or Topic</th>

<td><input type="text" name="issue"></td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th>Your Platform</th>

<td><input type="text" name="platform"></td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th>How Important is this issue?</th>

<td><input type="number" name="importance" step="1"></td> <!-- Can I make this a slider? -->

</tr>

<tr>

<th>How informed do you feel about this issue?</th>

<td><input type="number" name="informed" step="1"></td> <!-- Can I make this a slider? -->

</tr>

<tr>

<th>Other Comments</th>

<td><input type="text" name="comment"></td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th>References</th>

<td><input type="text" name="ref"></td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th>Submit</th>

<td><input type="submit" name="submit" value="Submit"></td>

</tr>

</form>

</table>

## Waukesha elections

<http://waukesha-wi.gov/1576/Election-Dates-Sample-Ballots>

City Election Schedule for 2018

* ~~Spring Primary Election - Tuesday, February 20th~~
* Spring Election - Tuesday, April 3rd
* Fall Primary Election - Tuesday, August 14th
* General Election - Tuesday, November 6th

City Election Schedule for 2019

* Spring Primary Election - Tuesday, February 19th
* Spring Election - Tuesday, April 2nd