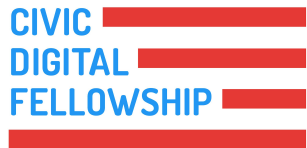


# USA.gov Elected Officials Project

Mentor: David Stenger

Supervisor: Russell O'Neill



Jacob Cuomo & Charlie Liu  
2021 Civic Digital Fellowship

# About Us



Charlie Liu  
Yale '24



Jacob Cuomo  
MTSU '22

# The Problem

- **How can I look up my elected officials?**
  - Google!
  - USA.gov?
- **The current website is informative, but like a directory**
  - Provides a list of links to various different sites
  - In other words: DIY (do it yourself)
- **So, how can the website be improved?**
  - Why should someone use USA.gov to find their elected officials?

# The Research

- **The team's research shows that users want to:**
  - Learn more about their elected officials on all levels
    - Local, state, and federal
  - Contact their elected officials
    - With help on how to compose a message
  - Do all of this in an easy way
    - One single interface on USA.gov

# The Solution

- **Just type in your address, and that's it!**
  - The website will automatically find your elected officials
    - Searches across all levels: local, state, and federal
  - Includes as much relevant information as possible
    - Ex. party affiliation, email, phone number, address, and social media
  - Also provides a contact form template
    - Generates a ready-to-send email based on user responses

# Live Demo!

Want to view the source code and try it yourself?

[github.com/usagov/usagov-elected-officials](https://github.com/usagov/usagov-elected-officials)

# Before and After

## Current Site

### How to Contact Your Elected Officials

Learn how to contact your federal, state, and local elected leaders.

#### Federal Elected Officials

- Contact [President Joe Biden](#) online, or call the White House switchboard at 202-456-1414 or the comments line at 202-456-1111 during business hours.
- Locate your [U.S. senators'](#) contact information.
- Find your [U.S. representative's](#) website and contact information.

#### State Elected Officials

- Get in touch with your [state governor](#).
- Find the names and current activities of your [state legislators](#).

#### Local Elected Officials

- Locate your [mayor](#) by name, city, or population size.
- Find your [county executive](#) (the head of the executive branch of government in your county) by map search or your ZIP Code. The county executive may be an elected or an appointed position.
- Get contact information for your [city, county, and town officials](#).

## Our Project

### Elected Officials

Get the names and contact information for the people who represent you on the federal, state, and local levels.

#### Enter your address to find your elected officials.

All form elements below are required and are marked with a (\*) symbol.

\*Street Address

\*City

\*State

\*ZIP Code

We will never sell your personal information.

[Learn how USA.gov protects your privacy.](#)

**Find My Elected Officials!**

# Project Features

- **Why should someone use USA.gov to find their elected officials?**
  - Simple and intuitive interface
    - Just type in your address – that's it!
  - Aggregates reliable information in one place
    - No need to individually search and evaluate various sites
  - Completely accessible to all users
    - Native support for screen readers, keyboard-based navigation, and more



# How We Did It

- **Started with user feedback and a Sketch mockup**
  - Used these resources to scope the project and set a working timeline
- **Researched potential APIs and chose to use the Google Civic Information API**
  - Allows up to 25,000 requests daily for free
  - Database is updated regularly and has near-complete coverage of all areas
- **Built the website as a client-side web application**
  - Lightweight structure allows for straightforward integration with the rest of USA.gov
- **Prioritized a simple design centered around user accessibility**
  - Conducted accessibility reviews to ensure compliance with relevant standards

# Next Steps

- **How can I look up my elected officials?**
  - USA.gov!
- **Will be used by 750,000+ visitors annually**
  - New features and enhanced SEO could significantly drive up traffic
- **Future deployment to the official USA.gov site**
  - Keep an eye out at: [usa.gov/elected-officials](https://usa.gov/elected-officials)

# Special Thanks To:

Russell O'Neill

David Stenger

Julia Sultan

The USA.gov Team

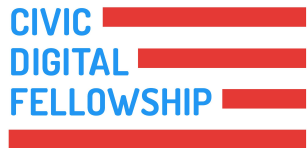
The GSA Talent Team

The Coding It Forward Team

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