**Question 1:** DIFF field. When “onLoadData” is called and the data are put into the timeline, the style section calls “getColorFor”, a function that returns a color based on the numerical input, using the DIFF property of the polling data as that argument.

**Question 2:** Between the lines starting with “value >= 6” and “value >=2” I would include another line with “value >= 3 ? ‘[some intermediate shade of blue]’:”

**Question 3:** One issue with this map is that timeline periods are not of consistent length, while data are missing for some states for large chunks of time. Making sure that the timeline is more standardized and complete would help usability. The color scheme works well, as it is one that is very familiar to American voters, using shades of red and blue of varying intensity to indicate strength of support in each direction. Finally, the map could be improved by including insets for Alaska and Hawaii, as they are originally out of frame, leading a casual viewer to assume that they aren’t included in the data at all.

**Question 4:** Radius often does not directly relate to apparent size of an object, requiring algorithms like Flannery’s Compensation. Furthermore, if values are vastly different, some symbols may be far too small or large to be visible in the map. Finally, area scales with the square of the radius, not in a manner directly proportional to it. Overall, trial and error is likely the best way to make sure that the symbols are meaningful, user-friendly, and not misleading.