

Design a framework for continuous coverage stories, allowing continuous updates

How to generate continuous coverage of the state of America's election infrastructure?

Same challenge for news organizations as in covering electric or water infrastructure:

- Ubiquitous: 9,000 election districts; 15,000 water districts in California;
- Highly skewed: a few very big ones, a huge majority very small ones
- Ostensibly apolitical, but fundamentally political; viz Flint
- Boring, hard to explain why a power system failed (except PG&E) or a water system failed (Flint); but, instant understanding of impact on lives when failures occur. Leads to stories on how to prevent failures in the future. But, these stories are rarely followed up; news organizations move on to the next big thing. That's what *news* means.
- So, move beyond short news cycle to *continuous news cycle*.
- *This is the central idea of continuous data journalism*. Automated, continuous coverage, with crowd-sourced local expertise using the same evaluative templates.
- *Think of this as building a logistics or industrial maintenance system, but for facts.*

Who runs our elections?

- Daily profile of a registrar: rural, urban, swing district, historically Jim Crow district, previously-sanctioned district.
- Follow five registrars for the next year, checking in weekly to hear their progress in maintaining and improving the integrity of their office
 - What challenges they face
 - What they have to do to get adequate resources
 - How they recruit and train their core staff, and prepare for rapid recruitment for recounts and election day
 - How they navigate the regulatory and legal environment. Exemplary case: huge fight this week in Kentucky, captured by affiliate [WLEX: NBC coverage of meltdown fight](#)

between Secretary of State and incompetent Election Administrator

- Washington Post
 - [Joseph Marks: WashPost](#)