Special Issue Announcement
Harvard Data Science Review, *Designing Democracy*

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Publication date: early Fall, 2026

The Harvard Data Science Review (HDSR) is a peer-reviewed diamond open-access journal on all areas of data science, featuring "foundational thinking, research milestones, educational innovations, and major applications, with a primary emphasis on reproducibility, replicability, and readability." A special issue entitled *Designing Democracy* is planned for release in 2026, in time for the midterm U.S. elections.

The goal of this special issue is both to improve the state of the art in the analysis of modern election methods and models and to inform the broader data science community about the fundamental directions of inquiry in the study of democracy. We are particularly interested in work that uses real-world data, showing how theoretical models interact with 'on the ground' electoral processes. Topics include (computational) social choice, mechanism design, political economy, computational redistricting, the modeling of electoral systems, data visualization for elections, behavioral psychology of ranking and voting, dynamics of turnout and engagement, and design of law and policy language around voting.

We seek a mix of research articles, survey articles, and pieces in alternative formats, including interviews and infographics. Topics like civic education, election administration, and community engagement are within scope. All submissions should be written for a broad audience, with a pitch for the significance to the study of democracy and a clear basis in data science (broadly understood). Articles will be put through double-blind review managed by the editorial staff of the journal.

Timeline for this special issue

March 31, 2025	Deadline for proposals
April 15, 2025	Feedback on proposals
July 31, 2025	First submission deadline
December 31, 2025	Final submission deadline
September, 2026	Planned publication date

All deadlines are AoE (anywhere on earth), following computer science conventions. We hope to draw more than half of the special issue content from materials submitted at the first submission deadline. Earlier submissions are appreciated.

Illustrating HDSR house style

Research articles.

- With Malice Toward None: Assessing Uncertainty via Equalized Coverage

- The Effect of Differentially Private Noise Injection on Sampling Efficiency and Funding Allocations: Evidence From the 1940 Census

- Bayesian Models for N-of-1 Trials

- Estimating Probabilities of Success of Vaccine and Other Anti-Infective Therapeutic Development Programs

Survey-style / think-pieces.

- Can ChatGPT Plan Your Retirement?: Generative AI and Financial Advice

- Coming to Our Census: How Social Statistics Underpin Our Democracy (and Republic)

- Tackling COVID-19 Through Responsible AI Innovation: Five Steps in the Right Direction

Alternative format.

- AI and Elections: Interview with MN Secretary of State

- View from Four Statistical Agencies.

- Differential Privacy and Social Science: An Urgent Puzzle

Submitting proposals

Prospective authors are welcome to send ideas for articles and other pieces by email to the special issue editors, who will provide feedback on the fit for the theme.

Inquiries and article proposals can be sent to `HDSR-proposals@mggg.org` by March 31, 2025.