

# Intro to Civic Hacking

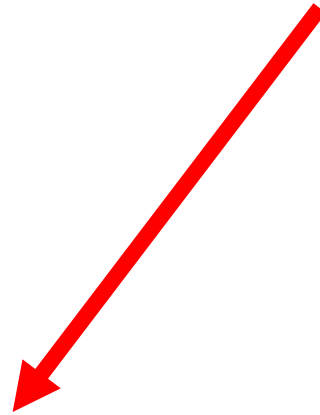
Nate Benes (@prefork)

**I'm going to make you do stuff**

did you bring a laptop?

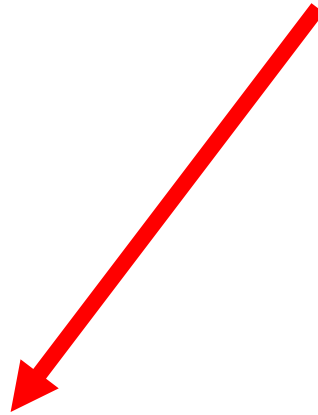
<http://bit.ly/civichacktalk>

Go here now



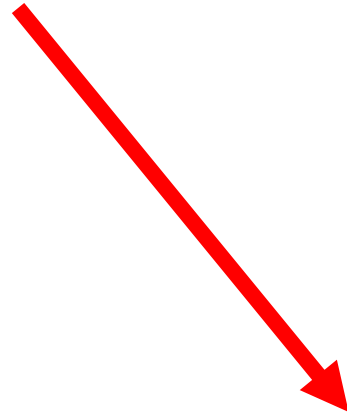
<http://bit.ly/civichacktalk>

- 1) Download the .zip
- 2) Sign up for CartoDB



<http://bit.ly/civichacktalk>

Keep this link handy

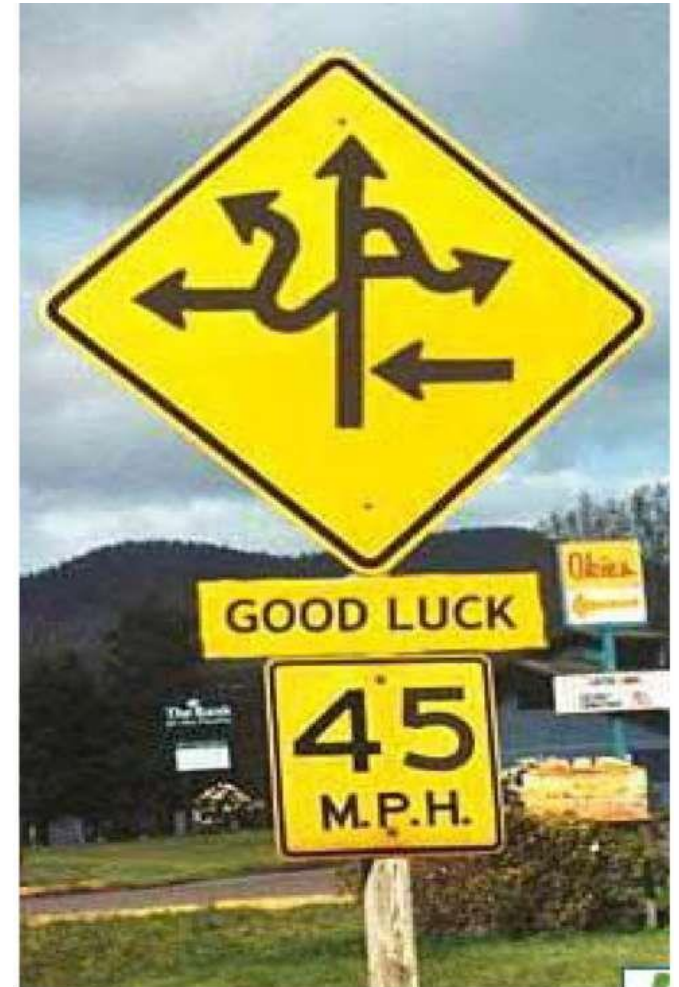


<http://bit.ly/civichacktalk>

# where are we going?

- What is civic hacking?
- Why would I want to do it?
- How do I get started?
- Make stuff.

<http://www.john3thirty.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/confusing-road-sign.jpg>



**Hacker**





<http://www.chiangraitimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Computer-hacker.jpg>



<http://asicscrypt.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/hacker.jpg>



<http://www.digitaltrends.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/hacker.jpg>





hacking



Web

**News**

Images

Videos

Books

More ▾

Search tools

About 52,800 results (0.24 seconds)



**Hacking** attack in Canada bears signs of Chinese army unit...

Reuters - 11 hours ago

... Alperovitch said it was similar to other **hacking** campaigns launched ... Thursday that Chinese operators were suspected of **hacking** into the ...

China slams Canada for **hacking** accusations

Times of India - 12 hours ago

China Denies **Hacking** Canadian Tech Research Group

ABC News - Jul 31, 2014

Canada's 'baseless' **hacking** claims a blow to relations, Beijing says

International - The Globe and Mail - Jul 31, 2014

China rebuffs Canada for 'irresponsible' **hacking** claims

Blog - CNET (blog) - Jul 31, 2014



Times of India



The Globe a...



NDTV



Businessweek

**Explore in depth** (194 more articles)

**Hacker**

# Hacker

Not what you  
think it means



# **Civic Hackers**



# Civic Hackers



**“...people working together quickly  
and creatively to make their cities  
better for everyone...”**

[codeforamerica.org](https://codeforamerica.org)



# Civic Hackers

Programmers



# Civic Hackers

Programmers, librarians, analysts



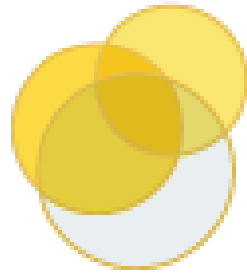
# Civic Hackers

Programmers, librarians, analysts, farmers, artists, policy makers, carpenters, students, teachers, clerks, engineers...



**Why not you?**

# CODE *for* AMERICA



**SUNLIGHT**  
FOUNDATION





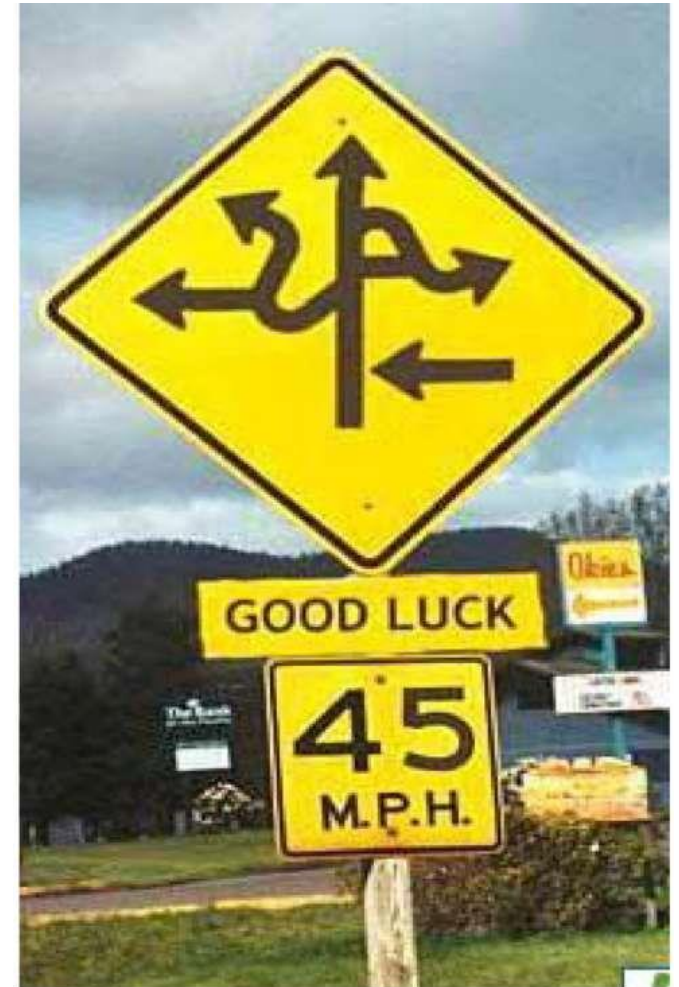
**Empowering citizens through civic innovation.**



# where are we going?

- ~~What is civic hacking?~~
- Why would I want to do it?
- How do I get started?

<http://www.john3thirty.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/confusing-road-sign.jpg>



**Civic apps**



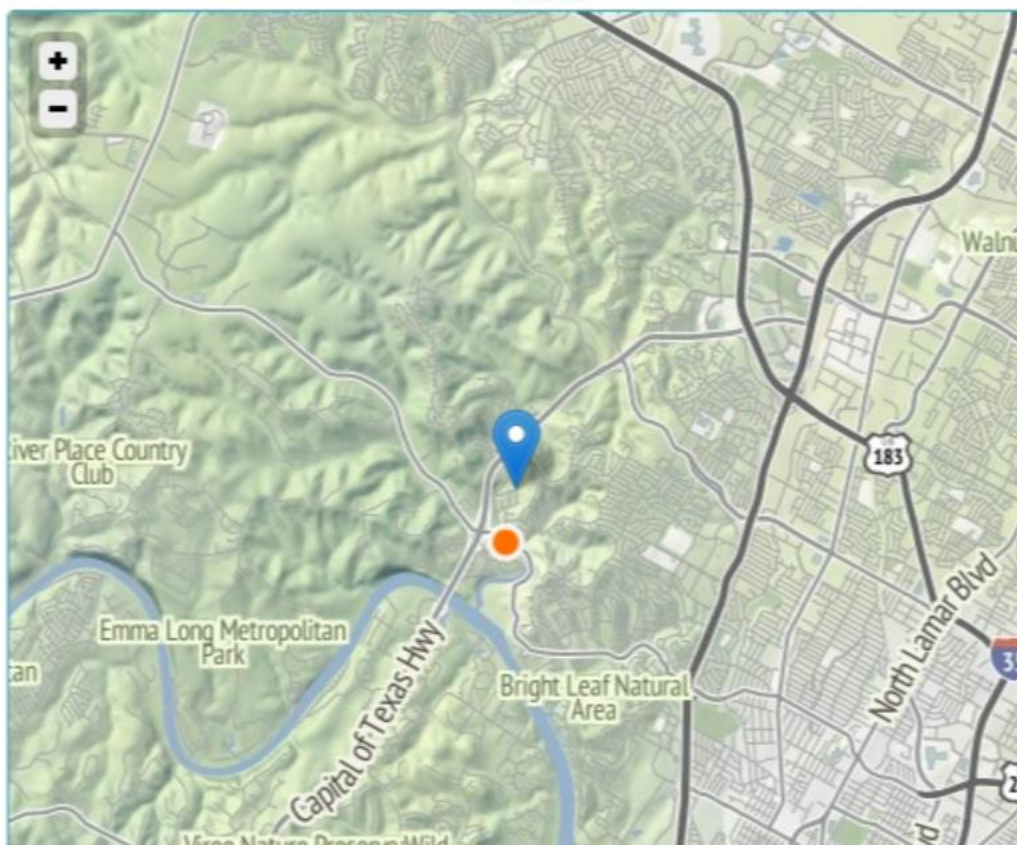
super beta!

[about](#) [resources](#) [login](#) [register](#)

prepared.ly

6700 Laurelwood Dr. Austin, TX

Go



6700 Laurelwood Dr. Austin, TX

Risk of this location:

**High to Very High**[About Risk Level](#) | [go to TxWRAP site](#)**Wind:** From the ENE at 4.0 MPH

Gusting to 15.0 MPH

**Humidity:** 57%**Inside of a Burn Ban:** no

Join prepared.ly — it's free!

[sign up now](#)

Feedback





# Ben Barnes

Not seeing what you expected?

**Organizational Associations:** [Barnes Group](#) [Ben Barnes Group](#) [Entrecorp](#)

Currently viewing Ben Barnes from All Years

Campaign  
Finance

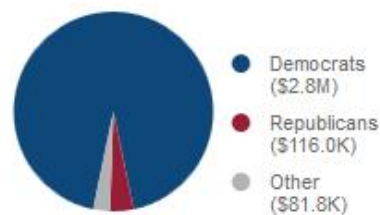
Lobbying

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE \$3,091,212 GIVEN i

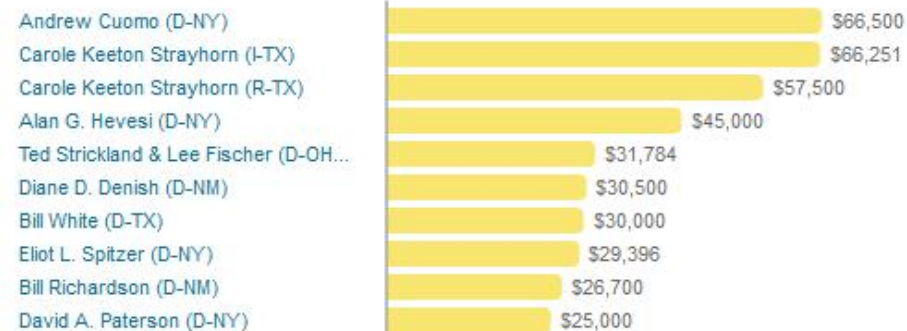
*covers roughly through q4 2013*

### Republicans vs. Democrats

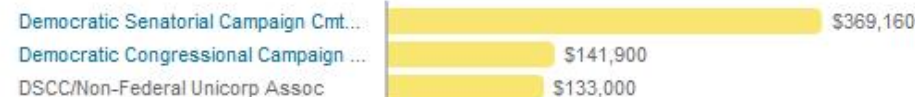
*in dollars. "other" includes 3rd parties and organizations without official party affiliation.*



### Top Politicians



### Top Organizations





TO THE **TRAILS** SUMMIT COUNTY

Bike & Hike Trail Connector at SR 303

38 of 62



Boston Run Trail



IMAGE COMING SOON!

LENGTH 0.12 miles

TRAIL USE



OVERVIEW

ADDITIONAL TRAIL CONDITIONS

Open

TREETSBORO RD

303 and 8 Trailhead

Chittendens  
Corners

OLDE EIGHT RD

SR 8

CHITTENDEN RD

SR 8

SR 8



# Douglas & Sarpy County School Enrollment

This tool provides enrollment data **by grade** for all **135,047 public and private school students in Douglas and Sarpy counties in Nebraska** between the 2002-2003 and 2012-2013 school years. This project was created during [Hack Omaha 2013](#) by [Jerod Santo](#), [Matt Steele](#), [Jessica Codr](#), [Chris Kollars](#), [Juan Vazquez](#), [Mike Kolakowski](#), [Leah Becerra](#), and [Alex P. Gates](#). In future releases, we hope to incorporate census data and other open data to make predictions for future school years.

Our goal is to provide a simple way to visualize growth within grade levels for each school from year to year. We hope school administrators will use this data to forecast grade enrollment and reasonably allocate teachers and other resources.

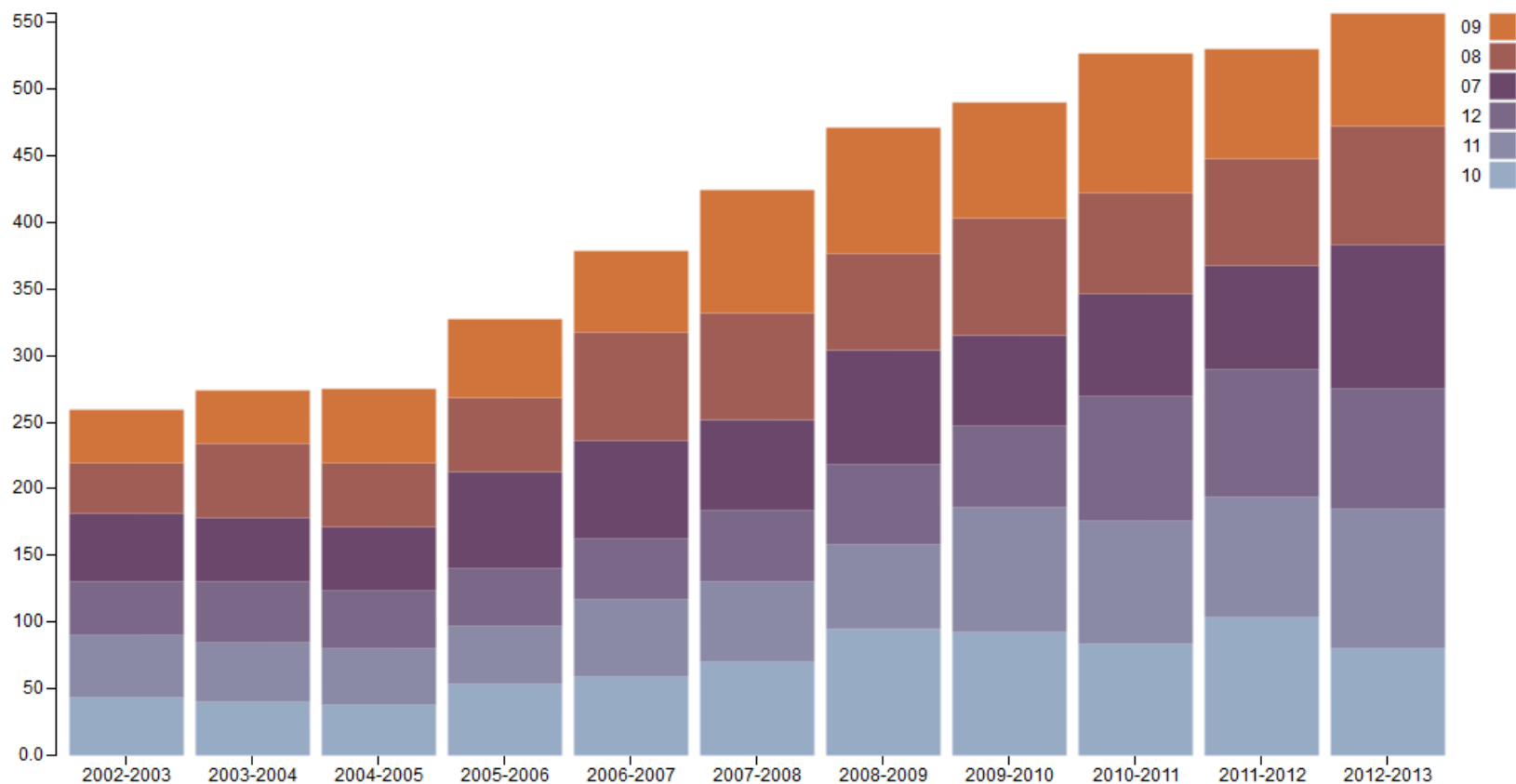
To report any errors in the data or to contribute to the project, please [email Alex](#) and/or [fork the code repository](#).

District

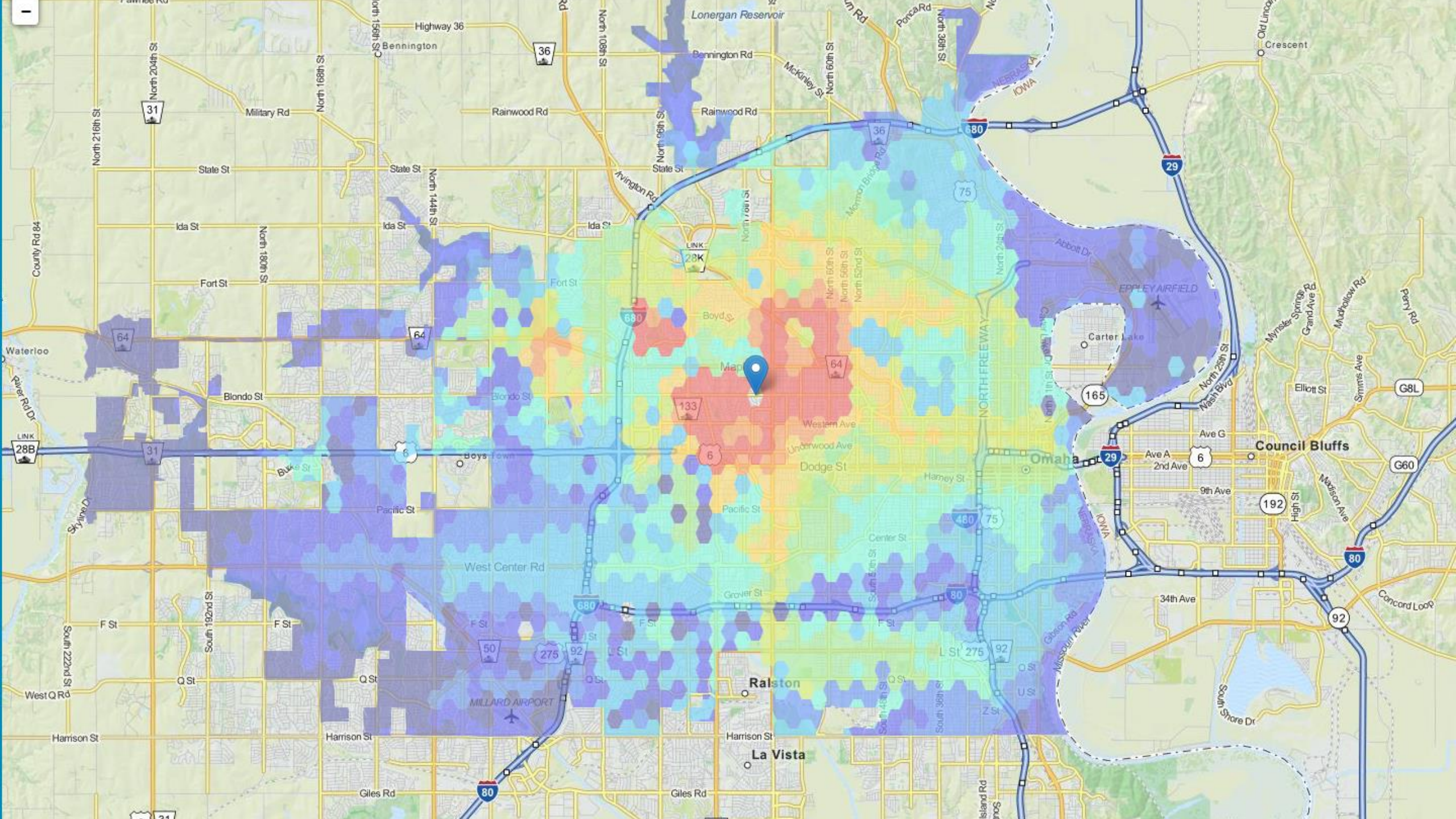
Bennington Public Schools

School

Bennington Secondary School









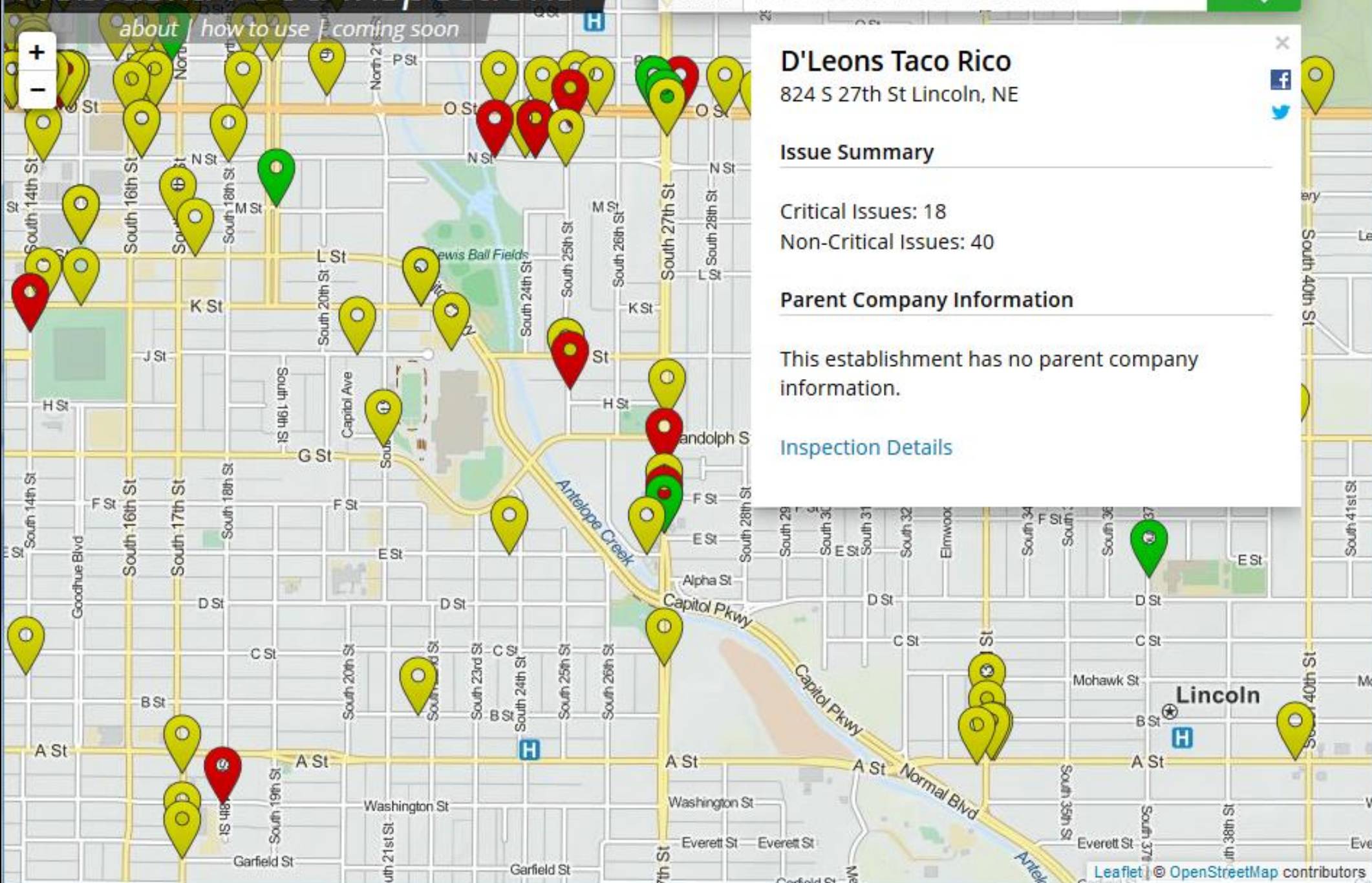
# Nebraska Food Inspections

Share

Find restaurant or location...



about how to use coming soon



## D'Leons Taco Rico

824 S 27th St Lincoln, NE

### Issue Summary

Critical Issues: 18

Non-Critical Issues: 40

### Parent Company Information

This establishment has no parent company information.

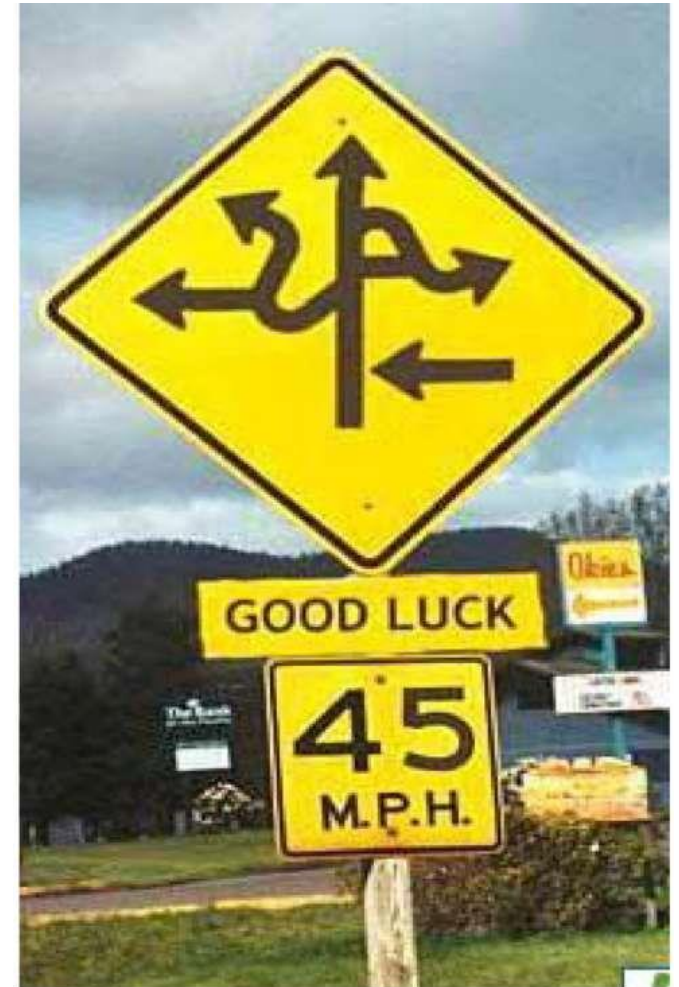
### Inspection Details



# where are we going?

- ~~What is civic hacking?~~
- ~~Why would I want to do it?~~
- How do I get started?

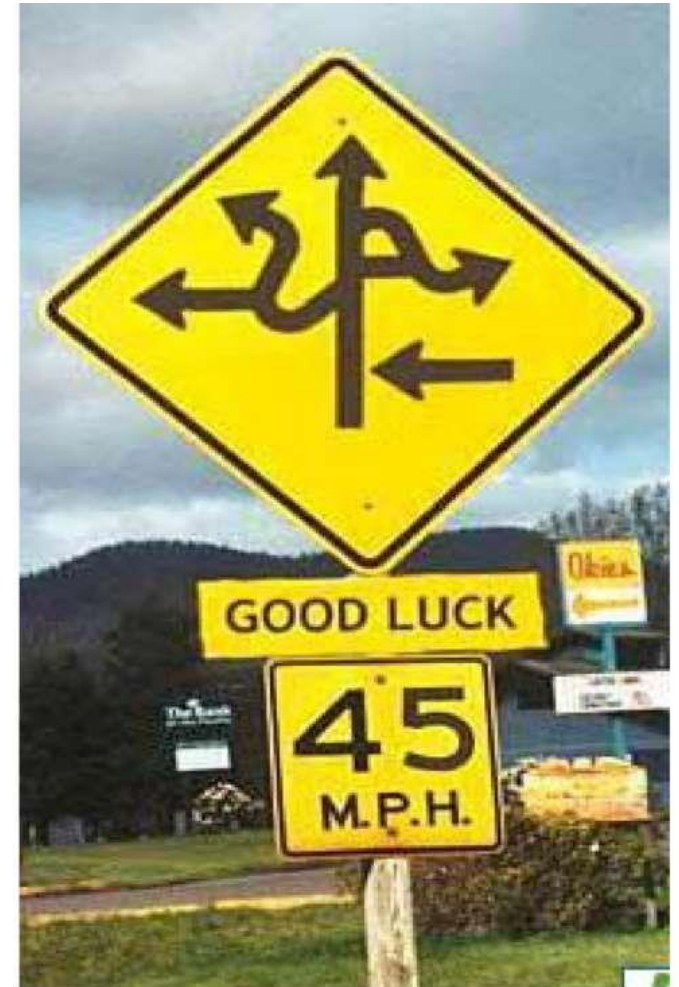
<http://www.john3thirty.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/confusing-road-sign.jpg>



# where are we going?

- ~~What is civic hacking?~~
- ~~Why would I want to do it?~~
- How do I get started?
  - Prerequisites

<http://www.john3thirty.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/confusing-road-sign.jpg>





# Public records

**5 U.S.C. § 552**

# **Freedom of Information Act**

(FOIA)

# FOIA

- Enacted in 1966
- Must submit in writing (email ok)
- Media and academia exempt from fees, others can file waiver (need to prove request is in public interest)
- Some exceptions (HR, National Security, Oil and Gas...)
- Response within 20 days
- Full text here:  
[http://www.justice.gov/oip/foia\\_updates/Vol\\_XVII\\_4/page2.htm](http://www.justice.gov/oip/foia_updates/Vol_XVII_4/page2.htm)

# FOIA Request

- This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request the following records...



# FOIA Request

- This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request the following records...
- I also request that, if appropriate, fees be waived as I believe this request is in the public interest. The requested documents will be used for...

# FOIA Request

- This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request the following records...
- I also request that, if appropriate, fees be waived as I believe this request is in the public interest. The requested documents will be used for...
- In the event that fees cannot be waived, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request.



# FOIA Request

- This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request the following records...
- I also request that, if appropriate, fees be waived as I believe this request is in the public interest. The requested documents will be used for...
- In the event that fees cannot be waived, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request.
- I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

# GOOGLE

CLASSIC

QUERY:

☐ IMAGES ☐ NEWS ☐ VIDEO ☐ MAPS ☐ OTHER

SEND YOUR QUERY TO: GOOGLE INC., 1600 AMPHITHEATRE PARKWAY, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94043, UNITED STATES

**PLEASE ALLOW 30 DAYS FOR SEARCH RESULTS**

**Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-712**

# **Nebraska Public Records Law**

# Nebraska Public Records Law

- Enacted in 1961 (!)
- Not the same as FOIA
- Must submit in writing (email ok)
- Only obligated to provide data in “original form”.
- Free to examine records in person, may charge to recoup the cost of copies, media, labor.
- Response within 4 days (!)
- Full text here:  
<http://uniweb.legislature.ne.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=84-712>



# Nebraska Public Records Request

- This is a request under the Nebraska Public Records Law. I hereby request the following records...
- I also request that, if appropriate, fees be waived as I believe this request is in the public interest. The requested documents will be used for...
- In the event that fees cannot be waived, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request.
- I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

**Need help?**

# Other resources

- Nebraska Secretary of State's office
- Your City/County Clerk's office
- Your local library



**Scrapping data**





<http://www.radicalsocientreps.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/rube-goldberg.jpg>





<http://interweb.files.wordpress.com/2006/08/19.jpg>





# Other resources

- [ScraperWiki](#)

**Open access \neq Open data**

# Manners

Thank  
You

Please





# Ben Barnes

Not seeing what you expected?

**Organizational Associations:** [Barnes Group](#) [Ben Barnes Group](#) [Entrecorp](#)

Currently viewing Ben Barnes from All Years

Campaign  
Finance

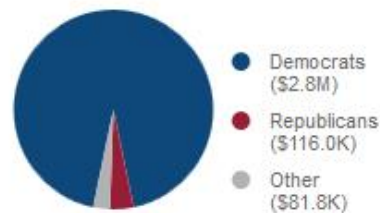
Lobbying

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE \$3,091,212 GIVEN i

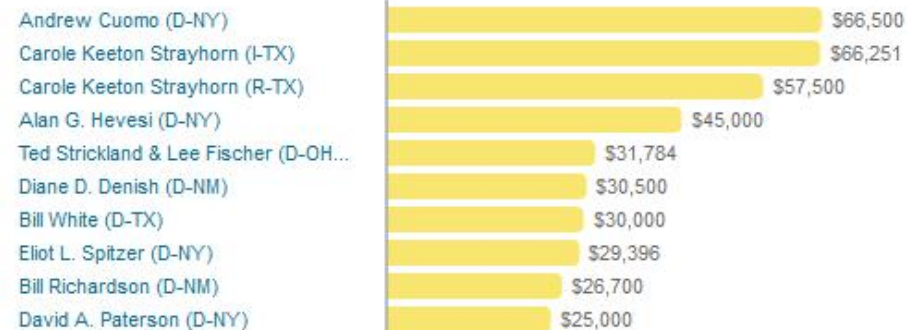
*covers roughly through q4 2013*

### Republicans vs. Democrats

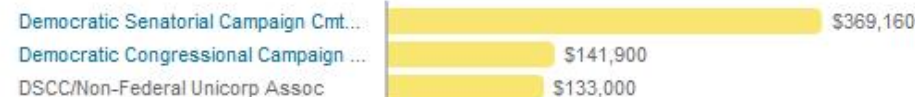
*in dollars. "other" includes 3rd parties and organizations without official party affiliation.*



### Top Politicians



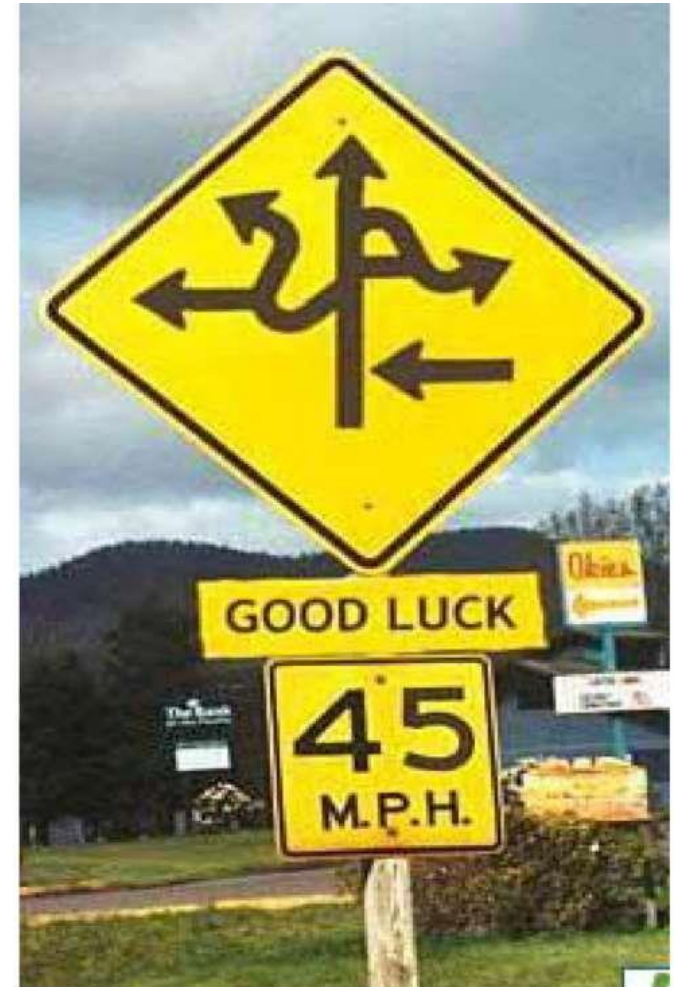
### Top Organizations



# where are we going?

- ~~What is civic hacking?~~
- ~~Why would I want to do it?~~
- How do I get started?
  - ~~Prerequisites~~
  - Find a problem to solve

<http://www.john3thirty.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/confusing-road-sign.jpg>



# Problem

#1

**How do I pick the most effective  
senator in the Nebraska Legislature?**

# **Audience Participation**



**That wasn't fun**

**How do you feel about PDFs?**

**How do I pick the most effective  
senator in the Nebraska Legislature?**

Take #2

# **Audience Participation**

**That was way easier**

# **That was way easier**

Hypothesis: Tabular data is much nicer to work with



**What else could you learn  
from this information?**

# Problem

#3

**When is Facebook coming  
to Nebraska?**

# Audience Participation

**Was that easier?**

# Was that easier?

Revised hypothesis: simple data is nicer to work with

**Simpleopendata.com**



# Problem

#4

**Where can I park my car?**

# Audience Participation

**Geodata can be fun**

**Gotchas**

# Projections

# Projections

a.k.a. WHO PUT THE E-CREAMERY BUILDING IN AFRICA?



# Projections

WGS-84 or go home  
*(also called SRID:4326)*

0,0



**NULL ISLAND**





Editor



Projects



Manual



Plugins



Settings

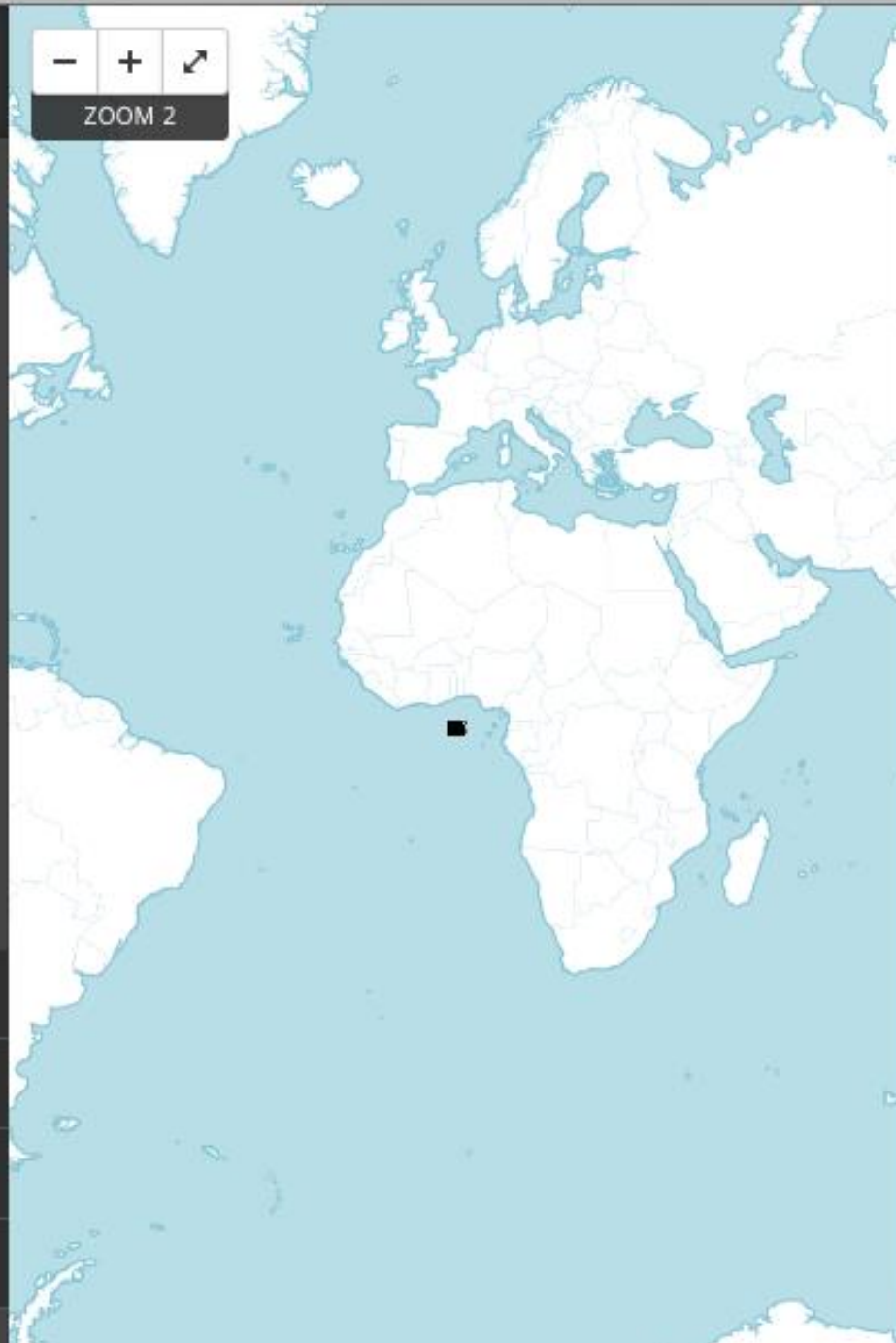


A

{ }



ZOOM 2



pt-sans



style.mss X



```
1 Map {
2   background-color: #b8dee6;
3 }
4
5 #countries {
6   ::outline {
7     line-color: #85c5d3;
8     line-width: 2;
9     line-join: round;
10  }
11  polygon-fill: #fff;
12 }
13
14 #countries::text {
15   text-name: "[NAME]";
16   //text-face-name: "DejaVu Sans Book";
17   text-face-name: "PT Sans Bold Italic";
18 }
```



# Questions

Nate Benes (@prefork)

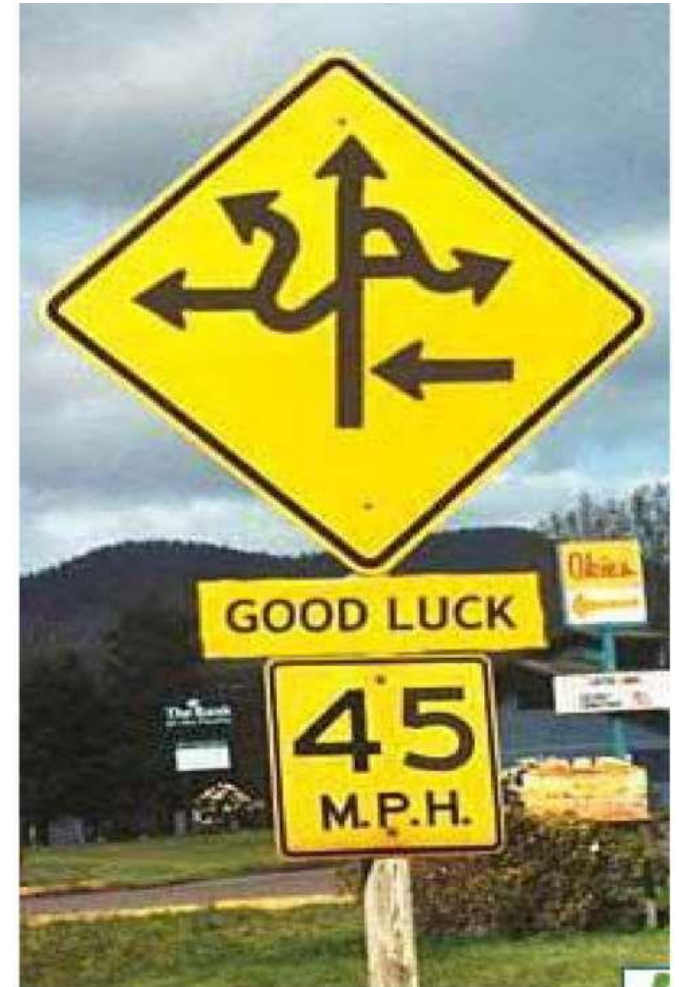
[team@opennebraska.io](mailto:team@opennebraska.io)

# Challenges

# where are we going?

- ~~What is civic hacking?~~
- ~~Why would I want to do it?~~
- ~~How do I get started?~~

<http://www.john3thirty.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/confusing-road-sign.jpg>



**Get Involved**





# Questions?

@prefork

[opennebraska.io](http://opennebraska.io)

[team@opennebraska.io](mailto:team@opennebraska.io)