Intro to Civic Hacking

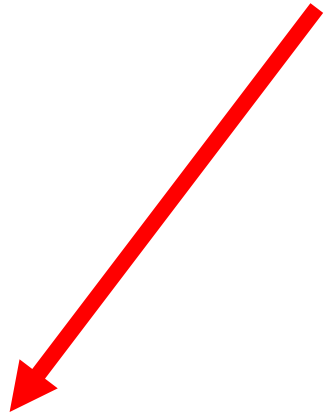
Nate Benes (@prefork)

I’m going to make you do stuff

did you bring a laptop?

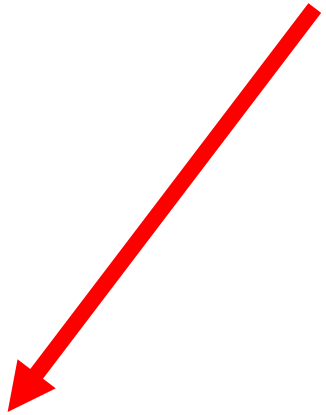
http://bit.ly/civichacktalk2

Go here now



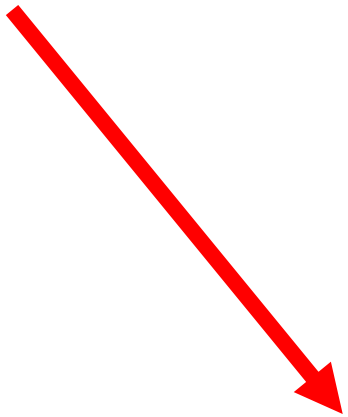
http://bit.ly/civichacktalk2

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



http://bit.ly/civichacktalk2

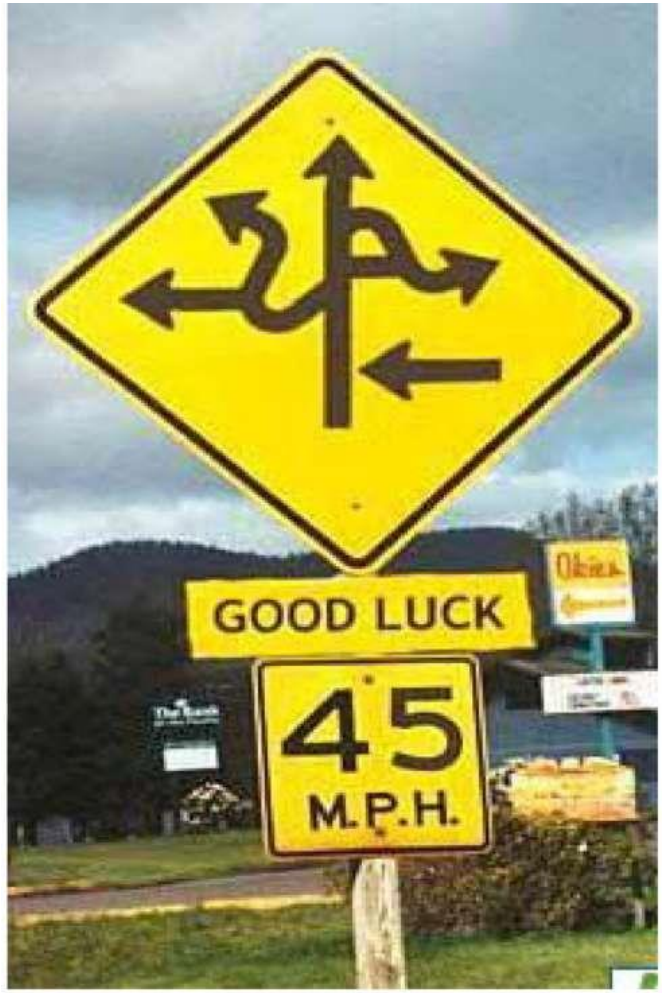
Keep this link handy



http://bit.ly/civichacktalk2

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

Google

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)

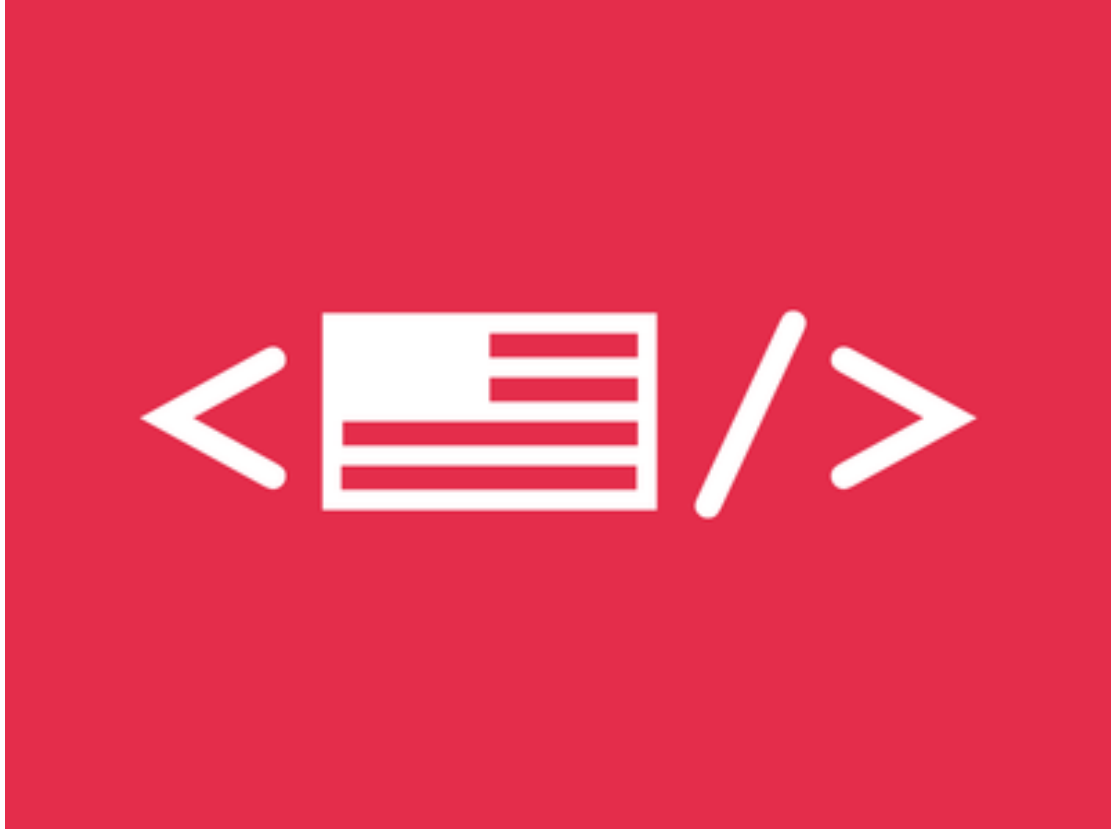
Hacker

Hacker

Not what you think it means

Civic Hackers

Civic Hackers

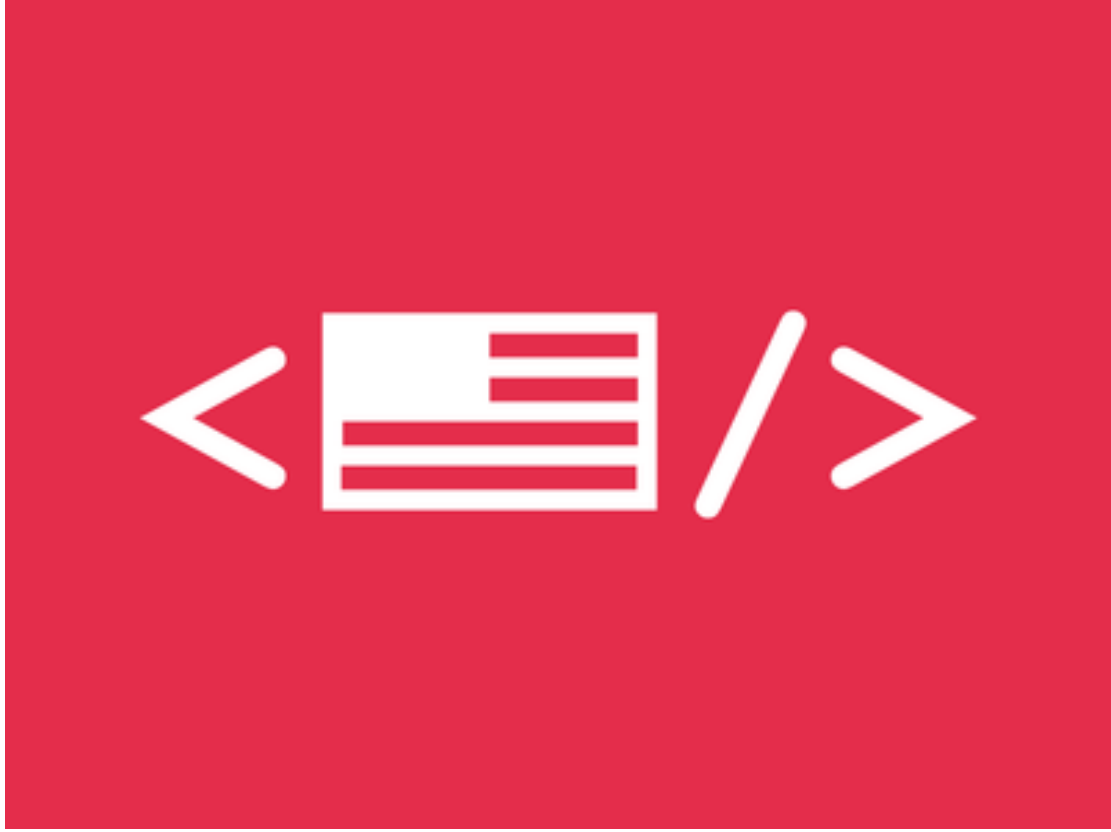


“…people working together quickly and creatively to make their cities better for everyone…”

codeforamerica.org

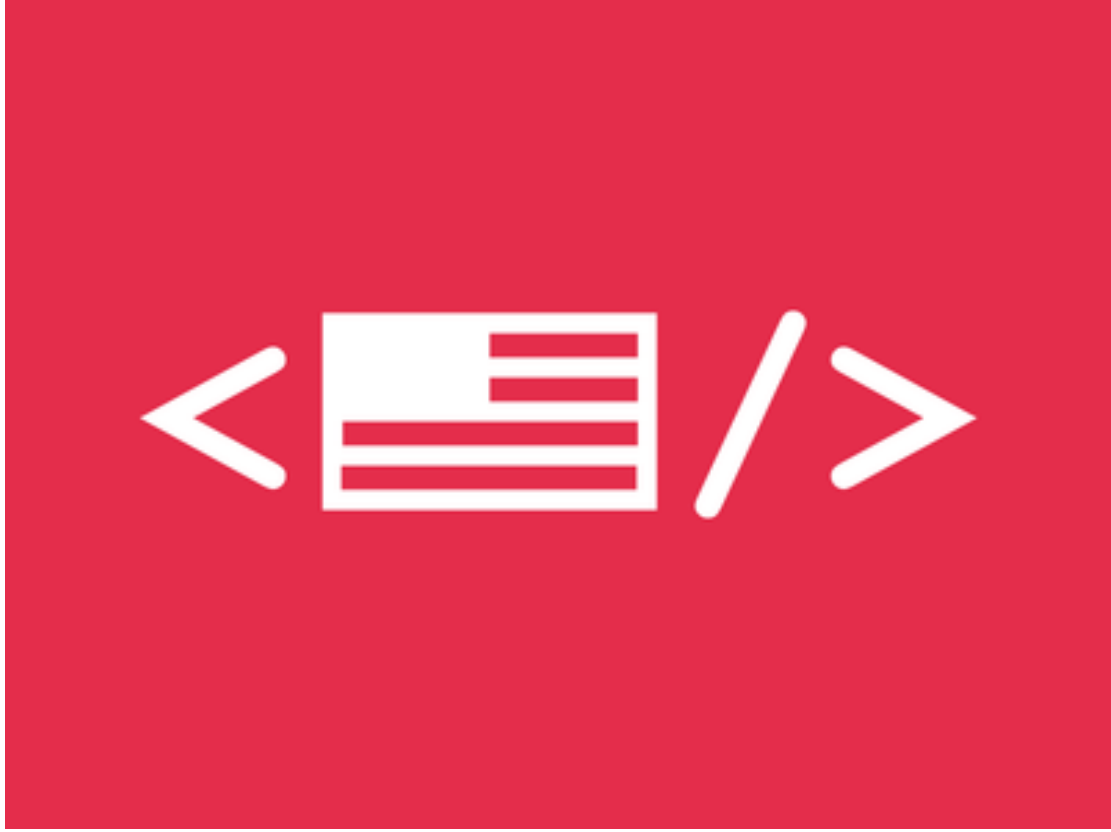
Civic Hackers

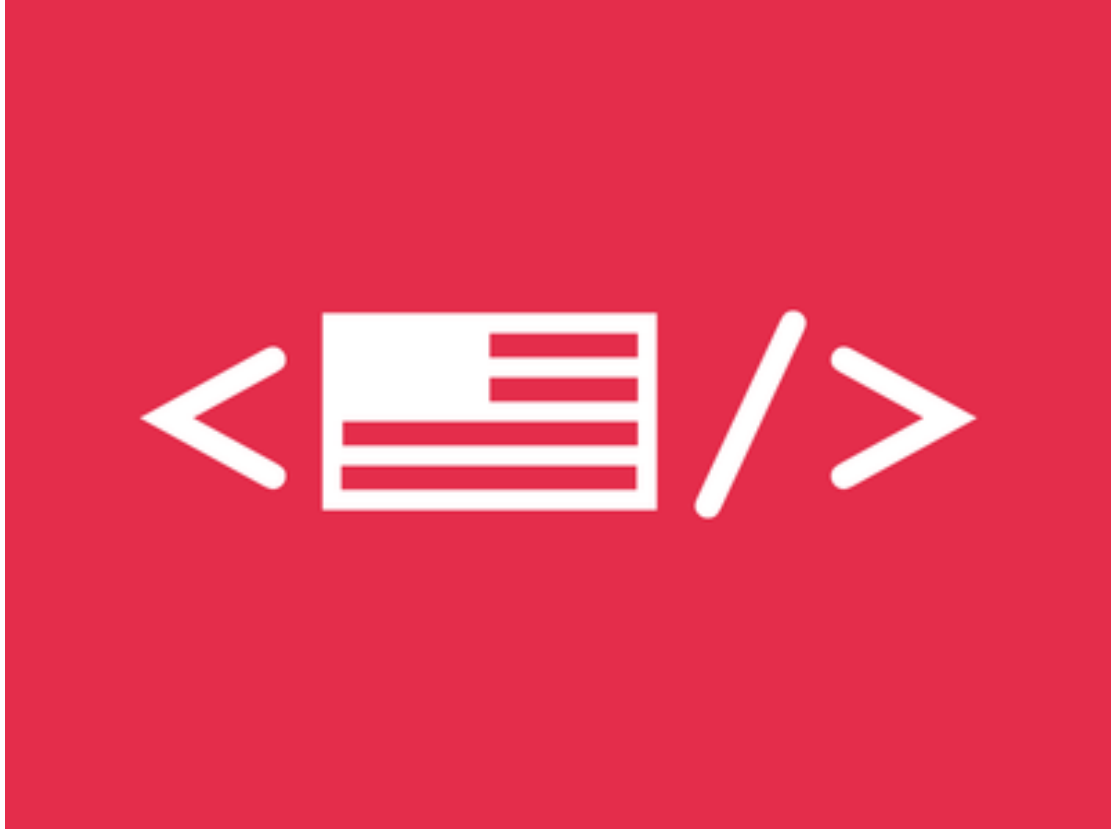
Programmers



Civic Hackers

Programmers, librarians, analysts





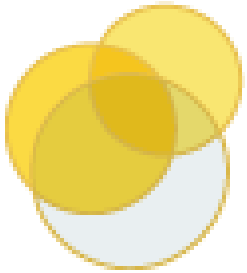
Civic Hackers

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

NATIONAL DAY OF CIVIC HACKING
Shippable
NATIONAL DAY OF CIVIC HACKING
BUILD
SHARE EVERYTHING
CIVIC
COMMUNITY
HUSKER
intel
Knight Foundation
#HACKFORCHANGE / HACKFORCHANGE.ORG
NO CAMPING

Why not you?

CODE for AMERICA

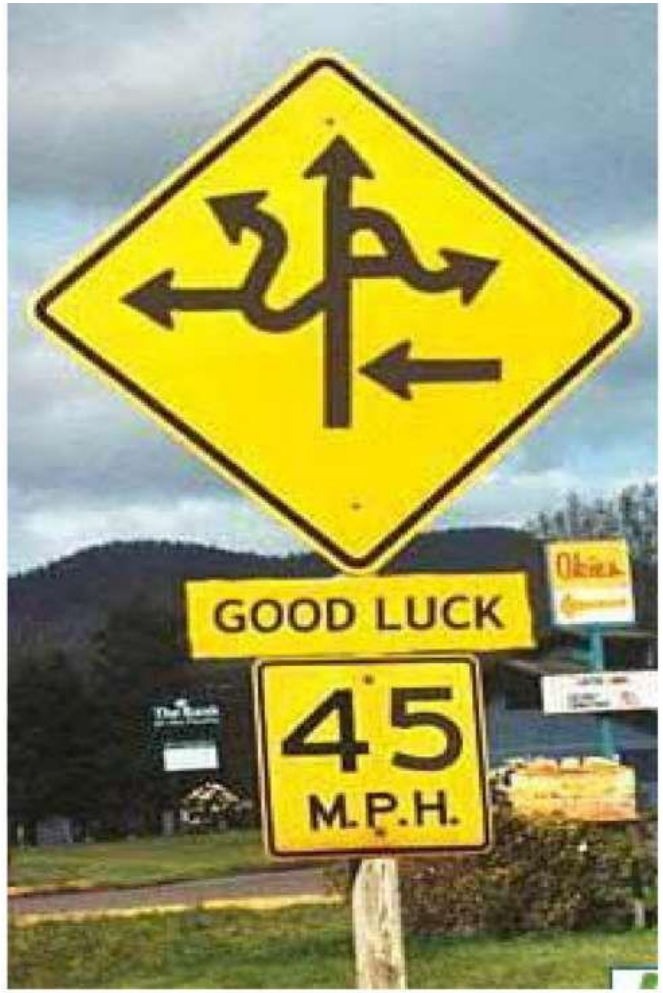


SUNLIGHT FOUNDATION

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

Preparedly

http://www.prepared.ly/map

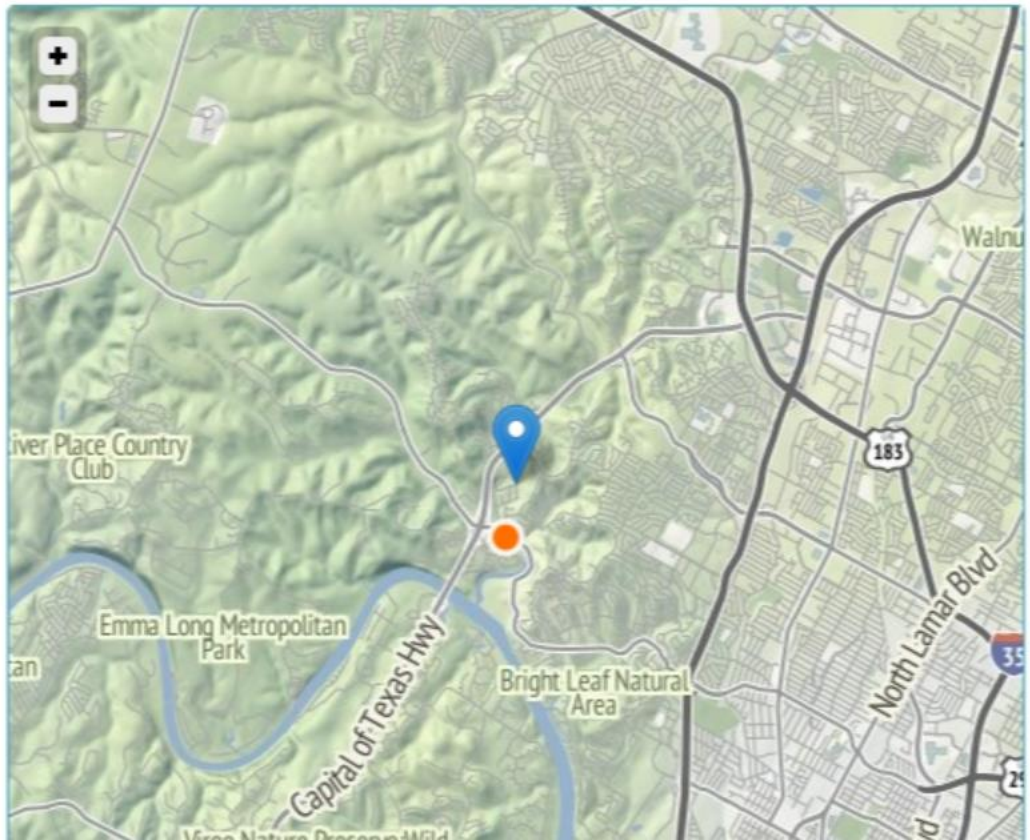
Google

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

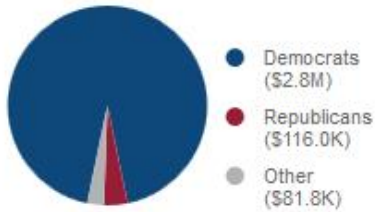
Lobbying

CAMPAIGN FINANCE $3,091,212 GIVEN

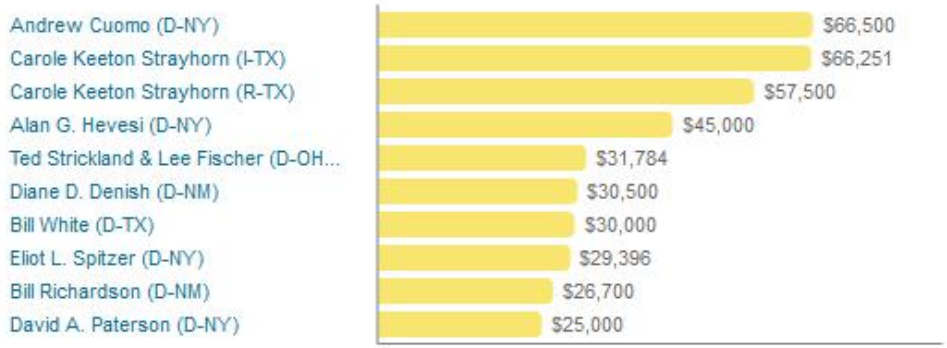
covers roughly through q4 2013

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

LENGTH 0.12 miles TRAIL USE

OVERVIEW

ADDITIONAL TRAIL CONDITIONS

Open

oston Run Trail

Bike and Hike Trail

Boston Run Trail

Bike and Hike Trail

OLDE EIGHT RD

SR 8

CHITTENDEN RD

SR 8

TREETSBORO RD

Chittendens

303 and 8 Trailhead

Bike and Hike Trail

SR 8

Bike and Hike

Douglas & Sarpy Country 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.

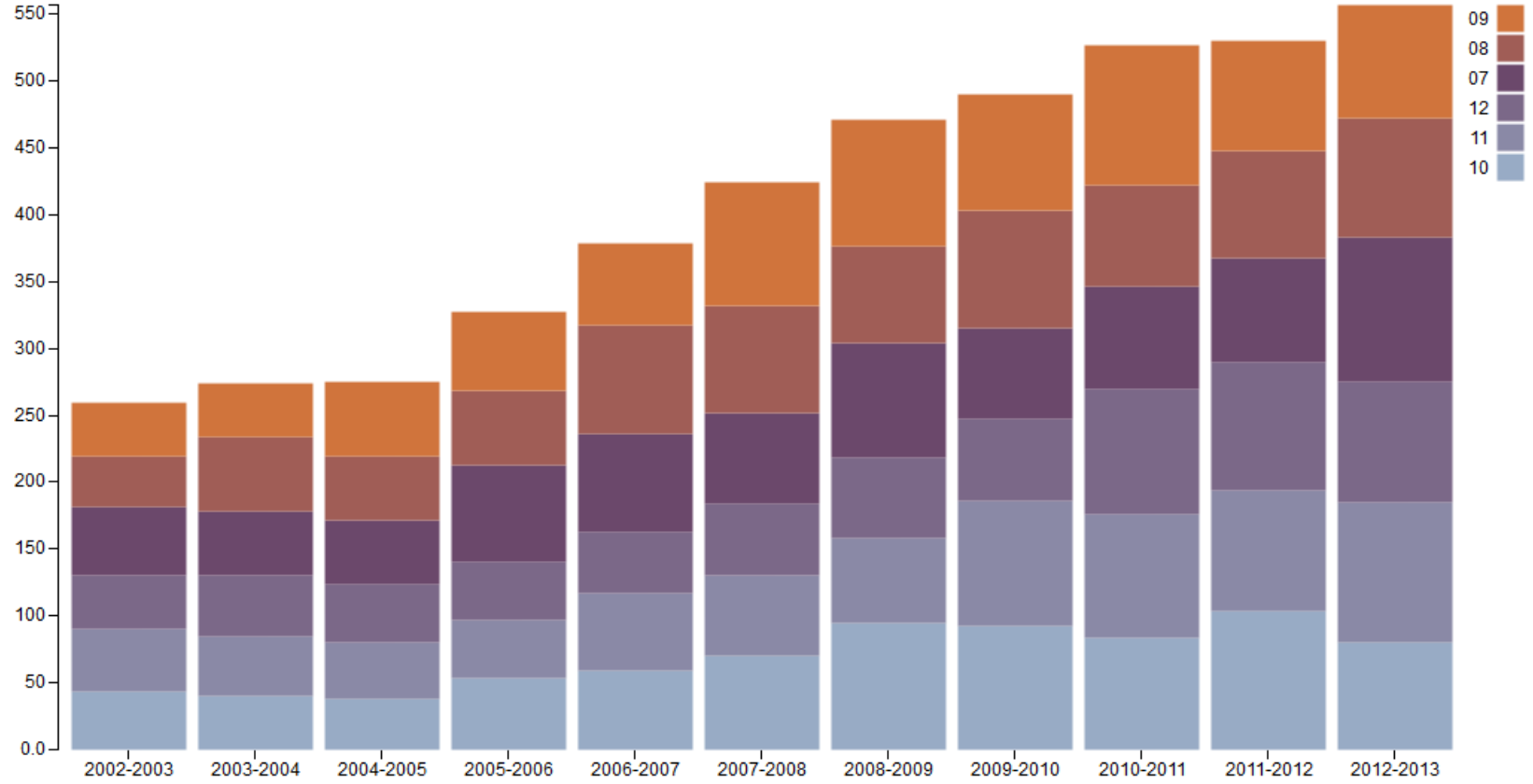
To report any errors in the data or to contribute to the project, please email Alex and/or fork the code repository.

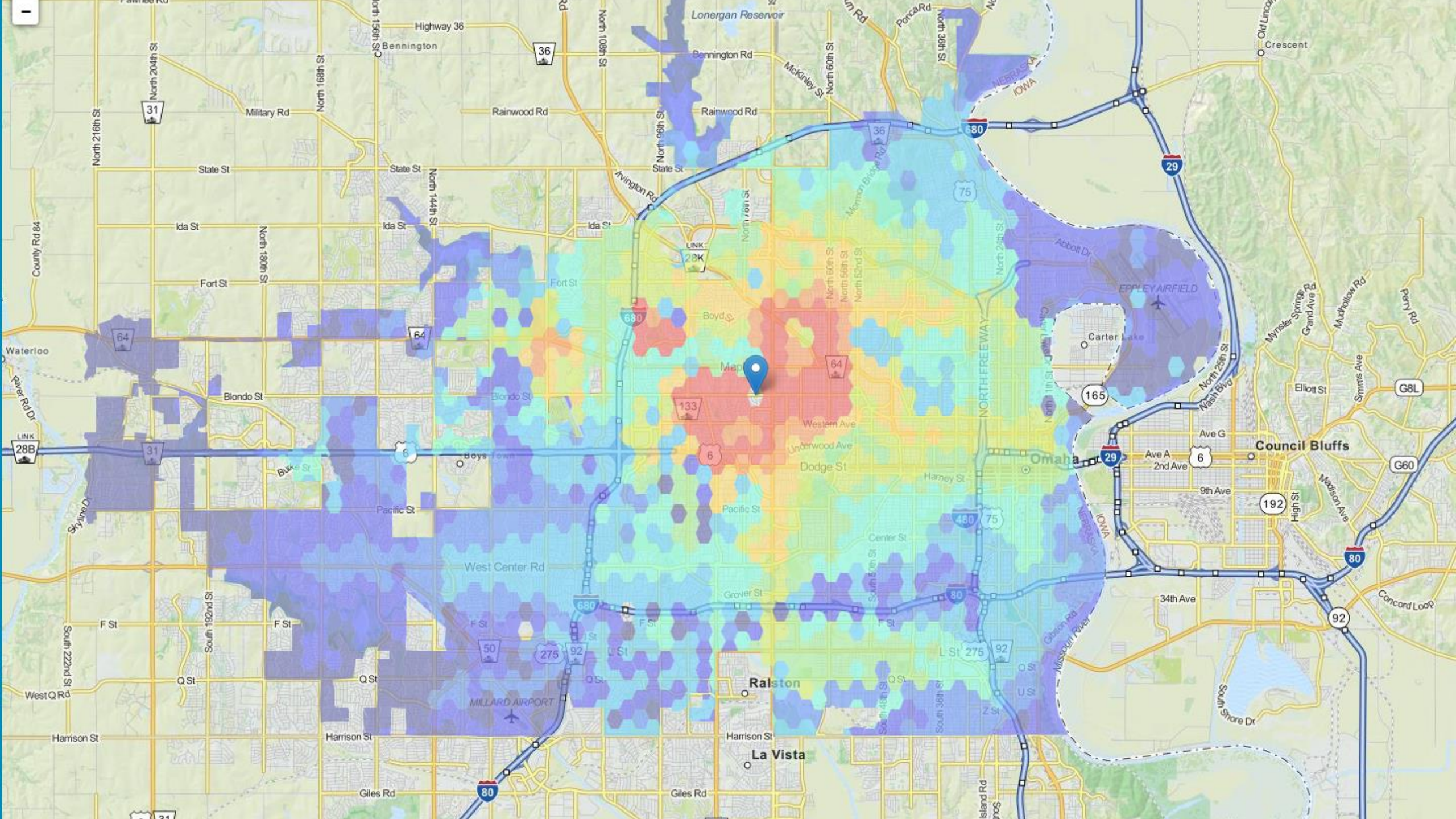
District

Bennington Public Schools

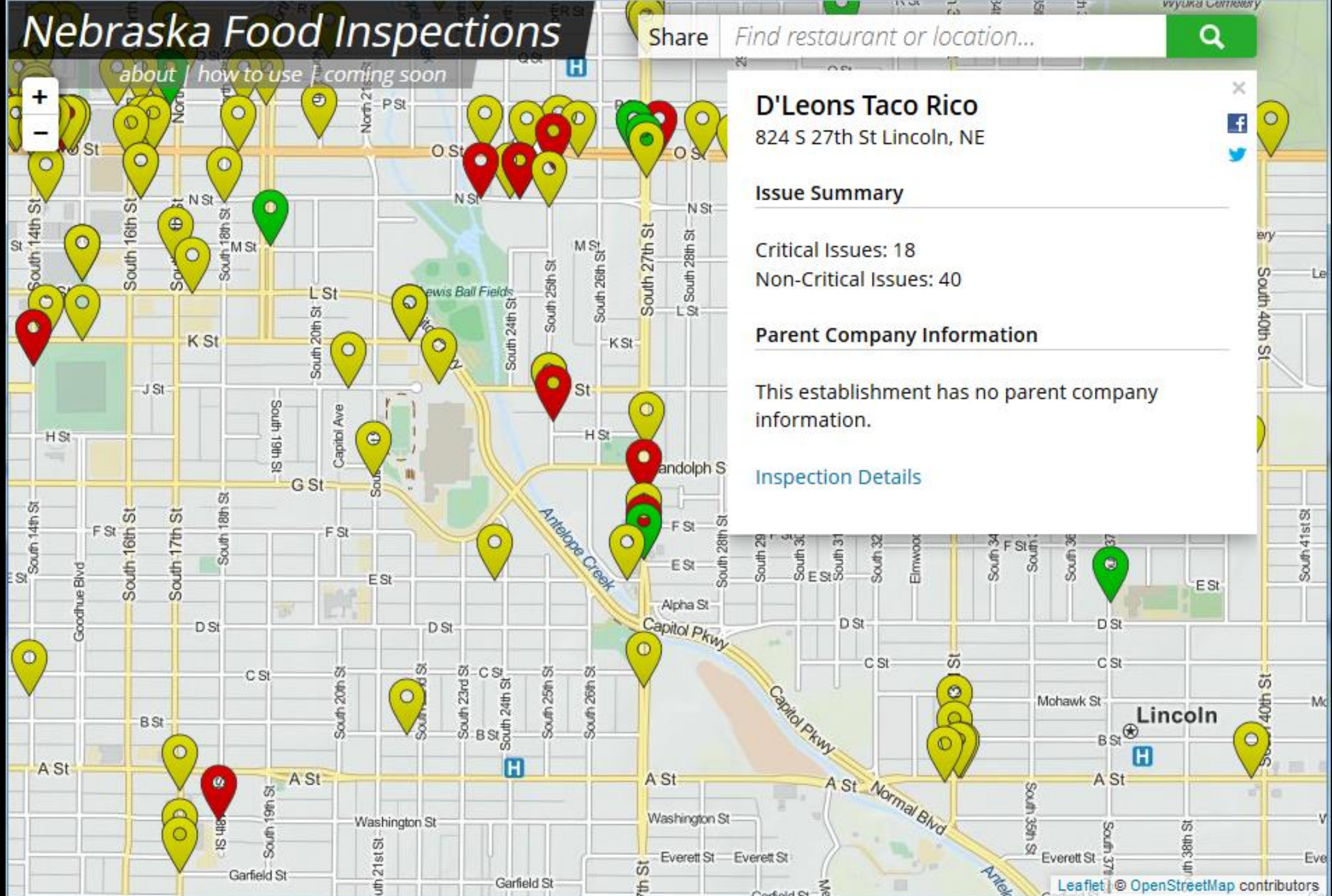
School

Bennington Secondary School



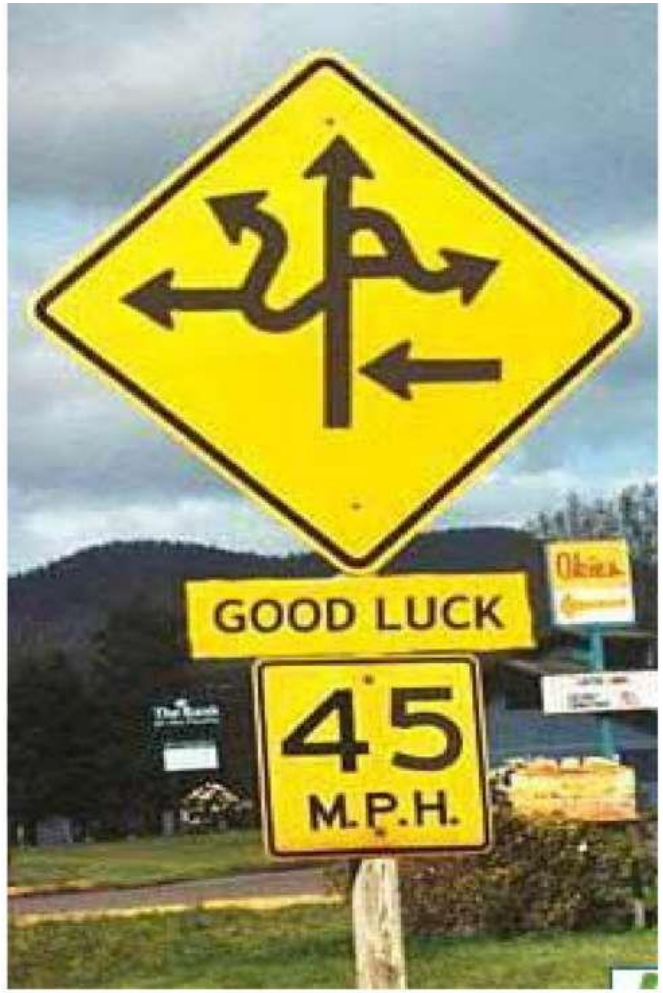


Lonergan Reservoir
Highway 36
Bennington
Bennington Rd
Military Rd
Rainwood Rd
State St
Ida St
Fort St
Waterloo
Blondo St
Boys Town
Pacific St
West Center Rd
Dodge St
Western Ave
Underwood Ave
Harney St
Center St
Grover St
F St
Q St
West Q Rd
Harrison St
Giles Rd
MILLARD AIRPORT
Ralston
La Vista
Omaha
Carter Lake
EPPLEY AIRFIELD
Council Bluffs
Crescent
Abbott Dr
Ave G
Ave A
2nd Ave
9th Ave
34th Ave
Concord Loop
South Shore Dr
Missouri River
NORTH FREEWAY
NEBRASKA
IOWA
Mormon Bridge Rd
Ponca Rd
McKinley St
North 60th St
North 36th St
North 108th St
North 96th St
North 144th St
North 180th St
North 168th St
North 204th St
North 216th St
County Rd 84
River Rd Dr
Skyline Dr
South 192nd St
South 222nd St
Mynster Springs Rd
Grand Ave
Mudhollow Rd
Perry Rd
Smms Ave
Elliott St
Madison Ave
High St
Nash Blvd
North 25th St
Gibson Rd
South 36th St
South 48th St
Island Rd
Old Lincoln


Nebraska Food Inspections
about | how to use | coming soon
Share
Find restaurant or location...
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
Lincoln
Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors

Where are we going?

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



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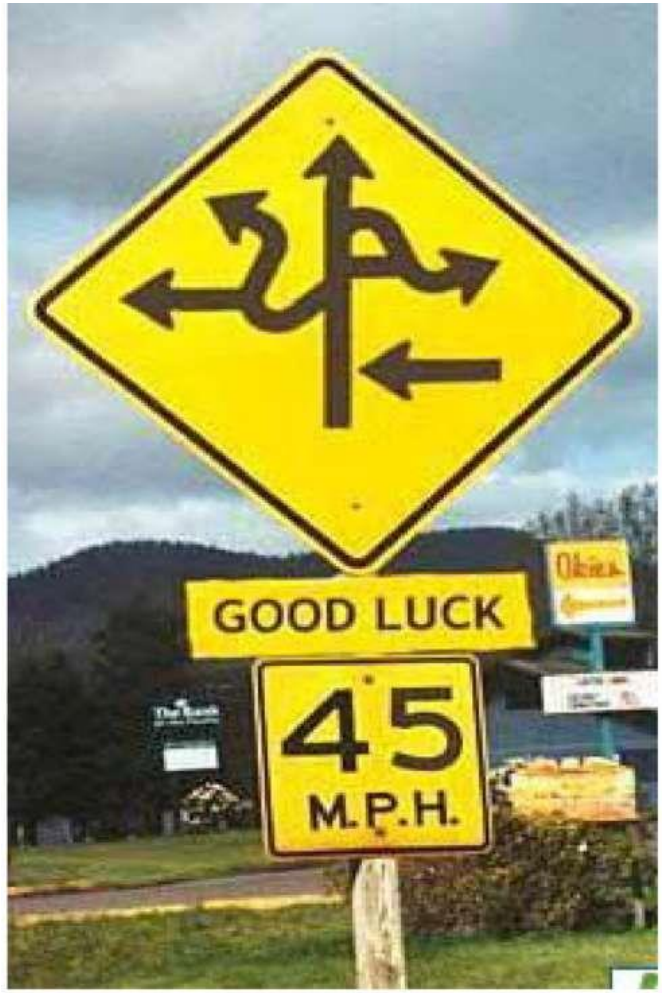
Where are we going?

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



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OPEN DATA

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

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...

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- 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

OPEN DATA

Scraping data

http://www.radicalsocialentreps.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

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

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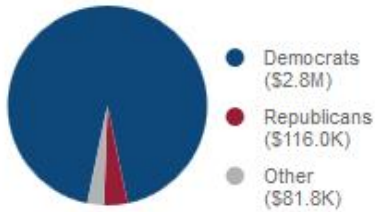
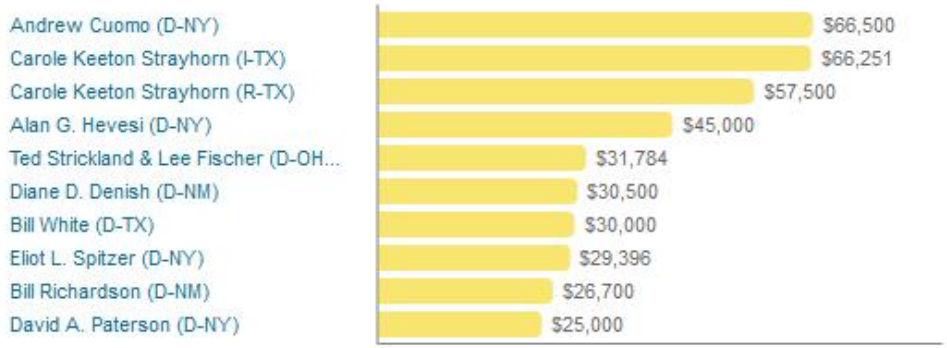


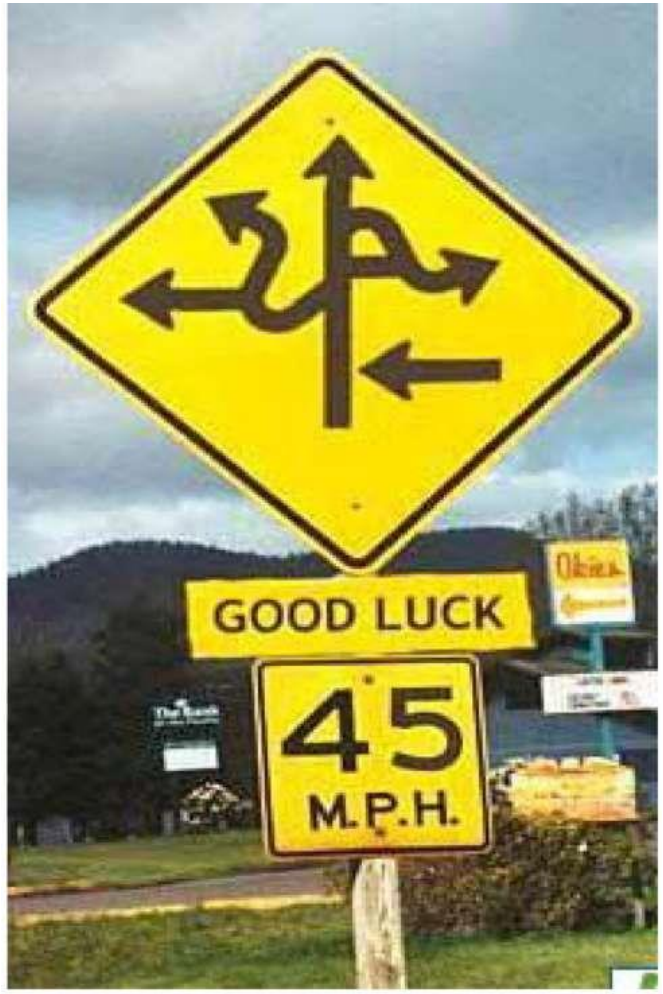
Top Politicians



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

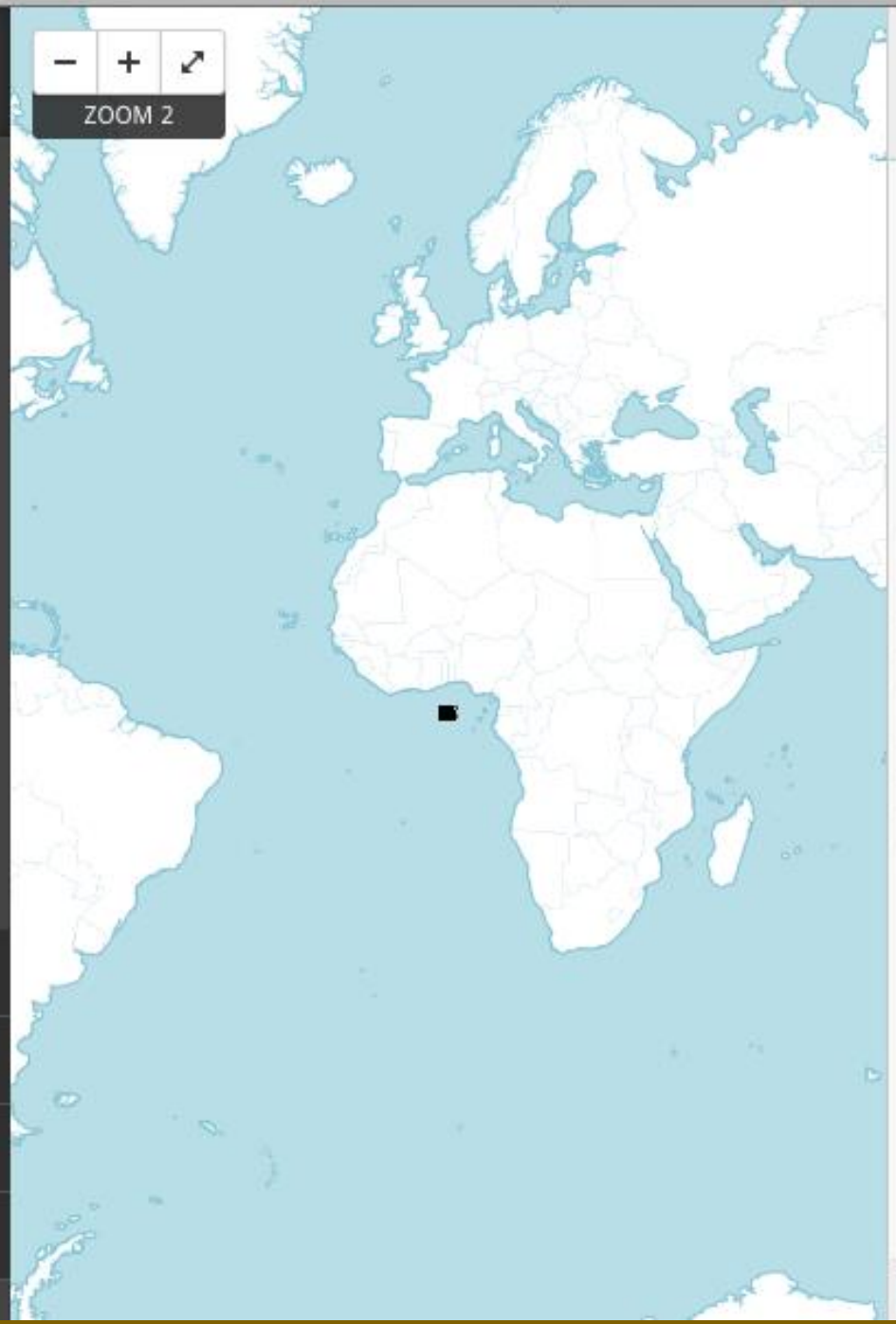
(also called SRID:4326)

0,0
NULL ISLAND

TileMill

Editor
Projects
Manual
Plugins
Settings

ZOOM 2



pt-sans

Save | Export

style.mss

```
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 }
```

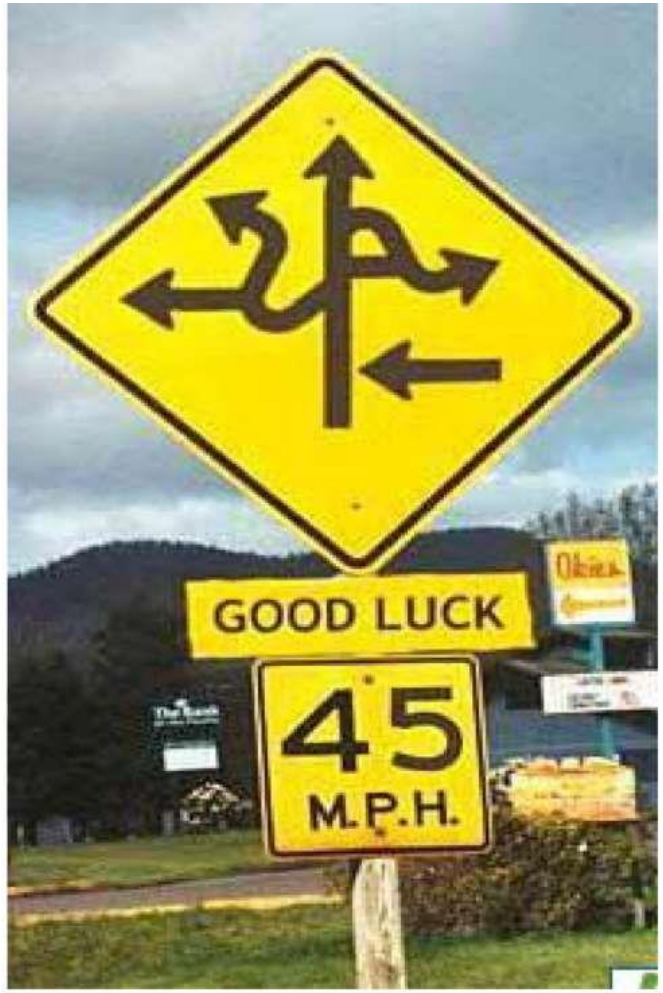
Questions

Nate Benes (@prefork)
team@opennebraska.io

Challenges

Where are we going?

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



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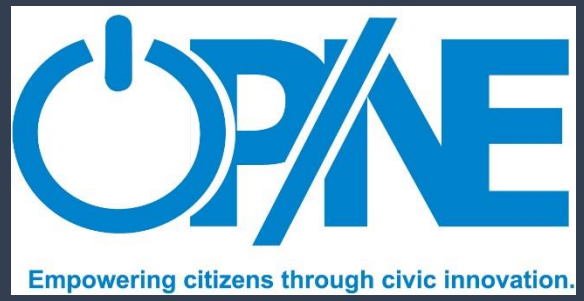
Get Involved



Questions?

@prefork
opennebraska.io
team@opennebraska.io