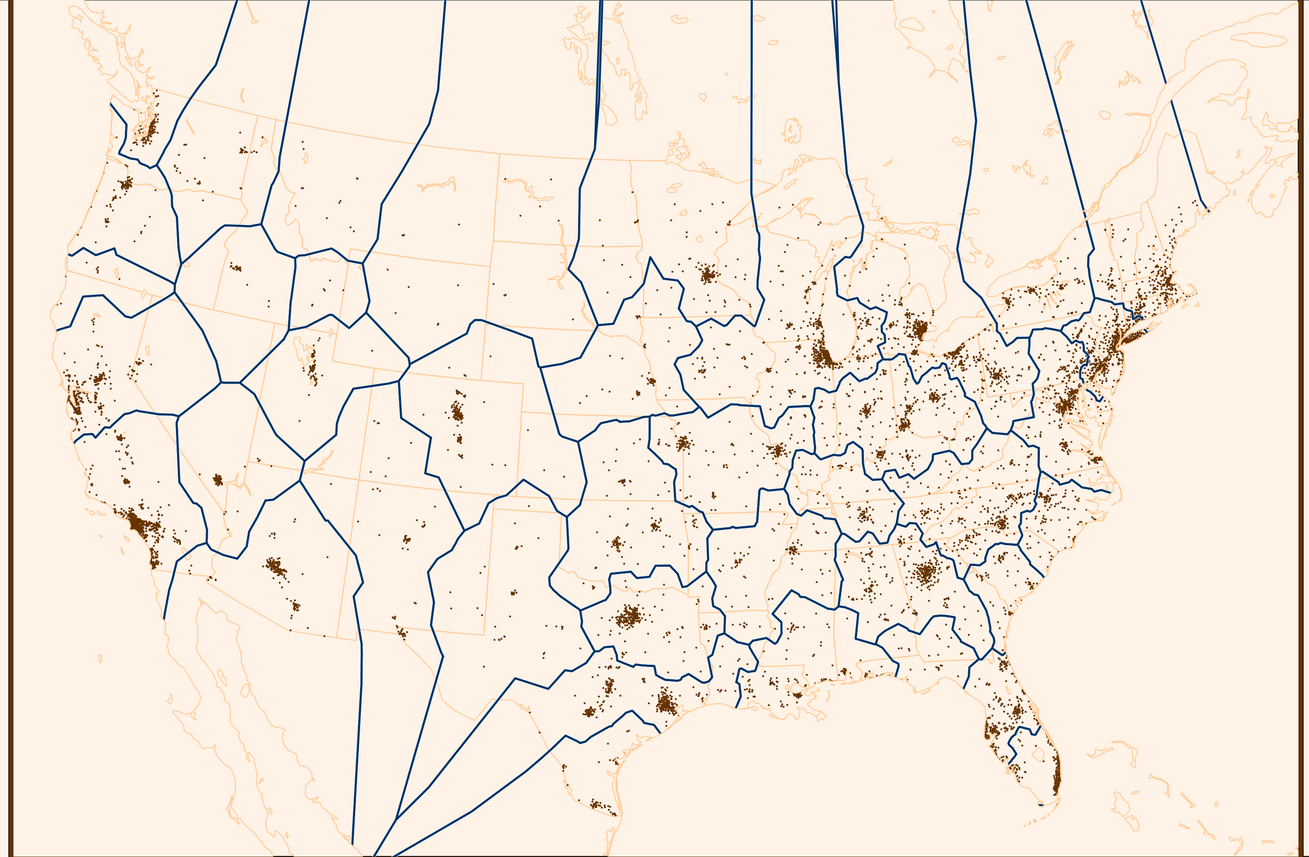
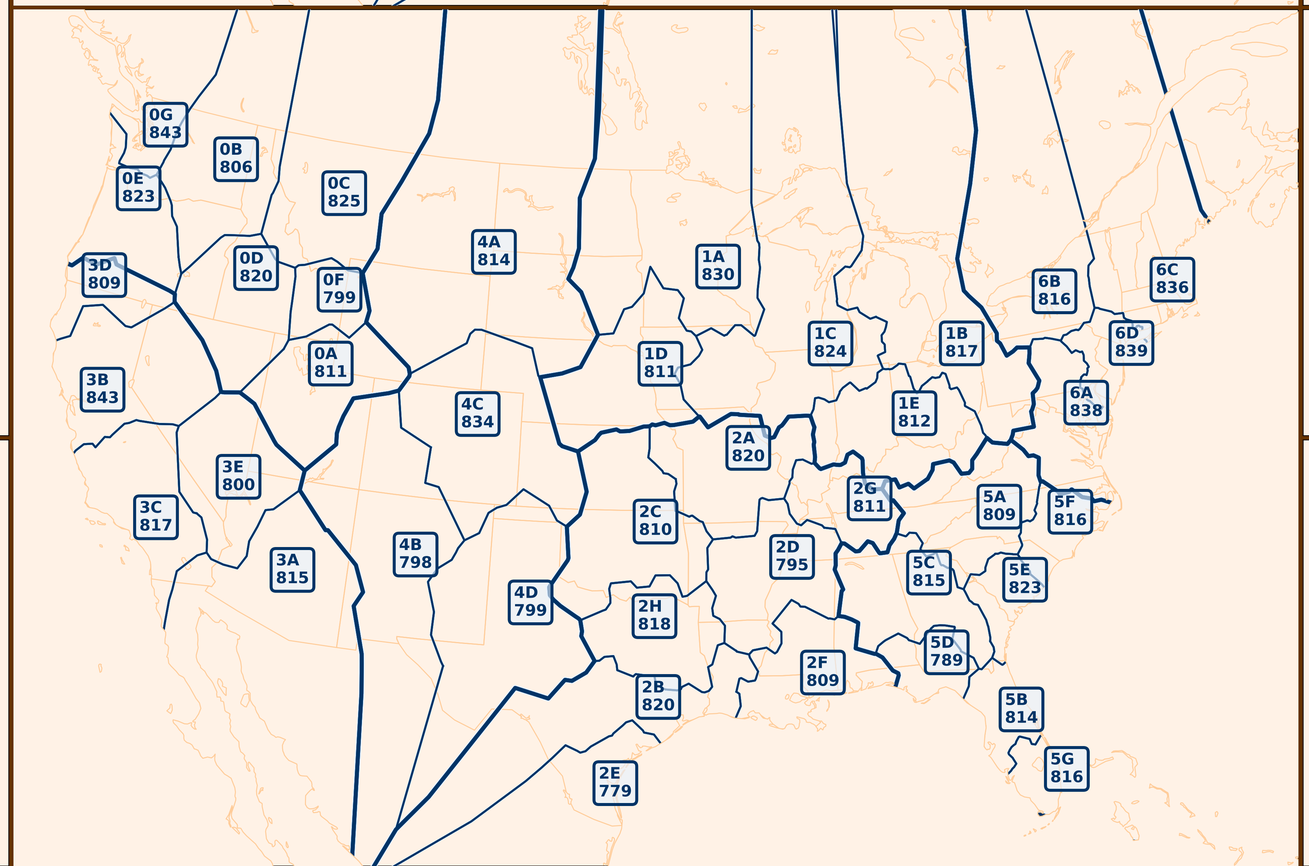
States are a crucial way that the United States divides land into meaningful units. Americans deal with different public institutions and are subject to varying laws within each state. However, state boundaries are perhaps counterintuitive for such a significant set of divisions. In Kansas City, the Missouri-Kansas boundary cuts the metropolitan area in half, such that Kansas Citians might routinely need to cross state borders to fulfill simple errands. In Texas, El Paso is 285 miles from the nearest metropolitan area in Texas (Odessa) but only 45 miles from the closest metro area in New Mexico (Las Cruces). In Michigan's upper peninsula, Michiganders must cross the Great Lakes over a five-mile toll bridge to reach over 90 percent of Michigan's population but share a 200-mile land border with Wisconsin.

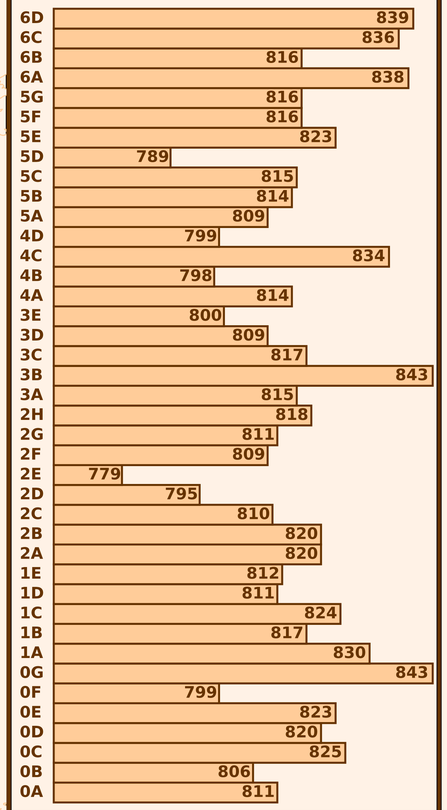
What if the state borders of the United States matched where Americans live? This project applies machine learning to imagine the United States' state borders. The algorithms group people who live near each other and place boundaries in the large, unpopulated stretches of land between those groups.

[PANEL OVERVIEW WILL GO HERE

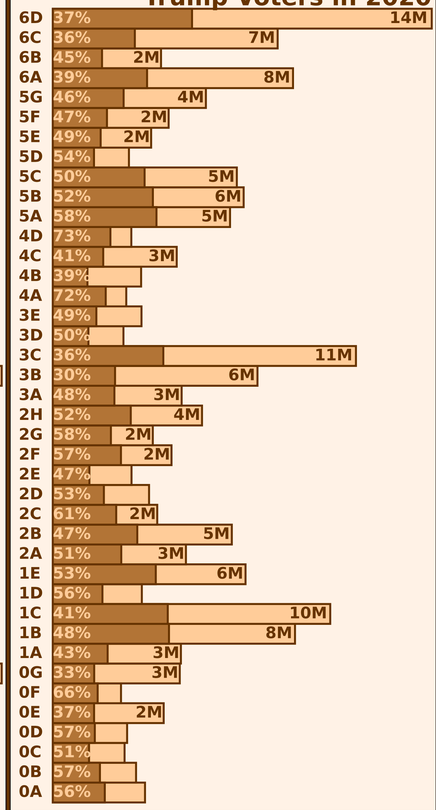




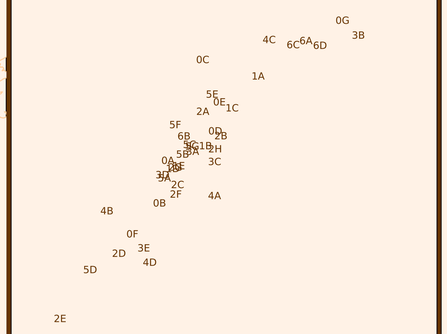
HDI Score For Each Cluster



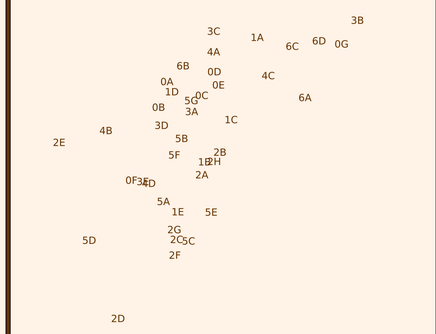
Total Voters And Percentage Trump Voters in 2020



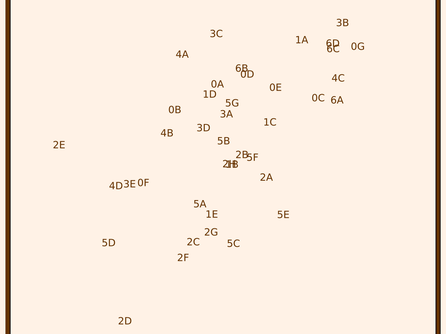
Correspondence Between Income And Education



Correspondence Between Income And Life Expectancy



Correspondence Between Education And Life Expectancy



Correspondence Between HDI And Percentage Trump Voters