FIGURE 1: Many cities are on current state borders because those borders follow rivers, and cities need abundant fresh water. The algorithm keeps these cities whole, leading to divergent new borders. It recommends {state\_count} new states to replace the 48 contiguous states, so current borders may overly fragment the country.

FIGURE 2: The median new state HDI score is {hdi\_median}, and all new state HDI scores would be considered ‘high’ (>700) or ‘very high’ (>800) by global standards. The new states containing Seattle WA, San Francisco CA, Denver CO, Minneapolis MN, and the urban corridor from Boston MA to Washington DC (“Bos-Wash”) have relatively high scores.

FIGURE 3: The median new state population is {pop\_median} million, but population size varies widely. The top {pop\_top\_count} new states have a combined total population of {pop\_top\_sum} million, outnumbering the other {pop\_other\_count} states.

FIGURE 4: In the median new state, {vote\_median} percent of voters chose the 2020 Republican candidate. Of the {state\_count} new states, {rep\_count} would lean towards republicans, and {dem\_count} would lean towards democrats. HDI negatively corresponds with republican lean. The median HDI among republican-leaning new states is {rep\_lean\_hdi}, compared to {dem\_lean\_hdi} among democrat-leaning new states.