Will Merrow Prototype Assignment 1 11/7/20

My final project will use data on the Democratic/Republican lean of states and congressional districts to show how the U.S. presidency, House of Representatives, and Senate are all structurally biased against Democrats.

My initial idea is that the user will be able to see which party controls the presidency, House, and Senate under different popular vote scenarios. The default state will show how if the national popular vote is tied 50% to 50%, Republicans win the presidency, (because of the electoral college), the House (because of gerrymandering and Democrats living in cities) and the Senate (because there are more Republican-leaning states than Democrat-leaning states).

The user will be able to adjust the popular vote scenario using a slider, to see how the margin of victory translates to different outcomes in the presidency, House, and Senate. It will show that Democrats need to win the popular vote by around three percentage points to win the presidency, for example.

The dataset will consist of the partisan lean of each state and congressional district in the 2020 election, or the 2016 election if 2020 data is not available yet. One possible source for this is this Daily Kos dataset. I will also use data on the number of electoral votes of each state, and the locations of the congressional districts. My current thinking is that I will do something like this election map from Le Monde where electoral votes (or seats) are shown overlaid on a standard geographic map of the U.S. using the Albers projection.