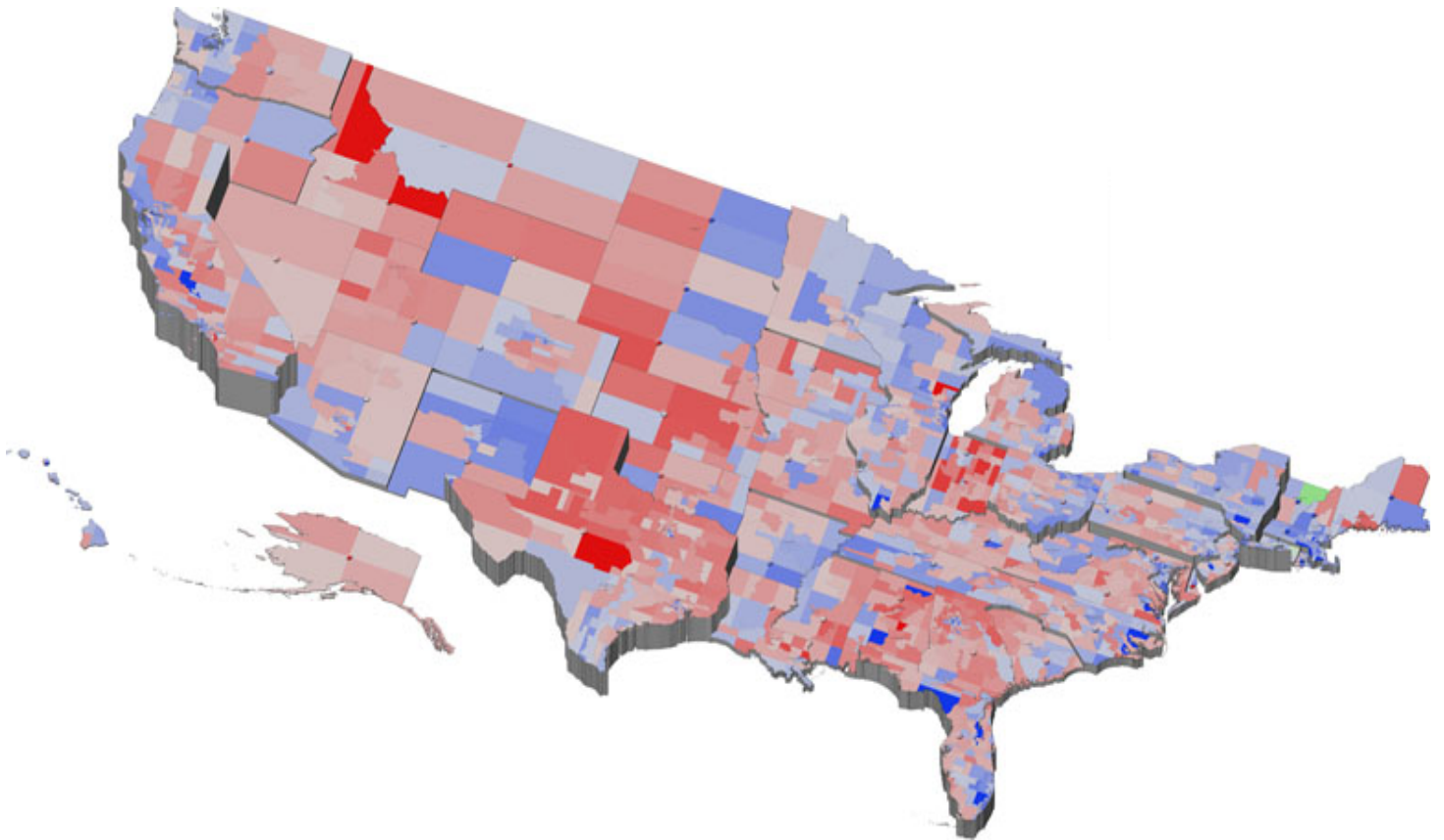


***"500 people move the
needle in any of the 435
Congressional Districts in
the US"***

— Micah Sifry, May 16, 2008

Berkman Center for Internet & Society



Digital Government through Social Networks: How citizens can aggregate their money and votes to define digital government

February, 2009

Britt Blaser
Independence Year Foundation

David Weinberger, Ph.D
Berkman Center for Internet & Society

Joe Trippi
Trippi Multimedia

Overview

Politicians seek only money and votes. Citizens control all the money and votes but have never participated broadly and systematically to allocate their control of those resources to affect governance. North Americans possess a “participatory surplus” fueling open source software and presidential campaigns, energizing millions. Well-understood social networking services could provide a barackobama.com for constituents of any politician and for the stakeholders of any government agency or service. How might campaign web site experts design and host a network to govern governance?

"Surrounded" online by fully empowered and well informed, networked constituencies, our politicians and government employees would be motivated by self-interest to attend carefully to any policy formulations carrying the force of voters' money and votes.

Such a system must engage real-world mechanisms to control the existing levers of government. Politicians are moved not by pure argument or the honest expression of their constituents' preferences, but by their career interests. Any social network aimed at empowering constituents must take those realities into account. The overarching reality is that political power—governance—is regional. Voters' networks for governance must map to voters' real-world, geographical jurisdictions.

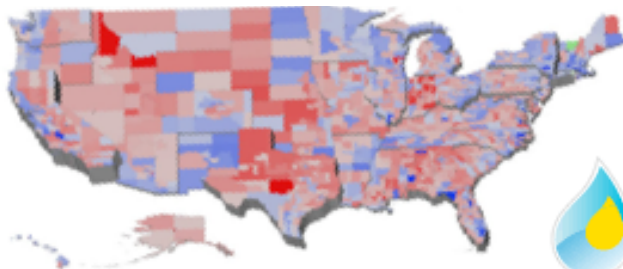
The 2008 U.S. presidential campaign proved Clay Shirky right, having observed that we have a "huge, and largely unused, participatory surplus of people who are ready to contribute to efforts and causes larger than themselves."

We need a citizen-owned barackobama.com for every congressional district, senate seat, state and hamlet. For good measure, throw in a few thousand more, to support and guide each agency and bureau—and the Presidency: why should candidates own our presidential conversation? Our platform therefore makes it easy to create thousands of barackobama.com's by locality, nested localities, agencies, and candidates, and enables these to interact in ways that reflect their real-world interaction.

The gold standard for a US governing network would be a network of 435 virtual congressional districts, each of which is associated with one of the 435 "real" districts:



Independence Year Foundation
Info@iyear.US • (212) 599-2767



Acquia.com: Drupal Wizards serving
American voters at <http://iVote4U.US>

**The four elements of
governance:**

- 1. Viewpoints**
- 2. Money**
- 3. Votes**
- 4. Careers**

The Elements of Governance:

1. Viewpoints



Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
Democrat

Top 10 Causes sent ever

- 1) Fast Internet for All (5 voters, 1 supervoter)

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2. Money



Charles E. Schumer

United States Senator, NY, Senior Seat
Democrat

491 days to **next election**

★ Pledge Your Vote **For or Against**

★ Become a **Super Voter**

★ **Pledge Your Money**

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3. Votes



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator, NY, Junior Seat
Democrat

491 days to **next election**

You pledged to vote **For** (cancel)


YES
38,935

The Elements of Governance:

1. Viewpoints



Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
Democrat

Top 10 Causes sent ever

- 1) Fast Internet for All (5 voters, 1 supervoter)

2. Money



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator, NY, Senior Seat
Democrat

491 days to next election

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- ★ Become a Super Voter
- ★ Pledge Your Money

3. Votes



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator, NY, Junior Seat
Democrat

491 days to next election

You pledged to vote For (cancel)



4. Career



Carolyn B. Maloney
United States Representative, NY, District 14
Democrat

491 days to next election

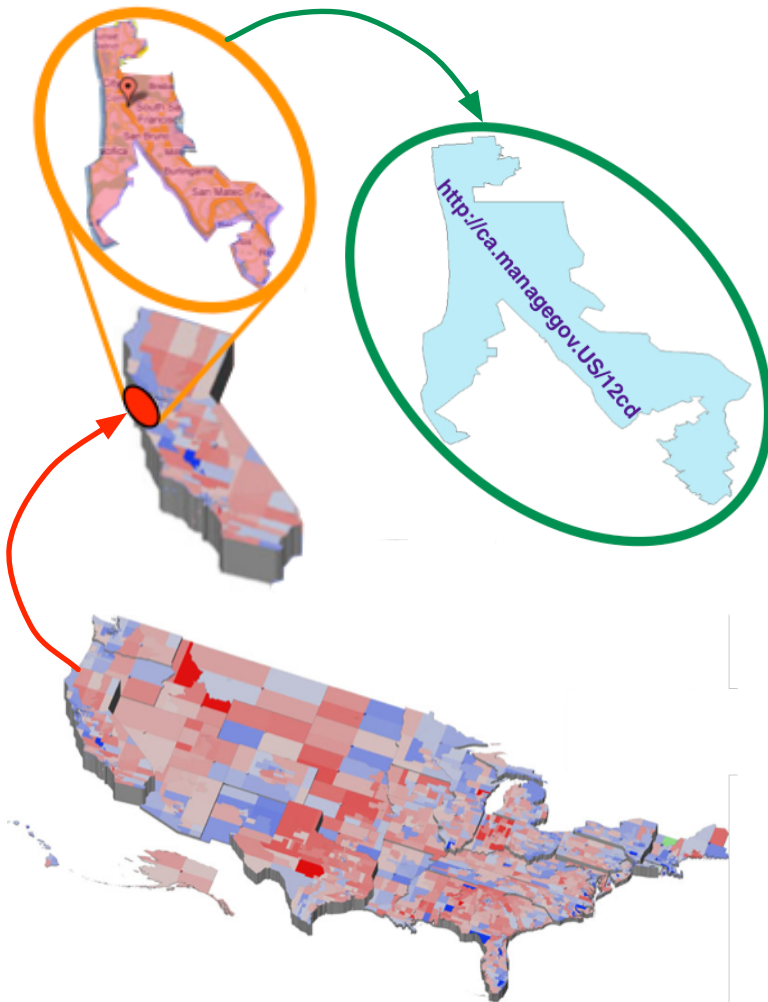
You pledged to vote Against (cancel)



Virtual Jurisdictions

Paper, Feb. 2009

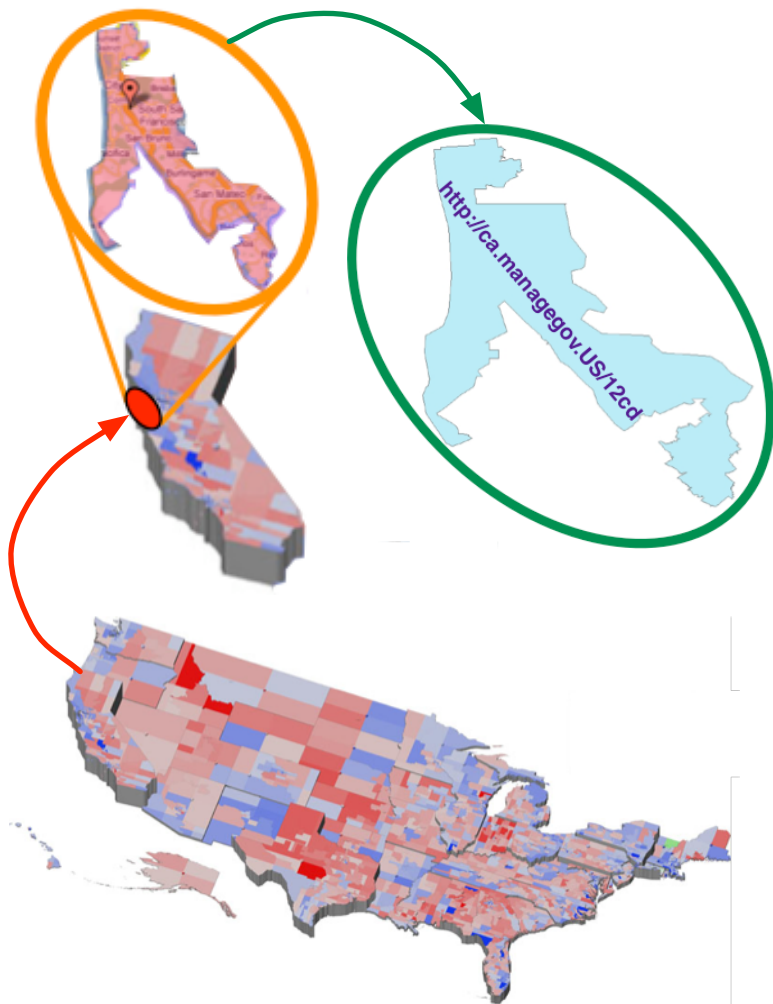
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Virtual Jurisdictions

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iVote4U, FB & .US, June 2009

Contact
Legislative
Money
Campaign

Clout (what is this?)

Bills filed: 4
Bills passed: 2

Earmarks requested: 159
Earmarks received: 140

Senator Webb Introduces Bill to Overh...

Senator Webb Introduces Bill to Overhaul America's Criminal Justice System - March 30, 2009 via Youtube

Committee Assignments

- Senate Committee on Armed Services
- Subcommittee on Airland
- Subcommittee on Personnel
- Subcommittee on Sea Power
- Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
- Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs
- Subcommittee on African Affairs
- Subcommittee on European Affairs
- Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affair
- Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
- Joint Economic Committee

Recent Votes

- **Yea**
On the Concurrent Resolution (S. Con. Res. 13 as Amended) Concurrent Resolution Agreed to 55-43, 1 not voting
- **Nay**
Vitter Amdt. No. 937 Amendment Rejected 18-79, 2 not voting
- **Nay**
Coburn Amdt. No. 828 Amendment Rejected 41-56, 2 not voting
- **Nay**
DeMint Amdt. No. 964 Amendment Rejected 39-58, 2 not voting
- **Nay**
Motion to Waive CBA re: Sessions Amdt. No. 969 Motion Rejected 36-61, 2 not voting (3/5 required)
- **Nay**
Motion To Waive CBA DeMint Amdt. No. 967 Motion Rejected 28-69, 2 not voting (3/5 required)

Recent Bills Sponsored

- S. 572: Perpetual Purple Heart Stamp Act
- S. 714: National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009
- S. 354: Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2009
- S. 491: Federal and Military Retiree Health Care Equity Act
- S. 3039: Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act

Contact
Legislative
Money
Campaign

2003 - 2008 Fundraising Cycle

<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div>	Raised: \$3,838,660
<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; height: 15px; width: 70%;"></div>	Spent: \$2,559,934
<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; height: 15px; width: 20%;"></div>	Cash on hand: \$272,232
<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; height: 15px; width: 15%;"></div>	Debts: \$1,015,031

Top Contributors

1. Daniel Asher - \$4,000
2. David M Knott - \$3,000
3. Robert J. Roriston - \$3,000
4. George R. Sutton - \$3,000
5. J. Ezra Merkin - \$3,000
6. Douglas F. Bennett - \$2,500
7. Matthew R. Filpi - \$2,300
8. Stephen H. Long - \$2,500
9. Tom Maheras - \$2,000
10. Geoffrey O. Coley - \$2,000

Sources of Funding

<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; height: 10px; width: 39%;"></div>	Individual Contributions	\$1,515,893	(39%)
<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; height: 10px; width: 45%;"></div>	PAC Contributions	\$1,722,186	(45%)
<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; height: 10px; width: 0%;"></div>	Candidate self-financing	\$0	(0%)
<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; height: 10px; width: 16%;"></div>	Other	\$600,581	(16%)

Top Industry Contributors

1. Citigroup - \$18,200
2. JP Morgan Chase - \$17,000
3. Headwaters - \$11,750
4. Merit Medical Systems - \$9,500
5. ES Engineering Systems - \$9,000

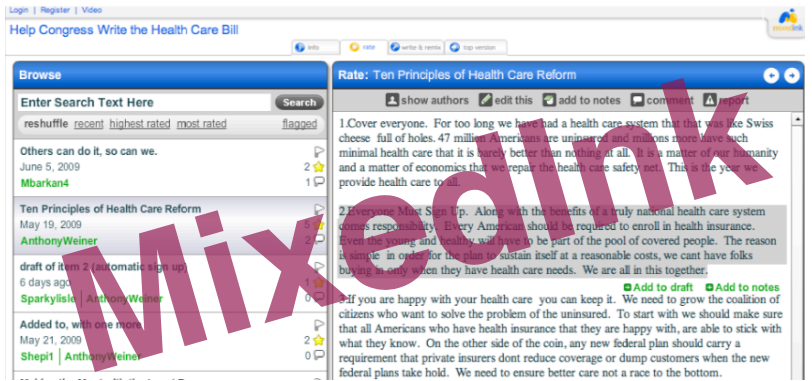
Joining the Congressional Dialogue

Paper, Feb. 2009

iVote4U, FB & .US, June 2009

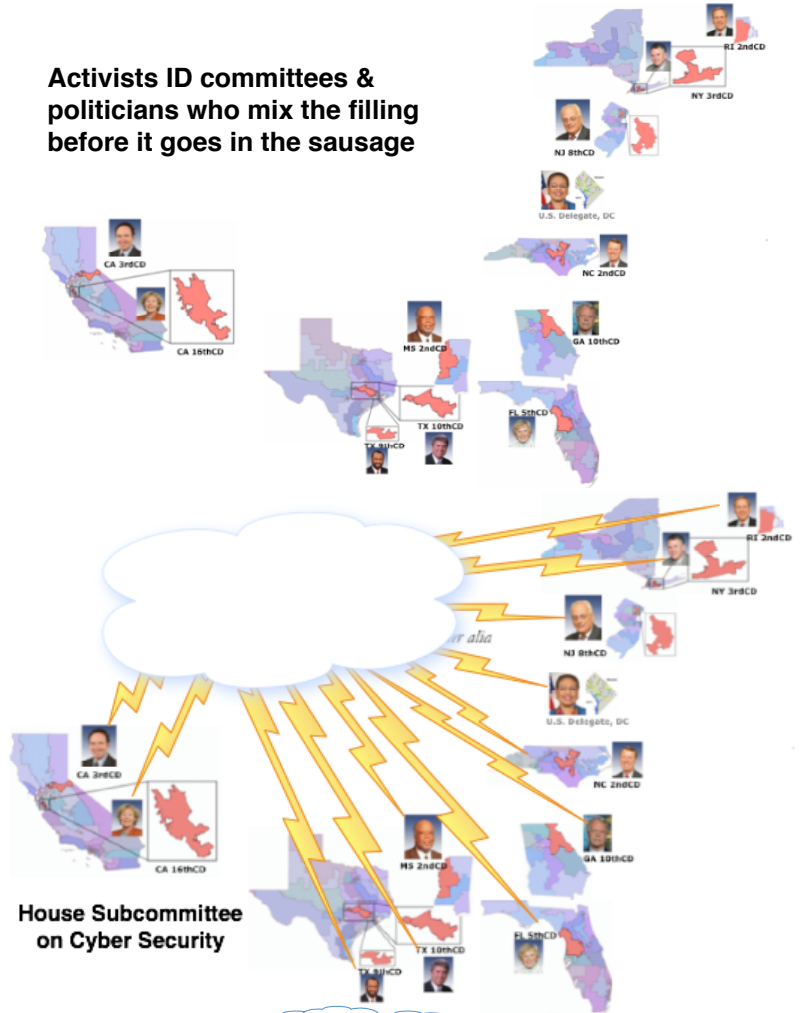
With virtual districts established, a reproducible workflow would become possible. There are four obvious phases:

1. Draft legislation



2. Campaign in the Subcommittees

Activists ID committees & politicians who mix the filling before it goes in the sausage



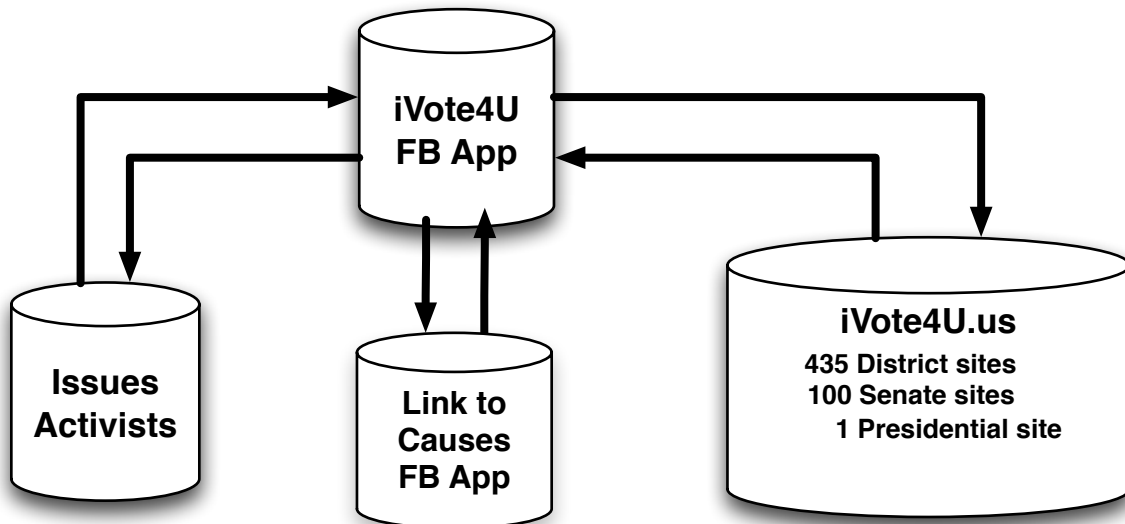
3. Campaign in the Committees



4. Get the vote out in each chamber

Goals:

- 1,000,000 Expert Voters: Rating Pols based on issues
- 500,000 Super Voters: Address-certified Expert Voters



The voter-powered cycle of cloud-based political clout

Publicize the certified voters *pledged* to vote based on **your issue**.

