



Who Has Your Vote?

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for Government

Target audience – Government learners

Time required – 15 minutes

Activity

In the United States, where someone lives will help determine what is important to them and which political parties that they support.

Social Studies Standards

C3:D2.Civ.8.9-12. Evaluate social and political systems in different contexts, times, and places that promote civic virtues and enact democratic principles.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will examine and be able to explain the connection between location and party affiliation.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/govGeoInquiry8>

? Ask

Why might political opinions change based on where someone lives?

- ? Why does location affect people's governmental decisions? *[Different areas of the country have different priorities and values.]*
- Click the link above to launch the map.
- ? Why might different boundaries be important when examining voting trends? *[Different scales are used to examine voting data.]*
- ? Why are congressional districts linked to specific areas? *[Members of Congress will represent interests of people living within their districts.]*

! Acquire

What are voting trends at the national level?

- With the Details button underlined, click the button, Content.
- Turn off all layers.
- Turn on the layer, 2016 General Election.
- ? What do you observe? *[Coastal states mostly voted Democratic & interior states mostly voted Republican.]*
- Examine the popups to see what type of information they have by clicking on the states.
- ? Which state had the strongest Republican support? *[West Virginia]*
- ? Which state had the most Democratic support? *[California]*

🔍 Explore

How does election data differ at the state level?

- Use the search box in the upper-right corner of the map.
- Search for Washington, USA. (See tool tip on page 2.)
- ? Based on the information in the pop-up, is Washington a solid Republican, solid Democrat, or swing state? Explain. *[It is solid Democrat. Reasoning will vary.]*
- Turn off the layer, 2016 General Election Results.
- Turn on the layer, 2016 Washington Election Results (Counties).
- ? How do voting trends for Washington compare to national trends? *[Coastal areas still tend to vote more Democrat, but it is more connected to location of cities.]*

more ►

Analyze

How do large population centers connect to election results?

- Click Bookmarks and choose the bookmark, USA Country View.
- Turn on the two layers, USA Major Cities and 115th Congressional Districts.
- Turn off the layer, 2016 Washington Election Results (counties).
- Examine California, Missouri, New York, Ohio, or Oregon to determine the relationship between the location of cities and of Democratic districts.
- ? What conclusion did you draw? [*Most large cities in those states fall within Democratic districts.*]
- ? Which parts of the country do not have any democratic districts? [*The Great Plains and Mountain West*]

Act

Does the urban-rural divide exist across the country?

- Search for a state of your choice. (Hint: Use the search box in upper-right corner of map.)
- ? Is the state strong Democratic, strong Republican, or a swing state? Explain your reasoning. [*Answers will vary.*]
- Turn on the layer, 2016 Election By County.
- Turn off the two layers, US Major Cities and 115th Congressional Districts.
- ? Does the rural-urban divide exist within the state that you chose, as well? Explain how you determined this information. [*Answers will vary.*]

CREATE A BOOKMARK

- Click Bookmarks and choose Add Bookmark.
- Type the name of your bookmark and press Enter.

SEARCH BY LOCATION

- In the Find Address Or Place (search) field, type a place name or keyword.
- Choose a search result that appears below the field or click the Search button.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- Explore the *The American Voting Population* story map (<http://esriurl.com/Geo413A>).
- Click Modify Map and use the Add button to search ArcGIS Online for voting or political data to answer other questions.

TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *Government Alive! Power, Politics, and You* by Teachers' Curriculum Institute — Chapter 10
- *We the People* by Center for Civic Education — Chapter 34
- *American Government and Politics Today* by Wadsworth Cengage Learning — Chapter 6