

What is Voter Purging?

Voter purging is a process that helps states and counties maintain up-to-date voter rolls and data by canceling registrations for voters who are no longer eligible, including those who have died or moved out of state.

What Is the Problem Voter Purging?

Political parties and partisan groups have used wrongful voter purging to disenfranchise voters and manipulate elections for decades.

States rely on faulty data that purport to show that a voter has moved to another state. Oftentimes, this data gets people mixed up.

Shelby County v. Holder alters which areas fall under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, making it easier for states with a history of voter discrimination to utilize voter purging

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Identifying Purged Voters

In 2021 VPP collected voter registration files from 25 states. States do not provide lists of voters who have been purged from the rolls. VPP compares multiple voter files from each state to identify voters that have disappeared from the lists.

Strategic Partnerships

The Ohio Voter Project

Founded in 2019 by Steve Tingley-Hock, the Ohio Voter Project began when Tingley-Hock discovered 40,000 eligible voters on a list of names that the state planned to purge later that year.

Catalist, LLC - new partnership

Catalist was founded in 2006 by Harold M. Ickes and Laura Quinn with seed money from George Soros. It specializes in microtargeting for Democratic political campaigns



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Ranking of the States

At the end of 2021 VPP produced a state by state comparison using following metrics: Cost, Transparency, Access, and Purge History. Each state was assigned a VPP score. These are the highest and lowest ranked states so far.

Ohio VPP Score: ★★★★★

 7,943,619 total voters
 355,845 voters purged (YTD) **4.48%**
[More Metrics](#)



☆ **VPP Scoring Breakdown**

Cost: 5 stars
Transparency: 3 stars
Access: 5 stars
Purge History: 5 stars

[Compare States](#)

Most recent report: 2022-02-26

Colorado VPP Score: ★★

 4,191,196 total voters
 529,584 voters purged (YTD) **12.64%**
[More Metrics](#)

☆ **VPP Scoring Breakdown**

Cost: 2 stars
Transparency: 1 stars
Access: 4 stars
Purge History: 2 stars

[Compare States](#)

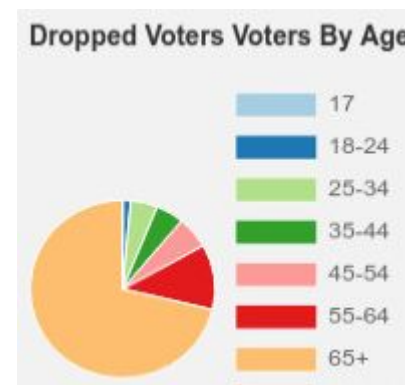
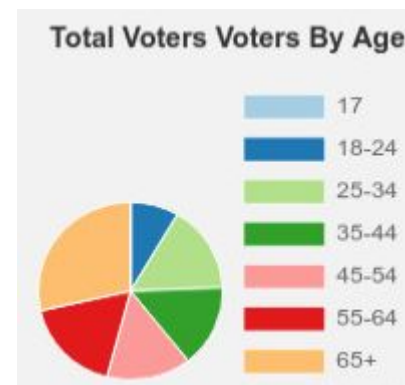
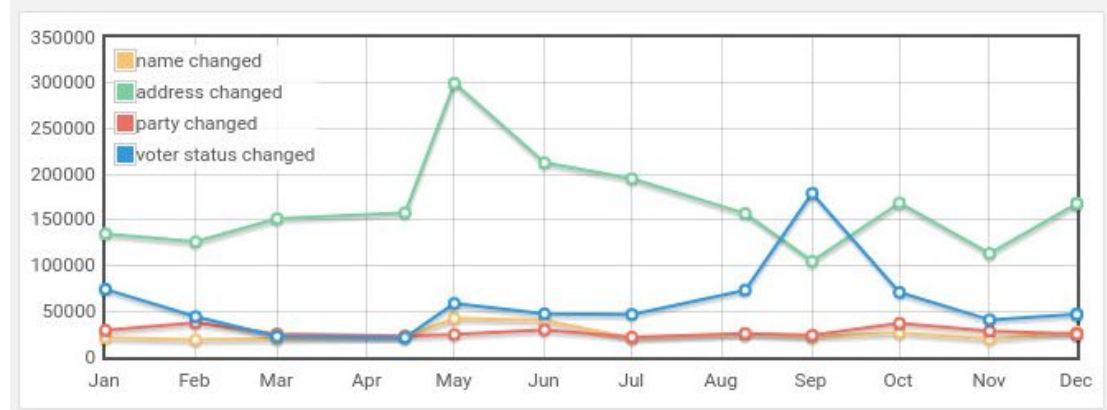
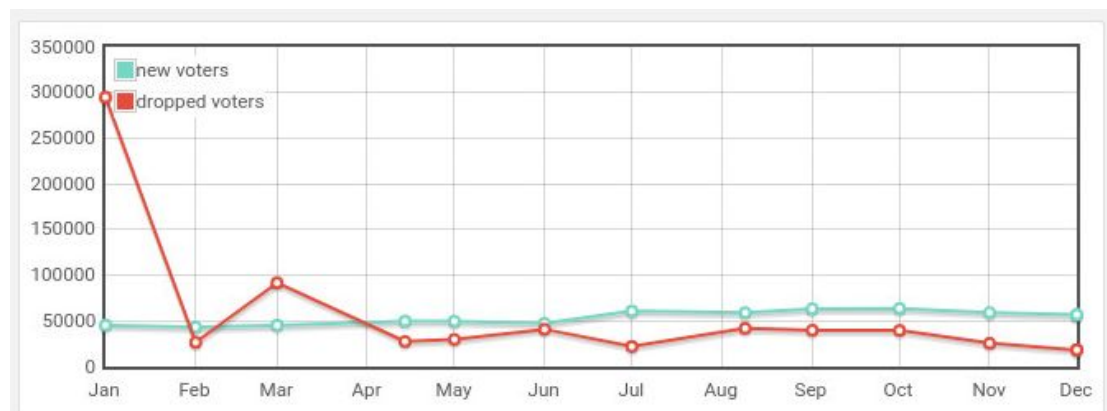
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Visualizing the Data - Charts and Graphs

After analyzing the data from the voter files we add the newest data to each state's dashboard. The dashboards feature charts and graphs such as the examples below.

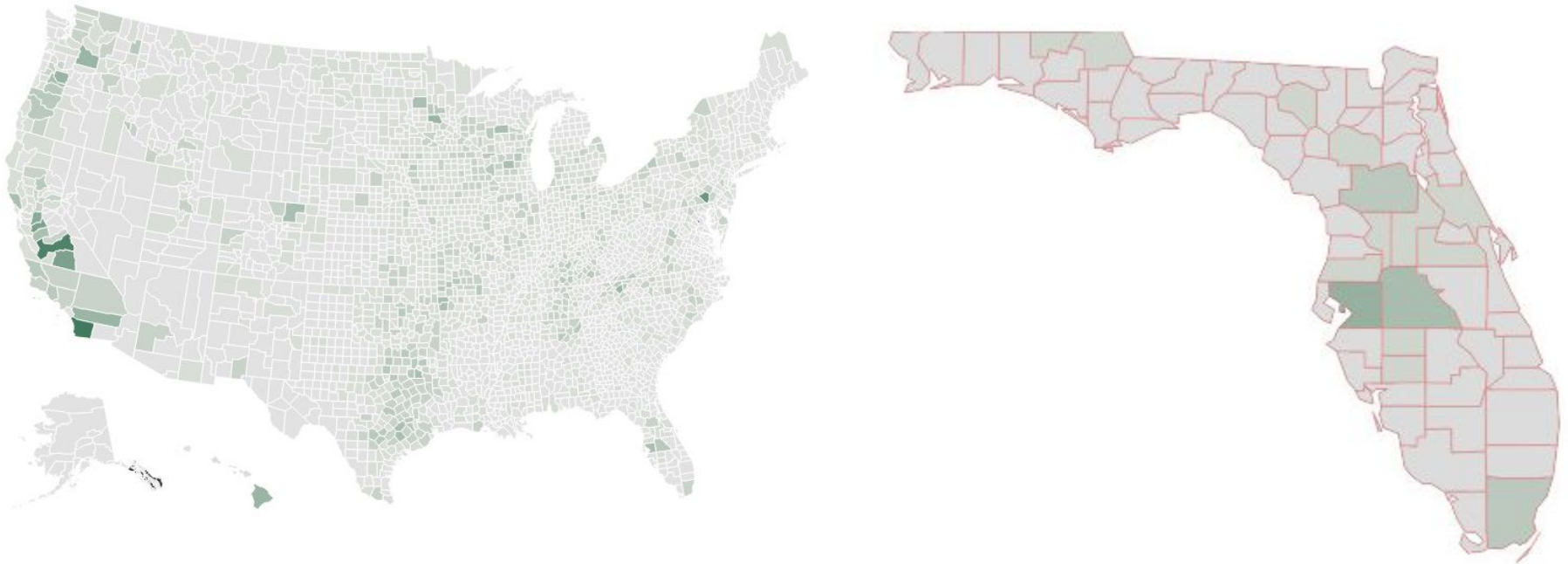


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Visualizing the Data - Mapping

In 2022 VPP is improving its state dashboards to include heat maps. Heat maps provide a visual reference of where voter purging is occurring state by state and county by county.

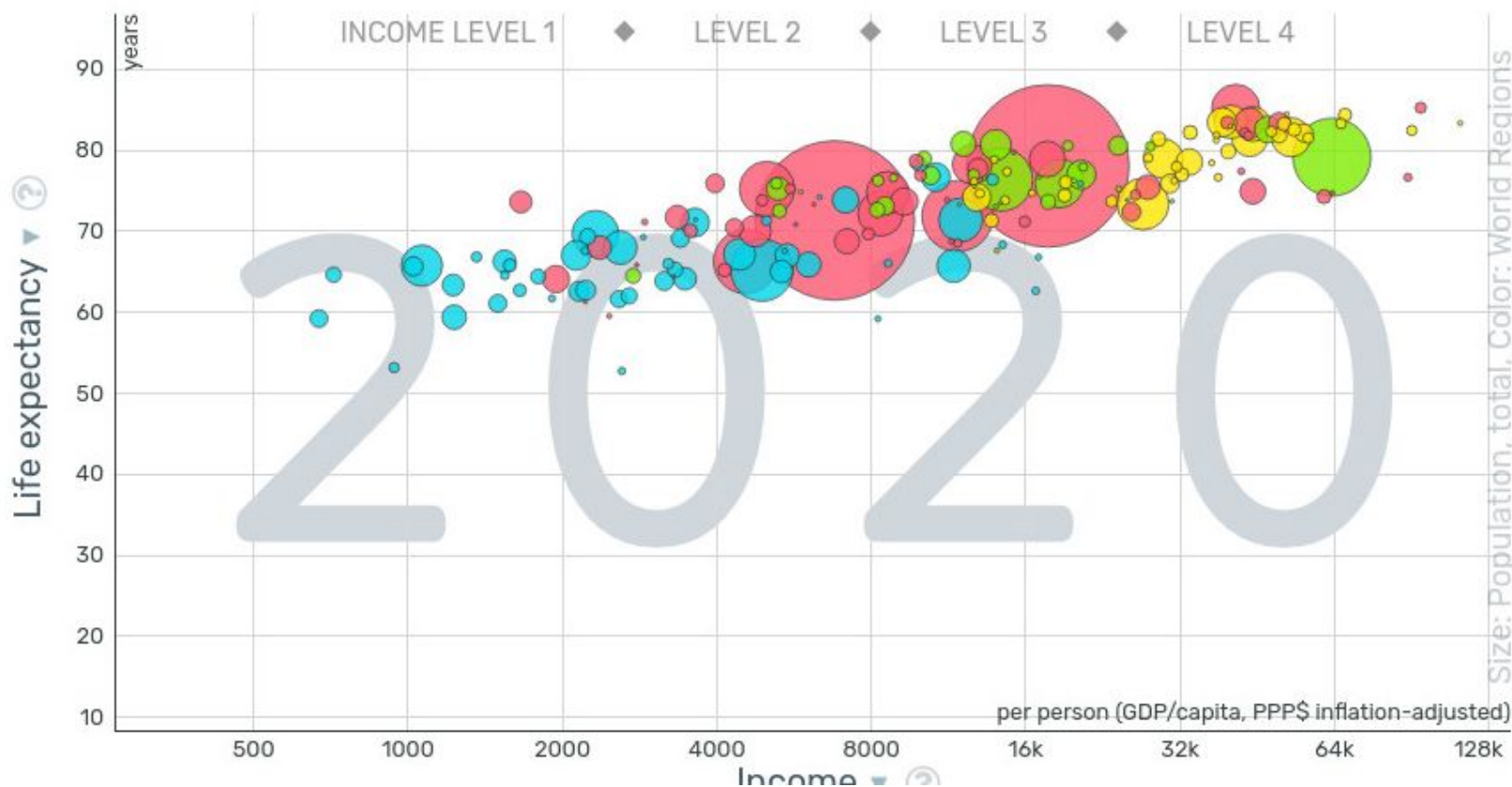


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Peering Further Into the Data

As VPP refines its techniques for managing and comparing data, more outside data sets will be incorporated such as US Census and Postal data. More creative visualizations will be required to express complex relationships.



Using VPP Data for Spin-Off Projects

The data that VPP is collecting can be creatively used in other campaigns and projects. The first potential use of this data outside of VPP will be part of a organizing campaign of users of co-operative power.

Co-op power users own the utility and have voting rights. Identifying these users is not an easy task. Using VPP voter data we can identify households in the operating areas of the utility. It will not provide a 100% representation of the households, but we know that someone who is registered to vote will be more likely to vote in a utility board election or in the decision making process.

We can also identify voter/co-op members based on criteria such as age, gender, race, etc. to find individuals who will be most affected by utility decisions. VPP sees that as huge opportunity to advocate for these members.