**From:** Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com>
**Sent:** 10/19/2016 11:27:20 AM
**To:** Eric Jackson <EJackson@ashevillenc.gov>
**Cc:** Jesse Michel <jesse@prcapps.com>,Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com>
**Subject:** Re: [#55511] Voting Tool (from hackathon)

---

Also, the coding looks off on the bond referendum part, with the Xpress and Asheville Blade learn more sections not separated and the "learn more" links linking to "yes" and "no," when they should probably also link to bond referendum-specific coverage.

Overall tool looks pretty good and quite useful.

Best,

David

On Tue, Oct 18, 2016 at 12:24 PM, Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com> wrote:

> Thanks y'all. I'm going to go ahead and link to the tool in our early voting piece of course, but will note to readers that we've only dealt with some of the races.
>
> Best,
>
> David
>
> On Tue, Oct 18, 2016 at 10:16 AM, Eric Jackson <EJackson@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:
>
>> Looping in Jesse & Patrick.
>>
>> Â
>>
>> Iâ€™m happy to do something like this, but probably canâ€™t get to it before end of the week. Weâ€™d need to add some logic & another column in the spreadsheet that drives candidate/race information. Not hard, but a bit of time for me anyway.
>>
>> Â
>>
>> **From:** Asheville Blade [mailto:ashevilleblade@gmail.com]
>> **Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 10:10 AM
>> **To:** Eric Jackson <EJackson@ashevillenc.gov>
>> **Subject:** RE: [#55511] Voting Tool (from hackathon)
>>
>> Â
>>
>> Hey Eric. The voter tool looks great. But the Blade's only covering local races (commissioner, commish chair and the bond referendum). Any way to just have the "more from the Asheville Blade" for candidates in this races? For the others, a "more from the News and Observer" instead might be good, as they've covered the national and state

races pretty extensively.

Best,

David

On Oct 18, 2016 10:03 AM, "Eric Jackson" <EJackson@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Corinne, hi,

Â

Just wanted to let you know about the final update of the voting tool site. I uploaded the latest voter registration data as of this morning (I assume it wonâ€™t change any more). We also added a couple features:

Â

ℜ•Â Â Â Â Â Â Â There is now a link to the candidateâ€™s campaign website when available

ℜ•Â Â Â Â Â Â Â If the candidate has withdrawn from the race, we now indicate that and remove the selection button (2 candidates)

Â

Are you considering putting this on the Buncombe County elections site (link or iframe)? I plan to do a quick blog post in the next couple days and would love to mention that.

Â

Thanks for all your help, Corinne!

Â

Warm regards,

Â

Eric

Â

**From:** Jesse Michel [mailto:support@prcapps.com]
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2016 3:43 PM
**To:** corinne.duncan@buncombecounty.org
**Cc:** Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com>; Eric Jackson <EJackson@ashevillenc.gov>; Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com>
**Subject:** Re: [#55511] Voting Tool (from hackathon)

Â

Hi Corinne,

I hope you're doing well! I'm sure your team is very busy with the election quickly approaching.Â

Â

I wanted to send along the Voting Tool that we started during the hackathon, and were able to finish this week.Â

Â

You can test out the finished product here:

Â

https://codeforasheville.github.io/tools-for-voting-ballot/

Â

And the Github repository is here:

Â

https://github.com/CodeForAsheville/tools-for-voting-ballot

Â

The application code is public, so anyone is free to contribute features to this product, and if anyone has issues, we're encouraging them to raise them within the Github repo on the issues page, which is here:

Â

https://github.com/CodeForAsheville/tools-for-voting-ballot/issues

Â

A little bit about the project:Â

Â

Eric generously volunteered his time before the hackathon to produce a voting lookup API that takes in a voter name at it's endpoint, and returns a full list of voter information (like district, precinct, age, etc.). He built this API using the complete voter CSV that is available on the BCBOE website. We also set up a spreadsheet on Google sheets that the app references. The spreadsheet contains all of the elections, along with district information that we use to cross-reference with the voter information.

Â

Using Eric's API, we were able to generate a list of elections that the user is eligible for, once they enter their name. Patrick used this API to parse out the relevant voter information to display to the user, including a PDF link to their sample ballot. Patrick's code also shows the user their specific races, based on their district.Â

Â

Once the user enters their name, they are asked to confirm their information (if there are multiple people with the same first and last name, they will select it from a list).Â

Â

Once they do this, they are taken to their ballot page, which contains their relevant elections. They are able to pick their candidates, and upon making a selection, they will be presented with an option to print out their selections at the top of the screen. Upon clicking this print button, the application simply calls a print dialog on the browser, and will format their selections into a succinct one-page table that contains their selections, which they can print off and take with them to the balloting office.

Â

The application is fully responsive and will work on a mobile phone as well (the phone would need to be wirelessly connected to a printer to have that feature).

Â

One of the cool features of this application is that all of the selections are appended as URL parameters, meaning that if you wanted to share your results, you can do so by sharing the link, an example isÂ here.Â

Â

(The URL itself is very long, and in future iterations we may consider ways to shorten it with a unique hash).

Â

If you click that URL, however, you should see some sample selections that I made. Conversely, you can make selections and send me your specific URL, which will bring up the selections you make.Â

Â

I wanted to pass this along and CC David Forbes at the Asheville Blade, in case you might want to spread the word about this tool. I know Jay's team is also sending over their work on the balloting office lookup tool which they'll be using in conjunction with your wait-time updates.Â

Â

Let me know if you find any glaring functional or cosmetic errors, or if there is anything that might be confusing to a user.Â

Â

Overall, I am very pleased with the results our team produced. Typically with these volunteer projects, we are forced to compromise on the functional or aesthetic side in order to get the project done, but in this case, we were able to produce something that very closely resembled the original ideas for this project.Â

Â

Thank you for your participation, and continued time and consideration for our volunteer efforts. We look forward to working with your team more moving forward.

Â

Happy to answer any questions you may have, and discuss any BCBOE & Code for Asheville partnerships in the future.

Â

Jesse Michel

jesse@prcapps.com

PRC Applications

www.prcapps.com

Â

Â

Â

On Fri, 14 Oct at 3:18 PM , Corinne Duncan <Corinne.Duncan@buncombecounty.org> wrote:

–