



Lessons Learned

- Use Open Data to attack specific challenges
- IT departments can lead the way to Open Data
- Success on one application will attract others



Start Small, Think Big

Santa Clarita, California, offers a great example of a recommended way to introduce Open Data – by starting with a bite-sized goal and using the results to clearly demonstrate the benefits of Open Data to other agencies and to your constituents. This is a case study of how an IT department used Open Data to improve internal efficiencies and in doing so, painted a clear picture of how Open Data can improve citizen engagement and city transparency.

“Before Junar, the city used an in-house system to display only overall results for the candidates. Using Junar allowed us to provide much more in-depth information, including candidate breakdown by precinct, by walk-in votes and by mail ballots.”

– Ryan Drake, senior IT analyst, City of Santa Clarita

Ryan Drake, a senior IT analyst with the city, had the idea of opening up real-time election results through an Open Data portal. The straightforward project required buy-in from just one City Hall department and involved only one dataset.

By using Junar’s cloud-based Open Data platform, Drake was able to quickly prove the value of Open Data and develop a plan for releasing more datasets. It all started with Election Central. The goals of the project were twofold:

- To share real-time election results with the public more efficiently
- To provide citizens with more in-depth data on current and previous elections

Local Press, Citizens and Administrators Praise the Results

Santa Clarita's [Election Central](#) website let stakeholders easily view election results updated by live feed as charts, graphs and on a precinct maps. Furthermore, anyone can download the raw data for deeper analysis. The local press and citizens praised the improvements in transparency and timeliness. The city declared both objectives a success.



Based on the success of Election Central, plans for the city's open data site are moving forward. Already, the city has expanded its Open Data portal with datasets on eService requests and city parks. In the near future, Santa Clarita plans to begin posting traffic counts, tree information and financial data.

Election Central

Your home for all City of Santa Clarita election information. A total of 13 candidates vied for three Council Seats. This information below provides the unofficial, non-certified final results of the 2014 City Council Election inclusive of the 1,001 additional ballots which were tabulated on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Again, please note that all results displayed here are **unofficial** until the City Council certifies the election results at their next regular meeting on April 22, 2014.

[Learn more](#)

Current Overall Results

Percentage of votes for all 13 candidates. Results are unofficial. [View/download the complete data set](#)

Total Votes

Totals for all votes counted including vote by mail vs in-person precinct voting. Results are unofficial. [View/download the complete data set](#)

Raw Data

View all the current raw data including individual precinct results for each candidate. Results are unofficial. [View/download the complete data set](#)

2014 Precinct Results	
Individual breakdown of results for each precinct	
Total Votes	Vote By Mail
50000	20000
Totals	
Candidates	
Alan Ferber	4833
Olivia Hernandez-Fudine	4833
Manita McLean	6577
Dante Acosta	4637
Laurenne Wade	6210
Paul J. Wilcox	1050
Dennis Hugh Carr	487
Muhammad H. Chowdhury	1200
Stephen Daniels	1141
Maria Ouellet	4872
Beth Hernandez-Hager	828
Diana R. Harte	4600
Sandra L. Bull	1310

“It’s a huge leap forward in delivering live election results, sliced in every which way imaginable, complete with a raw data stream. Right after results are announced, we’ll be able to view the results by precinct just by clicking on a map.”

– Mike Devlin, blogger, [SantaClarita.com](#)



A global company with offices in Dallas, Silicon Valley and Latin America, Junar provides a cloud-based Open Data platform that enables innovative organizations worldwide to quickly, easily and affordably make their data accessible to all. Using the Junar platform, initial datasets can be published in a few weeks, providing greater transparency, driving collaboration and citizen engagement and freeing up precious staff resources. For more information, go to www.junar.com