Junar Powers Election Central in Santa Clarita, California





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

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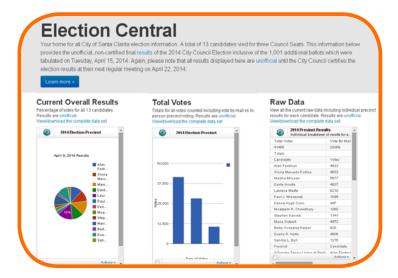
Local Press, Citizens and Administrators Praise the Results

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.



"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

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