

# The iVote4U Federation: a free public utility for American voters

iVote4U comprises a Facebook application\* and a network of virtual political jurisdictions, the most comprehensive being 435 virtual congressional districts, mapped to each of the federal congressional districts.

In this example: California's 12<sup>th</sup> congressional district takes the form <http://ca.ivote4u.us/12cd>. As voters in a virtual district find a place where grievances and agendas can be "pushed" to politicians and staffs, we can expect participation to grow, since social networks grow when they have something to do.



\*[http://apps.facebook.com/ivote4u/main/voter\\_card](http://apps.facebook.com/ivote4u/main/voter_card)

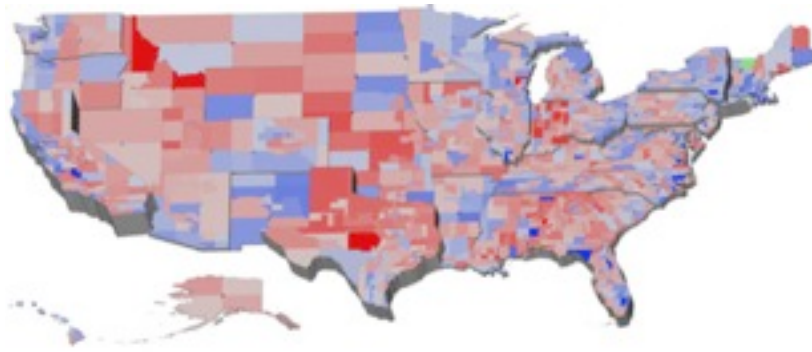
## The iVote4U Facebook App: turning stealth voters into Super Voters

The iVote4U app on Facebook offers voters an engaging, iTunes-like dashboard to manage their collection of politicians as easily as they manage their collection of music.

iVote4U equips members to associate real-world political consequences with the causes and issues they care about. iVote4U members express their regard for their politicians continuously, between elections:

- Signal support or disdain with **Yes-No clicks**
- **Signal their mood** with seven emoticons.  
*Wow! | Good | OK | ??? | frown | Cry | Angry!*
- **Pledge their votes** for or against a politician  
*A calendar appointment with a ballot box.*
- Create **Vote Bombs**:  
*"Let's Pledge 250 new votes by Monday."*
- **Invite friends** to manage their own politicians.
- **Send Causes** to their politicians.  
From the popular *Facebook Causes* application  
*25 million members and growing.*
- **Pledge money** to politicians.  
*Based on actions in committee or on the floor.*
- **Certify as constituents** so politicians *listen*  
*Via Google and Sunlight Foundation APIs.*

## The iVote4U Network of Political Networks



**A network of 435 virtual congressional districts, 50 states and 100 Senate seats**

The iVote4U Facebook app helps voters realize they can influence two senators and a congressperson. Introduced to those jurisdictions, Voters can literally join those jurisdictions and start to influence policy, directly and continuously, *between* elections.

This membership in a virtual district or state, with direct and continuous guidance of politicians is unprecedented but is a logical next step following the equally unprecedented designation of voters as proactive members of the Dean and Obama campaigns. It's unexpected but not surprising that governance should be modeled on campaigns, since everything that happens in government is the result of a campaign, large or small, most of them conducted out of public view. iVote4U equips voters to start and conduct their own campaigns, supporting their own agendas.

These members are uniquely qualified to influence their politicians because they are certified as Super Voters. Through a combination of Google and Sunlight Foundation APIs, the billing address of a Super Voter is unequivocally located in its home district and state, elevating the voter from an irrelevant complaint in an email to a constituent in an auditable voting bloc sizable and visible enough to matter to politicians and staffs. These blocs are sophisticated enough to vote in primary elections, where political careers start and where they go to die.

The iVote4U federation can be the best place to start a political career, to "buy" votes through the simple act of collaborating, and where old-school politicians founder and die.

On July 17, 2009, Acquia Inc. committed to host and support the iVote4U federation on a best-of-breed Drupal platform. Imagine that Linus Torvalds had co-founded Red Hat: that's Acquia for the Drupal community, managing an open source distribution qualified as a benchmark of the most useful and reliable Drupal modules. Acquia is beginning to build communities for the federal government – public-private partnerships in the truest sense – and they see the iVote4U federation as the hope of a 21<sup>st</sup> century democracy.