

USAboundaries: Historical and Contemporary Boundaries of the United States of America

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Software

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The USAboundaries package for R provides contemporary and historical boundaries of the United States of America (Mullen and Bratt 2017). (The package is available on [GitHub](#) and archived on [Zenodo](#).) Historical data in the package includes state and county boundaries from 1629 to 2000 from the Newberry Library’s “Atlas of Historical County Boundaries” (Long 2010). Also included is historical city population data from Erik Steiner’s “United States Historical City Populations, 1790-2010” (Steiner 2016). Contemporary data in the package includes state, county, and Congressional district boundaries, as well as Zip Code Tabulation Area centroids. These data are all drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau (U.S. Census Bureau 2017).

These historical and contemporary boundaries are provided at different resolutions suitable for national and state-level mapping. A consistent interface provides a way to easily select historical boundaries for any specific date. The package includes helper functions and datasets, including tables of state names, abbreviations and FIPS codes for joining to attribute data, as well as functions and data to get State Plane Coordinate System projections as EPSG codes or PROJ.4 strings (Stem 1989). A first step in many spatial analyses is joining data of interest to spatial data, which the datasets in this package enable.

This package underlies the *Mapping Early American Elections* project created by a team at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media (Mapping Early American Elections project team 2016–2019). That project maps Congressional elections and state legislative elections from 1787 to 1825. The USAboundaries package provides access to the frequently changing state and county boundaries during that time period.

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References

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The history of the United States is what happened in the past in the United States, a country in North America. Native Americans lived in the Americas for thousands of years. English people in 1607 went to the place now called Jamestown, Virginia. Other European settlers went to the colonies, mostly from England and later Great Britain. France, Spain, and the Netherlands also colonized North America. In 1775, a war between the thirteen colonies and Britain began when the colonists were upset over... United States of America. Culture Name. American. Orientation. Identification. The name "America" is often used to refer to the United States, but until the political formation of the United States after the Revolutionary War, this designation referred to South America only. Contemporary use of the term to refer to the United States underlines that country's political and economic dominance in the western hemisphere. Such use of this designation is impolitic from the perspective of Canadians and Latin Americans. The United States has an Anglo majority that is politically and economically dominant. One of the defining characteristics of the country as a nation is its legacy of slavery and the persistence of economic and social inequalities based on race. USAboundaries: Historical and Contemporary Boundaries of the United States of America. Description. This package provides contemporary (2014) boundaries for states, counties, zip code tabulation areas, and congressional districts in the United States of America. This data is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. Details. This package also provides spatial objects with historical boundaries of states or counties in the United States of America from 1629 to 2000. It provides data from the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries. Mullen et al., (2018). USAboundaries: Historical and Contemporary Boundaries of the United States of America. Journal of Open Source Software, 3(23), 314, <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.00314>. @article{Mullen2018, doi = {10.21105/joss.00314}, url = {https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.00314}, year = {2018}, publisher = {The Open Journal}, volume = {3}, number = {23}, pages = {314}, author = {Lincoln A. Mullen and Jordan Bratt}, title = {USAboundaries: Historical and Contemporary Boundaries of the United States of America. }, journal = {Journal of Open Source Software} }. Copy citation string Â Copy BibTeX. Tags.