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

Lincoln A. Mullen\textsuperscript{1} and Jordan Bratt\textsuperscript{1}

1 Department of History and Art History, George Mason University

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


Why England failed to take the initiative in the colonization of the American continent? What factors were responsible for the British interest in establishing their colonies in the areas that are now part of the United States of America? (CSS 2009).

Exploration of America. Europe towards Exploration of the New Land Until the 15th century nobody knew that there was a continent across the Atlantic. Historical and Contemporary Boundaries of the United States of America - 0.3.1 - an R package on CRAN - Libraries.io. USAboundaries. Overview. This R package includes contemporary state, county, and Congressional district boundaries, as well as zip code tabulation area centroids. It also includes historical boundaries from 1629 to 2000 for states and counties from the Newberry Library's Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, as well as historical city population data from Erik Steiner's United States Historical City Populations, 1790-2010. The package has some helper data, including a table of state names, abbreviations, and FIPS codes, and functions and data to get State Plane Coordinate System projections as EPSG codes or PROJ.4 strings. 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. The United States of America was created on July 4, 1776, with the Declaration of Independence of thirteen British colonies in North America. In the Lee Resolution of July 2, 1776, the colonies resolved that they were free and independent states. The union was formalized in the Articles of Confederation, which came into force on March 1, 1781, after being ratified by all 13 states. Their independence was recognized by Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris of 1783, which concluded the American Revolution. The boundaries for geographical units in the United States of America contained in this package include state, county, congressional district, and zip code tabulation area. Contemporary boundaries are provided by the U.S. Census Bureau (public domain). Historical boundaries for the years from 1629 to 2000 are provided from the Newberry Library's 'Atlas of Historical County Boundaries' (licensed CC BY-NC-SA). Additional data is provided in the 'USAboundariesData' package; this package provides an interface to access that data.