

# David H. Montgomery

Journalist, coder, designer & cartographer passionate about explaining the world

## Experience

### Data journalist, *CityLab* (2018-present)

- Devised the Congressional Density Index, a novel way to categorize all 435 congressional districts by the density of their neighborhoods, cited by *The Washington Post*, *FiveThirtyEight*, *Wall Street Journal* & others
- Mapped and charted data on request for entire *CityLab* staff

### Freelance journalist (2014-present)

- Worked for clients including *HuffPost*, *Politico Magazine*, *MPR News* & *APM Reports*
- Funded election map project by running Kickstarter campaign
- Analyzed & visualized data for 160,000-data point survey
- Created ggplot themes to instantly apply company style to charts

### Political reporter, *St. Paul Pioneer Press* (2014-2017)

- Focused on explaining instead of incremental coverage
- Produced hundreds of maps, charts & interactive graphics
- Used deep datasets, such as records of 224,915 speeding tickets
- Found trends in innovative data, such as 31,000 roll call votes
- Demystified complex topics, including through a seven-article series about a key health insurance proposal
- Programmed election-night Twitter-bot to automatically create & publish maps of results

### Political reporter, *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* (2012-2014)

- Led multimedia coverage of state & federal politics for largest newspaper in South Dakota

### Political reporter, *Rapid City Journal* (2010-2012)

### Reporter, *Pierre Capital Journal* (2008-2010)

## Awards

### *The Washington Post's best state-based political coverage:*

Best political reporter (2013), political blogger (2013) & political tweeter (2011) in South Dakota

*Second Place, Best News Series, 2013 South Dakota Newspaper Association (SDNA) Awards*

*Finalist, General News Reporting, 2014 Great Plains Journalism Awards*

*First Place, Best News Series, 2009 SDNA Awards;*

*First Place, Best News Series, 2008 SDNA Awards*

## Skills

### Journalism

- Swift, clean writing in AP Style
- Mastery of politics, policy & government
- Data analysis through code & Excel
- Shooting & editing photo & video
- Distinctive & informative use of Twitter

### Code

- Expert: R, ggplot and Shiny for analysis, visualization & interactives.
- Intermediate: CSS, MySQL, Javascript/D3
- Basic: Python, Bash

### Design

- Expert: Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign; ggplot
- Intermediate: WordPress & Jekyll website design & management; Tableau

### Cartography

- Expert: QGIS, mapping in R
- Intermediate: Leaflet, Carto, and Fusion Tables

## Appearances

- BBC News, MSNBC, CBS News, C-SPAN Radio, MPR News, SDPB, The Gist, TPT

## Education

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science  
*Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA, May 2008*

## Contact

Website: dhmontgomery.com

Email: dhmontgomery@gmail.com

Twitter: @dhmontgomery

Phone: 605.223.1233