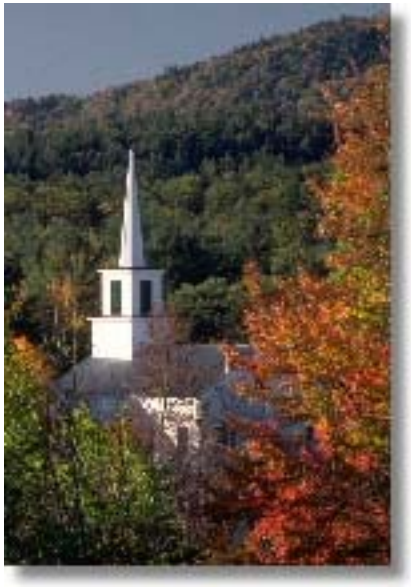
MIT ECAP

e-commerce and architecture project

http://ecitizen.mit.edu



Digital and Physical Place, Process and Presence

Introduction

In this seminar, students will design a digital environment to house and facilitate participatory democracy. To ground the design, Massachusetts's local form of government, known as "Open Town Meeting" (OTM), will be modeled as an example. OTM requires all interested townspeople to get together once a year and determine basic issues like the tax rate, zoning/development questions or allowing sex education in schools. The thesis of this seminar is that this very old form of direct democracy can be facilitated and made more broadly accessible by allowing remote users to participate in the decision rooms and by unleashing the right technology in and around those physical rooms.

This rough design slide presentation sketches a possible interface, flow and function set for the remote users.

INTRODUCTION/LOG-IN
Provide information on purpose of site; allow user to access site as guest. Allow them to register (linking to registration information. Log-In.

REGISTRATION
Fill in preferences for use of site; provide profile information and filtering criteria, etc.

HELP
Can post inquiries. Also provides information on any function of the site.

TERMS OF USE
Rules and regulation son use of site and proper user conduct.

ARCHIVE
Storage Area of all recorded information: post, debate, vote results and appeals.

QUERY
Search the entire site (including archives) according to certain search criteria. *Anonymity function allowed.*
GU/GV

APPEALS
This are will provide information for any overturned decisions and provide the related legal notes.
GV

yourPORTAL
Portal which can include: Links to local news, collaborative and/or personal filtering, contact list, a biography (optional), interests, privacy controls (log in with alias, full name or anonymously) and other customization features.

MEMBER PROFILES
Can access the member profiles from a query or by linking from a post or debate entry. NOT accessible via anonymous link from post.
GVL

Accessibility to Guests

GU=Guest Usable
GV=Guest Viewable
GVL=Guest View Limited

LOGO

E·T

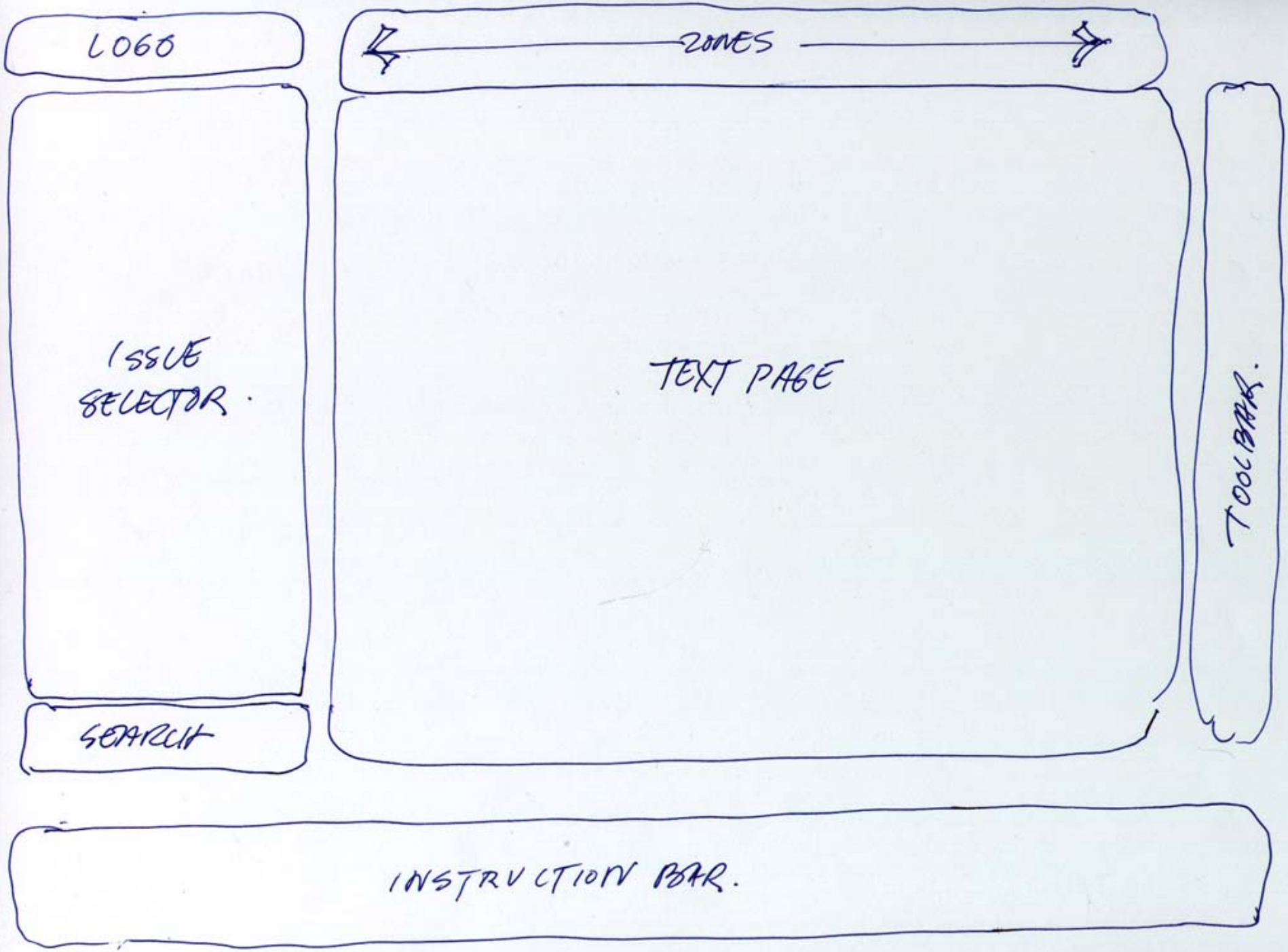
USERNAME : [ ] GO

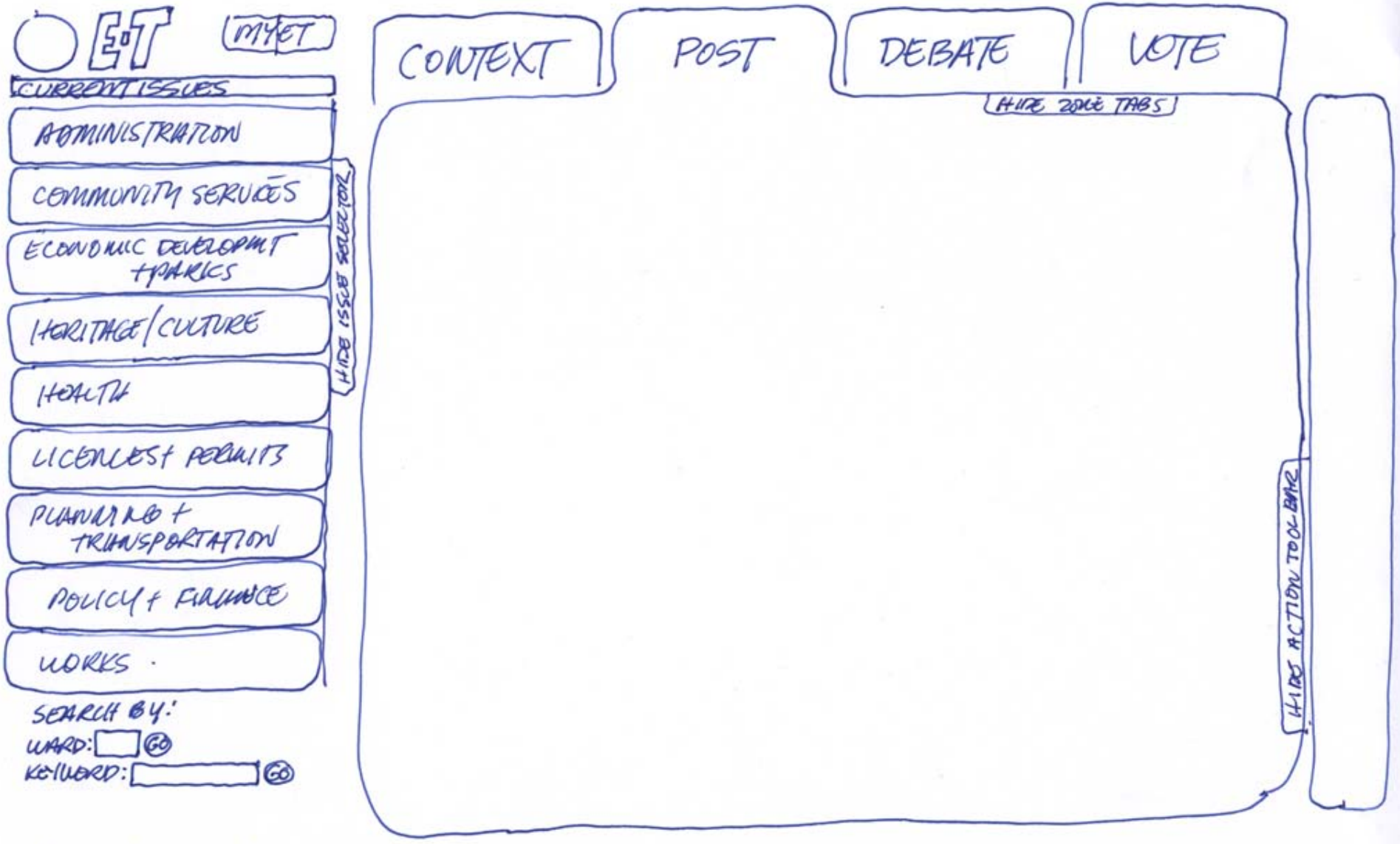
PASSWORD : [ ]

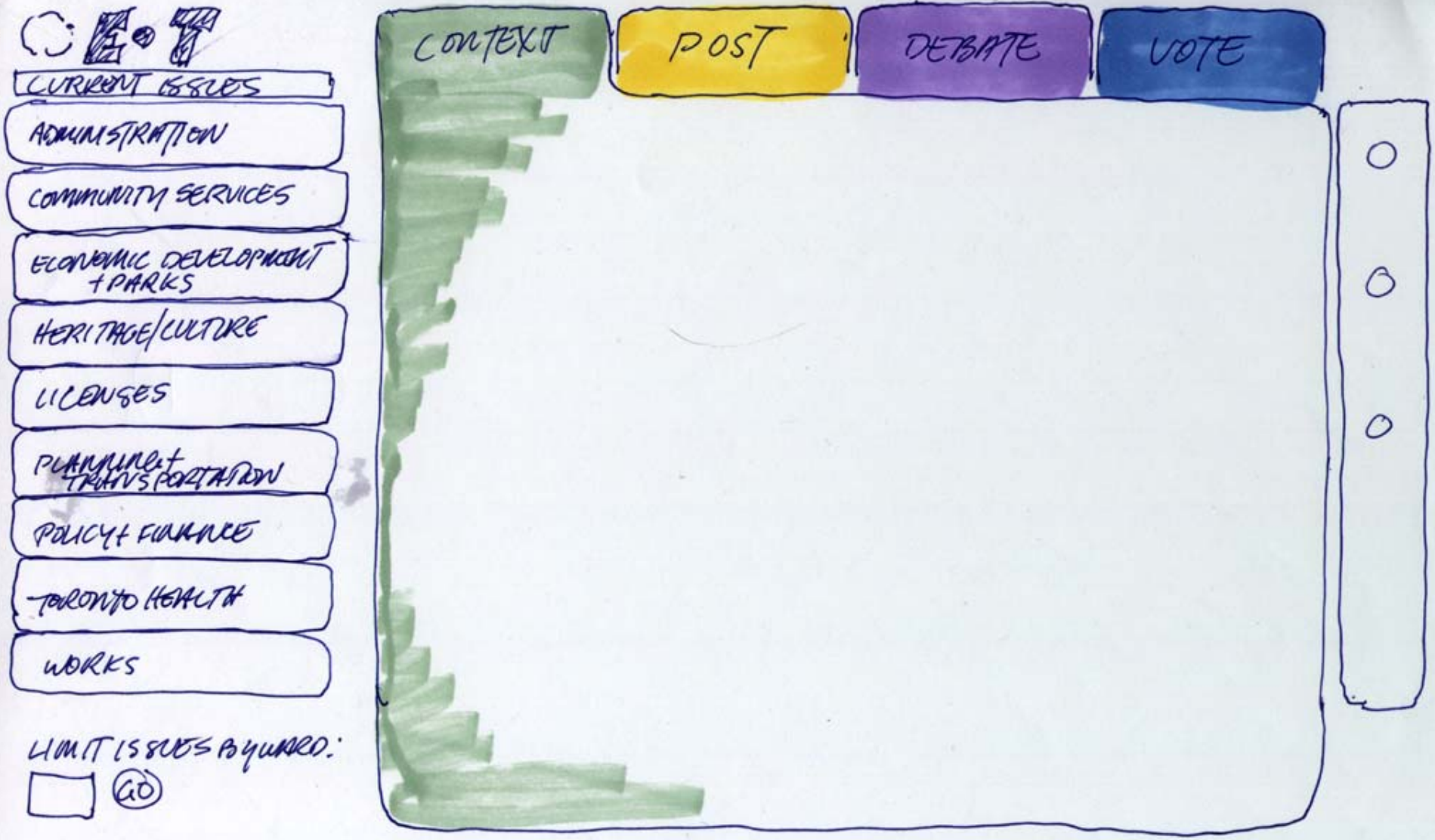
NOT REGISTERED? REGISTER NOW.

LANGUAGE PREFERENCE

CONTACT US · HOW IT WORKS ·


LOGO
ZONES
ISSUE SELECTOR.
TEXT PAGE
TOOLBAR.
SEARCH
INSTRUCTION BAR.


E-T
MYET
CONTEXT
POST
DEBATE
VOTE
HIDE ZONE TABS
CURRENT ISSUES
ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNITY SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOPICS
HERITAGE/CULTURE
HEALTH
LICENCES+ PERMITS
PLANNING + TRANSPORTATION
POLICY + FINANCE
WORKS
HIDE ISSUES SELECTION
SEARCH BY:
WARD: GO
KEYWORD: GO
HIDE ACTION TOOLBAR
HOW IT WORKS:
HIDE INSTRUCTIONS
STEP. 1 FIND AN ISSUE
STEP. 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE
STEP. 3 POST NEW ISSUE
STEP. 4 DEBATE AN ISSUE
STEP. 5 VOTE ON ISSUE
CONTACT US · HELP ·


CONTEXT
POST
DEBATE
VOTE
CURRENT ISSUES
ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNITY SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + PARKS
HERITAGE/CULTURE
LICENSES
PLANNING + TRANSPORTATION
POLICY + FINANCE
TORONTO HEALTH
WORKS
LIMIT ISSUES BY WARD:
GO
HOW IT WORKS:
STEP 1 FIND AN ISSUE
STEP 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE
STEP 3 DEBATE ISSUE
STEP 4 POST NEW ISSUE
STEP 5 VOTE ON ISSUE

CURRENT ISSUES

PLANNING + TRANSPORTATION

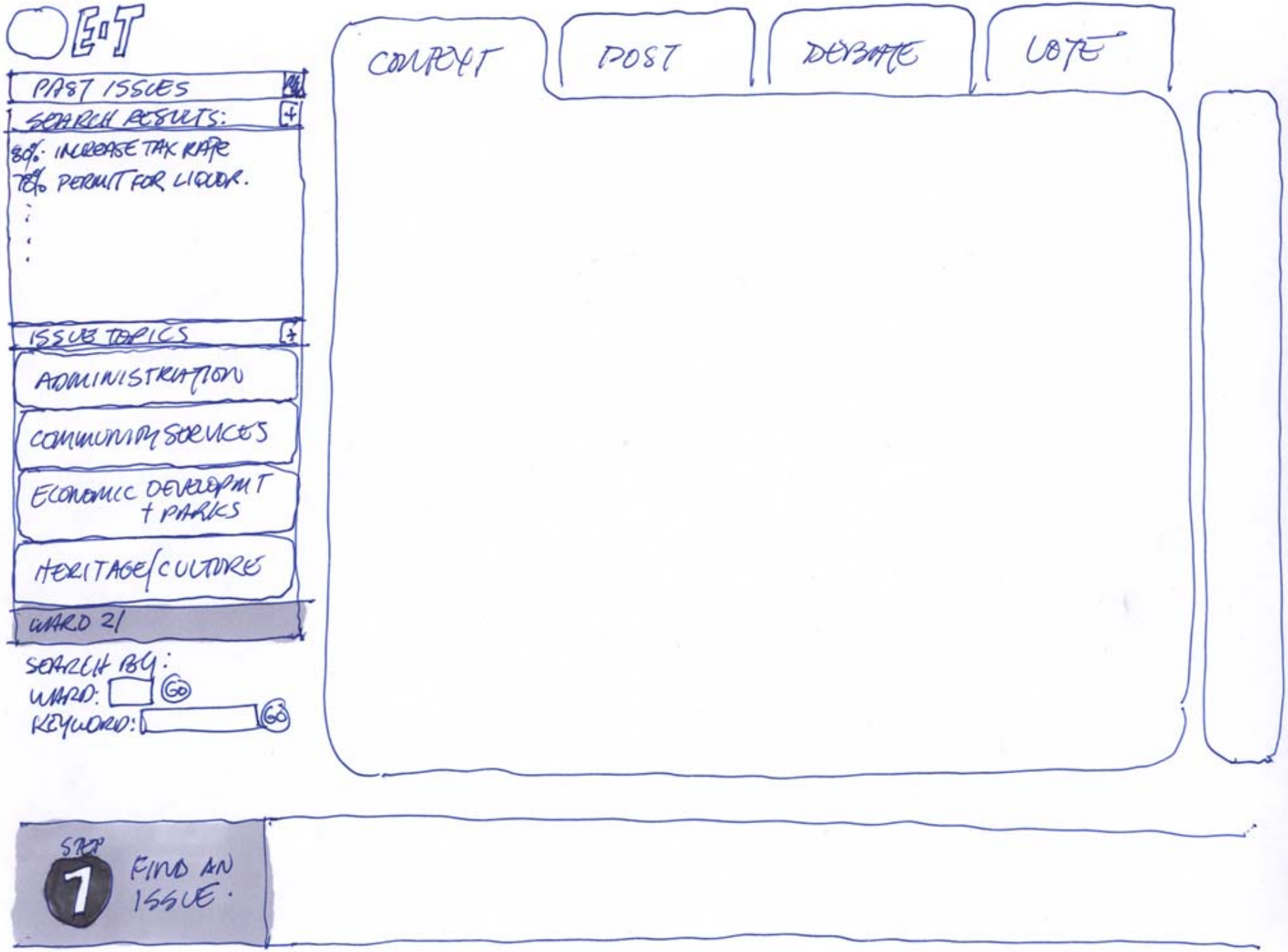
- HIGHWAYS
- TTC
- MARINE
- AIR
- RAIL
- LAND USE
- ENVIRONMENTAL

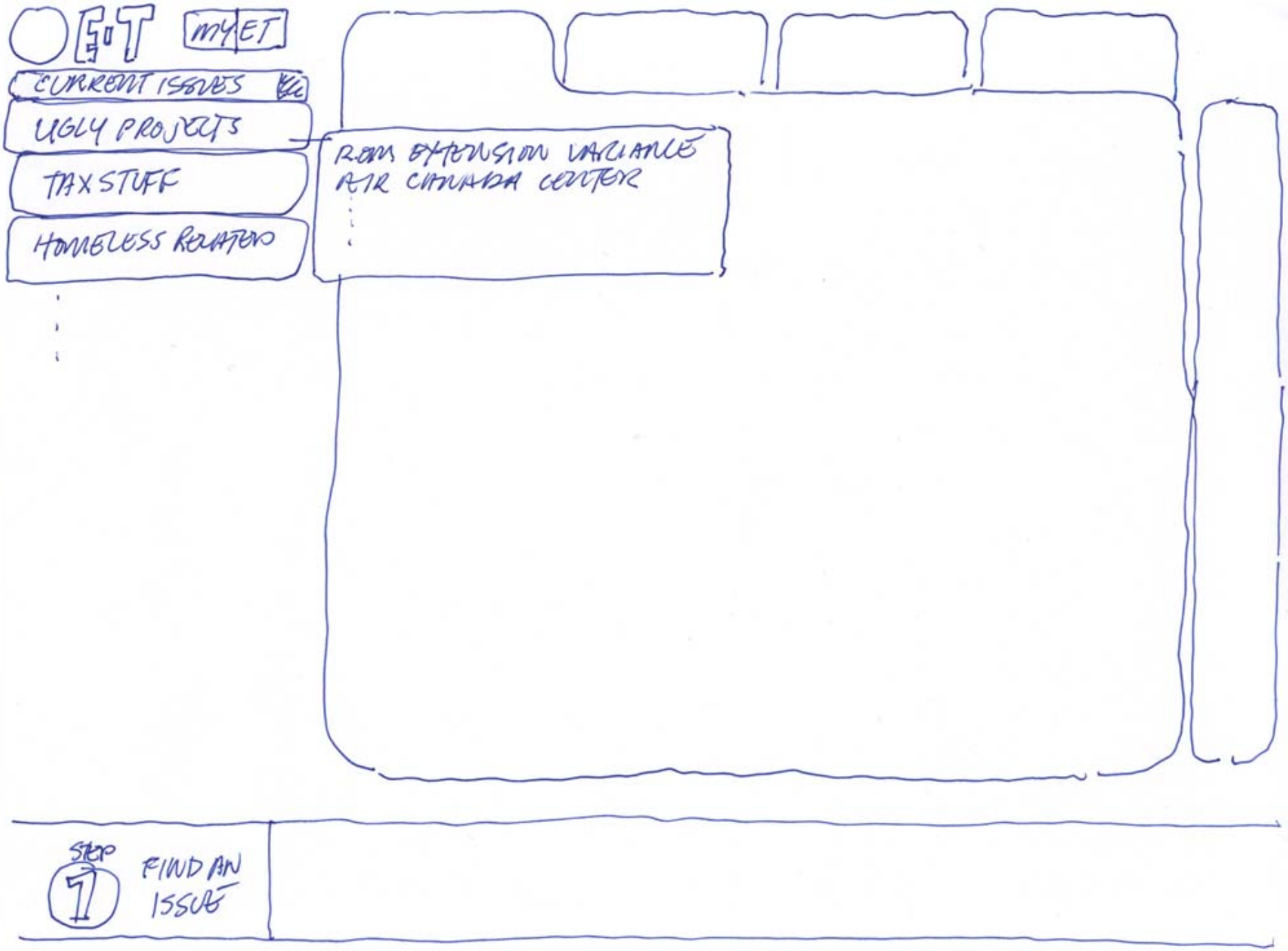
- KING/SPADINA PROPOSAL
- ZONING VARIANCE AT 1108 YONGE ST.
- DENSITY INCREASE ALONG AIRPORT LINE
- VARIANCE FOR R.O.M. EXTENSION
- VARIANCE FOR A.G.O. EXTENSION

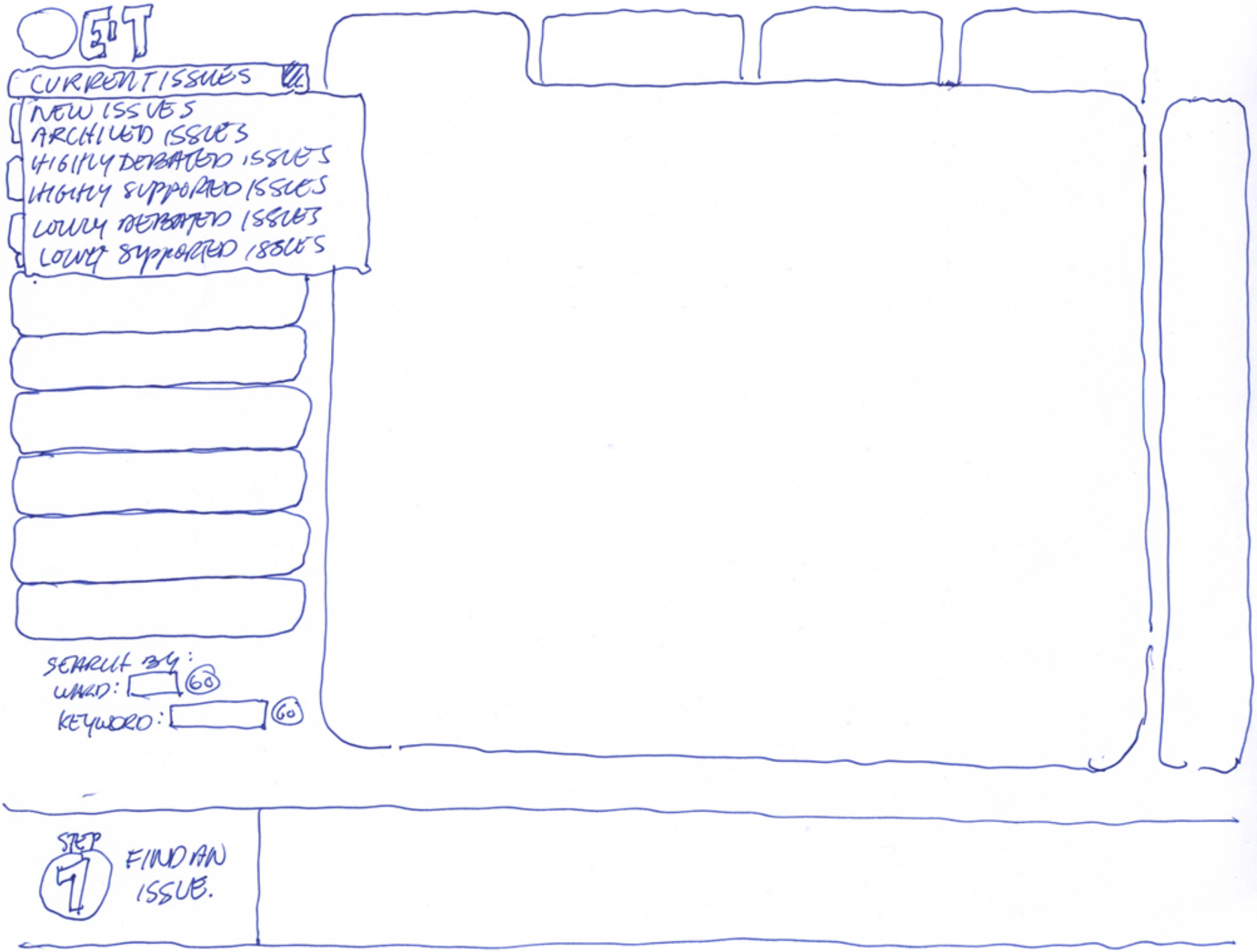
LIMIT ISSUES BY WARD.

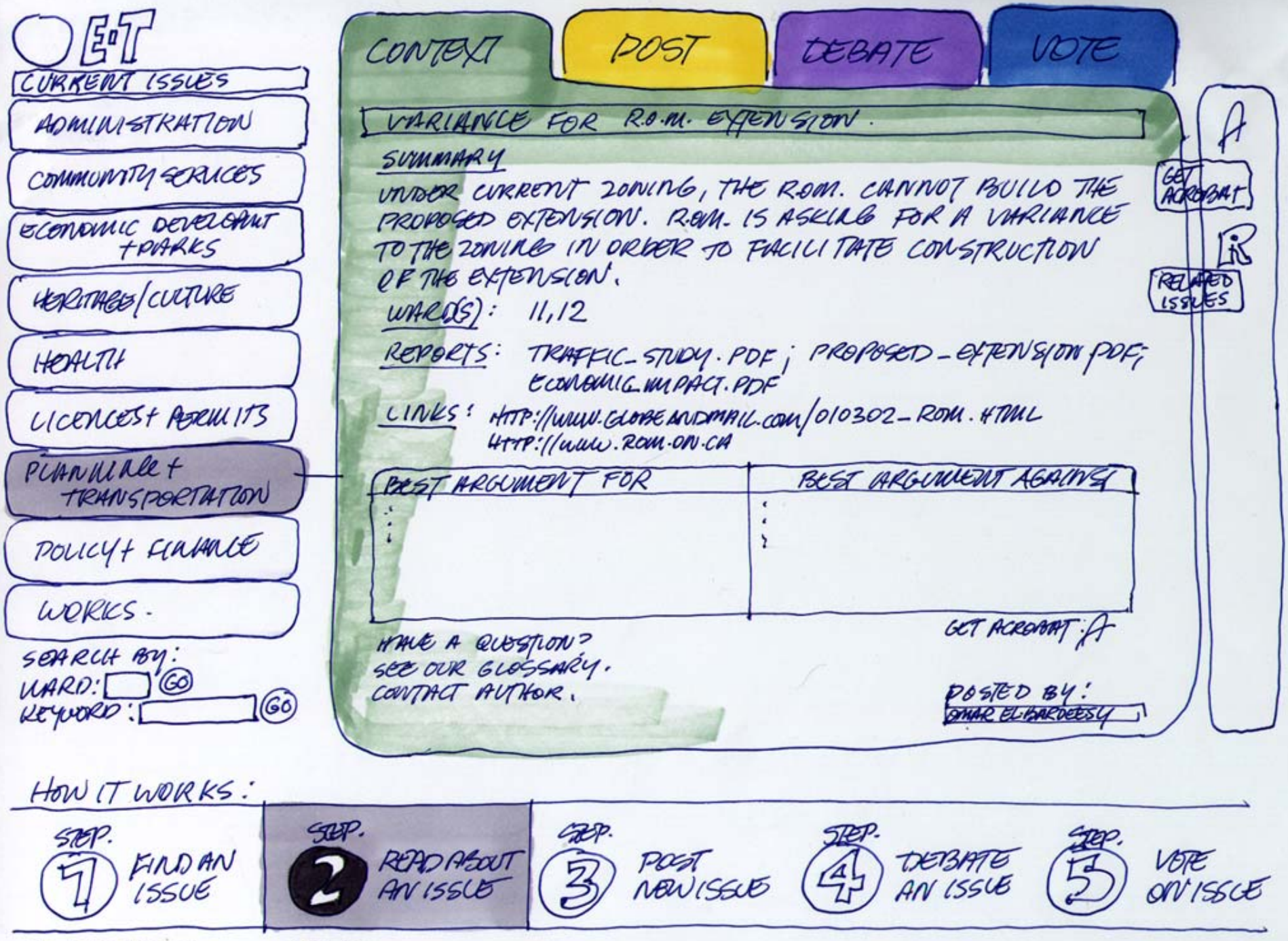
HOW IT WORKS:

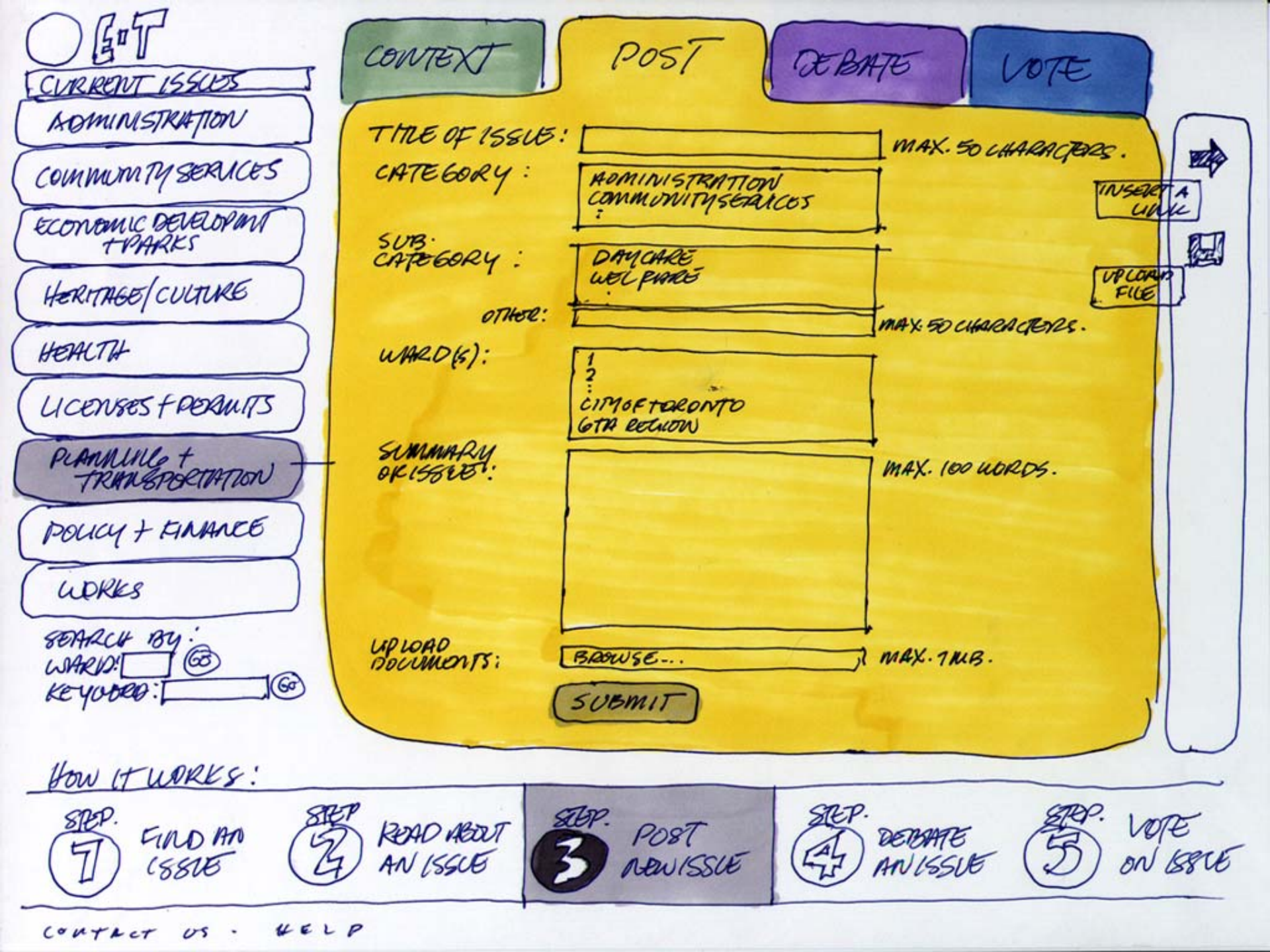
STEP 1 FIND AN ISSUE.

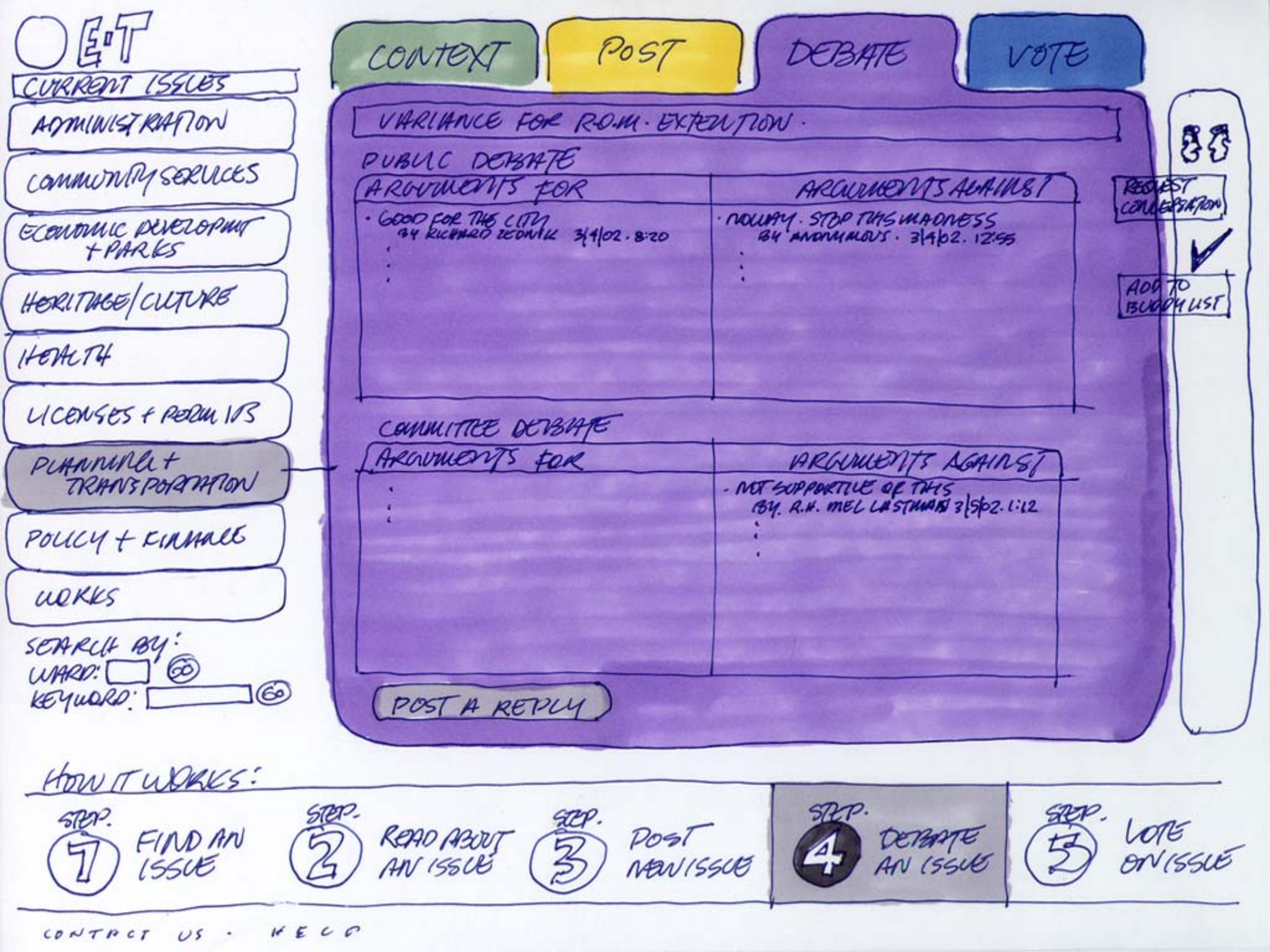

E-T
PAST ISSUES
SEARCH RESULTS:
80%: INCREASE TAX RATE
70% PERMIT FOR LIQUOR.
ISSUE TOPICS
ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNITY SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMT + PARKS
HERITAGE/CULTURE
WARD 21
SEARCH BY:
WARD:
GO
KEYWORD:
GO
CONCEPT
POST
DEBATE
VOTE
STEP 7
FIND AN ISSUE.

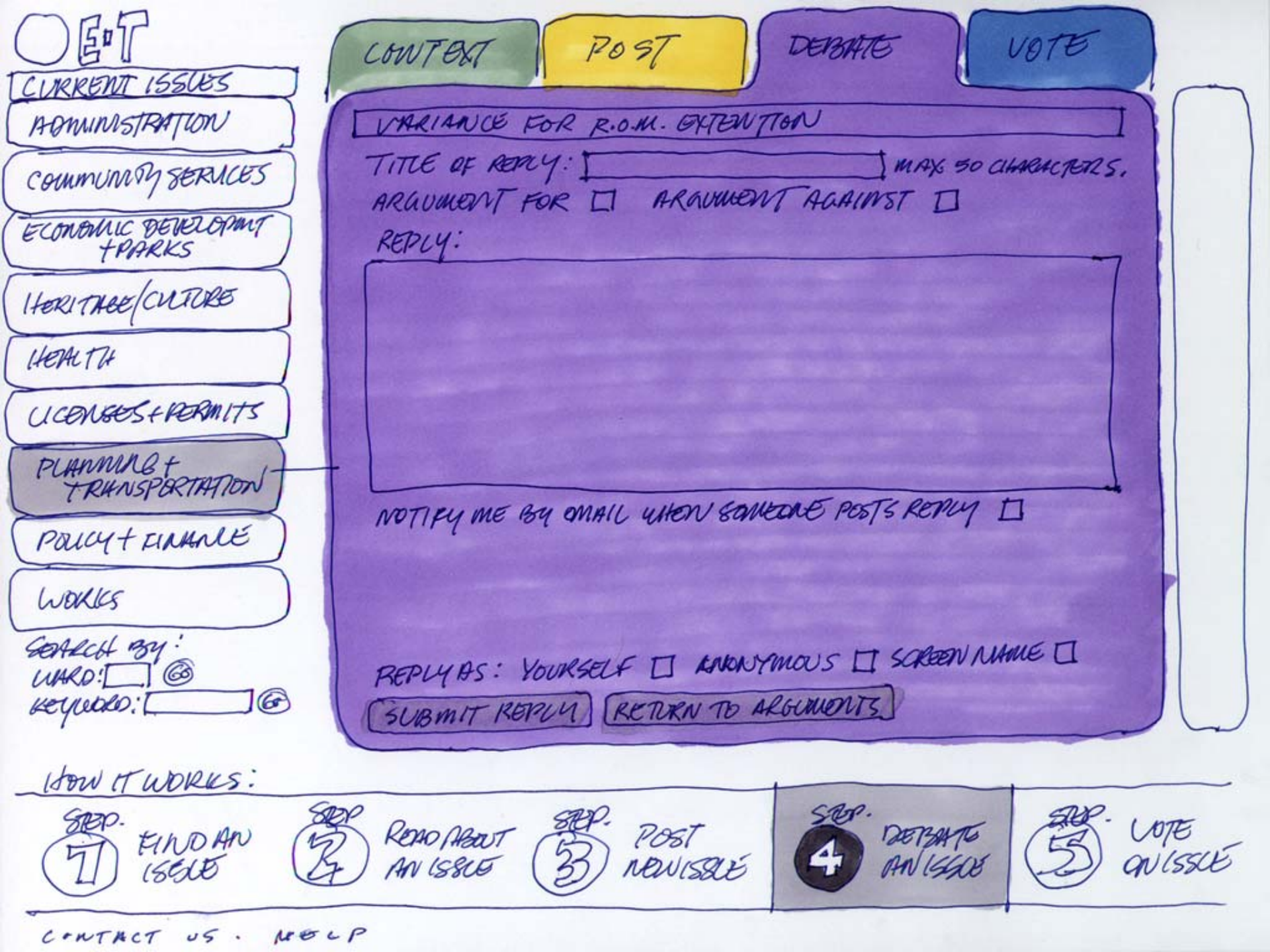

E·T
MYET
CURRENT ISSUES
UGLY PROJECTS
TAX STUFF
HOMELESS RELATED
REAR EXTENSION VARIANCE
AIR CANADA CENTER
STEP 1
FIND AN ISSUE


CURRENT ISSUES
NEW ISSUES
ARCHIVED ISSUES
HIGHLY DEBATED ISSUES
HIGHLY SUPPORTED ISSUES
LOWLY DEBATED ISSUES
LOWLY SUPPORTED ISSUES
SEARCH BY:
WORD:
60
KEYWORD:
60
STEP 4
FIND AN ISSUE.


E-T
CURRENT ISSUES
ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNITY SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + PARKS
HERITAGE/CULTURE
HEALTH
LICENCES + PERMITS
PLANNING + TRANSPORTATION
POLICY + FINANCE
WORKS.
SEARCH BY:
WARD: GO
KEYWORD: GO
CONTEXT
POST
DEBATE
VOTE
VARIANCE FOR R.O.M. EXTENSION.
SUMMARY
UNDER CURRENT ZONING, THE R.O.M. CANNOT BUILD THE PROPOSED EXTENSION. R.O.M. IS ASKING FOR A VARIANCE TO THE ZONING IN ORDER TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXTENSION.
WARD(S): 11, 12
REPORTS: TRAFFIC_STUDY.PDF; PROPOSED_EXTENSION.PDF; ECONOMIC_IMPACT.PDF
LINKS: HTTP://WWW.GLOBEANDMAIL.COM/010302_ROM.HTML
HTTP://WWW.ROM.ON.CA
BEST ARGUMENT FOR
BEST ARGUMENT AGAINST
GET ACROBAT
HAVE A QUESTION?
SEE OUR GLOSSARY.
CONTACT AUTHOR.
POSTED BY:
OMAR EL-BARDEESY
GET ACROBAT
RELATED ISSUES
HOW IT WORKS:
STEP. 1 FIND AN ISSUE
STEP. 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE
STEP. 3 POST NEW ISSUE
STEP. 4 DEBATE AN ISSUE
STEP. 5 VOTE ON ISSUE
CONTACT US - HELP


E-T
CURRENT ISSUES
ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNITY SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PARKS
HERITAGE/CULTURE
HEALTH
LICENSES & PERMITS
PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION
POLICY & FINANCE
WORKS
SEARCH BY:
WARD:
KEYWORD:
GO
CONTEXT
POST
DEBATE
VOTE
TITLE OF ISSUE:
MAX. 50 CHARACTERS.
CATEGORY:
ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNITY SERVICES
SUB-CATEGORY:
DAYCARE
WELFARE
OTHER:
MAX. 50 CHARACTERS.
WARD(S):
1
2
CITY OF TORONTO
GTA REGION
SUMMARY OF ISSUE:
MAX. 100 WORDS.
UPLOAD DOCUMENTS:
BROWSE...
MAX. 1MB.
SUBMIT
INSERT A LINK
UPLOAD FILE
HOW IT WORKS:
STEP. 1 FIND AN ISSUE
STEP. 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE
STEP. 3 POST NEW ISSUE
STEP. 4 DEBATE AN ISSUE
STEP. 5 VOTE ON ISSUE
CONTACT US · HELP


E·T
CURRENT ISSUES
ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNITY SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMT + PARKS
HERITAGE/CULTURE
HEALTH
LICENSES + PERMITS
PLANNING + TRANSPORTATION
POLICY + FINANCE
WORKS
SEARCH BY:
WARD: GO
KEYWORD: GO
CONTEXT
POST
DEBATE
VOTE
VARIANCE FOR R.O.M. EXTENTION.
PUBLIC DEBATE
ARGUMENTS FOR
· GOOD FOR THE CITY
BY RICHARD ZEDNIK 3/4/02. 8:20
ARGUMENTS AGAINST
· NOWAY. STOP THIS MADNESS
BY ANONYMOUS. 3/4/02. 12:55
COMMITTEE DEBATE
ARGUMENTS FOR
ARGUMENTS AGAINST
· NOT SUPPORTIVE OF THIS
BY. R.H. MEL LASTMAN 3/5/02. 1:12
POST A REPLY
REQUEST CONVERSATION
ADD TO BUDDY LIST
HOW IT WORKS:
STEP. 1 FIND AN ISSUE
STEP. 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE
STEP. 3 POST NEW ISSUE
STEP. 4 DEBATE AN ISSUE
STEP. 5 VOTE ON ISSUE
CONTACT US · HELP


E·T
CURRENT ISSUES
ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNITY SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + PARKS
HERITAGE/CULTURE
HEALTH
LICENSES + PERMITS
PLANNING + TRANSPORTATION
POLICY + FINANCE
WORKS
SEARCH BY:
WARD:
KEYWORD:
CONTEXT
POST
DEBATE
VOTE
VARIANCE FOR R.O.M. EXTENTION
TITLE OF REPLY:
MAX. 50 CHARACTERS.
ARGUMENT FOR
ARGUMENT AGAINST
REPLY:
NOTIFY ME BY EMAIL WHEN SOMEONE POSTS REPLY
REPLY AS: YOURSELF ANONYMOUS SCREEN NAME
SUBMIT REPLY
RETURN TO ARGUMENTS
HOW IT WORKS:
STEP. 1 FIND AN ISSUE
STEP. 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE
STEP. 3 POST AN ISSUE
STEP. 4 DEBATE AN ISSUE
STEP. 5 VOTE ON ISSUE
CONTACT US · HELP

LOGO

BACKGROUND | POST | DEBATE | VOTE

TOPIC: REPAVING MAIN STREET

ENTIRE THREAD

Subject	Posted By	Posted On
WHAT A LOUSY IDEA!!	John Smith	3/20/02 11:07 AM
Re: WHAT A LOUSY IDEA!!	Barbara Johnson	3/20/02 12:34 PM
Re: WHAT A LOUSY IDEA!!	Anonymous	3/22/02 07:11 PM
Re: WHAT A LOUSY IDEA!!	John Smith	3/22/01 10:15 PM
WHY NOT?	Dan Greenwood	3/21/02 08:00 AM

>> more

Go to: Other Subject GO

STRON AGR

AGR

DISAG

STRON DISAG

REDUN

OUT ORD

POST

Limit Issues by KEYWORD GO

KEYWORD Search GO

HOW IT WORKS:

Step 1 FIND AN ISSUE

Step 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE

Step 3 DEBATE AN ISSUE

Step 4 POST AN ISSUE

Step 5 VOTE AN AN ISSUE

LOGO

BACKGROUND | POST | DEBATE | VOTE

TOPIC: REPAVING MAIN STREET

Subject	Posted By	Posted On
WHAT A LOUSY IDEA!!	John Smith	3/20/02 11:07 AM

This has to betheworst idea ever. MainStreet was paved less than three years ago, blahblah, blah. Why dont we save the money or use the money to fix up the smaller side streets in the downtown area?

VOTE TALLY ON POST

STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	REDUNDANT	OUT OF ORDER
55	60	30	12	2	0

Re: WHAT A LOUSY IDEA!!	Barbara Johnson	3/20/02 12:34 PM
Re: WHAT A LOUSY IDEA!!	Anonymous	3/22/02 07:11 PM
Re: WHAT A LOUSY IDEA!!	John Smith	3/22/01 10:15 PM
WHY NOT?	Dan Greenwood	3/21/02 08:00 AM

>> more

Go to: Other Subject GO

STRON AGR
AGR
DISAG
STRON DISAG
REDUN
OUT ORD
POST

Limit Issues by KEYWORD GO

KEYWORD Search GO

HOW IT WORKS:

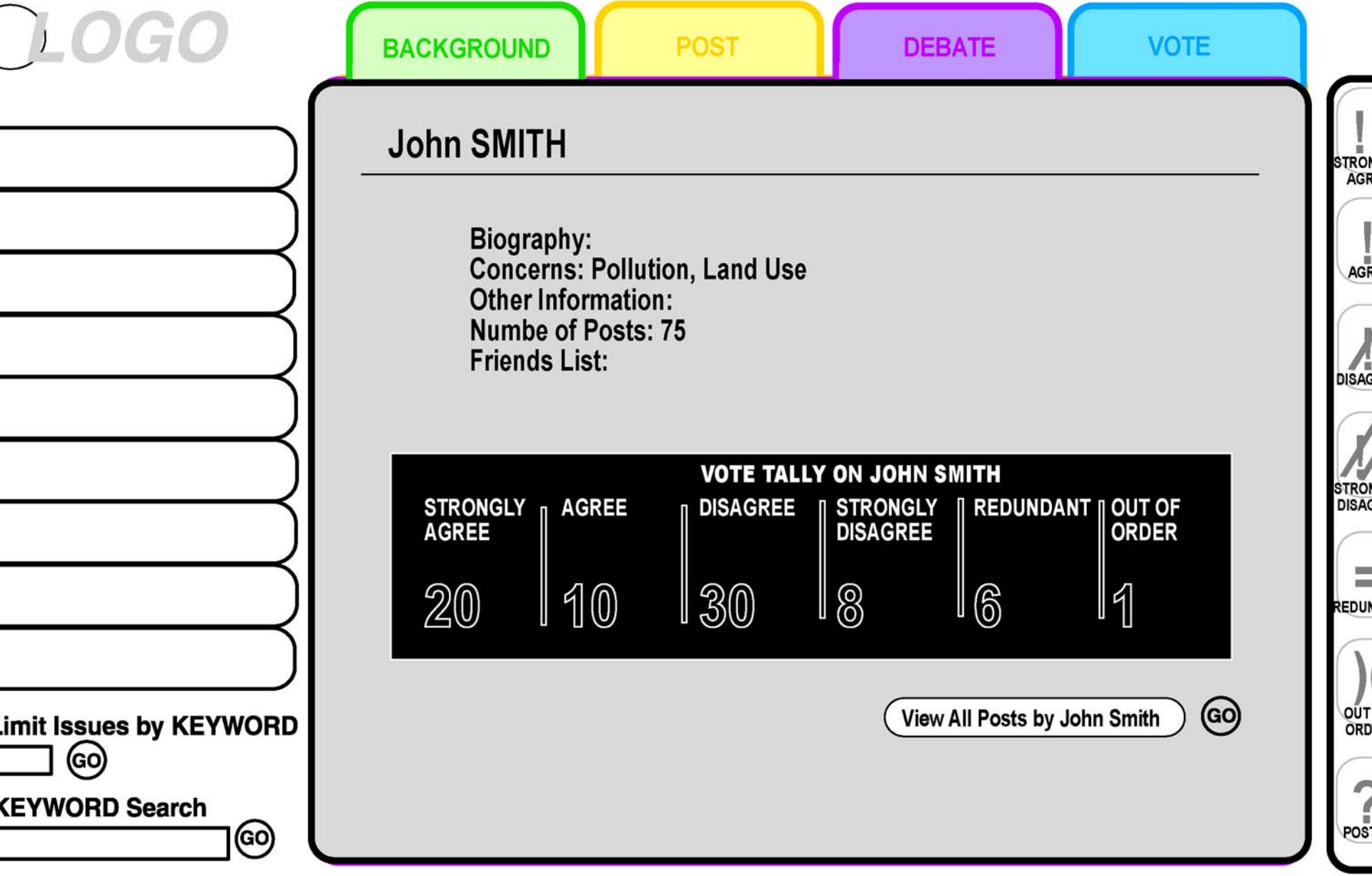
Step 1 FIND AN ISSUE

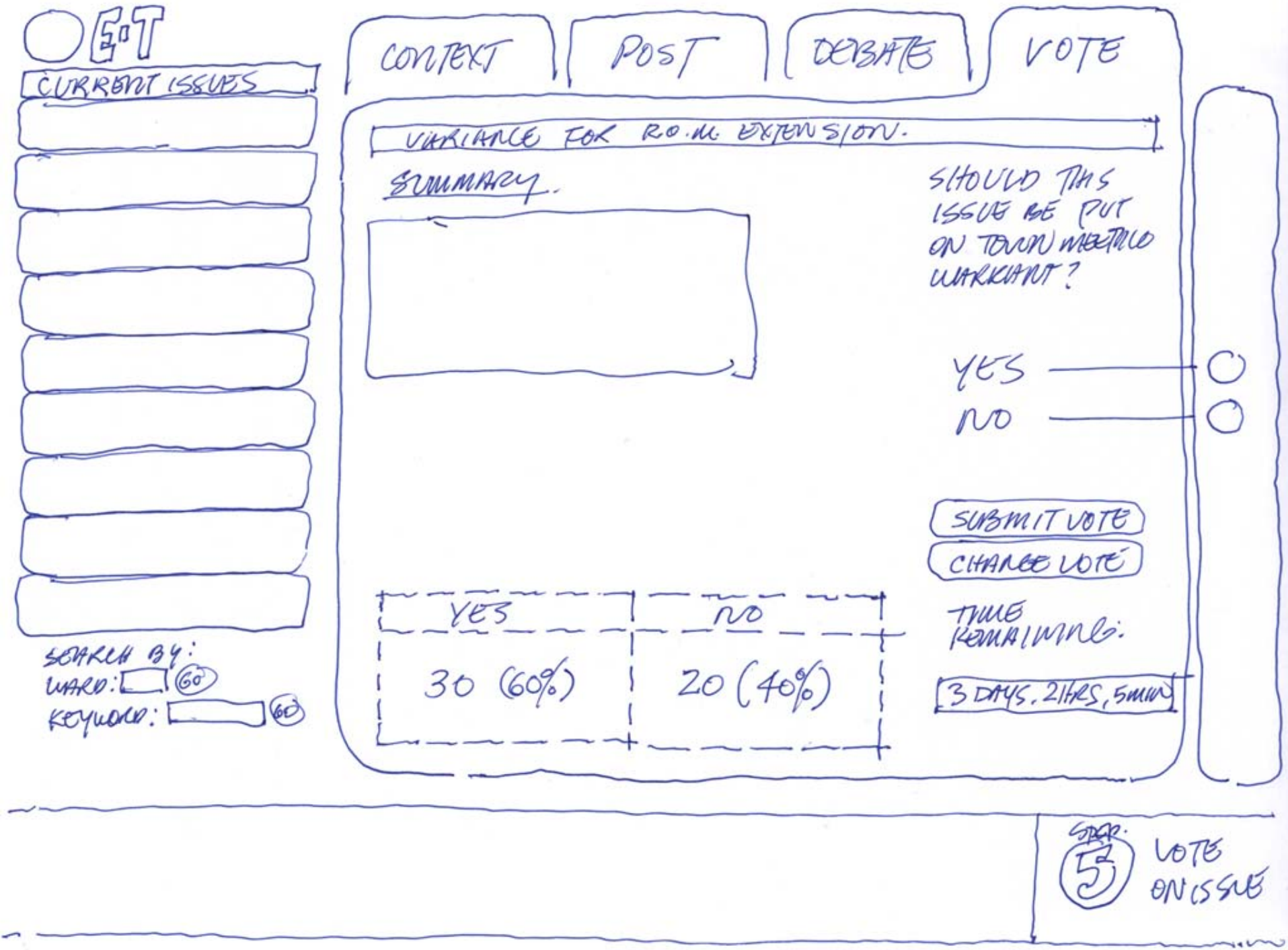
Step 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE

Step 3 DEBATE AN ISSUE

Step 4 POST AN ISSUE

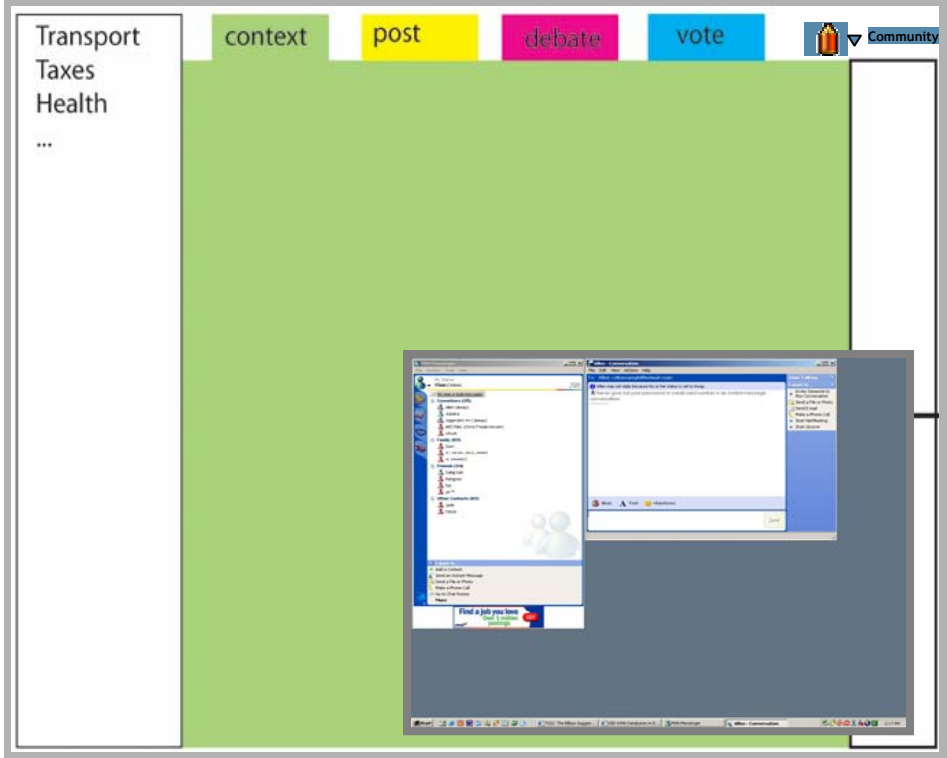
Step 5 VOTE AN ISSUE


LOGO
BACKGROUND
POST
DEBATE
VOTE
John SMITH
Biography:
Concerns: Pollution, Land Use
Other Information:
Numbe of Posts: 75
Friends List:
VOTE TALLY ON JOHN SMITH
STRONGLY AGREE
20
AGREE
10
DISAGREE
30
STRONGLY DISAGREE
8
REDUNDANT
6
OUT OF ORDER
1
View All Posts by John Smith
GO
Limit Issues by KEYWORD
GO
KEYWORD Search
GO
HOW IT WORKS:
Step 1 FIND AN ISSUE
Step 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE
Step 3 DEBATE AN ISSUE
Step 4 POST AN ISSUE
Step 5 VOTE AN ISSUE

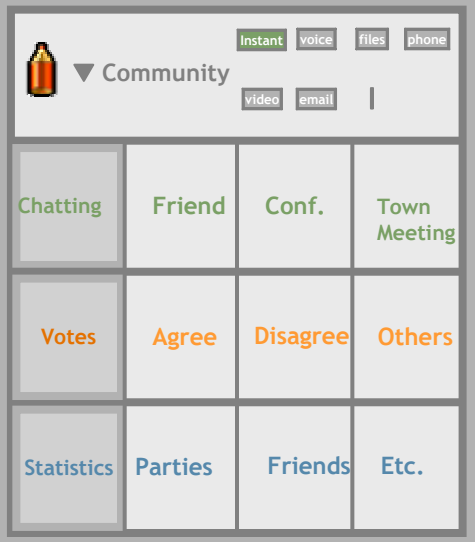

E-T
CURRENT ISSUES
SEARCH BY:
WARD:
60
KEYWORD:
60
CONTEXT
POST
DEBATE
VOTE
VARIANCE FOR R.O.W. EXTENSION.
SUMMARY.
SHOULD THIS ISSUE BE PUT ON TOWN MEETING WARRANT?
YES
NO
SUBMIT VOTE
CHANGE VOTE
YES
NO
30 (60%)
20 (40%)
TIME REMAINING:
3 DAYS, 21 HRS, 5 MIN
STEP 5
VOTE ON ISSUE

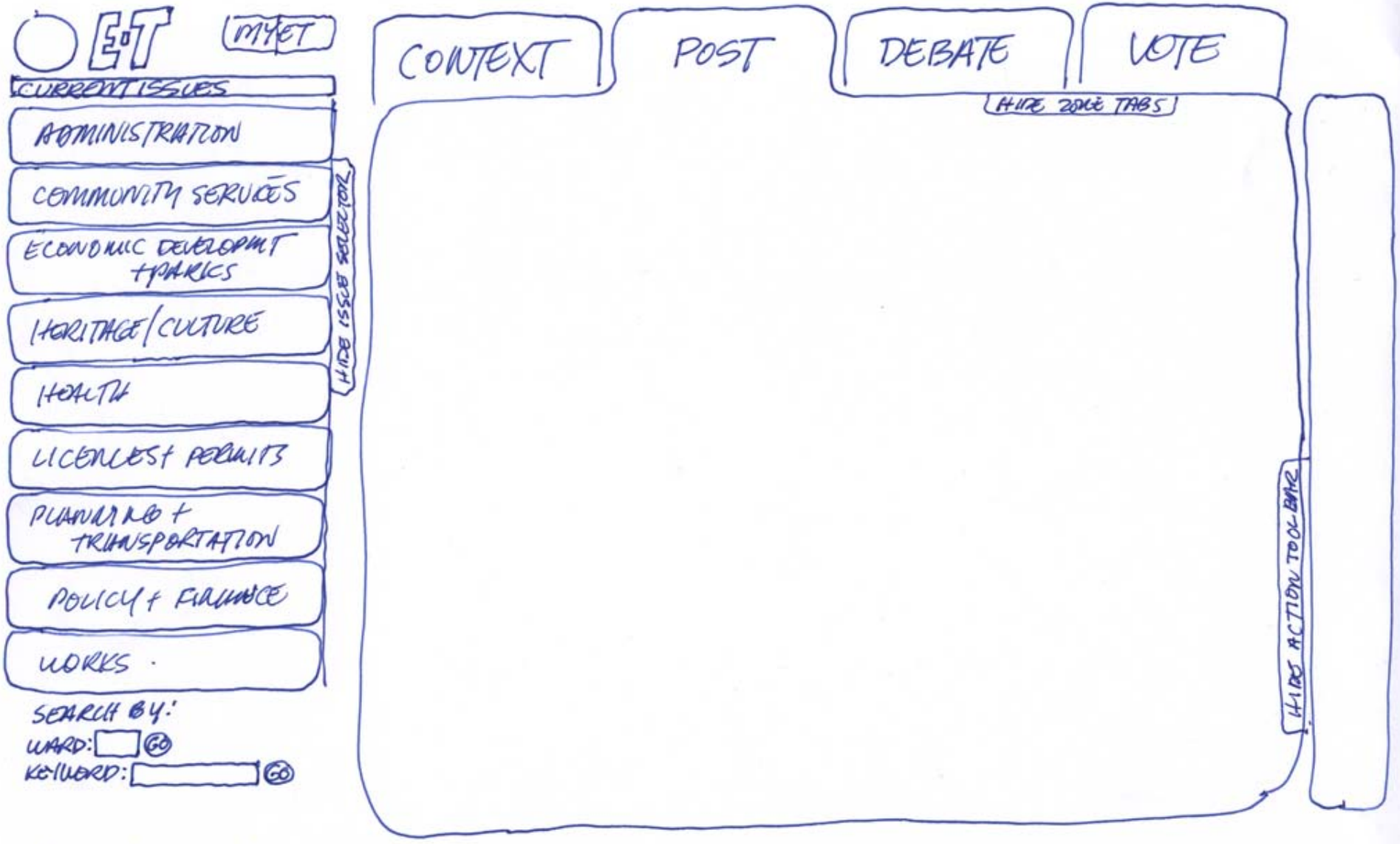
Electronic Town Meeting

An Example of embedding MSN Messenger



The social interaction aspect of town meetings constitutes around 80~90% of the meeting.
The goal of embedding a synchronous or asynchronous interaction device is to enhance the experience of creating a sense of community.

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HERITAGE/CULTURE
HEALTH
LICENCES+ PERMITS
PLANNING + TRANSPORTATION
POLICY + FINANCE
WORKS
HIDE ISSUES SELECTION
SEARCH BY:
WARD: GO
KEYWORD: GO
HIDE ACTION TOOLBAR
HOW IT WORKS:
HIDE INSTRUCTIONS
STEP. 1 FIND AN ISSUE
STEP. 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE
STEP. 3 POST NEW ISSUE
STEP. 4 DEBATE AN ISSUE
STEP. 5 VOTE ON ISSUE
CONTACT US · HELP ·

E-T

SHOW ZONE TABS

SHOW ISSUE SELECTOR

VARIANCE FOR R.O.M. EXTENTION.

PUBLIC DEBATE

ARGUMENTS FOR	ARGUMENTS AGAINST
• GOOD FOR THE CITY BY RICHARD ZOSNICK 3/4/02 8:30	• NO WAY. STOP THIS MADNESS. BY ANONYMOUS 3/4/02 12:55.

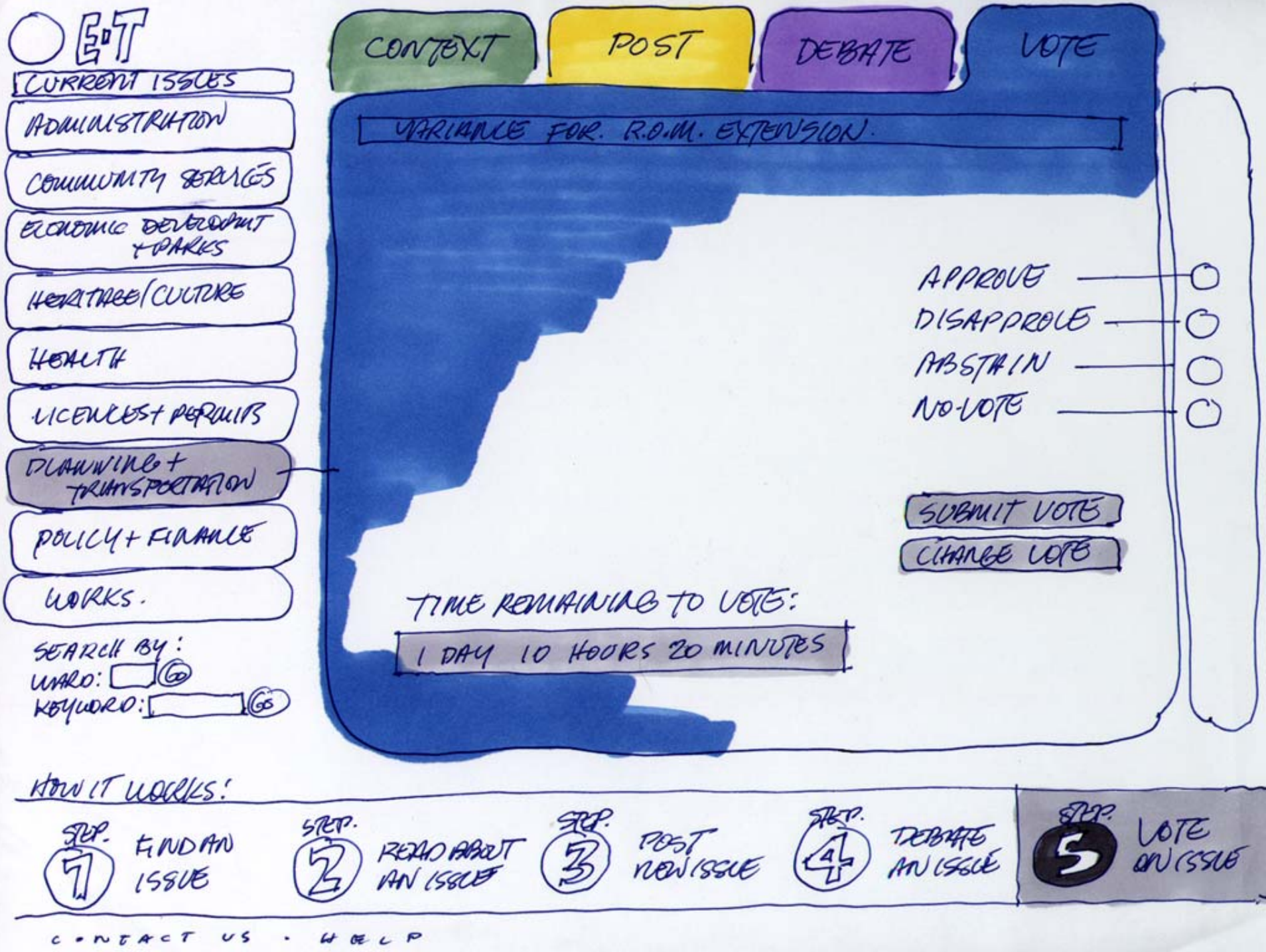
COMMITTEE DEBATE

ARGUMENTS FOR	ARGUMENTS AGAINST
	• NOT SUPPORTIVE OF THIS BY R.H. MEL LASTMAN 3/5/02 1:12

SHOW ACTION TOOLBAR

SHOW INSTRUCTIONS

CONTACT US · HELP


E·T
CONTEXT
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CURRENT ISSUES
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COMMUNITY SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + PARKS
HERITAGE/CULTURE
HEALTH
LICENCES+ PERMITS
PLANNING + TRANSPORTATION
POLICY + FINANCE
WORKS.
SEARCH BY:
WARD:
KEYWORD:
GO
VARIANCE FOR R.O.M. EXTENSION
APPROVE
DISAPPROVE
ABSTAIN
NO-VOTE
SUBMIT VOTE
CHANGE VOTE
TIME REMAINING TO VOTE:
1 DAY 10 HOURS 20 MINUTES
HOW IT WORKS:
STEP. 1 FIND AN ISSUE
STEP. 2 READ ABOUT AN ISSUE
STEP. 3 POST NEW ISSUE
STEP. 4 DEBATE AN ISSUE
STEP. 5 VOTE ON ISSUE
CONTACT US · HELP

NEXT STEPS

User testing

Software development (open source)

U.I.

Press

Amendments Process