



National States Geographic  
Information Council



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## Q&A

Each year, the Elections GeoSummit brings together the nation's leaders in elections management and geographic information systems (GIS) to share leading-edge findings and craft best practices to enhance election systems.

### Resources

- NSGIC website | [www.nsgic.org](http://www.nsgic.org)
- Elections GeoSummit event webpage | <https://nsgic.memberclicks.net/2022-elections-geosummit>
- Geo-Enabled Elections website | [elections.nsgic.org](https://elections.nsgic.org)
- Join the newly formed Geo-Enabled Elections and Redistricting Working Group | email [info@nsgic.org](mailto:info@nsgic.org)

### Questions

1. Can you speak more to how the broadband data would be incorporated?
  - a. Answer:
2. I do not know what is happening with elections in Idaho (yet). Where do you recommend I start working on this?
  - a. We will take this question offline; however, a great place to start is review the Geo-Enabled Elections website.
  - b. This box is found on the homepage. Click the numbered items to navigate to the resources.

### THREE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE RIGHT NOW

1. [DOWNLOAD BEST PRACTICES GUIDANCE FOR GIS IN ELECTIONS >](#)
2. [FIND TOOLS AND TRAININGS TO ADVANCE THE WORK >](#)
3. [JOIN THE GEO-ENABLED ELECTIONS WORKING GROUP >](#)

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3. Will this Elections GeoSummit be recorded?
  - a. Yes. You can find the recording of the Elections GeoSummit on the [event page](#) soon.
4. Will the Elections GeoSummit slide deck be provided?
  - a. Yes. It will be provided in a PDF format on the event page.
5. Montana's Stuart Fuller was asked if they worked with BPro on their current election modernization project.
  - a. Stuart answered, yes, BPro from South Dakota.



6. From Rachel Smith, Oregon GIO: Is the single, master address database for Montana going to be maintained and hosted by the State Library? SOS? other?
    - a. Montana's Stuart Fuller answered: State Library as part of the Montana dataset / framework
    - b. Montana's Erin Fashoway answered: MSL is maintaining a Statewide Address Database (geocoding service uses this). We have a workflow where we will geocode voter addresses against our MSDI Geocoding service. We can pull newly added voter addresses from the new election management system on Election Day. We will work with County GIS Professionals to communicate any new or updated addresses from Election Day.
  
  7. From Rachel Smith, Oregon GIO: Is your process on precinct split generation documented and shareable?
    - a. Neil MacGaffey shared: In standardizing addresses, there are existing well-developed and vetted national address standards. If you're integrating with address work by a NG911 project, the standard they use is the National Emergency Numbering Association's (NENA) Civic Location Data Exchange Format (CLDXF) Standard.
    - b. From Erin Fashoway (MT): Rachel, we can work with you on sharing our workflows and split generation! Let's chat!
  
  8. Montana's Caroline Psaltis-MSL had this to share:
    - a. Here's Montana's precinct split data to date:  
<https://montana.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=8a224e14b4434b25bd1c02a7b4f6d41a>
    - b. Zoom in to see the splits and you can click on the splits to see what election districts comprise each split.
  
  9. Rhode Island's Jess Cigna had this to share:
    - a. <https://rhode-island-legislative-districts-downloader-tool-ridos.hub.arcgis.com/>
    - b. <https://ridos.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/nearby/index.html?appid=ae2212ec857945e5990e2d0f5ce8b5ae>
    - c. <https://ridos-legislativedistrictcomparisons-ristate.hub.arcgis.com/>
    - d. <https://ridos.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/nearby/index.html?>
  
  10. How do single point address systems handle addresses where a voter can legally register but the GIS system sees it as a) uninhabitable, b) non-residential c) a Right of Way or d) part of an area with no address where the voter is in an off-grid cabin or tent?
    - a. Neil MacGaffey shared: This is one of the major challenges in mapping addresses as point locations: you must be confident that each address point is a real address. That usually (but not always!) means that the address point maps to a structure.
    - b. From Montana's Stuart Fuller: In our system, you can drop a "non-standard" point with the option to use a Google Plus code. The non-standard point then is available to assign as the residential address for the voter. The mailing address is a separate field so that doesn't have to match. This allows us to
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deal with homeless folks or folks living in a RV at a campground. In Montana you need to have resided in the County for 30 days before the election to be registered to vote in that election.

- c. From Bert Granberg: Allowing election staff to manually place points (or specify map coordinates) is really important. It solves for transient locations, rural route or other nonstandard addressing, and potential geocoding errors or omissions. Ideally the reason, editor, and timestamp for these manual overrides is tracked in the database so they can be referred to later (for location auditing, for periodic review, and, when possible, to inform updates to the geocoding service)

11. Where are the template RFPs found on the elections.nsgic.org website?
  - a. [https://elections.nsgic.org/hava-funding-gis/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1670528410.4126191139221191406250](https://elections.nsgic.org/hava-funding-gis/?doing_wp_cron=1670528410.4126191139221191406250)
12. Fred DeCaro shared; I would love to see examples of how GIS is being used to visualize the results of elections by state/County/District/Precinct.
  - a. Montana's Stuart Fuller shared: <https://electionresults.mt.gov/resultsSW.aspx?type=BQ&map=CTY> and then click on MAP for LR-131
13. Heather White asked, it sounded like a couple of the presenters have used Geo-coding services. I'd love to know which companies they used.
  - a. Heather, I think this is a great question and discussion for the **new** working group. I hope you will join. Please email [info@nsgic.org](mailto:info@nsgic.org)
14. Matthew asked, what are some of the more advanced ideas and concepts your staffs are looking to do with GIS data and elections?
  - a. Matthew, I think this is a great question and discussion for the **new** working group. I hope you will join. Please email [info@nsgic.org](mailto:info@nsgic.org)