## **GeoElections News**

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### **ICW Has A New Face On The Web!**

ICW has a new face www.icwmaps.com. Now the web presents for ICW are a new public face on the web. After several weeks working with new technology and employing best practices, ICW has a new presence on the web.





Along with our new website, ICW has developed several products designed for use with ESRI's ArcMap for the people who manage elections from county to county and state to state. GeoElections has been available for over two decades, well received and in use across the country. St. Johns County, FL, Columbus County, FL, Putnam County, FL and Fort Bend County, TX use the ArcMap version of GeoElections.

While the first deployment of GeoElections in ArcMap uses GeoAuthor and GeoPoints, ICW has now released GeoAuthorGT and GeoPointsGT in ArcMap for use with GeoElections.

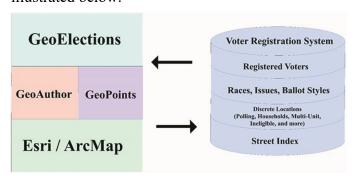
GeoAuthor was designed to work with the US Census TIGER/Line Shapefiles making edits to both geometry and tabular data while maintaining TIGER topology. Ground truthing TIGER yields great rewards and our products include conflation tools for this purpose. The P.L. 94-171 version used by state legislatures for redistricting is of significant interest in the elections industry. These files were released in January of 2021.

GeoAuthorGT manages geospatial databases built from numerous layers of GIS data. Most of these layers are locally developed consisting of roads, hydrography, railroads, political boundaries, precincts, etc. The GT designation is an acronym for Geospatial Topology. TIGER data can be incorporated into the database to provide an ideal solution for working with the redistricting data.

Within the US, 24 states require their respective elections officials to build precincts upon US Census geography. While the other 26 states are not required to use Census geography, the elections authorities do have guidelines for precinct creation. For example, some of the constraints may require the elections authority to follow manmade and natural features to define precinct boundaries and/or to nest within various political subdivisions.

Both GeoAuthor and GeoAuthorGT can be used to address these numerous guidelines for precinct creation and in conjunction GeoElections bringing efficiency and accuracy to the Elections office.

In any event, one of the most compelling arguments for the use of an ICW solution set can be observed in the ability of GeoElections to interoperate with the voter registration system as illustrated below.



officials Historically elections would attempt to match up new Congressional, State Senate and House boundaries with local paper maps, access property appraiser's data or some other resource to manually correlate addresses to the new boundaries. Attempt to build precincts. Then manually enter the new boundaries into the street maintenance module of the voter registration system with traditional data entry hoping they matched the addresses to the boundaries then spend the next four years correcting errors. GeoElections automates all this labor providing data integrity.

### ICW, where imagination and geography converge.

# The Use of GeoElections Increases Accuracy and Efficiency

The National States Geographic Information Council, better known as NSGIC, was founded in 1994. The purpose of the organization is "to encourage effective and efficient government



through the coordinated development of geographic information and technologies to ensure that information may be integrated at all levels of government."<sup>1</sup>

"...members include state GIS coordinators and senior state GIS managers, representatives of federal agencies, local and county governments, the private sector, the academic sector, and other professional organizations. Among the NSGIC membership are experts, recognized nationally and internationally, in GIS, in IT policy, and in data creation and data management."<sup>2</sup>

The people at NSGIC recently stated, "Does America's electoral system know where each voter resides? By and large, yes. But not nearly well enough to correctly place every voter in the right voting district and avoid election errors."

The author went on to write, "When voters are given the wrong ballot, results are contested. Controversy, legal battles, and even costly do-overs follow. With a presidential election on the horizon, and a redistricting process following shortly on its heels, there has never been a more important time to be able to correctly place voters in the right voting districts." What the author failed to focus upon were the down ballot elections that are won and lost by 5 or 10 votes. These errors can be avoided with the data integrity delivered with **GeoElections** and its interoperability with your voter registration system.

GeoElections users can attest no voter receives the wrong ballot. All voters receive the correct ballot because of the data accuracy attained with the map editing tools and the data integrity of these map authoring tools used to construct the address to boundary relationships.

Interoperability facilitates updating the voter registration system efficiently and economically.

1 http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2000/of00-325/lambert.html 2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\_States\_Geographic Information Council.

### 21<sup>th</sup> Annual GeoElections Conference

December 7th, 8th, and 9th, 2022 at the **Embassy Suites Hotel** located at 10220 Palm River Rd., Tampa, FL 33619. Get ready for the new version of MapInfo

Pro. The same files you have used will MapInfo 32-Bit version will work the 64-Bit version. Also, to be presented technical topics using **GeoAuthor**,



**GeoPoints and GeoElections**. Representative from the U.S. Census Bureaus, VR Systems and Precisely.

The GeoElections Conference presents a unique opportunity for elections staff to obtain training in the use of **GeoAuthor**, **GeoPoints** and **GeoElections**.

Meet your counterparts from other counties from Florida and other states. Learn how other professionals solved problems using GeoElections. The GeoElections Conference presents a unique opportunity for elections officials. We focus upon the successful use of GIS in the elections process dictated by the best practices in elections administration.

Dinner and Top Golf.



Work hard and plan to enjoy driving off the upper deck. Take your frustrations out on a golf ball with qualified instructors.

For more information about the **GeoElections Conference** visit: <a href="www.icwmaps.com">www.icwmaps.com</a> and **Events>Conferences**.



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