Geo-Enabled Elections in the West Virginia Hills

Brittany Westfall
West Virginia Secretary of State’s Office
bwestfall@wvsos.com
Geo-Enabled Elections

Voter Confidence
- Education
- Transparency

Redistricting
- Efficiency
- Accuracy

Resource for Local Government

West Virginia Secretary of State's Office
GIS in WV Elections Today

Filling in the Gaps

911 Addresses

The Future of GIS in WV Elections
GIS in WV Elections Today

County Clerk Redistricting Tool:
- Used by county clerks to plot voter addresses
- Provides mis-match checks
- Provides auditing capabilities for voting district and address maintenance

Interactive Voter Lookup Tool
- [mapwv.gov/vote](http://mapwv.gov/vote)
- Look up voting precinct and district information by searching residence address
- View sample ballots
- Find directions to polling locations
Filling in the Gaps

Challenges:

• WV’s state-level redistricting office was retired
• Communication among stakeholders was lacking
• Tools needed to implement redistricting quickly
• Deployment of new version of WV’s statewide voter registration system
• 911 addressing not complete
Filling in the Gaps

Actions:
- State geo-enabled elections subcommittee
- Partnership between Secretary of State’s Office and WV GIS Team
- Grant for GIS activities from Governor to counties
- WV GIS Team becomes clearinghouse for master files
- WV GIS Team develops tools for county clerks and public
- WV SOS County Clerk Training: Over 115 one-on-one and statewide meetings with county clerks and staff
- Law change: Senate Bill 253 (2022)
911 Addressing and Voter Registration

- Senate Bill 460 (2001): County clerks may update voter addresses to 911 addressees
- Mailings by county clerks
- Poll worker training
- Secretary of State’s Office
  - Continued trainings with county clerks
  - Retired county staff employed part-time to assist county clerks
  - Monthly audit reports from WV GIS Team
The Future of GIS in WV Elections

- More accurate, efficient, and transparent redistricting operations
- Greater knowledge of GIS among local governments
- Increased communication regarding maps among all levels of government
- New features for the interactive voter lookup tool
- Voter education
- Integration with the statewide voter registration system