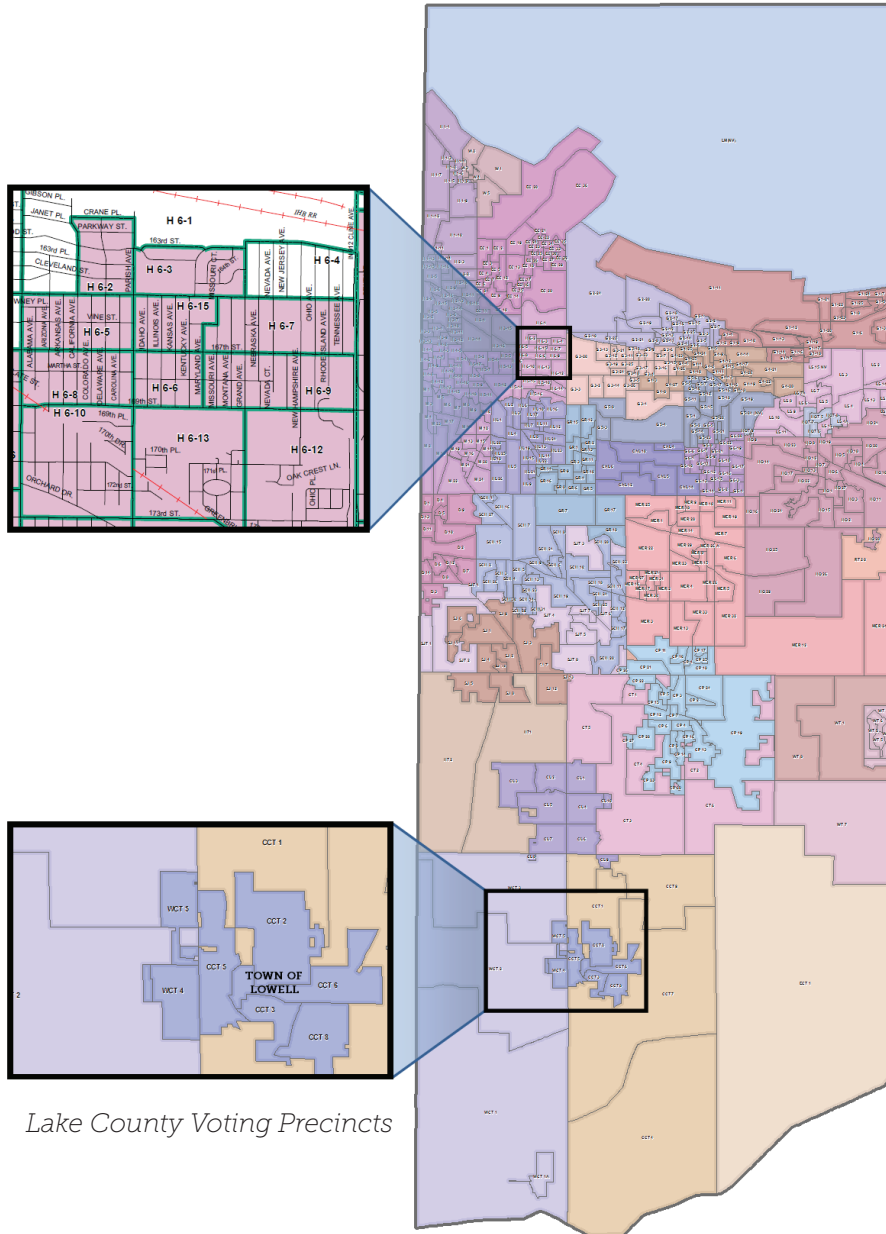


Project Profile

sidwell & lake county, indiana



Lake County Voting Precincts

Maintaining Boundaries with Precision and Ease



The Lake County, Indiana Board of Elections and Voter's Registration Office oversees and administers all aspects of the election and registration process in Lake County, Indiana. For ten years, office staff had used the MapInfo mapping system to create and maintain maps of Census Blocks/Tracts, voting precincts, and a variety of election districts. The office is also required to provide data and reports to the State generated from their mapping system.

The Board of Elections office had been experiencing problems with their mapping system, such as frequent crashes and loss of data. The mapping software had never been updated and they feared a possible final system collapse. The office wanted to take advantage of the recently completed ArcGIS-based cadastral GIS database which includes orthophotography, accurate streets and roads, parcels and more. They needed to update their technology and replace the old TIGER file map data with complete and spatially accurate basemap data. The office also wanted to benefit by joining the Lake GIS network and by using up-to-date cadastral data which is maintained by the Auditor's Office, and was originally created by The Sidwell Company.

The Solution

Sidwell provided the following services to the Lake County Board of Elections:

- Mapping of 11,128 Census Blocks/Tracts to fit County orthos and cadastral data. Mapping of Voter Precincts to fit cadastral data and census blocks, based on maps and data provided by the Board of Elections. 624 precincts mapped with attributes.
- A coincident boundary model to map and maintain coincident features.
- Creation of election district polygon layers with attributes. These include Voter Precincts, County Council, County Commissioners, State Senate, State Representative
- Creation of map layout templates and map documents for the following map sets: Precincts, County Council, County Commissioners, State Senate, State Representative at each of the following sizes (portrait and landscape): 8.5 x 11, 11 x 17, 13 x 19, 24 x 36.
- Plotting setup for Sidwell's Parcel Builder-Map Plotter.
- Installation and training at the County.

"Sidwell has improved our ability to maintain our precinct, legislative, town, and city boundaries with ease and precision that we have not had before. We would highly recommend the service of Sidwell for use in the maintenance of your mapping programs."

Director, Board of Elections

The Results

This GIS project has provided benefits to the management of the Board of Elections as well as technical benefits. Precinct and Election District data is easily and effectively maintained by The Board of Elections staff. The staff found ArcGIS and Parcel Builder-Map Plotter intuitive and user friendly. The staff uses their GIS to produce maps and to produce map data and reports for the State Board of Elections. They use the GIS analysis capabilities such as analyzing voting precincts that can be served within a specified distance of polling place locations. This analysis has produced significant positive financial benefits as well. It has enabled the Board of Elections to reduce the number of polling places. This was done by consolidating polling places into polling centers.

For more information on Sidwell's redistricting solutions, please contact:

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