Office of the Indiana Secretary of State

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Name of State Office: Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson

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Title of Program/Project: Who Are Your Elected Officials?

Name of Project Lead: Valerie Kroeger

Brief Description of Program/Project:

The “Who Are Your Elected Officials” website harnesses the power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to provide the general public an easy-to-use website for finding the elected officials who represent them. Users have the ability to easily and quickly find information on over 12,000 elected officials in the State of Indiana by either clicking a location on the map or by typing in their address. The information for each official (name, phone number, website and email address) is organized into tabs for federal, state, county, township, municipal and school districts. From our research, we believe that this is the most comprehensive site for disseminating elected officials’ information in the Union.

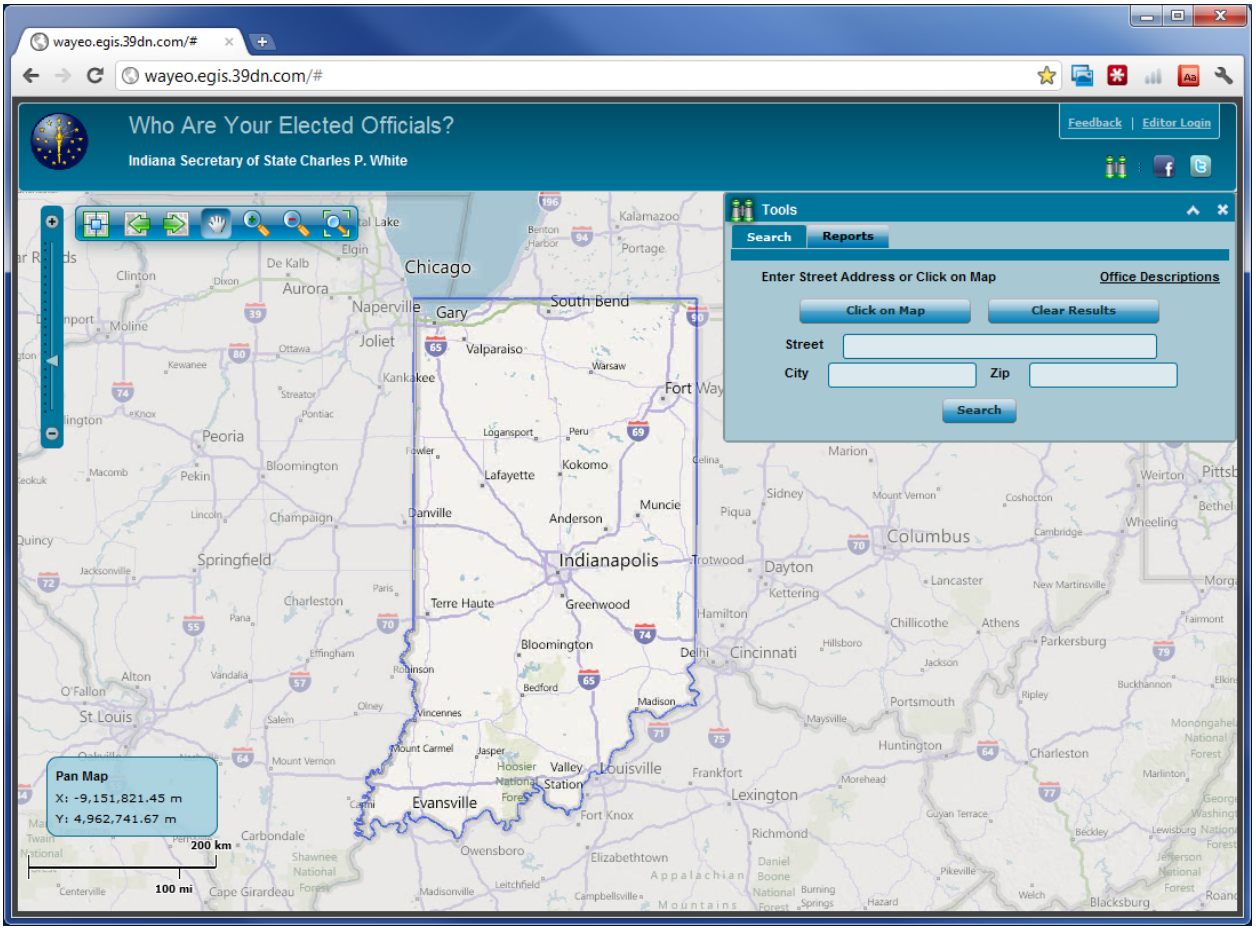
General Subject Area of Nomination: Voter Participation

Executive Summary:

History:

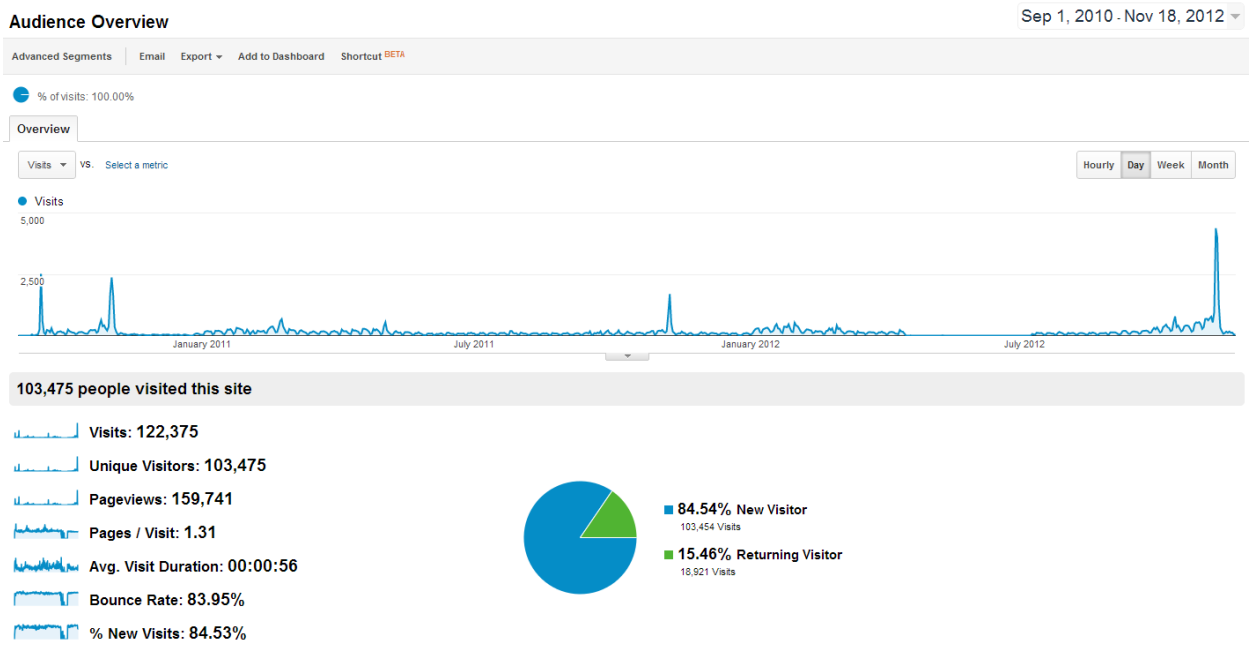
The “Who Are Your Elected Officials?” was launched in early September 2010. The goal of this program was to provide an application for the public to find out who their elected officials are without contacting government agencies or departments. The parties involved in creating this website were united in finding a simple, easy-to-use solution for citizens to contact their elected officials. With such great collaboration, the State of Indiana has been able to assemble an application like none other in the sense that it has over 12,000 elected officials’ information and is extremely easy to use.

(Below) A screenshot (without results) of the “Who Are Your Elected Officials?” website for the State of Indiana.



Significance:

With over 12,000 elected officials in the “Who Are Your Elected Officials?” application, it is an extremely useful tool for the public in collecting contact information regarding their elected officials. State officials and county clerks’ offices across the state are receiving fewer phone calls from the public requesting contact information for their elected officials. Since its release in September 2010, the website has received over 122,000 visits. Spikes in traffic are related to events such as elections and when the President informs the citizens to contact their elected officials. Please note the increased traffic leading up to Election Day. On November 5th, 2012, there were 4,375 visits in a single day.



The website is a one-stop-shop for all elected officials in the State of Indiana whether it is a senator, governor, county commissioner, mayor or school board member. Every visit to the website is one less phone call or email being sent to a government employee to find out information about an elected official. By allowing users to access this information online, it reduces the time it takes users to obtain this information and allows them to access it 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Since time is money, this application saves tax payers money by reducing the time government employees spend answering the same question – Who are my elected officials?

The screenshot on the next page shows how the results for federal, state, county, township, municipal, and school board information is organized once the user inputs their address or clicks on the map.