

# Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Administrative Boundaries, Geo-Enabled Elections, and Census Data

2025 MAGIP Big Sky GeoCon

Thursday, April 17, 2025 @ 9:20-10:20am



# Panelists

**Stuart Fuller**, Elections & Voter Services Manager | Montana Secretary of State's Office

**Meghan Burns**, GIS Analyst / Administrative Boundary Theme Lead | Montana State Library

**Caroline Psaltis**, GIS Specialist / Geo-Enabled Elections | Montana State Library

**Dave Ritts**, GIS Analyst | Census & Economic Information Center | Montana Department of Commerce

**Connor Fitzpatrick**, Elections Division Supervisor | Lewis and Clark County

**Eric Spangenberg**, GISP, GIS Coordinator | City of Helena | Lewis and Clark County

# OUTLINE

01 – Introductions

02 – What role do you play in Administrative Boundaries and Elections

03 – Questions for the Panelists



01  
Introduction



# Montana State Library Team

Erin Fashoway – Montana GIS Coordinator

Michael Fashoway – Land Info Lead, MSDI Structures & Address Theme Lead

Meghan Burns – GIS Analyst, MSDI Administrative Boundaries Theme Lead

Caroline Psaltis – GIS Specialist, Geo-Enabled Elections

02  
**Administrative and Election  
District Boundaries**

Meghan Burns





# MSDI Boundary Sub-Themes: Core

- State\*
- Congressional Districts\*
- County\*
- Incorporated Cities/Towns\*
- Rural Fire Districts\*
- Legislative Districts (House and Senate)\*
- Managed Areas
- National Park Boundaries
- Precinct Splits\*
- School Districts (Elementary, High School, K-12)\*
- Soil Conservation\*
- Tax Increment Financing Districts
- Tribal Nations Reservations and Off Reservation Trust Land
- Voting Precincts\*
- Weed Management Districts

**\*both core and election district**

# MSDI Boundary Sub-Themes: Election Districts

- Ambulance/EMS
- Cemetery
- City
- Community Council
- Congressional
- County Commissioner
- County
- Fire
- House District
- Irrigation
- Judicial
- Jury
- Library
- Mosquito
- Park and Recreation
- Public Hospital
- Public Service Commission
- Resort
- Rural
- Rural Improvement
- School
- School Single Member Trustee
- Senate District
- Sewer
- Soil Conservation
- Special
- State
- Study Commission
- Supreme Court Justice
- Transportation
- Voting Precinct
- Ward
- Water

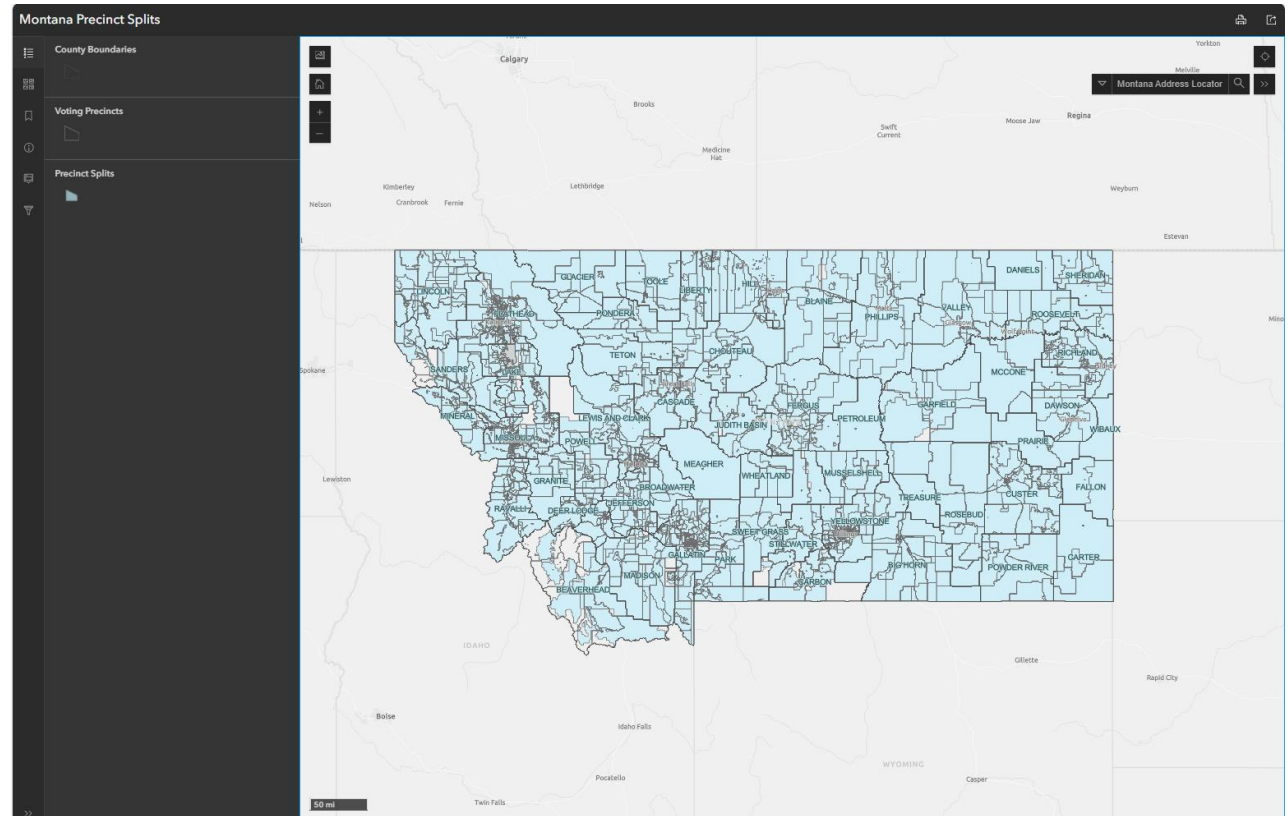
# Task: Update Election Districts and Precinct Splits

1. County Election Administrators and GIS staff contractors provide updates:

- Annexations
- New Districts
- Dissolved Districts
- District Name Changes

2. Montana State Library updates the statewide election district and precinct split datasets

3. The Secretary of State's Office updates the Election System with the new precinct splits maps and works with the County Election Administrator to resolve the voter addresses to the new splits.



# What is a Precinct Split

## What is a Precinct Split? Basically, a Ballot

- A Precinct Split is a subset of a Voting Precinct created by the various Election District Boundaries
- Not every County has an election for each type of district
  - Example: Hospital Districts
- Most counties have many of the same type of district
  - Examples: Schools and Fire Districts

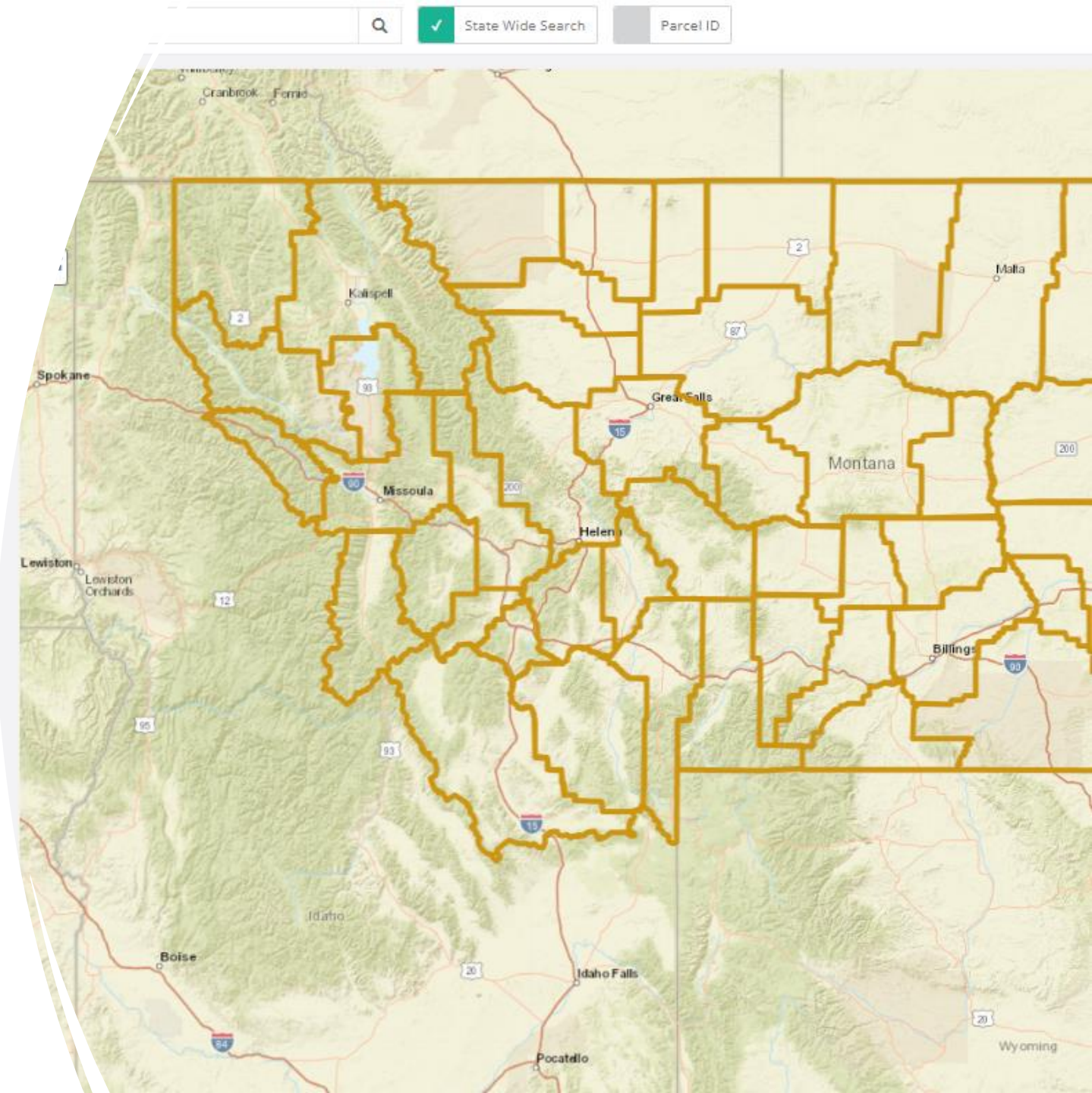
# Task: Provide GIS Layers for Election System

## Map Display Layers for Reference

- Zip Code (US Census Bureau)
- City
- County
- County Commissioner
- Legislative Districts (Senate/House)
- School Districts
- Fire Districts

## Precinct Split Maps by County

- MSL sends SOS a geoJSON file to upload into Elections System map called TotalAddress



# Updating Boundaries and Precinct Split Maps

## **Election District Updates – Send to MSL ANYTIME**

- Annexations (resolutions, maps, data layers)
- Boundary and Name Changes
- Dissolved Election Districts
- New Election Districts


***Email – [GeoEnabledElections@mt.gov](mailto:GeoEnabledElections@mt.gov)***

**No Changes can be made to the Voting Precincts in the Election System until after the General Election**

# Election Calendar

Month	Even Years	Odd Years
January	Candidate Filing / Boundary & Address Updates	Candidate Filing / Boundary & Address Updates
February		
March	Primary Ballot Certification	
April	Special District Ballots / Ballots to UOCAVA for General Election	Special Districts Ballots
May	Special District Elections	Special District Elections
June	Primary	
July	Boundary Updates	Boundary Updates
August	Ballot Certification	Municipal Primary Ballots
September	UOCAVA Ballots	Municipal Primary
October		Municipal General Ballots
November	General Election	Municipal General
December		

May – Special Elections (e.g. School)  
 September – Municipal Primary  
 November – Municipal General

 Indicates when the Montana Secretary of State (SOS) can update the Election Management System (EMS) with GIS Data Layers from the Montana State Library (MSL)

# Task: Public Boundary Data Layer Updates – May 2025

All Election Districts and Precinct Splits are available to download

<https://ftpgeoinfo.msl.mt.gov/Data/Spatial/MSDI/AdministrativeBoundaries/Elections/>

- ✓ Statewide and by County
- ✓ Format:
  - File Geodatabase
  - Shapefile
  - Web Services
- ✓ Current Precinct Splits Excel Table

Visit the MSDI Boundary page for: <https://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Boundaries>

- Metadata Records
- Data Download Links (File Geodatabase and Shapefile)
- Web Services: [https://gisservicemt.gov/arcgis/rest/services/MSDI\\_Framework/Boundaries/MapServer](https://gisservicemt.gov/arcgis/rest/services/MSDI_Framework/Boundaries/MapServer)
- [Map Gallery](#)
- Access the [Geo-Enabled Elections Hub](#)

# Geo-Enabled Elections Hub

## Main Page

- Election Dates
- Precinct Split Map

## Boundaries Page

- Calendar
- Related Laws
- Map Gallery

## Redistricting Page

- 2023 Redistricting Summary

## Status Map and Dashboard

- Links to Download Data



<https://geoenabled-elections-montana.hub.arcgis.com/>

# Contact Information

**Website – <https://geoenabled-elections-montana.hub.arcgis.com/>**

**Email – [GeoEnabledElections@mt.gov](mailto:GeoEnabledElections@mt.gov)**

Erin Fashoway – [efashoway@mt.gov](mailto:efashoway@mt.gov)

Michael Fashoway – [mfashoway@mt.gov](mailto:mfashoway@mt.gov)

Meghan Burns – [mburns2@mt.gov](mailto:mburns2@mt.gov)

Caroline Psaltis – [cpsaltis@mt.gov](mailto:cpsaltis@mt.gov)

Thank you!



03

# Questions for the Panelists

