

Indiana Election Division Case Study



New system reduced election administration efforts, gave public online access to information and improved integrity of elections.

Overview

The Indiana Secretary of State, Election Division is responsible for filing and processing candidates for state office in Indiana, including all state-wide, legislative and most judicial offices. The Division must determine eligibility, qualification, ballot placement and certify results for all elections.

The process is detailed and complex, due to different qualification requirements for each office and very specific ballot placement requirements in districts that don't necessarily follow county lines. Because of this, processing of state candidacy filings was largely manual and required weeks of time to complete, on the part of a variety of officials. In addition, the Division must make results of elections available via the Internet as soon as possible. It is also required to compile a complete report on the results of each general election, which is distributed to the public—a report that typically required several weeks to compile

Challenge

Quest Information Systems was selected to design, develop and support a system to automate the filing and processing of candidates, ballot placements, and election results. Quest completed a requirements analysis and system design by engaging all stakeholders, including division staff, candidates and county officials.

Solution

Features of the Election Management System include:

- Comprehensive candidate filing database.
- Certification of ballots to county election boards.
- Election-night reporting.
- Incorporation of county canvassing sheets with election results.
- Certificates of election and commissions.

Results

EMS provides powerful tools to process and certify candidates in the 2002 primary and general elections in Indiana. Election Division staff realized a significant reduction in the amount of effort required to administer the election processes, while simultaneously providing greater general integrity of elections in Indiana into the future. Integration with counties and publishing of elections results on the public Internet is also significantly simpler.

Technology

Quest designed and developed the Election Management System using the Microsoft .NET development framework. The system architecture features intranet delivery of the application, utilizing standard browser technology. Use of this open architecture provides ease of use and administrative flexibility.