

Indiana Campaign Finance Case Study



Application provides voters, media and interest with full on-line access to campaign finance information.

Challenge

The Indiana Secretary of State Election Division was mandated by the Indiana General Assembly to provide Internet Access to campaign finance information filed with the division by Indiana candidate, party and political action committees. The information was completely paper-based and required a visit to the Election Division offices in order to be reviewed.

The Election Division selected Quest Information Systems to provide a comprehensive solution including project definition, database design, application development, data entry activities, and provision of all required infrastructure including web site hosting and on-going support. The system had to be on-line within six months from execution of the contract in order to meet deadlines established by law.

Approach

Quest established a complete project team comprised of account managers, analysts, developers, engineers and trainers to jointly work with members of the Election Division Team.

Utilizing Quest methodology, the team was able to concurrently manage multiple aspects of the project including definition, selection of data-entry sub-contractors, system development and deployment of the required infrastructure.

Solution

Quest managed and staffed the entire Campaign Finance Database project, designing and developing a comprehensive solution which provides fast, accurate campaign finance data to thousands of users while minimizing the time between submission and publication.

Powerful servers host a database at Quest's data center and are networked to the Secretary of State's office and the Internet using high-speed telecom connections. Custom applications support internal users while an Active website is available to the public. An EDI specification was developed for third-party software providers who provide report preparation technology to political committees. Quest engineers provide on-going maintenance and support.

Results

The Indiana Campaign Finance Computerization project was completed and released to the Internet on-schedule. Voters, media and interest groups have full on-line access to reports which have been filed. The system goes well beyond the requirements of the statute by including access to expenditures as well as contribution information. Citizens now have unrestricted access to important information making the election reporting process more accessible than ever.

Technology

- Visual Basic
- Microsoft .NET and SQL Server