

President's Note: NSGIC New Executive Director

Dear NSGIC Colleagues and Friends,

I am pleased to share that the NSGIC Board of Directors (BOD) has hired John Jordan as the new NSGIC Executive Director. John joins NSGIC with over 20 years executive association experience. He is a seasoned leader who possesses the knowledge, skills, abilities and personality the Board believes will serve NSGIC well today and in the future.

My impression of John is that he is a man whose character shows a commitment to honesty, integrity and hard work. He values relationships and understands the importance of diverse ideas and collaboration. He is patient, listens well and asks questions; illustrating his belief in the value and importance of lifelong learning. I believe he will serve the NSGIC staff well as their next leader and will provide an inclusive environment where they will thrive, both personally and professionally. While John does not possess a background in the geospatial industry, he has an inquisitive mind, makes connections quickly and is genuinely intrigued with all the work we do and hold dear. I have no doubt that he will learn quickly and will find new and interesting opportunities for NSGIC where our organization can have the greatest impact, in part because of his fresh perspective on the geospatial industry.

Dan Ross will continue in his role as Interim Executive Director through mid-May. He will work closely with John during this time to assist and support him in a smooth transition into his new role. In preparation for John's on-boarding, the BOD has organized a Strategic Planning Retreat for early May. John, Dan, staff and the Board of Directors will all be participating. We believe that this time working deliberately and strategically together will ensure NSGIC's current and future success.

I do have an important request. The Member Resources Working Group is assisting the BOD in gathering your insights and feedback as we prepare for the May retreat. They have created a [NSGIC member survey](#) that will guide our planning, discussions and strategic approach to the May retreat and the next few years. Your input is critical and valued. I urge you to please take the time to share your thoughts with us. The survey will be open until Friday, April 22, 2022.

I want to thank you for your support and patience while we have worked through the Executive Director selection process. You have each contributed uniquely towards ensuring the best future for our organization. Your time and insights have helped to shape the BOD decisions. I am personally grateful and excited for our future. As always, I am available to each of you. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact me any time.

Jenna Leveille, NSGIC President

NSGIC Membership Survey

In May, NSGIC Leadership is coming together to set the priorities, activities, and direction for the organization for the next two years. Your input to that process is not only needed, it is invaluable in making sure the organization is focused on the topics, priorities and activities that provide you value.

With that in mind we are seeking your input on the questions below. Your feedback will inform the important decisions the Board will be making to further support you and your organization.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide your important input. Please set aside **at least** 30 minutes for this survey. The survey will be open until Friday, April 22, 2022.

[Take the survey >](#)

Please note: The membership survey is open to NSGIC members only

Save the Date!

2022 Annual Conference - September 19-23 | Portland, OR

The NSGIC Board of Directors, Conference Steering Group, and staff are looking forward to heading to Portland, OR for the 2022 NSGIC Annual Conference to be held September 19-23 at the [Embassy Suites by Hilton Portland Downtown](#). Event website with more details and registration is set to open in early summer.

Advocacy Update

Over the last couple of months, NSGIC has made progress in helping restart the Senate and House GIS Work Groups. Both work groups were established five or six years ago, but had paused during the pandemic. Both groups met together in January and are planning to meet again in the next month or so. We owe thanks to Ed Cox and Romel Nicholas for working hard with staff in both the Senate and the House to bring these two work groups back together. Ed and Romel were the key staff in Senator Hatch's office responsible for getting the landmark Geospatial Data Act (GDA) of 2018 enacted. They have started their own small advocacy firm, ERA.

Speaking of the GDA, NSGIC leadership and the Advocacy Steering Group continues to work with other organizations, particularly the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), to strategize on a possible amendment to the GDA that would include collaborative governance and treating geospatial data as a national critical asset for community resilience. Along those same lines, NSGIC is working alongside all the other organizations in the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations on the third iteration of the Assessment of the NSDI (formerly the COGO Report Card on the NSDI), which kicked off this month and will be published in late 2023.



Virtual GIO Academy - April 26 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm ET

NSGIC's GIO Academy is designed for state GIOs to gather with peers to explore topics like leadership, strategic communications, trends in state government, and forging collaborative relationships - plus LOTS of great networking opportunities.

One topic emerged from the 2022 Midyear Meeting GIO Academy that needed more discussion: chargebacks, the different ways they occur and the impact they may have on service delivery and program and staff growth in the GIS coordination office in states.

While this topic is still fresh in everyone's minds, there will be a virtual GIO Academy session held on April 26 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm ET to meet and discuss. Several perspectives will be included from North Carolina, Nebraska, Michigan, and Kansas. Each of the four participants will have 15 minutes to:

1. Provide an overview of how their chargeback works
2. Discuss what, if any impact, their chargeback has had on their office's ability to deliver services and programs
3. Go over what their chargeback model's advantages and disadvantages are

After hearing about each model, we invite an open discussion from the broader group.

Special thanks to Neil MacGaffey (MA) for leading the development of this GIO Academy!

[Register Here >](#)

This event is for state government GIOs, equivalents and NSGIC state representatives only.

Upcoming Virtual Programming

Today! Indoor Goes Vertical - April 20 from 2 - 3 pm ET

Wireless carriers are beginning to deliver X, Y and Z coordinate values with wireless 9-1-1 calls. Great value lies in transforming information into geospatial data. Leveraging this data to create actionable outputs - plans, graphics, webmaps and apps - presents an opportunity for useful 3D GIS data that, among other things, contextualizes this coordinate value information with the best response route, both outdoors and indoors.

This value begins with the process of acquiring highly accurate location data inside facilities. The best way to accomplish this is with site visits verifying floorplans and enhancing inside location information to give continuity to emergency response. The result of this process is both indoor mapping and improved, verified sub-addressing. Join DATAMARK and CRG for a discussion of our proven process for acquiring indoor mapping data and some concepts of 3D GIS that are relevant to the discussion.

[Register Here >](#)

Today! This Takes Longer Than You Think; Hydro Coordination in Pennsylvania - April 20 from 3 - 4 pm ET

Join this month's 3DHP FTN monthly forum, titled This Takes Longer Than You Think; Hydro Coordination in Pennsylvania.

Presenters include:

- Eric Jespersen, Executive Director, State Geospatial Coordinating Board
- Ellen Fehrs, PA Hydrography Dataset Manager

[Register Here >](#)

Program Updates



In mid-March, the Geo-Enabled Elections project was highlighted on a fabulous blog about spatial data and their societal impacts - Spatial Reserves! A big thank you to Joseph Kerski, Esri for having NSGIC as a guest blogger, reflecting on how elections can be made better using different data sources. Check it out! bit.ly/chesser22.

As many of you know, the Geo-Enabled Elections project will sunset this year. In 2022, the team will focus on documenting the state of GIS in elections across all 50 states, in order to identify progress made and opportunities for further advancement across the country.

Concretely, the project will conduct interviews and surveys with election directors and will publish the findings in the NSGIC State Election Directors Report of 2022. This report, along with a similar one produced in 2018, serves to bookend the project. [The 2018 report can be found here.](#)

For questions regarding the project, please feel free to reach out to Geo-Enabled Elections Project Manager, Jamie Chesser, jamie.chesser@nsgic.org.

A screenshot of a blog post from the website 'Spatial Reserves'. The page has a dark header with the title 'Spatial Reserves' and the subtitle 'A guide to public domain spatial data'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: 'Spatial Reserves', 'About the book', 'About the authors', and 'Exercises and data for the book'. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Public Domain Data > Improving election data: NSGIC's Geo-Enabled Elections project'. The article title is 'Improving election data: NSGIC's Geo-Enabled Elections project', dated 'March 14, 2022' by 'josephkerski'. There are links for 'Go to comments' and 'Leave a comment'. The text of the post begins with 'With thanks to Jamie Chesser, project lead, the Geo-Enabled Elections project, NSGIC, for this post.' and continues with a paragraph about the use of spatial data in elections.

Spatial Reserves
A guide to public domain spatial data

[Home](#) > [Public Domain Data](#) > [Improving election data: NSGIC's Geo-Enabled Elections project](#)

Improving election data: NSGIC's Geo-Enabled Elections project

March 14, 2022 [josephkerski](#) [Go to comments](#) [Leave a comment](#)

With thanks to Jamie Chesser, project lead, the Geo-Enabled Elections project, NSGIC, for this post.

The use of spatial data results in real-world consequences that help shape societal outcomes; elections perhaps most concretely so. Elections are, fundamentally, about maps, as districts determine what races voters can vote in and candidates vie for. In the last four years, a project by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) has worked with states and counties across the nation to improve the processes and refine the data sets that are used in elections. [Note: We have written about NSGIC before in this blog; [see these posts](#)].

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Is there something you would like to share in the next NSGIC monthly newsletter?

Contact editor Emily Ruetz at emily.ruetz@nsgic.org