



Search

1. [Site](#)
2. [News](#)
3. [Companies](#)
4. [products](#)
5. [downloads](#)
6. [jobs](#)

SELECT articleid,title,c Search



[Home](#) | [Companies](#) | [eCatalog](#) | [Audio](#) | [News](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Download](#) | [Forums](#) | [Resources](#) | [Government](#) | [Universities](#) | [Books](#)
[Check Email](#) | [Submit Material](#) | [GIS Weekly](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [e-Contact](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Events](#) | [Weather](#) | [techjobscafe](#) | [ItZnewz](#) | [RSS](#) |



GISCafe - Innovation Through Collaboration



January 21, 2008
From: [GISCafe](#)



Casting a Vote for GIS-enabled Election Software

January 14 - 18, 2008 by **Susan Smith**

A summary of recently published GIS product and company news, featured downloads, customer wins, and coming events. Brought to you by GISCafé.

Each GISWeekly Review delivers to its readers news concerning the latest developments in the GIS industry, along with a selection of other articles that we feel you might find interesting. If we missed a story that you feel deserved to be included, please contact us! Questions? Feedback? Click [here](#). Thank-you!

Rate This Article

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Bad
- Poor

Submit Vote

Welcome to GISWeekly!

GISWeekly examines select top news each week, picks out worthwhile reading from around the web, and special interest items you might not find elsewhere. This issue will feature Industry News, Top News of the Week, Acquisitions/Agreements/Alliances, Announcements, Contracts, New Products, and Events Calendar.

GISWeekly welcomes letters and feedback from readers, so let us know what you think. Send your comments to me at [Email Contact](#)

Best wishes,
Susan Smith, Managing Editor

Industry News Casting a Vote for GIS-enabled Election Software by Susan Smith

Since the 2004 election, many new developments that utilize GIS software have taken place in election software. Companies such as Philadelphia-based Avencia Incorporated and Committee of Seventy have stepped up to the plate to use GIS to address some of the protection challenges for voters and create a safe, secure voting experience for everyone in the U.S. At the other end of the spectrum, Hart InterCivic and ESRI have entered into a relationship to develop a GIS-enabled election management system to enhance election processes at the state and local government levels.

According to Robert Cheetham, president and founder of Avencia, a GIS and software development company, the upcoming 2008 presidential election season will be an exciting time filled with activities such as the primaries,

caucuses and straw polls, before the big general election in November. The 103-year-old Committee of Seventy conducts the oldest and largest regional voter protection program in the U.S., the Election Oversight Program. For the most recent election of a new mayor and city council, the Committee partnered with Avencia to help geographically, map, record and analyze election day incidents in real time.

The Committee works with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law on Election Day to coordinate a program to monitor and register election incidents.

A small firm of approximately 20 employees, Avencia has been around since 2000. Their focus is building web based GIS software products. According to Cheetham, a fair amount of their business is local, state and federal government, and they also serve non profits, academic institutions and private businesses.

The Committee runs a hotline where citizens and volunteers can call in with polling place questions, and reports of problems at the 1,076 polling places. The information is logged, then teams, volunteers, attorneys and representatives from the district attorney's office to interview witnesses and make sure there is integrity in the voting place.

"Think of it as a 911 solution for Election Day," said Cheetham.

The new GIS system would facilitate easy and fast recording of incidents and real time map generation Key advantages include:

- 1) At the operation center, teams are assigned to each section of the city. Maps help them visualize as the incidents come in so they can assign teams more effectively.
- 2) On Election Day, officials are able to more effectively communicate to the media when there are serious problems.
- 3) After election summary reporting to public, to summarize problems present in the election.

Prior to the GIS, the Committee worked with a wall paper map on Election Day.

If any charges or citations are made, the district attorney must be involved. "There's a call center that logs the incidents into an Election Incident Reporting System (IRS)," explained Cheetham. "The IRS is a web based system run by another non profit, operated nationally. We're able to extract data out of there electronically and then bring it into ArcGIS Desktop to map and run a series of geoprocessing models every half hour or so to produce summary results. The summary results are exported as PDF files and emailed out to all the teams."

Since last fall, Avencia has been working on a proposal to build a web-based, fully automated system, whereby when the incidents are logged, they're immediately available to everyone. This will eliminate the more time consuming desktop component and make it a fully web based application.

[1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) [Next Page »](#)

You can find the full GIS Cafe event calendar [here](#).

To read more news, [click here](#).

-- Susan Smith, GIS Cafe.com Managing Editor.

Rating: ★★★★★



[Be the first to review this article](#)

Autodesk

Our interactive online adviser has the answers to your AutoCAD® Map 3D questions.

Get Answers >



Career Opportunity

GIS Analyst



McClellan, CA

Career Opportunity

Application Developer



Camp Hill, PA

Career Opportunity

GIS Program Manager - Seoul, Korea



Seoul, Korea (South)