ABSTRACT(S) IN THIS SESSION

**Conducting Elections: Migrating from Street Index Files to Spatial Databases**  
*Gary Bilotta, GISP, GIS Manager, Maricopa County Recorder Elections, Phoenix, AZ*

**ABSTRACT TEXT:** This discussion will illustrate changes the Maricopa County Recorder/Elections Department has made transitioning from a street index based method to a spatial database method when assigning districts to voters. Additional benefits of making use of spatial databases within the Recorders/Election department will also be discussed.

**Development of a Geospatial Database Used to Challenge Partisan Gerrymandering**  
*Mark Salling, PhD, GISP, Senior College Fellow, Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH*

**ABSTRACT TEXT:** The author was commissioned by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in 2018 to develop a geographic database that enabled the evaluation of highly partisan congressional gerrymandering in Ohio. The political party in control of drawing boundaries in 2011 used a geographic database on population and partisan leanings in prior elections to very successfully draw new congressional districts that produced a disproportionate number of wins for that party in subsequent elections. Fair election organizations, including the ACLU, and a selection of voters who claimed to be harmed by the district configuration, sought to challenge the redistricting plan in federal court on the basis of extreme partisan gerrymandering that violates the U.S. Constitution.

The challenge required an empirical analysis using data that could show whether the outcome of those elections would be significantly different and more representative of the electorate’s political preferences if partisan intentions had not been so strongly at play. The database had to meet strict topological requirements for the modeling of outcomes to be evaluated. A geospatial database was created for 2012 precincts and municipalities that included both population and estimated election results for the 2012 general election. With no available geographic database for the 2012 precincts and a relatively short timeframe to produce one, the author used a variety of GIS tools to construct a database that met the requirements of the modeling and analysis. These methods and the issues of the database construction will be discussed.

**Examining the Meaning of Confederate Civil War Monuments**  
*Greg Babinski, MA, GISP, GIS Marketing & Business Development Manager, King County GIS Center, Seattle, WA*

**ABSTRACT TEXT:** On November 19, 1863 President Abraham Lincoln uttered a few words about the unfinished work of those who fought and died at Gettysburg. 156 years later the meaning of Lincoln’s words and the meaning of the Civil War are still unresolved issues.

This paper examines certain monuments, building, and places named for Confederate Civil War soldiers, politicians, or allegories. A current topic in American society is what do these monuments represent today and do they have an appropriate place in public spaces. Some people say that they are harmless symbols of Southern heritage or culture. Others see them as offensive symbols of white superiority and racism.

My paper will examine the purpose for these monuments when and where they were erected. It will also examine social conditions in the local communities at the time they were erected. It will examine possible correlations between the erection of Confederate Civil War monuments with social conditions at various spatial and temporal scales. Examining the likely meaning of these monuments at the time and in the places they were erected can inform the discussion of what they mean today. The use of GIS data and analysis in my research will be outlined.