

Voting for the 2025 IGC-EC election is open through Friday, March 14th

Please scroll down to see the ballot, the nominee bios, and voting instructions.

Only members of the Idaho Geospatial Council may vote.

To learn more about the IGC-EC:

- [Committee by-laws](#)
- [Current membership](#)
- [Schedule of meetings and approved minutes](#)

BALLOT:

Position	Nominees
State (Seat 2)	Gabe Osterhout, Office of Secretary of State
Federal (Seat 3) Choose ONE	Eric Buehler, USDA FPAC-GEO Ryan Howerton, NNL
Local (Seat 5)	Cyndi Andersen, City of Meridian
Utility (Seat 9) Choose ONE	Katey Jones, Idaho Power Wendy Largent, Northern Lights
Open (Seats 11 & 12) Choose TWO	Jackie Reader, GIS Consultant Tom Kearns, IDL

HOW TO VOTE:

1. Copy and paste the following list into an email and fill in the names of the candidates you want to elect:
 - State:
 - Federal **(Choose ONE)**:
 - Local:
 - Utility **(Choose ONE)**:
 - Open **(Choose TWO)**:
2. Type **IGC VOTE** in the email subject line.
3. Send the email to IGCvoting@its.idaho.gov

DEADLINE FOR VOTING: Friday, March 14th

SCROLL DOWN TO SEE CANDIDATE BIOS

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES:

GABE OSTERHOUT (Office of Sec of State)

Gabe Osterhout is the data visualization specialist at Idaho Secretary of State, where he creates maps about registered voters, campaign finance, and election results.

Gabe began serving on the IGC-EC in January 2024. In the past year, he spearheaded the creation of Idaho's first authoritative statewide precinct shapefile, facilitated the beginning of IGC-EC's partnership with the Boise State MPA capstone to study a cost-sharing imagery program, and is actively working to establish the human-interest technical working group.

He previously worked as a research associate at the Idaho Policy Institute at Boise State University. Gabe earned a bachelor's degree from The College of Idaho and a master's degree from King's College London. He once held the Guinness World Record for the fastest time to identify all national flags.

ERIC BUEHLER (USDA)

Eric Buehler holds a Bachelor's Degree in Geographic Information Systems and a Master's Degree in Natural Resources. Eric works on the national geospatial training team for the USDA Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Geospatial Enterprise Operations (GEO) division. He loves all things GIS and outdoors. He has been on the SWIG committee for several years, including the SWIG Chair in 2018.

Eric is an Idaho native and anyone that knows him has probably heard him talk about being raised on his family farm/cattle ranch in Malad City, ID. He was able to move back to Idaho in 2015 to take a State GIS Specialist position with the federal government (USDA). Previous to his federal government career, he was the GIS Manager for Horrocks Engineers (covering several western states, including Idaho) and was also involved in the Utah Valley GIS user group leadership. He has worked in both the private and public sectors of GIS for 20 years. When not working on GIS he enjoys coaching several youth soccer teams, playing frisbee golf, and playing old school pinball. He enjoys being involved in the GIS community at the local, state, and national level. He is looking forward to the opportunity to continue serving the Idaho GIS community.

RYAN HOWERTON (Naval Nuclear Laboratory-NNL)

Ryan obtained his master's degree in GIS from Idaho State University in 2016 and his GISP in 2024. Shortly after graduating from Idaho State University, he started his professional GIS career as a GIS Specialist for the City of Chubbuck. After 3 years, Ryan moved into a position as the GIS Coordinator for the City of Pocatello.

In late 2023, Ryan made the move to work as a contractor with the Naval Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) to help guide the deployment of Enterprise GIS for the NNL GIS System Administrator for Fluor Marine Propulsion.

CYNDI ANDERSEN (City of Meridian)

Cyndi is currently the GIS Program Manager for the City of Meridian and has been using GIS technology since the late 90's. She has been GISP certified since 2014 and a GIS Manager since 2017, while serving at the city, county, and state levels of government. She has a Master's in Public Administration, Bachelor's in Technology and Management with a GIS minor, and an Associates in Civil Engineering.

Over the years, she has participated in local and regional GIS groups like NWGIS, NRURISA, UGIC, EIG, ORURISA, and others. As a past member of the IGC-EC (2018-2021), Cyndi helped plan the 2018 Fall Conference, contributed to policy reviews and proposals, and participated on several TWG's. She enjoys collaborating with GIS professionals throughout Idaho and welcomes the opportunity to help guide the future of GIS in our state.

KATEY JONES (Idaho Power)

With over 15 years of experience in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Katey has built a career specializing in transportation networks, public utilities, imagery analysis, and natural resource management. Katey earned her degree in Geography from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 2009 and has since worked across Nevada, Alaska, Oregon, and Idaho.

From 2010 to 2015, she served as a GIS Coordinator in Alaska, managing contracts focused on road and transportation networks, drone technology, and imagery analysis. Transitioning to the public works sector, Katey worked for the City of Pendleton, OR, and the City of Meridian, ID, from 2015 to 2019, where she played a key role in managing utility networks as a GIS Analyst and Coordinator.

In 2019, Katey joined the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as a GIS Analyst III, contributing to conservation efforts and resource management. Currently, she serves as a Senior GIS Analyst at Idaho Power, supporting natural resource initiatives and field operations.

WENDY LARGENT (Northern Lights)

Wendy Largent is the GIS Administrator for Northern Lights Cooperative in Sandpoint, Idaho. She started her GIS career in utilities 20 years ago at NorthWestern Energy as an intern and then as a GIS Design Drafter. She then moved into local government work at Lake County, Montana as the GIS Coordinator where she served on the MAGIP, MLIAC and local school boards.

Five years later, she went to work at Tetra Tech for 2 years where she traveled back and forth to the Texas Brine Sinkhole Project in Louisiana overseeing an experimental GIS based alert system for residential toxic gas monitoring. At the end of the sinkhole project, she went to work for Umatilla Electric Cooperative in Hermiston, Oregon as the GIS Administrator overseeing their GIS conversion as well implementing AGOL based maps on tablets for the linemen and field work.

Seeing an opportunity to live in the rain forest, Wendy left UEC and took a job as the GIS Administrator and Natural Resources Director for the Hoh Indian Tribe on the Olympic

Peninsula near Forks Washington. Now she is back in the utilities world at Northern Lights and settled in at Sandpoint, Idaho. Wendy has a double major BA in Environmental Studies and Geography (emphasis on GIS) with a minor in Geology. She has a Master's GIS Certificate from the Penn State online program and has been a GISP since 2012.

JACQUELINE READER (GIS Consultant)

Jacqueline Reader (Jackie) is a GIS Consultant working with the Idaho Department of Commerce and Idaho Office of Information Technology Services on broadband mapping. She has a bachelors in Geology from ISU and a masters in GIS from NWMSU. She is a GISP and serves on the GISCI exam development committee.

She loves taking an active role in GIS; she chairs the Geosciences TWG and has been a member of the IGC-EC for several years. Jackie was born in Germany while her father served in the US military, she was raised in Iowa but has called Idaho home since 2001. Jackie loves spending time outdoors and with her family and their dogs.

TOM KEARNS (Idaho Dept of Lands)

Starting as a contracted temp in 2014, Tom has advanced through every GIS position at the Department of Lands, playing a key role in the agency's transition from distributed personal geodatabases to ArcGIS Online and, ultimately, a full Enterprise Portal implementation. Currently, he serves as the IDL Technical Services Bureau Chief, overseeing GIS, Remote Sensing, Land Records, and Interdisciplinary Programs.

Tom's GIS experience spans both bureaucratic responsibilities—such as drafting cost justification documents and submitting budget proposals—and operational tasks, including project management and the development of enterprise dataset schemas. As a candidate for a seat on the IGC-EC, he looks forward to leveraging his experience to support and strengthen the Idaho GIS community.