

National States Geographic Information Council 2008 State Summary  
2008 State Summary  
State of Alabama

Background Information

1	Please Choose the primary contact
Michael Vanhook	

3	Please select the answer that most closely describes your role in statewide GIS coordination.
Officially Recognized State Government Only GIS Coordinator	

4	What is your job title?
State Geographic Information Systems Coordinator	

5	Enter the name of your agency/organization.
Alabama Geospatial Office	

6	Please select the answer that best describes the affiliation of your office/agency in state government.
State CIO's Office	

11	Describe your state's top three geospatial accomplishments during the past year. (200 character limit per line)
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Accomplishment 1.

Signing of Executive Order 38 - the Alabama Geographic Information Executive Council; Official Launch of Virtual Alabama

Accomplishment 2.

Creation of the Alabama Geospatial Office within the Alabama Department of Finance, Information Services Division.

Accomplishment 3.

Continued development of a State GIS data and programs, including: State metadata portal (Alabama Emergency Management Agency and Geological Survey of Alabama); and Virtual Alabama (Alabama Department of homeland Security) project.

12	Describe your state's top three geospatial goals for the coming year. (200 character limit per line)
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Goal 1.

Begin to develop the State's spatial data infrastructure. Enhancement of the GIS data and metadata portal. Reuse of state data in government.

Goal 2.

Continued progress in coordination and cooperation within the state.

Goal 3.

Development of key data sets in public domain.

13	Describe the three most significant geospatial challenges for your state. (200 character limit per line)
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Challenge 1.

Funding and other resources for GIS development and activities.

Challenge 2.

Coordination and communication.

Challenge 3.

Education of decision makers relative to the significant benefits associated with geospatial technologies and data.

14	Describe any significant cooperative efforts with federal, state or local partners. (200 character limit per line)
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Cooperative Effort 1.

There are numerous cooperative efforts in Alabama, among partners at all levels. Generally, these are driven by specific needs or projects. More emphasis is being placed on cooperative efforts, such as shared data and services.

Cooperative Effort 2.

Empty

Cooperative Effort 3.

Empty

Cooperative Effort 4.

Empty

Cooperative Effort 5.

Empty

Cooperative Effort 6.

Empty

15	Describe any significant data development activities, innovative applications, cost saving measures, contracts, etc. that are on-going or that you have begun over the past year. (200 character limit per line)
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Activity 1.

The Alabama Geospatial Office is coordinating state contracts to reduce costs of geospatial software and hardware.

Activity 2.

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs has an aerial program for orthoimagery that provides services for all levels of Alabama government.

Activity 3.

Alabama Department of Homeland Security has developed Virtual Alabama to serve as a situational awareness tool for first responders and local government.

Activity 4.

Empty

Activity 5.

Empty

Activity 6.

Empty

16	Please provide the URL link for the mission statement of your state GIS Council.
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URL:  
<http://geospatial.alabama.gov/EO38.aspx>

17	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS Coordination Office.
URL: <a href="http://geospatial.alabama.gov/">http://geospatial.alabama.gov/</a>	
18	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS Coordination Council Web Page.
No Coordination Council	
19	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS Clearinghouse Node.
URL: <a href="http://portal.gsa.state.al.us/Portal/index.jsp">http://portal.gsa.state.al.us/Portal/index.jsp</a>	
20	Is your Clearinghouse Node set up to be harvested by the GOS Portal?
Yes	
21	Please provide the URL link to a list of GIS data stewards for your state.
No List Available	
22	Please provide the URL link to your state GIS Personnel Classifications.
URL: <a href="http://www.personnel.state.al.us">http://www.personnel.state.al.us</a>	
23	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS data distribution policies.
No State Data Distribution Policy	
24	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS Data Standards.
No Data Standards	

## Score Card for the fifty states initiative

1	Which of the following NSGIC Coordination Criteria are in effect in your state?					
<p>1 = We previously had this function and lost it over the past year</p> <p>2 = No plans at this time for implementing this criteria</p> <p>3 = We currently are planning to implement this within the next 12 to 18 months</p> <p>4 = Progress has been made and we reasonably expect this to be fully implemented within the next 12 months</p> <p>5 = Implemented at this time</p>						
	Not Applicable	1	2	3	4	5
1. A full-time, paid coordinator position is designated and has the authority to implement the state's business and strategic plans.	-	-	-	-	-	5
2. A clearly defined authority exists for statewide coordination of geospatial information technologies and data production.	-	-	-	-	-	5
3. The statewide coordination office has a formal relationship with the state's Chief Information Officer (or similar office).	-	-	-	-	-	5
4. A champion (politician or executive decision-maker) is aware and involved in the process of coordination.	-	-	-	-	-	5
5. Responsibilities for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and a State Clearinghouse are assigned.	-	-	-	-	4	-
6. The ability exists to work and coordinate with local governments, academia, and the private sector.	-	-	-	-	-	5
7. Sustainable funding sources exist to meet projected needs.	-	-	-	-	4	-
8. Coordinators have the authority to enter into contracts and become capable of receiving and expending funds.	-	-	-	-	-	5
9. The Federal government works through the statewide coordinating authority.	-	-	-	-	4	-
2	Please identify the stakeholder groups that participate on your GIS Coordination Council and their level of participation.					

	Actively participates on our Council	Has an official 'seat' or voting privileges on our Council	Invited to participate in general meetings of our Council
Cities and Towns	-	-	-
Statewide City Organization	-	-	-
Counties and Parishes	-	-	-
Statewide County Organization	-	-	-
Regional Government Organizations	-	-	-
State Agencies	Actively participates on our Council	-	-
Tribal Governments	-	-	-
Federal Agencies	-	-	-
Utilities	-	-	-
Academic (Colleges & Universities)	-	-	-
Education (K-12)	-	-	-
Private Sector (GIS Industry Vendors and Users)	-	-	-
General Business Community	-	-	-
Surveying Community	-	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-	-
General Public	-	-	-
Local URISA Chapter	-	-	-
Local ASPRS Chapter	-	-	-

3 Please provide the URL link to your current Statewide Strategic Plan for GIS.  
Under Development - Not Available at this Time

4 Please provide the URL link to your current Statewide Business Plan for GIS.  
Under Development - Not Available at this Time

5 Please provide the URL link to your current Statewide Marketing Plan for GIS.  
No Marketing Plan Available

6 Please provide the URL link to the Law or Executive Order that established your GIS Coordination Office and/or Council.  
URL:  
<http://geospatial.alabama.gov/EO38.aspx>

7 Please provide a URL link to your state's law(s) related to privacy issues as they affect data and information technology.  
Not Applicable - No Law in Effect

8 Please provide a URL link to your state's law(s) related to data security issues.  
Not Applicable - No Law in Effect

9 Does your GIS Coordination Council have adequate funding to support its operation? (This refers only to the activities of the Council and not to your Coordination Office or projects like data development.)  
Not Funded

10 What fund sources does your Coordination Council use to support its operations? (Check all that apply)  
Agency Contributions As Required

11 Does your GIS Council officially endorse the use of appropriate OGC, FGDC, ANSI or ISO standards as appropriate?  
Not Applicable

12 Does your state make its own GIS Inventory tool available to users?  
No, but we actively support use of the Ramona System

13 Does your state actively develop and promote the use of data sharing agreements?  
No

14 Does your GIS Council or State Coordination Office actively participate in The National Map?

Other (please specify)  
Individual state agencies participate, such as the Geological Survey of Alabama and Economic and Community Affairs

## Hot Topics

1 Does your state have a shared Orthoimagery Program that involves local and state agencies?

Other (please specify)  
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs has a orthoimagery service, State flyplans are being discussed

2 Have you completed a Return on Investment (ROI) Study or Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) to justify a shared Orthoimagery Program?

No

3 Please provide a URL link so we can obtain a copy of your ROI or CBA study.

Not Applicable

4 Does your state have a shared Road Centerline file project that involves local and state agencies?

No

5 Have you completed a Return on Investment (ROI) Study or Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) to justify a shared Road Centerline File program?

No

6 Please provide a URL link so we can obtain a copy of your ROI or CBA study.

Not Applicable

7 Does your state have a statewide (or multi-jurisdictional) address database? (pick one)

No

8 Is this database based on individual addresses or address ranges? (pick one)

Not Applicable

9 Have you completed a Return on Investment (ROI) or Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) to justify this Address program? (pick one)

No

10 If applicable, please provide a URL link so we can obtain a copy of your ROI or CBA study. (fill-in if applicable)

## Role of State GIS Coordinators

1 Please choose the mechanism that created your position.

Agency Administrative Decision

2 Please provide the URL link for the document(s) that created your position (Legislation, Executive Order or Other Action).

Digital File Available by E-mail

3 Which choice most closely matches the title of your boss?

State Chief Information Officer

4 What choice best describes how closely you are aligned with the State CIO?

The CIO is My Boss

5 Please select the number of staff that you supervise.

Less than 3

6 Does your GIS Coordination Office have adequate funding to support its operation? (This refers only to the activities of your office and not to the Coordination Council, or projects like data development.)

Partially Funded

7	What fund sources does your Coordination Office use to support its operations? (Check all that apply)
State General Funds Agency Contributions As Required	

8	When an administration change occurs following a statewide election is your position?
Not Likely to be Affected	

9	Please rank the importance of these characteristics/skills to the effective performance of your job.				
	Not Important	Not Very Important	Important	Very Important	Critical
GIS Evangelist/Cheerleader	-	-	-	Very Important	-
GIS Architect	-	-	-	Very Important	-
Political Savvy	-	-	-	Very Important	-
Technological Savvy	-	-	Important	-	-
General Management Skills	-	-	Important	-	-
Procurement/Contracting Skills	-	-	Important	-	-
People Skills	-	-	-	Very Important	-
Understanding the Business Needs of Your Customers	-	-	-	Very Important	-