



# Alabama Geographic Information Executive Council



**Robert Bentley**  
Governor

[www.gis.alabama.gov](http://www.gis.alabama.gov)

**Spencer Collier**  
Secretary

**Overview:** The purpose of this statewide geographic information coordination effort shall be to establish policies relating to the use of geographic information, geospatial data, and related technologies; to further cooperation among state, federal, and local government agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector to improve the quality, access, cost-effectiveness, and utility of Alabama’s geographic information; and to facilitate the employment of geographic information as a strategic resource in the State.

GIS technology can be used strategically as a management information and decision-making tool in such areas as water resources, air resources, agricultural resources, energy resources, cultural resources, land resources, mineral resources, environmental management, forestry, geology, health, local government, planning, public safety, criminal justice, social services, transportation, utilities, waste management, homeland security, and wildlife management.

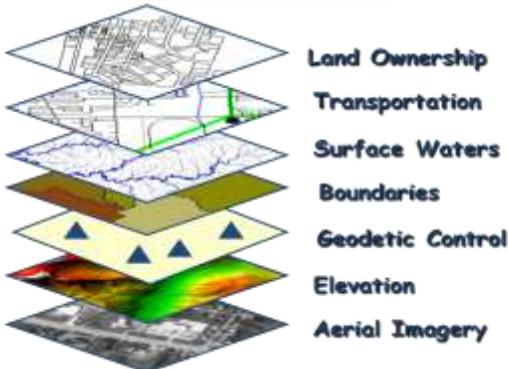
**The Mission:** The Alabama GIS Executive Council will foster the development of a spatial information capability for use by all jurisdictions and agencies to enhance decision-making processes. To ensure that the capability is sustainable, the Council will develop and implement a Strategic Plan with specific goals and objectives with measurable and actionable business plans.

**The Vision:** The State of Alabama will have a robust spatial information capability developed through a collaborative effort among the statewide geospatial community. This information will provide for effective operational, strategic, and executive decision-making to optimize the health and resilience of communities, provide access to public information, and enhance the safety, economy, environment, and quality of life in Alabama.

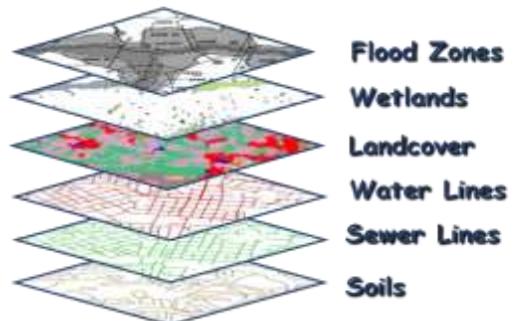
## Geographic Information Systems:

What is GIS? A simple, short definition of GIS is any system of computerized hardware and software that is designed to store, retrieve, manipulate, analyze, and display spatially referenced geographic data. Basically, it is making intelligent maps that can be used for scientific investigations, resource management, economic development, and planning activities, to list a few.

### Framework Data



### Thematic Data



# Alabama Geographic Information Program Office

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**Phillip Henderson**  
Director

The State GIS Program Office was created through Executive Order number 16 issued by Governor Robert Bentley on May 31, 2011, to act as the functional arm of the Alabama Geographic Information Executive Council. This Council is made up of 15 different directors and commissioners from state agencies and commissions whose central focus is on facilitating geographic information as a strategic resource in the State. The coordination, promotion, development, use, and sharing of geographic information, geospatial data, and the efficient use of GIS and related technologies for economic development will provide a long term benefit to the citizens of Alabama.

- *"Experience has shown that the federal government is getting a 10:1 investment return on geospatial data products"*
- *"A 15% growth rate in new geospatial industry jobs is projected over the next decade" (U.S. DOL)*
- *"GIS ranked as one of the Top Ten Technologies by state CIOs" (NASCIO)*



*"Data-management, and particularly geospatial data management, is one of the essential components for addressing the management of the business of government and for supporting the effective and economical use of tax dollars." OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance)*



## Alabama Geographic Information Advisory Committee

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The Advisory Committee's purposes will be to foster communication and cooperation among stakeholders throughout state, local, and federal agencies, educational institutions, private industry, and others in the field of GIS; provide guidance for the Council in fulfilling the objectives of the Strategic Plan; promote discussions of relevant GIS issues within the state; and provide advice to the Council and the GIS community on GIS related issues. Members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Director of the Office shall serve as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

*Geospatial capabilities represent "a portfolio of capabilities that extends across the enterprise. The investment in this portfolio is growing ... in every aspect of government decision making." (NASCIO)*