



Background

The Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) is made up of professionals dedicated to bringing geographic information system (GIS) solutions to problems facing both government and private industry. For 30 years our nearly 1,000 members throughout Wisconsin have been leaders in the development, operation and maintenance of a network of statewide GIS and land information systems. WLIA members provide data to support Next Generation 911, economic development, and property ownership and assessment. Our members provide emergency management maps and applications for flooding and other public safety concerns.

WLIA members collect, maintain, and distribute data that is critical to all sectors of business in Wisconsin. Key geospatial data includes parcels, the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), aerial imagery, road centerlines, addresses, elevation, streams and water bodies, zoning, government boundaries and geodetic control. The data our members produce is also essential for transportation, election districts and voter registration, environmental monitoring, engineering, surveying, utilities, rural broadband and more.

Legislative Priorities

1) Stable funding for the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP)

The WLIP was created to help facilitate the modernization and integration of land information. In 2013, the legislature made significant positive changes to the WLIP, including creation of the segregated Land Information Fund, increased grants for counties and other statewide geospatial needs, and increased training and education efforts. WLIA appreciates this effort and encourages continued collaboration to ensure it remains a viable program.

2) Continued support for statewide initiatives

Creation of a statewide parcel map, which aggregates locally produced property data into a statewide coverage, is essential for both public and private sector industries and data consumers. WLIA encourages continued support and funding for the statewide parcel map and additional statewide mapping initiatives.

3) Eliminating institutional barriers to geospatial data at all levels of government in Wisconsin

WLIA believes data produced with public funding should be available in the public domain. For this reason, the WLIA supported the creation of the Wisconsin Land Information Council (WLIC) and has been engaged in the development of the "WLIP Program Plan: 2016-2021", which is moving Wisconsin in the direction of making all WLIP funded data publically accessible. We support this initiative and believe the same standard should apply to all geospatial data created using public funding sources.

4) Next Generation 911 funding for geospatial data

Geospatial data is the backbone of NG 911, helping to accurately locate 911 calls and efficiently route responders via dispatch. WLIA supports funding for standardized geospatial data (addresses, road centerlines, emergency response boundaries, etc.) that can be aggregated statewide to support NG 911.

WLIA membership can serve as a resource for policymakers as GIS and land information systems have come to impact most areas of public policy. Investment in GIS and increased availability of geospatial data continues to reduce costs for businesses and government entities that rely more and more on this resource.