

LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING - COMPUTER SOFTWARE

During the 1981 and the 1991 legislative redistricting processes, the Legislative Council contracted with a consultant to provide computer-assisted redistricting services. As a result of advances in computer technology, several software vendors are offering affordable redistricting software suitable for use on personal computers. Below are summaries of information distributed by software vendors at recent National Conference of State Legislatures redistricting meetings.

DIGITAL ENGINEERING CORPORATION

- Distributes *AutoBound*, which is based on the *ArcView* desktop geographic information system (*ArcView* is used by 85 percent of state and local governments).
- *AutoBound* may be customized to the user's requirements and may be expanded through the use of additional commercial and freeware tools available for use with *ArcView*.
- *AutoBound* operates on Windows 95 or 98 or Windows NT 4.0 and uses *Crystal* reports as its built-in report writer.
- *AutoBound* is being used by at least nine states, including South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.
- Offers onsite and offsite technical support.

SAMMAMISH DATA SYSTEMS, INC.

- Involved in computer-assisted political redistricting since 1970.
- Retained by over 250 jurisdictions to prepare plans during the 1990s.
- *GeoSight* redistricting software operates in a Windows environment.
- Development of initial statewide data bases and system typically costs \$3,000 to \$6,000.
- Additional licenses for use with the statewide system cost \$1,000.
- Onsite training is available.

CALIPER CORPORATION

- Distributes *Maptitude for Redistricting*.
- Designed for Windows 95 or 98 and Windows NT.
- *Maptitude for Redistricting* costs \$995. The comprehensive data edition costs \$1,495 and the premium phase 2 edition costs \$2,295.
- Extended technical support services, end-user training, and custom application development are offered.

ELECTION DATA SERVICES, INC.

- Political consulting firm that specializes in redistricting, election administration, and geographic information services.
- Developed *Remap 2000* as its desktop redistricting software.
- *Remap 2000* is an *ArcView*-based software.
- Colorado Legislative Council, Iowa Legislative Service Bureau, and the state of Michigan are included on its client list for redistricting software and data bases for 1999 and 2000.

PUBLIC SYSTEMS ASSOCIATES, INC.

- Distributes *Plan 2000/GeoMedia* for redistricting.
- Costs range from \$4,495 to \$59,995.
- Technical support and onsite user training are available for an additional fee.

CORONA SOLUTIONS

- Distributes *GeoBalance* which uses *MapObjects* software and creates shape files that may be used for further analysis with *ArcView*.
- Software is useful for additional functions such as providing statistical information for law enforcement uses and economic factors.

LEGISLATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICES

- Established in 1982 as a political software and data base development group.
- Capability to link any address in the country to the correct corresponding congressional and state legislative districts.