



**Local Candidate & Officials  
Information App**

Capstone  
**Report**

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# Capstone Project

# Introduction

*As election administrators, one of the more frequent questions asked is ...*

*”Where do I go to get information on the candidates?”*

*While this question reflects a desire to be an informed voter, the elections office must operate from a nonpartisan position.*

## **Introduction**

As election administrators, one of the more frequent questions asked is “How do I know who to vote for?” While this question reflects a desire to be an informed voter, the elections office must operate from a nonpartisan position. Providing or promoting candidate-specific information beyond required filings can present both practical and ethical challenges. Alongside that, attempting to manage and distribute candidate contact information for voters could place an unrealistic administrative burden on an election office.

From the moment a candidate files to the conclusion of an election cycle, voters are left to navigate a complicated and lacking landscape of information sources; campaign websites, social media platforms (riddled with AI), blogs, print, and online news outlets. Even something as simple as locating basic candidate information can require

significant effort. This disjointed process contributes to voter frustration and a feeling of casting a ballot while being under prepared.

As the official office for candidate filings and election records, the Elections & Registration Office serves as the primary point of contact for election related information. Establishing a neutral, standardized digital platform that provides verified, basic candidate information such as contact details, statements, and optional candidate biographies would stress transparency while maintaining the office’s nonpartisan role.

The Local Candidate Information Application would improve voter access to reliable information, promote informed participation, and strengthen public confidence in the election process, all while maintaining the integrity and neutrality of the office.

# Capstone Project

## Project Goals

The primary goal of this project is to strengthen voter confidence by increasing access to clear, reliable, and neutral candidate information. Currently, voters have to navigate a complex landscape of sources, which can impact their ability to feel successful in educating themselves before they head to the polling place. The aim is to reduce confusion, eliminate unnecessary barriers, and ensure equitable access to basic candidate information. This initiative is not designed to advocate for any candidate or position, but rather to ensure that voters have convenient access to verified, publicly filed information in one trusted location.

Ultimately, this project seeks to:

- Improve public trust in the election process
- Increase voter confidence in ballot decision-making
- Provide equitable access to verified candidate information
- Modernize information delivery through responsible use of technology
- Strengthen overall civic participation

By addressing this critical “missing piece” in voter information accessibility, the Elections & Registration Office can reinforce its role as a trusted, transparent, and service-oriented institution within the democratic process.

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## Methods

To create this application, I used a combination of no-code development tools, online form software, and design platforms to ensure both functionality and visual clarity.

The foundation of the app was built using Glide ([glideapps.com](https://glideapps.com)), which allowed me to develop a functional mobile and web-based application without traditional coding. Glide provided the structure for organizing data, creating user-friendly navigation, and connecting dynamic content in real time.

For data collection and input, I utilized Google Forms. These forms were integrated into the workflow to gather and manage information efficiently, ensuring responses were automatically organized and easily accessible for review and use within the application.

To support the visual design and overall presentation, I used Adobe Creative Cloud tools. These products helped refine graphics, layout elements, and branding components, contributing to a more polished and professional user experience.

Together, these tools allowed me to build a functional, accessible, and visually cohesive application while maintaining efficiency and adaptability throughout the development process.

**August** - Began outline for application needs and functions

**September** - Entered all offices with descriptions for Porter County offices in the backend of the application

**October** - Started testing the candidate forms and make sure they are easy to understand and links are functional.

**November** - Created an easy-to-understand instruction sheet for candidates

**February** - Will test application from all user ends to ensure clear instructions for candidates and ease of use for voters on the public end.

**March** - Will create an easy-to-understand social media campaign for voters to educate them on this tool.

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# CEATS Principles and Tools

The Local Candidate Information Application should fully leverage advancements in contemporary application technology. A user-friendly interface, mobile accessibility, ADA-compliant design, and real-time content updates would ensure that voters can easily access information across devices. Structured submission forms would allow candidates to provide standardized, nonpartisan information—such as biographies, policy statements, and contact details—within clearly defined parameters. Automated workflows could route submissions for review and approval, maintaining neutrality and compliance before publication.

Beyond accessibility, this initiative directly addresses the growing challenge of misinformation and fragmented information across social media platforms. Voters are often exposed to incomplete, misleading, or false claims about candidates and election processes. Without a centralized, trusted source, distinguishing verified information from rumor can be difficult. By providing an official, neutral platform that houses verified candidate-submitted content, the Elections & Registration Office can offer voters a reliable reference point.

Most importantly, the application would not function as an advocacy tool. Rather, it would serve as an information equalizer—ensuring that every candidate has the same opportunity to present basic, factual information in a consistent format. This structured environment reduces reliance on social media algorithms and third-party platforms, which may amplify misinformation or unevenly distribute content. Like we discussed in our course, misinformation and lack of accessible information are significant contributors to declining voter confidence. When voters feel uncertain about the accuracy of what they are reading or struggle to locate basic facts, trust in both candidates and the election process can erode. By contrast, a secure, neutral, and transparent digital platform would reinforce institutional credibility and empower voters to make informed decisions with confidence.

In its simplicity, this application addresses a fundamental gap: access to verified, simple candidate information. By combining strong cybersecurity measures, modern technology, and a clear commitment to nonpartisanship, the platform has the potential to significantly improve information accessibility, reduce confusion, and strengthen public confidence in the voting process.

# Capstone Project

# Conclusion

By introducing this app the hope is our county will be able to address the growing challenge of voter confusion and misinformation by developing a secure, neutral digital platform that centralizes basic candidate information in one trusted location. Rather than directing voters to scattered third-party sources. Our Elections & Registration Office hopes to create an official application that provides standardized, verified, candidate-submitted information.

The solution this application maintained was strict nonpartisanship by offering equal access and uniform formatting for all candidates. Structured submission tools, administrative review protocols, and end-to-end security measures ensured that all information published was accurate, compliant, and secure. This approach solved two core issues simultaneously: fragmented information access and declining voter confidence.

To build upon this foundation, we should consider:

- Expanding voter education efforts to promote awareness of the platform.
- Integrating the application with existing voter tools, such as sample ballot lookup systems.
- Cybersecurity checks to ensure ongoing protection and compliance with evolving standards.
- Gathering user feedback from both voters and candidates to improve usability.
- Exploring analytics to better understand how voters access and use the information.

Future enhancements could include multilingual access, accessibility improvements beyond baseline ADA compliance, and expanded educational resources that explain offices and responsibilities in addition to candidate information.

## Capstone Project

# Expression of Gratitude

*This project would not have been possible without the support and leadership of Clerk of Court Jessica Bailey, Director Sundae Schoon, and the entire VSTOP team.*

*Clerk Bailey's commitment to innovation and transparency in the election process fostered an environment where forward-thinking ideas are encouraged and supported. Her leadership provided both the authority and confidence needed to pursue a project aimed at strengthening voter trust while remaining strictly nonpartisan.*

*Director Schoon's support and encouragement of my participation in this course has been greatly appreciated and has allowed me to spend the time necessary to complete this project at the highest level.*

*The VSTOP team contributed critical technical expertise and deep institutional knowledge. Their understanding of election systems, security standards, and evolving technology ensured the project was developed with both innovation and compliance at its core. The support extended by the VSTOP team throughout this process is deeply appreciated and will not be forgotten.*

*Together, this collaboration reflects the strength of leadership and partnership within Indiana's election community. By combining vision, operational expertise, and technical proficiency, our office has been able—through this app—to turn an identified gap in voter information access into a practical and impactful solution for the community.*