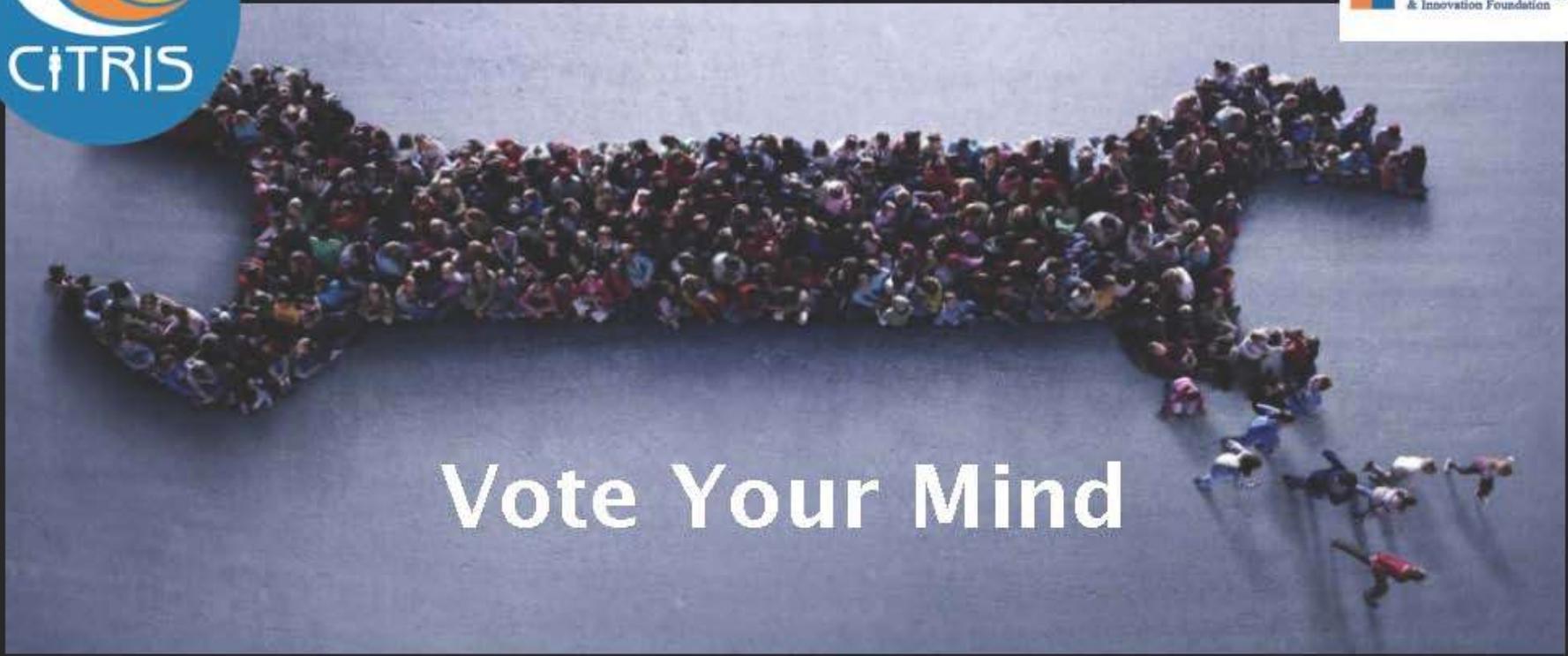




DATA AND DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE



Vote Your Mind

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Vote Your Mind Team



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Co-founder Social Apps
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Kevin Koh

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Andie Hsieh

Graphic Designer

PROBLEM:
Current voter
education
materials are
long, confusing
and
disengaging

NONPARTISAN ELECTION MATERIAL

LWV VOTERS GUIDE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND

NOVEMBER 6, 2012 • GENERAL ELECTION • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7PM

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PAGE 3

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THINGS VOTERS SHOULD KNOW

VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS ELECTION HAVE NOT CHANGED

A photo ID is not required to vote in the November 6 General Election. See page 2 of this Voters Guide to see a list of all acceptable forms of identification for this election. Should you encounter any problem at the polls, remember you can always cast a provisional ballot. You may also contact the County Clerk's office at 713.755.8965, the Texas Secretary of State Election Division 1 at 800.252.8683, or the United States Department of Justice at 1.800.253.3931 or email Voting.Section@usdoj.gov

THINK YELLOW AND WHITE

Your current Voter Registration Certificate (VRC) is yellow and white. It contains the most up-to-date information. Your yellow and white VRC is all that you will need to vote unless you are a first time voter in Harris County. (For more details, see "What do I take to the Poll?" on page 2 of this Voters Guide.)

EARLY VOTING AND BALLOTS-BY-MAIL

The dates for Early Voting by Personal Appearance are October 22 through November 2. There are 37 Early Voting polling locations in Harris County and Early Voting hours can be found on page 35 of this Voters Guide. Any registered Harris County voter may cast an early ballot at any location in Harris County.

Some voters qualify to vote by mail. The request for a Ballot-by-Mail must be received by the County Clerk's office by **October 30, 2012**. For complete details and to see if you qualify, see "When can I vote?" on page 2 of this Voters Guide.

CHECK IT OUT - ON ELECTION DAY YOU MUST VOTE AT YOUR ASSIGNED PRECINCT

Although during early voting you may vote at any one of the 37 early voting locations in Harris County, on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, you **MUST** vote at the location that is designated for your precinct. Your precinct number appears on your Voter Registration Certificate (VRC). To get a list, by precinct, of election day voting locations go to www.harrisvotes.com or call the Voter Registrar's office at 713.274.8653. This information is also published in the Houston Chronicle prior to Election Day. Save time on Election Day—check out where you will be voting before you head out to the polls.

LEAGUE OFFERS INTERACTIVE VOTER INFORMATION RESOURCES ONLINE

An interactive version of this Voters Guide is available online at Vote411.org. Enter your address and zip code and view all of the candidates who will appear on your ballot. You will be able to compare candidates side-by-side and create a print-out that you can take to the poll. For more information, visit us online at www.lwvhouston.org or join the conversation on Facebook.com/LWVHouston or Twitter.com/LWV.

TAKE THE BUS TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY - RIDE FREE!

Once again this year, METRO is providing free rides to the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6. Take advantage of this great opportunity—determine the location of your polling place and get bus route information by going to www.ridemetro.org or calling 713.635.4000.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND THIS VOTERS GUIDE

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. The League of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters Education Fund do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. For more than 90 years, the League's mission has been to support active and informed citizen participation in government. The League believes that voting is a vital part of Making Democracy Work.

The League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund publishes the Voters Guide to help each voter cast an informed vote. Inside you will find information about the voting process, the duties and responsibilities of the offices that are included in this election, the names of candidates and their responses to

selected policy questions. This publication also includes ballot issues being offered for voter consideration.

The responses provided by candidates are reproduced without editing or verification. Each candidate is personally and solely responsible for the content of his/her responses. Except where noted, candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. (More about the process used to assemble this Voters Guide can be found on page 3.)

No portion of this Voters Guide may be reproduced for use in political campaigns or advertising. Other proposed uses are permitted only with advance written authorization of the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund.



COLLABORATION MAKES SPANISH VOICES POSSIBLE

The League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund is pleased to offer the Voters Guide in both English and Spanish. Mi Familia Vota Education Fund provided the translations of all of the local information contained in the Voters Guide and collaborated with us to print and distribute the Spanish language version. Our organizations are proud to provide English and Spanish versions of the Voters Guide online at www.lwvhouston.org.

LWV/TEXAS AND U.S. EDUCATION FUNDS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON CANDIDATES FOR STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICES

Our thanks to the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Texas for providing the English and Spanish versions of responses received from the candidates for President of the United States, U.S. Senator, Texas Supreme Court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Texas Courts of Appeals, and Texas State Board of Education. Additional information about statewide races, including candidate videos, can be accessed online at www.lwvtexas.org.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE • CONTINUED

ADVOCATES FOR HOME DISTRICT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS EQUAL LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS WITH THE SENATE; HOWEVER, ONLY THE HOUSE MAY ORIGINATE REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION BILLS. SHARES POWER WITH THE SENATE TO LEVY TAXES, BORROW MONEY, REGULATE INTERSTATE COMMERCE AND DECLARE WAR. 2-YEAR TERM; SALARY: \$174,000.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

As you serve on committees and develop legislation, what will you do to promote cooperation across political party lines?

What components should be included in a comprehensive national immigration policy and why?

What is the appropriate role of the federal government in facilitating job creation in the U.S.?

NO
PHOTOGRAPH
AVAILABLE

STEVE MUELLER (R)

Promoting cooperation across political party lines will never be my primary goal; serving the people will be! Stopping the DEBT; Stopping the trampling on religious liberty; Increasing personal freedoms; Improving national security without violating personal liberty! Those are my goals!

WEBSITE: www.ElectSteveMueller.US | *EDUCATION:* BS Industrial Engineering, Texas A & M, Magna Cum Laude; Eagle Scout; Certified Project Management Professional by PMI; Certified in Production and Inventory Control by APICS (this certification is not currently maintained) | *EXPERIENCE:* Supervise an international team of Business Analysts; Have traveled to 4 continents on business. I teach my children to spend less than their income; I'll do likewise for the US! - Married 27 years. Father of 7 children. Coach of many soccer and baseball teams. Scoutmaster of BSA Troop w/ 60+ boys

300 characters cannot do this important topic justice. See the plan I laid out in 2010! Another CRITICAL issue in Texas is Taxpayer-supported School Choice for EVERY student. The Republicans back it with a plank in their platform. Democrats condemn students to government schools only.

The BEST and QUICKEST way the federal government can help the US economy and grow the number of jobs here is by passing the Fair Tax bill that is ALREADY before Congress. Unfortunately, Incumbent Green has not co-sponsored the bill. I will!!! Read more about it at: www.FairTax.org



AL GREEN (D)

I will continue to co-sponsor and support bi-partisan legislation while working across party lines.

A just policy should include: 1. Security along all borders and points of entry to control ingress and egress, 2. The Dream Act for young people brought here undocumented without choice, 3. A sound pathway to legalization to resolve the issue of law-abiding, productive undocumented persons.

The role of the federal government is to facilitate when private-market facilitation is not feasible.

WEBSITE: www.algreen.org | *EDUCATION:* Juris Doctorate, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX. | *EXPERIENCE:* Law instructor at Thurgood Marshall School of Law more than 5 years; licensed attorney in the state of Texas since 1974; judge of a justice court approx. 26 years; U.S. Rep. for the 9th Congressional District of Texas since 2005; engaged in civil rights and human rights advocacy for decades.



JOHN WIEDER (L)

Although running as a Libertarian, I am running a no labels campaign. I am a member of the no labels group that is supporting those candidates that have taken an oath to promote cooperation across party lines. As a minister I will pray that I am lead by the Lord to do the will of GOD. May GOD bless

Require all illegals to register or be deported. Why? because they are illegal. Require those registered to take seminars on ways of life in america and be given after vetting a work visa and tax id number only. No temporary residence. One parent an american citizen for a newborn to be an american.

We need less government and less taxes in order to facilitate job creation. Government should end practice of penalizing those who have bad credit with higher rates on loans, turn downs on credit cards, higher insurance rates, etc. This is a real problem. Facilitate SBA loans for all, not just a few

WEBSITE: www.johnwieder.org | *EDUCATION:* Graduate Alvin HS, AF electronics radar & computer repair, College of the Mainland, Computer Science, Real Estate, BBA business, minor geology University of Houston 1980, graduate work in advanced spanish LAMAR University, FICF fraternal insurance counselor fellow 1991, all continuing education. | *EXPERIENCE:* USAF Vietnam Veteran 68-72, Data Base Administrator UTMB Galveston 72-80, Real Estate Broker/Owner Century 21 Texas City and La Grange TX, 80-87, Insurance Broker real estate investor Alvin, Lufkin, Woodville, Beaumont TX et al, 88-2000, retired 2002 real estate investments, Obtained May 2009 profile



VANESSA FOSTER (G)

Even as a Dem while lobbying, I always strove to reach both parties & develop relations (Chisum, Delwin Jones in TX, Voinovich & Fred Thompson @US Sen). As part of Occupy HOU with even more parties & philosophies, I insisted upon us working conjunctively. Now I run as third party to avoid gridlock!

Immigration should not be done as a mechanism for corporations to lower overall wage scales, nor to exploit those newly arrived. It should focus much less on artificial barriers such as building walls, and more on diplomacy with subject nations to address their own social ills causing their exodus

Over 30 years of deregulation & removal of anti-trust. Now we're overrun by oligopolies in US economy, lowered wages, diminished horizons and death of Main St. in favor of Wall St. We should break up oligopolies' govt contracts & favoritism, rework corp. taxation, promote small biz & new technology

EDUCATION: Mary Carroll High Sch, Corpus Christi TX Del Mar College, Corpus Christi TX | *EXPERIENCE:* No elected experience beyond Precinct Chair/Election Judge for PCT 558 (1999-2006), to State Nominations Committee in 2004 and as national delegate in 2004 (alternate) and 2008 (delegate). Have 16+ yrs. experience as non-paid social issues lobbyist, volunteer & coordinator on numerous pol. campaigns

Even when the content is good, layout can cause challenges

B Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond

SAN FRANCISCO CLEAN AND SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS BOND.
To improve the safety and quality of neighborhood parks across the city and waterfront open spaces, enhance water quality and clean up environmental contamination along the Bay, replace unsafe playgrounds, fix restrooms, improve access for the disabled, and ensure the seismic safety of park and recreation facilities, shall the City and County of San Francisco issue \$700 million dollars in General Obligation bonds, subject to independent oversight and regular audits?

YES
NO

Digest by its Author Emilleeann Cavallaro

The Way It Is Now: The City operates and maintains more than 200 parks, playgrounds, recreation facilities, public open spaces and other properties throughout San Francisco. In 2002 an independent review revealed that many parks and facilities were outdated and posed seismic and safety risks. As a result, the City's 10-year Capital Plan proposed a series of general obligation bonds to address these needs in parks.

The City uses property tax revenues to pay principal and interest on general obligation bonds. The City's policy is to issue new bonds as prior bond debt is retired.

The Proposal: Proposition B is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow up to \$700 million by issuing general obligation bonds to fund repairs and improvements of the City's parks and public open spaces.

The City plans to use the bond funds for the following purposes:

- neighborhood park repairs and renovations at Angelo J. Ross Playground, Babco Park, Garfield Square, George Christopher Playground, Gilman Playground, Glen Canyon Park, Hyde-Turk Mini Park, Joe DiMaggio Playground, Margaret S. Hayward Playground, Moirano Recreation Center, Mountain Lake Park, Potrero Hill Recreation Center, South Park, West Burke Playground, and Willie "Woo Woo" Wong Playground (\$88.6 million)
- waterfront park and public open space repairs and renovations, which may include Teas Creek, Warm Water Cove, Northwest Wharf Plaza at Pier 27, Aquatic

Vista Park, Pier 43 Plaza and Pier 70 Parks (\$34.5 million)

- playground repair and replacement (\$75.5 million)
- improvements to John McLaren Park (\$10 million), Golden Gate Park (\$3 million), and Lake Merced Park (\$2 million)
- Community Opportunity Fund to pay for community nominated recreation and park projects (\$12 million)
- improvements that conserve water in parks (\$8 million)
- trail reconstruction in Golden Gate Park and John McLaren Park (\$4 million), and
- park facility progress (\$4 million)

Proposition B would allow an increase in the property tax to pay for these bonds. It would permit lotowners to pass through 50% of any resulting property tax increase to their tenants.

Proposition B would require the Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to provide independent oversight of the spending of bond funds. One-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the bond funds (\$700,000) would set for the committee's audit and oversight functions.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you will be voting to issue up to \$700 million in general obligation bonds to fund repairs and improvements to the City's parks and public open spaces.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want the City to issue these bonds.

This measure requires 60% affirmative votes to pass.

Arguments for and against this measure immediately follow. The list first begins on page 104. Some of the words used in the ballot digest are explained on page 105.

Ballot Measure Plan

Arguments are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency. Arguments are printed as submitted. Spelling and grammatical errors have not been corrected.

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Controller's Statement on "B"

City Controller Ben Rosenfield has issued the following statement on the fiscal impact of Proposition B.

Should the proposed \$700 million in bonds be authorized and sold under current assumptions, the appropriate costs will be as follows:

- In fiscal year 2013-2014, following issuance of the first series of bonds, and the year with the lowest tax rate, the estimated annual costs of debt service would be \$2.7 million and result in a property tax rate of \$0.0022 per \$100 (\$0.24 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation).
- In fiscal year 2016-2017, following issuance of the last series of bonds, the estimated annual costs of debt service would be \$9.0 million and result in a property tax rate of \$0.0084 per \$100 (\$8.36 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation).
- The best estimate of the average tax rate for these bonds from fiscal year 2013-2014 through 2017-2018 is \$0.0053 per \$100 (\$5.28 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation).

Based on these estimates, the highest estimated annual property tax cost for these bonds for the owner of a home with an assessed value of \$500,000 would be approximately \$43.30.

These estimates are based on projections only, which are not binding upon the City. Projections and estimates may vary due to the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold at each sale, and actual assessed valuation over the term of repayment of the bonds. Hence, the actual tax rate and the years in which each rate are applicable may vary from these estimated values. The City's current debt management policy is to issue new general obligation bonds only as and times as needed, keeping the property tax impact from general obligation bonds approximately the same over time.

How "B" Got on the Ballot

On July 13, 2012, the Board of Supervisors voted 11 to 3 to place Proposition B on the ballot. The Supervisors voted as follows:

Yes: Avanes, Campos, Cho, Cho, Cohen, Eldersveld, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Oroguz, Wiener.

No: None.

This measure requires 60% affirmative votes to pass.

Arguments for and against this measure immediately follow. The list first begins on page 104. Some of the words used in the ballot digest are explained on page 105.

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Proposition B - 65

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Should the proposed \$700 million in bonds be authorized and sold under current assumptions, the appropriate costs will be as follows:

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- In fiscal year 2016-2017, following issuance of the last series of bonds, the estimated annual costs of debt service would be \$9.0 million and result in a property tax rate of \$0.0084 per \$100 (\$8.36 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation).
- The best estimate of the average tax rate for these bonds from fiscal year 2013-2014 through 2017-2018 is \$0.0053 per \$100 (\$5.28 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation).

Based on these estimates, the highest estimated annual property tax cost for these bonds for the owner of a home with an assessed value of \$500,000 would be approximately \$43.30.

These estimates are based on projections only, which are not binding upon the City. Projections and estimates may vary due to the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold at each sale, and actual assessed valuation over the term of repayment of the bonds. Hence, the actual tax rate and the years in which each rate are applicable may vary from these estimated values. The City's current debt management policy is to issue new general obligation bonds only as and times as needed, keeping the property tax impact from general obligation bonds approximately the same over time.

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Yes: Avanes, Campos, Cho, Cho, Cohen, Eldersveld, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Oroguz, Wiener.

No: None.

Proposition B - 67

City Controller Ben Rosenfield has issued the following statement on the fiscal impact of Proposition B.

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Based on these estimates, the highest estimated annual property tax cost for these bonds for the owner of a home with an assessed value of \$500,000 would be approximately \$43.30.

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Yes: Avanes, Campos, Cho, Cho, Cohen, Eldersveld, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Oroguz, Wiener.

No: None.

Proposition B - 68

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Based on these estimates, the highest estimated annual property tax cost for these bonds for the owner of a home with an assessed value of \$500,000 would be approximately \$43.30.

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Yes: Avanes, Campos, Cho, Cho, Cohen, Eldersveld, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Oroguz, Wiener.

No: None.

Proposition B - 71

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- In fiscal year 2013-2014, following issuance of the first series of bonds, and the year with the lowest tax rate, the estimated annual costs of debt service would be \$2.7 million and result in a property tax rate of \$0.0022 per \$100 (\$0.24 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation).
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Yes: Avanes, Campos, Cho, Cho, Cohen, Eldersveld, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Oroguz, Wiener.

No: None.

12 pages for one proposition!

Vote Your Mind

- Tablet-based voter guide for individuals with cognitive disabilities
- Breaks content into manageable chunks
- Provides multimedia (TTS, graphics & animation)
- Gestures designed for individuals with fine motor difficulties, such as swiping across buttons instead of tapping
- Activities to keep the reader active, such as matching tasks
 - The system will not register incorrect answers so erroneous connections are not accidentally formed
- Allows marking one's preferences while moving through the guide
- Provides a printable sample ballot

Vote Your Mind

- Conducted a review of voters guides
- Selected sample text
- Currently prototyping
- Will conduct a small usability study in mid-late summer

**Carnegie
Mellon
University
Silicon Valley**

Research in Accessible Voting Project

Dan Gillette

daniel.gillette@sv.cmu.edu



UNITED STATES
ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



Team



Ted Selker

Associate Director, CyLab
Mobility Research Center
Distinguished Service
Professor



Dan Gillette

Project Scientist



Shama Hoque

Graduate Assistant



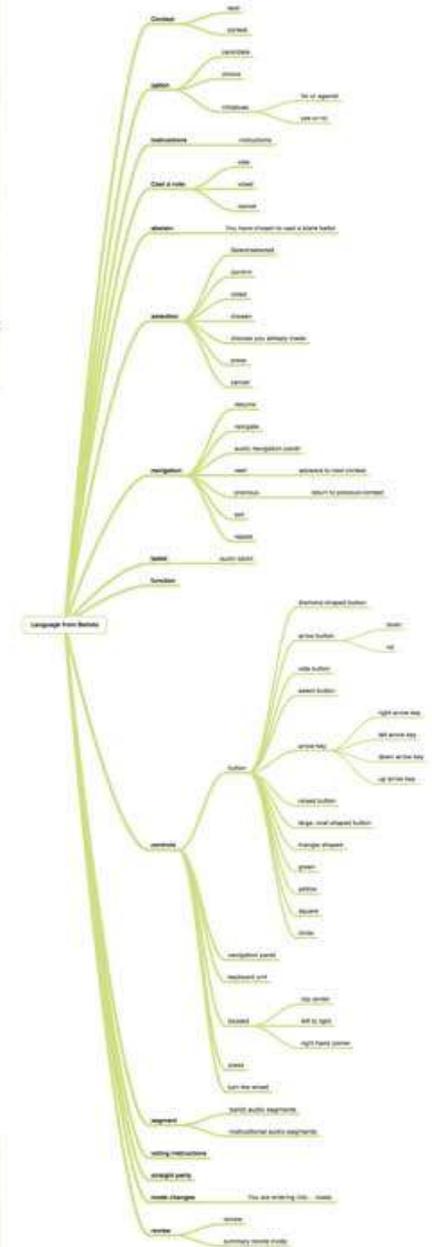
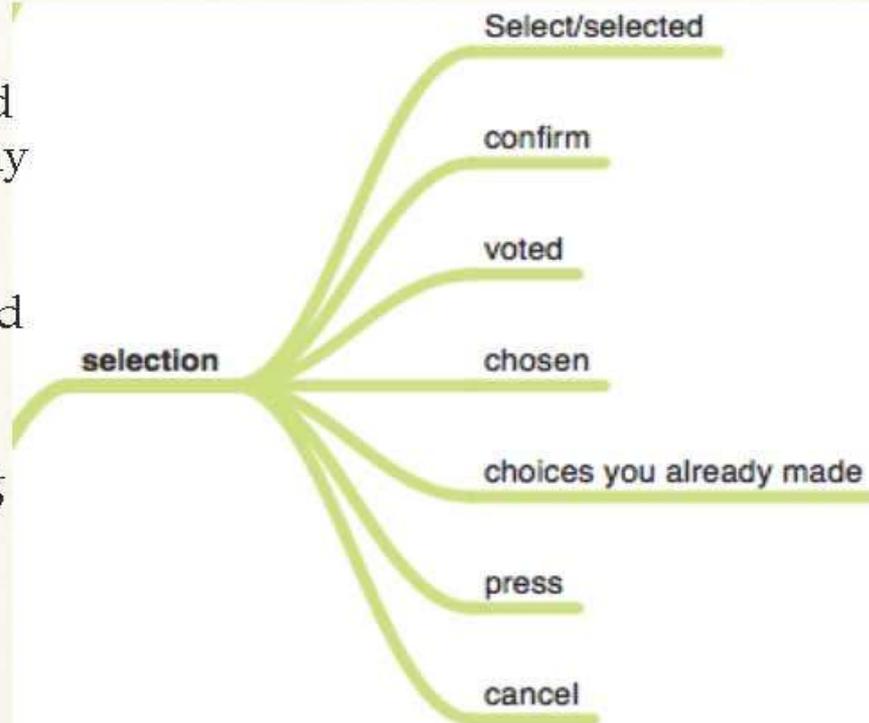
Ashwin Arun

Research Assistant

Contributors: Rahul Rajan, Cliff
Chen, Joey Hsiao

Dialog Analysis

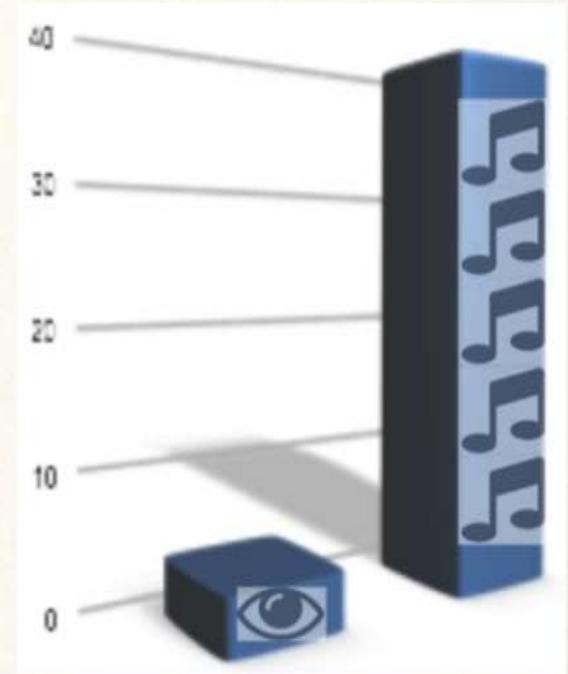
- A review of instructions and dialogs for many DREs was conducted and found many had inconsistent terminology
- We are working on a more consistent and contextually appropriate syntax for voting





Audio Ballots

- More efficient list browsing
- Write-in systems for non-alphabetic control sets
- Considerate dialogs and help
- Review schemes, such as review-in-place
- Earcons
- System responsiveness



Audio-only ballots can take 8-10 times longer to complete compared to typical graphical DREs

Research in Accessible Voting Project at CMU

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Problem: Audio voting is difficult and time consuming.

Solution: Develop new candidate browsing, dialog, help, contextual awareness and write-in systems to improve audio voting.

Write-in System for Audio-only DRE Systems without Alphabetic Keypads

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z Space Hyphen End 📌

Above is a representation of what is read to the user in fast scrolling mode. The larger letters are read at a slower rate than the others, acting as waypoints.

Introduction

A prototype was created with HTML and JavaScript that utilizes the Chrome browser's text-to-speech capabilities. Two scrolling modes are available: one sped up for finding a letter region and one optimized for zeroing in on letters. An iterative pilot usability study was conducted in the winter of 2013.

Preferred Reading Rate

A reading rate equivalent to 400 words per minute proved best for rapidly finding a letter region. Users had difficulty stopping where they intended at higher speeds. The audio remained intelligible up to a rate equivalent to 600 words per minute.

Instructions

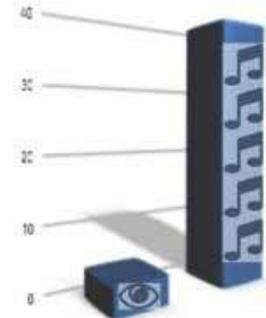
Without instruction on strategy, users would often go through a period of experimentation and many never took full advantage of the system's features. With a simple set of instructions explaining the purpose for each scrolling mode, most users quickly settled into an efficient usage pattern.

Zombie Scrolling

Some users were lulled into inattention by the looping found in fast scrolling mode that linked the end of the alphabet back to the beginning. An end-of-alphabet earcon (a bell ding) was added, and looping was removed, to prevent turning users into zombies.

Tracking Progress

Users often selected a letter twice because they had lost their place while spelling. We are developing systems to provide helpful but unobtrusive progress tracking.



Voters report that it can take up to eight times longer to vote an audio ballot vs a graphical one.



Controls Matter

The first iteration had a set of keys for single letter browsing and a separate set for fast scrolling. While easy to comprehend, users had a tendency to only use one set for all tasks. The current prototype uses one set of direction keys for stepwise and fast scrolling (see diagram at left). Users find this system more fluid and easier to manage, leading to more efficient usage patterns. The next iteration will allow for the use of a game controller's directional pad. Tests will be conducted against the current system to gauge the usability of each type of controls.



UNITED STATES
ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

This project is funded by a three year grant from the United States Election Assistance Commission as part of the Research Alliance for Accessible Voting.



Research Alliance
for Accessible Voting



Command & Control



Multimedia Interfaces

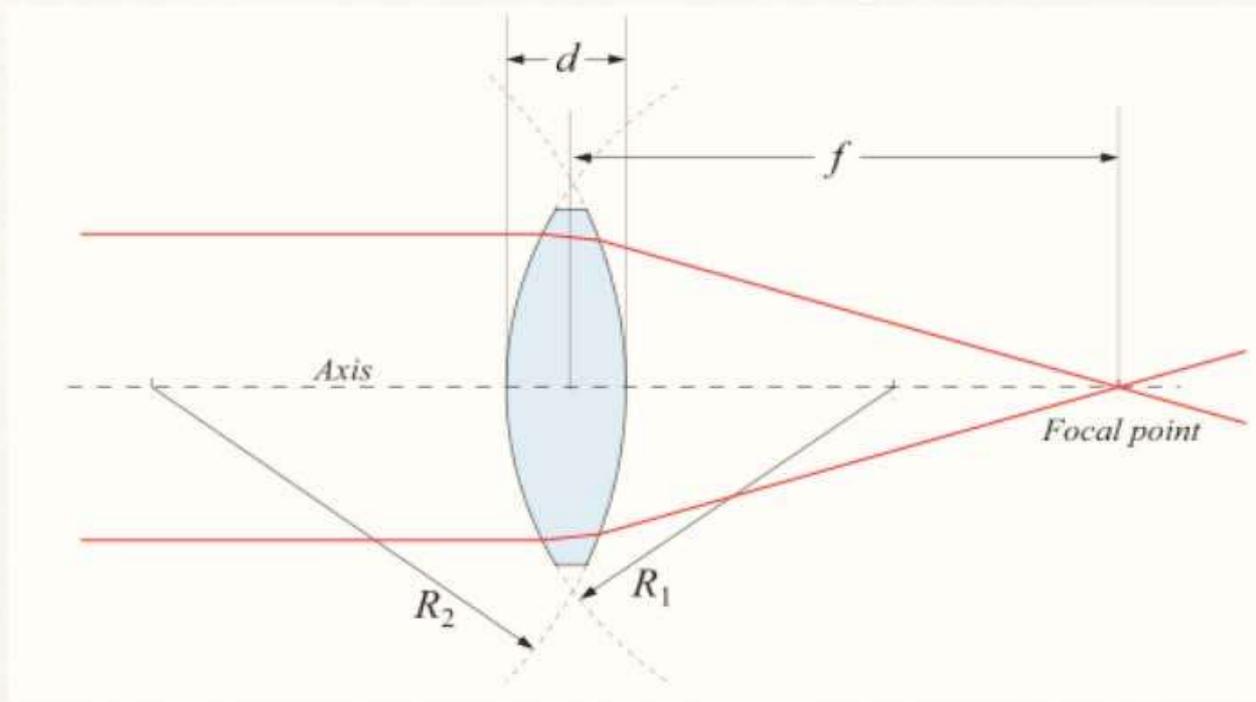
- Contextual awareness
- Focus
- Considerate capabilities
- Review and cast

County Commissioners

Select 3 Candidates
Contest 8 of 11

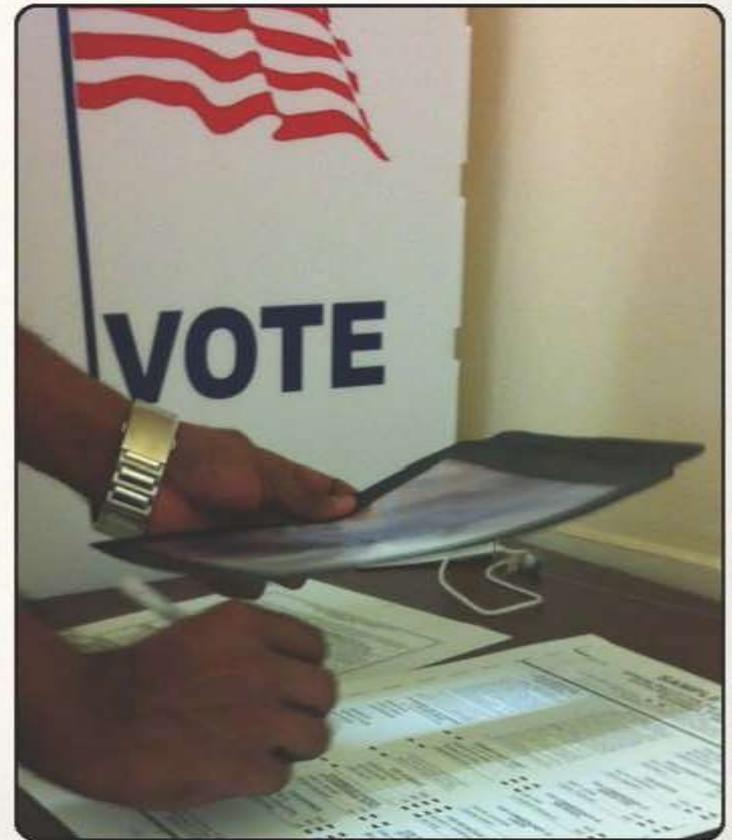
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camille Argent (B)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chloe Witherspoon (B)
<input type="checkbox"/> Clayton Bainbridge (B)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Marracini (Y)
<input type="checkbox"/> Charlene Hennessey (Y)	<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Savoy (Y)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sheila Moskowitz (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Tawa (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> Damian Rangel (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Altman (O)

Magnifiers



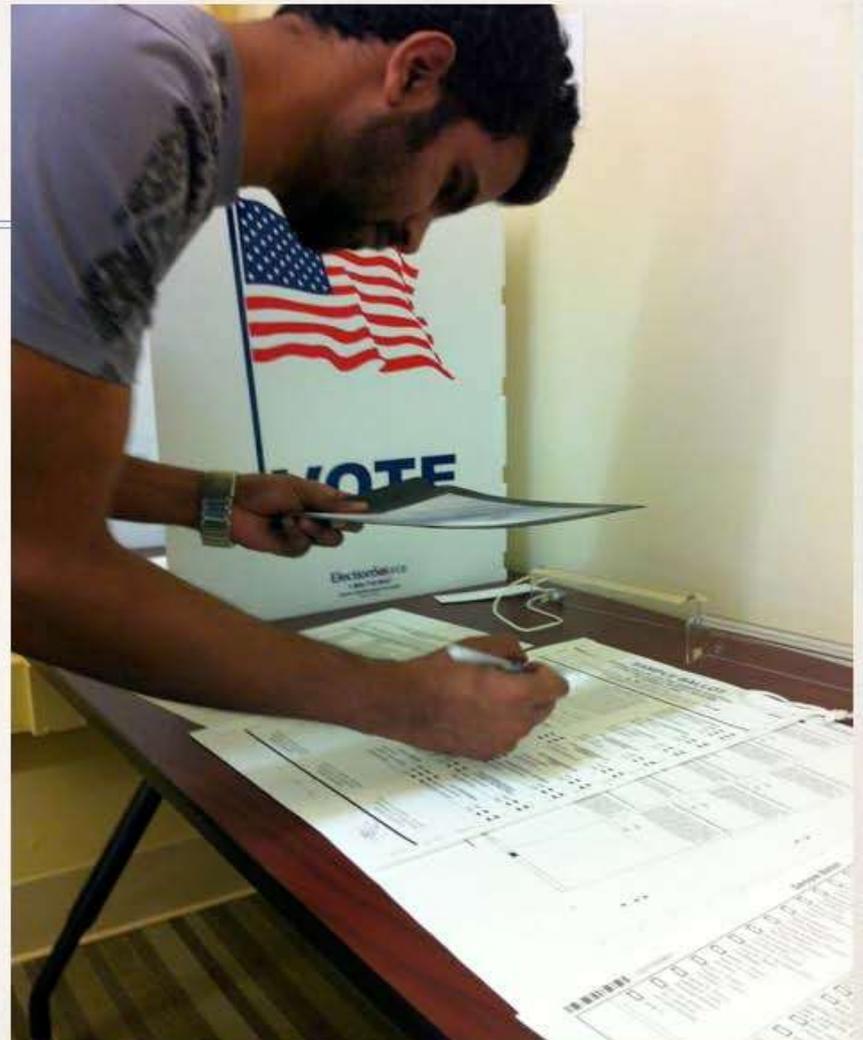
Voting Magnifiers: Who needs them?

- Individuals who may not realize their reading vision has declined
 - Lifestyle does not include tasks similar to voting
- Individuals that do not utilize assistive magnification in their daily lives
 - Otherwise, likely to bring own tech
 - Needs of those with moderate to severe reading difficulties are too diverse to provide solutions in the polling place
 - Voting magnifiers are not corrective, so there is a limit to how much they can help



Common Issues

- Requires two hands
- Difficult to find and maintain focus
- Focal length too short to operate a pen underneath
- Posture
 - Natural inclination to keep the ballot, magnifier and eyes in plane
 - Body geometry does not match the task
- Regularly feeling a need to put the magnifier down

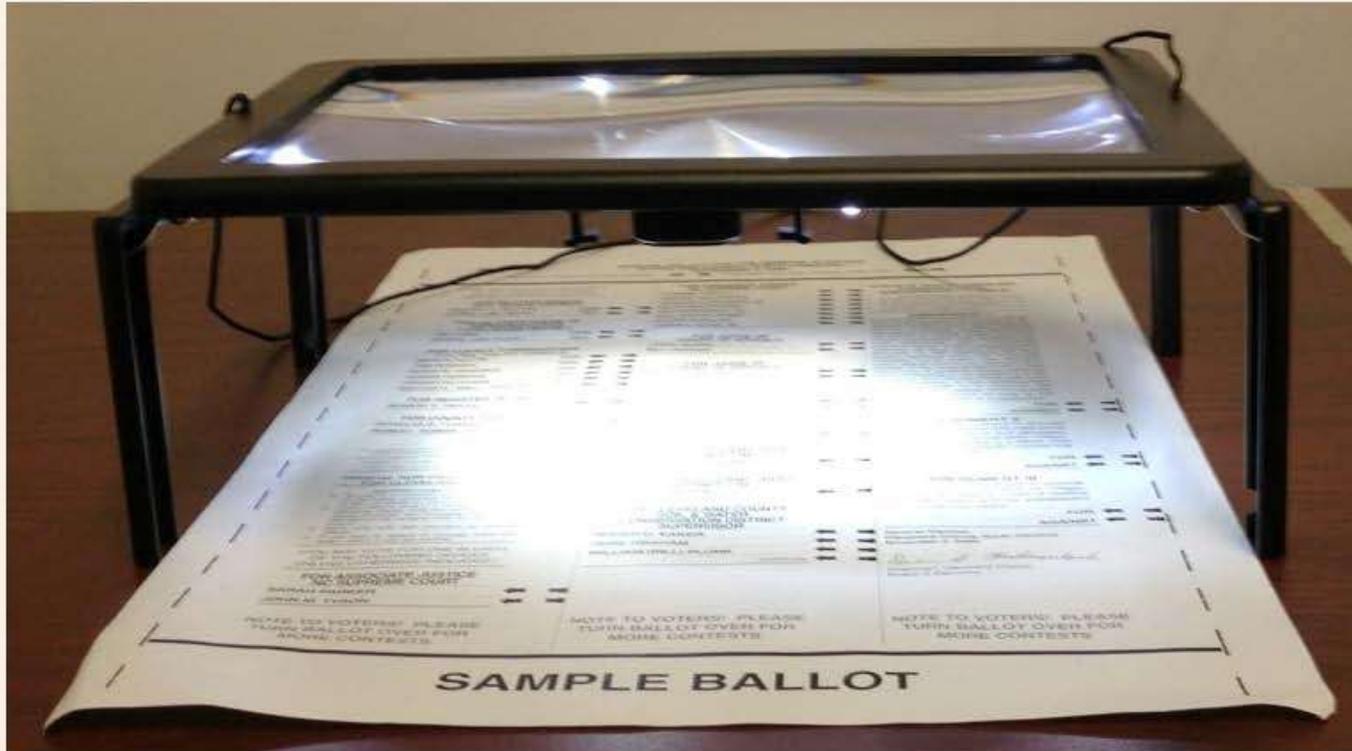


Common Issues

- Lighting
 - Reflectivity
 - Low light transmission (this is a population that may need more light than usual due to macular degeneration)
- Distortion
 - Flexibility in the lens
 - Wrong type of lens for task
 - Poor fabrication



Voting Magnifier Requirements



Close, but not quite right

Voting Magnifier Requirements

- Freestanding
- Low reflectivity
- Downward facing light originating from below the magnifier
- Good light transmission
- Easy setup
- Inexpensive
- Portable
- Robust
- Fits polling booth geometry

**Carnegie
Mellon
University
Silicon Valley**

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