



State Testing and Certification Conference Update

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EAC Standards Board 2016 – Carlsbad, CA

The Issue:

- ▶ Federal testing of voting systems provides a detailed, but intentionally narrow scope
 - ▶ States recognize the need to provide infrastructure to support state-centric testing
 - ▶ There is no formal training and/or certification for the knowledge and skills required to test voting and election systems
 - ▶ The terrain is constantly changing
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Purpose:

- ▶ Share best practices for state-level testing of voting and election systems
 - ▶ Create a network of testing professionals
 - ▶ Create a venue for publishing research on testing issues, methods and strategies
 - ▶ Mentor newcomers
 - ▶ Create a repository of papers and presentations for future practitioners
 - ▶ Integrate and leverage state and federal testing
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State Certification Conference Origins:

- ▶ Ideas for the conference originated from a series of discussions and reflections on how the EAC could be more responsive to assist the States in their certification efforts and how States themselves could become more responsive to their own shared needs related to system certification.

Conference History at a Glance:

- **2011:** Initial State Certification Conference held at **Kennesaw State University Center for Election Systems, Kennesaw, GA**, 27 attendees.
- **2012:** Conference held at the **Ball State University Bowen Center for Public Affairs** office in **Indianapolis, IN**. Hosted by the Indiana Secretary of State, 36 attendees.
- **2013:** Conference held in **Harrisburg, PA**. Hosted by the Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth, 42 attendees.
- **2014:** Conference held in **Denver, CO**. Hosted by the Colorado Secretary of States Office, 55 attendees.
- **2015:** Conference held in **Seattle, WA**. Hosted by the Washington Secretary of State, 84 attendees. 32 presentations/papers accepted.
- **2016:** Conference to be held at **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** in **Cambridge, MA**. **June 20–21, 2016**. Co-Hosted by MA, CT, and N.H. Anticipated attendance of 40–50.
- **2017:** Austin, TX. – **2018: Stay tuned.**

2016 Conference Agenda items:

- ▶ Considerations for Implementing Voting Systems with COTS Products
 - ▶ Colorado Uniform Voting System Project: Lessons Learned
 - ▶ State Priorities for Common Data Format Specifications
 - ▶ Aging Voting System Laws in Texas
 - ▶ Social Media & Certification
 - ▶ EAC and State of California voting system standards mapping project
 - ▶ Noise in the System: Fervent Advocacy, Forests and Tree
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Mini Case Studies:

“California Ballot Printing Certification”

– *Ryan Macias, California
2015*

Described best practice for testing and certifying BOD devices in California. Important information for other states considering adopting BOD technologies and BOD standards for state certification.

Mini Case Studies:

“Oregon’s New Motor Voter Law: How it Will Work and the Implementation Phase”

– *Codi Trudell, Oregon -2015*

Description of new process for voter registration.

Information received electronically from DMV database into an SOS database.

- No paper exchange from the DMV to elections officials for address updates or new registration forms
- Notification mailed that details the new registration status unless voters return the card declaring they wish to opt-out within 21 days.

Communications, technological and legal issues noted. Update at 2016 Conference.

Mini Case Studies:

“Designing and Conducting an Audit of an Election Anomaly”

*– Dr. Jay Bagga, Dr. Joe Losco
Dr. Ray Scheele, Sujan Pradhan,
MS, Indiana
–2014*

Described an issue during the 2012 General Election in Indiana county using a DRE voting system.

Anomaly manifested in under-reporting of 3,791 walk-in absentee votes.

Investigation, information gathering and reporting process.

Mini Case Studies:

“Developing Test protocols and Procedures for Testing Modeming Technology”

– *Sherri Ann Charleston, Wisconsin – 2013*

Wisconsin Government Accountability Board project to evaluate whether certain modem technology can be approved for use with voting equipment in Wisconsin. Staff developed “*Voting System Standards, Testing Protocols and Procedures Pertaining to the Use of Communication Devices in Wisconsin.*” Issues noted included analog vs. VOIP technology. Election Day security protocols clarified that modeming shall only be used for the transmission of unofficial results. Staff also recommended Board adopt post-election equipment audits during the initial period of use.

Mini Case Studies:

“Challenges in Implementing Vote Centers with Current Voting Equipment”

– *Erik Reichstein , Arizona 2012*

Described the need to add supporting technology such as e-pollbooks and BOD printers as well as finding equipment that is certified, cost effective, adaptable and easy to use. Challenges noted were dramatic start-up costs and logistics in large counties (6,600 ballot styles)

Why is the Conference Important?

- ▶ Testing and certification is no longer a periodic and episodic function related to the purchase of an vote tabulation system.
 - ▶ Effective programs must be persistent and consistent, spanning administrations and developing effective internal process and institutional memory.
 - ▶ Proliferation and expansion of your election systems require dedicated and qualified teams.
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Why is the Conference Important?

- ▶ *Everyone* is involved. Only 1st time attendees exempt from making presentations.
 - ▶ State certification staff see that their work product informs work in other jurisdictions and may have a nationwide impact.
 - ▶ Allows local jurisdictions to leverage State certification representatives as additional resources on an ongoing basis.
 - ▶ Allows EAC to assess the needs of State certification efforts and how we can better serve jurisdictions around the country.
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This Conference represents *real* Federal and State cooperation since 2011.....

TEAMWORK

coming together is a beginning
keeping together is progress
working together is success

- Henry Ford

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