

Election Administrators Survey

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A. Survey Design

Basics of the Design

- Survey of all local election offices in the U. S.
- Questionnaire designed by Stephen Ansolabehere, Daron Shaw, and Charles Stewart with input from many others.
- Survey implemented by Sentis Research.
 - Selected Sentis after putting this out for a competitive bid. We think Sentis has done an excellent job ensuring a high quality product.
 - Data and reports will be available through the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project website.

Two Aspects of Survey

1. Measure operations and decision-making in order to explain performance. Supplements EAC's EAVS and other surveys.
2. To hear from the election administrators themselves what is happening, where we are headed, and where we need to do.

Discuss #2 today. White paper will delve into both.

We present VERY PRELIMINARY DATA today based on the first 1400 respondents.

B. What Administrators Want to Implement

Are there technologies or new administrative procedures that you would like to try (even if you cannot afford them)?

#1 E-Pollbooks

FIRST 10 or so RESPONSES:

Electronic poll books.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE E-POLL BOOKS

Have electronic pollbooks at all voting locations with precinct workers with the ability to operate them

electronic poll books

better voting machine

E-POLL BOOK

Did we mention E-Pollbooks?

Electronic Poll Books

new voting machines and implementing all 5 precincts in one location so I can oversee the polling location and workers. Electronic notebook or laptop so that we can go online with our state voter registry on site.

Only have one epoll book for early voting, would love to have one for each polling place. Very expensive for small County.

Definitely! An electronic pollbook for checking-in voters at the polling location. I believe it would cut down on provisionals and decrease lines. I wish my state would offer it as an option.

touch voting machines

Electronic Poll Books

#2. New Voting Technology

Our current equipment in <state omitted> is VERY old. We are now experiencing more breakdowns on election day with the equipment.2. The coding process / design layout of the ballot is also VERY old equipment. It is NOT user friendly at all.

New voting machines. Simpler ballot designs.

Love to replace <brand name> machines which i believe are a BOAT ANCHOR

#3. Office Technology

At this point, new computers would be a vast improvement. (We have state-owned Dell's from 2002.)

Yes, We are a relier. I would like to get a few of my election inspectors trained to be able to use SVRS along with me. This would require a computer and many hours of training. Having a computer just for elections, can not be justified to the town.

I would love to have more computers at our service counter to help with absentee voting.

I would like to have internet access at the Town Hall and another electronic voting machine.

#4 Resources

Additional staff dedicated to election procedures would be the most helpful. At my office level (County Clerk) there are so many diverse requirements of the office that current (reduced) staffing does not allow the ease of election preparation

No. I just wish there was more funding for all that we do. Election mandates are funded by funds that would normally go to roads, etc.

No, not really. I am doing good if I get what I need. I have been in need of a telephone for my office as well as a computer monitor, printer and scanner for some time now. I can only think as far ahead as my needs will allow.

#5. Consolidation

I would like to move towards vote centers.

VOTE CENTERS- EXPANSION OF EARLY VOTING. HAVE A NUMBER OF SITES ACROSS COUNTY THAT ANY VOTER CAN GO TO AND VOTE DURING VOTING PERIOD. LAST DAY OF PERIOD WOULD BE ELECTION DAY.

Electronic poll books, all mail in elections. I live in a county that is 18,000 square miles and with only 10 total staff it is hard to manage polling places over 200 miles apart.

The precinct concept is outdated because of redistricting creates ghost precincts, extremely small population sized precincts and voters don't relate to the neighborhood precinct. Voters appear more interested in voting sites related to well traveled areas.

#6. Integration

We are switching this year (2013) to a new program. Used to keep records and do updates in our software and transmit to the state. Now it is all under the state. We go on a website to do our updates now.

Yes - I would like to see an integrated on-line system (hosted by the Secretary of State's Office) to expedite the check-in of voters at the polling place. This would eliminate days of data entry after an election.

Electronic poll books, vote tabulation equipment with modem capability, online registration and most importantly allow the use of tabulation equipment during absentee voting instead of holding all those ballots in envelopes until Election Day.

On-line registration. Separate the voting machine hardware from the voting software. Allow software to run on various physical platforms. This would allow flexibility, a better product, and perhaps cost savings.

C. Sharing Innovations

Have you implemented any innovations that you think would help other jurisdictions like yours? Could you briefly describe those?

Most Important: Learn From Each Other

No, our innovations have been modeled after other counties. They are not new but we try to at least keep up with the mainstream technologies which can enhance voter information and access.

No, I tend to copy off others. This biggest improvement according to my elections judges is the notebook which contains almost everything they need at their fingertips.

no. other counties have helped me

State-wide precinct uniformity and development of relationships with other counties that created an environment of communication and sharing of ideas and problem solving that has benefitted all greatly.

Lessons

1. MAIN GOAL IS TO FACILITATE LEARNING AMONG ELECTION OFFICES
2. Measure Election Offices activities, experiences, and needs
 - Ascertain systematically (e.g., a survey) what election offices are doing, what their experiences have been, and what they would like to try in the future
 - Not a system through which advocate for specific technologies, but a way to record experiences and needs and ideas.

2. Help local election administrators further improve their management practices and skills.

– Important role for NASED, NACO, and IACREOT

– Management or Policy School involvement?

3. A locus (e.g., website) for EOs to share successful innovations, cautionary tales, and other insights.

Thank you