



CENTER FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

A cooperative venture of the Georgia Office of the Secretary of State and Kennesaw State University

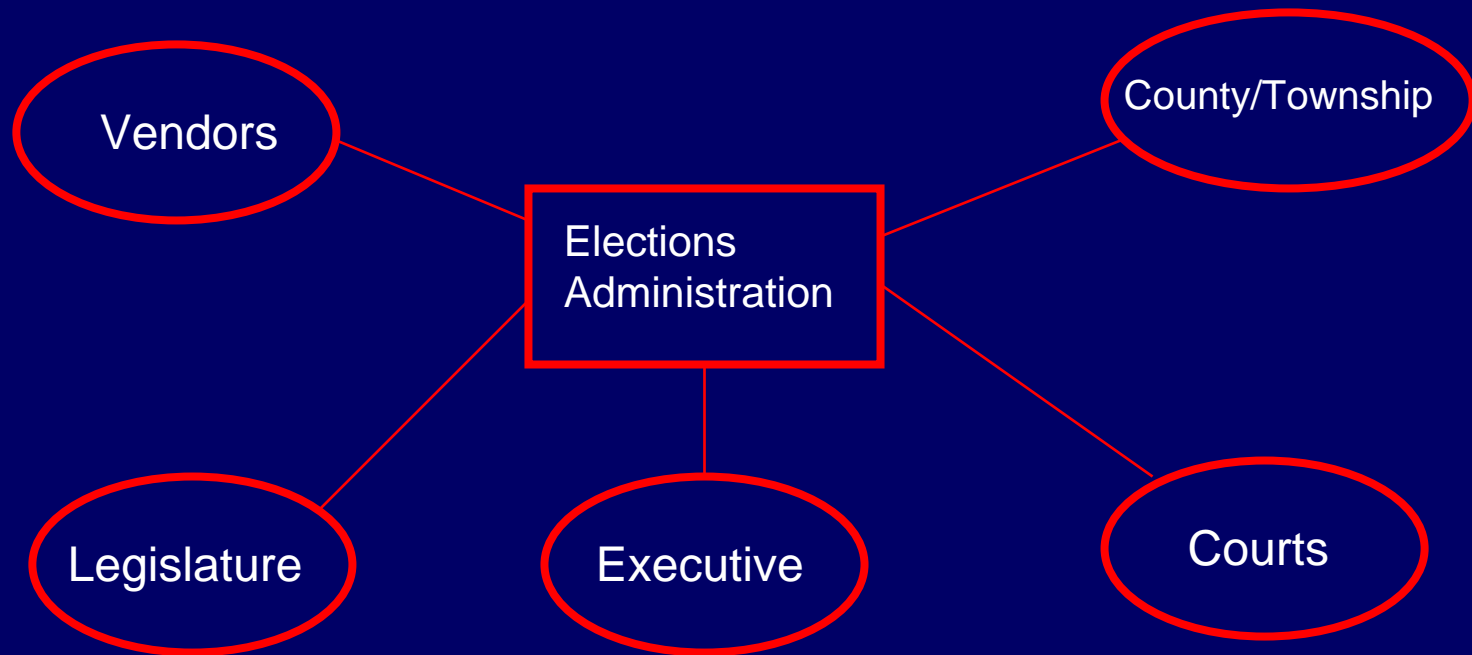
Initiating University/State Partnerships

January 2009

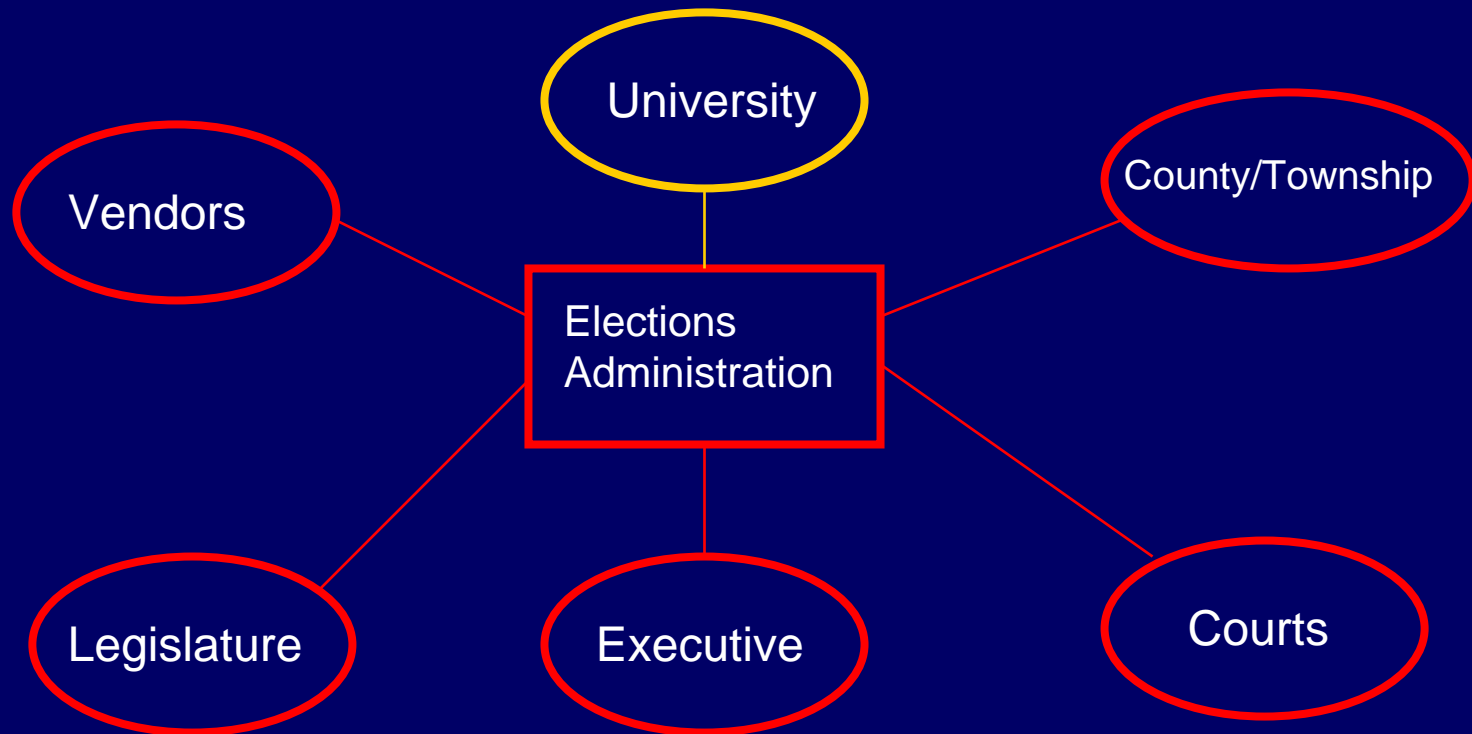
Merle S. King

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Election Administration requires the maintenance of multiple partnerships. Why add one more?



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Outline

- Kennesaw State University's Center for Election Systems
- Understanding the University
- What makes Universities unique?
- Mitigating the cost and uncertainty of testing voting systems
- The first cup of coffee
- Choosing a partner

Kennesaw State University's Center for Election Systems

Formed in 2002 to support rollout of uniform statewide voting system.

Evolving mission

- Acceptance Testing
- Auditing
- Training
- Call Center
- Certification Testing
- Ballot Building
- Electronic Pollbook Administration
- Server Support

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And other duties as assigned!

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How do these tasks contribute to Certification Testing?

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- Ballot Building
- Electronic Pollbook Administration
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Understanding the University

Three oldest institutions in Western Civilization:

- Roman Catholic Church
- British Monarchy
- The University

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Universities are among the most conservative institutions in society.

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Universities are among the most conservative institutions in society.

Universities are among the most adaptive institutions in society.

Understanding the University

- What is a University?
 - An institution of higher education
 - Broad in perspective (universe)
 - Collection of colleges – specialized and hierarchical
 - Doctoral granting – implications of research
 - *universitas magistrorum et scholarium*

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Universities are great places to work, because there are so few rules.

Universities are not great places to manage work, because there are so few rules...everything is negotiated.

Understanding the University

- State vs. Private vs. Proprietary
- Land Grant Universities
- Hierarchical structure of the University
- Grants and contracts
 - Principal Investigator / Co PIs
 - Indirect Costs
- Faculty/Staff
- Research
- Tenure

Understanding the University

- Faculty
 - How faculty work
 - When faculty work
 - How faculty work is evaluated
 - Professorial rank
 - Academic Freedom
 - Release time: $1/3 + 1/3 + 1/3 = 5/3$ – Beware of part-time assignment of faculty to projects

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 - How faculty work
 - When faculty work
 - How faculty work is evaluated
 - Professorial rank
 - Academic Freedom
 - Release time: $1/3 + 1/3 + 1/3 = 5/3$
 - Academic battles – survival of the fittest

Understanding the University

- Faculty
 - Academic battle scars
 - “The reason that academic battles are so vicious...is that the stakes are so small.”
 - Fame and infamy – the two get confused

Understanding the University

- Faculty
 - Academic battle scars
 - “The reason that academic battles are so vicious...is that the stakes are so small.”
 - Fame and infamy
 - Rules of engagement
 - Multidisciplinary vs. interdisciplinary – think about ants from different nests.

Understanding the University

- Staff
 - Faculty need staff support
 - Staff are not faculty
 - $1/3 + 1/3 + 1/3 = 7/3$

Understanding the University

- Research
 - Basic
 - Applied
 - Peer reviewed with dissemination beyond the university – if it is not published... it's not research
 - Venue-driven
 - Research agenda vs. services
 - Use of human subjects - IRB

Understanding the University

- Tenure
 - Tenure is the motivating force for non-tenured faculty
 - Up or out
 - Tenured faculty
 - “Tenure run”

Understanding the University

What a University brings to the party:

- People – smart, people and lots of them
 - Faculty
 - Students
- Independence

Understanding the University

What a University brings to the party:

- People – smart, people
 - Faculty
 - Students
- Independence
- Continuity – can span administrations
- Flexibility – add and delete staff with relative ease
- Reputation – can give credibility

Understanding the University

Other flavors – may be just as good.

- College
- Community College
- Vocational-Technical College

Mitigating the Cost of Testing Voting Systems

- Review existing model and protocols for testing
- Are they sufficient?
- Does the model lend itself to partitioning tasks and reintegration of results into the model?
- What are universities good at?
 - Experiments
 - Research
 - Publishing
 - What-if-ing (maybe, too good)
 - Organizing and retaining knowledge

The First Cup of Coffee

- Survey the terrain
- Research candidate university's mission and reputation
- Identify appropriate contact person(s)
- Have a cogent explanation ready
- Timing
- Google
- Curriculum vitae (CV) of potential PI and Co-PIs
 - Principal Investigators run their own research projects

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- Curriculum vitae (CV) of potential PI and Co-PI
- Conflicts of interest

Choosing a Partner

- Shared, core values
- Defined goal for the relationship
- Creeping commitment
- Pilot projects
- RFPs and NDAs
- Sustainability

Questions?

Merle S. King

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