



Ensuring Election Integrity in Minnesota

or
How to Not be Another "Florida"
And the future of Voting



League of Women Voters

Formed in 1919 out of the Women's Suffrage movement after passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote

www.lwvmn.org



Our Mission

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Non-partisan

We are encouraged as individuals to participate in the political process, but members in certain positions may not be active in partisan politics.

e.g. President, Voter Service Chair

Non-partisan

We study issues and form positions based on consensus from our members, but never endorse or oppose candidates.

2000 Election

Problems in Florida

- Butterfly Ballots
- Hanging Chads
- Registration List Purges



Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

Passed in October 2002

- Created Election Assistance Commission
- Requires updated Voter Registration Systems
- Requires upgraded and accessible voting equipment
- Provides grants to States

www.fec.gov/hava/hava.htm



Election Assistance Commission

Established December 2003

- Distribute grants to States
- Provide voluntary guidance on administration and equipment
- Serve as clearinghouse for election information
- Conduct studies and report on election issues
- Develop testing program for voting systems



EAC Upcoming reports

- Issues and challenges in incorporating technology into the election process
- Report to Congress on using SSN or other such information for registration

www.eac.gov

HAVA Grants to States

- Improve election administration
- Replace punch card or lever voting machines
- Provide Voter Education
- Meet disability access standards

HAVA Voter Registration Systems

States required to create computerized statewide voter registration system

- Mail in registration
- Provisional voting
- Absentee ballots
- Statewide voter registration database and list
- Military and overseas voting

HAVA Implementation in MN

2004 – Statewide Voter Registration System

2005/2006 – New Voting Machines

Voter Registration Changes

HAVA Compliant Voter Registration Cards

- New check boxes
- Drivers License / MN ID / Last 4 digits of the SSN

Voter Registration Problems

Confusion in filling out cards

- Boxes not checked
- Hierarchy of IDs
- Incomplete addresses
- Several Counties designed their own card

Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS)

Installed June 2004

County Auditors and Election Officials:

- Greatly improved functionality
- Slow and error prone

SVRS

- Many features not available until close to the Primary Election
- Voters not on the lists
- Many voters are confusing the voter registration system with electronic voting machines

New ID Match

Matches DMV file on Name and Birth Date

If match, status = “verified”, ID added/corrected

If no match:

- flagged “need to verify”
- potential matches listed for auditors to go through manually

Future match to last 4 digits of SSN

Voter Registration Fraud

Voters across the state received phone calls from the “League” asking for SSN

Worked with the SOS to warn the public

Should SSN be used for Voter Registration?

SVRS

Prints Master Lists and Rosters

- Master List – everyone in City
- Roster – list at polls for voters to sign

New “Show ID” status

Problems with missing names

HAVA Accessible Equipment

By January 1, 2006

Accessible voting machines

- Voters with disabilities (specifically visually impaired)
- Alternate languages

HAVA Accessible Equipment

Allows for greater:

- Privacy
- Independence

At least one in each polling place

- DRE
- Other accessible voting system

DRE - Direct Recording Electronic

Public leery of voting without paper trail

Proprietary software

Many documented problems - security, bugs, operations

Article in Star Tribune

There is an alternative

LWV Position

Voting equipment must meet the SARA test

- Secure
- Accurate
- Recountable
- Accessible

No DREs in Minnesota

Current Legislation:

- At least one accessible voting machine per precinct
- Must produce ballot to be read by existing equipment
- Strong bi-partisan support, SOS supports

Ballot Marker

- Provides same features as DRE
- Meets HAVA requirements
- Creates filled out ballot
- Does not count votes

Ballot Marker Advantage

No need to replace equipment

- Most voters will vote same as we do now
- Works with existing scanners
- New features available for those who need them

Electronic Voting Advantages

- Prevents overvotes
- Warns of undervotes, and allows changes
- More legible ballots

Assisted Voting Features

- Increase type size
- Reverse image
- Touch screen
- Earphones
- Puffer
- Braille
- Alternative Languages – on screen or via earphones
- Allows write-in candidates

Ballot Marker vs. DRE

- Uses same ballots
- Uses existing scanners
- Verifiable by voter – ballot or read by machine through earphones
- Does NOT count votes – it marks ballots
- Recountable

AutoMARK - Voter Assist Terminal from Vogue Election Systems



Future Voting

2000 study by SOS California

Technological threats to the security, integrity, secrecy of Internet ballots significant

Technically feasible to develop at least as secure from vote-tampering as the current absentee ballot process

At this time, not legally, practically or fiscally feasible

Most difficult task for Internet voting system is voter authentication

Model on the current absentee ballot process

Implement in stages

Proposed Stages

- **Polling place**
- **County controlled sites – with election officials present**
- **County controlled sites – with user auth code**
- **Remote computer with user auth code**

2003 Congressional Resource Service Report

- Stakes higher than other Internet transactions
- Requires higher security than everyday Internet use
- “digital divide”
- Public confidence in Internet voting?
- Could increase (younger voter) turnout

Internet Voting Uses

- 2000 US election: 84 military and overseas citizens voted online
- 2000 Democratic Primary in Arizona
- 2000 Republican Presidential Straw Poll in Alaska
- September 2004 Switzerland Referendum

2000 Arizona Democratic Primary

- Election.com
- “first-ever, legally-binding public election over the Internet”
- PIN mailed to 843,000 registered voters
- 2 kinds of personal ID
- 41% of 86,907 ballots cast by Internet

Election.com Problems

- Incompatible with Macintosh
- Lost PINs
- Lawsuit filed - disparity between voters with and without computers

2000 Republican Straw Poll

- VoteHere.net
- Three election districts in Alaska
- 3,500 voters in remote areas
- Difficult for voters in these areas to participate in the straw poll in the past

Switzerland Internet Voting

- 1% of voters given option of voting by Internet
- Enter personal code and date of birth
- Authorities deemed "success"
- Security experts skeptical
- 22% given option voted by Internet
- Turnout 57%, rarely over 50%

Future of Internet Voting

- Many voters, especially younger voters, would like to vote by Internet
- Many security/privacy concerns
- Will probably happen over time

2004 Concerns in Minnesota

Names missing from Roster

- Late Registrations
- Invalid Registrations
- Name purges

Long Lines

What should voters do?

Vote in off hours

Bring your ID to the polls

- Drivers License / MN ID Card / receipt
- Student Photo ID and Fee Statement with current address

If ID has old address

- Photo ID and Current Utility Bill (with current address)
- Notice of late registration postcard
- Have neighbor who is registered vouch for you

Vote!

Tuesday, November 2, 2004

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Questions?

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