



# Florida Elections, or *I thought I voted....*

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Office of Program Policy Analysis  
and Government Accountability

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# Today's Discussion

- Florida and the 2000 Presidential election
- OPPAGA's review of the Division of Elections, including clean-up efforts
- Recent changes in the election system and a small research project we did in support
- Lingering Concerns



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# The 2000 Presidential Election

- In response the Florida Election Reform Act
  - Requires the use of electronic voting machines
  - Requires uniform ballot design
  - Clarifies recount procedures
  - Establishes a statewide voter registration database
  - Provides a voters' bill of rights
- Spent \$24 m to help locals (\$109 m) purchase new voting machines

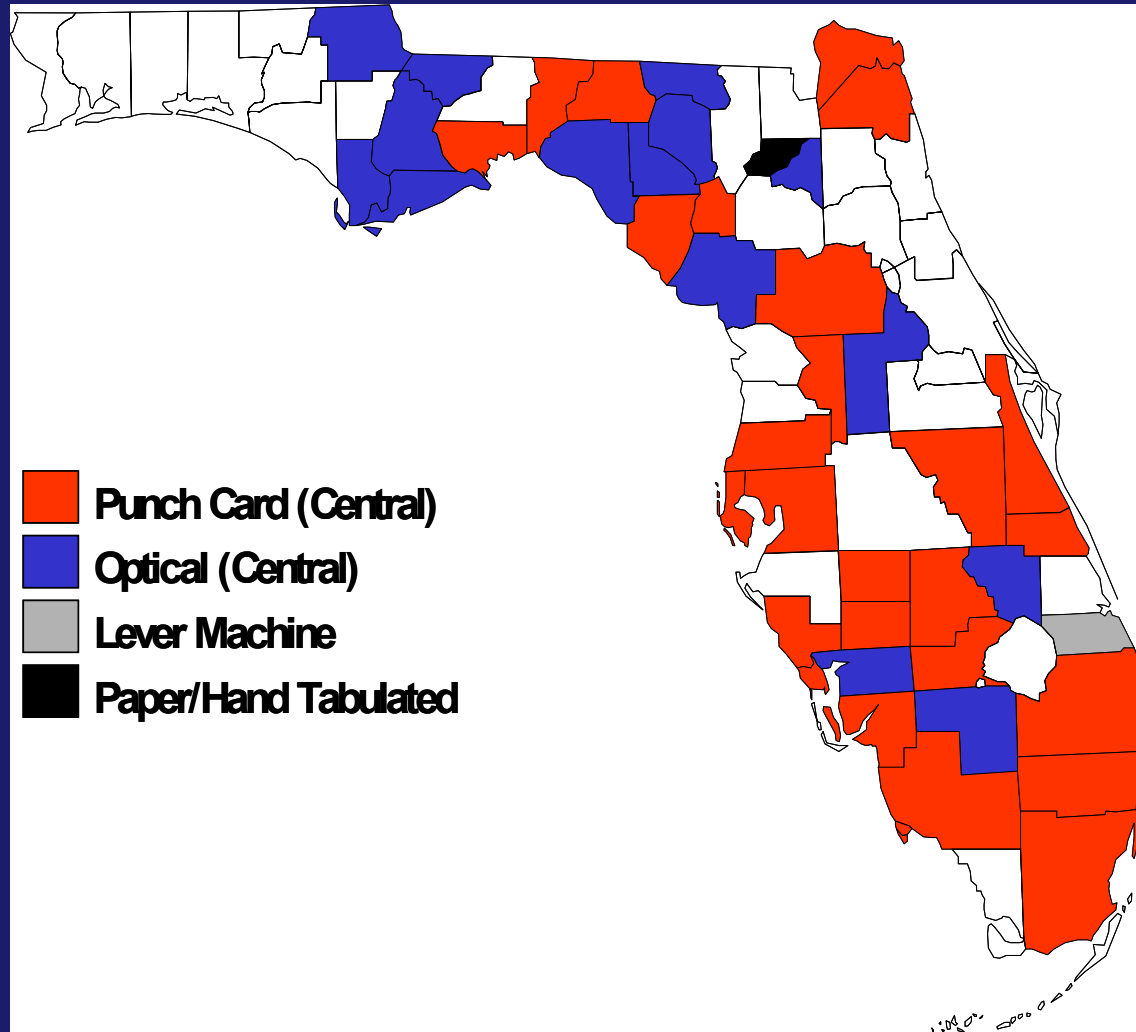
# 2002 Review of the Division of Elections

- **Placement:** the 2000 Legislature revised the constitution so that the Secretary of State is appointed by the Governor rather than elected
- **Performance measurement:** measures do not address key concepts, such as % of population voting and % of ballots not registering a valid vote for President or Governor
- **Performance**

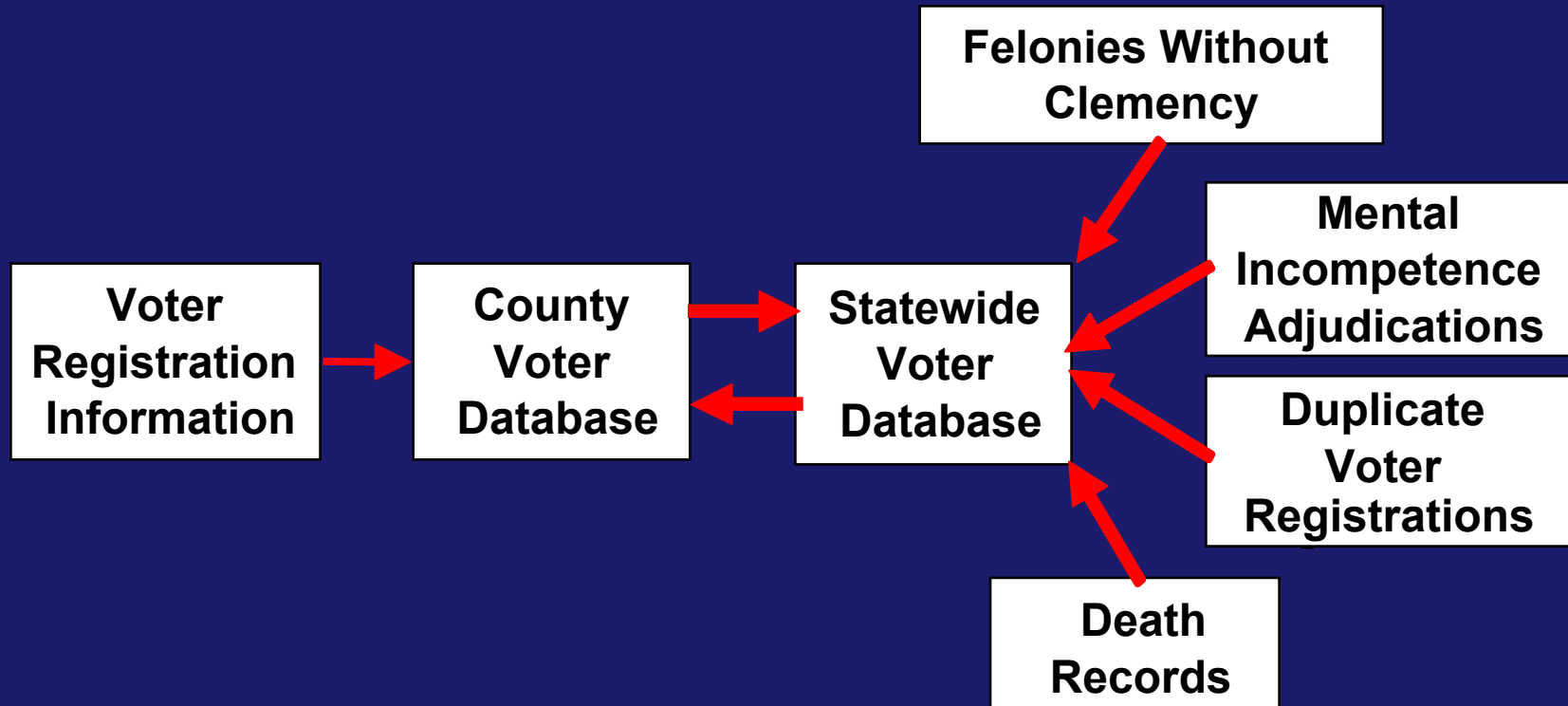
# Review Focused on 3 Areas of Reform

- Voting equipment
- Statewide voter database
- Eligibility determinations

# All Counties Had Obtained Required Voting Equipment



# The Statewide Voter Database Identifies Potentially Ineligible Voters



# Voter Eligibility

- Deceased and duplicate voters automatically removed from the rolls
- Felons and mentally incompetent notified by mail and asked to provide more information or attend a hearing and show cause
- **We recommended** additional safeguards for identifying the ineligible and appeal processes for those who feel they have been wrongly excluded

# Recent Changes in the Election System

- Governor Crist took office in 2007
- Worked with the Legislature to replace touch-screen with machines that have a paper trail

# Lingering Concerns

- “No match, no vote” law
  - Secretary of State began enforcing the law less than 30 days before the Oct 6 registration deadline for the November 4 election
- In August Palm Beach County local judge race; lost votes and recounts

**Florida Secretary of State Browning says that with voters already skeptical, election supervisors are likely to continue to recite a familiar prayer:**

**“We don’t care who wins, just let them win big.”**