Early Voting, All-Mail Voting, Vote Centers: What Are the Technology Implications?

Michael McDonald
University of Florida
www.electproject.org
@electproject
Mail Ballot Work Flow

Request → Delivery → Receipt → Count
Mail Ballot
Request, Delivery, and Return

Transmission Methods

- Paper
- Fax
- Verbal (requests)
- Email
- Online
Technology Challenges

Use of technology provider for ballot request, delivery, or return

• Who is responsible for errors?
• How to transfer data?
Technology Challenges

Is a Fax a Fax?

- Conversion from email to fax by external organizations
- Electronic fax services
Technology Challenges

Electronic Delivery/Return (PDFs)

- Are voter’s signature and/or signature of witness required?
- Friends and family voting
- Fabrication of privacy envelopes
Technology Challenges

Election Management Systems

- Local officials’ double book keeping on mail ballots: Excel spreadsheet and EMS
- Irony: smaller jurisdictions better at servicing and tracking their voters, managing ballot styles