



Internet Voting: What Legislators Need To Know

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Complexity

- **Elections and election systems are complex**
- **There are multiple dependencies among the systems that are used to conduct elections**
- **Touch one strand of the spider web and it all moves**

All voting systems are multi modal

- **Voting systems have some element of central-count, VBM, Internet voting, precinct voting, DRE, etc.**
- **The Election Management System (Ballot definition and tabulation) systems possess some degree of adaptability**
- **Voters choose**

The meaning of words

- **Ballot**
- **Cast Ballot**
- **Vote**
- **Independent**

Standards

- **There are standards for voting systems (Voluntary Voting System Guidelines – VVSG).**
- **There are no discrete standards for internet voting systems**
- **There are no “certified” internet voting systems**

Controls

- **Most controls in election administration are paired detective-corrective controls**
- **Preventative controls require perfect knowledge and unlimited budget**

Analogies

- **Be careful of analogous comparisons: “Voting systems are like...” or “Why can’t voting be like...”**
- **Voting systems are singular given the constraints of voter privacy and severance of “ownership” links**

Other voices

- **The predominant voice in the Internet Voting discussion has been the security community**
- **Potential for Internet Voting to address accessibility concerns has gained traction**
- **Finding the balance between security and accessibility will be more important in the future**

Cost & Convenience

- **Two driving factors in all e-government systems is decreased cost per transaction and increased convenience**
- **Jurisdictions are cash strapped and in many cases saddled with aging voting systems**

Future of the USPS

- **Dependence on USPS**
- **Alternatives**
- **Cost containment**
- **Postal Innovation Act**

Declining Pool of Poll Workers

- **In-precinct voting has many challenges**
 - Declining availability of pollworkers
 - Increasingly complex systems
 - Advanced voting
 - Schools

Who controls the decision?

- **Jurisdictions may find themselves in the Internet Voting business due to:**
 - **Natural disasters**
 - Displaced residents
 - First responders
 - **Court orders**
 - Accessibility
 - Epidemics

Technology Disaster Indifference

- **Don't count on public reaction to technology disasters to guide decisions**
 - Anthem
 - OPM
 - Every major retailer and credit card company

State Art vs. State of the Practice

- **Look at and learn from what other states are doing**
 - **Challenges and solutions**
- **Pilots**
 - **Every certification is provisional; every election a pilot**

Need for Strategy

- **Ad hoc “fixes” to election code and rule can be chaotic – filled with unintended consequence**
- **Whether you plan for Internet Voting capabilities, or plan never to have Internet Voting capabilities - Plan**

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