CENTER FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

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

The Center for Election Systems
at
Kennesaw State University

Supporting Georgia's Elections

October 4, 2011

Mission

The Center for Election Systems was established to provide services for Georgia County Election Officials in their administration of a uniform statewide voting system. The core functions of the Center include testing, education, training, consultation, technical support, ballot building and electronic pollbook support.

Why a Center?

The complexity of managing an integrated, statewide system requires operational and technical expertise beyond the scope of most counties.

A uniform voting system creates opportunities for economies of scale. The state leverages this uniformity and consolidates the delivery of services to reduce the overall cost of election administration to the counties.

Organization

The Center is funded by the Secretary of State of Georgia and is a unit of the College of Science and Mathematics.

The Center is located on KSU campus and houses offices, labs, a call center and a training facility.

Personnel

The Center has 8 full-time personnel to support elections in all 159 counties.

Partnerships

- Partnerships make the Center work
  - Secretary of State
  - State Director of Elections
  - SOS staff
  - County Election Officials
  - Registrars
  - Vendors

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Scope of work

- Supported over 4,500 elections since primary of 2002
- Maintain relationships with election boards, registrars, supervisor of elections in all 159 counties
- Year-round Call Center support
- Survey national trends including emerging standards and best practices

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Core Functions of the Center

- Testing
- Server Technical Support
- Training
- Ballot Building
- Electronic Pollbook Support
- Consultation
- Research

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Certification Testing

- Ensures that federally-certified voting systems meet Georgia requirements
- Enhancements
- Upgrades
- Advocacy

Acceptance Testing

Immediately prior to the November 2002 election and four times since, the Center performed Acceptance Testing on Georgia's election equipment.

- 26,550 Touch Screen, DRE Units
- 662 Optical Scan Units – used for mail-in ballots
- 6,925 electronic pollbooks
- 6,023 barcode scanners
- 161 GEMS servers

Acceptance Testing

- Complete and comprehensive testing of every hardware and software component used in elections administration – new and repaired
- Security assurance

Technical Support

- Center's Call Center at 1-866-KSU-VOTE
- Problems
  - Collect
  - Catalog
  - Analyze
  - Escalate
- Maintain the Election Management System (EMS) server in each county

Training

- County Election Superintendents and staff
  - GEMS Overview (Election Boards and others)
  - Logic and Accuracy Testing
  - Election-Day operations
  - Express Poll Book Administration
- SOS Investigators

Ballot Building

- Build ballots for 150+ counties
- Includes audio versions of ballots
- Verify the correctness of all ballots built in state
- Facilitate the printing of mail-in ballots

Electronic Pollbooks

- Prepare the list of voters from the state's VR list for deployment on the EPs
- Prepare the media and distribute to the counties prior to the election
- Extract log data used to document credit-for-voting reports

Getting Ready for 2012

- Georgia will need all of its voting equipment in the 2012 cycle. Make sure repairs and maintenance are performed

- Adequate and secure storage for all equipment is required

- Adequate space for public and media access on election night tabulation is needed

- Review budgets for personnel and consumables

Getting Ready for 2012

- Disaster recovery/ contingency plans should be integrated with overall county plans
- Information management plans, including social media and websites should be coordinated with county strategies

Getting Ready for 2012

Every election has a 120-day cycle.

- PPP – March 6, 2012*

- General Primary – July 31, 2012

- Primary Runoff – August 21, 2012

- General Election – November 6, 2012

- General Runoff – December 4, 2012

Will your county be ready?

*Local information added to the PPP needs to be provided before Dec. 2, 2012

Getting Ready for 2012

Every election is local.

The integrity of Georgia's elections begins and ends at the jurisdiction level.

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http://elections.kennesaw.edu