

FOCE Conference 2015

Session A - Modernizing Elections: California's new statewide voter registration Database

Why A Statewide Registration Database is
Important to Community Members

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Why is a Statewide Registration Database Important to Community Members?

- Locating Current and Potential Voters
 - Supports Community Targeting
 - Registration Drives and/or GOTV
- Research
 - Supports and/or Informs Policy Advocacy
- Election Data Analysis
 - Compliance with the Voting Rights Act and California Voting Rights Act

What I Hope to See in CA Based on Experience with TX & FL

- Voter Name Data Electronically Preserved Time Series
- Easy to Access Election Data at Precinct Level
- Ability to Provide Detailed Reports

Voter Name Data Must Be Preserved Time Series

- Voter Name File is the list of registered voters
 - What VoteCAL will help preserve
 - Contains information that can be derived from a voter registration form
 - Name, Address, Party, DOB, etc
 - Also contains Election Participation history, including vote method and precinct #
- This File is regularly maintained, but not saved in a time series format

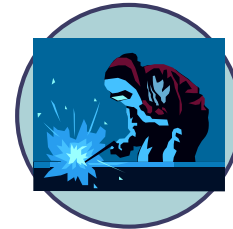
Current System Makes Matching Past Election Results to Past Registration Data Difficult

2010 – Precinct 1A



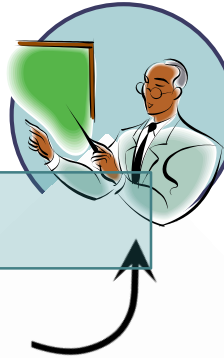
- 4 Registered Voters, 2 Cast Ballots

2012 – Precinct 1A



- 5 Registered Voters, 3 Cast Ballots
- 1 Resident Moved and Voted Elsewhere
- 2 New residents Moved in and Voted Here

If I wanted to match election results from 2010 to Precinct 1A today in 2014, I would not be able to contact election officials to get the exact list of 4 registered voters



Easy Access to Election Data at the Precinct Level

- Time Series Voter Registration Information
 - Including Precinct and Jurisdiction Identifiers
- Election Results that match the Time Series Registration Information
 - Municipal Elections?
- Demographics
- Accessible Electronic File Formats
 - Spreadsheet formats, not PDFs or Scans
- Free or Nominal Fee

How California can Benefit from a Statewide Registration Database

- Ability to Provide Detailed Reports
- Common database creates one universally accepted dataset
- Enables communities to access relevant, historic election data to help advocate for voting rights