



Presidential Commission on Election Administration & Voter Registration

Future of California Elections

Los Angeles, CA February 25, 2016





General Election 2012:

According to survey data, although most voters waited for less than 15 minutes in order to vote, there were *5 million voters who waited more than an hour—up to 7 & 8 hours in some places*, and an additional 5 million who waited more than 30 minutes.

"Defending our freedom, though, is not just the job of our military alone. We must all do our part to make sure our God-given rights are protected here at home. That includes our most fundamental right as citizens: the right to vote. When any American, no matter where they live or what their party, are denied that right because they can't afford to wait for five or six or seven hours just to cast their ballot, we are betraying our ideals. ***So tonight, I'm announcing a nonpartisan commission to improve the voting experience in America.*** And it definitely needs improvement. I'm asking two long-time experts in the field -- who, by the way, recently served as the top attorneys for my campaign and for Governor Romney's campaign -- to lead it. We can fix this, and we will. The American people demand it, and so does our democracy."

President Barack Obama
State of the Union,
February 12th, 2013



Executive Order

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Barack Obama, enclosed within a black rectangular border.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
March 28, 2013.

The Executive Order focused the Commission's work on several areas of concern:

- i. the number, location, management, operation, and design of polling places;
- ii. the training, recruitment, and number of poll workers;
- iii. voting accessibility for uniformed and overseas voters;
- iv. the efficient management of voter rolls and poll books;
- v. voting machine capacity and technology;
- vi. ballot simplicity and voter education;
- vii. voting accessibility for individuals with disabilities, limited English proficiency, and other special needs;
- viii. management of issuing and processing provisional ballots in the polling place on Election Day;
- ix. the issues presented by the administration of absentee ballot programs;
- x. the adequacy of contingency plans for natural disasters and other emergencies that may disrupt elections; and
- xi. other issues related to the efficient administration of elections that the Co-Chairs agree are necessary and appropriate to the Commission's work.

The Co-Chairs

Formerly the General Counsels for competing Presidential campaigns, the Co-Chairs bring bipartisan leadership to the Commission.



Robert F. Bauer
Co-Chair and Member



Benjamin L. Ginsberg
Co-Chair and Member



Brian Britton, Member



Joe Echevarria, Member



Trey Grayson, Member



Larry Lomax, Member



Michele Coleman Mayes, Member



Ann McGeehan, Member



Tammy Patrick, Member



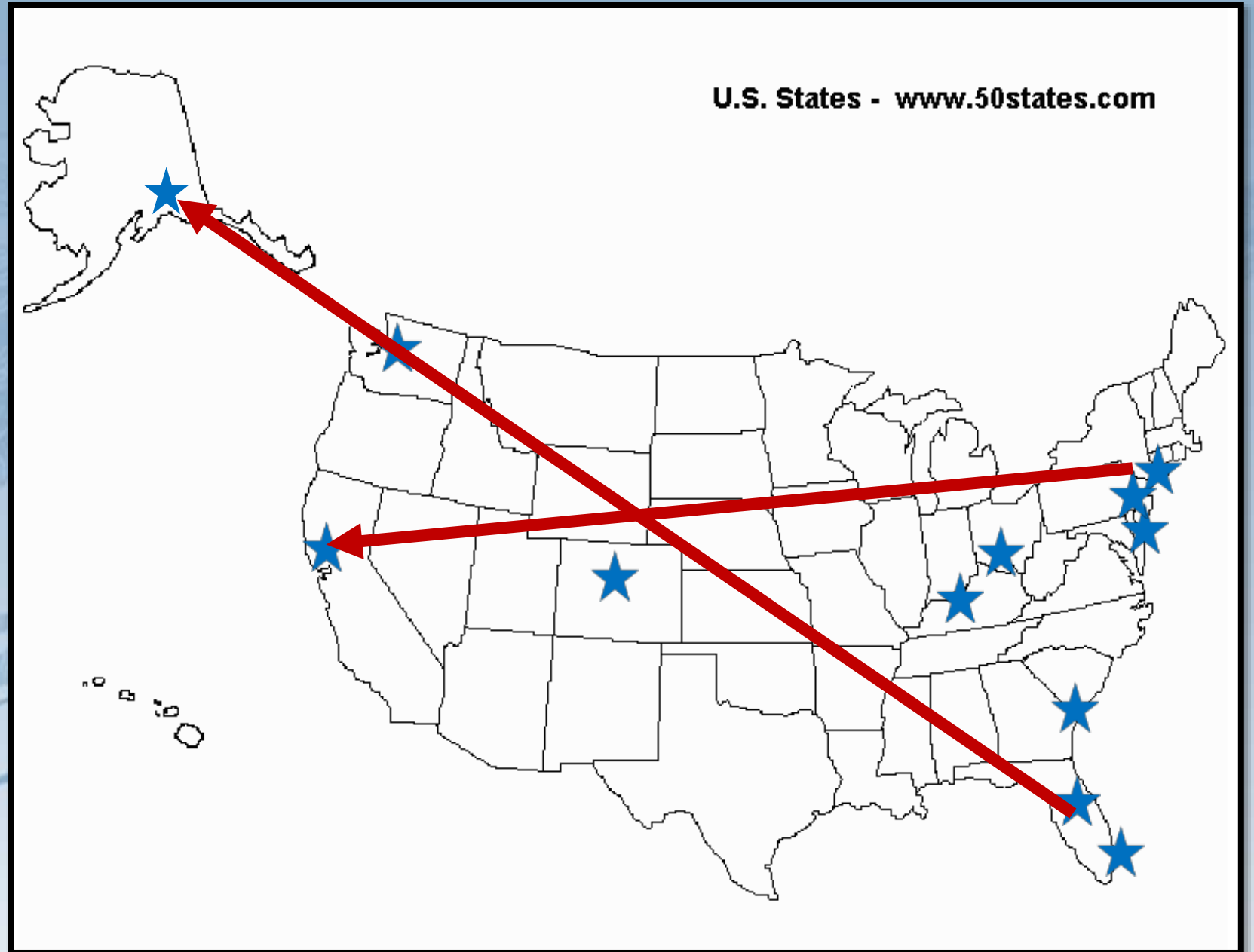
Christopher Thomas, Member



Nathaniel Persily, Senior Research
Director

Meetings In:

- Alaska
- Washington
- California
- Colorado
- Kentucky
- Georgia
- Ohio
- Florida
- Pennsylvania
- New York
- DC



But we heard from officials in all of these states*:



*according to my notes

Public Hearing Format:

1) State & Local Election Officials



Denver Hearing
Dean Logan, LA County

Public Hearing Format:

2) Academics & Topical Experts

2. Four Significant Innovations

1. Statewide Voter Registration Lists
 - 1 state in 2000.
 - HAVA: all states by 2006
2. National Voter Registration Lists
 - Maintained by Private Firms
 - Lessons for Management of Official Lists
3. Technology advances
 - Managing extremely large databases
 - Merging data
4. State Laws Opening Lists
 - On-Line Registration (17 states)
 - Same Day Registration (11 + 3 states)
 - Self Management

Miami Hearing
Stephen Ansolabehere, Harvard

Public Hearing Format:

3) Public

Philadelphia Hearing
Kay Kyungsun Yu



Report, videos and transcripts of
hearings, resources, & extensive
appendix available online at:

www.supportthevoter.gov

**The American Voting Experience:
Report and Recommendations
of the
Presidential Commission
on Election Administration**



January 2014

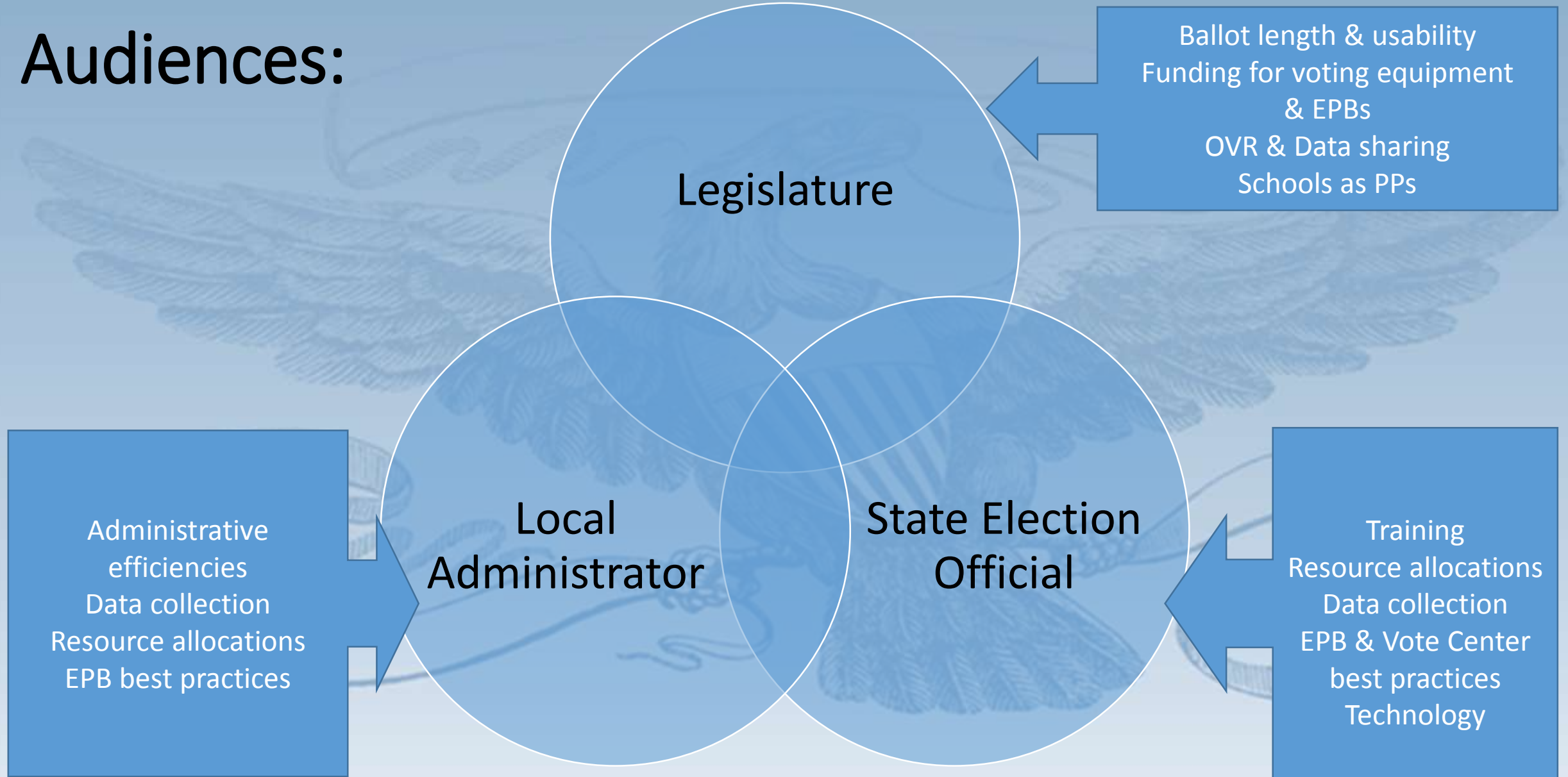
• Future of California Elections

- [FOCE PCEA Final Report](#)
- [FOCE.01.Sacramento.County.TOC](#)
- [FOCE.02.SOS Memo – Emergency Situations – May Affect Elections – May 2012](#)
- [FOCE.03.Counting Votes excerpt](#)
- [FOCE.04.Sacramento.Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [FOCE.05.SOS uniform-vote-count 2012](#)
- [FOCE.06 CaliforniaCommonCause LanguageAccess Recommendations 080413](#)
- [FOCE.07 Greenlining.Recommendations](#)
- [FOCE.08 ARTICLE ON PLAIN LANGUAGE REV. 5202013](#)
- [FOCE.09 sample voter materials before and after plain language](#)
- [FOCE.10 Asian Americans Advancing Justice.national report.aug2013](#)
- [FOCE.11 NALEO Memo to PCEA 08-13](#)
- [FOCE.12 DRC Barriers and Best Processes Voters with Disabilities](#)
- [FOCE.13.Santa Cruz Voters with Disabilities](#)
- [FOCE.14 VAAC Guidelines Excerpt](#)
- [FOCE.15.Asian Americans Advancing Justice Section 203 handbook Final 02 2010 1](#)
- [FOCE.16 Asian Americans Advancing Justice.infographics.aug2013](#)
- [FOCE.17 LA County Poll Monitoring Program- FactSheet-2012](#)
- [FOCE.18 LA County Election Monitoring Program](#)
- [FOCE.19 Santa Cruz Polling Place Accessibility Plan. UPDATE 1-2012](#)
- [FOCE.20 State guidelines-final-march-2010](#)
- [FOCE.21 State checklist-final-march-2010](#)
- [FOCE.22 ACLU of California Voting Rights Final Report](#)

FOCE

- FOCE members contributed much to the conversation and materials that the Commission reviewed.
- Thank you for sharing your knowledge & expertise!

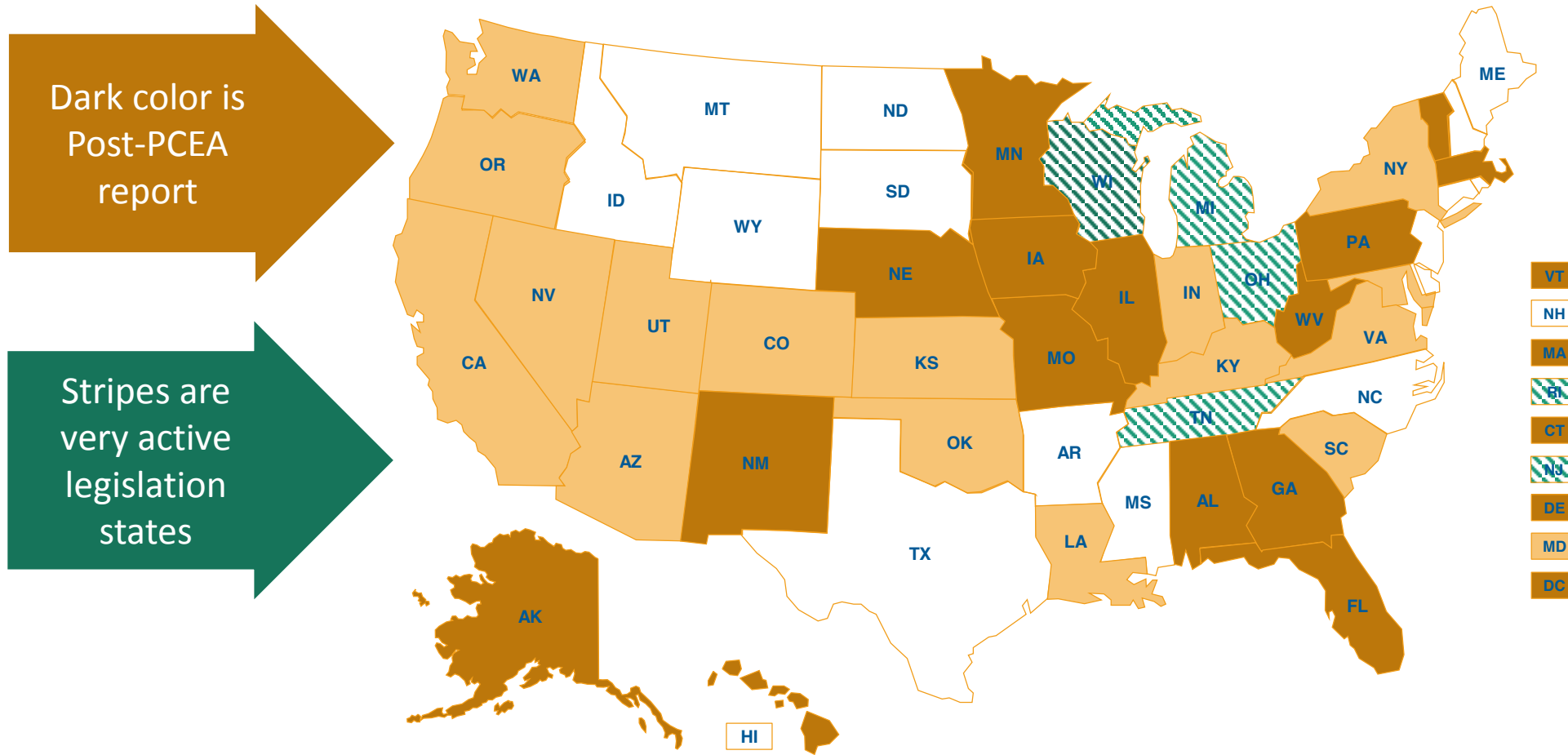
Audiences:



Voter Registration Modernization

- Voter Registration Modernization Recommendations:
 - Online voter registration
 - DMV and other government agency data transfer improvement in compliance with NVRA
 - Statewide voter list comparisons:
 - Interstate Voter Registration Cross Check (IVRC)
 - Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

States with Online Voter Registration (Either implemented or in process of implementation)



Online Voter Registration

- States are grappling with ensuring new process is accessible for voters of varying abilities & skill sets.
- More likely to pass legislation if it is tied to DMV/BMV, but not everyone has a state-issued ID.
- OVR has been passed as an additional method of registration, not as the only method in every state. (WI bill however will do away with registrars who currently use paper to register voters.)

Intra State Data Sharing

- Many states are revisiting how they consume data from DMV:
 - move to automatic registration
 - increased registration mobility within the state (automatic updates to voter records even when crossing county lines)
- Expansion of use of NVRA agency data from paper to electronic data sharing & ensuring that NVRA online services have a voter registration component.

Voter Registration Data

- Another source of data that is being used to more effectively keep voter rolls accurate is National Change of Address (NCOA) information.
- Some states are moving to update the information and send notice to the voter that it has been updated automatically for them (when the move is within the state).

Data Collection



With a generous funding by the Democracy Fund, the Bipartisan Policy Center has partnered with Democracy Works to host an online repository of election mail issues and best practices.

www.electionmail.org

ELECTIONMAIL.ORG



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

Will capture basic information regarding the postal issue that you are experiencing and report it directly to USPS

ELECTIONMAIL.ORG [REPORT A PROBLEM](#) / [ELECTION MAIL RESOURCES](#) / [ABOUT THIS SITE](#)

REPORT A PROBLEM WITH ELECTION MAIL

Local and state election officials may use this form to report past or current issues with official Election Mail processed by the United States Postal Service. This form is intended as a supplement to official reporting, and should not replace communication with your local post office. If you are a voter experiencing a problem, please contact your local election official.

*** Required**

Name *
Your contact information allows us to follow up if necessary, but will not be posted publicly.

Email Address *

Phone Number *

Election Jurisdiction *
Please include county/parish/city/town/municipality and state.

Does this issue impact: *

ELECTIONMAIL.ORG



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

Issues will be categorized so that we can isolate trends in problems and find solutions.

Solutions will be posted.

Individual reports will not.

What type of problem are you reporting? *

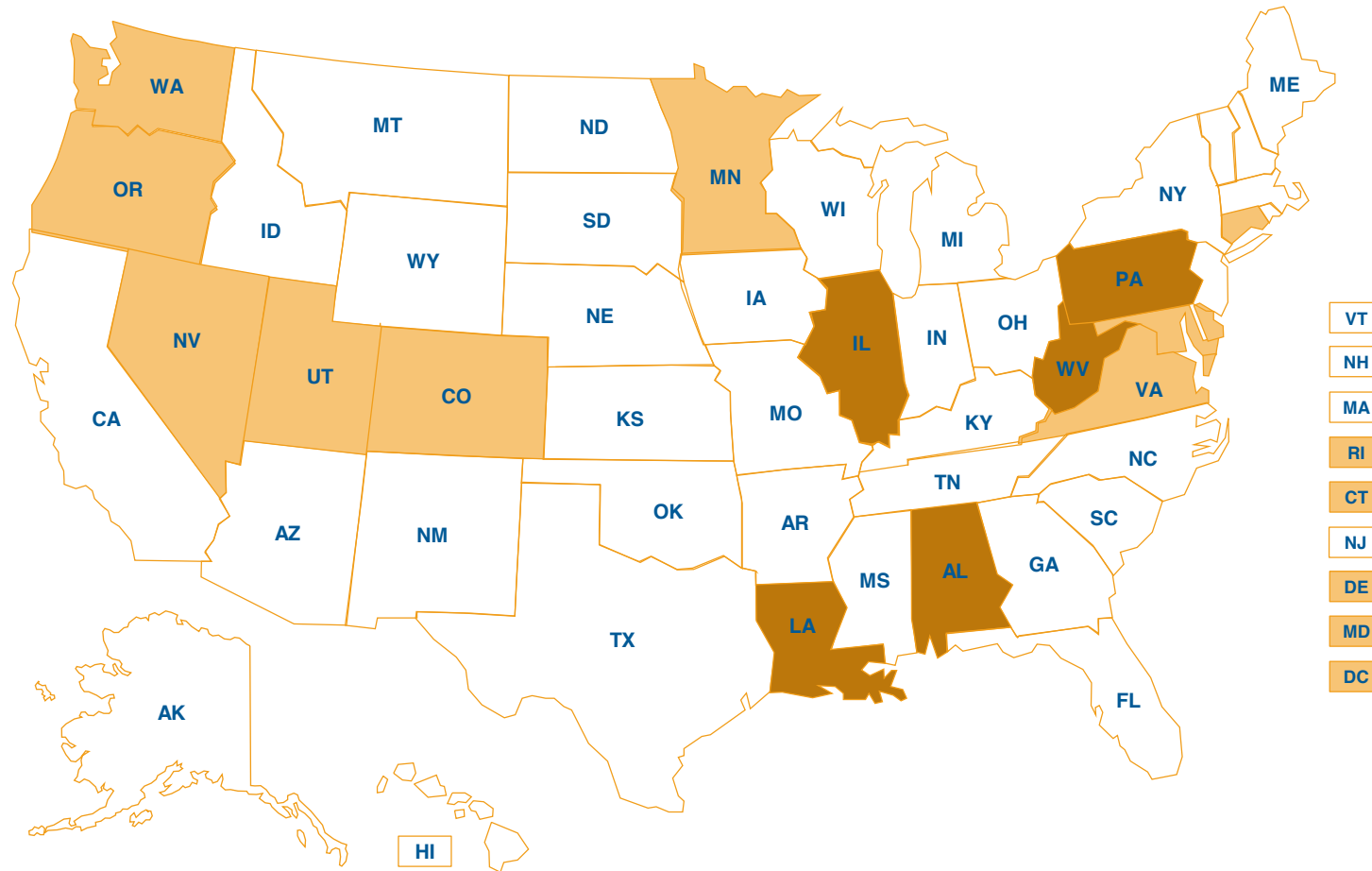
- ☐ Delivery delay
- ☐ Damaged mail
- ☐ Lost mail
- ☐ Undeliverable/returned mail
- ☐ Addressing/CASS/NCOA
- ☐ Rate/class qualification
- ☐ Postmark/cancellation
- ☐ Misdirected mail
- ☐ Intelligent Mail tracking
- ☐ Communication/responsiveness
- ☐ Other

Interstate Data Sharing

- The PCEA recommended 2 programs:
 - Interstate Voter Registration Cross Check (IVRC)
 - Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)
 - ERIC now utilizes NCOA data as one of the data sets.

States Participating in ERIC: 15 States & DC

Dark color is
Post-PCEA
report



Interstate Data Sharing

ERIC began providing list maintenance data to members in July of 2013.

		Cross-state Movers	In-state Movers	In-state Duplicates	Deceased
2013	Seven states	92,322	534,814	13,857	21,823
2014	11 states + DC	186,791	1,235,023	19,996	50,571
2015	12 states + DC	269,824	742,266	14,030	61,278
2016 to date	12 states + DC	13,813	55,410	701	6,559
Total	12 states + DC	562,750	2,567,513	48,584	140,231

These #s will grow
with the addition
of IL & PA, the
largest states

As of January 20, 2016



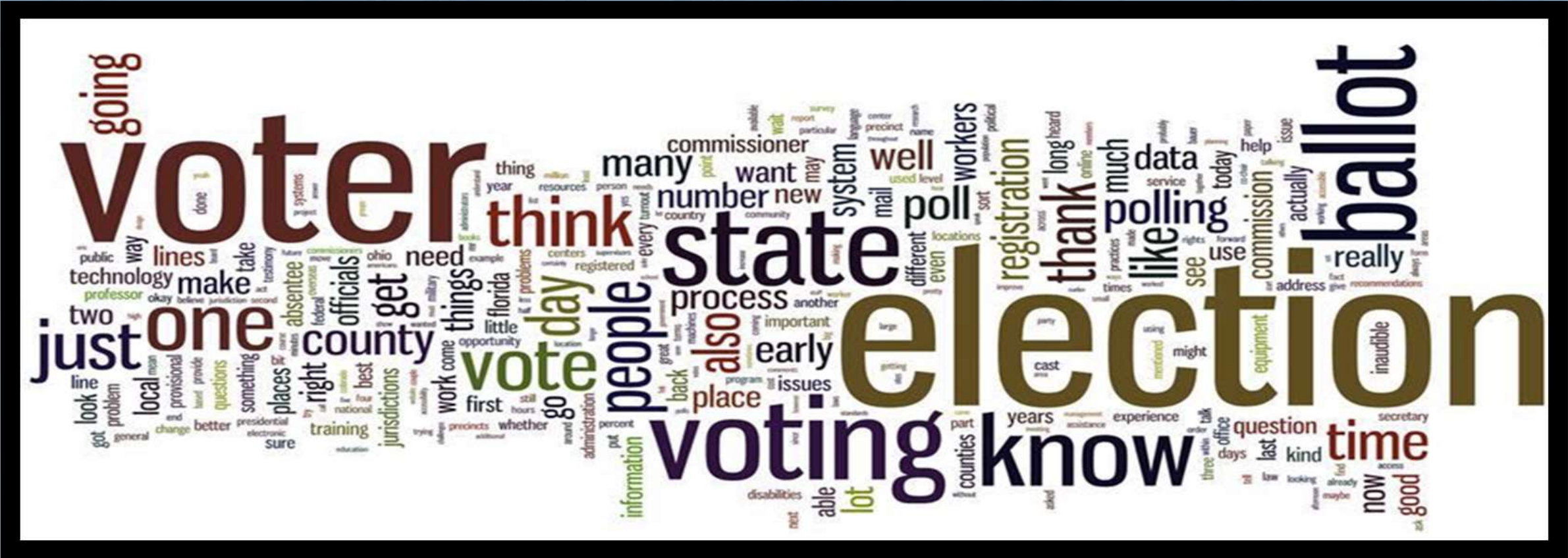
Consumption

Access to
Registration

List Maintenance

Consumption of the Voter File

- Use of more accurate, and current, voter files to improve the voting experience is the end game.
- PCEA recommendations:
 - Use of online tools to provide information to the voter
 - Electronic pollbooks to streamline voter check-in
 - Vote centers to provide options in when to vote



Tpatrick@bipartisanpolicy.org