

The Pew Charitable Trusts

Pew Center on the States



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Project Summaries and Points of Contact

Voter Registration Systems:

Awards that have been committed include the following:

- A contract to the Office of the Ohio Secretary of State totaling \$223,300, through which Ohio Secretary Jennifer Brunner, Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson and Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita will partner with the United States Postal Service (USPS) to test the efficacy of including voter registration forms in the change of address packets that are sent to movers who file change of address requests with the USPS in three postal markets. The three postal regions represent 61 counties impacted by this project.

Points of Contact:

- Kellye Pinkleton, Director, Voting Rights Institute, Ohio Secretary of State's Office, Phone: (614) 995-1619, Email: kpinklet@sos.state.oh.us
- Sarah Ball Johnson, Executive Director, Kentucky State Board of Elections, Phone: (502) 573-7100, Email: sarahball.johnson@ky.gov
- Joe McLain, HAVA Administrator, Indiana Secretary of State's Office, Phone: (317) 234-8683, Email: havaadministrator@sos.in.gov

- A contract to the Office of Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed, in partnership with the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) at Washington State University, totaling \$153,900, to conduct and evaluate a nonpartisan pilot program designed to increase voter registration and voting rates within the eligible 18-year-old population.

Points of Contact:

- David Motz, Policy Analyst, Elections Division, Washington Secretary of State's Office, Phone: (360) 725-5786, Email: dmotz@secstate.wa.gov
- Dr. Rose Krebill-Prather, Research Associate, Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University, Phone: (509) 335-6202, Email: krebill@wsu.edu

- A subgrant to the Office of Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie totaling \$67,900 in the form of a planning grant to prepare computer programming and work with the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute on Public Policy at the University of Minnesota to design evaluation standards for an ambitious new program to automatically update voters' addresses as they move. (This funding is contingent on the approval of the Minnesota Commissioner of Finance.)

Point of Contact:

- John Aiken, Communications Director, Minnesota Secretary of State's Office, Phone: (651) 297-8919, Email: john.aiken@state.mn.us
- A contract to the Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF) totaling \$100,000 to automate the complex process facing military and civilian overseas voters attempting to register to vote and request absentee ballots through a user-friendly, accessible online system, available at www.overseasvotefoundation.org. In addition to direct access through OVF's Web site, the web applications have been adopted by the Secretaries of State in Alabama, Minnesota and Ohio.

Point of Contact:

- Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat, President and CEO, Overseas Vote Foundation, Phone: (202) 470-2480, Email: susan@overseasvotefoundation.org
- A subgrant to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) totaling \$124,000, where Professors Stephen Ansolabehere from MIT and Alan Gerber from Yale University will conduct a pilot study to audit voter registration lists and gauge the feasibility of various methods designed to evaluate the accuracy of baseline lists, develop methods for improving list quality and determine the feasibility of performing a nationwide assessment of voter registration systems. The pilot will be conducted based on the registration records from four jurisdictions: Los Angeles County, CA; Maricopa County, AZ; New Haven, CT and Miami-Dade County, FL.

Points of Contact:

- Stephen Ansolabehere, Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Phone: (617) 253-5236 or Assistant John Lovett: (617) 253-0791, Email: sda@mit.edu
- Alan Gerber, Professor of Political Science, Yale University, Phone: (203) 432-5232, Email: alan.gerber@yale.edu

Vote Centers

Awards that have been committed include the following:

- A contract to Ball State University totaling \$202,600, to assess the use of voter centers in two Indiana counties, Wayne and Tippecanoe. The assessment will examine the impact on voter turnout, cost, efficiency on Election Day and public opinion. The project has the support of local election officials and Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita and is expected to inform a decision in 2009 about whether or not to allow other counties to adopt vote centers.

Point of Contact:

- Raymond Scheele, Co-Director, The Bowen Center for Public Affairs and Professor of Political Science, Ball State University, Phone: (765) 285-8784, Email: RScheele@bsu.edu

- A contract to Rice University totaling \$265,700 to assess the use of vote centers in Colorado and in two jurisdictions in Texas—Fort Bend and Lubbock. The assessment will examine the impact on voter turnout through exit polls, post-election surveys and statistical analysis and has the support of a leading election official in Colorado that designed the first vote centers along with election officials in Fort Bend and Lubbock.

Point of Contact:

- Robert M. Stein, Lena Gohlman Fox Professor of Political Science, Rice University, Phone: (713) 348-2795, Email: stein@rice.edu

- A contract to the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee, in collaboration with the election commissions in three Tennessee counties, including Knox, Anderson and Loudon, totaling \$99,600 to conduct a multi-stage planning process in anticipation of the adoption of Election Day vote centers (EDVCs). The Tennessee legislature has provided \$25,000 in support of this project.

Point of Contact:

- Amy Gibson, Director of Development and Policy Research, Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee. Phone: (865) 363-9605, Email: agibson1@utk.edu

Audits of Elections

Awards that have been committed include the following:

- A contract to the Maryland State Board of Elections totaling \$77,900 to research and develop a comprehensive post-election audit based on professional auditing principles, detailed statistical analysis, and election administration expertise provided by Prince George's, Charles, and Caroline counties. The post-election audit to be developed will be a practical and usable audit process that will demonstrate to candidates and the public that the election was conducted accurately, that voting equipment counted votes properly and that only qualified voters cast ballots in the election. The audit will also help election officials identify where improvements need to be made.

Point of Contact:

- Ross Goldstein, Deputy Administrator, Maryland State Board of Elections, Phone: (410) 269-2840, Email: rgoldstein@elections.state.md.us

- A contract to the University of Michigan totaling \$125,000, to design a post-election audit that can be applied in any jurisdiction in the state. The project is working closely with Chris Thomas, Michigan's State Election Director, and local election officials and has built in multiple focus groups with election officials to complement their strong academic and analytical abilities.

Points of Contact:

- Michael Traugott, Professor of Communication Studies and Research Professor, University of Michigan Center for Political Studies at the Institute for Social Research, Phone: (734) 763-4702, Email: mtrau@umich.edu
 - Chris Thomas, Director of Elections, Office of Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, Phone: (517) 373-2540, ChristopherT@michigan.gov
- A contract to the University of Utah totaling \$87,600 through which investigators from the University of Utah, the University of New Mexico and the California Institute of Technology will collaborate to evaluate the audit process in two Utah counties, Salt Lake County and Davis County, in order to review the way in which electronic ballots are audited in 2007 and 2008 within the context of the complete post-election canvas and audit process used in the state.

Point of Contact:

- Thad Hall, Assistant Professor, University of Utah, Office Phone: (801) 585-7344, Mobile: (801) 455-9427, Email: thad.hall@pol-sci.utah.edu
- A contract to the University of New Mexico (UNM) totaling \$176,500, through which UNM, University of Utah and the California Institute of Technology will conduct an audit of the 2006 election in Bernalillo County working with election officials from that jurisdiction. The project will provide documentary evidence of how to conduct an audit, including what to watch for, how much it will cost in time and resources, and the challenges associated with various types of ballots. In addition, the project will examine voter intent issues and address voter education needs in relation to paper ballot usage. New Mexico Secretary of State Mary Herrera is providing \$10,000 in additional support for this project, and Bernalillo County Clerk Maggie Toulouse Oliver has contributed \$15,000.

Point of Contact:

- Lonna Atkeson, Professor of Political Science and Regents' Lecturer, University of New Mexico, Phone: (505) 277-7592, Email: atkeson@unm.edu
- Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Bernalillo County Clerk, Phone: (505) 468-1231, Email: mtoulouse@bernco.gov

Online Training for Poll workers

Awards that have been committed include the following:

- A contract to the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office totaling \$189,500, through which state officials in the Offices of the Attorney General and Secretary of State and academics will pilot an online education system to train poll workers and also educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities as voters. Using three independent rigorous evaluation methodologies, the University of New Hampshire will provide empirically-based data on the relative effectiveness of interactive online training.

Point of Contact:

- Orville Brewster Fitch II ("Bud Fitch"), Deputy Attorney General, State of New Hampshire, Phone: (603) 271-1238; Email: bud.fitch@doj.nh.gov
 - Andrew Macpherson, Assistant Research Professor, University of New Hampshire, Phone: (603) 568-7469, Email: amx6@unh.edu
 - Anthony Stevens, Assistant Secretary of State, New Hampshire, Phone: (603) 271-8238, Email: astevens@sos.state.nh.us
- A contract to HAVA Partners, LLC, totaling \$128,600, through which a team of academics, online training consultants and officials from the Ohio Secretary of State's office (which has contributed an additional \$60,000 toward the project) will pilot online poll worker training in two counties in Ohio in order to determine the extent to which online training improves poll workers' performance on Election Day. An evaluation will be conducted by researchers from Brigham Young University and the University of Cincinnati.

Points of Contact:

- Bradley Knott, Managing Partner, HAVA Partners, Phone: (301) 379-0644, Email: bknott@havapartners.net
- David Farrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Ohio, Phone: (614) 466-2585, Email: dfarrell@sos.state.oh.us
- Professor Steve Mockabee, University of Cincinnati, Phone: (513) 556-3394, Email: Stephen.Mockabee@uc.edu

Election Performance Assessment

Awards that have been committed include the following:

- A contract to Reed College totaling \$137,000, through which an academic team will design and test an enhanced residual vote measure. At this juncture, the residual vote rate is one of the few tools that provide an accepted means for comparing state election performance. Through this project, the team will design and test more sophisticated and detailed measures that take into account the technology and mode of balloting, in collaboration with election officials in Florida and North Carolina.

Point of contact:

- Paul Gronke, Professor of Political Science, Reed College,
Phone: (503) 517-7393, Email: paul.gronke@reed.edu

- A subgrant to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology totaling \$328,000 to conduct “The 2008 Survey of the Performance of American Elections” in pilots during selected 2008 primaries and in the general election this November.

Point of Contact:

- Charles Stewart, Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Phone: (617) 253-3127, Email: cstewart@mit.edu