

Combatting Erosion of Voter Confidence

with innovations of election administration

Chad Houck

Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State

NASS Elections Committee

March 1, 2022



Center for Homeland Defense and Security Master's Degree Program

a DHS/FEMA program at the Naval Postgraduate School

Monterey, CA and DC area campuses

18 months of study

Application Deadlines: May 1 & Dec 1

https://www.chds.us/c/academicprograms/masters/



NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

THESIS

COMBATTING EROSION OF VOTER CONFIDENCE WITH INNOVATION OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

by

Chad A. Houck

September 2021

Co-Advisors:

Cristiana Matei

Christopher Bellavita (contractor)

Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited.



Research Processes

Extensive Literature Review (Pew, Gallup, Academic, International)

Interviews: County poll worker trainers

Focus Group: First-time 2020 poll workers

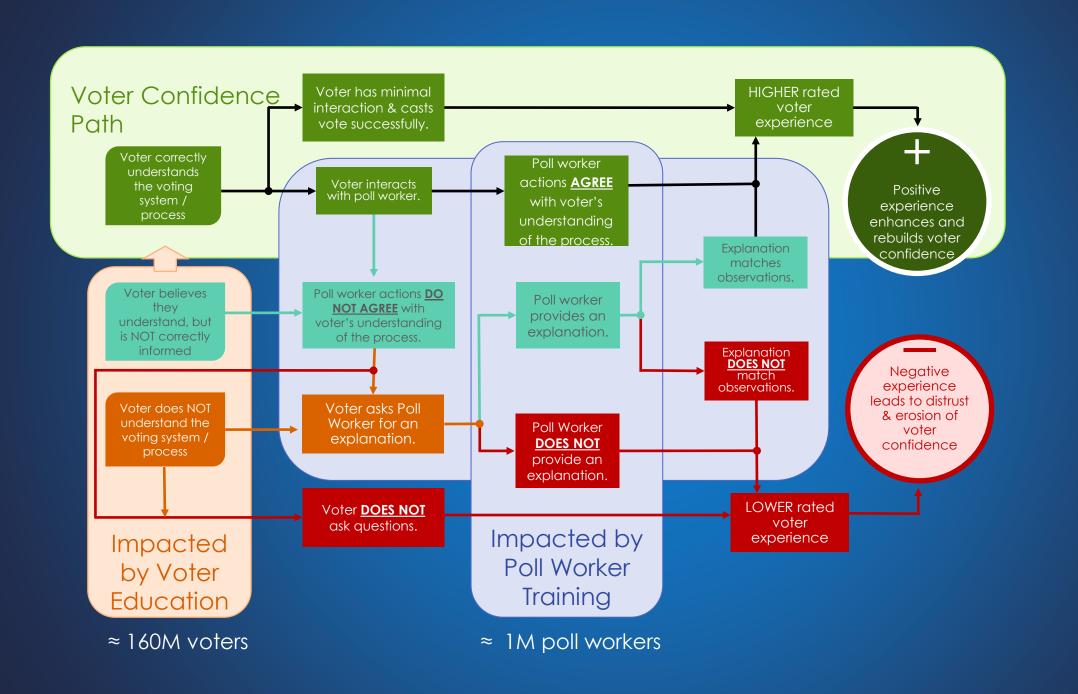
Case Study Reviews – Tech Deployment (lowa Caucus App 2016 vs 2020)



Significant Findings: VE/VC Drivers

- Voter Experience is a key driver in Voter Confidence
- Poll workers are the key front-line factor in VE/VC
- Voters with greater understanding = fewer interactions
- Voter Education = Poll worker training content







Significant Findings: Technology

- Three Constraints Theory Scope v. Cost v. Time
 - Project: Training a poll worker to train the voter
- Typical Training Policy, Procedure, Norms
 - TRAIN INSTEAD for lack of technical assistance
- Visual Differentiation -> Stratified Expectations
 - Enables gamification, reward motivators
- Short Windows of Training require fast uptakes
 - Recruit QUALITY over QUANTITY. Success breeds same



Additional Recommendations

- Standardize to a baseline, Test for comprehension
- Gamify and differentiate to motivate quality
- Create Comprehensive Voter Education Plan
- Properly Prepare Poll workers to Teach Tech



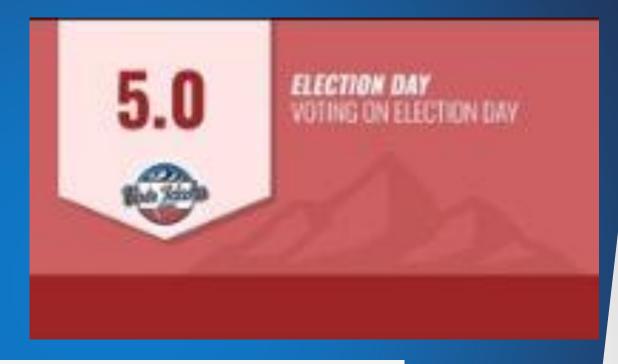
Pragmatic Preparation + Concise Communication



ADDITIONAL LINKS

4. Absentee Voting 5.0 - Voting On Election Day 5.1 - Voter Identification 5.2 - What is a Poll Book? 5.3 - Voter Ballots 5.4 - Accommodations for Voters wit 5.5 - Poll Challengers and Poll Watch 6. Tabulation Process Federal Voting Assistance Project: FVAP.GOV 8. Election Crimes

Use the menu below to jump to a specific topic. 1. Citizen's Guide To Voting















WELCOME TO VOTEIDAHO.GOV

Providing official voting information for the citizens of Idaho.

Lawerence Denney, Idaho Secretary of State

IDAHO VOTER EDUCATION VIDEOS

Have you ever wondered how elections work in Idaho? Join us in this educational video series where we go into detail on the systems and processes behind Idaho elections.

We will be covering everything from absentee ballots, voter registration, maintaining the active voter list, ballot tabulation, election certification, and much more!

A new video is added each week, so keep checking back to see what we'll cover next!

VOTER EDUCATION VIDEO GALLERY





Secretary of State's Office

ONLINE VOTER TOOLS



THANK YOU

Any questions?

For a copy of the full thesis, email chad.houck@sos.ldaho.gov (208) 332-2862

