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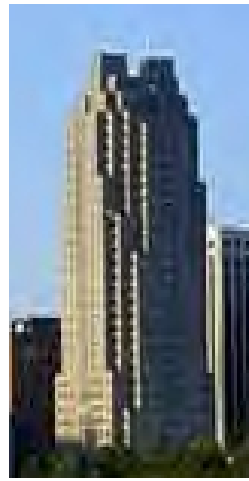
ELECTION TIDBYTES

Quarterly Newsletter of Election Technology "Tidbits"



Introducing . . . ELECTION TIDBYTES

InfoSENTRY Services, Inc. is pleased to introduce **ELECTION TIDBYTES**, a quarterly newsletter providing brief articles, or "tidbits," relating to the technical side of elections administration and related issues. Often technology, for example your voter registration systems, is at the core of these issues. But it may be difficult at times to keep up with the continuous advancements in this technology. We will provide insight into the ongoing wave of technical issues facing election administrators and offer possible solutions, including the election consulting services InfoSENTRY provides.



2 Hannover Square

people every year since 1980, doubling the population to approximately 600,000 in the past two decades. This growth has challenged County staff to provide continuously outstanding services to its residents. The Board of Elections has kept pace with this increase, all the while providing quality services to its approximate 400,000 registered voters. Making innovations available online to the public is just one example of this service.

InfoSENTRY Services recently managed a project for the Board of Elections to design and implement an Internet-based search capability for its voter registration database. The new database search-and-retrieval system resulted from the County's need to comply with State public records requirements to provide certain levels of access to public records such as voter registration files.

The new system allows anyone with Internet access a simple and powerful tool for looking up registered voter information, including party registration and voter history. Citizens can quickly check on the status of their voter registration and see



Online Voter Registration Record Search

The population of one of our county customers has grown consistently by leaps of 18,000



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where their polling place is located. Candidates and campaigns can download the entire county voter registration file or select from well over 125 precinct files to download.

InfoSENTRY served as the project manager for this development and implementation effort. Following meetings with the Elections Director, we prepared:

- the system requirements analysis,
- the conceptual design,
- the RFP for the programming vendor, and
- an evaluation of the proposals submitted by local vendors.

InfoSENTRY then worked with the selected vendor to establish the application's design specifications. After the firm completed the programming, we conducted the software test and turned the application over to the County Board of Elections. The County now fully maintains the application. If your office is considering development of an Internet system for campaign finance reporting, election results data, or voter registration data, you can contact us by email:

jennifer_helget@infosentry.com
glenn_newkirk@infosentry.com
or call us at 919•838•8570. We will be pleased to tell you how we handle management of these *deceptively simple* projects including:

- establishing the full requirements for the system,
- helping you select a local vendor to program the application,
- carrying out acceptance testing for the application, and
- turning the application over to your office for on-going support and maintenance.



The Exploration of Voting Online

It's some of the buzz nationwide...voting online.

Has its time come or is it just banter about another nuisance with too many hurdles to be taken seriously? Some may think that it is fortunate that field tests are being conducted by the Federal Voting Assistance Program and some states and counties during the 2000 election cycle to clearly identify the benefits and problems of voters exercising one of their constitutional rights online.

Here is some reading you might find interesting about this controversial issue. We've also included references to a few web sites offering more information on the subject.



Reading and Browsing: Voting Online

- **The Pros and Cons of Online Voting.** M. Glenn Newkirk, (April 2000). Call InfoSENTRY at 919•838•8570 to obtain a copy or send E-mail request to: glenn_newkirk@infosentry.com
- **"A Report on the Feasibility of Internet Voting,"** California Internet Voting Task Force. (January 2000). www.ss.ca.gov/executive/ivote
- **"Internet Voting Off To A Rocky Start In Arizona Democratic Party-Run Primary."** Election Administration Reports. (March 20, 2000).
- **"Internet Voting Expected To Spread."** William Glanz, Washington Times. (April 13, 2000). www.newslibrary.com/download.as?DBList=wt00&DOCNUM=7907 (Note: \$1.95 to download)
- **"Thousands Vote Online in Arizona."** Rebecca Fairley Raney, New York Times Cybertimes. (March 8, 2000). www.nytimes.com/library/tech/00/03/cyber/articles/09vote.html
- **"Net Voting Alliance to Propose Standards for Online Elections."** Government Technology. (February 28, 2000). www.govtech.net/news.phtml?docid=2000.02.28-1020000000000024

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- "States Encounter Internet Voting Barriers." Government Technology. (February 25, 2000) www.govtech.net/news.phtml?docid=2000.02.25-102000000000013
- "250 Overseas Residents to Vote Online in General Elections." Government Technology. (February 24, 2000) www.govtech.net/news.phtml?docid=2000.02.25-1015000000000203

More information is also available from:

- www.election.com (Election.com)
- www.azdem.org (Arizona Democratic Party)
- www.voting-integrity.org (Voting Integrity Project)



Election Management Systems Consulting

- independent from software and vendors
- needs assessments, requirements analyses
- quality assurance reviews
- software tests and audits
- strategic planning
- RFP preparation and vendor selection
- network security, disaster recovery planning
- business continuity planning
- IT project management and project recovery
- Internet site development and implementation management
- Internet site security and operations audits
- custom backup planning
- secure offsite data storage



Keep Us Posted

There is always something happening in the Elections community. If you would like us to help you get the word out about some technical bit of news in your state or office, please let us know.



Harvard Policy Group Report: "...Guidelines for 2000 Elections and Beyond."

One of the best and most down-to-earth discussions of the impact of information technology on delivering government services is the recently published report from the Harvard Policy Group on Network-Enabled Services and Government. Entitled "Eight Imperatives for Leadership in a Networked World, Guidelines for the 2000 Elections and Beyond," it is better than the usual pabulum that is dished out on the topic of technology and government services.

You can get a copy through the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Here is some contact information:

www.ksg.harvard.edu/stratcom/hpg
 email: strategic_computing@harvard.edu
 (please put "HPG publications" in the subject line);
 Phone: 617•495•3036
 Fax: 617•495•8228



News from InfoSENTRY

We are fortunate to have many friends in the election community, and look forward to meeting those whom we have not had the privilege of meeting. We'd like to take this opportunity to provide an overview of the wide range of consulting services that we can offer to you. In future issues of this newsletter we will describe some of the ways in which your election management systems could benefit from these services.

