



ELECTION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

*Working Together for Secure and Accurate Elections*

# Issues Facing the Voting Industry for 2008 *And Beyond*

Election Center Annual Conference  
Dallas, TX  
August 15, 2008



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# Who We Are

- The Election Technology Council (ETC) is a trade association of the leading voting system manufacturers representing over 90% of the voting systems used in the United States
- Current membership includes:
  - Election Systems & Software
  - Hart InterCivic
  - Premier Election Solutions
  - Sequoia Voting Systems
- Originally formed in 2003 under the Information Technology Association of America
- In 2007, the members decided to form the ETC as an 501(c)6 trade association

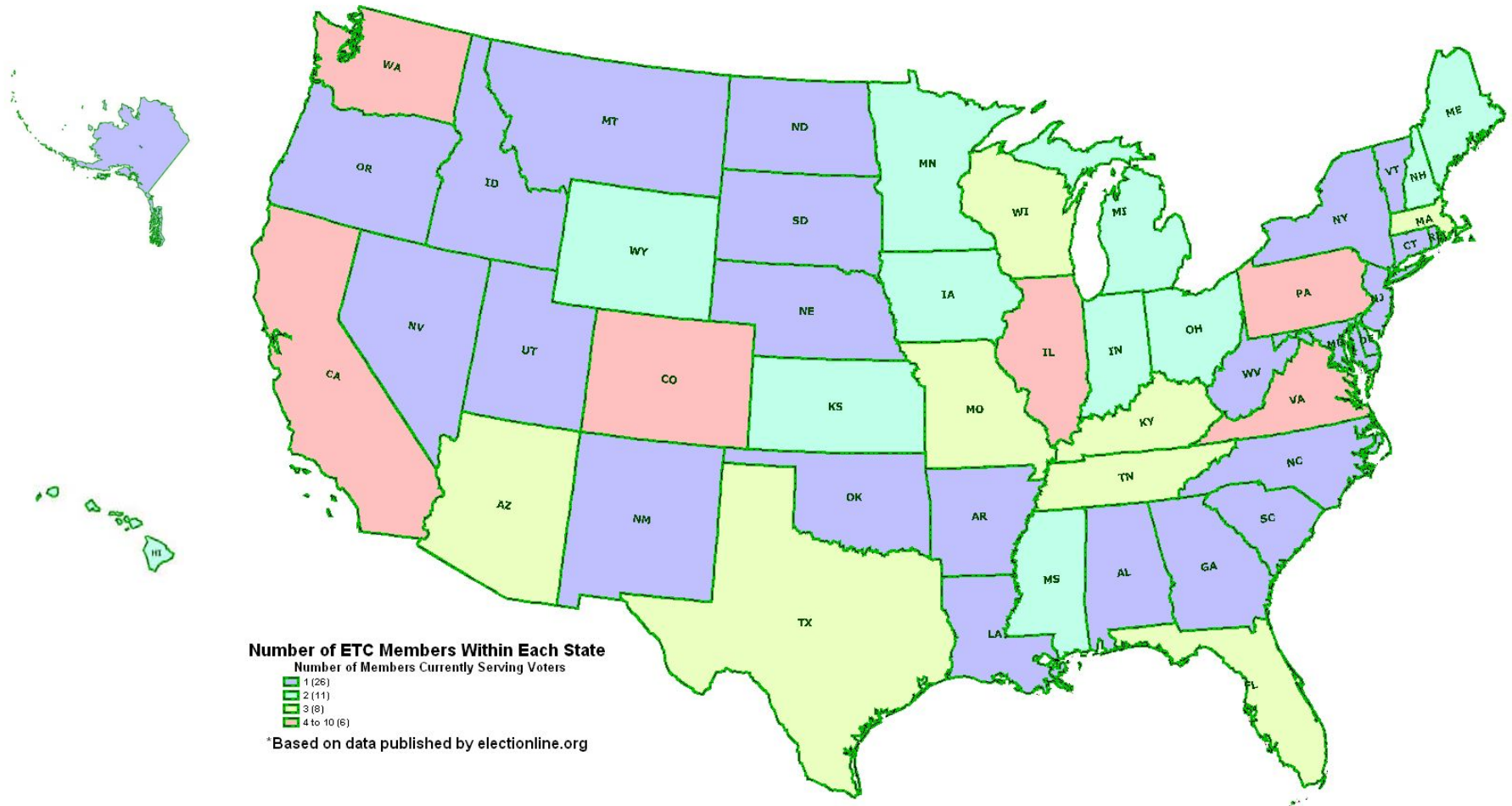


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# Election Technology Council-Coverage By State

All 50 States and the District of Columbia





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# Current State of Technology

- All ETC members offer the following voting solutions:
  - Optical Scan paper-based solutions
  - Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Voting Systems
  - Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPAT)
    - Supplement to DRE as a response to customer/state demands for a voter-verifiable record
    - Intended to serve as an auditing mechanism, not the ballot of record
    - Designed after-the-fact and is subject to its own product evolution



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# Current Industry Challenges

- Delays in the federal certification process
  - Approximately 2 years have passed without any product upgrades;
- Competing forces of State compliance deadlines versus timely federal certification;
- Lack of industry involvement in the regulatory process;
- Financial barriers for current and new industry participants;
- Lack of consolidated approach for considering voting system performance;
- Resulting delays in product upgrades and customer-driven enhancements;



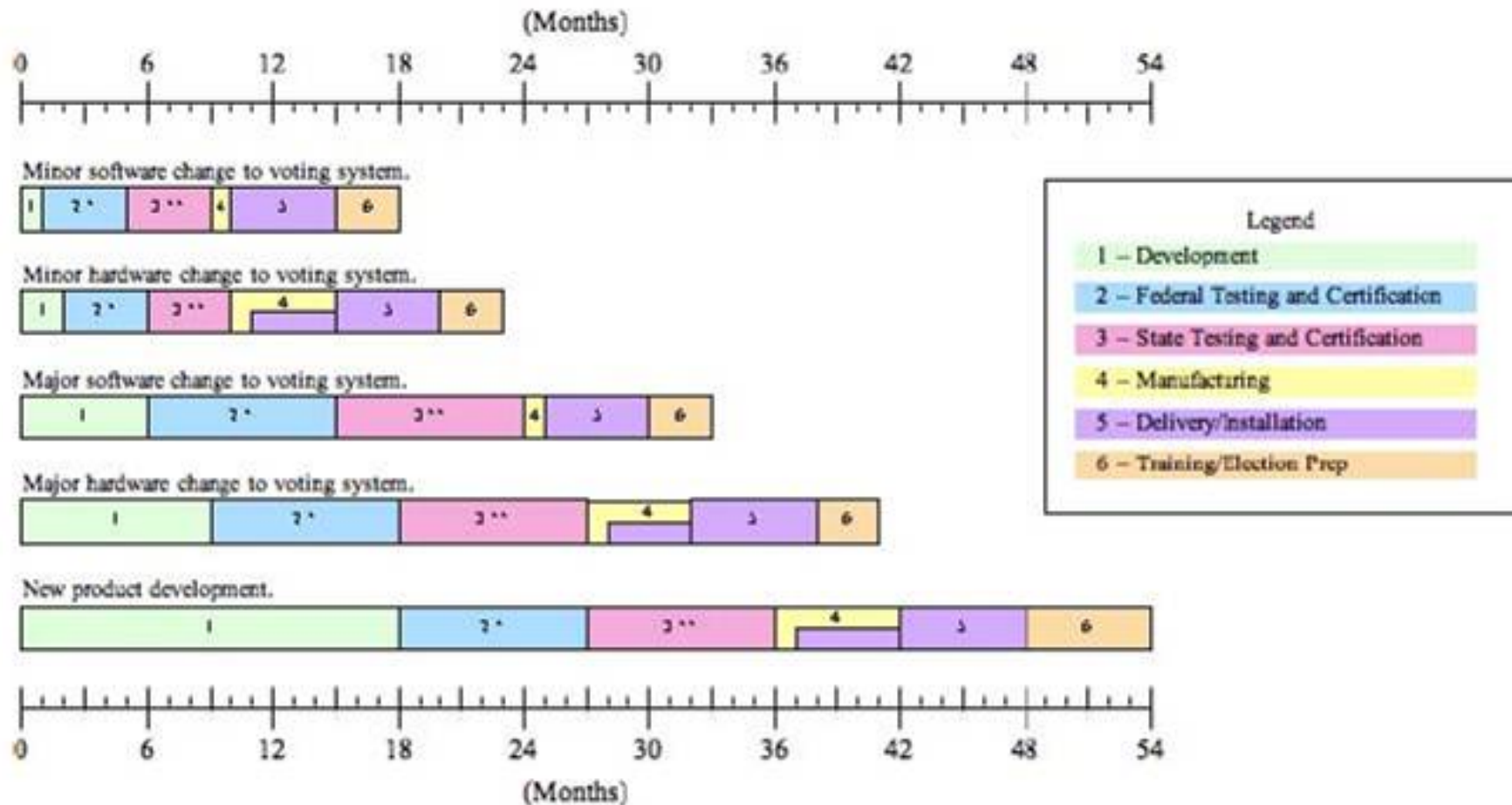
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# Current Industry Challenges

- Timelines for New Product Developments:
  - 18 months for Research and Development
  - 18 months for State and Federal certification
  - 12 months for Production and Delivery
  - 6 months for Training and Election Preparation
  - *Total New Product Development cycle is 54 months*
  - *Delays in Certification are stretching this to 60+ months*
- Timeline for Minor Software Changes:
  - 18 months for entire process, now 24 months
  - 50 States means 50 different ways to conduct elections

## Timelines to Implement Changes to Voting Systems



\* Note: The EAC's program for certifying voting systems is a new program. There is currently no historical data to use as a basis for estimating timelines. The time required for Federal Certification may be shorter than projected above or longer based on the test plan for the proposed change. The time frames noted above include voting system testing at an EAC accredited laboratory.

\*\* Note: State Certification time frames also vary from state to state.



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# Current Industry Challenges

- Perceptions versus Facts
- No Security Threat Model has developed for electronic voting systems versus paper-based voting systems
- Industry has been responsive to customer demands:
  - Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails;
  - Deposit of Source Code with National Software Resource Library;
  - Worked with State Election Officials during Top-to-Bottom Reviews;
  - Comprehensive training and support programs;



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# Preparing for the General

“It’s Not Too Late”



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# Preparing for 2008

- Anticipate longer lines at the polling places
  - By now, you have already allocated your equipment for the general election and initiated purchase of additional units if deemed necessary.
  - Purchase additional supplies such as security seals and transfer cases for polling place equipment;



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# Preparing for 2008

- Equipment Support
  - The industry leaders are offering various solutions to support your elections. These services include:
    - Equipment validation;
    - Testing;
    - Consultation on preparing for and performing audits;
    - Check with your provider to find a solution that fits your needs;



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# Preparing for 2008

- Ballot Preparation
  - Prepare for increased turnout with your ballot order;
  - Order additional ballots for your test deck and prepare your own test deck;
  - Anticipate challenges of FIFO (First-In, First-Out) ballot ordering;
  - Pay attention to your provider's deadlines for ballot ordering;
  - Proof, proof, proof!



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# Preparing for 2008

- Industry providers are becoming more prescriptive with their use procedures/recommendations;
- Election Security
  - Review and incorporate recommended security procedures into your election day/election night protocols;
  - Develop a security program for your office, election equipment storage, and election night;
  - Implement two person security control procedures;
  - Documentation is the key;



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## Preparing for 2008: Potential Security Procedures

- Acceptance Testing;
- Establish Clear Custody Controls;
- Pre-Election Hash Code Testing;
- Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy Testing;
- Election Day Parallel Testing;
- Post-Election Hash Code Testing;
- Post-Election Logic and Accuracy Testing;



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# Recommendations for 2008

- Stay in contact with your provider for the full range of election support services offered;
- Schedule/conduct preventative maintenance on your machines now;
- Test, Test, Test!
- Industry providers are becoming more prescriptive with procedures and deadlines so pay attention and review any published advisories!



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# Suggestions for the Community

- Work with your provider to communicate your concerns and ask questions;
- Bring in county IT personnel to aid in the development of robust technical procedures;
- Remember: Elections depend upon a balance between prevention and detection;



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# Q & A

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