2013 Professional Practices Program

iPads & lilyPads:
Innovation for the Perfect Election

Johnson County, Kansas

Submitted by:
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(T)echnology, (E)ntertainment, and (D)esign may be the three words that make up the infamous abbreviation, “TED,” synonymous with presentations that feature innovative ideas. But these three components also apply to the world of elections.

Nowhere do these three areas intersect more at the Johnson County Election Office than the way we instruct, communicate with, and prepare our election workers for Election Day.

Our workers and voters expect our office to be innovative, and the starting point for us involves training materials and Election Day tools. Our 2012 mission was to make election worker training captivating, and we did that with innovative approaches to materials and resources.

**iPads**

In December 2011, staff members at the Johnson County Election Office were offered a challenge, “Would using iPads help us improve the election process at the polls?” A small election just six weeks later was an ideal pilot. An iPad instruction guide and the 150-page Election Worker Manual went on the iPad bookshelf, along with the street index guide, used to direct lost voters to the correct polling place.

The Street Index is a huge document (more than 500 pages), so we previously sent out a portion to each polling location. Then, if you were registered in Merriam but needed to go to Olathe, for instance, and went to your old polling place, the workers wouldn’t have enough information to find your correct place. On the iPad the entire guide is included and indexed for fast retrieval. We save money not only in printing, but in staff time to sort and copy the partial files.

By April 2012 we moved the countywide map to the iPads (instead of printing a poster-sized map for each polling place). The map can be enlarged or shrunk by “pinching” the screen.

The iPad bookshelf now includes the following PDF files:

- iPad Instruction Guide for Election Workers
- iPad User Guide
- Election Worker Manual
- Street Index Guide
- New Election Worker Training Presentation
- Refresher Presentation for Experienced Workers
- Countywide map
- Kansas Valid Photo ID list
- Using Text Messaging to find Lost Voters
- Voting Machine Opening/Closing checklists
- Supervising Judge Opening/Closing checklists

All the manuals and training materials are on the iPad itself; they do not need a Wi-Fi connection. If the location has Wi-Fi, the polling place lookup site www.jocopolo.com is available from the default Safari browser on the iPad to direct lost voters.

If the Street Index Guide is used, workers look up a precinct ballot code based upon the voter address to find the correct polling place.

A Supervising Judge is responsible for each polling place, and the iPad was issued with their Election Day supplies. We asked for feedback and received excellent suggestions, which we are incorporating as we expand the program.

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School designated the *Election Worker Electronic Resource Guide* as a 2013 *Bright Idea* in the Innovations in American Government Awards Program:

*Johnson County has matched election worker needs with technology by using electronic aides in election day administration. This initiative evolved from training election workers online to the deployment of an Election Worker Electronic Resource Guide, which includes training presentations, opening and closing checklists, countywide precinct maps, a keyword-searchable soft copy version of*
the training manual, examples of photo IDs that are acceptable for voting, and a street index guide that is used to direct voters to their correct voting locations.

As a Bright Idea, the initiative is highlighted on the Ash Center’s website http://www.ash.harvard.edu/Home/Programs/Innovations-in-Government/Awards/Bright-Ideas, the Government Innovators Network (GIN) homepage and included in a searchable database on the site.

“Bright Ideas is an initiative that recognizes creative and promising government programs and partnerships. The initiative is offered through the Innovations in Government Program, a program of the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School. For more information, please visit http://innovationsaward.harvard.edu/BrightIdeas.cfm.”

lilyPads
By using the iPads we can make our training presentations available for Supervising Judges to review for reference on Election Day. And that’s where the lilyPad comes in.

We’ve noticed the need to compress more information into our training time. We block off three hours for training and pay our workers a whopping $15 to attend training. Our Election Commissioner personally delivers the training, so it’s an intense period.

The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) recently sponsored an Accessible Elections Design Workshop, where they brought in artists to help facilitate the discussion. We were inspired to look for an application with similar creativity. We pondered the value of a whiteboard "lecture" kind of presentation designed to be jammed with information and be innovative. Originally we planned it for new election workers, but in a test run it was a bit overwhelming.

We refined it and moved it to our Supervising Judge Training. The Supervising Judges attend Refresher Training and then come back for a second training on what is involved as Supervising Judge. These election workers are essentially our A list of workers and are expected to be experts. This video reminds them of basic things that are covered in new election worker training.

Our guide through the video – The Perfect Election – is our favorite friendly flying frog – and the lilyPad, of course, is his “pad.”

“Clickers”

Supervising Judge training sessions began with an electronic survey based on material from Election Worker training. Judges responded anonymously using “clickers.” The system tallied responses to show the results of the survey and items that needed clarification. Many of the items are directly addressed in the video. For further reinforcement we displayed a mural created from the video for the workers to review after training.

A Supervising Judge can review the presentation in the Video section of the iPad the night before the election, and it’s available to share with other workers on Election Day. The iPads have proved their worth at the polls, and we add enhancements with every election.

How we would expand our iPads to use them as poll books is still the question. Although we have at least four viable partner opportunities, we’d like to consider building our own software with the Secretary of State's office. All in all, the printing savings is indisputable, as is avoiding the after-election poll book scanning which records voter history. If the wind is blowing in our Kansas direction we may someday accomplish this as well.

Supporting Documents
- iPad screen shots
- Training video screen shots
- Poster used at Supervising Judge Training Sessions
- CD: Training Video – The Perfect Election –
  also at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQT7eel2-aw&feature=player_embedded#!
Election Worker Manual
Spring Elections 2013
Primary February 26
General April 2

Brian D. Newby
Election Commissioner

Revised 1/2013
Permission Required for Distribution Outside of Johnson County, Kansas

This manual belongs to:

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alternate Method

Text Messaging from a Cell Phone

If you are comfortable sending text messages on your cell phone, you may send a text
message to 71201, type VOTERS, a space, and the voter’s address using the house
classification format on page 6. The message will include a link to a page with the
contact information for the voter. You may also send a text message to

if you are not comfortable with the text message system or you would
like to receive the text message on a different cell phone. This method
is fast and accurate. If a student election worker has been assigned to your
polling place, you may wish to assign this task to your student worker.
Standard message rules apply.
Screen shots from the video — The Perfect Election