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2008 Professional Practices Program

Mobile Early Voting Program Clark County, NV

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Mobile Early Voting Program

The Clark County Election Department (CCED), in Las Vegas, NV, has been aggressively providing Early Voting (EV) opportunities to our constituents since 1996, and as a result, we have earned a reputation for being on the cutting edge of EV program development. Fifty percent of those who voted, voted early during the 2004 General Election, which represented over 271,000 voters. If this trend holds true for the upcoming 2008 Presidential Election we will serve up to 340,000 early voters in November.

In order to meet the demands of our constituents who vote early it is necessary for us to aggressively recruit new sites in order to keep up with the pace of growth. Despite our best efforts, and as a result of serving in a jurisdiction that experiences growth at a pace of three to four thousand new residents per month, we are often left without facilities to support our EV program where new residential construction is heavy. Due to an ever increasing number of residential areas in this category we found ourselves looking for alternate methods to serve voters in areas where commercial and government facilities had not kept up with the growth. Our answer was to create the Clark County Election Department **Mobile** Early Voting Program.

The Program

In 2006 we instituted a pilot program, which involved designing and supporting the use of a custom 48' gooseneck trailer to support voting in areas where no facility existed to support our EV program. During the 2006 General Election our trailer supported four different locations and a total of 5,843 early voters, who otherwise would not have had a convenient location to cast their early ballot.

Our design resulted in a trailer that is completely self-sustaining and does not require a data line or electrical hookup. We are able to access our election management system via a wireless connection, which periodically requires the use of a signal booster antenna to strengthen the wireless signal. Power is provided by a 13KW Onan generator, which is ample service to support three laptops, up to 18 of our DRE touch screen machines, lighting, heating and cooling for the trailer. Our original design was not ADA accessible, so in response to this shortcoming we incorporated the use of an "ADA Tent" which provided access to disabled voters outside of the trailer.

Innovations & Emergency Considerations

Based on what we learned in 2006 we incorporated several enhancements into the three additional trailers we are adding to our fleet this fall.

- The number of machines we can support per trailer was increased from 9 to 12 by leveling the floor and incorporating tables that run the length of the trailer and store conveniently against the wall of the trailer.

- To increase the security and comfort of the election workers we incorporated windows into the doors and included halogen lighting outside of the trailer.
- We eliminated the door wells thereby allowing us to provide a ramp for voters to access the trailer.
- We incorporated the use of a hydraulic foot at the front of the trailer to assist in hooking up the trailer.
- To deal with a generator failure we added a backup generator to our list of equipment.
- We incorporated the use of some colorful “wrap” signage to make the trailer more visible to the public.
- Coinciding with the retirement of one of our fleet vehicles, we coordinated with the Clark County Automotive Division to obtain a vehicle capable of towing the trailers, thereby eliminating the need for an outside vendor to assist us.

Government Collaboration Through HAVA

The innovations discussed in the previous section were made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Nevada Secretary of State’s (NVSOS) office and the CCED. As a result of the success we experienced with the pilot program in 2006, we petitioned the NVSOS to purchase additional trailers for us with funds made available through the Help America Vote Act. After looking into the program, and determining that it was indeed a worthy program to support, they agreed to purchase an additional three trailers for us.

As a direct result of our agencies partnering to turn this idea into reality the CCED has the capability of serving an additional 50,000 voters who may otherwise not have taken the opportunity to vote early. Which would have resulted in longer lines at the polls on Election Day, increased need for machines in inventory, and an increase in cost to the taxpayers.

Summary

Developing and implementing our mobile voting trailer concept has allowed the CCED to continue serving the needs of the voters in Clark County. Other jurisdictions with similar growth issues to contend with could benefit from exploring this concept in an effort to serve voters who otherwise would not have the benefit of access to an early voting site located in their area.

Other benefits include utilization of the trailers for voter registration drives and any other form of community outreach whether it be at the city, county, or state level. When not in use for voting, the trailers could be utilized as a book mobile, for blood drives, or portable recreation centers. The possibilities are endless, but it starts with serving the voters in your community!!

Supporting Documents



FIGURE 1 – Full setup with permanent staff.



FIGURE 2 – Full setup from front, NVSOS/CCED banner on front nose of trailer.



FIGURE 3 – ADA Tent w/ portable evaporative cooler.



FIGURE 4 – DRE in ADA Tent.



FIGURE 5 – Trailer ramp.



FIGURE 6 – Stainless steel foldaway table w/pwr cutouts.



FIGURE 7 – DRE setup inside trailer.



FIGURE 8 – Trailer length shot.



FIGURE 9 – Laptop setup.



FIGURE 10 – Front "wrap" decal.



FIGURE 11 – Side "wrap" decal.