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2014 Professional Practices Program

Election Results Reporting

Loudoun County, Virginia

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ABSTRACT OF PROGRAM

In 2013, the Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration launched 'The Kindle Project.' The main purpose of the project was to eliminate delays in the reporting of unofficial results on election night. Amazon Kindle Fire HD tablets were issued to all polling locations, and a system utilizing Google Spreadsheets was created for the reporting of results. The first time the system was deployed, in November 2013; over 90% of the counties 84 polling places reported their results using the Kindle. The remaining precincts were able to report their results by phone with no delays. During the development of the program the office determined a number of additional ways that the Kindle can be used to either reduce expense or save time for both office staff and poll workers.

MAIN PROBLEM/NEED TO BE SOLVED

Loudoun County, Virginia has long been recognized as one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Between 2000 and 2012 the number of registered voters in Loudoun County has gone from 104,394 to 210,392 an increase of over 100%. During this same time period the number of precincts operated increased from 36 to 84, an increase of 133%.

In 2011 a number of new precincts were added as a result of re-districting. That same year all county and state offices were on the ballot resulting in a November 2011 General Election ballot with 11 races and several local bond questions. Due to the size of the ballot as well as the number of locations needing to report, there were excessive delays in reporting results by phone on election night. Several precincts reported being on hold for over 90 minutes waiting to report. Also over the past several years there had been a marked increase in the number of inaccuracies in the results reported by phone on election night.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

After reviewing several tablet computer options, the Amazon Kindle Fire HD 8.9" device was chosen and purchased for all precincts. One of the primary reasons the Kindle was chosen over other devices is the Amazon Whispercast service, which allows staff to upload documents and settings to all devices simultaneously saving a substantial amount of time. Each Kindle is provided in a Bluetooth keyboard case to make the entering of data easier. The system utilizes the Wi-Fi already present in buildings as well as hotspots and other means in the handful of non-public facilities.

For the reporting of the unofficial vote counts at the end of the day the initial idea was to utilize email and some sort of form or spreadsheet. Staff quickly determined that it would be best if the process could be completed in as few steps as possible, and moved to Google Spreadsheets. A Google Drive was created as a 'master' for the office and Gmail addresses and Google Drives were created for each precinct. A series of templates for the reporting of the numbers was created and then copied for each precinct that the template applied to. The precinct specific sheets were then 'shared' with the precinct so that their individual sheet is the only one they see when logged in.

At the end of the day, numbers from the machine tapes are entered into the sheet on the Kindle and immediately visible in the office. At the office, results are reviewed for obvious inaccuracies and then the precinct is notified that it is cleared to pack up and go. The results are transferred to a county-wide results sheet that is viewable by the public.

At the suggestion of a Precinct Chief at the first training session, a second 'tab' was added to each precincts sheet for them to report 'voter counts' at pre-determined times throughout the day. After these numbers are entered by the polling places they automatically transfer to a master sheet so that office management can be aware of turnout throughout the county and relay this information to interested parties such as the press.

Chief Manuals, instruction sheets, the 'Virginia Election Laws' book, and other documents are loaded onto the Kindle instead of being printed and provided in hard copy. Distributing these items this way has the added benefit of making them searchable.

FUTURE PLANS

Staff has begun working on an 'electronic Statement of Results' for the precincts to use in place of a paper version. The Virginia State Board of Elections has granted permission for the office to utilize electronic signatures on this document. It is believed that implementing this phase of the program will save both time and money and greatly improve accuracy.

Staff has also begun researching the option of creating apps for the reporting of vote counts, unofficial results, and the Statement of Results. While the Google Sheets work well for the project, it is believed that dedicated apps would further streamline the process.

RESULTS/SUCCESS OF PROGRAM

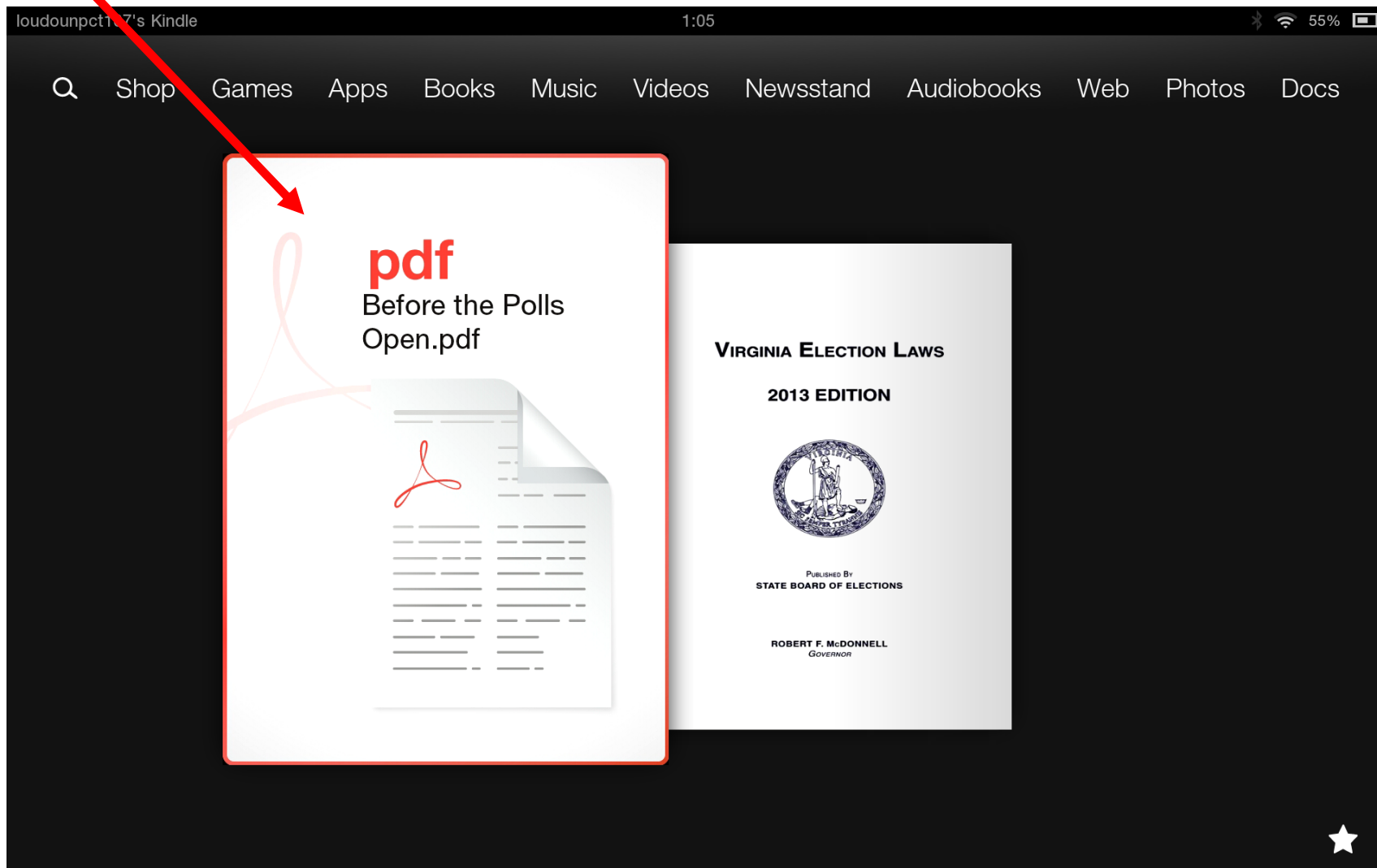
The program was deployed for the first time in November 2013 and over 90% of precincts used the device to report. Similar results have been seen in the two elections since November 2013. Moving to electronic reporting has eliminated the need for over 12 people to man the 'phone bank.' Instead the incoming results are now handled by 2 people, 1 on the computer processing the electronic submissions and 1 on the phone. Results are also received much faster and therefore disseminated to the public quickly.

Inaccuracies in the numbers received from polling places on election night have been virtually eliminated as the spreadsheet does the math for them, eliminating the need for fatigued election officers or phone bank workers to reconcile the numbers.

Significant cost savings have been achieved through the elimination of the printing of over 250 pages of documents for each precinct each election and the need for temporary staff to help assemble the manuals. The office estimates that this may be saving as much as \$4,000 each election in labor and materials. The office has also been able to repurpose existing binders to organize other Election Day materials.

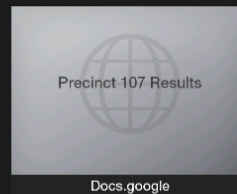
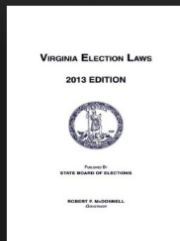
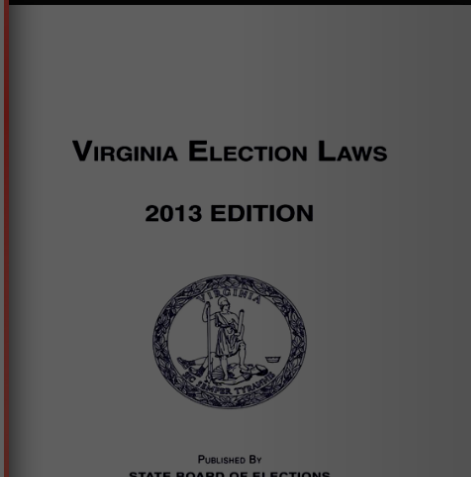
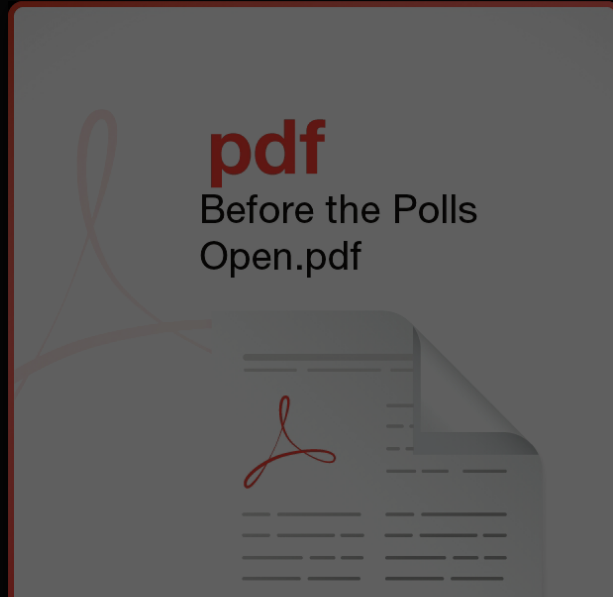
Carousel

Battery & Wifi
Status



Favorites

Shop Games Apps Books Music Videos Newsstand Audiobooks Web Photos Docs



After clicking in favorites, entry screen will appear in browser. Give it a minute to process. Then click in appropriate box and enter numbers. They will automatically add and be visible in the office. To verify we have your info we will enter something such as 'GOT IT!' in box A2.

The screenshot shows a mobile browser interface displaying a Google Sheet titled "Precinct 107 Results". The address bar shows the URL: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AuRCZZFnXsp9dExwd3J6Rk1zODJNRExjNlcwV1VSWHc#gid=0>. The spreadsheet content is as follows:

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Election Results	County of Loudoun					Little River	
2		House District 67					107	
4	Governor							
5	B-1	B-2	C-1	C-2	C-3	D	E	
6	Candidate or Response	Over Votes	Blank Votes	Terry R. McAuliffe	Ken T. Cuccinelli	Robert C. Sarvis	Write In Votes	Total (B + C + D)
7	Totals from TSX							0
8	Totals from OS							0
9	Total Manual Ct							0
10	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Lieutenant Governor							
13	B-1	B-2	C-1	C-2	D	E		
14	Candidate or		Ralph S.	E. W.	Write In	Total (B + C		

Key: Gray shading will not have results	Governor							Over Votes	Blank Votes	Ballot Number
	Over Votes	Blank Votes	Terry R. McAuliffe	Ken T. Cuccinelli II	Robert C. Sarvis	Write Ins	Total			
DULLES										
107 Little River	0	21	909	885	94	6	1,915	0	49	
108 Mercer	0	6	512	434	40	4	996	0	27	
112 Freedom	0	11	689	611	50	5	1,366	0	28	
114 Dulles South	0	2	251	223	22	2	500	0	10	
117 Carter	0	11	794	367	50	1	1,223	0	17	
118 Moorefield	0	1	368	242	29	1	641	0	6	
119 Arcola	0	4	518	432	49	2	1,005	0	17	
120 Lunsford	0	4	514	448	35	1	1,002	0	15	
121 Town Hall	0	2	351	343	47	1	744	0	10	
122 Hutchison Farm	0	15	580	537	49	4	1,185	0	37	
DULLES TOTALS	0	77	5,486	4,522	465	27	10,577	0	216	
ALGONKIAN										
207 Riverbend	0	4	437	415	47	0	903	0	19	
208 Algonkian	0	4	420	370	46	0	840	0	14	
209 Potomac Falls	0	4	563	463	52	1	1,083	0	10	
210 Cascades	0	2	693	514	73	3	1,285	0	16	
213 Countryside	0	3	234	172	28	0	437	0	8	
214 Sugarland North	0	8	741	631	69	7	1,456	0	29	
215 Sugarland South	0	13	626	485	72	3	1,199	0	20	
216 Lowes Island	0	2	532	495	59	2	1,090	0	13	
217 South Bank	0	3	633	498	71	0	1,205	0	17	
218 University Center	0	2	325	249	41	0	617	0	5	
219 Galilee Church	0	2	406	320	45	2	775	0	11	
ALGONKIAN TOTALS	0	47	5,610	4,612	603	18	10,890	0	162	
BLUE RIDGE										
301 Purcellville	0	2	602	711	59	2	1,376	0	12	
302 Round Hill	0	3	453	624	44	2	1,126	0	19	
303 Hillsboro	0	2	425	603	61	1	1,092	0	19	
305 Philomont	0	1	210	334	28	2	575	0	5	
307 Middleburg	0	4	293	231	37	2	567	0	16	
308 St. Louis	0	4	321	254	28	0	607	0	15	
309 Aldie	0	2	244	226	21	1	494	0	8	
310 Mountain View	0	7	468	704	72	5	1,256	0	21	
311 Round Hill Elementary	0	0	368	550	46	1	965	0	10	
312 Briar Woods	0	5	578	716	57	2	1,358	0	18	
313 Pinebrook	0	3	375	304	31	0	713	0	10	
314 Legacy	0	5	668	492	57	2	1,224	0	22	
315 Firehouse	0	2	178	240	24	0	444	0	11	