KOPIS

SMART GOV

Advancing Election Integrity
Through Voter Management & Inter-Agency Collaboration

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Policy Paper

INTRODUCTION

The future of democratic processes through the lens of integrated Voter Management Systems.

Ensuring the integrity of elections is crucial for upholding democracy. This policy paper delves into the concept of an integrated voter management system, with a focus on streamlined processing of voter registration and status changes.

Additionally, it explores the significance of integrating election management systems with information from other state agencies and the importance of inter-agency and inter-state information sharing. The objective is to provide Secretaries of State and election leaders with insights into leveraging technology for a comprehensive and interconnected approach to election administration.

INTEGRATED ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR MODERN DEMOCRACY

An Integrated Election Management System serves as the backbone of a modernized election administration, involving the seamless integration of voter registration systems, election and candidate management, absentee ballot management, early voting processes, and cybersecurity measures. This holistic approach creates a comprehensive system that optimizes various facets of the election process.

Enhancing Voter Registration Efficiency

Efficient management of changes to a voter's address, status, or eligibility is a key component to ensuring the integrity of the voter lists for a given election. Automated Voter Application or Status Change workflows provide an efficient way to process these requests with little user interaction, thus minimizing delays and errors while ensuring voter eligibility verification.

Strengthening Inclusiveness by Modernizing Voter Status

Efficient voter management is not just a matter of expediency; it is a fundamental element in safeguarding the democratic process. Delays in processing voter registration applications and status changes can have far-reaching consequences, impacting eligibility, legal compliance, and the public trust in the electoral system.

Delays in processing voter data often lead to incorrect information at polling stations and jeopardizes the eligibility of voters. This can result in disenfranchisement and the potential for voters to be turned away. The efficient management of voters not only safeguards against disenfranchisement but also contributes to the overall inclusivity of the electoral process.

By modernizing the voter status process and integrating with other data sources, states can significantly reduce the likelihood of errors. This not only ensures that voters are properly registered but also mitigates the risk of legal challenges based on inaccuracies.

INTEGRATION WITH STATE AGENCIES AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

An essential aspect of a fully integrated election management system is its integration with information from other state agencies and national organizations. Facilitating data sharing with state agencies such as the Department of Moter Vehicles or the Department of Social Services and with national programs similar to the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) enhances the overall integrity of elections. This collaboration to share data regarding deceased individuals, convicted individuals, and voter address changes (both in state and between states) contributes to the accuracy of pollbooks.

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR SEAMLESS INTEGRATION

There are six key technology areas to focus on to provide state officials with a comprehensive framework for enhancing the efficiency and transparency of election data management.

// 01 **Advanced Data Exchange Protocols**

Technology serves as the linchpin for seamless integration across state agencies. Implementing advanced data exchange protocols allows for real-time or near-real-time sharing of crucial information. APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) and standardized data formats enable different systems to communicate effortlessly, ensuring that the voter registration database remains synchronized with the latest information from various state agencies.

// 02 **Data Matching Algorithms**

Deploying sophisticated data matching algorithms enhances the accuracy of information integration. These algorithms compare and reconcile data from different sources, identifying

matches, updates, or discrepancies. By utilizing advanced matching techniques, the integrated election management system can ensure that the pollbook reflects the most current and accurate information from diverse state agency databases.

// 03 **Secure Data Transmission**

Security is paramount when integrating databases from different state agencies. Utilizing secure data transmission protocols, such as encrypted connections and secure sockets layer (SSL) certificates, safeguards the integrity and confidentiality of the exchanged data. This is crucial for protecting sensitive information and maintaining the trust of both citizens and agencies involved in the collaborative data-sharing process.

// 04 **Centralized Data Hub**

Establishing a centralized data hub or repository facilitates efficient integration. This hub serves as a centralized point where data from various state agencies is aggregated, normalized, and made accessible to the integrated election management system. This centralized approach streamlines the integration process, ensuring that election officials have a unified and comprehensive view of voter information.

// 05 **Real-time Data Updates**

Technology enables the implementation of data updates without days or weeks delay. This ensures that changes in other state agency databases are reflected in the voter registration system. Automated processes triggered by changes in external databases, such as updates to deceased files or address changes, can be seamlessly integrated into the election management system. This real-time synchronization enhances the accuracy and timeliness of voter information.

// 06 **Audit Trails and Monitoring**

Incorporating audit trails and monitoring mechanisms provides transparency and accountability in the data integration process. Election officials can track changes, monitor data flows, and identify any anomalies or irregularities. This not only ensures the reliability of integrated data but also facilitates compliance with data governance standards and regulations.

ELEVATING ELECTION INTEGRITY

An integrated election management system, coupled with inter-agency collaboration and information sharing facilitated by technology, represents a significant leap toward advancing election integrity.

By embracing technology and fostering collaboration with state agencies, Secretaries of State and Election Officials can ensure a more accurate, transparent, and secure electoral process. The benefits extend beyond the efficiency gains for election officials, instilling confidence in voters regarding the integrity of the democratic process through robust information sharing practices.

About Kopis: With over two decades of experience, Kopis is the leading custom software development firm based in Greenville, SC. Specializing in the development, modernization, and maintenance of various state agencies' systems, Kopis has played a pivotal role in shaping South Carolina's technological landscape. Since 2008 we have partnered with the South Carolina State Election Commission to modernize and maintain the State of South Carolina Voter Registration Election Management System. As a Microsoft Gold Partner, Kopis brings streamlined and contemporary solutions to government agencies, earning the trust and partnership of numerous South Carolina state entities throughout its distinguished 20-year history.