Questionnaire Feedback

Question 1: Given what you have learned so far, should MCEB purchase new voting equipment to replace its current voting system in the near terms – yes, no, not sure?

1. Current equipment is obsolete. At some point the need for new machines will force a new path be taken.
2. Yes.
3. Not sure. Cost. Timing of the new voting equipment. People will need to be trained and voters will need to be educated.
5. Yes & No. YES - Equipment is outdated. Advances in security & technology. SB 621 requires it. Support/spare parts. NO – budget concerns/funding.
6. Yes. The equipment is too outdated to NOT be updated. In addition, with the passing of SB 621, it will be impossible to count absentee ballots in a timely manner.
7. Yes. For efficiency.
8. Not sure the advancements will outweigh the costs.
9. Yes.
10. Yes. Integrity and security of electronic voting processes are improving and are more reliable. SB 621 requires the change to the election process.

Question 1 Discussion During Meeting:

- Yes:
  - Equipment is outdated
  - Given advances in technology, especially security, would be beneficial
  - SB621 requires a change in voting system given current equipment parameters
  - Limited availability of replacement parts for current system
  - Democratic society can’t afford to vote, are we still a democratic society?

- No:
  - Technology is moving forward, changing and what we purchase now may not be workable in the future
  - Budget $$ may not be available; availability of funding difficult

- Not sure:
  - Advancements in newer equipment may not justify the expense
  - Political parties should fund their own primaries, which may help fund new equipment or advancements in voting technology

Question 2: What are your concerns, if any, utilizing a primarily ballot-card focused system in the future?

1. Printing. Printing costs also. Concerns with physical storage & warehousing of ballots.
2. Cost. It is necessary to purchase/prepare ballots that will not be needed.
3. Timing & cost
4. Determining voter intent if marked incorrectly.
5. 1) cost, 2) time consuming, 3) storage (physical), 4) impede forward progress, 5) less accessible
6. Fixed voter location. Printing/Storage
7. Cost for storage & production
8. Tedious, complicated; time consuming; physical storage; less accessible for voters with disabilities.
9. ?
10. Time consuming and expensive. Printing & physical storage is an issue. Less accessible for people with
disabilities.

**Question 2 Discussion During Meeting:**
- Printing ballots can be tedious & complicated
- Time consuming process to collate ballot information (before to create them, to distribute to precincts & pull together when polls close)
- Physical storage
- Impede process to other technologies, especially as it limits voters to one location to vote on Election Day
- Less accessible for voters with disabilities

**Question 3: What would be your concerns, if any, if the MCEB were to switch to a primarily electronic (paperless) voting system in the future?**
1. Possible outside fraud. System failure, also if there is a natural disaster or major power (or infrastructure) interruption.
2. Will the system allow proper review, i.e.: contests & recounts? How will provisional voting occur?
3. There needs to be a paper trail in case there is a recount.
4. Potentially more expensive to maintain.
5. 1) confidence with voters, 2) provisional ballots, 3) weather, electricity, etc. (system fails), 4) elderly population considerations
6. System failing; lack of paper trail
7. Fraud; security; recounts
8. Distrust of technology that may affect voters confidence; system failures; lack of paper train; older voters limited exposure
9. Opposed
10. Back-up for validation (lack of paper trail); considering the elderly or non-tech voters to be included

**Question 3 Discussion During Meeting:**
- Distrust of the technology may lead to less confidence in system by voters
- How would provisional ballots be segregated/implemented in a totally paperless system
- System fails – then what?
- Lack of a paper trail
  - System is hacked or somehow infiltrated then paperless system more difficult to validate election results
- Older voters may have limited exposure to technology and be unsure of using
- Electronic system may be more expensive to purchase, maintain
  - Software and other back-end systems may be impacted, too
- Does a recount exist in an all electronic environment?
Question 4: If MCEB were to utilize a “combination” system would you prefer it to produce or use a paper ballot read by a scanner or an electric ballot for which a “receipt” could be printed and retained by the election board? Why?
1. Paper ballot appears to permit review; post-election audits.
2. Depends upon cost and state law/legal precedent requirement for audit trail to mitigate legal challenges.
3. Difficult to answer at this time given that I don’t know what systems are available or how they work. Electronic voting systems should be able to provide a paper trail to meet needs.
4. Not enough information to make comments but worth discussing

Question 4 Discussion During Meeting:
• Big brother
• Random ‘save’ features of an electronic ballot to not be able to identify the voter’s selection
• Some voters may not be comfortable with touchscreen – familiarity of paper ballot
• Potential for a touchscreen system to print a paper ballot and hold internally without voter touching it
  o Intelligent systems can produce a paper trail without a paper ballot
• How do you define a paper trail?
  o Some states perform post election audits submitted to state and reviewed as to official count on the machine on Election Day and later confirming the machine has same number many months after the election
• Not enough information to answer this question?

Question 5: What do you feel should be the Election Board’s primary concerns when evaluating voting systems for purchase? (rank three)
1. 1) security/integrity & 2) accuracy & 3) cost
2. 1) cost, expense & 2) easy access for voters (training on voting system) & 3) paper trail
3. 1) cost & 2) security & 3) accuracy
4. 1) efficiency & 2) cost effectiveness & 3) security
5. 1) security/integrity, 2) easy to use, 3) cost
6. 1) accessibility, 2) security, 3) cost
7. 1) security; 2) ease of use; 3) cost; 4) integrity
8. 1) security; 2) ease of use; 3) accuracy & integrity
9. 1) security

Question 5 Discussion During Meeting:
• Security
• Ease of use
• Accuracy
• Cost

Questions for Travis County, Texas Director of Elections
• What do they wish they knew more about prior to initiating current technology?
• What is their biggest fear regarding their current system?
• What has been their biggest surprise, pleasant & negative, in terms of implementation of the current system?
• What is the size of the average staff/pollworkers at each center?
• What are the differences in costs?
• How long does it take for results?
• What questions and concerned did you have when moving to vote centers?
• And were those concerns justified of discounted by your experience?
• What methodology did you use to select equipment and procedures for elections?
- Why did you decide to go to the vote centers? What was the main reason?
- Voter Acceptance?
- Was the switch made before or after the primary or general election?
- What have been the biggest advantages?
- What have been the negatives?
- Cost savings realized or overall cost increase?
- Voter feedback on election systems?
- What functionality issues have you had and how did they affect the election?
- What was the initial reaction by voters to your new voting system?
- Did the positives outweigh the negatives?
- What technology do you use & how does it work?
- Certification process – what is it?
- Challenges to your election – how many & what are they?
- What hasn’t worked with the Vote Centers? And what are you changing?
- Did anything happen with a vote center election that was unexpected?
- Would you recommend vote centers to other counties?
- Transition issues
- Voter Acceptance
- Unexpected/unanticipated items

What new information did you hear tonight?
1. There are different levels of certification. Federal law seems to permit different levels of certification.
2. Less expensive to go to electronic than paper base system. Indiana does not require paper trail.
3. Certification of voting machines
4. Paper trails are not required in Indiana
5. Certification process – how it works & what’s required by law.
6. Certification process for election systems

What topics or concepts need further discussion and explanation?
1. Cost. When would this need to take place? Off year, before a primary or general?
2. What technology is out there; what should we be considering?
3. What systems are available & how do they work.
4. Costs; price tag & possible ways to fund it.
5. Ability to “(can’t read this word but in quotes” & security
6. Best ways to education public on voting system changes & correct misinformation.

What additional materials or data can we provide to make this process more helpful and meaningful?
1. Costs; Technology/equipment options
2. New technological advancements/improvements how long will new technology last?
3. Looking forward to hearing from next weeks guests.
4. Ask Bowen Center to compile information about which voting system(s) has proven to be the most efficient & reliable & easy to use. Do voluntary voting system guidelines exist? Are there best practices that can help guide discussions and decision-making?