The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the stars on an American flag. The stars are white and set against a dark blue field. The perspective is from a low angle, looking up at the stars.

# **2012 Presidential General Election: An Analysis & Recommendations**

**Presentation to the Standing Committee on Elections  
Monday, December 3, 2012**

# Basic Statistics

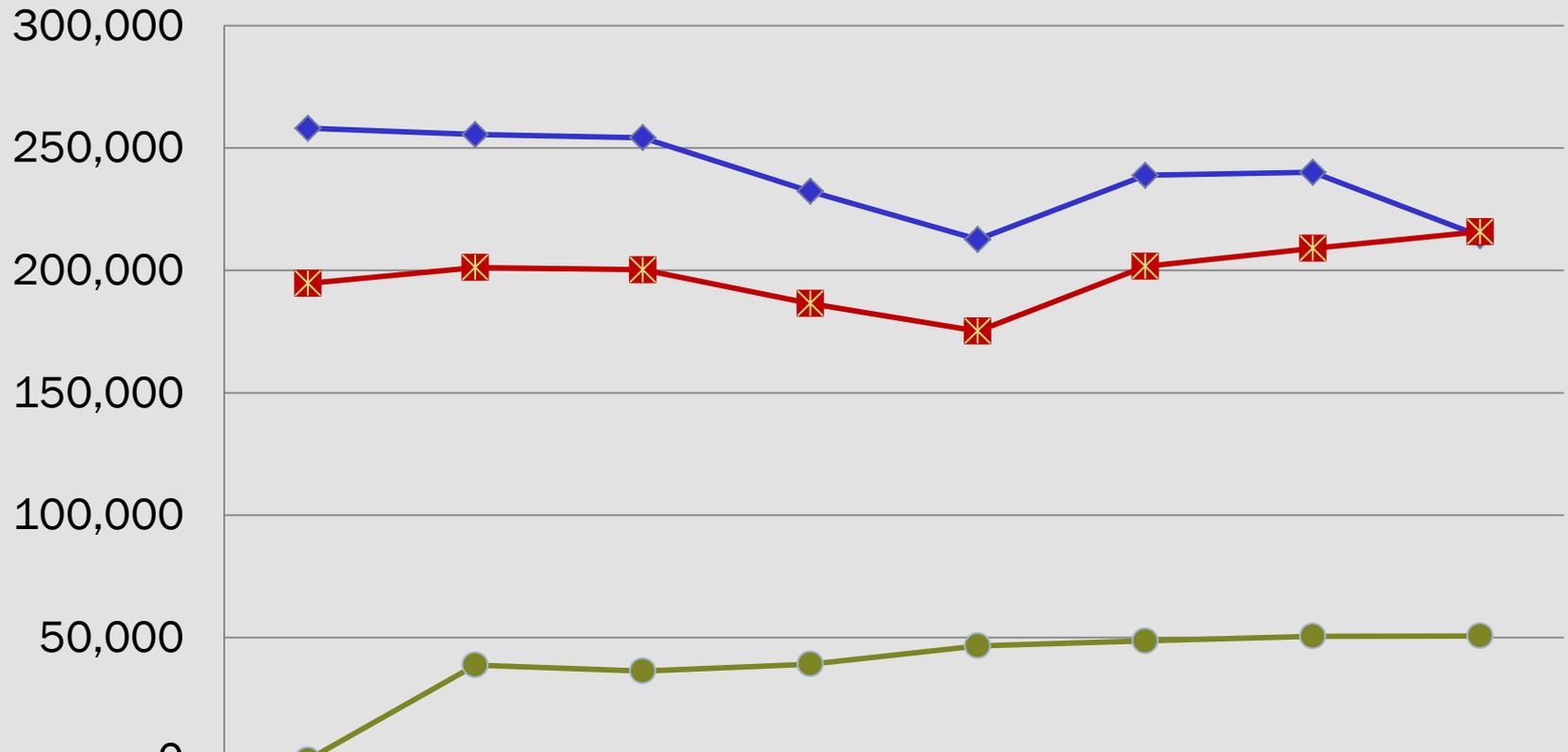
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## MINNEAPOLIS

- ▶ Pre-Registered Voters: 214,003
- ▶ Number of Precincts: 117 (active)
- ▶ Absentee Ballots: 15,143
  - ▶ 1,125 of these were health care facility voters
- ▶ Election Day Registrations: 50,668
- ▶ Total Election Day Voters: 200,661
- ▶ Total Number of Voters: 215,806
- ▶ **Percentage Turnout: 81%**

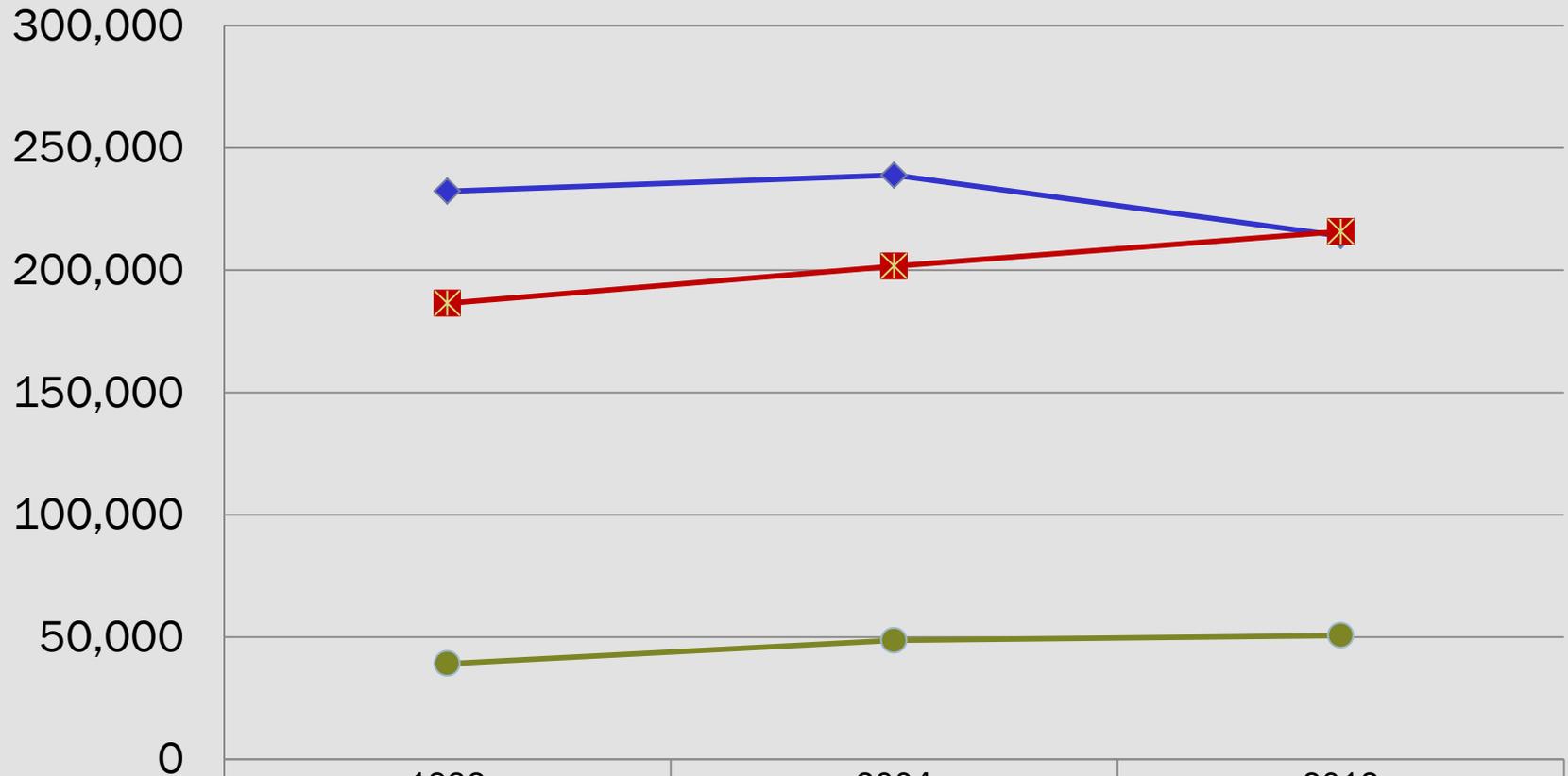


# Presidential Turnout: 1968-2012



	1968	1976	1984	1992	2000	2004	2008	2012
◆ Pre-Reg	258,030	255,493	254,198	232,250	212,604	238,848	240,022	214,003
● EDR	0	38,760	36,318	39,156	46,627	48,611	50,505	50,668
✕ Total Voting	194,694	201,135	200,238	186,438	175,191	201,672	208,973	215,806

# Trends



◆ Pre-Reg

232,250

238,848

214,003

● EDR

39,156

48,611

50,668

⊠ Total Voting

186,438

201,672

215,806

# Planning for Election Day

- ▶ Total of 117 precincts
- ▶ Planned equalization of pre-registered voters among all precincts
- ▶ Overall slight increase across all precincts
- ▶ Less wide-spread deviation among polls

Precinct Factors—	2008	2012
Total No. of Precincts	131	117
Precincts = <1,000 Registered Voters	13	9
Precincts = >3,000 Registered Voters	9	2
Registered Voters per Precinct (Avg.)	1,830	1,844

*Fewer precincts, but less widespread deviation among registered voters per polling place.*

# Planning for Election Day

## New Polling Places in 2012 General Election

Ward – Precinct	Location of New Polling Place
2-7	Augsburg College – Christensen Hall
6-5	Phillips Community Center
6-6	Peavey Recreation Center
8-5	Watershed Charter High School
10-9	Minneapolis College of Art & Design
11-3	Windom South Community Center
11-7	Mt. Zion Lutheran Church

Goal was to retain as many existing polling places as possible in 2012.

Out of 117 polling places, only 7 were new in 2012.

*Only 1 of 7 new polling places had problems reported; that was Watershed (8-5).*

# Planning for Election Day

## Election Judges

- ▶ Precinct Support Judges
- ▶ Chair & Asst. Chair Judges
- ▶ Team Judges (Polls)
- ▶ Student Judges
- ▶ Special Service Judges
  - ▶ Health Care Facility Judges
  - ▶ ESL/Translation Judges
  - ▶ Accessibility/Greeter Judges

Polling Place Staffing Levels – Planned Deployment			
Precinct by Registered Voter Count	2008	2012	Precincts Impacted
Up to 750 registered voters	7	10	6
750-1,000 “	9	11	4
1,000-1,300 “	10	12	12
1,300-1,500 “	10	12.5	12
1,500-2,000 “	11	13.5	39
2,000-2,500 “	12	15	28
2,500-3,000 “	13	16	15
Over 3,000 “	14	17	2

***Average planned deployment of judges increased:  
2008 = 11 judges/precinct; 2012 = 14 judges/precinct***

# So what happened?

- ▶ Polling Places:  
Number &  
Capacity
- ▶ Impact of Election  
Day Registrations
- ▶ Technical  
Problems



# Polling Places: Number/Capacity

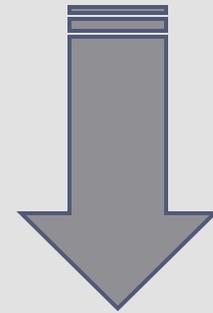
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- ▶ 117 polling places – reduction of 14 from 2010
  - ▶ Projected budgetary savings of \$30,000
- ▶ Equalized pre-registered population, based on statistics available from 2010 General:
  - ▶ *2008 Pre-Registration Total = 240,022*
  - ▶ 2010 Pre-Registration Total = 227,024
  - ▶ 2012 Pre-Registration Total = 214,003
  - ▶ *2008 Total Votes Cast = 208,973*
  - ▶ 2010 Total Votes Cast = 140,363
  - ▶ 2012 Total Votes Cast = 215,806
- ▶ Anticipated impact of centralized processing of absentee ballots – new in 2010

} 13,021 Less Pre-Reg.  
Voters in 2012

# Election Day Registration

- ▶ EDR Turnout = 50,668 voters
  - ▶ ***EDR Volume = More than Minnetonka***
- ▶ 1 in 4 Election Day Voters had to be registered at the polls (25%)
- ▶ Average EDR/precinct: 430
  - ▶ Precincts 100 or less EDR: 3
  - ▶ Precincts 500 or more EDR: 35
    - ▶ *Wards 11, 12 & 13 all under 500/precinct*

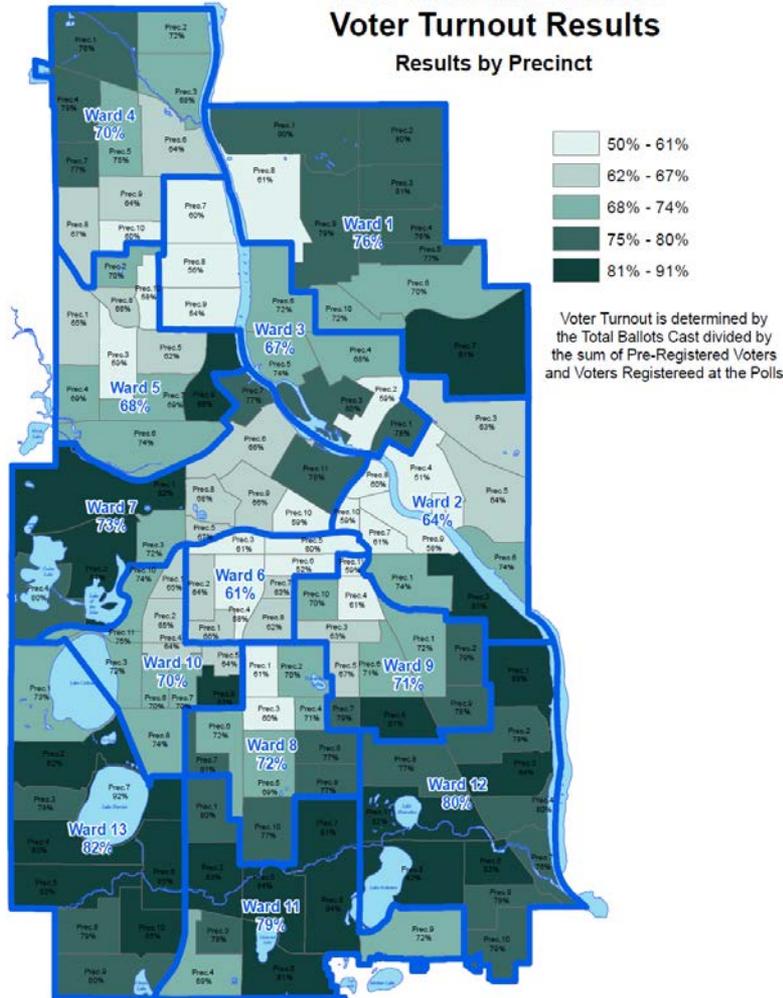


***EDR voters require more time to process – from 2 or 3 minutes up to 10 or more minutes per EDR voter, more when language barriers were present.***

# Voter Turnout: 2008 - 2012

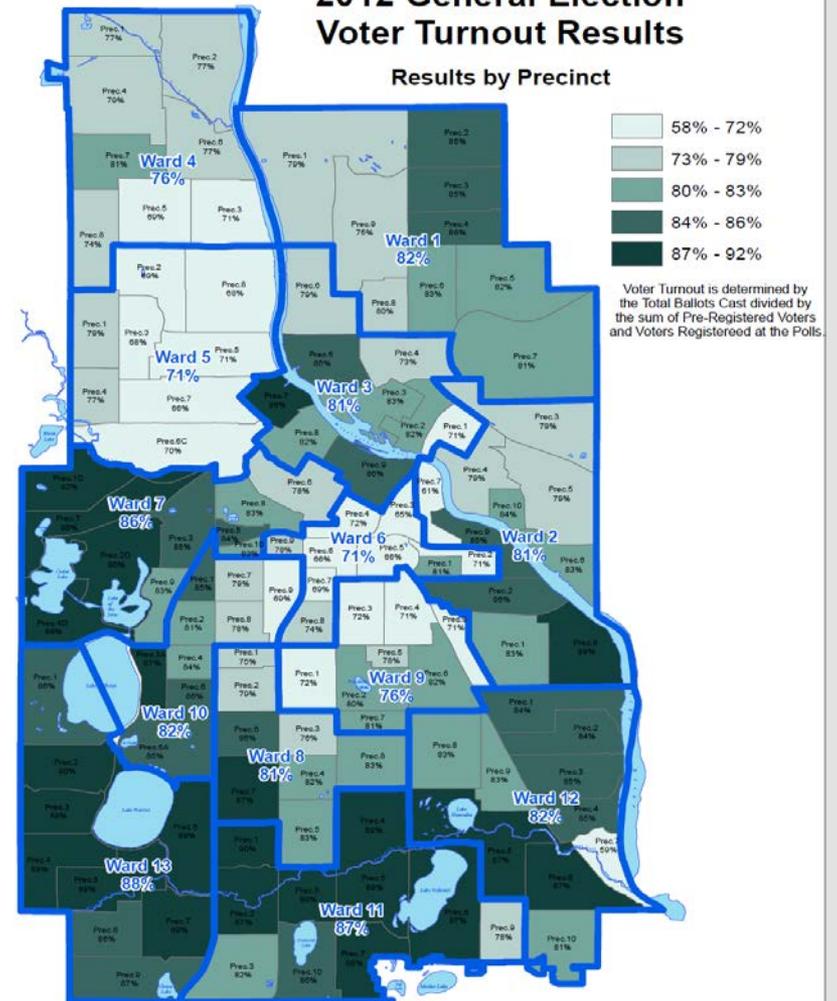
## 2008 General Election Voter Turnout Results

Results by Precinct

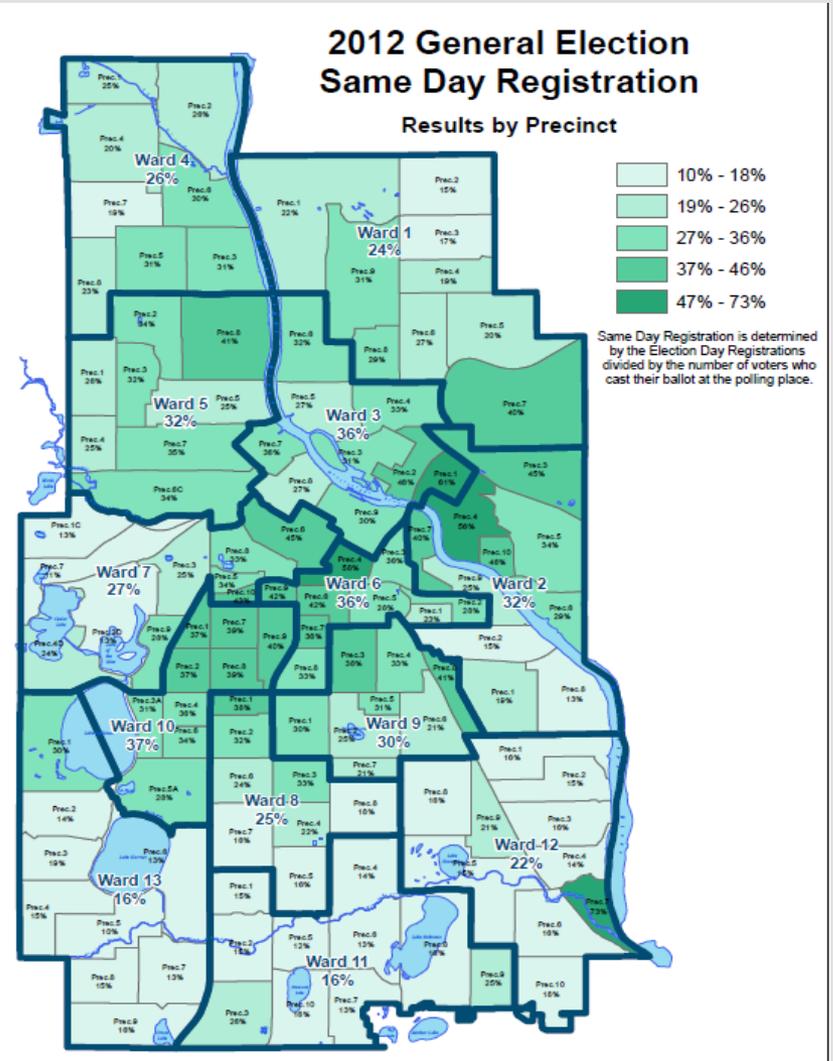
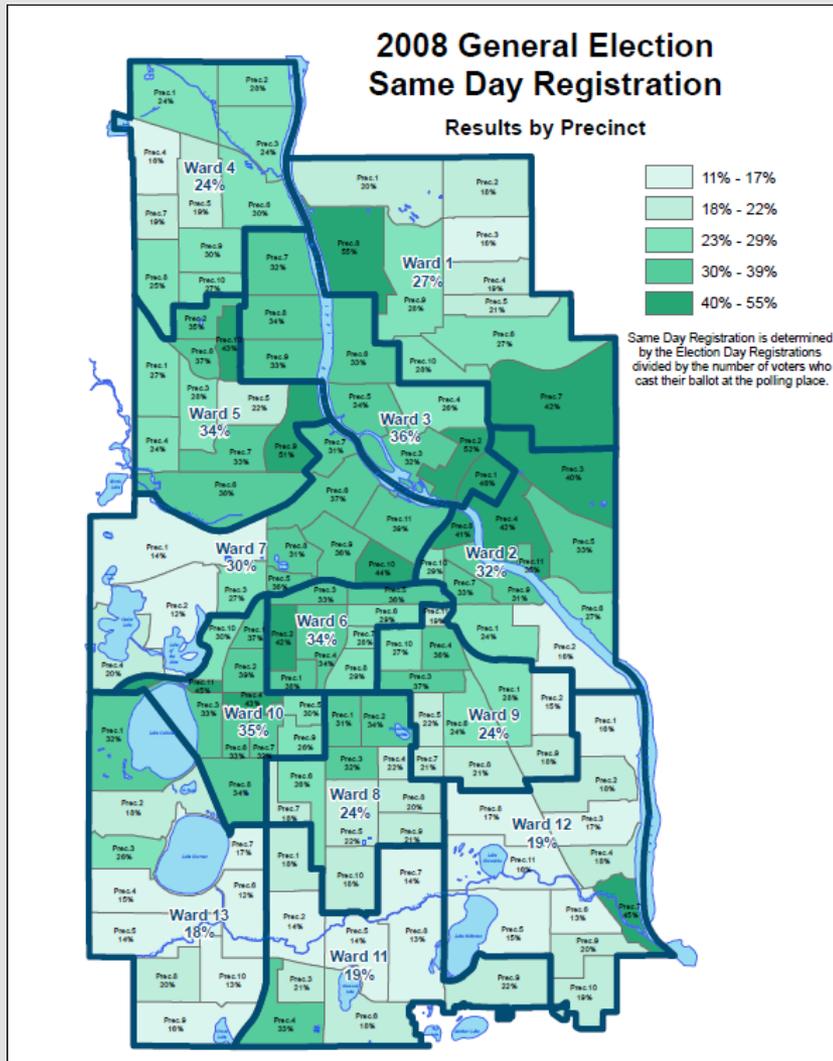


## 2012 General Election Voter Turnout Results

Results by Precinct



# EDR Turnout: 2008 - 2012



# Technical Problems

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## ▶ Equipment Malfunction

- ▶ Use of auxiliary compartment
- ▶ Some tabulators re-set and functioned effectively
- ▶ Some tabulators swapped with new machines, eliminated the problem

## ▶ Ballot Design & Printing Errors

- ▶ Design problem related to timing codes
- ▶ Printing problem on timing codes (white flecks)

## ▶ Necessitated hand-count in three precincts (10-1; 10-1; and 10-8)



# Technical Problems

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- ▶ **Insufficient Resources at Election Headquarters**
  - ▶ Resources deployed with preference for precincts/polling places
  - ▶ Impact capacity for problem identification, analysis, and resolution
- ▶ **Inadequate Supplies**
  - ▶ New boxes of black pens deployed to each precinct – that didn't work
  - ▶ Interim strategies
  - ▶ Impact on voters



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## **2012 Presidential General Election: Lessons Learned**

***“Our challenges were largely the result of a successful election.” – Minneapolis Precinct Support Judge***

# Issues for City of Minneapolis

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- ▶ Training for chair judges emphasize expanded role and expectations for proactive management of polling place
- ▶ Need dedicated absentee ballot team of judges
- ▶ Consider strategies to establish “election judge reserve corps,” potentially using more City employees
- ▶ All positions in Office of City Clerk should be fully cross-trained to expand existing capacity of the Elections & Voter Services Division

# Issues for City of Minneapolis

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- ▶ **Develop a comprehensive Elections Accessibility Plan to address potential barriers/challenges for each precinct and polling place, diversify corps of election judges, and engage community stakeholders**
- ▶ **Implement an Voter Outreach & Education program, across all four years in the standard election cycle, to build broad community awareness**
- ▶ **Examine strategies to engage populations with low-participation averages to increase pre-registered count, which would provide a more accurate measure of potential turnout across the four-year cycle**

# Issues for City of Minneapolis

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- ▶ Partner with Hennepin County on purchase of new election equipment in 2013
- ▶ Explore improvements to the City's HRIS to streamline management of election judges (2,500+)
- ▶ Rethink set-up and operational aspects of Election Day Headquarters, borrowing from experiences of Emergency Operations Center model
- ▶ Collaborate with IT Department to increase use of City's wireless at polling places

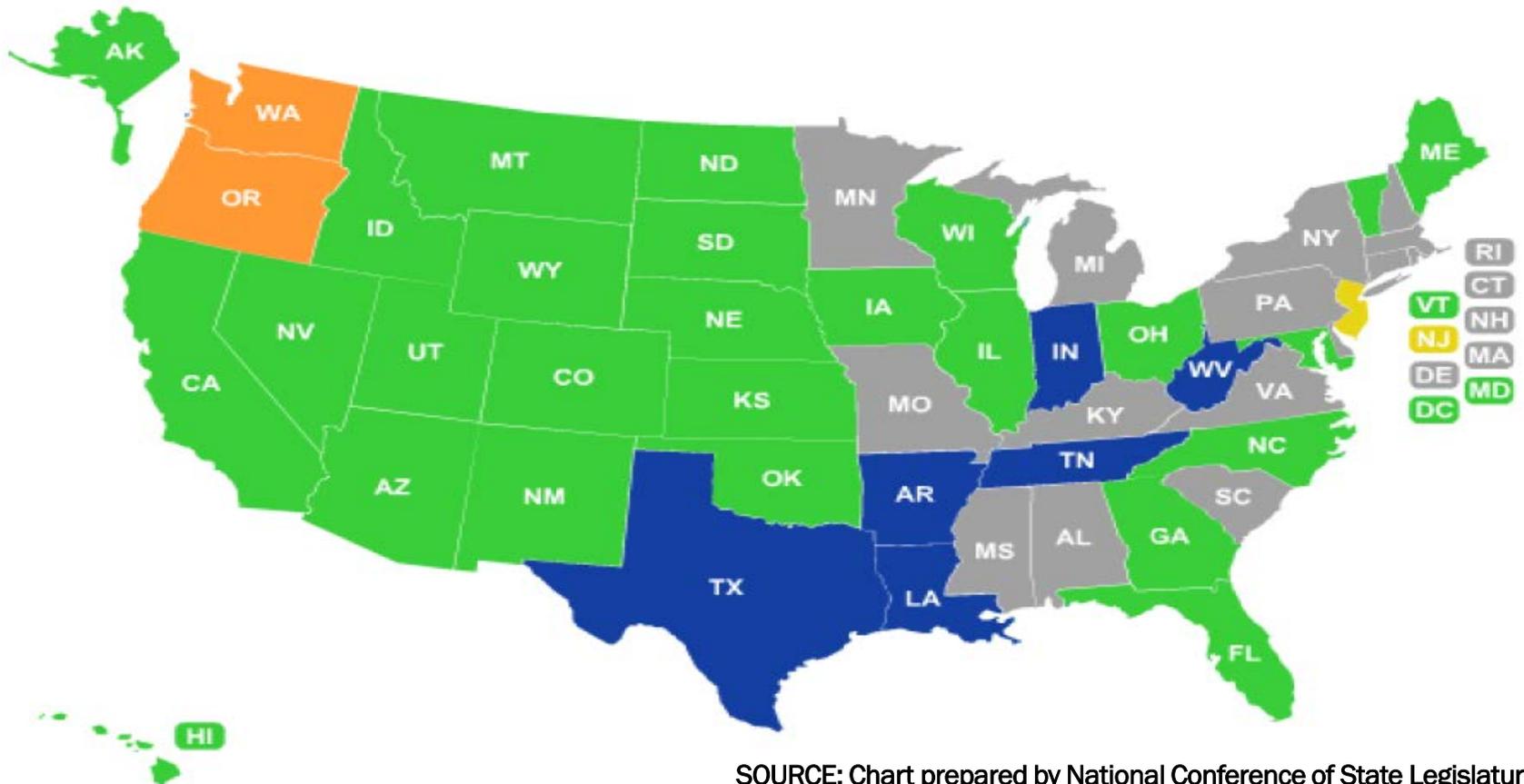
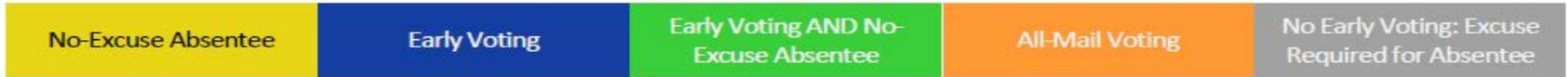
# Issues for State Legislative Platform

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- ▶ **State of Minnesota**
  - ▶ Early Voting
  - ▶ Vote Centers
  - ▶ Electronic Pollbooks
  - ▶ Streamline Voter Registration
- ▶ **Federal Issues**
  - ▶ FAIR Voting Act of 2012
  - ▶ SIMPLE Voting Act of 2012



# Early Voting



SOURCE: Chart prepared by National Conference of State Legislatures

# Vote Centers

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- ▶ First implemented in 2003 in Larimer County, Colorado
- ▶ Today, nine states authorize the use of vote centers
- ▶ Vote centers typically use ballot-on-demand technology to further streamline operations and reduce costs
- ▶ **Benefits:**
  - ▶ Focus on voter convenience – vote where it's convenient
  - ▶ Fewer polling places to operate – cost savings

*The use of Vote Center and Ballot-on-Demand alternatives moves from a multiple-precinct, geographic-based system to one that maximizes voter convenience and choice.*

# Electronic Pollbooks

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- ▶ Used in election jurisdictions from 27 states (including Larimer Co, CO) and the District of Columbia
- ▶ Minnetonka pilot project - 2009
- ▶ **Benefits:**
  - ▶ Faster voter check-in and verification processes at polls
  - ▶ Connectivity across polls to ensure election integrity
  - ▶ Reduced printing costs and manual updates for poll books
  - ▶ Quick look-up and redirection assistance to voters

*HAVA funds are intended to make voting easier. The use of early voting, vote centers, and electronic pollbooks would certainly meet that national expectation.*

# Federal Issues

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- ▶ **FAIR, ACCURATE, SECURE & TIMELY (FAST) Voting Act of 2012 [H.R. 6590]**
- ▶ **STREAMLINING AND IMPROVING METHODS AT POLLING LOCATIONS AND EARLY (SIMPLE) Voting Act of 2012 [H.R. 6591]**



