

# Website Applications to Reduce Election Administration Costs

Kennesaw State University Center for Election Systems

> Oklahoma City, OK February 24, 2011

#### **Election Costs**

- Like most service organizations, election offices have high personnel costs.
   Strategies that impact personnel costs may have the greatest impact
- Shifting costs, rather than reducing costs, is a short-term solution
- Costs savings that generate synergies are favored
- If you can't measure it, you probably haven't saved it



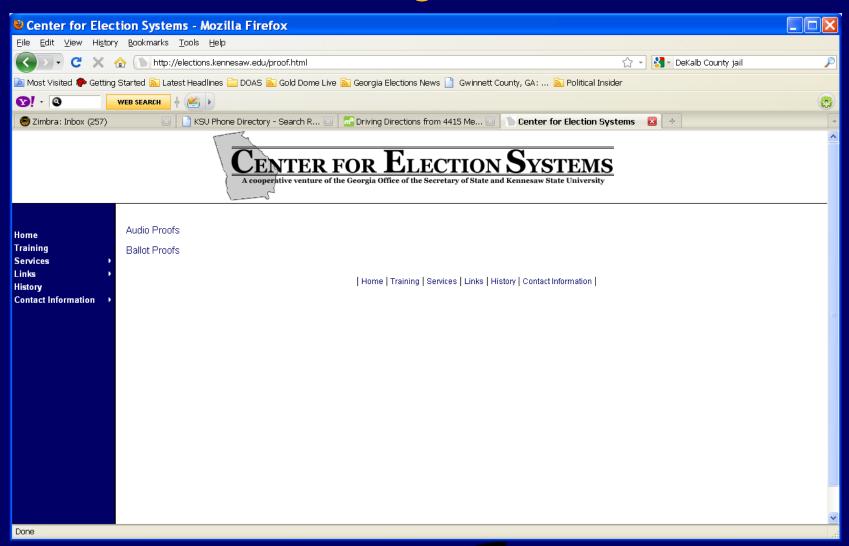
- The Center for Election System builds ballots for 142 of Georgia's 159 counties (≈2750 precincts)
- Ballot proofs must be generated, printed, shipped, reviewed, then either edited and reprocessed or signed off
- Prior to 2009, ballot proofs were shipped via UPS at an average cost of \$5.75/county (≈ \$1,000 per election)

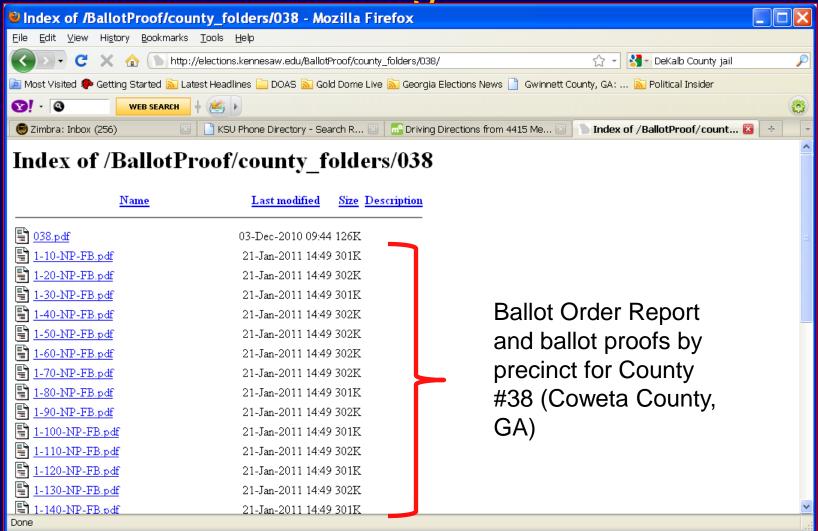


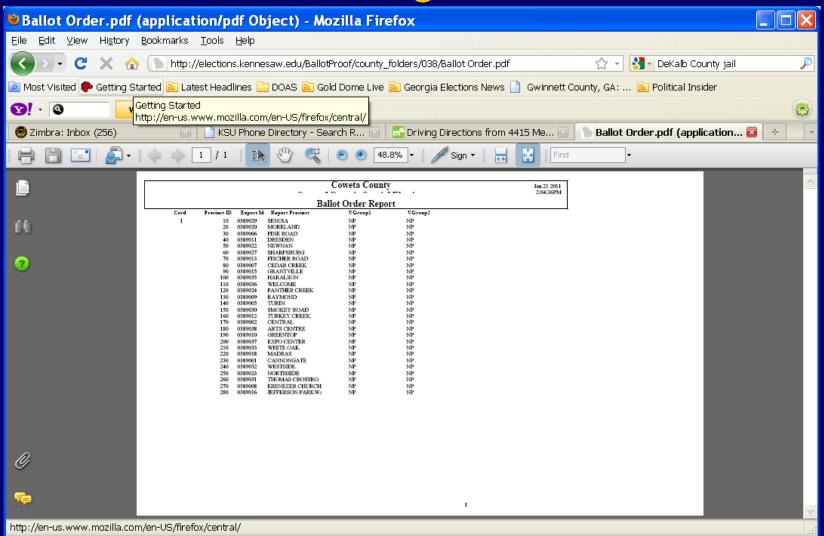
- Creation of a document management system on the Center's website has reduced shipping costs to counties and sped up the turn around for ballot proofs
- Synergies developed for other document distribution strategies
- Important distinction between a "push" vs. a "pull" strategy

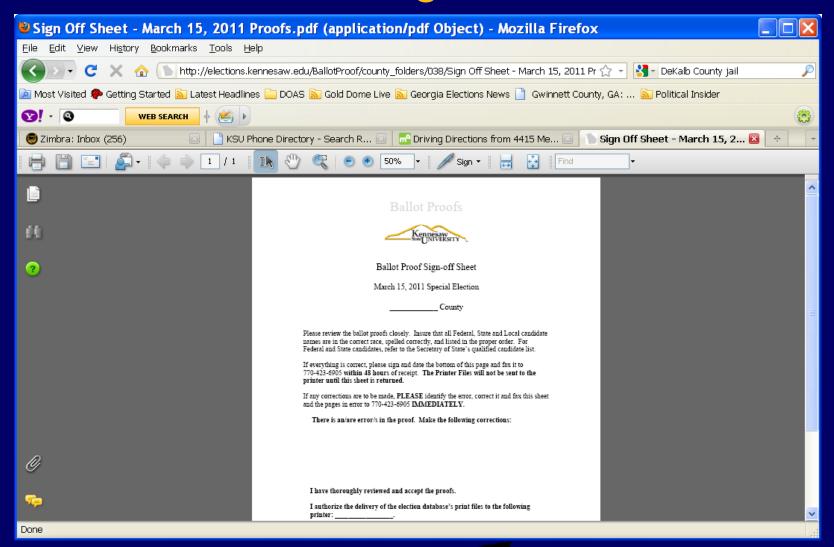


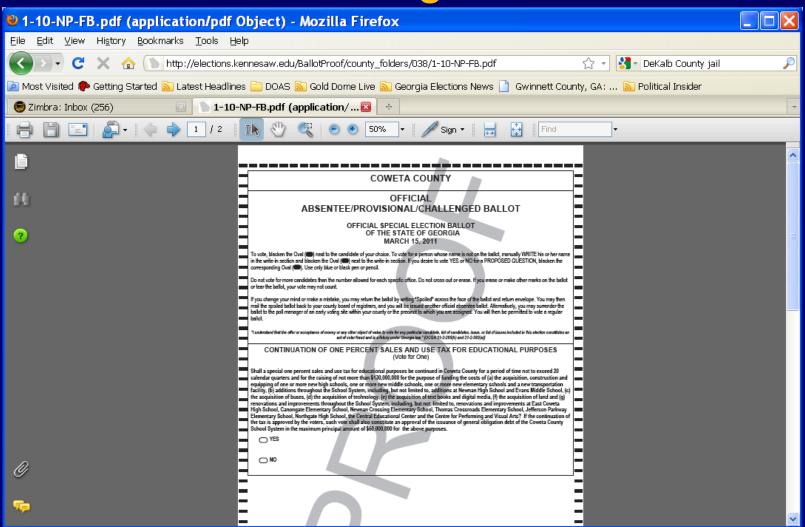


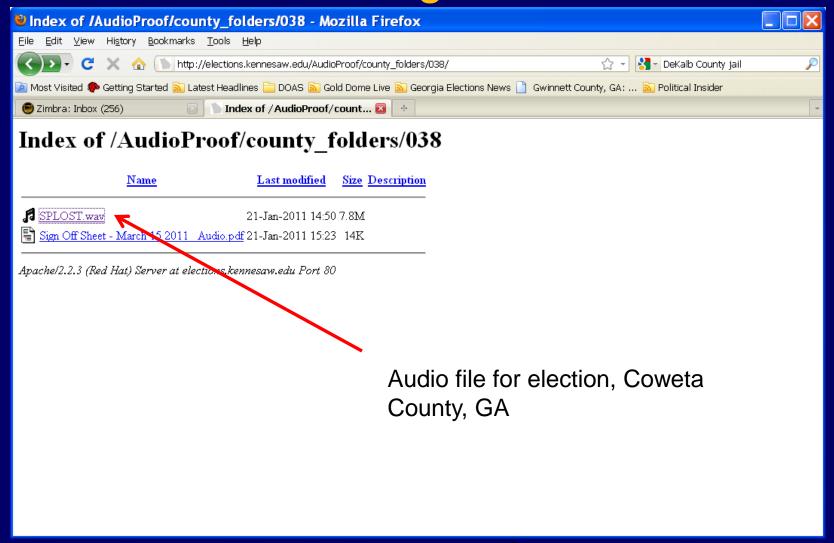








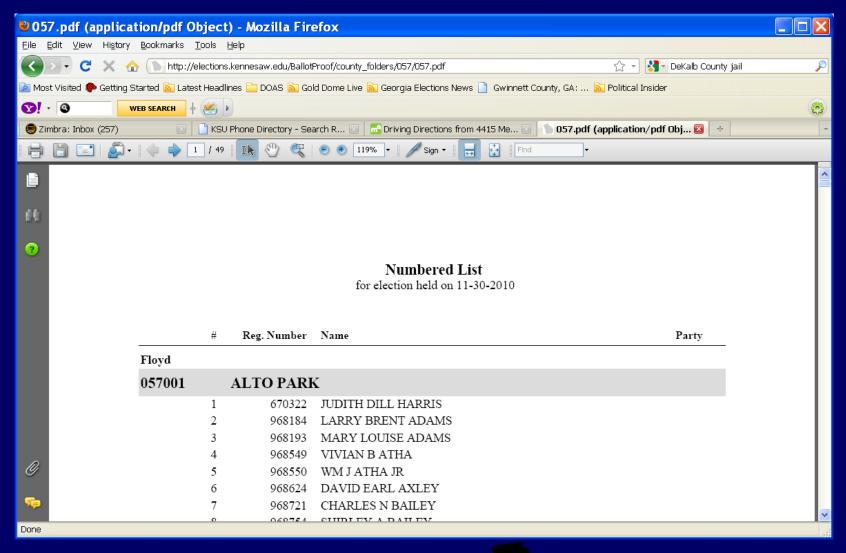




- Synergies
  - Audio files can be quickly reviewed for pronunciation and error-checking
  - Encourages election officials to be frequent system users, enabling other systems to be more fully and more frequently utilized
  - Better compliance with deadlines and avoidance of expediting fees
  - Once the document management system is developed, other reports can be "pulled" from the site



#### **Numbered Lists**



# Merle S. King Center for Election Systems mking@kennesaw.edu

