Registration Systems in The United States

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1. Improvement since 2000

Year	Percent of Non-Voters who Report Registration Problem as Reason Not Voting (CPS)
2012	5.5% (4.8 million)
2008	6.0%
2004	6.8%
2000	6.9%

2. Four Significant Innovations

1. Statewide Voter Registration Lists
   - 1 state in 2000.
   - HAVA: all states by 2006
2. National Voter Registration Lists
   - Maintained by Private Firms
   - Lessons for Management of Official Lists
3. Technology advances
   - Managing extremely large databases
   - Merging data
4. State Laws Opening Lists
   - On-Line Registration (17 states)
   - Same Day Registration (11 + 3 states)
   - Self Management

3. A Massive, Decentralized List

1. 200 Million Record System
   – 217.6 million potential registrants (2012)
   – 191.8 million registration records (2013)
      179.0 million Active and (2013)
      12.8 million Inactive Records (2013)
   – 130.3 million votes (2012)
2. Decentralized
   – 8,000 Local Election Offices (point of contact)
   – Use is Distributed
      • 186,000 Precincts (typically 800 voters each)
3. Highly Varied
   – 160 most populous counties have half of all registration records; Remaining 95 Million records distributed among other 2900 Counties

4. People Move

- Lists are "Static." People Are Not.
  - 12 change residences each year
  - Almost half change residences every 4 years.
- Errors
  - False Positive: Keep or include record when should drop or exclude
  - False Negative: Exclude record when should include.
- How Minimize Errors?
  - Technology
  - Self-Management
  - Adaptation