

Election Day Vote Centers

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Background



- Centralization: Smaller number of larger polling locations
- Openness: Voting at any location
- First adopted in Larimer County, Colorado in 2003
- As of 2017 eleven states allow jurisdictions to use vote centers on Election Day
- California has authorized the use of vote centers starting in 2018.

Expectations for EDVCs

- Greater voter turnout
 - Increased turnout among infrequent voters
- Cost savings
- Increased ballot completion
- Greater voter satisfaction with the voting experience

Findings: Voter Participation

- Turnout rates increased in Larimer County, Colorado after the adoption of vote centers by 2.6% i.e., 3,000 additional voters in a county with 114,140 registered voters (Stein and Vonnahme 2008).
- The effect of vote centers on the likelihood of voting was substantially greater for registered voters with an infrequent history of voting (Stein and Vonnahme 2008).
- Voters at vote centers report voting for more ballot contests than voters at precinct polling places (Stein and Vonnahme 2008).
- The positive turnout effect of vote centers was observed in Lubbock County, Texas which replaced precinct election day polling places with vote centers in 2008 (Stein and Vonnahme 2012).
 - Turnout effects of vote centers more pronounced for infrequent voters in lower turnout—midterm Congressional elections- than higher turnout Presidential year elections

Findings: Voter Satisfaction

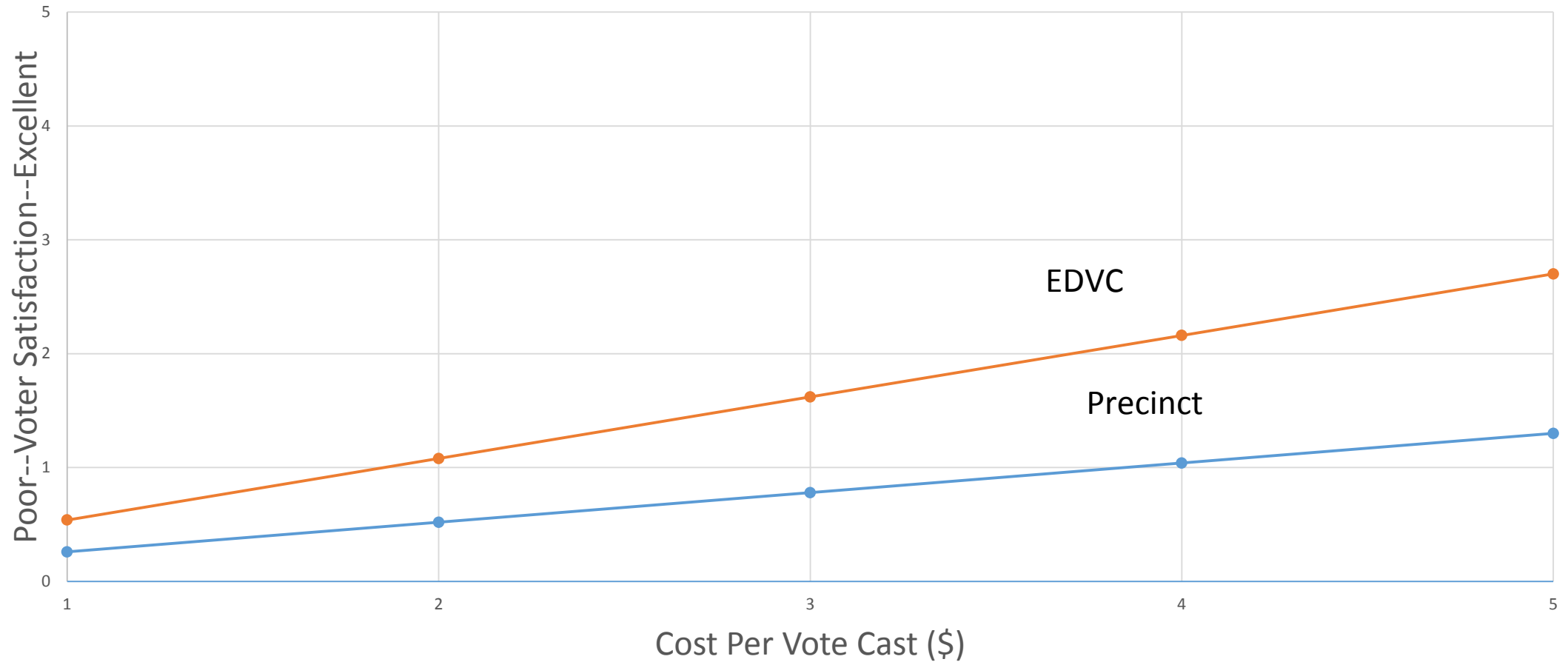
- Voter satisfaction with EDVCs is substantially greater than with traditional election day polling places (Stein and Vonnahme 2009; 2012; Folz 2014; Schelle et al).
- EDVC voters are more satisfied than voters at precinct polling places with:
 - Poll workers
 - Polling place location
 - Parking
 - Confidence their vote would be counted accurately
 - Waiting in line
 - Electronic voting equipment



Findings: Cost of Elections

- The adoption of vote centers reduced total costs per vote cast in selected Indiana counties between 14% (Floz 2014) and 25% (Scheele et al 2009).
- Colorado counties adoption of voter centers reduced total costs per vote cast by 25% (Stein and Vonnahme 2009).
- Similar cost reductions were reported by Collin, Lubbock and Fort Bend counties in Texas and New Mexico counties e.g., Bernalillo (Stein et al 2010).
- Costs per voter are associated with a significantly high level of voter satisfaction in counties with Election Day vote centers than precinct voting (Stein and Vonnahme 2008)

Spending on elections and voter satisfaction: Colorado 2008



Worst Practices: Collin County, Texas 2010

- 57 Election Day vote centers, all at locations used as precinct polling places in 2008
- One additional EDVC location at the Dallas Rapid Transit station
- Result: Long wait times to vote
- Collin county did not choose to locate vote centers at new, larger and locations central to where voters shop, work and travel during the day.



Worst Practices: Denver, 2006

- Inadequate cache capacity in voter registration data book led to significant long wait times to check in to vote.
- Denver dropped voter centers after 2006 election.

