

**ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF VOTE CENTERS ON ELECTORAL
BEHAVIOR: AN EXAMINATION OF INDIANA VOTE CENTERS IN
THE 2007 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

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ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF VOTE CENTERS ON ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR: AN EXAMINATION OF INDIANA VOTE CENTERS IN THE 2007 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

ABSTRACT

Some states have begun to experiment with Vote Centers as an alternative to precinct voting for the purposes of both encouraging higher turnout and reducing the burden on local officials for staffing precincts. This study is a preliminary attempt to shed light on the question of whether or not the use of Vote Centers, by themselves, increase voter turnout. Vote Centers in two Indiana Counties in the fall 2007 Municipal elections are studied. This paper examines the impact of Vote Centers on turnout by comparing turnout rates in the Vote Center counties with similar past elections in the same counties and with turnout in comparable counties which continue to use traditional neighborhood precincts as voting sites. Particular attention is paid to voter demographics and the competitiveness or races. We also report on survey results of voter reaction to the use of Vote Centers.

Vote Centers as an Alternative to Precinct Voting

Several states are implementing or seriously considering Vote Centers. Sometimes referred to as “super precincts” these Vote Centers replace traditional precinct polling places, permitting voters to cast a ballot at any Vote Center location in the jurisdiction. Two key arguments are made in support of Vote Centers. First, it is argued that Vote Centers will increase turnout by freeing voters to cast their ballots at a number of locations convenient to where they work and shop instead of limiting them to one precinct polling place in their neighborhoods. Second, there are assertions that Vote Centers will reduce the governmental costs of administering elections because fewer poll workers will be required to staff Vote Centers than the more numerous neighborhood-polling places. In this paper we are particularly concerned with whether or not Vote Centers have an impact on voter turnout and the extent of voter satisfaction with the operation of Vote Centers.

Vote Centers were first implemented in Larimer County, Colorado in 2003 when 143 precinct polling places were converted into just 22 Vote Centers. The center locations, mostly in urban settings, were chosen for their convenience to work and shopping, the availability of large parking facilities, and accessibility for the disabled. All Vote Centers were linked via the Internet to servers that maintained electronic poll books for all registered county voters. The poll book was updated in real time so that poll workers would know if a prospective voter had already cast a ballot at another location. County officials reported that the use of Vote Centers yielded an increase in voter turnout and a reduction in the number of poll workers needed to manage the election. Widespread problems with electronic voting machines in 2007 forced Colorado officials to rethink the use of electronic voting, but the use of Vote Centers is expected to expand. Other states experimenting with Vote Centers include Indiana, Florida, and Texas. In this year's primary elections, there was limited use of consolidated precincts (that worked much like Vote Centers) in Arizona and New York. Ohio is also considering adopting Vote Centers in future elections.

Little scholarly work has been conducted to explore the effects of Vote Centers. However, there is evidence that accessibility to polling places does have an impact on turnout (Gimpel and Schuknecht, 2003; Haspel and Knotts, 2005; Dyck and Gimpel, 2005). The few studies conducted on Vote Centers indicate that their utilization has a modest positive impact on turnout among younger, infrequent voters and those who have not yet developed the voting habit (Stein and Vonnahme, 2008). It is also estimated that Vote Centers may have a cumulative effect in spurring long term increases in voting among those first attracted by Vote Centers (Stein, Leighley, and Owens, 2005; Stein and Vonnahme, 2006).

Our Study

In 2005, Indiana Secretary of State, Todd Rokita, led a delegation of legislators and clerks to Larimer County to watch Vote Centers during an actual election. All who attended were impressed and in the 2006 Indiana legislative session, House Bill 1011 authorized the Secretary of State to select up to three counties to run a pilot Vote Center program in the 2007 Municipal and 2008 General Elections. Two counties were selected by the Indiana Secretary of State from applications submitted to his office: Wayne County and Tippecanoe County. Only Wayne County had a primary election in May where Vote Centers were actually implemented. Tippecanoe County did not have a primary election but did conduct a mock election to test some of their operations.

Indiana has a Municipal Election every four years following the mid-term elections. Most cities and small towns have their administrative offices on the ballot. The November 2007 election included candidates for mayor, council, clerk/treasurer and city judge. As indicated, only Wayne County had primary contests in 2007. Tippecanoe County, located approximately 60 miles northwest of Indianapolis, includes the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette. The countywide population is about 156,000, ranking 9th in Indiana. Wayne County is located approximately 75 miles east of Indianapolis, on the Indiana/Ohio border, with the largest city being Richmond. Its population was 68,846 in 2006, 24th largest in Indiana. For Municipal elections in 2007, Tippecanoe County consolidated 91 precincts into 22 Vote Centers; Wayne County collapsed 31 precincts voting in the Municipal elections into just 4 Vote Centers.

In order to evaluate the potential impact of Vote Centers on voter turnout, we compared voting rates in the municipalities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Richmond with voting rates in municipalities of comparable size and demographics in counties utilizing standard precinct voting. The cities of Columbus in Bartholomew County and Bloomington in Monroe County, both of which continue to use precincts, were selected for comparison as to voter turnout. Table 1 provides demographic data for the four counties involved in this study.

Table 1 Goes Here

Wayne, Bartholomew, and Monroe Counties all conducted elections for offices associated with one principal town or city within their border: Richmond in Wayne County, Columbus in Bartholomew County, and Bloomington in Monroe County. Tippecanoe County held election for offices in two municipalities: Lafayette and West Lafayette, two cities that abut one another on either side of the Wabash River. Table 2 provides demographic profiles for the three cities (Richmond, Lafayette, and West Lafayette) in counties using Vote Centers, and two comparison cities (Columbus and Bloomington) which continued to employ precinct voting. The cities employing Vote Centers are quite similar to those chosen for comparison using standard precincts, however, some differences should be noted. Median income in Columbus is somewhat higher than it is in the comparison city of Richmond; and one of the two Vote Center cities in Tippecanoe County (Lafayette) has a population a bit older and more wealthy than either the neighboring city of West Lafayette or the comparison city of Bloomington in Monroe County, both of which house large university populations.

Table 2 Goes Here

Voter turnout data was collected for each of the counties and municipalities described above. In addition, a team of researchers collected data on the average vote time at select Vote Centers as well as voter reactions to Vote Center operations as measured by exit questionnaires.

RESULTS

We initially examined county level data with turnout measured as the proportion of voters registered and eligible to vote in each county. For the 2007 Municipal Election:

- There were 98,507 Tippecanoe County voters who could cast ballots at any of the county's 22 Vote Center locations. 16,080 ballots were cast, for a turnout of 16%.
- There were 58,253 Wayne County voters eligible to cast ballots at any of the county's 4 Vote Centers. 8,216 voters participated for a turnout of 14%.
- In Bartholomew County, 6,483 voters cast ballots out of the 64,828 registered in the county for a turnout rate of 10%.
- In Monroe County, 10,363 voters cast ballots out of 89,960 registered voters for a turnout rate of 12%.
- Statewide, 695,020 Hoosiers cast ballots out of a total of 4,989,025 registered voters for a turnout rate of 14%.

Clearly, voter turnout was rather consistent for all four counties and approximated the statewide average. Tippecanoe County also used satellite offices (early voting locations) in a targeted way. The process of voting in a satellite office is the same as voting in a Vote Center on election-day. Absentee Voter Boards (which included a mobile satellite office) also were sent to

nursing and retirement homes, government offices and businesses for a set number of hours if the agency requested this service. Absentee voting in Tippecanoe for the 2007 Municipal Election was 26.5 % of the overall ballots cast. The county saw a drop in two other types of absentee voting: mail outs and traveling board (often referred to as “sick boards”). The Clerk directly correlated that to the availability of satellite offices. Seven percent of the voters in Wayne County cast absentee ballots, many at Vote Centers that were open several days prior to Election Day. In the control counties of Bartholomew and Monroe, absentee ballots accounted for 8 percent and 23 percent of votes respectively.

Figure 1 below illustrates that turnout was uniformly down in all counties as well as across the state in 2007 as compared to the last municipal election in 2003.

Figure 1 Goes Here

Examining turnout in major city elections alone, there was some variation in turnout rates. While turnout was down in Vote Center cities of Lafayette and Richmond as well as in the precinct based comparison city of Columbus, it was up slightly in West Lafayette, which used Vote Centers, and in Bloomington which did not. (See Figure 2) This was somewhat surprising since, in both counties utilizing Vote Centers, the polls were open from Monday through Saturday prior to election day. It should be noted that, on the basis of ANOVA one-way analysis of variance, there was a significant difference in turnout between 2003 and 2007 (at the .01 level) only in the case of the City of Lafayette where turnout was higher in 2003 than in 2007. While the evidence presented here is very limited, it appears that Vote Centers do not have a uniform impact on turnout.

Figure 2 Goes Here

One factor that might explain the discrepancy between higher turnout in West Lafayette and Bloomington and lower turnout elsewhere is the competitiveness of the race. Competitive elections have been correlated with increased turnout in a number of western democracies (Franklin, 2004A; Perea, 2002;) and in U.S. House and Senate elections (Koch, 1998; Krasno, 1994; Westlye, 1983, 1991). The 2008 Democratic party presidential primaries are proving to be a prime example of the impact competitiveness can have on turnout. Some hold that competitiveness increases the interest and salience of the race for individual voters and as well as their sense of the importance of the contest (e.g., Rosenstone and Hansen, 1992, Norris, 2002, Franklin, 2004B). One scholar notes that competitiveness is particularly important in attracting younger and first time voters, adding that “[O]mission of variables measuring competitiveness causes specification errors” in electoral studies (Franklin, 2004: 24).

In order to take competitiveness into account, we looked at several measures for the seat garnering the highest vote totals in each municipality, the mayor. (See Table 3) In Tippecanoe County, there were mayoral elections in two cities: Lafayette and West Lafayette. In the other counties, municipal elections were only held for one city in each: Richmond in Wayne County, Bloomington in Monroe County, and Columbus in Bartholomew County. As an indication of competitiveness, we examined three factors: 1) if an incumbent was running or if the seat were open; 2) whether an incumbent won or lost; and 3) the winning percentage. We focused on whether or not the race for mayor included the incumbent or if it was an open seat. If the incumbent was running it was determined if he or she won. The winning margin was specified with the standard measure of less than 55 percent for the winner to indicate competitiveness. Any one, or combination of, these factors could be expected to contribute to the uncertainty of

the outcome of an election and, thus, heighten the attention given to a particular race. As a result, individuals would be more interested in the outcome and believe that their vote would make more of a difference. Consequently, voters would be more motivated to vote and turnout would increase.

Keeping in mind that we are looking at only two data points (2003 and 2007), we prioritized our variables in assigning levels of competitiveness. Open races were weighted more heavily than races in which an incumbent was running. This meant that a race could be labeled more competitive (C) as opposed to non competitive (NC) even if the winner received more than 55 percent of the overall vote total. Second, where an incumbent lost a contest, the race was considered more competitive (C) even if the challenger scored more than 55 percent of the vote. Clearly, these judgments can be challenged. However, we believe they are justified by the small number of observations under consideration.

Table 3 Goes Here

In Lafayette, we judged the open race competitive in 2003, but not in 2007. West Lafayette was competitive in both years, with the incumbent Democrat losing to a Republican challenger in 2007. Richmond, Bloomington, and Columbus all had open, relatively competitive seats in 2003 but non-competitive races in 2007. If we compare turnout rates in 2003 with 2007, we find that competitiveness may have been a contributing factor to turnout in every case except Bloomington where the 2007 non-competitive race drew heavier turnout than the competitive race four years earlier. Figure 3 displays the impact of competitiveness on turnout by placing our assessment of competitiveness along the x axis. Our conclusion from this preliminary investigation is that Vote Centers in Indiana have had a minimal impact on turnout and that

competitiveness must continue to be a strong factor in explaining turnout rates. Nevertheless, the limited data we have at our disposal does not lend itself to more sophisticated methodological analyses. That will have to await additional data in coming election cycles and the potential pooling of data from other venues around the nation experimenting with Vote Centers.

Figure 3 Goes Here

Voter Reactions to Vote Centers

Clearly, it is too early to tell the long-term impact of Vote Centers on turnout. But if Vote Centers do not increase turnout, how do voters react to this change in the way they vote? We can get an impression by analyzing voter responses to survey questions gathered during our study in Indiana.

During the 2007 city elections in Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Richmond, voters were asked to complete questionnaires regarding the voting process at various Vote Centers (a copy of the Richmond questionnaire appears with the Tables). In Lafayette, four Vote Centers were selected for the distribution of questionnaires, in West Lafayette three Vote Centers were selected, and in Richmond all four Vote Centers were selected. The overall response rate was quite high in both West Lafayette at 64.4 percent and Richmond at 64.1 percent. However, the Lafayette response rate was a bit low, with 31.9 percent of voters completing the questionnaire. This lower response rate is likely attributable to the layout of some of the Lafayette Vote Centers, in that much larger rooms were used and Timers were not always in place to verbally request that exiting voters to complete the questionnaire. We were interested in a number of questions regarding the use of Vote Centers and voters' opinions of the process. Would voters take advantage of the early voting period? Did they view the use of Vote Centers as a

convenient way to vote? Was pre-election information adequate? Was the process a smooth one, with well-trained workers and limited time? The responses to the questionnaire items intended to evoke answers to these and related questions are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Goes Here

From these data in Table 4, it is apparent that a fairly large number of individuals took advantage of the early voting period, ranging from 24.3 percent in Lafayette and 35.0 percent in West Lafayette, to 44.8 percent in Richmond. We also hoped to get a fair number of respondents from each Vote Center and, by and large, this was the case. In both West Lafayette and Richmond, the number of respondents ranged from a low of 374 at the Federated Church in West Lafayette to a high of 1,975 at the First English Lutheran Church in Richmond. The exception to this pattern was in Lafayette, where the number of respondents was only 111 at the Jenks Rest Senior center and 147 at the Evangelical Covenant Church. However, we did obtain 1,245 questionnaires from Lafayette, for an overall response rate of 21 percent.

For information purposes we also asked voters if they had voted in previous elections, and if so, how often. The data show that, as one might expect, most people were repeat voters. In each of the three cities, over 90 percent of our respondents indicated they voted either almost always or always. At the other extreme, less than 5 percent in each city were first time voters. Regarding the convenience of Vote Centers, individuals were asked their opinion as to whether or not Vote Centers were more convenient than their old precinct, equally convenient or less convenient. Somewhat surprisingly, less than 10 percent of the voters surveyed stated that Vote Centers were “less convenient” than their old precinct. Over 80 percent in all three cities (86.3% in Lafayette, 87.6% in West Lafayette, and 82.7% in Richmond) indicated that Vote Centers

were either equally or more convenient than their old precinct. This strongly indicates that the vast majority of voters have no problem shifting away from the old precinct based voting place.

We also were interested in how individuals heard about using the Vote Centers. From the data in Table 4 it is apparent that most respondents heard from either the postcard that was mailed to them or from the media. At least 50 percent learned about using the Vote Centers from postcards, and 31.4 percent in Richmond and 56.8 percent in both Lafayette and West Lafayette learned about Vote Centers from the media. The next highest source of information about using the Vote Centers was “word of mouth,” ranging from 13.3 percent in Richmond to 16.1 percent in Lafayette. Of greater importance in this regard was whether or not the pre-election information was considered helpful. In part, we addressed that issue with an item that was only asked in Lafayette and West Lafayette. Respondents rated the pre-election information about Vote Centers and 56.5 percent in Lafayette and 53.4 percent in West Lafayette said it was excellent, coupled with over one-third (35.0% in Lafayette and 37.1% in West Lafayette) who said it was satisfactory. Thus, a nine out of ten respondents in both cities were at least satisfied with pre-election information about the new voting center process. Indeed, only 2.0 percent or less of these respondents rated pre-election information as poor. An additional question posed only in West Lafayette dealt with the procedures for voting. We were interested in whether or not respondents, who might be dissatisfied with the process, felt that way because it was too time consuming or too complicated. However, as can be seen from the data in Table 1, only 1.7 percent thought it was too time consuming and only 0.6 percent thought it was too complicated.. Fully 89.5 percent believed the procedures for voting at the Vote Center were excellent. We also looked at gender as a possible control for attitudes regarding our other variables and to ensure

that our respondents were not skewed in one direction. As can be seen from Table 4, the proportions of males and females were fairly consistent across all three cities. Women were a bit more likely to respond to our survey with between 51.6 percent (in West Lafayette), 56.8 percent (in Lafayette) and 55.3 percent (in Richmond) completing the questionnaire. Based on these results, it does not appear our respondents were highly skewed to one gender as opposed to the other. When attitudes were controlled by gender there was no appreciable difference between male and female respondents.

The remainder of the questionnaire was made up of Likert scale items where voters could respond from disagree strongly to agree strongly. These results are shown in Tables 5A, 5B, and 5C. For brevity, as there are eight items, we collapsed the “agree” and “strongly agree”

Table 5 Goes Here

categories, or, where there seemed to be more of a difference, the “disagree” and “strongly disagree” categories. The first item addressed the voting procedures at the Vote Center (except for West Lafayette which was handled a bit differently as reported above). Roughly 90 percent of the respondents agreed the procedures were excellent in both Lafayette and Richmond. Coupled with the 89.5 percent in West Lafayette reported on the earlier item, the data show a substantial proportion of respondents were satisfied with the procedures. In an attempt to break out possible reasons why a voter might not be pleased with the voting process we asked respondents about their waiting time, computer check-in, the poll workers, and Vote Center locations. When asked if their waiting time was acceptable. Over 90 percent of the respondents in all three cities agreed that their waiting time was acceptable. Regarding computer check-in, from 91.5 percent (in Richmond) to 92.8 percent (in West Lafayette) of the respondents agreed it

was quick and easy. Similarly, between 93.9 percent (in Richmond) and 95.6 percent (in West Lafayette) of the respondents agreed that poll workers were well trained and friendly. This is a very encouraging result as any system of voting will be viewed negatively if the people running the system are not well-trained and adept at the process. Regarding the convenience of Vote Center locations, responses were again very favorable ranging from 89.1 percent (in Richmond) to 93.4 percent (in West Lafayette) agreeing that locations were convenient. The only case where there was a bit higher negative response was in Richmond where 6.1 percent of those responding indicated they disagreed. However, this is hardly what might be considered a significant minority.

While we had earlier asked voters where they had learned about using Vote Centers, we thought it important to inquire as to whether or not they found that pre-election information useful. When voters were asked if they thought pre-election information was very helpful, between 83.9 percent (in West Lafayette) and 86.7 percent (in Lafayette) agreed it was, with Richmond falling in the middle at 85.7 percent. Indeed, only 5.0 percent or less disagreed with that statement. The two final items reported in Table 5 deal with having Vote Centers versus precinct polling places. First, voters were asked if they liked having a choice about where they vote. Once again, a substantial proportion of respondents, 87.2 percent in Lafayette, 87.9 percent in West Lafayette, and 89.5 percent in Richmond, agreed they liked having a choice. While this might seem to be a foregone conclusion, it was possible that voters preferred their old polling place to several vote locations. Apparently this was not the case. This conclusion is further supported by the responses to our final item which stated, "Using Vote Centers is an improvement over precinct polling places." Once again, the proportions agreeing to this item

was quite substantial (although a bit lower than the other Likert items), ranging from 78.0 percent in Lafayette, to 79.9 percent in Richmond, to 81.2 percent in West Lafayette. Indeed, most of the remaining responses fell in the “in-between” category with less than 7.0 percent actually disagreeing in any of the three cities studied. A very high proportion of voters appear to believe Vote Centers are a good idea.

Comparison of Selected Items by Where Voted

Since it is possible that voter attitudes were affected by where they voted in a city, we examined all of the items reported above by the Vote Center utilized. This process resulted in a rather large number of tables that become somewhat repetitious since there are very few meaningful differences in the data. That is to be expected since most of the frequencies reported above are so heavily loaded in one direction. For example, if only 7.0 percent of the respondents in Richmond “strongly disagree/disagree” on an item, there aren’t many voters to break down over four Vote Centers. For this reason we selected three items to report cross tabulations on by Vote Center in this report.

The first item we examined was the convenience of vote centers as compared to precincts by where the respondent voted. These data appear in Tables 6A, 6B, and 6C. As can be seen from the data, in 8 of the 11 Vote Centers, less than 10 percent of the respondents

Table 6 Goes Here

believed Vote Centers were less convenient than the old precincts. The exceptions to this were 12.6 percent at the Jenks Rest Center in Lafayette, 11.0 percent at the Townsend Center in Richmond and 10.4 percent at the Kuhlman Center in Richmond. Even though these proportions

are rather low, they do indicate that the Vote Center location can be a factor in voters' views as to their convenience.

A second item we examined was responses to the statement, "procedures for voting were excellent" (although in West Lafayette the question was stated differently—comparison can be made with the "excellent" category). These data are presented in Tables 7A, 7B, and 7C. In

Table 7 Goes Here

Lafayette, a large percentage of respondents marked "agree strongly" at three of the four Vote Centers, but at the largest Vote Center (in terms of voters)—the 4-H Fairgrounds—"only" 59.0 percent fit this category. However, 31.6 percent marked "agree" so there wasn't a large proportion disagreeing. This pattern was replicated in Richmond where across all four Vote Centers a rather consistent 50.6 percent (at Discovery School) to 61.4 percent (at First English) of respondents "strongly agreed" and 29.1 percent (at First English) to 37.6 percent (at Discovery School) "agreed" that procedures were excellent. In West Lafayette, where the response categories differed, it was still the case that over three-fourths of the respondents indicated procedures for voting were excellent in all three Vote Centers. In two of the three Centers roughly 94 percent responded accordingly. In the third Vote Center (Purdue Memorial) 78.4 percent of respondents said procedures were excellent, but most of the remaining respondents marked the "other" category. That is, they didn't think procedures were "too complicated" or "too time consuming." It should be noted that the use of the adjective "excellent" was intentional, in an effort to convey the strongest possible evaluation on the part of the voter. That such a large proportion of voters in every Vote Center surveyed agreed that procedures were

“excellent” is a significant finding—reflecting a very positive evaluation in terms of the overall experience at the Vote Centers.

The third item we examined in relation to where an individual voted was the response to, “Using Vote Centers is an improvement over precincts.” It could be expected that a fair number of voters might not believe the use of Vote Centers is an improvement over the “old system” given their disillusionment with the Vote Center they used. The data for this relationship are presented in Tables 8A, 8B, and 8C. While it is clear from these data that a rather large proportion of respondents “agree” or “agree strongly,” ranging from 65.7 percent at the Jenks Rest Center in Lafayette (Table 8A) to 83.5 percent at the Calvary Baptist Center in West Lafayette (Table 8B), the proportion of positive responses across all Centers is lower than for any other item examined. However, what should be noted is that most of the remaining responses fall into the “other” category, and do so consistently across all Vote Centers in the 10 to 15 percent range. That is, there aren’t a large (or even nearly large) proportion of respondents in any Vote Center that disagrees or disagrees strongly with the statement that Vote Centers are an improvement over the old precincts. The rather large proportion of respondents with a favorable opinion is largely unaffected by the Vote Center utilized to cast their vote.

Comparison of Selected Items by When Voted

Since it is possible that voter attitudes could be affected by when people voted (as well as where) we next examined the relationship between whether or not an individual voted early by the other items included in the questionnaire. Again, in the interest of brevity, we are only reporting the results of two relationships here, respondents’ opinions about the convenience of Vote Centers and the procedures for voting. The results of the crosstabulation between Vote

Center convenience and when a person voted are presented in Tables 9A, 9B, and 9C. A clear pattern does emerge for all three cities. Early voters were more likely to respond that

Table 9 Goes Here

“Vote Centers are more convenient than the old precinct” than were election-day voters. In Lafayette, 57.1 percent of the early voters agreed with that statement compared to 42.7 percent of election-day voters (a difference of 14.4 percent). In West Lafayette, 63.0 percent of the early voters agreed compared to 44.2 percent of the election day-voters (a difference of 18.8 %) and in Richmond 63.4 percent of the early voters agreed compared to 56.0 percent of the election-day voters (a difference of 7.4%). This pattern is reversed in all three cities for the proportions of respondents indicating that Vote Centers are equally convenient. Election-day voters are more likely to answer that Vote Centers are “equally convenient.” In Lafayette, 34.0 percent of the early voting respondents said Vote Centers are equally convenient compared to 49.8 percent of the election-day voters (a difference of 15.8%). In West Lafayette, 24.4 percent of the early voters responded that Vote Centers were equally convenient compared to 34.6 percent of election day voters (a difference of 10.2%) and in Richmond, 29.8 percent of early voters said Vote Centers were equally convenient compared to 36.3 percent of election-day voters (a difference of 6.5%). These data clearly show that early voters view the convenience of Vote Centers compared to their old precincts differently than do election-day voters, with early voters finding the Vote Centers somewhat more convenient. Using Cramer’s V measure of association test, we found no significant difference between the two items in Lafayette and West Lafayette. In Richmond there was a weak (.19) but nonetheless statistically significant difference.

The results of the crosstabulations between “procedures for voting” by when an individual voted appear in Tables 10A, 10B, and 10C. Again, in West Lafayette we dealt with this item differently. West Lafayette respondents could indicate that procedures were

Table 10 Goes Here

“excellent,” “too time consuming,” “too complicated,” etc., whereas in Lafayette and Richmond this was treated as a Likert scale item. In West Lafayette (Table 10B), early voters (96.2%) were more likely to view voting procedures as “excellent” than election-day voters (85.9%), but the difference was primarily accounted for by election-day voters who marked “other” (7.6%) rather than any one of the “negative” categories. In Lafayette, early voters were more likely to “agree” (24.4%) that procedures were excellent when compared to election-day respondents (17.4%), but the early voters were less likely to “agree strongly” (69.0%) than were election day respondents (74.4%). However, if the two categories are combined, there is virtually no difference based on when an individual voted with 93.4 percent of early voters and 92.1 percent of election-day voters agreeing that procedures were excellent. In Richmond, this pattern is reversed. Here, early voters were less likely to “agree” (25.5%) that voting procedures were excellent than were election-day respondents (38.4%), but early voters were more likely to “agree strongly” than were election-day respondents (49.5%). Again, however, there is very little difference based on when a person voted and their view toward Vote Center procedures when the “agree” and “agree strongly” categories are combined, with 92.5 percent of pre-election respondents agreeing and 87.9 percent of election-day respondents agreeing. That represents a difference of less than 5 percent based on when an individual voted, hardly a significant difference. These results show

that whether a person votes early or on election-day has little impact on the view they hold of the Vote Center procedures.

Summary and Future Research

The data at this juncture do not lend support to the hypothesis that Vote Centers, by themselves, will increase turnout. The data suggest that electoral competitiveness is a more likely determinant of voter turnout. However, it is also apparent that the use of Vote Centers, coupled with an early voting period and well trained poll workers, is unlikely to discourage voters from turning out.

These preliminary data suggest that more attention will have to be paid to the early voters. More and more states are now allowing early voting. Our data indicate that early voters are more receptive to the convenience of Vote Centers than are election-day voters.

The location of Vote Centers also warrants more attention in the future. GIS technology can be used, in conjunction with relevant data, to indicate the proper and most convenient locations for Vote Centers.

Several items stand out in the voter responses to Vote Centers in the first use of Vote Centers in Indiana. Among the factors that can be controlled by election administrators in moving to Vote Centers these appear to be well-received: 1) Convenient locations; 2) well-trained workers and efficient procedures; 3) early voting at Vote Centers. Clearly, however, several legal and political factors are not controlled by election administrators, such as the number of candidates; competitive races, and legal requirements affecting registration and voting.

The most direct comparison of the experience of voting at Vote Centers to that of voting at traditional precincts was captured in responses to the Likert-scale question: “Using Vote Centers is an improvement over using precinct polling places.” In all three cities voters overwhelmingly agreed or strongly agreed with this item. The percentages are: Lafayette: 78.0; West Lafayette: 81.2; and Richmond: 79.9. There is overwhelmingly positive acceptance of Vote Centers as replacements for traditional precincts.

There are several limitations to this study, many of which have already been described. This report examines only local municipal elections where turnout is going to be substantially lower than in presidential election years. The impact, if any, on voter turnout, will be better measured utilizing the 2008 elections. Comparative data will be collected in that election cycle in two “control” counties that continue to operate traditional precinct polling places.

Finally, another very important research question that will have to be addressed in the future is the extent to which Vote Centers may result in significant budgetary savings.

Table 1**Demographic Comparison of Experimental (Vote Center) and Control (Precinct) Counties**

	Wayne County (Used Vote Centers)	Bartholomew County (Used Precincts)	Tippecanoe County (Used Vote Centers)	Monroe County (Used Precincts)
Total Population in 2006	68,846	74,444	185,745	178,714
State Rank	24	20	9	13
Households (2000)	28,469	27,936	55,226	46,898
White alone	63,624	69,925	140,310	110,325
Black	3,564	1,493	5,095	3,984
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	149	147	541	376
Asian alone	453	2140	8,593	6,002
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	30	55	58	49
Hispanic or Latino	1280	2764	10,629	2,716
Two or more races	1026	684	1,572	1,877
Per capita personal income (annual) in 2005	26,422	33,955	28,496	27,598
Poverty Rate (2004)	13.2	9.2	13.4	14
Food stamp recipients in 2006	7702	5334	12,742	12885
H.S. Diploma or More-% Adults 25+ (2000)	78.1	83.8	87.8	88.5
Bachelor's Deg. or More - % of Adults 25+ (2000)	13.7	22	33.2	39.6

Table 2**Demographic Comparison of Experimental (Vote Center) and Control (Precinct) Cities**

	Richmond (Wayne Co.)	Columbus (Monroe Co.)	Lafayette (Tippecanoe Co.)	West Lafayette (Tippecanoe Co.)	Bloomington (Monroe Co.)
Total Population	37,371	39,690	61,244	28,997	69,247
State Rank	21	20	10	28	7
Median Age	36.3	36.4	31.7	22.3	23.3
Median Household Income (2005)	\$29,800	\$41,900	\$37,100	\$25,700	\$22,589

Figure 1

County and State Turnout 2003-07

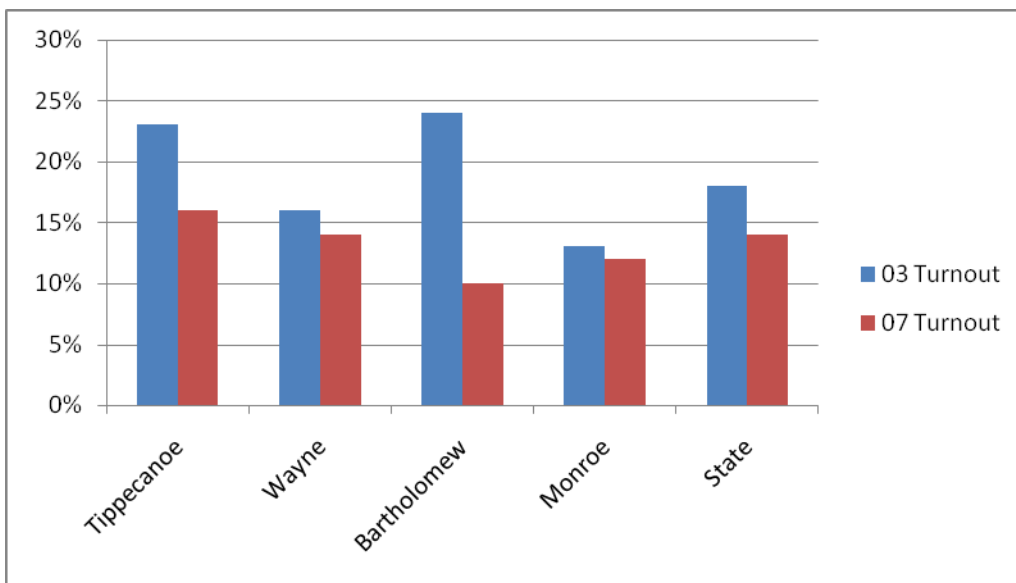


Figure 2

Turnout in Indiana Municipal Elections (and Statewide) 2003-07

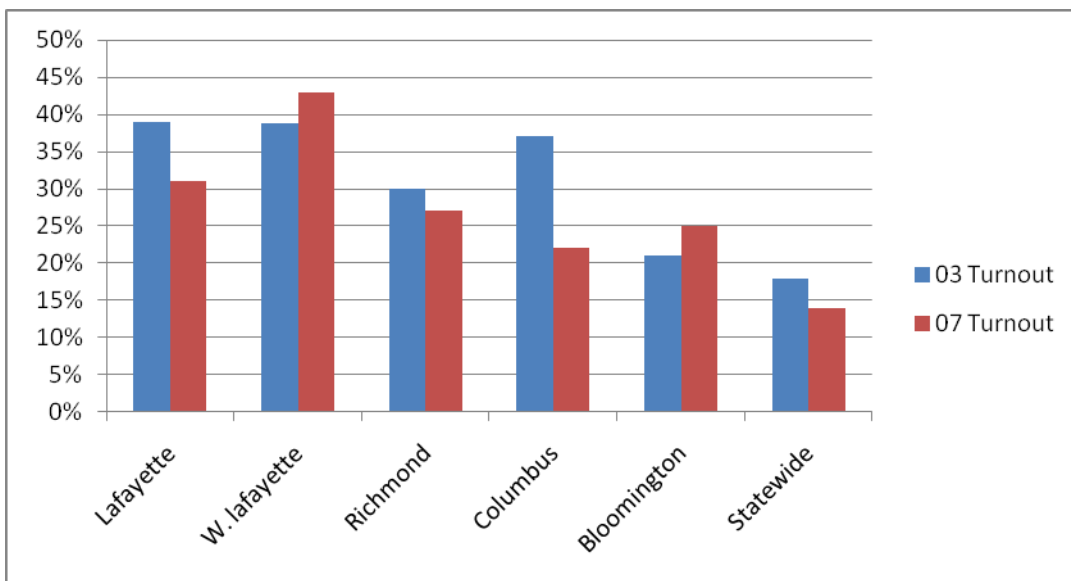


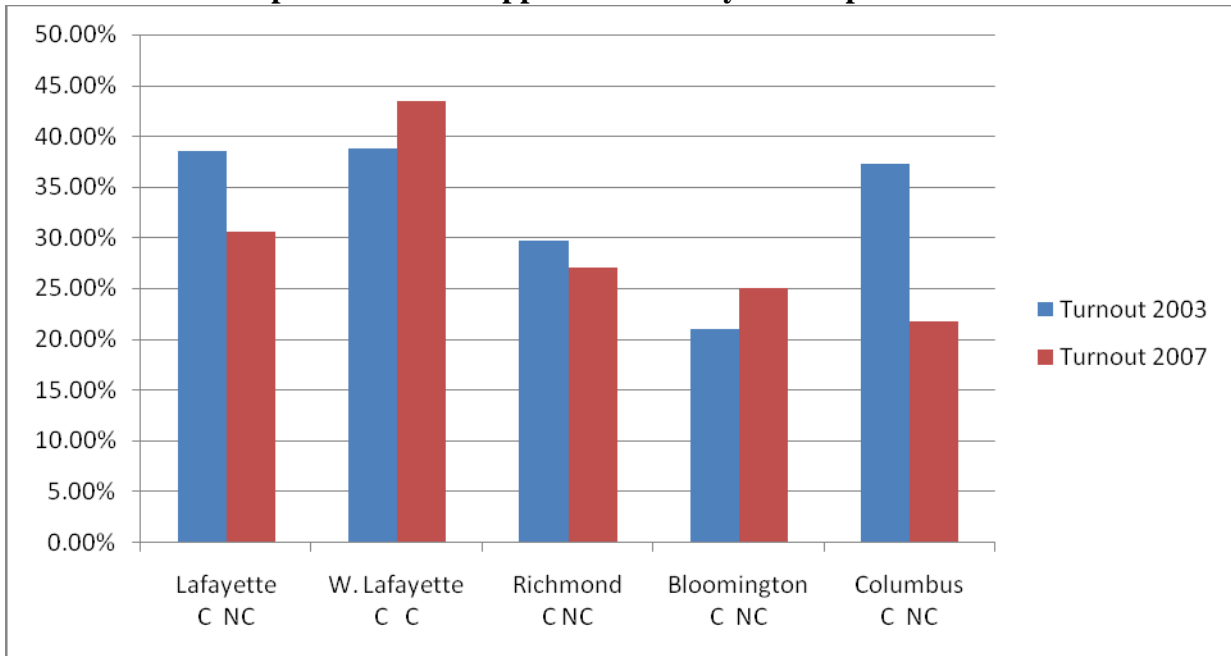
Table 3

Competitiveness of Mayoral Races in Experimental and Control Counties

Municipality	Year	Open Seat (Y/N)	Incumbent Win/Lose	Winning Percent	Competitive/Non Comp
Lafayette	2003	Y		57%	C
(VC)	2007	N	W	81%	NC
W. Lafayette	2003	Y		52%	C
(VC)	2007	N	L	56%	C
Richmond	2003	Y		51%	C
(VC)	2007	N	W	56%	NC
Bloomington	2003	Y		63 %	C
(Precinct)	2007	N	W	61%	NC
Columbus	2003	Y		63%	C
(Precinct)	2007	N	W	75%	NC

Figure 3

Turnout and Competitiveness in Tippecanoe County Municipal Elections in 2003-2007



C=Competitive Race
 NC= Non-Competitive Race

WAYNE COUNTY VOTER QUESTIONNAIRE

2007 GENERAL ELECTION

Did you vote early or on Election Day? Early_____ Election Day_____

I voted at which of the following Vote Centers:

First English Lutheran Church _____ Kuhlman Center_____ Discovery
 Townsend Center_____ School_____

How did you learn about using the Vote Center? (Check all that apply)

Postcard_____ Word of Mouth_____ Party Official_____
 Candidate_____ Media _____ Other_____

How often have you voted in past elections?

This is my first time _____ Rarely_____ Occasionally_____
 Almost always_____ Always_____

Which best represents your opinion on Vote Centers?

They are more convenient than voting in my old precinct_____
 They are less convenient than voting in my old precinct_____
 They are equally convenient for me_____
 I haven't made up my mind_____

With the following statements, please indicate your opinions on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates you Disagree Strongly and 5 means you Agree Strongly:

(Circle the appropriate number)

	<u>Disagree</u> <u>Strongly</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>agree</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u> <u>Strongly</u>
The procedures for voting at the Vote Center were excellent	1	2	3	4	5
My waiting time was acceptable	1	2	3	4	5
Checking in by computer was quick and easy	1	2	3	4	5
Poll workers were well-trained and friendly	1	2	3	4	5
Vote Center locations were convenient	1	2	3	4	5
Pre-election information about Vote Centers provided to the public was very helpful	1	2	3	4	5
I like having a choice about where I vote	1	2	3	4	5
Using Vote Centers is an improvement over using precinct polling places	1	2	3	4	5

Gender: Male_____ Female_____

Please use the back of this sheet for additional comments.

THANK YOU!

Table 4. Survey Results - 2007 City General Election

Item	<u>Lafayette</u>		<u>West Lafayette</u>		<u>Richmond</u>	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
When voted:						
Early	303	24.3	500	35.0	2,115	44.8
Election Day	<u>942</u>	75.7	<u>930</u>	65.0	<u>2,606</u>	55.2
Total:	1,245		1,430		4,721	
Voting Center:						
St. Lawrence	279	22.4				
Jenks Rest Senior	111	8.9				
4-H Fairgrounds	708	56.9				
Evangelical	147	11.8				
Purdue Memorial Union			421	29.4		
Federated Church			374	26.2		
Calvary Baptist Church			635	44.4		
First English Lutheran					1,974	41.8
Kuhlman Center					1,523	32.3
Townsend Center					502	10.6
Discovery School					721	15.3
How often voted in past elections:						
First Time	32	2.6	62	4.3	128	2.7
Rarely	16	1.3	8	0.6	71	1.5
Occasionally	23	1.8	48	3.4	239	5.1
Almost Always	420	33.7	516	36.1	1,652	35.0
Always	751	60.3	790	55.2	2,596	55.0
No Answer	3	0.2	6	0.4	35	0.7
Which best represents your Opinion of Voting Centers:						
More convenient than old precinct	575	46.2	838	58.6	2,485	52.6
Less convenient than old precinct	81	6.5	91	6.4	414	8.8
Equally convenient	499	40.1	414	29.0	1,419	30.1
I haven=t made up my mind	73	5.9	73	5.1	324	6.9
No answer	17	1.4	14	1.0	79	1.7
How did you learn about using the Voting Ctr: (multiple responses possible)						
Postcard	637	51.2	721	50.4	3,084	65.3
Word of mouth	200	16.1	220	15.4	629	13.3
Party official	45	3.6	39	2.7	288	6.1
Candidate	63	5.1	75	5.2	173	3.7
Media	707	56.8	812	56.8	1,481	31.4
Other	149	12.0	137	9.6	348	7.4

Table 1. (Cont'd.)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Lafayette</u> Frequency - %		<u>West Lafayette</u> Frequency - %		<u>Richmond</u> Frequency - %	
Pre-election information about Vote Centers provided to <u>the public was:</u>						
Excellent	704	56.5	763	53.4	N/A	
Satisfactory	436	35.0	530	37.1	N/A	
Fair	64	5.1	88	6.2	N/A	
Poor	15	1.2	28	2.0	N/A	
No answer	26	2.1	21	1.5	N/A	

The procedures for voting at
the Vote Center were:

Excellent	N/A		1280	89.5	N/A	
Too time consuming	N/A		24	1.7	N/A	
Too complicated	N/A		9	0.6	N/A	
Generally poor	N/A		10	0.7	N/A	
Unsatisfactory	N/A		13	0.9	N/A	
Other	N/A		81	5.7	N/A	

Gender:

Male	527	42.3	684	47.9	2,075	44.0
Female	707	56.8	738	51.6	2,613	55.3
No answer	11	0.9	7	0.5	33	0.7

Table 5A Likert Scale Items for Lafayette (frequencies in parentheses).

	Disagree Strongly	Dis- Agree	In- Between	Agree	Agree Strongly	No Answ
The procedures for voting at the Vote Center were excellent.	1.4 (18)	2.3 (29)	2.4 (30)	19.1 (238)	73.3 (913)	1.4 (17)
My waiting time was acceptable.	2.7 (34)	1.0 (12)	1.6 (20)	15.7 (195)	78.3 (975)	.7 (9)
Checking in by computer was quick and easy.	2.4 (30)	1.0 (13)	2.4 (30)	18.2 (227)	74.5 (928)	1.4 (17)
Poll workers were well trained and friendly.	1.5 (19)	1.1 (14)	2.0 (25)	17.2 (214)	77.3 (962)	.9 (11)
Vote Center locations were convenient.	1.7 (21)	2.0 (25)	3.9 (48)	18.2 (226)	73.2 (911)	1.1 (14)
Pre-election information about Vote Centers provided was very helpful.	2.2 (27)	2.2 (28)	7.6 (94)	26.5 (330)	60.2 (750)	1.3 (16)
I like having a choice about where I vote.	3.1 (39)	1.4 (17)	6.5 (81)	16.1 (201)	71.1 (885)	1.8 (22)
Using Vote Centers is an improvement	3.5	2.7	13.4	17.7	60.3	2.4

over precinct polling places. (43) (34) (167) (220) (751) (30)

Table 5B. Likert Scale Items for West Lafayette (frequencies in parentheses).

	Disagree Strongly	Dis-Agree	In-Between	Agree	Agree Strongly	No Answ
My waiting time was acceptable	0.3 (19)	1.5 (21)	1.7 (25)	7.8 (111)	87.6 (1252)	0.1 (2)
Checking in by computer was quick and easy.	2.6 (37)	1.4 (20)	2.4 (35)	8.3 (119)	84.5 (1209)	0.7 (10)
Poll workers were well trained and friendly.	1.2 (17)	0.8 (12)	2.2 (32)	11.3 (161)	84.3 (1206)	0.1 (2)
Vote Center locations were convenient.	1.5 (21)	1.3 (18)	3.7 (53)	10.7 (153)	82.7 (1182)	0.2 (3)
Pre-election information about Vote Centers provided was very helpful.	1.7 (25)	2.9 (42)	10.4 (149)	25.8 (369)	58.1 (831)	1.0 (14)
I like having a choice about where I vote.	1.8 (26)	0.6 (9)	8.9 (127)	11.1 (159)	76.9 (1099)	0.7 (10)
Using Vote Centers is an improvement over precinct polling places.	2.7 (39)	2.0 (29)	12.5 (179)	14.8 (211)	66.4 (949)	1.6 (23)

Table 5C. Likert Scale Items for Richmond (frequencies in parentheses).

	Disagree Strongly	Dis-Agree	In-Between	Agree	Agree Strongly	No Answ
The procedures for voting at the Vote Center were excellent.	2.6 (123)	2.4 (111)	3.5 (165)	32.6 (1539)	57.3 (2706)	1.6 (77)
My waiting time was acceptable.	2.8 (132)	3.3 (155)	1.9 (89)	27.0 (1276)	63.9 (3018)	1.1 (51)
Checking in by computer was quick and easy.	2.4 (113)	1.9 (92)	2.8 (130)	26.0 (1227)	65.5 (3091)	1.4 (68)
Poll workers were well trained and friendly.	2.2 (105)	1.0 (45)	1.8 (86)	21.0 (993)	72.9 (3443)	1.0 (49)
Vote Center locations were convenient.	3.3 (156)	2.8 (134)	3.7 (174)	24.3 (1145)	64.8 (3059)	1.1 (53)
Pre-election information about Vote Centers provided was very helpful.	2.6 (122)	2.4 (115)	7.6 (359)	32.3 (1524)	53.4 (2521)	1.7 (80)
I like having a choice about where I vote.	2.8 (134)	1.6 (77)	4.5 (212)	23.8 (1122)	65.7 (3100)	1.6 (76)
Using Vote Centers is an improvement over precinct polling places.	3.5 (167)	3.4 (160)	10.5 (495)	22.0 (1037)	57.7 (2722)	3.0 (140)

Table 6A. Opinion on Vote Centers by Where Voted for Lafayette*

	<u>St. Lawrence</u>	<u>Jenks Rest Senior</u>	<u>4-H Fairgrounds</u>	<u>Evangelical</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Vote Centers more convenient than old precinct.	50.9% (142)	32.4% (36)	46.2% (327)	47.6% (70)	46.2% (575)
They are equally convenient.	37.3% (104)	46.8% (52)	39.4% (279)	43.5% (64)	40.1% (499)
Vote Centers less convenient than old precinct.	6.1% (17)	12.6% (14)	6.8% (48)	1.4% (2)	6.5% (81)
I haven't made up my mind.	3.9% (11)	7.2% (8)	6.4% (45)	6.1% (9)	5.9% (73)
No Answer	1.8% (5)	.9% (1)	1.3% (9)	1.4% (2)	1.4% (17)
Totals	279	111	708	147	1,245

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 6B. Opinion on Vote Centers by Where Voted for West Lafayette*

	<u>Purdue Memorial U.</u>	<u>Federated Church</u>	<u>Calvary Baptist</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Vote Centers more convenient than old precinct.	66.0% (278)	48.9% (183)	59.4% (377)	58.6% (838)
They are equally convenient.	20.0% (84)	39.3% (147)	28.8% (183)	29.0% (414)
Vote Centers less convenient than old precinct.	6.4% (27)	7.0% (26)	6.0% (38)	6.4% (91)
I haven't made up my mind.	7.1% (30)	4.0% (15)	4.4% (28)	5.1% (73)
No Answer	0.5% (2)	0.8% (3)	1.4% (9)	1.0% (14)
Totals	421	374	635	1,430

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 6C. Opinion on Vote Centers by Where Voted for Richmond*

	First English	Kuhlman Center	Discovery School	Townsend Center	Totals
Vote Centers more convenient than old precinct.	57.0% (1125)	55.5% (845)	42.9% (309)	41.0% (206)	52.6% (2485)
They are equally convenient.	29.5% (582)	26.0% (396)	37.7% (272)	33.7% (169)	30.1% (1419)
Vote Centers less convenient than old precinct.	7.0% (139)	10.4% (159)	8.5% (61)	11.0% (55)	8.8% (414)
I haven't made up my mind	5.0% (98)	6.6% (101)	9.6% (69)	11.2% (56)	6.9% (324)
No Answer	1.6% (31)	1.4% (22)	1.4% (10)	3.2% (16)	1.7% (79)
Totals	1,975	1,523	721	502	4,721

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 7A. Procedures for Voting by Where Voted for Lafayette*

	St. Lawrence	Jenks Rest Senior	4-H Fairgrounds	Evangelical	Totals
Procedures for voting were excellent:					
No answer	0.0% (0)	3.6% (4)	1.8% (13)	0.0% (0)	1.4% (17)
Disagree Strongly	0.0% (0)	2.7% (3)	1.8% (13)	1.4% (2)	1.4% (18)
Disagree	.4% (1)	6.3% (7)	2.8% (20)	.7% (1)	2.3% (29)
Unsure	1.8% (5)	3.6% (4)	2.8% (20)	.7% (1)	2.4% (30)
Agree	2.2% (6)	4.5% (5)	31.6% (224)	2.0% (3)	19.1% (238)
Agree Strongly	95.7% (267)	79.3% (88)	59.0% (418)	95.2% (140)	73.3% (913)
Totals	279	111	708	147	1,245

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 7B. Procedures for Voting by Where Voted for West Lafayette*

Procedures for voting were:	Purdue Memorial U.	Federated Church	Calvary Baptist	Totals
No answer	0.7% (3)	0.5% (2)	1.3% (8)	0.9% (13)
Excellent	78.4% (330)	93.9% (351)	94.3% (599)	89.5% (1280)
Too time consuming	4.0% (17)	0.0% (0)	1.1% (7)	1.7% (24)
Too complicated	2.1% (9)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.6% (9)
Generally poor	1.7% (7)	0.3% (1)	0.3% (2)	0.7% (10)
Other	11.9% (50)	4.5% (17)	2.2% (14)	5.7% (81)
Totals	421	374	635	1,430

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 7C. Procedures for Voting by Where Voted for Richmond*

Procedures for voting were excellent:	First English	Kuhlman Center	Townsend Center	Discovery School	Totals
No answer	1.8% (25)	1.0% (12)	3.6% (7)	1.1% (7)	1.6% (51)
Disagree Strongly	2.4% (47)	2.7% (41)	3.0% (15)	2.8% (20)	2.6% (123)
Disagree	2.2% (44)	2.8% (43)	.2% (1)	3.2% (23)	2.4% (111)
Unsure	3.1% (61)	3.5% (53)	3.4% (17)	4.7% (34)	3.5% (165)
Agree	29.1% (575)	33.6% (511)	36.3% (182)	37.6% (271)	32.6% (1539)
Agree Strongly	61.4%	56.5%	53.6%	50.6%	57.3%

	(1212)	(860)	(269)	(365)	(2706)
Totals	1,975	1,523	502	721	4,721

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 8A. Vote Centers an Improvement by Where Voted for Lafayette*

	<u>St. Lawrence</u>	<u>Jenks Rest Senior</u>	<u>4-H Fairgrounds</u>	<u>Evangelical</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Using Vote Center is an improvement over precincts:					
No answer	0.4% (1)	1.8% (2)	3.0% (21)	4.1% (6)	2.4% (30)
Disagree Strongly	5.4% (15)	8.1% (9)	2.3% (16)	2.0% (3)	3.5% (43)
Disagree	0.7% (2)	5.4% (6)	3.4% (24)	1.4% (2)	2.7% (34)
Unsure	10.0% (28)	18.9% (21)	13.8% (98)	13.6% (20)	13.4% (167)
Agree	16.8% (47)	21.6% (24)	19.6% (139)	6.8% (10)	17.7% (220)
Agree Strongly	66.7% (186)	44.1% (49)	57.9% (410)	72.1% (106)	60.3% (751)
Totals	279	111	708	147	1,245

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 8B. Vote Centers an Improvement by Where Voted for West Lafayette*

	<u>Purdue Memorial U.</u>	<u>Federated Church</u>	<u>Calvary Baptist</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Using Vote Centers is an improvement over precincts:				
No answer	1.2% (5)	2.4% (9)	1.4% (9)	1.6% (23)
Disagree Strongly	3.1% (13)	4.0% (15)	1.7% (11)	2.7% (39)
Disagree	2.9% (12)	2.1% (8)	1.4% (9)	2.0% (29)
Unsure	12.4% (52)	13.6% (51)	12.0% (76)	12.5% (179)
Agree	16.6% (70)	15.8% (59)	12.9% (82)	14.8% (211)

Agree Strongly	63.9% (269)	62.0% (232)	70.6% (448)	66.4% (949)
Totals	421	374	635	1,430

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 8C. Vote Centers an Improvement by Where Voted for Richmond*

	First English	Kuhlman Center	Townsend Center	Discovery School	Totals
Using Vote Centers is an improvement over precincts:					
No answer	3.4% (67)	2.5% (38)	3.4% (17)	2.5% (18)	3.0% (140)
Disagree Strongly	3.4% (67)	3.5% (54)	4.6% (23)	3.2% (23)	3.5% (167)
Disagree	2.7% (53)	4.3% (66)	3.8% (19)	3.1% (22)	3.4% (160)
Unsure	9.1% (180)	10.4% (158)	14.5% (73)	11.7% (84)	10.5% (495)
Agree	21.1% (416)	21.5% (328)	20.7% (104)	26.2% (189)	22.0% (1037)
Agree Strongly	60.4% (1192)	57.7% (879)	53.0% (266)	53.4% (385)	57.7% (2722)
Totals	1,975	1,523	502	721	4,721

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 9A. Opinion on Vote Centers by When Voted for Lafayette*

	Voted Pre-election	Voted Election Day	Total
Vote Centers more convenient than old precinct.	57.1% (173)	42.7% (402)	46.2% (575)
They are equally convenient.	34.0% (103)	49.8% (469)	45.9% (572)
Vote Centers less convenient Than old precinct.	7.3% (22)	6.3% (59)	6.5% (81)
Unsure.	1.7% (5)	1.3% (12)	1.4% (17)
Totals	303	942	1,245

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 9B. Opinion on Vote Centers by When Voted for West Lafayette*

	<u>Voted Pre-election</u>	<u>Voted Election Day</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vote Centers are more convenient than old precinct.	63.4% (317)	56.0% (521)	58.6% (838)
They are equally convenient.	29.8% (149)	36.3% (338)	34.1% (487)
Vote Centers are less convenient than old precinct.	5.6% (28)	6.8% (63)	6.4% (91)
Unsure.	1.2% (6)	0.9% (8)	1.0% (14)
Totals	500	930	1,430

*Frequencies in parentheses

Table 9C. Opinion on Vote Centers by When Voted for Richmond*

	<u>Voted Pre-election</u>	<u>Voted Election Day</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vote Centers more convenient than old precinct.	63.0% (1333)	44.2% (1152)	52.6% (2485)
They are equally convenient.	24.4% (517)	34.6% (902)	30.1% (1419)
Vote Centers less convenient than old precinct.	6.4% (135)	10.7% (279)	8.8% (414)
Unsure.	6.1% (130)	10.4% (228)	8.6% (403)
Totals	2,115	2,606	4,721

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 10A. Procedures for Voting by When Voted for Lafayette*

Procedures for voting were excellent:	<u>Voted Pre-election</u>	<u>Voted Election Day</u>	<u>Total</u>
No answer	2.0% (6)	1.2% (11)	1.4% (17)
Disagree Strongly	1.3% (4)	1.5% (14)	1.4% (18)
Disagree	1.7% (5)	2.5% (24)	2.3% (29)
Unsure	1.7% (5)	2.7% (25)	2.4% (30)
Agree	24.4% (74)	17.4% (164)	19.1% (238)
Agree Strongly	69.0% (209)	74.7% (704)	73.3% (913)
Totals	303	942	1,245

*Frequencies in parentheses.

Table 10B. Procedures for Voting by When Voted for West Lafayette*

Procedures for voting were:	<u>Voted Pre-election</u>	<u>Voted Election Day</u>	<u>Total</u>
No answer	1.0% (5)	0.9% (8)	0.9% (13)
Excellent	96.2% (481)	85.9% (799)	89.5% (1280)
Too time consuming	0.4% (2)	2.4% (22)	1.7% (24)
Too complicated	0.0% (0)	1.0% (9)	0.6% (9)
Generally poor	0.4% (2)	2.3% (21)	1.6% (23)

Other	2.0% (10)	7.6% (71)	5.7% (81)
Totals	500	930	1,430

*Frequencies in parentheses. The “generally poor” category includes those who responded “unsatisfactory.”

Table 10C. Procedures for Voting by When Voted for Richmond*

	<u>Voted Pre-election</u>	<u>Voted Election Day</u>	<u>Total</u>
Procedures for voting were excellent:			
No answer	1.3% (27)	1.9% (50)	1.6% (77)
Disagree Strongly	2.4% (50)	2.8% (73)	2.6% (123)
Disagree	1.7% (36)	2.9% (75)	2.4% (111)
Unsure	2.2% (46)	4.6% (119)	3.5% (165)
Agree	25.5% (539)	38.4% (1000)	32.6% (1539)
Agree Strongly	67.0% (1417)	49.5% (1289)	57.3% (2706)
Totals	2,115	2,606	4,721

*Frequencies in parentheses.

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