

The logo for 'every one counts' is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font. The words are stacked vertically: 'every' on the first line, 'one' on the second line, and 'counts' on the third line with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its upper right. The text is contained within a white rectangular area that is part of a larger graphic. This graphic consists of a large blue shape on the left and a white shape on the right, separated by a diagonal line. The white shape is a rectangle with a triangular point at the bottom right corner, which is positioned just above a solid white circle.

every
one
counts®

A B S T R A C T

Accessible Voting Technology Research Workshop
National Institute of Standards and Technology

April 1-2, 2013



Prepared for: National Institute of Standards and Technology

Prepared by: Everyone Counts, Inc.

April 1-2, 2013

© Copyright 2013

Reproduction of this document, in whole or part, must not be performed without written consent of Everyone Counts, Inc.

ACCESSIBLE VOTING TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH WORKSHOP – ABSTRACT

Everyone Counts, Inc.
State-of-the-Art Accessible Voting Solutions

DELIVERING ACCESSIBLE VOTING WITH SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE (SAAS) AND COMMERCIAL OFF THE SHELF (COTS) DEVICES

Everyone Counts is committed to ensuring that all voters can access and cast a ballot privately and securely using Software as a Service solutions that are accessible on any computer, tablet, or smartphone. We understand the types of assistive technology devices that people with disabilities use every day to navigate and communicate with computers and other web-enabled devices. These devices can also be used to assist in voting privately, sometimes for the first time. We thoroughly test our elections to ensure the highest level of accessibility and continuously reach out for the feedback and support of the accessibility community to create a state of the art product.

Our accessibility solution is equally as applicable to voting in person at polling places as it is to absentee voting. Our technology allows voting at home, the office, in a polling place or voting center, or in any public forum. Assistive technology, such as screen readers and scanning software, are empowering, life-enhancing tools on both computers and mobile devices. We also understand that not everyone, whether or not they have a disability, is tech savvy. We provide voting solutions that allow the use of familiar laptops and tablets, along with a person's own assistive devices that the voter uses in their daily routine. This newly opened door is both important and enfranchising. Equally important is a voting system that allows those who are recently disabled – such as wounded warriors – to fully participate in the democratic process. Voters who have not had the opportunity to train in assistive technology should not be prevented from casting their ballot accurately and privately. Everyone Counts' eLect™ solutions are built with intuitive interfaces and operate on familiar devices to ensure that no voter need face barriers in order to cast their ballot.

The Everyone Counts' solution solves the dilemma that election officials face today of having different voting systems and ballot styles for different voters. For the polling place, the Everyone Counts accessibility solution principle is to provide a single voting system made of Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) hardware with the lowest possible learning curve that all voters can use, regardless of disability. The system only requires the voter to initiate three actions: Forward, Backward, and Select. An unlimited variety and number of input devices are supported, including foot pedals, oversize buttons, sip and puff devices, paddles, joysticks, refreshable Braille displays, physical keyboards, and virtual keyboards.

Voters with little or no vision can utilize Everyone Counts' built-in accessibility features on the electronic ballot. Visually impaired voters can navigate the ballot using audio cues while the ballot detail is read to them. The visual screen and the audio portion can easily be switched on or off, depending on the preferences and needs of the individual.

Most importantly, all voters, regardless of whether or not they have a disability, utilize the same voting system. Poll workers no longer need to be responsible for the maintenance of stand alone systems or be anxious about the steep learning curves that are often associated with purpose-built systems.

Our goal and commitment now, and going forward, is to use the eLect™ system to continuously harness advances available with COTS devices, along with our state-of-the-art software, to provide higher levels of accessible voting. We look forward to the imminent advances in technology, as well as the continued assistance and feedback from those in the accessibility community.

OUR MISSION

SECURE. TRANSPARENT. UNCONTESTED.

With secure, transparent and universally accessible election systems, Everyone Counts believes that efficient, affordable and trusted elections should be available to voters, election officials and poll workers everywhere.

Everyone Counts works worldwide and knows that every election is unique. We are passionately committed to ensuring that each person in any location with a right to vote can in fact vote, with a secure and accessible ballot that's reliably counted.

We believe that by combining election knowledge with technology expertise, and worldwide experience with local understanding, every voter will have secure access to a ballot, reliably counted.



everyone
counts®

For further information please contact:

4435 Eastgate Mall, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92121 USA

PHONE: +1 858 427 4673 TOLL FREE: +1 866 843 4668 FAX: +1 858 876 1606

EMAIL: contact@everyonecounts.com WEB: www.everyonecounts.com