

Anywhere Ballot

Any device, anywhere, any time – a responsive, accessible ballot design.

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We propose to present a poster outlining the ballot marking interface prototype which resulted from this ITIF/EAC grant. Prominently featured on the poster will be images of key screens from the ballot, notated with relevant findings and elements.

This project is best explained via this excerpt from our original grant proposal:

We propose to design, develop, usability test, and prototype an open-source online ballot template using current web standards. Voters would use this template to mark a ballot on their own web-connected device, when and where they choose – up to close of polling on Election Day.

Our front-end ballot template could be paired with many back-end ballot casting solutions: printing a marked ballot, output of a personalized QR code containing selection data, electronic ballot casting, etc.

Our research activities and design will focus on making voting easier for low literacy voters and those with cognitive disabilities. This should result in improved usability across many audience groups.

Our proposed strategy of making ballot-marking device-independent and location-independent provides several accessibility advantages. First, voters could use any assistive technology they have access to. Additionally, all voters will benefit from the flexibility and comfort provided by using familiar devices in familiar environments. Voters would also be able to combine the activities of research and ballot marking.

Two rounds of usability testing have produced a very usable and accessible working prototype. Various groups have already expressed interest in incorporating the Anywhere Ballot interface into their larger voting systems.