COMMON DATA FORMAT IN ELECTION RESULTS REPORTING

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Background and Need

- Request of District of Columbia officials to provide Washington Post technology staff guidance on developing an election results platform for 2012 election.

- Opportunity for this Consortium to address this request and other common practice opportunities among states.

- Existing data standards identified for elections, notably EML
In 2011 April special election, DC BOEE produced XML feed to provide data to media outlets using a schema developed in-house.

DC BOEE produced election XSLT to produce formatted election results reports.

Used XML to generate Google Gadget.
2011 Example

XSLT

XML

Google Gadget
Plan for 2012

- Adopt a common framework based on EML 510/520/530
- Develop a common set of XSL transformations for media use
- Deploy results via Google Gadget for cloud-based consumption
- Development of XSLT for data conversion from vote tabulation systems
EML 510/520/530

- EML 510 contains contest information, reporting units and results, including:
  - Precincts reported
  - Candidate names
  - Voting precincts

- EML 520 contains election results data

- EML 530 contains jurisdiction statistics, including:
  - Turnout statistics
  - Reporting times
EML 520 XSL Example
Deployment Plan

- States will develop independent plans for deployment using EML Schema documentation
- States will host XML files locally on state resources
- Consortium will coordinate with media outlets for publication of results
Future Direction

Group will coordinate efforts with:

- NIST and IEEE
- Offer other states the opportunity to benefit from results
- Allow development of election results reporting in the public domain