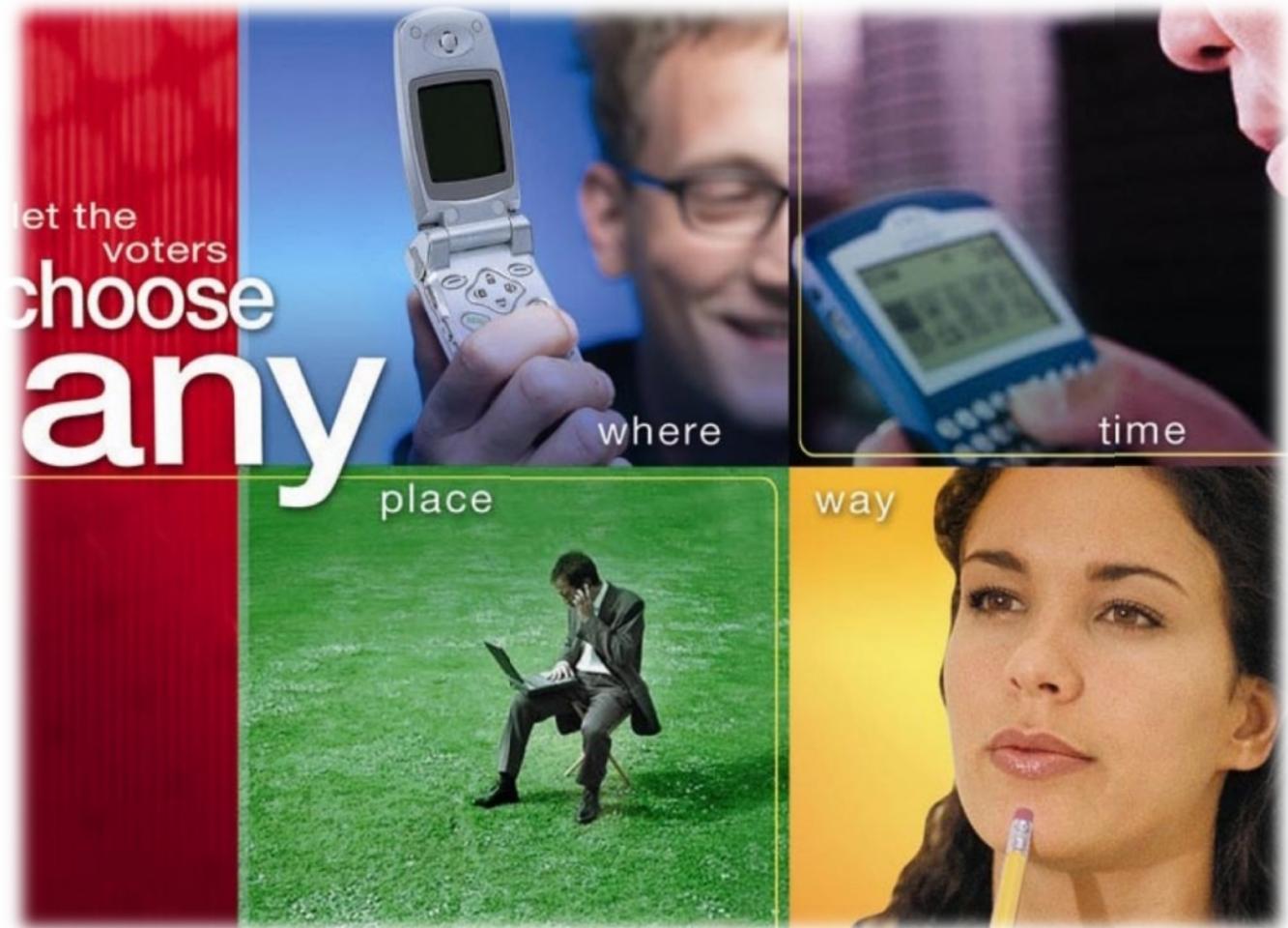




inteliVote systems inc

Internet and Telephone Voting 10 reasons to consider eVoting over Vote By Mail



Townships, cities and municipalities of all sizes are discovering the advantages of eVoting - telephone and Internet voting – over the Vote By Mail method of conducting their Elections. Here's why.

Situation 1 – Incorrect Ballot Delivered

The voter received an incorrect ballot in the mail. It has incorrect candidates and/or races on it. This may be a result of the Voter's list being out of date. The Voter has a change in their address, and/or an inaccurate record is associated with the voter, or perhaps boundaries have changed but their mail was forwarded to them and successfully delivered.

Mail

The voter will have to manually exchange a mail-in ballot for the proper one. The voter must return the incorrect one and request the correct ballot.

eVote

The voter can call the Voter HelpLine and the voter's information is corrected dynamically while the voter is on the phone. The correct candidates are presented when the voter connects to the eVoting system, the address changed is captured using the Voter Help feature and if required, an official election change form can be generated capturing the voter address change for later electronic update to the official electors list.

Situation 2 – Time Consuming Ballot Handling



The election is over and the ballots have to be counted before all the results will be known. Hours of labour are required and in most municipalities the mailed-in ballots cannot be opened until after the polls have closed. Thousands of mailed-in ballots must be organized, reviewed, scanned and/or counted and eventually destroyed.

Mail

Mailed-in ballots must be opened, examined for spoiled status, sorted, counted and the results attested. This involves many people over numerous hours.

eVote

Vote results are immediate and no additional labour costs are required to manage vote counting. There is a detailed audit process to ensure secrecy and, after the required waiting period and once directed, ballot destruction is electronic and verifiable.

Situation 3 – Spoiled Ballot Elimination

Mailed-in paper ballots may be declared spoiled for a number of reasons. The declaration form is not signed, a race is over-voted, any note(s) or writing is included on the ballot face, the secrecy envelope is not used, more than one ballot is in the envelope, or the ballot is not returned on time. These are just a few of the reasons. In all of these circumstances the ballot may not be counted and the voter will never know that their vote has not been included in the election. In addition, challenges by candidates or election officials to determine voter intention may result in spoiled ballots or a recount. Any ballot may be subjected to examination and may be deemed spoiled.



Mail

The voter has no indication when they mailed the ballot if it will be deemed spoiled for any reason. There is no confirmation process. Recounts are time consuming and inject subjectivity into voter intent.

eVote

The voter cannot accidentally spoil a ballot and allowances can be made to allow under-voting as well as disallow over-voting. A ballot confirmation process is included by race to ensure that the voter's intention is always verified and the counting of the ballot is always confirmed. There are no unintentional spoiled ballots. If required by legislation, there is a clear process for spoiling of a ballot that required a voter confirmation that they are intending to spoil their ballot. Voter intention is left with the voter. Recounts are instantaneous and inexpensive.

Situation 4 – Fixed and Known Election Costs

Final election costs may not be known based on mail back costs and labour required to process ballots. Participation rates of voters will determine how much the municipality is charged for mail back costs for the ballots. Scanner and tabulator costs have to be considered as well.

Mail

Mail back costs are variable and unknown based upon number of participating voters and the accuracy of the electors list.



eVote

Costs incurred by the municipality are based on eligible voters and is a firm fixed price regardless of participation levels.

Situation 5 – No Requirements for Scanner/Tabulators

To process ballots in a timely manner, equipment to scan or tabulate the paper mail-in ballots must be purchased or leased. Mailed-in ballots often cannot be counted or processed in advance and so must be opened and counted after the official close of polls on election day. This is time consuming, labour intensive and costly.



Mail

Tabulating and scanning hardware is expensive and may not be available as all municipalities need the technology at the same time. Ballot quality after it has been folded and mailed is prone to mis-feeding and jamming in tabulators and scanners. Different coloured ink used to mark the ballot may also not be recognized or counted.

eVote

EVoting allows for immediate results and costs are based upon the number of eligible voters. There is no hardware or software to buy or rent; eVoting is a service.

Situation 6 – Voter List Management

Changes that must be made to the voters list are only identified if the voter comes and requests a new ballot which properly reflects their new address or name.

Mail

Manual effort to transcribe forms completed by voters who had to request corrected ballots based on out dated voter list information is an additional cost.

eVote

Elector's information that is changed via the Voter Help Line is updated immediately and stored electronically for inclusion in the revised voters list. The ability to make changes to the voters list, up to and including Election Day, provides the best possible list.



Situation 7 – Language Selection

Voters need to be able to complete their voting in the language of their choice.

Mail

Only if the language of choice is known in advance, and offered to voters, will a vote by mail kit be printed and mailed in a language requested by the voter.

eVote

The voter has the ability to select their language of choice on their selected method of voting either on the phone or on the internet.

Situation 8 – Timelines for Activity can be lengthy

In order to allow ample time for the mail-in ballot kit to be sent out, marked by the voter and returned by mail, the timeline from mail out to election is critical and extensive. Voters must act in a timely manner to ensure their ballot is mailed, processed and delivered to meet the deadlines.



Mail

There is a need to provide long lead times for voters to receive a vote ballot then mail the ballot to the election office. Candidates still may be campaigning and voters may have already returned their ballot with weeks still remaining before the election. A voter may not have all the information prior to mailing the ballot.

eVote

A significantly shorter time-line is required for the voter information to be mailed out. No time is required for mail back and voters can vote right up to the last minute of the election. Candidates can campaign right up to the close of polls on Election Day.

Situation 9 – Disabled Voter Activity

Visually impaired or physically challenged voters often require assistance which may include someone else marking their ballot on their behalf. The secrecy of the vote is forfeited by these voters. The voter should be provided with an equal opportunity to participate and vote without anyone else knowing their selection but they often require assistance actually marking their ballot.

Mail

Visually impaired voters are not able to read the ballot. Physically challenged voters are possibly not able to complete specific tasks to mark the ballot and reseal the envelope or to physically get to a polling station or election office to exchange an incorrect ballot.



eVote

Visually impaired voters are provided with the options including telephone voting and using their Internet screen recognition readers. Physically challenged voters do not need to attend a polling station to exchange an incorrect ballot as they can use either a telephone or PC based solution to cast their ballot. The Intelivote solution is fully W3C accessibility compliant.

Situation 10 – Timely Candidate Campaign Information

Candidates are entitled to receive voter participation information indicating which voters have completed their voting.

Mail

Election officials are often required to provide regularly printed voter lists and updates to candidates. This process is often labour intensive and expensive, and in most cases is not practical in a mail vote election.

eVote

Candidates are given electronic access to the voters list for their particular district/ward and can view the status of voter activity online in real time. It is important to note that the candidate cannot see how a voter has voted, only that they have participated in the election. This satisfies the requirement for providing candidates with updates and it does so with no additional labour costs to the election.

