Election Line Data Collection Program

JOHN FORTIER
DON PALMER

CONTACT:
JFORTIER@BIPARTISANPOLICY.ORG
DPALMER@BIPARTISANPOLICY.ORG

OR VISIT:
HTTPS://BIPARTISANPOLICY.ORG/ELECTION-DAY-LINES/

Celebrating ten years of productive partisanship.
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• Why Collect Data?

• Virginia insights
• Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA) recommendation:

To reduce Election Day lines through election resource management solutions

• Partnered with the MIT/CalTech Voting Technology Project

• The program began with a small pilot in 2014 and expanded across the nation for the 2016 General Election
METHODOLOGY

• The data collection is **simple** and **straightforward**

• Jurisdictions count the number of people in line at the beginning of each hour and record the number of check-in stations

• After Election Day, jurisdictions provide these precinct-by-precinct data sheets, the total number of voters per precinct, and EPB data (if applicable)
METHODOLOGY

Collection Form:

By noting the number of voters yet to complete check-in (both those in the process & those waiting) and the number of check-in positions we can calculate the average wait time.
88 jurisdictions in 11 states provided usable Election Day line length data. Those jurisdictions represent a total of 15,644,645 registered voters.

Voters in these jurisdictions collectively cast 11,059,900 votes, or roughly 8% of all votes cast.

Data were provided from 4,006 precincts.
The average daily wait time was **8.59 minutes**

Based on surveys, Americans waited 14.6 minutes to vote in 2008 and 12 minutes in 2012.

**Precincts with Average Daily Waits - 10 Minute Intervals**
91.9% of precincts experienced average waits <30 minutes and 73.9% averaged <10 minutes
4.1% of precincts had average waits of 30-60 minutes and 4.0% averaged >60 minutes

**Average Wait Times in 30-Minute Increments**

*Sources:* SPAE 2008, SPAE 2012, BPC Data 2016
WHY COLLECT DATA?

• Collecting data **benefits election administrators**.

• In order to make evidence-based decisions about resource allocation, you need to know where lines happen.

• The data have been used already to allocate voting machines, EPBs, rovers, and poll workers in order to **prevent long lines**.

• Under-resourced jurisdictions can also use this data to **advocate for additional funding** from their elections boards.
BPC collected data from 17 Virginia jurisdictions in November 2016, representing **2,092,159 registered voters**, or **37.8 percent of all registered voters** in Virginia.

Data were provided from **544 precincts**.
• The average wait time across all participating Virginia jurisdictions was **8.9 minutes**

• The average represents a **significant decrease from 2008 and 2012**

• On average, Virginians waited 28 minutes to vote in 2008 and 24 minutes to vote in 2012
AVERAGE WAIT TIMES – VIRGINIA

Precincts with Average Daily Waits - 10 Minute Increments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interval</th>
<th>Precincts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 10 mins</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-20 mins</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-30 mins</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-40 mins</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-50 mins</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-60 mins</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 60 mins</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• 94.7% of precincts experienced average waits <30 minutes and 71.1% averaged <10 minutes

• 5.1% of precincts had average waits of 30-60 minutes and 0.2% averaged >60 minutes
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