I Wouldn’t Recommend Running an Election Like This, But if You Must...

An Election Pandemic Story
If you told me in January of 2020 that implementing a completely new voting system in 2020 would be about the sixth hardest thing, I’d have to do that year…
I’d have gone back to my easier, less stressful line of work.
Let’s Start 2020 with something easy, like rolling out the first paper-based voting system in almost 20 years...
*In 159 counties
*In less than 9 months
*With a Presidential Election looming.

Innocent Elections Director at the state elections conference in December, 2019, thinking that rolling out a brand new voting system was going to the challenge of his career.
Harvey, Chris

From: Harvey, Chris
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Scott Tucker
Cc: Sterling, Gabriel
Subject: tablet cleaning/sanitizing?

Scott,

Are there guidelines or standards for cleaning BMDs (would sanitation wipes be enough for the devices or are there some that can be recommended? I think some of those questions will be coming our way...

Chris Harvey
Elections Director
Georgia Secretary of State

Main 470-312-2777
Cell 404-985-6351
Delaying a Presidential Preference Primary Originally Scheduled for March 24, 2020

Nationwide First Week of April 2020

Unlikely Georgia Hotspot First Week of April 2020

Reported coronavirus cases in the US
As of April 6, 2020

California 15,000+ cases
Michigan 17,000+ cases
Louisiana 14,000+ cases
New York 131,000+ cases
New Jersey 41,000+ cases

Early County, GA

SOURCE: Johns Hopkins University. Data as of April 6, 2020 at 6 p.m. ET
Chris asked that we update y'all on what is really going on in our counties. We have roughly 10,000 people in our county with about half that living here in Blakely. We are all scared. We are one of the hotspots for the virus according to our numbers. We have 41 known cases here and 2 deaths so far. If you do the math, per capita, that is an extremely high number (these are people, not numbers though). As far as EMS can tell, the majority have originated from a funeral in Albany with a huge birthday party in Blakely after. In city and county government, our mayor, chief of police, and 8 other workers have tested positive as well as several county workers so far. We are working in our office with the doors locked to the public but serving our voters and candidates as best we can. Our grocery store manager is positive. When we have to go there I am so afraid of whatever he has handled and who else he has infected there that are asymptomatic but still spreading the disease. After grocery runs we unload outside our homes and wipe down every single thing we buy before taking it into our homes. There is literally not a single business open except grocery, hardware and pharmacies. We know these people and when they pass away, their service must be private so their loved ones don’t even know how many people really cared. It’s just awful down here. And we hear daily that it will get worse. We have 5 precincts and usually run about 25-30 poll workers. I don’t see how we are going to handle this part as we (Julie and I) can’t be at all of the precincts and so far we have only 5 poll workers who were willing to work in the PPP because of the virus and I am afraid to even contact these now that it’s gotten so much worse. I have reached out to several students both high school and college and they were mostly interested but all of their parents said no. I completely understand their concern. I, as a parent who had my daughter work as a poll worker from age 16, would not allow her do it now. Poll worker training is a major concern as well. I could train by precincts so that we wouldn’t go over the 10 person gathering but the fact is they aren’t going to come. Those that can are not leaving their homes. I can’t imagine a good election outcome with the unseasoned poll workers that I may be able to come up with. We have worked so hard under already quite daunting conditions to ensure a successful roll out of your new voting equipment. The county administration and the Board of Commissioners are not in favor of opening our office to voters. I have told them that this is not something that we can choose not to do but they are concerned about putting us and the other poll workers at risk for exposure. All of our precincts are county owned so we don’t have to worry about others being involved but the commissioners are concerned about opening our county precinct buildings to voters. They also pointed out that the President, the commission and the city has a shelter at home ordinance in place through April 30th. So, do we just ignore that and open early voting anyway? These are not ordinary times, they are desperate times. I have thought many times over the past few weeks that though I have been at my wit’s end in elections over the past 23 years, I have never been made to choose between my job and my LIFE. I feel like this is where we are right now and I’m really scared and I’m sad too and frustrated. I have never considered myself old but now I realize that I am a 63 year old (lists medical issues for herself and her husband...) I don’t know what the answer is but this where we are and I will keep you updated as it goes. Thanks for listening.

Very sincerely,
Claire Moseley
Early County Election Director
Absentee Ballot Applications Mailed to almost 7,000,000 Voters in Georgia
Sec. Raffensperger Moved PPP Election to the May Primary Date... and Then Moved May Primary to June
Sec. of State Office Coordinated Mass Mailings of Absentee Ballots for Primary, Primary Runoff, General Election, and Runoff

Counties were fighting a new war with an old army.
Not the Headline We Were Looking For on June 9, 2020
As Usual, Local Election Officials Answered the Call

• Judge Jon Payne was set to retire, but stayed on to help his office get through this election cycle.

• He had been in charge of Elections in Chattooga County for more than 25 years, and could have walked away at any time for any reason.

• Judge Payne died August 18, 2020 from Covid-19

• In addition, election officials in other counties, including Beverly Walker in Fulton County lost their lives to Covid-19 while working in elections in Georgia

• Many election officials in Georgia lost family members to Covid-19
Grants Were Offered to Counties To Help With Costs for:

- PPE
- Security
Georgia Emergency Management Agency Came Through With Tons of PPE
The Secretary of State and State Election Board Got to Work

Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes Authorized

Early Scanning of Absentee Ballots Allowed Weeks Ahead of Election Day
Partnerships Made a Huge Difference

- Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes
- Poll Worker Recruiting
- Plexiglas Counter Protectors
- Hand Sanitizer
- Refreshments
Absentee Ballots Became a Huge Factor
Security Became An Increasingly Important Consideration and We Established Regular Communications with Law Enforcement Partners
Georgia Became a Battleground State, So We Prepared for Battle
That's More Like It!

November 4, 2020
Risk Limiting Audit-A mounts to a Full Hand Recount of Presidential Race

159 Counties Audited 41,881 batches of ballots

Over 5,000,000 ballots hand counted

Expected variance was between 1.0-1.5% variation

Georgia RLA Audit showed a variation of 0.153%
### Machine Recount of Presidential Race

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<th>President</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joe Biden (D)</td>
<td>49.51%</td>
<td>+12,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Trump (R)</td>
<td>49.25%</td>
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**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS**
Absentee Ballot Signature Audit
While The Rest of the Country Exhaled and Started to Decompress, US Senate Candidates in Georgia were like,

Georgia Election Officials

US Senate Candidates: “What about Second Elections?”
November 3, 2020 -- January 5, 2021
‘This has to stop’: Georgia official calls out Trump, U.S. senators over threats to election workers

Tensions Rise to Boiling Point
Prophetic Voice
Gabriel Sterling
Standing Firm
January 4, 2020
This Isn’t How It’s Supposed to Be

Security Detail for Sec. Raffensperger

Police At House

Death Threat

Chris Harvey,
Your days are numbered. The FBI can’t save you. Out of kindness, we took a break during Christmas. We hope you enjoyed this holiday because it will be your last. Every time you leave your house in the morning, make sure to say goodbye to your family, as you may not see them again.
January 5, 2020
Runoff Election for US Senate
Choose Two to Control the US Senate
Still Razor Thin Margins

But clear winners

Raphael Warnock (D) is projected to defeat Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R) and leads by 93,272 votes.

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<th>Votes</th>
<th>Pct</th>
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<tr>
<td>Warnock</td>
<td>2,289,113</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loeffler</td>
<td>2,195,841</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
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Final Takeaways From an Unprecedented Year
- Local Election Officials are the unsung heroes of 2020
- Flexibility (not a hallmark of election operations) was critical
- Partnerships with federal and local governments were invaluable
- Whole community involvement extended governments reach and increased credibility
“Grant me no epitaph but: ‘He battled bravely for the integrity of his state.’”

- John Adam Treutlen, Georgia’s first post-British Governor

Every election worker in Georgia earned this honor in 2020