

When the city of Honolulu came to us and asked us to help them provide an affordable, highly accessible, all-digital election on a very short time line, we replied, “Aloha.”

Hawaii, our newest state, became the first state to lead the rest of the country into the future when it adopted technology to improve their election process. “Aloha,” as many know, is often used to say both hello and goodbye. However, the definition of the word is much deeper than that. Aloha is an expression of affection and love, the two syllables of the word combining the ideas of “presence” and “life” in local folklore. At Everyone Counts, it is our mission to do just that; ensure that *every person in every democracy is able to vote on what influences his or her life and be confident that their vote counts.*

In Honolulu, a Neighborhood Board of Commissioners is elected every two years to provide policy guidance to appointed and elected officials. Due to the costly election in 2007, the Board issued a public request for

vendors that could provide an all-digital, high-integrity voting platform that could give their registered residents, local and abroad, the ability to cast their votes online or via the telephone.



They addressed a problem common to election officials around the world who are tasked with providing accessible, secure elections on a limited budget.

When an independent body established by the Board of Commissioners reviewed proposals submitted by all four vendors and **unanimously chose us**, we went to work immediately. Here’s how...

Building an Election in 17 Days

For other providers, a two-month timeline to build, test, notify, hold and verify an all-digital election might seem a daunting task, but we jumped at the opportunity to showcase our technology. The Everyone Counts voting platform, since 1997, has been used on all seven

contested, the Commission only sent passwords to voters in districts with multiple candidates. This significantly reduced mailing cost. And, with an entirely digital election, the county didn’t need to hire staff that would normally man polls or hand-count ballots at the end of the process.

In seventeen days we built a voting platform for Hawaii with 22 unique ballots and 153 candidates

continents, (including Antarctica) and over 160 countries to successfully support over a 1000 elections. In 2007, we increased voting by members of the Australian military by more than three times the previous election. The Democratic National Convention, in 2008, used us to allow their expatriates in 164 different countries to vote for their preferred party candidate—seven times more votes were cast and counted than in 2004.

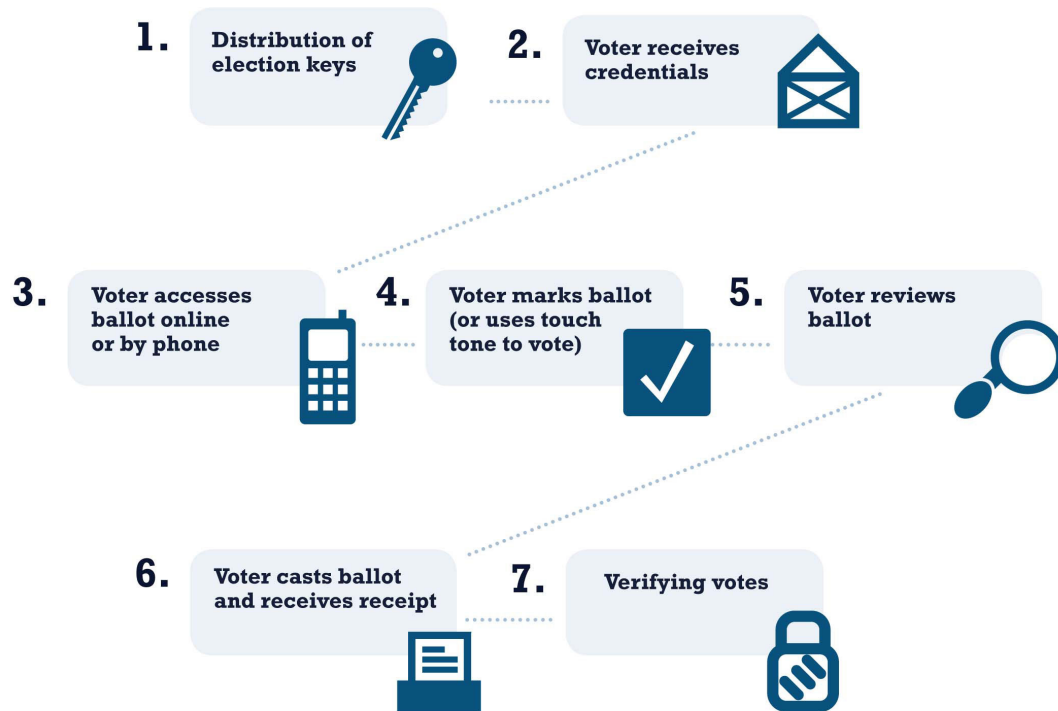
For Hawaii, 154,000 registered voters were eligible for the Neighborhood Board election. Since many of the seats weren’t being

The Commission also wanted to make their election more convenient for voters. With our technology, that’s no problem. Overseas military and expatriates were able to cast their ballots online, while disabled persons were able to cast their ballots by using their home phones—for many, the first time in their lives that they voted without personal assistance.

“By choosing Everyone Counts, we were able to streamline the administrative process and cut more than \$100,000 in election cost,” said Joan Manke, Executive Director for the City and County of Honolulu.

How does the technology work?

Everyone Counts delivers the most accurate, reliable and trustworthy digital voting solutions in the world. With our commitment to security, we've leveraged the best minds and the latest technology to build a platform that is encrypted from beginning to end. But, how did it work in Hawaii?



A Resounding Success

With the media waiting in the wings, the election officials gathered to unlock the digital ballot box and tabulate the results. A new laptop had been purchased that morning,

With another successful implementation of our technology, we considered ourselves to be one of them.

The City and County of Honolulu successfully held the first all-digital, high-integrity election in the United States.

unwrapped in the presence of the officials and would be used to count the ballots. Tension was in the air, largely because no one on the Board had ever experienced the process. A password error prompted everyone to stop and then smile; platform security caught the error and refused to continue until the correct password was entered. In a round about way, the user error decreased tension and brought an excitement to the room.

Fueled by the efforts of Fran Corcoran, librarian in the Koolauloa district, turn out for the vote was incredibly high even though those living in her area were mostly of retirement age. She used the libraries computers and a passion for helping others to remind and/or assist registered voters with the Everyone Counts process. To her, civic participation was a way to bring people together and promote the library as the hub for community activity.

A normal election would require days of counting ballots by hand, but with Everyone Counts the Board had their election results in ninety minutes. Results in hand, they walked straight to the media to announce the winners.

When we went to Hawaii and asked them who could provide an affordable, highly accessible election on a very short time line, they said, "Everyone Counts!" Aloha!