

Understanding Voting Systems Users

Profile of a County Clerk

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County Clerk Profile

Dorothy:

- County Clerk for 15 years
- Mid-50s
- Grandma
- Some Community College, some professional study.
- Lives with husband in a 2000 sq. ft. colonial on two acres with a horse, two dogs and a cat.



Note: While this is a photo of an actual county clerk, the information provided is based on observation of county clerks in general, and does not necessarily reflect this clerk and her environment.

June 2004

Who Uses Voting Systems?

- Every Voter
- Every Precinct Worker
- Every Election Administrator
 - Most are County Clerks

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Dorothy's County

- From Agricultural to Suburban
- One large suburb, and several villages and townships
 - Under urban pressure
- Used Automatic Voting Machines for 50 years
 - Optical Scan introduced late 90s

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How Dorothy Became Clerk

- Began as township registrar
- Ran as “the” local party candidate
 - There was only one back then
- Showed skills:
 - Record-keeping
 - Being “well-regarded” by her community

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What Drives Dorothy:

- Wants to conduct elections fairly, efficiently and well.
- No news is good news...
 - Wants the media to report only the results of the election, and not about the conduct of it.
 - Wants her name associated with “Good News”

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Dorothy's Frustrations

- Increasing legal and work responsibilities
 - Federal and state mandates, like accessibility, e-voting
 - Elections coming under scrutiny from the public
- Increasing lack of manners and gentility
 - Government used to be respected
- Not sure what to believe about election equipment

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Her Work

- Registration, Vital Records
- Elections
 - Planning
 - Candidate Filing (Petitions, fees)
 - Finance Filing
 - Ballot Question Validation for the state
 - Ballot Design, Printing, Proofing

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Her Work

- Precinct Planning (boundaries, locations)
- Precinct Inspector Management
 - Recruitment
 - Training
 - Scheduling
- Equipment Maintenance and Supplies

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Her Work

- Election Conduct
 - Polling Location Setup
 - Challengers and observers
 - Troubleshooting
 - Equipment Malfunction
 - Ballot Printing Problems
 - Trouble in the Precinct

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Her Work

- Ballot Counting:
 - All ballots must be tallied *exactly* according to law
 - All counting is public
 - All ballots are secret
 - Results transferred from precinct to County (sometimes with an interim stop at city or township)
 - Accuracy is vital.
 - Trees must die!

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In Her Future

- Evaluate new voting systems.
- Lobby for better legislation and for funding via associations.
- Run for reelection (at least) one more time.

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