



In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the Auburn University Master of Public Administration Program and Political Science Department and The Election Center bring you this research symposium entitled "The Evolution of Election Administration since the Voting Rights Act 1965-2015."

The symposium centers around how the field of election administration has evolved since the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965. It also focuses on creating opportunities for conversation between election officials, those who study elections, and the broader election administration policy community.

Dialogue between academics, practitioners, and policy makers is at the heart of good public administration research and practice. This symposium format is intended to foster dialogue and also designed to give students and the general public the opportunity to hear first-hand the issues and challenges that face administrators in this most important aspect of democratic participation.

The Auburn University Master of Public Administration Program and the Department of Political Science have a long history of partnership with The Election Center's CERA certification program and together have built strong relationships with election officials throughout the country. It is our honor to host this prestigious group of national officials, state and local policymakers, and academics who study the public administration of elections.



AUBURN UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND EMPLOYER.



Auburn University MPA Program
and Department of Political Science



**THE EVOLUTION OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION
SINCE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT: 1965-2015**

PANEL DISCUSSIONS 9AM - 5PM

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

AUBURN UNIVERSITY HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER



SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS

Bruce Adelson

Chief Executive Officer | Federal Compliance Consulting LLC

Bruce L. Adelson, Esq, CEO of Federal Compliance Consulting LLC is a national expert in federal law enforcement, The Voting Rights Act of 1965, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act, Affordable Care Act, and complex litigation. A former U.S Department of Justice Senior Trial Attorney with DOJ's Voting Section, Bruce had national law and policy enforcement responsibility. Since leaving DOJ, his clients have included states, cities, counties, health care providers, and international businesses. In 2014, the Chief Judge of the US District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana qualified Bruce as an expert witness in civil rights, election matters, and allegations of discrimination. Bruce is currently a testifying expert for the State of Louisiana in a Voting Rights Act federal lawsuit. Bruce holds a BA in International Studies from The Johns Hopkins University and a JD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is author of *Brushing Back Jim Crow — The Integration of Minor League Baseball in the American South* (University of Virginia Press, 1999).

Dr. Mitchell Brown

Associate Professor and PhD Program Director | Auburn University

Mitchell Brown is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Auburn University and Director of the PhD Program in Public Administration and Public Policy. She is a member of the MPA and PhD faculty and a faculty affiliate of the Women's Studies and African Studies programs. In addition, she is a regular contributor to professional election certification courses offered by the Election Center. Dr. Brown's broader research agenda focuses on the empowerment efforts of marginalized communities. She has numerous publications including her recent book, *Administering Elections: How American Elections Work* (Palgrave Macmillan 2015), with Kathleen Hale and Robert Montjoy. She is the recipient of several research awards including being named a College of Liberal Arts Scholar, an Auburn University Diversity Research Award, and a SAHMSA Superior Service Award, among others.

Yashwant Deshmukh

Chief Executive Officer | YRD Media and Centre for Voting Opinion & Trends in Election Research (CVoter)

Yashwant Deshmukh is a seasoned communications entrepreneur and a celebrated figure in the South Asian media and communication industry. As founder-owner of YRD Media, Yashwant emphasizes impeccable research, design and production and delivers innovative and original news analysis spanning 15 Union Budgets, over 100 Union & Assembly Elections and myriad international socio-political and economic events across 30 nations around the world. CVoter is South Asia's largest Indian owned media and stakeholder research agency and the flagship division of YRD Media, working with almost every major newspaper and news channel in India. CVoter is an Indian Subcontinent stakeholder research agency with a global footprint across 30+ countries, with clients in media, academia, international organizations, governments and other research organizations.

C. Virginia Fields

Former Borough President | Manhattan Borough, New York City, NY

Virginia served as Manhattan Borough President in New York City from 1997 to 2005, where she created special banking development districts in Harlem and Roosevelt Island and funded the first government grants to small downtown businesses after 9/11. She has been involved in elections issues including voting technology and improving access for voters with disabilities. In 1989, Virginia was the first African-American woman elected to the New York City Council from Manhattan, where she successfully created affordable housing, revitalized schools, and increased public safety. Virginia marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1963 as a teenager, braving fire hoses and police dogs in Birmingham, Alabama. Prior to her service as Manhattan Borough President, Virginia served as an administrator for social services for the Children's Aid Society and New York's Work Release Program, as well as consultant to the National Board of the YWCA.

Dr. Kathleen Hale

Associate Professor and MPA Program Director | Auburn University

Kathleen Hale is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Auburn University, where she directs the MPA Program and Graduate Certificate in Election Administration. Her research focuses on information in intergovernmental relationships, and her book, *How Information Matters: Networks and Public Policy Innovation* (Georgetown University Press 2011) won Best Book in the Academy of Management Public and Nonprofit Section. Dr. Hale's publications on election administration include technology, voter identification, and the role of local election officials. She is the author of *Administering Elections: How American Elections Work* (Palgrave Macmillan 2015), with Mitchell Brown and Robert Montjoy. She coordinates Auburn's outreach for election officials in partnership with the national election certification program of the Election Center and serves on the Election Center Board of Directors. She has won awards for her teaching and research and was named College of Liberal Arts Scholar from 2012-2015. She has served on the Election Center's Board of Directors since 2012.

AGENDA

Tuesday, September 15

- 1:30 - 2:45 pm** **Panel Discussion: The Promise and Perils of Election Technology and Data**
Dr. Merle King, Kennesaw State University
Dr. Paul Herrnson, University of Connecticut, Executive Director of the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research
Dr. Dan Smith, University of Florida and Lia Merivaki, University of Florida
- Moderator**
Dr. Mitchell Brown, Auburn University
- 2:45 - 3:00 pm** **Break**
- 3:00 - 4:15 pm** **Panel Discussion: Future Challenges in Election Administration: What Voters Want**
Kamanzi Kalisa, Director of Overseas Voting Initiative, The Council of State Governments
David Orr, Clerk, Cook County, Illinois
Yashwant Deshmukh, CEK, YRD Media and Centre for Voting Opinion and Trends in Election Research (CVoter)
- Moderator**
Dr. Bridgett King, Auburn University
- 4:15 - 4:45 pm** **Lessons Learned and Next Steps**
Closing Keynote
C. Virginia Fields, former Borough President, Manhattan Borough, New York City, NY

Tom Hicks

Commissioner and Vice-Chair | United States Election Assistance Commission

Tom Hicks was nominated by President Barack H. Obama and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate on December 16, 2014 to serve as Commissioner on the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Prior to his appointment with EAC, Commissioner Hicks served as a Senior Elections Counsel and Minority Elections Counsel on the US House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, a position he held from 2003 to 2014. Mr. Hicks has talked with Americans in every state about their voting experiences. In addition, he has worked with state and local election officials across America to address critical election concerns.

Dr. Paul Herrnson

Professor of Political Science | University of Connecticut

Paul Herrnson is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Connecticut. His research and teaching interests include political parties and elections; money and politics; and voting technology, ballot design, and election administration. He has published numerous articles and books, including *Congressional Elections*; *Voting Technology: The Not-So-Simple Act of Casting a Ballot*, *The Financiers of Congressional Elections*, and *Interest Groups Unleashed*. Herrnson has served as President of the Southern Political Science Association, Chair of the Political Organizations and Parties section of the American Political Science Association, and as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. He has advised the US Congress, the Connecticut General Assembly, the Maryland General Assembly, and the Federal Election Commission, as well as numerous government agencies and nongovernmental organizations, on matters pertaining to campaign finance, political parties, and election reform.

Kamanzi Kalisa

Director of Overseas Voting Initiative | The Council of State Governments

Kamanzi Kalisa joined the Council of State Governments (CSG) in 2014. As director of CSG's Overseas Voting Initiative, Kalisa works with the US Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program through a four-year, \$3.2 million cooperative agreement to improve the overseas voting process for US citizens living abroad—uniformed services personnel, their voting-age dependents and overseas civilians. CSG's Overseas Voting initiative provides the US Department of Defense with collaborative management, research services, and product development and dissemination to state and local governments regarding innovative military and overseas voting technologies and policies.

Dr. Bridgett King

Assistant Professor | Auburn University

Bridgett A. King is an Assistant Professor in the Auburn University Department of Political Science and an instructor in the Election Center Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) Program. Her primary research interests include political behavior, public policy, race and ethnicity & quantitative research methods. She has conducted extensive research on state voting regulations, race and turnout, and the interactions of race, gender and access to technology. Her doctoral research focused on political participation. Specifically, she analyses the effect of state voting policies on the voter turnout of the African American population in Presidential and midterm elections from 1996-2008. Prior to joining the faculty at Auburn University, Dr. King was a Voting Rights Researcher in the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law where she conducted research on voter disenfranchisement.

Dr. Merle King

Associate Professor | Kennesaw State University

Merle King is an Associate Professor of Information Systems and the Executive Director for the Center for Election Systems at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. An active researcher in election administration, Professor King is the 2005 recipient of the National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion Award for his work in Georgia elections. Together with his colleagues at the Center, King has led the development one of the nation's best resources for election administration support.

Dr. Martha Kropf

Professor and Interim Director of Public Policy | University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Dr. Martha Kropf is a Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she specializes in research methods and analysis. She has published extensively about elections including her most recent book, *Helping America Vote: The Limits of Election Reform* (Routledge 2012, with Dr. David Kimball). Her work includes studies of the selection methods of local election officials, implications of different ballot designs, voting technology questions, voter competence, and the implementation of election law. Her research on elections has been widely published in leading journals as *Public Administration Review*, *American Politics Research*, and *Election Law Journal*.

SPEAKERS

Doug Lewis, CERA

For more than 20 years (1994-2015) Doug served as Executive Director of The Election Center. During his term the most extensive professional election official training was created, The Professional Education Program and Certified Election/Registration Administrator (CERA), the election community's highest professional designation. During the aftermath of Election 2000, Doug appeared on national news outlets and was a regular on C-SPAN, representing the nation's elections administrators. Upon retirement, from The Election Center, Doug received bi-partisan awards from Congressional leaders and the President for his work on legislative issues for election administration. Doug helped develop a national Code of Ethics for the election profession and served as the first Chairman of the US Election Assistance Commission's Advisory Board. He is a national speaker on elections issues at state and local election groups, and has testified frequently before Congress and State Legislatures. He began his career working for colleges and universities in public relations.

Tim Mattice, CERA

The Election Center Director | Katy, Texas

Tim Mattice became the Election Center's Executive Director in January 2015, where he had served as Director of Education and Training since 2006. In addition to managing its multiple programs, he works closely with Auburn University in promoting and maintaining the Election Center's Professional Development Program for national and international election officials. Prior his work at the Election Center, Tim served at the New York State Board of Elections from 1995-2006 engaged in extensive training responsibilities with state and local county election offices. Tim was a Senior Trainer for the Sponsored Funds Program at SUNY at Albany from 1984-1995 where he developed, managed and provided training programs for multiple state agencies, and has conducted training for a major New York State corporation. Tim has a BA from SUNY Potsdam, NY, and graduate work in Public Administration from SUNY at Albany, NY.

Lia Merivaki

Lia Merivaki is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Florida. Her research interests include election administration, electoral reforms, and political behavior, with a particular interest in electoral accountability and political representation. Before coming to the United States, Lia worked on campaigns for the European Parliament Elections and as an administrative assistant on a UF / US State Department grant on election administration in Africa. Lia's dissertation focuses on the implementation of voter registration reforms across the American states and the implications for voter participation.

Dr. Robert Montjoy

University Research Professor | University of New Orleans, Louisiana

Robert Montjoy is University Research Professor and Deblois Chair at the University of New Orleans and Professor Emeritus, Auburn University. He has long been involved in the administration of elections through service in public and nonprofit organizations as well as scholarly and applied research. While at Auburn, Robert prepared a reference manual to describe and integrate the duties of the five different county offices that collectively conduct elections in Alabama. Later he served, part time, in the Secretary of State's office and led Alabama's implementation of a federal court order in the case of *Harris v. Seigelman* (1988). After the 2000 Presidential election Robert served on the National Association of Counties' Commission on Election Reform and drafted its report. He helped start the Election Center's Professional Education Program, is a member of the Election Center Hall of Fame and serves on its Board of Directors.

Rev. Richard Myhalyk, SSE

Our Lady Queen of Peace | Selma, Alabama

Father Myhalyk is currently the Pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace, in Selma, AL, and at Immaculate Conception in Orrville, AL. He has served as an Edmundite pastor and in leadership positions within the Edmundite order for nearly 50 years across Alabama, Vermont, and Connecticut. Father Myhalyk was trained by Father Maurice Ouellet, whose pastorate in Selma ended abruptly following Bloody Sunday in March, 1965. Father Myhalyk holds an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters from Saint Michael's College (Vermont), a Masters in Theology from Xavier University (New Orleans, LA), and a Masters of Divinity in Religious Studies from the Toronto School of Theology, University of Saint Michael's College (Toronto, Ontario). His long and distinguished record of service includes numerous boards and commissions at the national, regional, and local level as well as community service originations providing direct relief to those in need.

Tuesday, September 15

8:00 - 9:00 am

Breakfast

Welcome

Dr. Kathleen Hale, Auburn University

Tim Mattice, Election Center

Keynote

Doug Lewis

Advances in Election Administration

9:00 - 10:15 am

Panel Discussion: The Evolution and Challenges of Electoral Institutional Arrangements and Relationships

Tom Hicks, Commissioner and Vice-Chair, Election Assistance Commission

Bruce Adelson, Federal Compliance Consulting LLC

Tammy Patrick, Federal Compliance Officer, Maricopa County Elections Department, Arizona

Dr. Brenda Snipes, Supervisor of Elections, Broward County, Florida

Moderator

Dr. Kathleen Hale, Auburn University and Election Center Board of Directors

10:15 - 10:30 am

Break

10:30 - 12:00 pm

Panel Discussion: Human Elements: Professionals, Poll Workers, and Policy Makers

Dr. Robert Montjoy, University of New Orleans and Auburn University

Dr. Martha Kropf, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Wendy Underhill, Program Manager, National Conference of State Legislatures

Moderator

Tom Wilkey, Election Center Board of Directors

12:00—1:30 pm

Luncheon Keynote

Father Richard Myhalyk, Our Lady Queen of Peace

1:30 - 2:45 pm

Panel Discussion: The Promise and Perils of Election Technology and Data

Dr. Merle King, Kennesaw State University

Dr. Paul Herrnson, University of Connecticut, Executive Director of the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research

Dr. Dan Smith, University of Florida and Lia Merivaki, University of Florida

Moderator

Dr. Mitchell Brown, Auburn University



AGENDA

David Orr

County Clerk | Cook County, Illinois

As Cook County Clerk since 1991, David Orr is the chief election authority for suburban Cook County, one of the largest election jurisdictions in the country. A progressive voice in Chicago politics for 32 years, Orr has been nationally commended for his leadership on election reform, the Motor Voter law, early voting, and student election judge programs. Orr's innovative efforts to boost productivity and improve efficiency in his office have also garnered recognition from Microsoft and the National Association of County Officials.

Tammy Patrick

Former Federal Compliance Officer | Maricopa County, Arizona

Former Federal Compliance Officer for Maricopa County Elections Department for eleven years, Ms. Patrick was tasked with serving more than 1.9 million registered voters in the greater Phoenix Valley. She collaborates with community and political organizations to create a productive working relationship with the goal of voter participation. In May of 2013 she was selected by President Obama to serve as a Commissioner on the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (www.supportthevoter.gov) which has led to the position at a prominent Washington, DC think-tank to further the work of the PCEA. The organizer of the 2007 Native American Voter Outreach Summit Ms. Patrick is dedicated to voter education, outreach, and empowerment. She continued this work with the Election Assistance Commission's working group on Language Assistance for Unwritten Languages.

Dr. Dan Smith

Professor of Political Science | University of Florida

Daniel A. Smith is Professor of Political Science and a specialist on voting and electoral issues. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has published extensively on direct democracy, campaign financing, and voting rights and elections, and is the coauthor of a leading textbook on state and local politics. A former Senior Fulbright Scholar (Ghana), Dr. Smith is President of ElectionSmith, Inc. He has served as an expert on numerous election-related legal cases, most recently for the Florida LWV in its successful challenge of the legislature's unconstitutional Congressional maps, and the ACLU in its successful challenge of Ohio's reduction early in-person voting.

Dr. Brenda Snipes

Broward Supervisor of Elections | Broward County, Florida

Dr. Brenda Calhoun Snipes is a native of Talladega, Alabama. Immediately after graduating from historic Talladega College, Dr. Snipes moved to Pompano Beach and embarked on a thirty-nine year career as an educator in the public schools of Broward County, Florida. She retired in 2003 as an Area Director where she supervised principals in sixteen schools and centers in one of the ten largest school districts in the country. After retirement Dr. Snipes was appointed by Florida Governor Jeb Bush serve out a term as Broward County Supervisor of Elections and sought election to the position at the completion of this appointment. She plans to seek a fourth four-year term. A graduate of Leadership Broward, Dr. Snipes is an active member of the New Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, and various community boards. She also served three terms as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority president.

Wendy Underhill

Program Manager | National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)

Wendy Underhill, an elections expert, is program manager with the Legislative Management program at the National Conference of State Legislatures. Wendy has been with NCSL for four years and specializes in research and analysis on elections issues, such as online voter registration, voter ID, voting technology, early voting, election metrics and more.

Tom Wilkey

Election Center Board of Directors, I Albany, New York

Tom Wilkey retired in 2012 after 42 years in election administration at the local, state and federal level including Executive Director of the New York State Board of Elections and the US Election Assistance Commission. He has served on various boards and commissions on the national level, including those involving in drafting of NVRA and HAVA. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Election Center, and working as lead consultant with the Election Center on a multi year project to evaluate and develop new training methods and materials for Election Day workers and poll staff for the Board of Elections in the City of New York.



THE ELECTION CENTER

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