Early Voting in 2016: The Big Picture

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Early Voting: The Pollack Edition

• Continued trends toward more early voting options
  – With some restrictions on early in-person times and locations

• Critical Role of campaign mobilization
  – Can we learn anything from Trump?

• Early Voting as a barometer
  – Cue Dylan song ...
Early Voting as a percentage of the 2012 Early Vote

Data courtesy of Dr. Michael McDonald
U.S. Elections Project
The Election Fortnight ... has arrived
Complexity Beneath the Diversity

- Different groups prefer different methods
  - ... in different states
  - ... with differing laws and procedures
  - ... with differing time periods for early voting
  - ... and differing numbers of locations
Florida 2012 & 2016 General Elections, Cumulative Vote-by-Mail & Early In-Person Ballots, by Racial/Ethnic Groups (Days Prior to Election Day, through November 8, 2016)
Managing This Complexity: The Lawmaker’s Perspective

• Accessibility (Hours, Locations)
  – Set floors, not ceilings
  – Use formulas, not fixed totals
  – Consider allowing satellite locations

• Best practices
  – Learn from your neighbors, don’t repeat their mistakes

• Transparency
  – Modest cost voter registration and history files
  – Report mode of voting, date ballot processed
  – Centralized repository for early voting locations and times (at state, not county)
Questions, Comments?

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