Who Likes Paper Now?

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2023 ESRA

After botching election results, Pinal County wants to try hand-counting ballots

Shasta supervisor renews unproven claims of voter fraud as he sets town hall on hand counts
Background

+ Shift to DREs in early 2000s touched off a backlash and movement against electronic voting machines.

+ 2020 misinformation launched a right-win attack on computers & demand for hand-counted paper.

+ Little academic research on attitudes toward voting machines
  • Dunham & Stewart 2020
Two Surveys/Two Sets of Questions

Cooperative Election Study

+ Attitudes toward technology
  - Agree/disagree: [opscans/DREs/hand-counted paper]...
    + ... makes it easy for dishonest people to steal elections
    + ... counts votes accurately
    + ... is easy for people like me to use
  - Which machine would you prefer to use?

Survey of the Performance of American Elections

+ Reform support
  - Prohibit the use of computers to mark or count ballots
[Technology] makes it easy for dishonest people to steal elections
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[Technology] makes it easy for dishonest people to steal elections
Most preferred
Most preferred
Most preferred
Most preferred
Most preferred
Most preferred
A brief word about the SPAE question

Do you support or oppose any of the following proposals for new ways of voting or conducting elections?

- Paper backups
- Photo ID
- Change reg when moving
- Nonpartisan officials
- Election Day holiday
- AVR
- Election Day weekend
- EDR
- RCV
- Hand-count paper ballots
- All vote-by-mail
- Internet voting
- Cell phone voting
Conclusions

+ Some evidence that the attack on automated counting has percolated to mass opinion.
+ Opinion change builds off the dynamics preceding in the 2010s.
+ Highly attentive partisans the most responsive.
+ Resurgence of interest among Democrats in DREs?