Actual Election Costs in CA

California Association of Clerks and Election Officials & Q2

funded by the James Irvine Foundation
Overview

Grant funded to CACEO through FOCE by Irvine in 2013
Contractor (Q2) selected, data survey tool developed, data collection began 2014
Data collection in earnest, data analysis and website development 2015
Data analysis and final launch of website and other grant products 2016

all in an 18 month grant – thank you to the James Irvine Foundation for allowing us the time to perfect this set of products!
47 Counties

15 Elections

119,785 Individual data elements
Languages
Technology mix
Local economic factors
Jurisdictional complexity
Vote by mail
Size
Ways to look at costs

• Per capita
• Per register voter
• Per ballot cast
• Per “vote opportunity"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Election Costs</th>
<th>Total Costs Per Capita</th>
<th>Total Costs Per Registered Voter</th>
<th>Total Costs Per Ballot Cast</th>
<th>Total Costs Per Vote Opportunity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean</strong></td>
<td>2,511,913</td>
<td>3.21</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>13.13</td>
<td>13479.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median</strong></td>
<td>748,456</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>6.34</td>
<td>12.38</td>
<td>6202.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum</strong></td>
<td>7,896</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>188.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum</strong></td>
<td>30,178,563</td>
<td>7.24</td>
<td>17.70</td>
<td>30.61</td>
<td>142021.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Ratio of largest to Smallest</td>
<td>3,822</td>
<td>6.36</td>
<td>5.57</td>
<td>10.06</td>
<td>755.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of Mean/Median</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>2.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choose counties

Choose which elections

See results
This graph uses weighted population density to compare different counties. Weighted density measures the density at which the average citizen lives, taking into account how many people live in cities and towns even in very sparsely populated counties.
Other grant products

Data Analysis is on the way, looks very promising

Billing Practices Guide is complete and will be published soon

Four research areas

Fiscal Services Subcommittee

Fearless leader Alice Jarboe has agreed to continue her work with fiscal staff in Elections Departments all over the state. The Fiscal Services Committee will meet a minimum of twice a year (at New Law in Sacramento (Dec) and at the CACEO Annual in each July (location varies).