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*Voting Systems: An Outcome Analysis. Phase 3*

The study compares outcomes of the Optimal Candidate system (OCS), Vector Length system, Plurality Method, Borda Count and Instant Runoff with outcomes of an actual election, the 2010 Colorado Governor's race. It was hypothesized that the OCS, which was researcher-designed, would have results reflecting the popular vote more accurately than other systems. Other hypotheses were that criteria for economic stimulus would most heavily influence voters' choices and that participation in the survey would change voters' choices. Five hundred surveys about the gubernatorial race were mailed to random sampled voters in Delta County, Colorado. Voters responding to the first survey were asked to complete a second evaluating their satisfaction with election results. The OCS hypothesis was not supported because Confidence Intervals and Hypothesis Tests showed that the Instant Runoff system correlated most closely with actual election results. ANOVA, Tukey HSD, and Logistic Regression analyses of the OCS showed that economic stimulus had the heaviest influence on the voter's choice of candidates. Voter participation in the initial survey resulted in eight percent of voters changing candidate support.