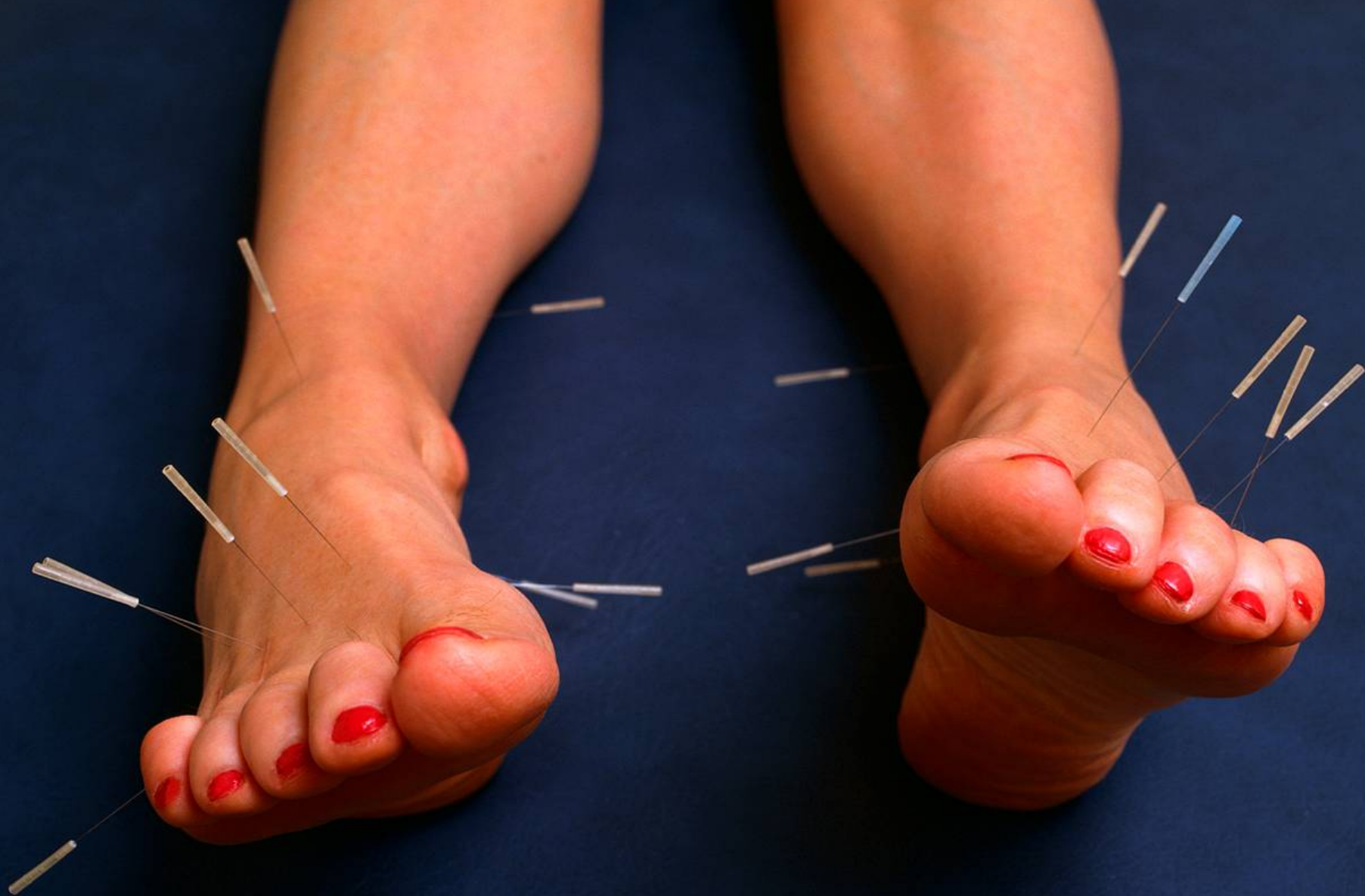


# Consistency Vs. Accuracy

Elections Could be a Bit Ugly This Time

# How Can this Happen?

- We don't know what we don't know – and that leads to not asking the right questions and/or not immediately finding the right solutions
- History of implementation of new processes and/or new voting methodologies shows that it usually takes 3 good sized elections before we have the processes revised so that voters, pollworkers and staff have it “right” and the process smoothes out.



# Alternatives Considered

- Change Everything Again: Some advocate continuing election process changes
- Recognize that process is overloaded and allow time to adapt.
- There may indeed be valid changes in the future but if we continue to push the envelope on the process the inevitable result will be loss of faith to the extent we may not be able to regain the foundation
- Expect that Advocates of Change will use election problems as evidence of needed "reforms".
- Policy Vs. Implementation

# Recommendation or Decision

- Calm and cool reflection ought to tell reasonable people that we need time to absorb and adapt before we proceed with additional changes.
- Partisanship is so ugly at the current time that additional “reforms” are far more likely to be based in what assists the parties in partisanship activities rather than better serving voters
- Ask nations where democracy exists in name only whether their voters have faith in the process & we can see how fragile the process can be

# What Can Happen in This Election?

## Potential Points of Problems:

Pollworkers Don't Show Up: Some suggest punishing them or charging them with legal sanctions: WOW

Urban areas have significant problems

Rural/Small communities rarely have problems

## Staff or Pollworkers Make Mistakes

All professions—except elections— have margins for error. Unrealistic expectations.

New databases: registration errors, database errors, human errors.



# Additional Possibilities of Problems

- New Equipment:
  - Human Mistakes – Mostly likely
  - Machine Problems – Likely with new solutions to mandated needs – 1. Inexperience 2. VPAT 3. Despite preparation, some just don't work.
  - Behind in Delivery Schedule – Cascades into training issues for staff, pollworkers and voters
  - Inability of Vendors to keep up with Support Issues
    - Tsunami ordered by Congress and all sales in short time & lack of ability to find and hire qualified support
    - Overload on demand all at once

# Additional Possibilities of Problems

- Ballot Delivery – Paper Ballots
  - Nation moved to more Optical Scan and exponentially increased demand for paper ballots
  - Ballot Printing and Delivery was a problem in 2002 and 2004 and greatly increased ballot demand this election
    - Expect delivery problems

# Additional Problem Areas

Voter Registration Drives – Wonderful Enfranchisement Efforts and adds value

Despite the Ohio lawsuit there has to be a valid method of getting VR groups to turn in VR cards in a timely fashion

- Unfair to voters

- Overloads system and causes voter disenfranchisement

- Forces voters into Provisional Ballots rather than Regular Ballots

# Is There Hope?

- Yes – Despite that it may not always be consistent in this election, the outcomes after “official” counts and canvasses turns out to be just as the voters voted it.
- Can training issues be resolved? Yes...time is the best healer in this regard. We learn what we didn't know, we adapt and we improve and implementation becomes smooth again – If we don't overload it too soon again.

# Future Challenges

- Reading levels continue to decline:
  - 21 million Americans Can't Read at all
  - An additional 45 million are marginally literate
  - 50% of American adults can't read at 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Level
  - 1/5 of high school graduates can't read their diploma
  - 80% of US families did not buy or read a book last year
  - 1/3 of high school graduates never read another book ever
  - Impacts Pollworkers, election training, voter instructions, voter education and conduct of elections

# Our Pledge To The Public

- Voting has to be fair: to voters as well as to candidates & to parties
- Recognize that re-politicizing elections administration is likely to backfire
- The Process IS more important than partisanship
- As election officials we have to be the “Referees” of the system – so don’t expect us to do partisan interpretations or partisan actions



# Election Officials Prayer

- Dear Lord
  - Let the winners win big
  - Our Goal
    - To run the most boring election in history