From Here-to-There: My Perspectives

• William Kresse
• Chicago Election Board / Governors State University

• Election Audit Summit
• Massachusetts Institute of Technology
• December 7 – 8, 2018
William J. Kresse

- Commissioner, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners
- Certified Public Accountant
- Certified Fraud Examiner
- Attorney
- Assistant Professor, College of Business, Governors State University, University Park, Illinois
... As an Election Commissioner

- Implementing RLA, etc. in Illinois, Chicago
- Illinois: Approx. 7000 local government units; approx. 50,000 elected officials.
- Chicago: 400+ ballots styles; 2000+ precincts; 13,000 poll workers
- But: Current statutory 5% audit costs CBEC $100,000’s
... As a CPA

• Hello?! You’re speaking our language!
• Going forward, consider involving CPA’s in future endeavors, as there are analogies to financial statement audits.
• E.g.: Explosive growth in Vote By Mail
• Chicago: 116,000 requests; 87.4% return; more than during WWII
• Borrowing from CPA’s: Mailing confirmation to VBM voters: Did you vote?
... As a Certified Fraud Examiner

- Hello?! You’re speaking our language!
- CFE: Detect, Prevent & Deter Fraud
- Deter: Messing with people’s heads
- Two sides to deterrence:
  - Stop fraudsters from trying (Economic animals; cost/benefits)
  - But lack of deterrents (or perception thereof) discourages others (See Suffolk U / USA Today survey; “Illinois elections are not broken ...”)
... As a Lawyer

• “Risk Limiting Audit”
• In the event of litigation, need a “Judge-Friendly,” ”Media-Friendly” presentation
• Consider better branding
  – Just not:
    • Risk
    • Informed
    • Governance for
    • Greater
    • Election
    • Determination
... As an Academic

• Biggest challenge to academic researchers:
  – Ok, #1 is Funding
  – But #2 is Access to Data

• Personal story: Chicago Police ID Theft Study

• Good news: You have friends at the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners!
Come For The Election Data

- Open, transparent (Ok, maybe a FOIA request)
- Modern equipment
And Stay for the Food!