

# Rules for VoComp 2007

## Part B: General Competition Rules

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*See Part A for evaluation criteria of competition systems. For more about VoComp, see [www.vocomp.org](http://www.vocomp.org)*

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### 1 Enactment

These rules shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the VoComp Judges. Any changes to these rules must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the VoComp Judges.

### 2 Overview of VoComp

VoComp comprises a *voting systems competition* and an associated *voting technology conference*. Its goals are to stimulate innovation in voting system technology, to foster interactions among students, researchers, and election officials, and to encourage student involvement in the vital civic process of voting.

During the academic year, student teams will design, implement, and demonstrate voting technology in on-campus elections. Five finalist teams will be invited to the *VoComp Competition Finals*, which will take place July 16–18, 2007, in Portland, Oregon, where there will be presentations and a mock election.

The *VoComp Conference* will also take place at the same time and place, which will feature scholarly papers and presentations and demonstrations. The conference welcomes submissions from anyone on any of the following topics: descriptions and analyses of any competition entry, critiques of any competition entry, descriptions and analyses of other election technology including partial election systems, and metrics for evaluating voting systems. Anyone may submit, including competitors and others. *Any submission describing voting technology must include a working demonstration implementation of the technology.*

[a call for papers needs to be developed, approved, and posted]

### **3 Guiding Principles**

VoComp shall be conducted in a fair and open process, with good sportsmanship, that encourages and respects diversity of opinions and scientific truth. VoComp aims to be a model example of how elections ought to be run. No actual attack on any of the competing systems may be carried out during any test election of the competition.

All designs, source code, and educational materials entered in VoComp must be released for use in all future VoComps. In doing so, for each future VoComp, all participants will be able to start with the collected knowledge and tools from all previous VoComps. Subject to this restriction, each inventor maintains all other rights to his or her intellectual property, including possible copyrights and patents. This strategy will help accelerate advancement in voting technology.

### **4 Eligibility**

VoComp is open to any team of undergraduate or graduate students throughout the world. Each team member must be a degree-seeking student at an accredited college or university making progress toward the degree. There is no limit on team size [should there be a limit?, say, 20?]. Team members do not have to attend the same school.

Each team must submit evidence (e.g., a certification letter from a school official) that each member satisfies the eligibility requirements.

Collaborations with other non-team members are allowed, including with corporations. Each team must clearly document what are the contributions of the team members.

### **5 Ethics**

Each VoComp official, judge, program committee member, and each team member must file a simple disclosure statement identifying possible conflicts of interest, to be posted on the VoComp web site.

[a simple disclosure statement will be developed, approved, and posted]

### **6 Schedule**

January 30      Posting of final rules.

February 15     Deadline for team entries.

February 15     Deadline for submitting disclosure statements.

March 15	Each team must post their design.
spring	Each team must hold a real or mock on-campus election.
May 15	Deadline for submitting papers to the VoComp Conference, including results of on-campus election experience
June 15	Announcement of competition finalists
July 16–18	VoComp Finals
July 18	Announcement of winners

## 7 Prizes

### *VoComp Competition*

Best election system

### *VoComp Conference*

Best election technology component

Best critique of a competition system

Best paper on metrics for evaluating some aspect of voting systems

Best presentation

## 8 Judges

The initial judges, listed below, were appointed by the Organizer. Any additions to this list must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the judges. Judges may be removed only for good cause, and only with a five-sevenths vote of the judges [should I make this 2/3rds given that it takes only 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s to change the required threshold?]. All decisions of the judges shall be final.

The Judges select the finalists teams and all prize winners.

Members of the Program Committee are appointed by the Organizer. They decide what papers are accepted for presentation at the VoComp Conference.

### *Judges*

Josh Benaloh (Microsoft)

Douglas Jones (Univ. of Iowa)

John Kelsey (NIST)

Eric Lazarus (Brennan Center)

Ronald Rivest (MIT)

Michael Shamos (CMU)

*The Organizer intends to nominate two or three additional judges, drawn from current election officials at the state and local levels. The Organizer welcomes suggestions for these additional judges.*