

From : Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life <andrea@techandcivicliflife.org>
To : Shauna <shauna.dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>
Subject : EXTERNAL: 11 Ideas to Celebrate Independence Day
Received On : 6/30/2023 2:00 PM

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Celebrating Independence Day

ELECTRICITY



The latest best practices for election officials.

Election officials do so much to protect our right to vote year round. And since Independence Day is all about honoring our freedoms, it's another perfect opportunity to celebrate our right to vote.



As we head into the holiday weekend, we're sharing [11 ways that you can celebrate July 4th](#) in your jurisdiction. Whether you decide to register new voters, recruit poll workers, give back to your community, or start a new program, we hope this list provides you with some patriotic inspiration. As always, feel free to take the ideas you like, and leave the rest.

[Read More](#)

What are you doing to celebrate the 4th of July with voters in your jurisdiction? Respond to this email to let us know. We'd also love to see photos from your festivities if you're willing to share them!

Take Action: Tell Your Senator Election Funding Can't Wait

CARTWALL

As we celebrate America's Independence, we should also be celebrating those that help Americans exercise one of their most fundamental rights—the right to vote. What could be more patriotic this July 4th than supporting election officials with the resources they need to run modern, secure elections?



Last week, the House Financial Services and General Government committee released a budget proposal [that eliminates federal funding for election departments](#). The Senate now has a chance to correct this error in their budget bill and give election officials a fighting chance to win meaningful support in the final congressional budget. We're asking you to take action this Independence Day: **Can you commit to sending a letter to your Senator by July 11th** urging them to invest in our election infrastructure? Fill out our brief Google form to get started.

[Take Action](#)

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From : Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life <andrea@techandcivicliflife.org>
To : Shauna <shauna.dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>
Subject : EXTERNAL: A Live Results Tracker for Streamlining Election Night
Received On : 6/9/2023 10:00 AM

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Greene County, Missouri's
Live Results Tracker

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Greene County, Missouri Updates their Election Website with a Live Results Tracker

Election Night is thrilling for election workers and voters alike. For election officials, it's a high-energy continuation of a months-long process, as focus shifts from preparation to vote tallying and audits. For voters, it's the moment where they can finally see (or at least begin to see) which candidates will come out on top. To make that process even more transparent for voters and streamlined for election officials, many jurisdictions have begun to update vote tallies in real time on their websites. [Greene County, Missouri](#) is one of them.

Located in southwestern Missouri, Greene County is home to about 200,000 voters and plenty of history. Its county seat, Springfield, is the birthplace of cashew chicken, Bass Pro Shops, and Route 66 (one of the last remaining original stretches of Route 66 can be found downtown).



Former U.S. Senator and Missouri Secretary of State Roy Blunt got his start in

politics as Greene County Clerk back in 1973. Since 2015, Shane Schoeller has served in that role, and is part of a small but nimble team of 15 full-time staff. We sat down to talk with Shane and Elections Coordinator Madison McFarland to learn a bit more about their office's effort to bring voters into the process and make their local elections more accessible.

Deciding to Update the Election Website

Within Shane's first year in office, one of his first accomplishments was updating Greene County's election website. But the world of web design is constantly evolving, and a few years later, he knew it was time for another refresh. "Early on in website design, there was too much information there and you got lost," says Shane. "We wanted to empower the voters to get information about what's going to be on their ballot, where their polling location is, and all of the different things that a voter may be thinking about," says Shane. "We wanted to make it easy and accessible for them to come to the website and get that information."



Shane and Madison serve a voter at a community event in 2022.

One important feature that Shane and Madison wanted to offer voters was a live results tracker, so they could see vote tallies in real time on Election Night. Previously, the team had been uploading reports to the website, but they weren't particularly user friendly, and they knew there was a lot of room for improvement. **"We've got to be transparent," says Madison. "We've got to show that elections are secure and that they're safe. And the more you can get that information out on a platform, the better it is."**

[Read More about the Results Tracker](#)

Power the Polls—a national, nonpartisan initiative to recruit the next generation of poll workers—is inviting election administrators to complete its [2023 national poll worker recruitment survey](#). Your feedback is crucial to helping Power the Polls serve election administrators more effectively, ensure a positive, impactful experience for the potential poll workers they recruit, and continue to support safe, fair, accessible elections for all voters. **Please complete the survey by Friday, June 16.**

CTCL Voted National Issue Advocacy Organization of the Year

We're humbled and honored to be voted National Issue Advocacy Organization of the Year at the [Powerful Idea Awards](#) for our work with the [Election Infrastructure Initiative](#).



CTCL has always been committed to supporting election officials in overcoming barriers to administering professional, inclusive, and secure elections. Through the Election Infrastructure Initiative—a nonpartisan, collaborative effort of election officials, nonprofits, and others—we continue to make the case that election infrastructure is some of our nation's most critical and should be funded appropriately. And as 2024 nears, we won't stop fighting to connect election officials with the resources they need to run modern elections. We invite you to learn more about the initiative at modernizeourelections.org

CTCL Celebrates Vote Early Day

Join CTCL as we celebrate Vote Early Day on October 26 to help every voter share their voice in local races happening around the nation.



Last year, nearly 3,000 businesses, nonprofits, campus groups, election officials, media companies, and many others who came together to celebrate Vote Early Day. Together we met the moment and helped millions of Americans gain the knowledge and tools to vote early.

In 2023, we must keep up the momentum to ensure that the voices of every American voter are heard. **That's why we are calling on other organizations to join us as Vote Early Day partners this fall.** Learn more about this national day of action at VoteEarlyDay.org and [sign up to be a Vote Early day partner here](#).

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From : Center for Tech and Civic Life <hello@techandcivicle.org>
To : Shauna Dozier <shauna.dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>
Subject : EXTERNAL: Final Deadline Nov. 16 - Share Your Experience As An Election Official
Received On : 11/15/2023 1:01 PM

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[Share your experience](#)



Dear Shauna,

One day left! Your valuable insights are needed to help shape resources and strategies to support election officials nationwide. The Center for Tech and Civic Life, with its surveying partner Citizen Data, invites you to participate in a **voluntary, nonpartisan survey** to share your experiences and challenges as an election official.

We look forward to receiving your response by **Thursday, November 16.**

[Take the Survey](#)

Your responses are entirely confidential, and no personally identifiable information will be shared with any third party. You will not be asked for any confidential, sensitive, or protected voter information as part of the survey.

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From : Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life <andrea@techandciviclifega.org>
To : shauna.dozier@claytoncountyga.gov
Subject : EXTERNAL: Introducing Nonpartisan Standards and Resources for Election Excellence in Poll Worker Programs
Received On : 10/6/2023 1:24 PM

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Introducing Nonpartisan Standards and Resources for Election Excellence in Poll Worker Programs

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The latest best practices for election officials.

introducing nonpartisan standards for

Resources for Election Excellence in Poll Worker Programs

At CTCL, we've always been committed to supporting election officials to deliver successful, secure elections. That's why last year we launched the [U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence](#)—a nonpartisan collaborative to envision, support, and celebrate excellence in U.S. election administration.

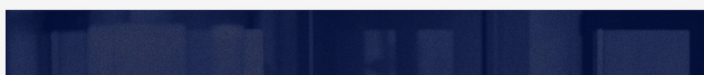
So far, the inaugural cohort of [Centers for Election Excellence](#) developed [five nonpartisan values](#) to advance the profession of U.S. election administration for years to come. No matter the size or location of your election jurisdiction, those who help maintain our healthy democracy can rally around these values as you navigate the challenges of delivering successful elections.

Values for Election Excellence:

- High Integrity
- Comprehensive Preparedness
- Voter-Centricity
- Proactive Transparency
- Continuous Improvement

The values represent the foundation of the Alliance's work, and today we're thrilled to build upon that strong foundation by introducing the first set of nonpartisan, voluntary [Standards for Election Excellence](#) on the important topic of poll workers.

Why poll workers? As defined by the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#), a poll worker is "The official responsible for the proper and orderly voting at a polling location or an election process." Because of their rubber-meets-the-road role in election administration, [poll workers directly affect the voting experience](#) for millions of Americans. So, when local election departments have the right resources to run successful poll worker programs, voters and our democracy benefit.



Standards
for Election
Excellence



Poll Worker Recruitment
Poll Worker Training
Poll Worker Management
Poll Worker Retention

There are four standards for effective poll worker programs in local election departments:

- Poll Worker Recruitment
- Poll Worker Training
- Poll Worker Management
- Poll Worker Retention

Each standard includes a definition, details, its relevance to election operations and public trust, and a corresponding nonpartisan, generic resource to support election departments' in achieving the standard.

The Alliance poll worker standards were developed based on feedback from nearly 50 election departments that serve 30.5 million voters. The departments range in size from serving 988 voters to as many as 4.7 million voters. And now we're looking for public feedback to help make them even stronger! Will you let us know how the poll worker standards can be improved to meet the needs of your community? The deadline to provide feedback is December 5, 2023.

[Provide feedback on poll worker standards](#)

In addition to the poll worker standards, we also published examples of [nonpartisan, generic resources](#) that include best practices, free and low-cost tools, guides, templates, and more.

When running excellent elections, your office doesn't need to go it alone. The Alliance builds and curates resources to help you achieve high standards. Take the best of what your peers are doing across the country and see what works in your area. And, offer ideas and suggestions from your office.

All resources are free or low-cost and geared specifically to election offices.

[Explore poll worker resources](#)

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From : Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life <andrea@techandcivicliflife.org>
To : Shauna <shauna.dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>
Subject : EXTERNAL: Introducing the Values for Election Excellence
Received On : 8/9/2023 1:33 PM

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Introducing the Values for Election Excellence

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The latest best practices for election officials.

At CTCL, we've always been committed to supporting election officials to deliver successful, secure elections. That's why last year, we launched the [U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence](#)—a nonpartisan collaborative to envision, support, and celebrate excellence in U.S. election administration.

Together with our inaugural cohort of [Centers for Election Excellence](#)—which serve as few as 988 voters to as many as 4.7 million—**we've developed five nonpartisan values to advance the profession of U.S. election administration for years to come.** No matter the size or location of your election jurisdiction, those like you that help maintain our healthy democracy can rally around these values as you navigate the challenges of delivering successful elections.

Today, we're thrilled to introduce the Values for Election Excellence:



These values are just the first step in supporting election officials through the 2024 General Election and beyond. In the upcoming months, we'll be working to build upon these values by sharing sets of voluntary, nonpartisan standards for local election departments.

Are you an election official interested in providing feedback on the upcoming draft standards? Would you like to use generic nonpartisan tools and templates to improve your operations, or explore other ways to get involved with the Alliance? **We invite you to indicate your interest using this form:**

[Get Involved with the Alliance](#)

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From : Center for Tech and Civic Life <hello@techandcivicle.org>
To : Shauna Dozier <shauna.dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>
Subject : EXTERNAL: Invitation to Share Your Experience as an Election Official – Confidential Survey
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Share your experience



Dear Shauna,

The Center for Tech and Civic Life, with its surveying partner Citizen Data, invites you to participate in a voluntary, nonpartisan survey to share your experiences and challenges as an election official. Your valuable insights will help shape resources and strategies to support election officials nationwide. Your responses are entirely confidential, and no personally identifiable information will be shared with any third party. You will not be asked for any confidential, sensitive, or protected voter information as part of the survey.

[Access Survey Here](#)

We look forward to receiving your response by **Friday, November 10.**

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From : Center for Tech and Civic Life <hello@techandcivicle.org>
To : Shauna Dozier <shauna.dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>
Subject : EXTERNAL: Last Chance: Share Your Experience As An Election Official
Received On : 11/8/2023 11:09 AM

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Share your experience



Dear Shauna,

You may have seen our e-mail last week — **your valuable insights are needed** to help shape resources and strategies to support election officials nationwide. The Center for Tech and Civic Life, with its surveying partner Citizen Data, invites you to participate in a **voluntary, nonpartisan survey** to share your experiences and challenges as an election official.

We look forward to receiving your response by **Friday, November 10**.

[Take the Survey](#)

Your responses are entirely confidential, and no personally identifiable information will be shared with any third party. You will not be asked for any confidential, sensitive, or protected voter information as part of the survey.

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From : Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life <andrea@techandcivicliflife.org>
To : Shauna <shauna.dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>
Subject : EXTERNAL: President Biden proposes \$5 billion for election offices
Received On : 3/9/2023 1:19 PM

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Biden Continues to Fight for Federal Investments in Elections

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The latest best practices for election officials.

Biden Continues to Fight For Federal Investments in Local Election Departments With New Budget

Since 2021, through the [Election Infrastructure Initiative](#), we have been helping to ensure that election offices across the country have the personnel, equipment, and facilities to run accessible and secure elections that the public can trust. We know that election officials work around the clock to make sure that every eligible vote (and only eligible votes) count in our elections, and we need adequate and reliable federal funding to keep it that way.

That's why we're so glad to see the President affirm his commitment to fully funding elections today in his FY2024 budget release. The budget [proposes \\$5 billion over 10 years for state and local election departments](#) with \$1.625 billion in the first year. This is the second year in a row Biden has [proposed a substantial investment](#) in election infrastructure. Unfortunately, Congress cut funding from [\\$400 million to \\$75 million](#) in last year's budget.





Election offices can't secure elections with outdated tech.

THANK YOU to the Biden Administration for supporting fully-funded elections offices over the next decade.



“While the last Congress invested in strengthening our nation’s infrastructure, unfortunately, local election departments were left out,” said **Tiana Epps-Johnson, executive director for the Center for Tech and Civic Life**. “I’m grateful to the White House for recognizing the need for a long-term, sustained investment of federal funding for local election departments so they have the resources to afford the basics, from secure storage for ballots to secure workspace for staff to funds to meet surging costs for paper ballots and postage.”

“President Biden knows that \$75 million from Congress last year was salt in the wound for local election staff who worked through one challenge after another since the 2020 election without enough federal funding,” said **Sam Oliker-Friedland, executive director of the Institute for Responsive Government**. “There is bipartisan support from state and local election officials for federal funding. It’s time for action.”

We need your help:

The \$5B in Federal Grants for election infrastructure that the Biden Administration recommends over the next decade (with \$1.625B in the first year) will be transformational for election security and accessibility for generations to come - and we need to make that message known across the country.

Our members of Congress need to hear loud and clear from community partners that funding local elections offices is a high priority for the upcoming fiscal year. **And we have just a few days until the March 13 deadline** to do so. Are you willing to send a request to your member of Congress? Email Stuart@techandcivillife.org and we'll help you get started.

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From : Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life <andrea@techandcivicle.org>
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Subject : EXTERNAL: Ride Along Program Brings Transparency
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San Benito County, California Creates a Ride Along Program

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The latest best practices for election officials.

San Benito County, California Creates a Ride Along Program

In recent years, increasing transparency and gaining voter trust have become crucial efforts to add to the seemingly never-ending list of election officials' duties. In [San Benito County, California](#), Registrar of Voters Francisco Diaz created a program that makes improved transparency a walk in the park—or rather, a ride in a car.

San Benito County, California is a small agricultural community less than 50 miles south of San Jose, home to about 38,000 registered voters. Francisco and the Elections Coordinator, Cheyenne Wiles, are part of a young, creative, and engaged team of four dedicated to customer service.



Left photo: San Benito County Clerk/Recorder/Registrar of Voters Francisco Diaz

Right photo: Elections Coordinator Cheyenne Wiles and Elections Associate Fatima Perez

San Benito County voters are unique in that prior to the pandemic, they already preferred casting mail ballots, with about 80% of them choosing that option. Now, that number is closer to 93%. With such a significant portion of voters voting absentee—and many of them utilizing drop boxes to return their ballots—it was important to

Francisco to make the process as transparent as possible. “We need to bring people

into our world," says Francisco. "It's not enough to provide policies and procedures or fact sheets. The public wants to participate in the process. They want to touch, feel, and see what it is that we do." It turns out that creating a Ride Along program was a great way to achieve this.



A Ride Along participant observes the ballot collection process.

[Read More about the Ride Along Program](#)

What about ERIC?

"We would love it if there was an alternative out there, but there simply is no

"we would love it if there was an alternative out there, but there simply is no substitute for what ERIC can do," says Brianna Lennon, Boone County's Clerk in central Missouri. ERIC, or **Election Registration and Information Center**, is an important tool local election administrators utilize to help ensure accurate and honest elections. As a non-partisan, nonprofit effort to better connect local election offices to important up-to-date information about voters, ERIC plays a vital role in more accurate voter rolls and less instances of voter fraud.

One of the primary benefits of ERIC is its ability to detect and prevent duplicate registrations. If voters move from one state to another, their voter registration information isn't updated resulting in duplicate registration in two states. ERIC allows state and local election administrators to share information making voter rolls more accurate and up to date, protecting our elections from voter fraud or other malicious activity.

"[ERIC] gave us an effective way to communicate with those specific voters and not rely on multiple mailings, waiting for a reply from the voter to confirm. With ERIC we can send one piece of mail instead of two, saving time and money for everyone," says Brianna.

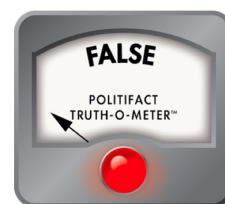
Recently, some states have debated dropping out of participating in ERIC thus weakening its effectiveness for all election administrators. "We knew of some voters who were actively registered to vote in two different states," says Brianna. "With ERIC going away here in Missouri, there's no way for us to catch these instances - ERIC is the only mechanism for us to find this information quickly and efficiently."

If you're a local election administrator, how have you used ERIC? We'd love to hear from you. And if you're in a state that no longer (or never has) utilized ERIC, what are you using instead? Send your thoughts to us at andrea@techandcivicliflife.org

FALSE: Grant to Georgia's DeKalb County doesn't amount to an elections 'takeover'

PolitiFact – an independent fact checking organization – became the latest to debunk false claims about CTCL’s work with a piece that found claims spreading on social media to be “false” and that the Alliance for Election Excellence’s work does not amount to a “takeover” of election departments. Key points:

A \$2 million grant for Georgia’s DeKalb County amounts to a “private takeover of election offices.”



- The Facebook post’s claim of a “takeover” of an elections office suggests that the nonprofit would control crucial tasks, such as in-person or mail-in voting operations. But we found no evidence of such a takeover in DeKalb, a left-leaning county. Local officials will continue to run elections based on state law requirements.
- A February [document from a county government meeting](#) states that the grant is to “cover certain expenses associated with planning and operationalizing safe and secure election administration infrastructure.”
- An [agreement](#) states that the nonprofit “will never attempt to influence the outcome of any election. Period.” It also states that partners will never touch “live ballots” — ballots that haven’t yet been counted or a ballot in a current election — or tabulating equipment, give legal advice or require the county to follow specific advice or recommendations.

On February 21, The Federalist published an article and created a Facebook post claiming that a grant to DeKalb County, Georgia—a Center for Election Excellence part of the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence—amounts to a “private takeover of election offices.”

Read the full story [here](#). PolitiFact has previously given critics a “pants on fire” rating about other false claims they made about CTCL’s 2020 work.

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To : Shauna <shauna.dozier@claytoncountyga.gov>
Subject : EXTERNAL: Updates from the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence
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Updates from the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence

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The latest best practices for election officials.

In Case You Missed It: The U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence Hosts First Annual Debrief Event

Earlier this month, CTCL—as part of the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence—held an in-person conference where election officials could come together, debrief about the common challenges they faced during the 2022 election, and share solutions. We're feeling energized after three jam-packed days of connection and collaboration. We invite you to [read the full story](#) about the event, which was featured in Electionline on February 9th.





Need a refresher on the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence?

In April 2022, CTCL launched the [U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence](#)—a nonpartisan collaborative that is bringing together election officials, designers, technologists, and other experts to help local election departments improve operations, develop a set of shared standards and values, and obtain access to best-in-class resources to run successful elections. Our goal is to alleviate pressure, celebrate local election departments, and provide support to those supporting our democracy.

A community of support focusing on the fundamentals of democracy



Get Involved

Eager to get involved with the Alliance? The good news is that every election office in the country is invited to participate. In the upcoming months and years, we'll be developing a set of values and standards of election excellence in collaboration with election offices like yours. We'll be releasing new trainings and resources to help election offices uphold those values and standards. And we'll be rolling out a brand-new certification program to recognize election offices for their accomplishments.

The Alliance is working to share the perspectives of election officials from around the country to host the conversation around election issues. One of the topics we'll continue to focus on is recruiting and training poll workers. We're curious: what sort of tactics or strategies have worked in recruiting and keeping poll workers in the past? What's the biggest concern your office may have when it comes to poll workers in 2024? Do you have ideas about recruitment, management, or retention? Add your voice to the conversation by responding to the form linked below—we'd love to hear from you.

[Share Your Thoughts](#)

A Refresher: Election Excellence and Funding Go Hand in Hand

Election officials know that achieving excellence requires resources—namely predictable, robust funding. That’s why at CTCL we have a longstanding commitment to ensuring that election offices have the funding they need to administer professional, inclusive, and secure elections. But as with many things in elections, some of the coverage of the Alliance has been misleading or false. For instance, this critique that we read last week about the Alliance:

If the CTCL Alliance is truly committed to helping election offices, “they would be advocating through democratic channels to expand budgets, going into state legislatures to support infrastructure. But they don’t and they have millions of dollars at their disposal,” he continued.

So we’d like to take this opportunity to reintroduce the [Election Infrastructure Initiative](#) (EII), which CTCL launched in 2021 in partnership with the Center for Secure and Modern Elections.

EII is a nonpartisan, collaborative effort that brings together election officials, nonprofits, counties, cities, and states who believe that election infrastructure is some of our nation’s most critical and should be funded appropriately. **Together, we're calling on Congress to invest \$400 million in FY2024 to secure and modernize our elections.**



You’re invited to visit [ModernizeOurElections.org](#) to learn more about EII, add your name to the letter to Congress, and share with election officials and others in your network.

February is National Library Lovers Month

Love is in the air this February—not just because of Valentine’s Day, but also because of National Library Lovers Month. We especially love libraries since they’re natural

partners for election offices: they're free, nonpartisan, and one of society's most trusted sources of information. Election officials can work with libraries to expand voter registration, education, and engagement efforts. We invite you to check out our past article, [14 Ways Election Offices Can Partner with Libraries](#), for tips and inspiration.



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