

Date : 11/28/2023 2:16:25 PM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" hello@techandciviclife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] December 5 deadline: Public comment on nonpartisan, voluntary standards

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Help shape our poll worker standards

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Help Shape Nonpartisan Standards for Election Excellence in Poll Worker Programs

Happy November! It's that time of the year when the entire country is thinking about the holiday season...and elections, of course!

At the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence, election officials and other experts have been thinking a lot about defining, supporting, and celebrating excellence in elections. And in case you missed it in October, the Alliance released the first set of [nonpartisan, voluntary standards](#) for a public comment period.

The topic of the first batch of standards is poll workers. Why poll workers? Because of their rubber-meets-the-road role in election administration, poll workers directly affect the voting experience for millions of Americans. This means that when local election departments have the right resources to run successful poll worker programs, voters and our democracy benefit.

The deadline to submit your feedback is **Tuesday, December 5th** and we'd love to get your expert input! Your feedback is valued and will help shape the final standards for the field of election administration and maintain our healthy democracy for years to come.

[Share your ideas on poll worker standards](#)

Plan to spend at least 15 minutes to [complete the form](#) depending on how many standards you want to give feedback on. Feedback is due **December 5th**. Again, your feedback will help shape the final poll worker standards and we're grateful this season for your contribution!

In addition to the poll worker standards, the Alliance 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

The publication of these standards and resources are paving the way in the Alliance roadmap for supporting election officials through the 2024 General Election and beyond. In the upcoming months, we'll be sharing more sets of voluntary, nonpartisan standards and resources for local election departments. The next topic is communications - get excited!

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Date : 1/17/2024 1:05:18 PM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicliflife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Discover a new grant opportunity in our webinar

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Join us for a new webinar series

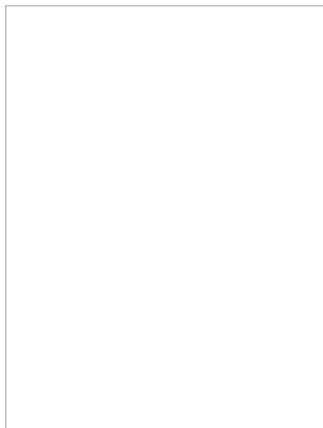
Save the Date! January 25th: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Webinar

Please join us **next Thursday, January 25th at 1pm ET** for a webinar with a national federal grants expert to learn more about a new grant opportunity and the steps that elections officials will need to take to submit an application.

We understand that as you wait for elections appropriations, doing your own research about additional grant opportunities can be labor and time intensive. That's why we're hoping to take some of that work off your plate through a new webinar series. Starting next week, we'll be providing our understanding of a new federal grant program released by FEMA and supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The "Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities" or BRIC program presents an exciting opportunity for state and local election officials to seek federal funding to improve elections operations. The BRIC program is **investing \$1 billion in public infrastructure funds across the country, including \$701 million in competitive grants to ensure that local jurisdictions can increase resilience of critical services from natural hazards**. As a core element of government function, elections are a critical service and eligible for this government funding. These webinars will cover the application process, and will include sample content, as well as inspiration for what the grant funds can be used for.

The first webinar in this series kicks off on **Thursday, January 25th**. The grant deadline is February 29, 2024. We'll follow up early next week with more details on how to register. But if you're interested to learn more now and save your spot, please reach out to colline@techandcivicliflife.org.

About the Presenter



Dan Meuse is the founder and principal of Olden Street Advisors, a firm dedicated to person-centered public policy and program design. Olden Street has engaged with state and local officials across the country to implement novel approaches to government services in health care, social services, climate resilience, and election modernization, with more than \$350 million in funded projects now in operation. Dan serves as a fellow with the Institute for Responsive Government and is a faculty member at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs. An experienced facilitator and strategist,

Dan guides clients through industry jargon and government bureaucracy while ensuring that those with lived experience can inform the process to achieve

lasting change.

Reporting Back from Last Week on Capitol Hill

In related news, last week marked an important milestone in our continued commitment to advocate for reliable election infrastructure funding. As part of the Election Center's Joint Election Officials Liaison Conference (JEOLC) in Washington, D.C., we supported 89 meetings between election officials and Congressional offices. During these meetings, election officials had the chance to highlight the innovations they are employing in their offices as well as the most pressing challenges they are facing heading into this major election year.



The day was a tremendous success, with **multiple Congressional offices expressing their intent to provide local election officials with meaningful support as they prepare for a costly and intense election season.** For many of the JEOLC participants, it was their first time coming to the Hill. Thanks to our coaching and logistical support, local election officials were able to build their skills, hold productive meetings, and carry themselves with confidence. We're looking forward to broadening our partnership with The Election Center and building on this new tradition in coming years to further develop this skill set among the elections community.

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Date : 11/15/2023 11:59:59 AM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" hello@techandciviclife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Final Deadline Nov. 16 - Share Your Experience As An Election Official

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Share your experience

Dear Tara,

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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Date : 4/18/2024 10:59:49 AM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicliflife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Help set the standard for excellent elections

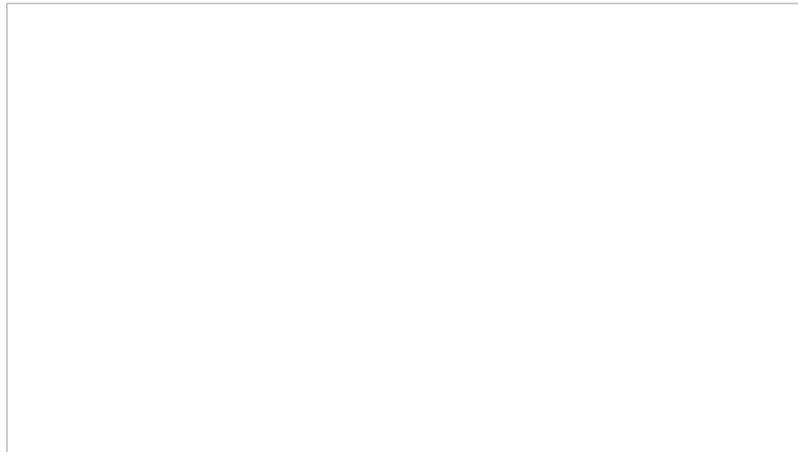
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Share your input:
Standards for excellence

Share your input: Help set the standard for excellent elections across the country

Are you interested in helping to advance the professionalism of the election administration field for years to come? Whether you're an election official, an election expert, or a member of an organization that supports voters, [we want to hear from you!](#)



In February, the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence introduced our newest Standards for Election Excellence. This set of voluntary, nonpartisan standards focuses on communications, and includes everything from effectively distributing information to voters, to building and maintaining relationships with your community and with the media.

Here's your chance to help set the standard for what excellent elections look like across the country: let us know what you think of the draft standards! [Fill out our brief form by Friday, May 3rd](#). Your feedback will shape the final standards and help us define excellence for the future of U.S. election administration.

[Share your input](#)

Looking to improve your election office's communications processes? We invite you to explore our nonpartisan, generic [communications resources](#) designed to support achievement of the standards.

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Date : 2/20/2024 8:00:02 AM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicliflife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Introducing Communications Standards for Excellence

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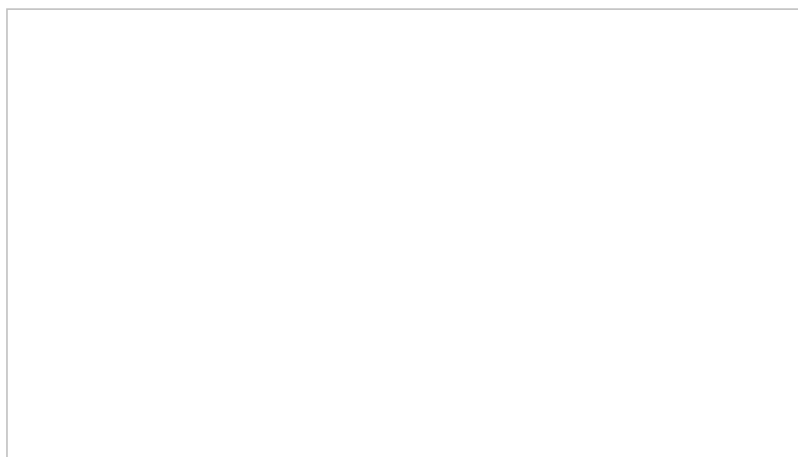
Introducing Communication Standards for Excellence

Introducing Nonpartisan Communications Standards and Resources

Primary election season is officially upon us! As your election office prepares to administer smooth and successful elections in 2024 and beyond, you're sure to be implementing a number of communications strategies, including:

- Informing voters of upcoming elections
- Answering voters' frequently asked questions
- Fostering relationships with community leaders
- Debunking misinformation and sharing factual and transparent information about the election process
- Ensuring you're meeting voters' language access needs

If you're looking to improve any of these processes, we've got you covered. The U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence is thrilled to introduce our newest [Standards for Election Excellence](#). This set of nonpartisan standards focuses on—you guessed it—communications. It includes everything from effectively distributing information to voters, to building and maintaining relationships with your community and with the media.



To support election offices in achieving these high standards, we've built and curated nonpartisan, generic resources. Here's just a sampling of our communications resources geared specifically to election offices:

[Communicating trusted election information training series](#) - A six-course series on getting accurate information to voters

[Election website template](#) - A template to create a straightforward election website that answers voters' top questions.

[Planning language access workbook](#) - Resources to help you serve voters in

their preferred language.

[Outreach letter to community organizations](#) - A template for reaching out to community organizations to recruit poll workers.

[Explore all communications resources](#)

As a refresher, last year the Alliance developed [five nonpartisan values](#) to advance the profession of U.S. election administration for years to come, along with our first set of nonpartisan standards for [achieving excellence in poll worker programs](#). The standards are designed by local election officials, designers, technologists, and other experts to support local election officials, improve election operations, and build public trust. These draft standards will be updated based on feedback from the election community. If you'd like to submit feedback on the communications standards, [we welcome your input](#).

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Date : 10/6/2023 12:23:53 PM

From : "Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandciviclife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Introducing Nonpartisan Standards and Resources for Election Excellence in Poll Worker Programs

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

Introducing Nonpartisan Standards and 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.

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](#)

The publication of these standards and resources are the second step in our roadmap for supporting election officials through the 2024 General Election and beyond. In the upcoming months, we'll be sharing more sets of voluntary, nonpartisan standards and resources for local election departments. The next topic is communications - get excited!

[Stay involved with the Alliance](#)

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Date : 8/9/2023 12:32:48 PM

From : "Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandciviclife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Introducing the Values for Election Excellence

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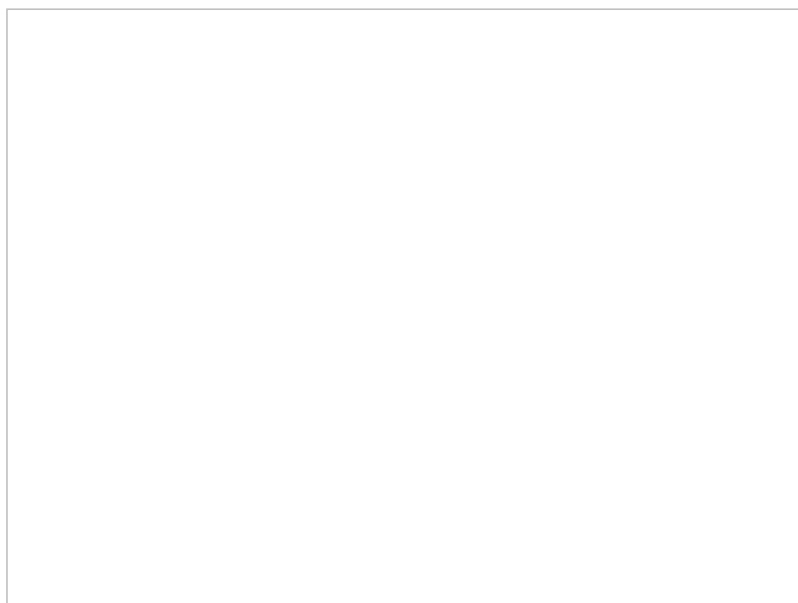
Introducing the Values for Election Excellence

Introducing the Values for Election Excellence

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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Date : 11/2/2023 5:11:36 PM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" hello@techandciviclife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Invitation to Share Your Experience as an Election Official – Confidential Survey

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Share your experience

Dear Tara,

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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Date : 4/4/2024 11:00:08 AM
From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicliflife.org
To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org
Subject : [MARKETING] Join CTCL in celebrating Vote Early Day

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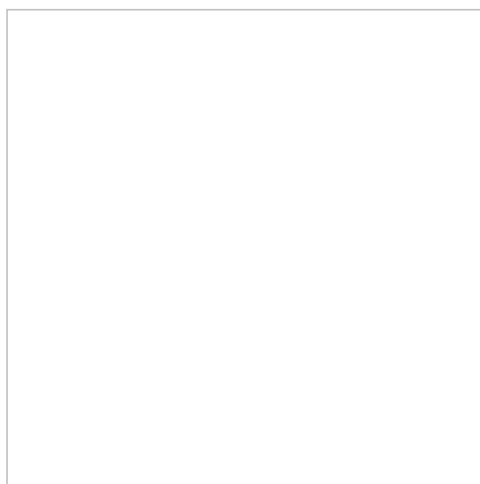
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Join CTCL in celebrating
Vote Early Day

Vote Early Day: Not Too Early to Start Planning

Join Center for Tech and Civic Life in celebrating Vote Early Day this fall!

CTCL is excited to celebrate Vote Early Day this fall to empower voters to cast their ballots early. Whether you're an election official or an election nerd, we encourage you to [sign up to celebrate this day of action for our democracy](#). Our partners at Vote Early Day can support you with **swag, digital tools, and national recognition for your work** to help Americans vote early.



Vote Early Day is a national civic holiday celebrated by businesses, nonprofits, election administrators, campus groups, and creatives to empower Americans with the tools and knowledge to share their voices in our democracy. In 2020, **over 100 million people cast their ballot ahead of Election Day**, more than the total early vote in the 2016 and 2018 elections combined.

This year's celebration is on **Tuesday, October 29**. The work we do together this fall will ensure we can rise to the challenge of uplifting voters as they decide who will lead our country as President, who will represent them in Congress, and the fate of many state elections and ballot referenda. The best part? Vote Early Day is an open-source holiday, so your election office or organization can celebrate in the way that is most meaningful and impactful for your community.

If you are as inspired to help Americans vote early as we are, we invite you to join this growing civic holiday at www.VoteEarlyDay.org/get-involved.

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Date : 11/8/2023 10:08:46 AM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" hello@techandciviclife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Last Chance: Share Your Experience As An Election Official

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Share your experience

Dear Tara,

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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Date : 1/23/2024 7:59:52 AM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicliflife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Last Chance: Share your input about nonpartisan standards for election excellence!

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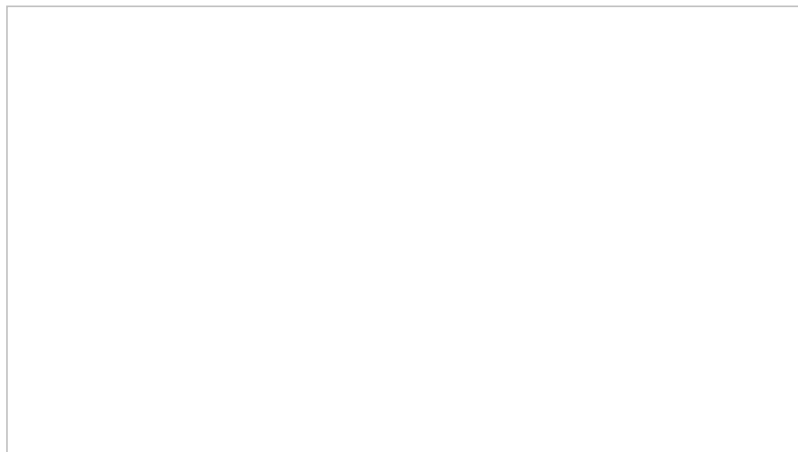
Last chance to share your input on poll worker standards

Last Chance: Share your Input about Nonpartisan Standards for Election Excellence in Poll Worker Programs

Join dozens of other election officials and experts who have already shared their input.

As election officials and fellow election nerds, we know that poll workers are likely on your mind this year. Whether you call them election judges, booth workers, precinct officials, board workers—or something else entirely—you may be pondering some common questions. How can election departments recruit enough poll workers for Election Day? How can we effectively train them, manage them, and retain them so they do an excellent job and keep coming back year after year?

At CTCL and the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence, we're also thinking a lot about poll workers as we help set the standard for what excellent poll worker programs look like across the country. After collaborating with nearly 50 election departments that serve 30.5 million voters, we came up with four nonpartisan poll worker standards—each defining goals and outcomes that are achievable by all local election departments.



We're now seeking feedback from the election community to help make the poll worker standards even stronger! Here's your chance to join dozens of other election officials and experts who have already shared their input. **Will you let us know how the poll worker standards can be improved to meet the needs of your community?** [Fill out our brief form](#) by this **Friday, January 26th**. This should take 15-60 minutes of your time, depending on how many standards you'd like to provide feedback on.

[Provide feedback on poll worker standards](#)

Thank you for sharing your input with us. Your feedback is valued and will help shape the final standards for the field of election administration and maintain our healthy democracy for years to come.

[Comment](#)

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Date : 12/7/2023 4:00:06 PM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicliflife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Prep for poll worker excellence in 2024

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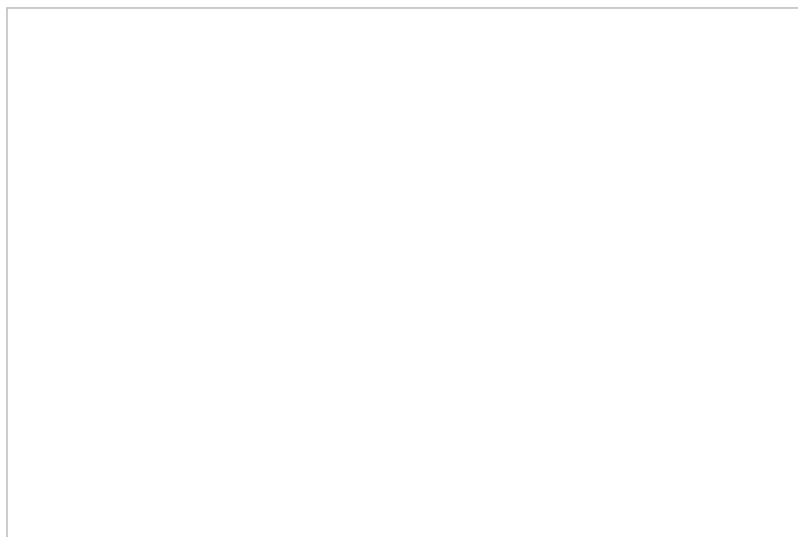
Prep for poll worker excellence

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Prep for Poll Worker Excellence in 2024

Whether you call them poll workers, election judges, or something else entirely, the individuals who join you to directly serve voters are key members of the team. Great poll workers can be the difference between a smooth day that builds voters' trust in democracy or a chaotic experience that risks making the evening news.

The good news? Some careful planning can help you lead the best possible team heading into 2024. To help, we've pulled together a few resources for achieving poll worker excellence, whether voting lasts one day or takes place over several weeks.



1. Take the trainings

Online training for election officials. CTCL's new poll worker series sets you up for success when [recruiting, training, managing, and retaining poll workers](#). Completely free, accessible 24/7, and taken at your own pace, "Leading a Successful Poll Worker Program" includes four 90-minute trainings.

This series will help you:

- Explore frameworks, strategies, resources, and case studies to understand the ins and out of poll worker programs
- Get inspired by local election officials from across the country as they share what works in their communities
- Integrate relevant poll worker practices to better serve voters in your area

Who is this series designed for?

- Local election administrators who oversee or manage poll worker programs

- Others looking for an overview of the full scope and impact of poll worker programs

Sound like you? [Register today!](#)

2. Try out something new

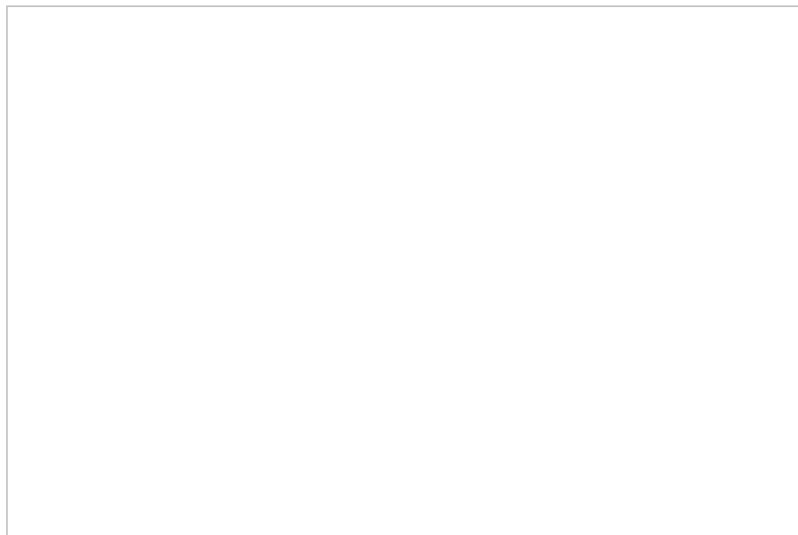
Online applications. How easy is it to apply to be a poll worker in your office? Increasingly, prospective poll workers are looking for a simple way to submit their info that doesn't involve a paper form or a phone call. If you're hoping to put your application online, check out the [Digital poll worker application toolkit](#). This resource even includes a free generic template that automatically organizes applicants' responses in one spreadsheet.

Election worker management system. An [election worker management system](#) brings together online applications with other functions like scheduling training, assigning locations, automatic email and texting reminders, and more. While these tools can be pricey, medium sized and large offices often see efficiencies right away, freeing up hours and hours of staff time for other tasks. Smaller offices may still benefit, and can find ideas for new approaches to try out -- on a scale that works for them.

Standards of conduct. However you manage your team, make sure your expectations for poll workers are clear from the start. If you haven't yet adopted [Standards of Conduct](#) for your office, consider adding that to your to-do list. This type of policy makes it easy to celebrate great work -- and quickly spot and remove any workers stepping out of line.

3. Focus on curiosity and gratitude

Did you just wrap up an election cycle? Now is the perfect time to ask for feedback from your poll workers and celebrate their accomplishments.



Debrief the last election. There's enormous attention on the preparation for an election. So, it can be easy to overlook something that comes after: debriefing with your workers and learning from the process in order to inform the administration of the next election. By having post-election conversations with your team, you'll gain insights to help make your next election even better. And, you'll show poll workers that their opinions, and their work, matters to you. Try out the [Guide for debriefing elections](#) for tips on what to ask, how to make sense of the answers, and a generic template for a debrief survey.

Say thank you, again and again. A little gratitude can go a long way. Build in opportunities to say thanks to your poll workers -- at training, during voting, and

in the days and weeks after they've put in long hours serving voters. Some offices use handwritten or hand-signed cards, certificates of achievement, and even in-person gatherings to celebrate their poll workers. (Don't forget that processing poll workers' payroll as fast as possible is another way to show you care!) Expressing gratitude is the last step of any current poll worker management cycle -- and also the first step of the next one. When your front-line team feels valued, they're more likely to sign back up for the next election, and the one after that. Remember: repeat poll workers mean less recruitment for you and more experienced help for voters.

So, what's your next step? Whether it's [taking a training](#), using a [new tool](#), or sharing some gratitude, you'll be on the road to poll worker excellence in 2024.

4. Help set the standard

The resources shared here support achievement of voluntary standards from the US Alliance for Election Excellence. While every jurisdiction is different, every office shares a commitment to administering the best possible elections for their voters. The Alliance standards, drafted by and for election officials, describe what that shared, nonpartisan vision of excellence looks like.

The first set of nonpartisan standards focuses on poll workers and is currently in a public comment period (deadline extended!). What does a great poll worker program look like to you? Add your perspective to the [feedback form](#) by January 26th. Then, stay tuned for updated poll worker standards to use in your office.

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Date : 1/22/2024 2:00:03 PM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicliflife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Register now: Webinar discussing a new federal grant opportunity

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Join us for a new webinar series

Register Now: FEMA BRIC Grants Webinar

[Please join us](#) this Thursday, January 25th at 1pm ET for the first webinar in our 2024 Federal Grants Opportunities series. This webinar will teach local elections officials & other interested parties about what types of projects can be funded by FEMA BRIC grants, the process to apply to these funds, and some recommendations to increase your likelihood of receiving this public funding. You can learn more about the FEMA BRIC program [here](#).

[Register Now](#)

Questions? Please reach out to colline@techandcivicliflife.org

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Date : 1/2/2024 4:29:32 PM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicliflife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Register to meet with Members of Congress during JEOLC next week

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Register to meet with Members of Congress during JEOLC

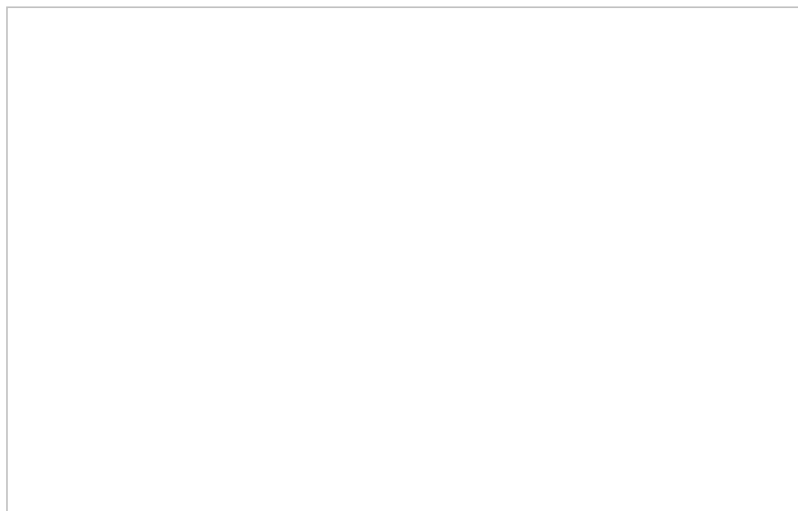
Friends,

Happy New Year! We are so grateful for all that you did this past year, and are looking forward to continuing to collaborate in 2024. With major elections just around the corner, the team at CTCL is here to help your office in any way that we can.

We know many of you will be in Washington DC next week for the Election Center's Joint Election Officials Liaison Conference (JEOLC) and we are looking forward to seeing you there. **We would love to help you build a relationship with your lawmakers, so you can advocate for the resources you need to run excellent elections.** If you're an election official planning to be in DC next week, we can support you in requesting and scheduling meetings with your Congressional Delegations on the morning of Wednesday, January 10. **[Please register here if you would like to participate.](#)**

Once submitted, a member of our team will reach out to the email you provided with next steps. **You must register (or reach out directly) by this Friday, January 5 in order for us to schedule meetings for you.** Round-trip transportation from the Pentagon City Ritz Carlton Hotel as well as coffee and a bagged lunch will be provided during the visit.

Whether or not you will be visiting Capitol Hill, we invite you to join us for a casual gathering and networking event on January 11, 2023, from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Banditos Tacos & Tequila, 1301 S Joyce St., Arlington, VA 22202. Small bites and beverages will be provided, and all are welcome. No registration is required.



We look forward to your active participation in shaping the dialogue around

election administration. Please let colline@centerfortechandcivicliflife.org know if you have any questions or concerns.

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Date : 3/26/2024 12:59:55 PM

From : "Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicliflife.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [MARKETING] Take action: Call on Congress to support election funding

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Calling on Congress to Support Election Infrastructure Funding

Calling on Congress to Support \$400M in Election Infrastructure Funding for FY25

You may have seen on Friday that Congress passed \$55 million in HAVA Security Grants as a part of the FY24 budget. It was hard work down to the very final minutes to preserve the funding for election infrastructure in this bill, and was due to the incredibly hard work of hundreds of election officials and partners to ensure that Congress heard your needs loud and clear. Thank you to everyone who took action this year, whether it was drafting op eds, meeting with your elected Members of Congress, submitting requests, signing petitions, or taking other actions to prevent election infrastructure funding from being cut down to zero. The EAC will now distribute these grants (a minimum of \$1 million per state) within the next 45 days.

Since Congress was behind in negotiating FY24, we are already rolling directly into FY25 advocacy - and we know that **\$55 million is not nearly enough to meet the needs of local elections offices across the country**. That is why we are asking you to submit a request letter to your Congressional office, calling on your elected representatives to support \$400 million in elections infrastructure funding this coming fiscal year.

The process is simple:

1. If you do not know which Members of Congress represent your district, look up your elected Representative and Senators [here](#).
2. Customize your request letter using the template [here](#). Address it to your Members of Congress, and add your letterhead (if applicable).
3. Submit your letter to your Congressional delegation by **April 5**.

In order to continue to grow our support for elections infrastructure funding, it will take all of us. Thank you for taking action and continuing to make your voices heard. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to keara@techandcivicliflife.org.

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Date : 6/30/2023 12:59:39 PM

From : "Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicle.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] [MARKETING] 11 Ideas to Celebrate Independence Day

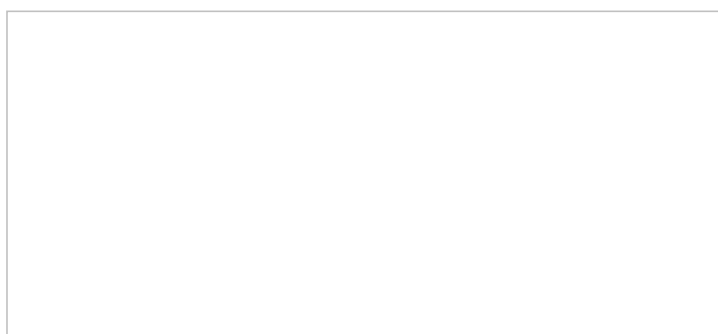
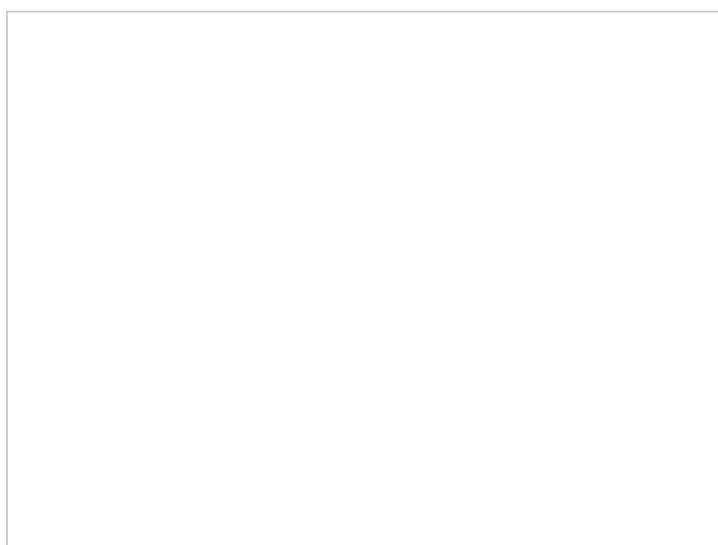
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Celebrating Independence Day

11 Ideas to Celebrate Independence Day

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.



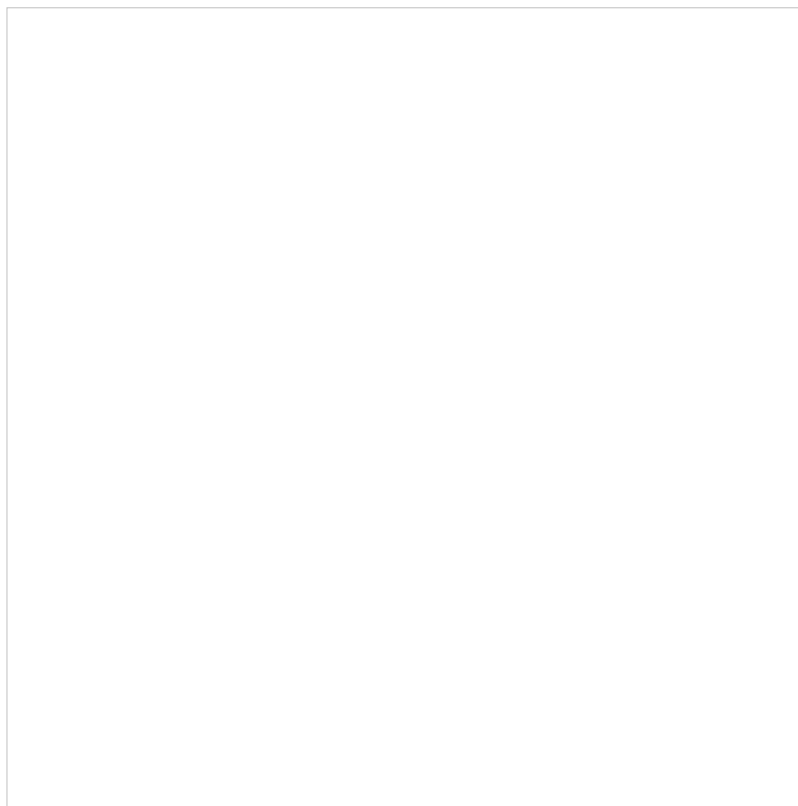
As we head into the holiday weekend, we're sharing [11 ways that you can celebrate July 4th](#) in your jurisdiction. Whether you decide to register new voters, recruit poll workers, give back to your community, or start a new program, we hope this list provides you with some patriotic inspiration. As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

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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Date : 6/9/2023 8:59:57 AM

From : "Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicle.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] [MARKETING] A Live Results Tracker for Streamlining Election Night

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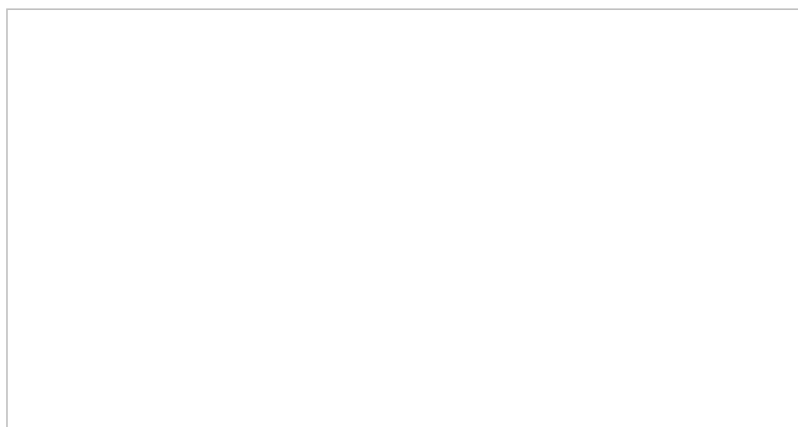
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Greene County, Missouri's
Live Results Tracker

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.

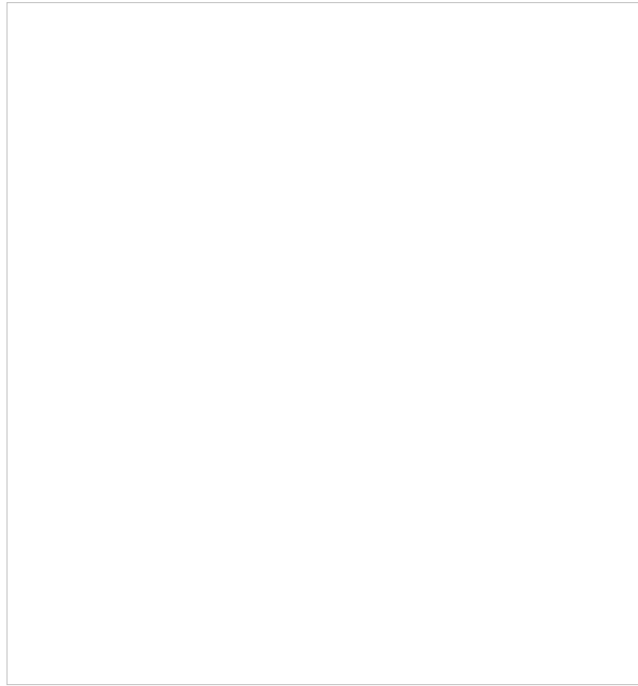
Located in southwestern Missouri, Greene County is home to about 200,000 voters and plenty of history. Its county seat, Springfield, is the birthplace of cashew chicken, Bass Pro Shops, and Route 66 (one of the last remaining original stretches of Route 66 can be found downtown).



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."**

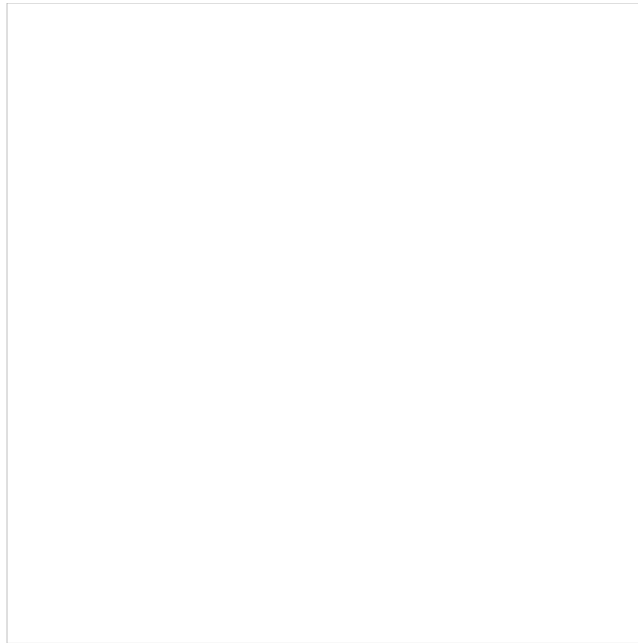
[Read More about the Results Tracker](#)

Power the Polls Election Administrator Survey

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

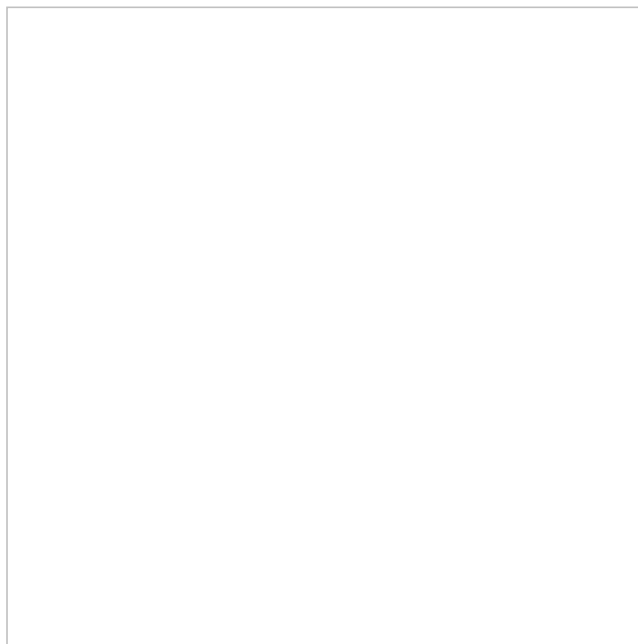
We're humbled and honored to be voted National Issue Advocacy Organization of the Year at the [Powerful Idea Awards](#) for our work with the [Election Infrastructure Initiative](#).



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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Date : 5/5/2023 3:42:26 PM

From : "Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicle.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] [MARKETING] May 18 Deadline: Homeland Security Grant Program

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Understanding the Homeland Security Grant Program

Understanding the Homeland Security Grant Program

With the 2024 General Election on the horizon, we know it's as important as ever that election officials like you have the resources you need to run secure elections. Today, we're outlining two components of the [Homeland Security Grant Program](#) (HSGP) to help you better understand what resources are available to you from the federal government, and what you can do to advocate for the funding your election office needs.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is providing **\$1.12 billion** to enhance the ability of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to potential terrorist acts and other hazards. **There are two grant programs that you should know about that make up the HSGP: the State Homeland Security Program, and the Urban Area Security Initiative.** These grants are a separate stream of funding from traditional HAVA Security Grants, and are managed through FEMA. They have traditionally funded local agencies such as Fire, Police, EMS, and other local safety offices.

These grants are managed by a **State Administrative Authority (SAA)**, and there is not an opportunity for local elections offices to apply independently. In order for projects to be included in this year's grant applications, the SAA must agree that the project is a priority. Because of the 3% minimum spent, shovel-ready projects that can clearly demonstrate that they reduce the risk of terrorism in a community related to election administration (namely physical or cybersecurity) are more likely to be included. **All applications are due by May 18, 2023**, so local election offices are encouraged to meet with their SAA's urgently.

SAA contacts differ from each state. Using FEMA's list of grants officers we were able to locate the best contact info for each SAA, [which you can find here organized alphabetically by state.](#)

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

What is it?

SHSP assists state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the capabilities necessary to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism.

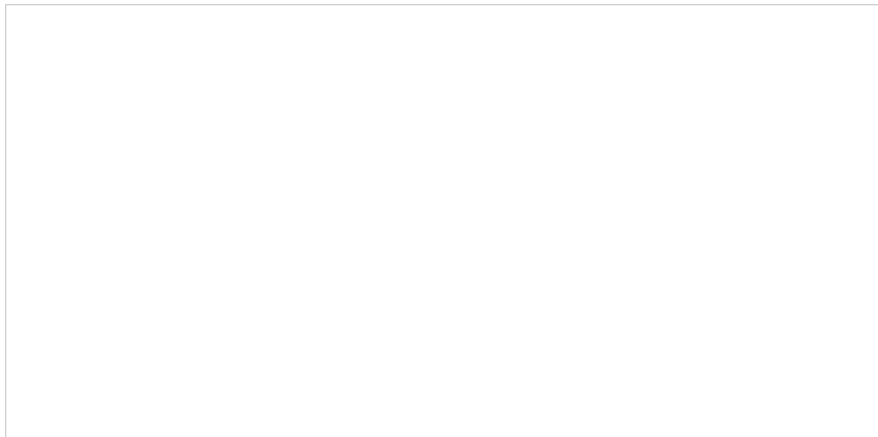
All 56 states and territories are eligible to apply for SHSP funds, and the projects are managed by the chief elections officer in the state.

How much can states receive & what can the money be used for?

The DHS has allocated a total of \$415M to SHSP. This year, **a minimum of 3% of the budget is allocated specifically towards election security for state and local jurisdictions**. These grants are managed by the chief election official in each state, and must support local elections jurisdictions in security upgrades.

That can include:

- Implementing measures to enhance cybersecurity, including CISA training, and cybersecurity risk assessments
- Migrating online services to the “.gov” internet domain
- Public awareness/preparedness campaigns discussing election integrity and security measures



What can election officials do?

Because this is a statewide program, local election officials cannot apply directly for funds. Only the state administrative agency (SAA) has authority to submit grant applications to FEMA. Election officials can engage their SAA to ensure that they have everything they need in terms of justification, and they can advocate for statewide CISA training with local election offices. [Please see this list of the contact information for the SAA in each state.](#)

DEADLINE: Completed applications must be submitted by the State Administrative Authority no later than 5 p.m. ET on **May 18, 2023**.

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

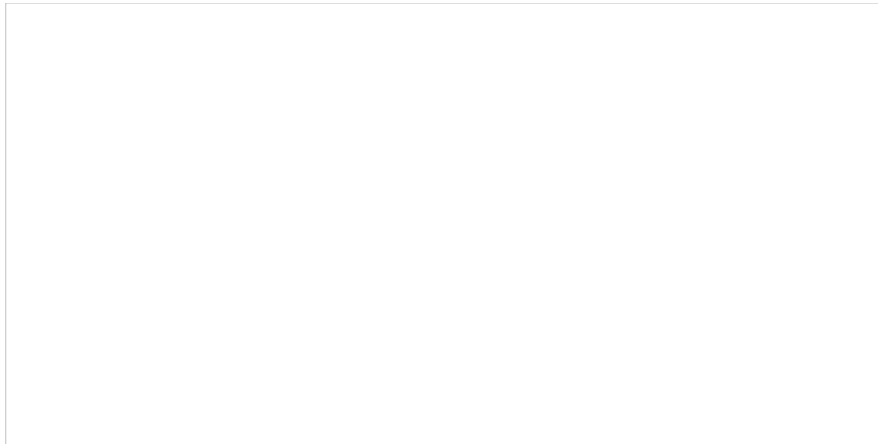
What is it?

UASI assists high-threat, high-density Urban Area efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the capabilities necessary to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism.

There are 40 pre-established UASI regions that are high-density and at high risk for terrorism. These UASI regions are eligible to apply via their SAA.

How much can jurisdictions receive and what can the money be used for?

The DHS has allocated a total of \$615M to UASI. Of that, \$18.45M is available for regional election security. **Here's a breakdown of the eligible urban areas and the funds allocated to them:**



What can election officials do?

Similar to SHSP, local election officials **cannot apply directly for funds**. Only the state administrative agency (SAA) has authority to submit grant applications to FEMA. If you're an election official from one of the jurisdictions covered by UASI, [please see this list to find the contact information for your SAA](#).

Completed applications must be submitted no later than **5 p.m. ET on May 18, 2023**.

What if my jurisdiction isn't covered under UASI?

We encourage you to start advocating now for funds to run a smooth election in 2024. Here are a couple of steps you can take to advocate for the resources you need:

- Engage with your members of Congress to make it clear that you have additional funding needs.
- Develop and build a relationship with your state's grants officer to ensure you're fully utilizing local funds available to your office. There may be unclaimed funds, or you may be eligible for other streams of funding.

What can I prepare for next year?

We are hopeful that a minimum allocation for election security will continue into FY 2024. Regardless of whether your projects are approved this year, we recommend starting now in establishing relationships with your chief election official and SAA. In some circumstances, unspent funds may become available for small, ad-hoc federal grants. In other instances, this will allow your SAA more time to balance the grant application to include your urgent priorities.

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Date : 3/9/2023 12:18:55 PM

From : "Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicle.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] [MARKETING] President Biden proposes \$5 billion for election offices

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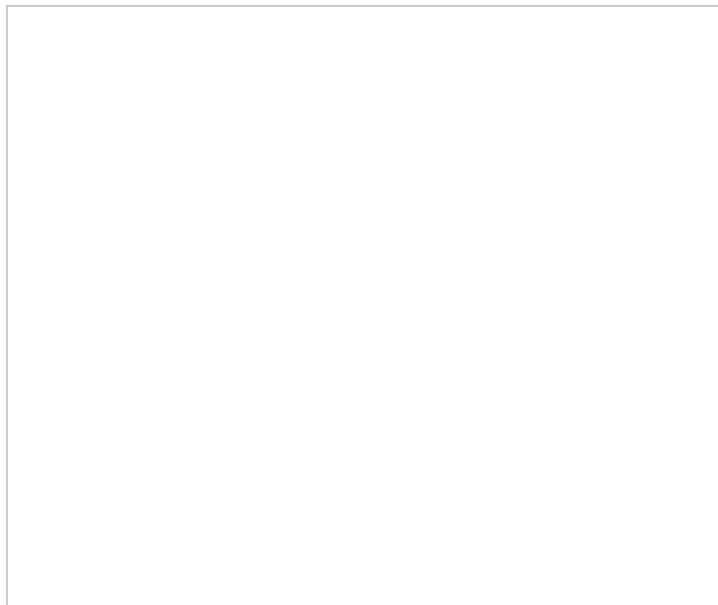
Biden Continues to Fight for Federal Investments in Elections

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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.



"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@techandcivicle.org and we'll help you get started.

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Date : 4/17/2023 3:04:52 PM

From : "Andrea, Center for Tech and Civic Life" andrea@techandcivicle.org

To : "McMenamin, Tara" Tara.McMenamin@cityofracine.org

Subject : [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] [MARKETING] Ride Along Program Brings Transparency

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San Benito County, California Creates a Ride Along Program

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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.

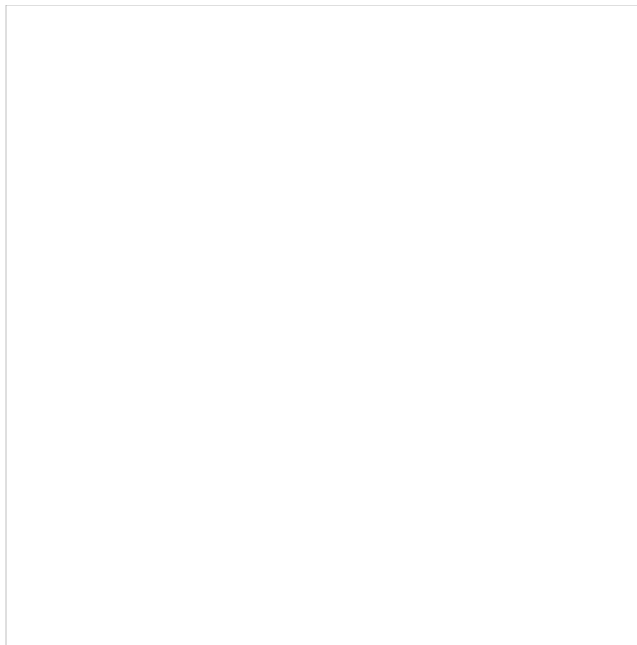
San Benito County, California is a small agricultural community less than 50 miles south of San Jose, home to about 38,000 registered voters. Francisco and the Elections Coordinator, Cheyenne Wiles, are part of a young, creative, and engaged team of four dedicated to customer service.



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 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.

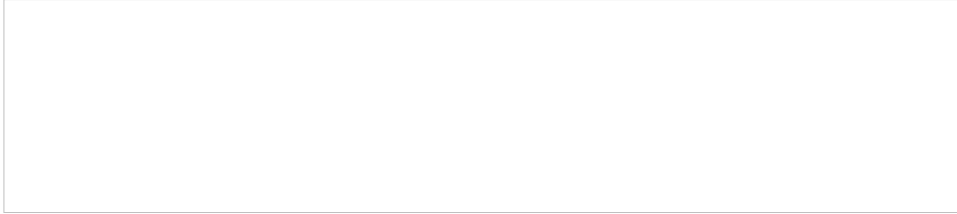
“[ERIC] gave us an effective way to communicate with those specific voters and not rely on multiple mailings, waiting for a reply from the voter to confirm. With ERIC we can send one piece of mail instead of two, saving time and money for everyone,” says Brianna.

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@techandcivillife.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:



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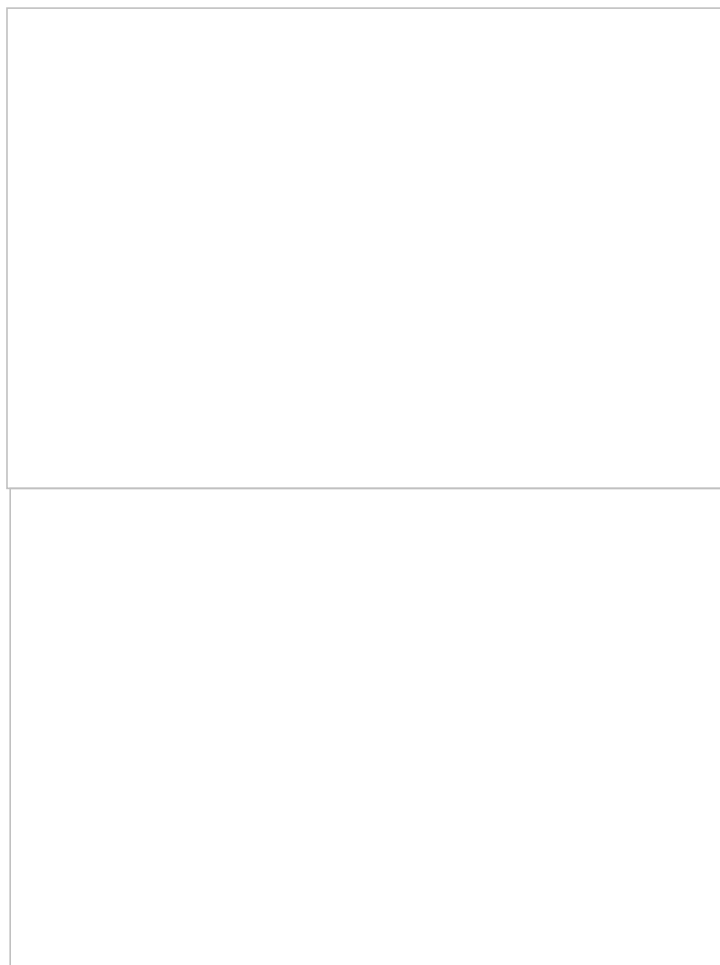
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In Case You Missed It: The U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence Hosts First Annual Debrief Event

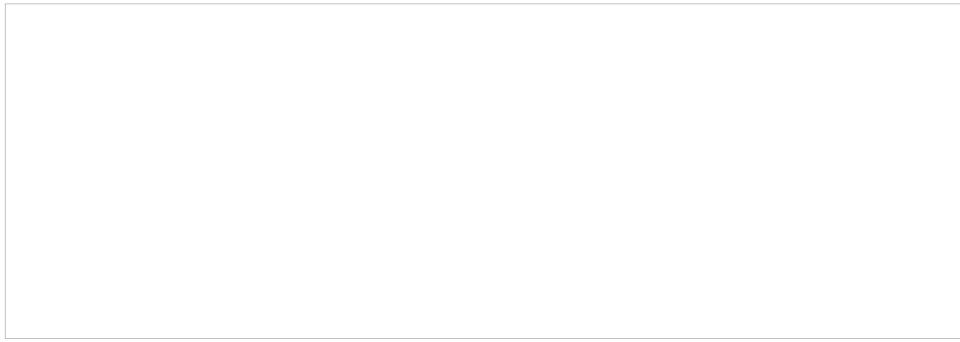
Earlier this month, CTCL—as part of the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence—held an in-person conference where election officials could come together, debrief about the common challenges they faced during the 2022 election, and share solutions. We're feeling energized after three jam-packed days of 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.



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](#)

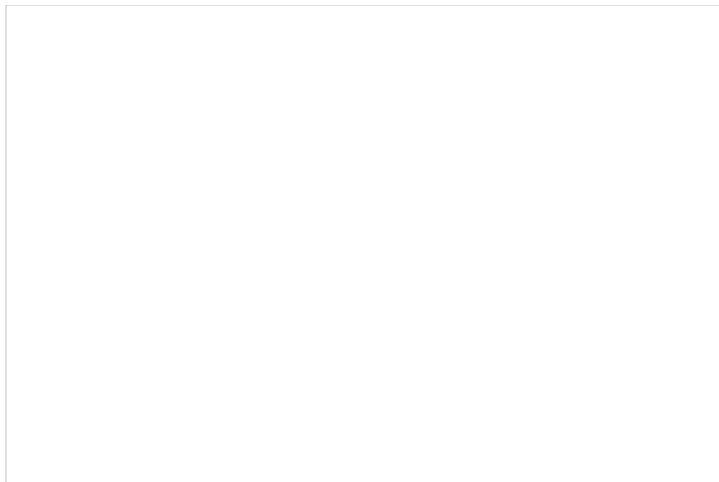
A Refresher: Election Excellence and Funding Go Hand in Hand

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:



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.

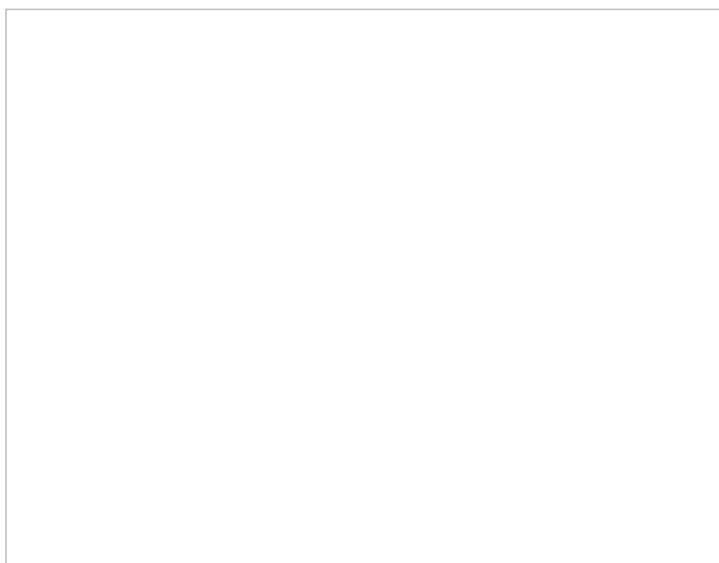
EII is a nonpartisan, collaborative effort that brings together election officials, nonprofits, counties, cities, and states who believe that election infrastructure is some of our nation's most critical and should be funded appropriately. **Together, we're calling on Congress to invest \$400 million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