

# 2019 Survey of Local Election Officials



The 2019 Survey of Local Election Officials is the second annual collaboration between the Early Voting Information Center at Reed College and Democracy Fund. We are using this survey to lift up local election officials' voices in national, regional, and state conversations about election administration, integrity, and conduct. The survey provides you with an important, timely, and respectfully brief opportunity to weigh in on issues of concern in the profession.

We are sending surveys to local election officials across the US. We invite you to participate in the survey, which should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Your responses to this survey will remain confidential. Neither your name nor jurisdiction's name will be released, and only aggregate group characteristics will be published. We may share anonymous quotes from any comments you provide in the survey, unless you ask us to keep them private. Democracy Fund will make the results of the survey available after the survey results have been analyzed.

To learn more about this survey visit the project site at: http://blogs.reed.edu/earlyvoting/leo-survey

Our report from the 2018 survey — "Stewards of Democracy: The Views of American Local Election Officials" — may be found at: http://www.democracyfund.org. The report includes a detailed summary of LEO responses to several open-ended questions on how best to improve election administration. We have a few more open-ended questions in this year's survey that we hope you will respond to.

Thank you for your participation and we look forward to sharing the results with you! Sincerely,

Natalie Adona, JD/MPA, Democracy Fund Paul Gronke, PhD, Reed College

If you have any questions or concerns, call (503) 517-7656 or email: leosurvey@reed.edu

response. Select only one option unless instructed to select multiple. In this survey we provide opportunities for you to write in comments in your own words. We will read each of these, please print responses legibly to assure we include them. If you need to correct your answer, cross out the incorrect response - then fill AND circle the correct response. 1. Are you the local official responsible for administering elections in your jurisdiction? Yes, I am the local official responsible for administering elections. No, but my office has determined I am the right person to answer this survey. (NOTE: If you are completing this for the local election official, please complete the survey based on their experience for Questions 2 through 14.) PLEASE STOP - Contact Paul Manson at O No. leosurvey@reed.edu. 1a. What is your title? 2. Were you elected or appointed to your **current position**? (If you are filling this out for the chief election official, please indicate if they are elected or appointed.) Elected **SKIP TO QUESTION 4** Appointed • Other: 3. You indicated you were **elected** to your position; if you recall, what type of election was that? Partisan election Non-partisan election 4. What was the first federal election that you administered as the chief local election official in your jurisdiction? 2000 or earlier  $\bigcirc$  2008 2016  $\bigcirc$  2002  $\bigcirc$  2018 2010 O 2004 O 2012 2020 will be the first federal election I  $\bigcirc$  2006  $\bigcirc$  2014 administer

Instructions: Please use a pen or pencil to completely fill in each bubble next to your

	e interested in how people first came into election administration. If you recall, what our occupation or status <b>just before</b> you were <b>first employed</b> in an elections office?	
Private	e Sector Employment:	
	Election services private business	
	Non-elections related private business	
Public	Sector Employment/Service:	
	○ Elected official	
	O Non-elections related local government employment	
	O Non-elections related state or federal government employment	
Politic	al Campaigns, Parties, and Organizations	
	<ul> <li>Employed with a political campaign, party, or organization</li> </ul>	
Non-P	rofit Employment:	
	Employed with a non-profit organization	
Volunt	eering:	
	O Volunteered or served in an unpaid capacity for an election office	
	O Volunteered for a political campaign, party, or organization	
Educa	tion, Academia, and Other	
	Employed in higher education	
	Graduated from college or graduate school	
	Graduated from high school	
	Other (please specify):	
6. How c	did you start working in election administration?	
0	I was hired to work in an elections office or in some other office that also handled election administration (clerk, auditor, etc.).	
$\bigcirc$	I was <u>elected</u> as a chief local election official.	
$\bigcirc$	I was appointed as a chief local election official.	
$\bigcirc$	Other (please specify):	

7. In you	r <b>first job</b> in election administration	n, how were you	employed?
$\bigcirc$	Full-time	O Part-time	
8. In this	first job, for what duration were yo	u hired?	
$\bigcirc$	Permanently		
$\bigcirc$	Temporarily		
$\bigcirc$	Other (please specify):		
9. What	year did you start this first job in el	ection administr	ration? (e.g. 2009)
10. Wha	t was the title of this first job?		
admi <b>com</b>	state uses a variety of different of inistration tasks are shared by mult ponents of election administrationsible for? Select all that apply. If	iple offices, agei on are you, or so	omebody under your supervision,
$\bigcirc$	Voter registration	$\circ$	Election Day voting
$\bigcirc$	Voter roll maintenance	$\circ$	Selecting voting equipment
$\bigcirc$	Designing and printing ballots	$\circ$	Counting ballots
$\bigcirc$	Managing polling places	$\circ$	Election recounts and audits
$\circ$	Recruiting and managing poll workers	0	Canvassing and certifying the election
$\bigcirc$	Early voting (including absentee)	0	ALL OF THE ABOVE
$\circ$	Other:		

	ch of the following best desc	ribes your (	current job?			
$\circ$	Election-related matters co	onstitute <u>all</u>	or almost all	of my work	load.	
0	Election-related matters co duties not related to election			my workloa	<u>d,</u> but I have	other
0	Election-related matters co	nstitute <u>les</u>	s than half of	my workloa	ad.	
	ıding yourself, how many <b>բ</b> rvision performing elections		•	e equivalen	t) are under y	our/
$\circ$	1		$\circ$	11-20		
$\circ$	2-5		$\circ$	21-50		
$\circ$	6-10		$\circ$	More than 5	50	
in at the	election technologies may be polls, counting ballots, etc.)					-
	ral without reference to any ment with the following state	specific use	e. Please indi	icate your a		Strongly disagree
disagree  The use has drai	ral without reference to any	specific use ements abo Strongly	e. Please indi out election to Somewhat	icate your a echnology. Neither agree nor	greement or Somewhat	Strongly
The use has drain administ We have	of new election technology matically improved election ration in my jurisdiction.  moved too quickly to ew election technologies in	specific use ements abo Strongly agree	e. Please indi out election to Somewhat	icate your a echnology. Neither agree nor	greement or Somewhat	Strongly
The use has drai administ We have adopt no this cour	of new election technology matically improved election ration in my jurisdiction.  moved too quickly to ew election technologies in	specific use ements abo Strongly agree	e. Please indi out election to Somewhat	icate your a echnology. Neither agree nor	greement or Somewhat	Strongly disagree

We would like your opinion on how election administration has changed over time. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

### 16. Compared to when I administered my first federal election, it is easier today for voters...

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
to register to vote.	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	0
to identify where their polling place is.	0	0	0	0	0	0
to find election information.	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	0
to chose to vote early in person or by mail.	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	0
to vote.	0	0	0	0	$\circ$	0

## 17. Compared to **when I administered my first federal election**, it is easier today for **election officials...**

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
to get voters registered.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
to conduct voter education.	0	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	0	0	0
to administer pre- election voting.	0	0	0	0	0	0
to administer voting on Election Day.	0	0	0	0	$\circ$	0
to certify election results.	0	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	0

18. Next we would like to ask you about your personal experience in your role as a local election official. Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
My work gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment.	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
My workload is reasonable.	$\circ$	0	$\bigcirc$	0	$\circ$
Our office has enough physical space to do our job well.	0	0	0	0	0
My work is respected by other county or local officials.	$\circ$	0	0	0	$\bigcirc$
My work is respected by citizens.	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$
I am satisfied with my pay.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
A lack of sufficient funding often prevents me from doing my job well.	0	0	0	0	0
I do not feel I can balance my work and home priorities.	0	0	0	0	0
I would encourage my own child to pursue a career in local election administration.	0	0	0	0	0
My county or local government does not consult me on policy or budget decisions.	0	0	0	0	0
My career goals include running for elected office, (different than my current position if elected).	0	0	0	0	0

19. Here i	s a list of	other legal	and admir	nistrative (	changes th	nat some	say impr	ove Americ	can
elections.	Please in	dicate indic	cate how n	nuch you	support or	oppose e	each of the	hese chang	jes.

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Increase the influence of local election officials in making state policy	0	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
Standardize election rules and procedures across my whole state	0	0	0	0	0
Standardize election rules and procedures across the United States	0	0	0	0	0
Allow for different election rules and procedures between rural and urban jurisdictions	0	0	0	0	0
Increase the opportunities for early voting	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	0	0

20. The following is a list of ideas people sometimes propose, arguing that they will make elections more convenient or more secure. Please indicate how much you support or oppose each of these ideas regardless of whether or not they are in place in your state.

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Run all elections by mail	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Allow people to register to vote on Election Day at the polls	0	0	0	0	0
Move Election Day to a weekend	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
Make Election Day a national holiday	0	0	0	0	0
Consolidate local, state, and federal elections to take place at the same time	0	0	0	0	0
Increase the use of Internet voting (online voting)	0	0	$\circ$	0	0
Require the use of photo identification for voting	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$

21. Thirty-seven states plus the District of Columbia offer **online voter registration** (OVR). Based on your experience with OVR in your state, or your knowledge of OVR as an election official, do you agree or disagree that OVR...

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Need more information
Makes it easier to get voters registered	$\circ$	0	0	0	0	0
Increases the costs of election administration	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0	$\circ$
Results in more accurate voter rolls	0	0	$\circ$	0	0	$\circ$
Increases the possibility of voter fraud	0	0	0	0	0	0

22. Eighteen states plus the District of Columbia offer **automatic voter registration** (AVR), where eligible citizens are automatically enrolled as part of a transaction at the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or another state agency. Based on your experience with AVR in your state, or your knowledge of AVR as an election official, do you agree or disagree that AVR...

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Need more information
Makes it easier to get voters registered	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increases the costs of election administration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Results in more accurate voter rolls	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	0	0	0
Increases the possibility of voter fraud	0	0	0	0	0	0

an eligible citizen has the opportunity to opt out of registration at the point of the transaction. Other states use <b>back end AVR</b> , where citizens are registered unless they opt out via a mailer sent after the transaction. We are interested in your opinion about these two ways of implementing AVR.
Please indicate which form of AVR you support; if you do not support AVR there is an option to share that with us.
I strongly support <b>front end</b> AVR.
I somewhat support front end AVR.
I somewhat support back end AVR.
I strongly support back end AVR.
O I support AVR and have <b>no opinion</b> on front or back end versions.
O I am <b>opposed</b> to using AVR.
I need more information to answer.
24. Please share with us why you selected your answer to <b>Question 23</b> above on AVR. Every response will be read; please print clearly for our team to properly hear your views.

23. Some states use front end or point of service automatic voter registration (AVR), where

25. People have lots of different opinions about elections. Below, we list several pairs of phrases that might be used to describe voting and elections. Please indicate how you fall between these two phrases by **filling in the numbered circles** along the spectrum from "Strongly agree with Statement A" to "Strongly agree with Statement B".

Statement A				Statement B				
I prefer that all voters cast ballots on Election Day at a polling place or voting center.			voting	I prefer that voters have lots of options such as voting at home or early in-person voting along with Election Day voting.				
1	2	3	4	(5)	6	7		
Strongly a Statement	_		Neutral		Strongly ago State	ree with ement B		
	Stateme	ent C		Stat	ement D			
it easy for p	people to exerc	n processes that make cise the right to vote, some security risks.	possi	ble, even if doing	e voting as secure g so makes it hard ercise the right to v	ler for		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Strongly a Statement	•		Neutral		Strongly ago State	ree with ement D		
	Stateme	ent E		Stat	tement F			
		responsibility for		rnment ought to	tement F take responsibility e voters are regist			
	ought to take i	responsibility for	makir	rnment ought to	take responsibility			
making sur	s ought to take in the property of the propert	responsibility for ered to vote.	makiı vote.	rnment ought to	take responsibility e voters are regist  6  Strongly agi	ered to		
making sur  1  Strongly a	s ought to take in the property of the propert	responsibility for rered to vote.	makii vote.	rnment ought to ng sure all eligibl	take responsibility e voters are regist  6  Strongly agi	ered to  7 ree with		
making sur  1  Strongly a Statement  Voting is a election no	gree with t E  Stateme	responsibility for rered to vote.	makii vote.  4  Neutral  Voting or no	rnment ought to ng sure all eligibl	take responsibility e voters are regist  6  Strongly age State  ement H  ople can choose to ling on how they fee	ree with ement F		
making sur  1  Strongly a Statement  Voting is a election no	gree with t E  Statement  Stateme	responsibility for rered to vote.  3  ent G  nould vote in every	makii vote.  4  Neutral  Voting or no	rnment ought to ng sure all eligibl	take responsibility e voters are regist  6  Strongly age State  ement H  ople can choose to ling on how they fee	ree with ement F		

26. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements regarding the relationship between local officials and the general public?

	Should be elected, in a partisan contest	Should be elected, in a non-partisan contest	Should be appointed by an elected official or other governing body	I don't think it matters	l'm not sure
District Attorney	0	0	0	0	0
City or Town Council	0	0	0	0	0
Sheriff	0	0	0	0	0
Local Election Officials	0	0	0	0	0
Local School Board	0	0	0	0	0

27. Whe duties?	n you <u>firs</u>	st became an election official, did you receive training to prepare you for your
(	○ No	SKIP TO QUESTION 28
(	) Yes	<b></b>
	If yo	u selected YES:
	27a.	How would you characterize your <u>initial training</u> as an election official?
	0	Extremely effective
		Very effective
	0	Moderately effective
	0	Slightly effective
	0	Not effective at all
28. Do y your dut		ve ongoing or regular professional education and training to prepare you for
(	○ No	SKIP TO QUESTION 29
(	○ Yes	
	If yo	u selected YES:
	28a.	How would you characterize your ongoing training as an election official?
	0	Extremely effective
		Very effective
	0	Moderately effective
		Slightly effective
	0	Not effective at all

29.	To what e	extent do	you agree with	n each of th	e following	statements	regarding t	he relatio	nship
bet	ween loca	al election	officials and t	he general	public?				

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I <b>enjoy</b> educating citizens about voting rules and procedures.	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
The <b>lack of citizen knowledge</b> about voting rules and procedures causes significant problems when people go to vote.	0	0	0	0	0
The <b>primary responsibility</b> of local election officials is to <b>conduct the election</b> , not worry about voter education or voter satisfaction.	0	0	0	0	0
Local election officials should consider it <b>part of their responsibilities</b> to work on voter education and voter satisfaction.	0	0	0	0	0
My office has <b>enough time and resources</b> to work on educating voters, along with conducting the election.	0	0	0	0	0
It is part of my job to <b>encourage voter turnout</b> .	0	0	0	0	0
Local election officials should work to reduce demographic disparities in voter turnout.	0	0	0	0	0

# 30. To what extent are the following organizations helpful to you in preparing for federal elections?

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not at all helpful	Not applicable
The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC)	0	0	0	0
Your state association of election officials	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Your state elections office	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$
The Election Center (National Association of Election Officials)	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	0
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$

31. If there is one change you could make that would help you run a more efficient, secure, and fair election in 2020, what would that be? Every response will be read, please print clearly for our team to properly hear your views.

local elec	ction officials.
32. What	t is your age?
$\bigcirc$	18 to 25
$\bigcirc$	26 to 34
$\bigcirc$	35 to 49
$\bigcirc$	50 to 64
$\bigcirc$	65 or more
$\bigcirc$	I prefer not to answer
33. How	do you describe yourself?
$\bigcirc$	Male
$\bigcirc$	Female
$\bigcirc$	Transgender
$\bigcirc$	Do not identify as female, male or transgender
$\bigcirc$	I prefer not to answer
34. Are y	ou of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
$\bigcirc$	No
$\bigcirc$	Yes
$\bigcirc$	I prefer not to answer
35. How	would you describe yourself? (Please select one)
$\bigcirc$	American Indian or Alaskan Native
$\bigcirc$	Asian
$\bigcirc$	Black or African American
$\bigcirc$	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
$\bigcirc$	White
$\circ$	Two or more races
$\bigcirc$	I prefer not to answer

Finally, we would like to ask you to describe yourself so we can understand the demographics of

36. Wha	t is the highest I	evel of educat	tion you have	completed?				
$\bigcirc$	Some high sch	Some high school						
$\bigcirc$	High school	High school						
$\bigcirc$	Some college	Some college						
$\bigcirc$	College							
$\bigcirc$	Some graduate	e school						
$\bigcirc$	Graduate scho	ol						
$\bigcirc$	I prefer not to a	answer						
37. Pleas	se select your s	alary range.						
0	Less than \$20,							
$\bigcirc$	\$20,000 to \$34	1,999						
0	\$35,000 to \$49	9,999						
0	\$50,000 to \$74							
0	\$75,000 to \$99	•						
$\bigcirc$	\$100,000 and	greater						
$\bigcirc$	I prefer not to a							
38. Whe	re would you pla	ace yourself or	n the followin	g scale?				
$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	
Strong Democra	•	Independent, lean Democrat	Independent	Independent, lean Republican	Not very strong Republican	Strong Republican	I prefer not to answer	
39. Are y apply.	ou a member o	of any of the fo	llowing profes	ssional electio	n organizat	tions? Selec	t all that	
$\bigcirc$	International A	ssociation of C	Government (	Officials (iGO)				
$\bigcirc$	Election Cente	r (National Ass	sociation of E	lection Officia	als)			
$\circ$	My state assoc	ciation of local	election offic	ials				
$\bigcirc$	My regional an	id/or local asso	ociation of ele	ection officials	į			
40. Pleas	se share any ot	her state-level	or regional e	election organi	izations you	ı are a mem	ber of.	

nk you very much for your time. We may seek additional input from local election officials on ters related to election administration. If you would be willing to allow us to follow up with about your thoughts; please provide your name, email, and phone number below:

#### Thank you for your time and responses.

If you wish to email this response back, you may scan it and send it to: <a href="mailto:leosurvey@reed.edu">leosurvey@reed.edu</a>

Please return this survey in the self-addressed stamped envelope included with the survey. If it is missing, you can mail the survey to:

DFRC-LEO Survey
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