



REED COLLEGE



# 2018 Survey of Local Election Officials

The 2018 Survey of Local Election Officials is a collaboration between 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 will provide local election officials an important, timely, and respectfully brief opportunity to weigh in on issues of concern in the profession.

We are sending surveys to chief election officials across the US. We invite you to participate in the survey. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Over the past few weeks you may have received an email from DFRC-LEO-Survey@qualtrics-survey.com with a link to an online version of this survey, and it is still an option for you to complete the survey online. If you did not receive that email and would rather complete the survey online please email Evan Crawford at [crawforde@reed.edu](mailto:crawforde@reed.edu) and we will be happy to send you a new link to the survey.

Your responses to this survey will remain strictly confidential. Neither your name nor jurisdiction's name will be released, and only aggregate group characteristics will be published. Democracy Fund will make the results of the survey available in the weeks after the survey results have been analyzed. To learn more about this survey visit the project site at: [http://people.reed.edu/~gronkep/DF-RC-LEO\\_About.html](http://people.reed.edu/~gronkep/DF-RC-LEO_About.html)

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) 517-7393 or email: [crawforde@reed.edu](mailto:crawforde@reed.edu)

**Instructions:** Please use a pen or pencil to completely fill in each bubble next to your response. Fill the bubble in completely and select only one option unless instructed to select multiple.

If you need to correct to your answer, cross out incorrect response and fill AND circle the correct response.

1. Are you the chief election official in your jurisdiction?

- Yes, I am the chief election official
- No, but my office has determined I am the right person to answer this survey
- No

PLEASE STOP - Contact Evan Crawford at [crawforde@reed.edu](mailto:crawforde@reed.edu)

2. Will November 2018 be the first federal election you administer as the chief election official in your jurisdiction?

- Yes
- No

3. Which of the following best describes your job?

- Election-related matters constitute all or almost all of my workload
- Election-related matters constitute the majority of my workload, but I have other duties not related to elections as well
- Election-related matters constitute less than half of my workload

4. About how many years have you served in the field as an election official

- Less than 1 year
  - 1 to 4 years
  - 5 to 14 years
  - 15 to 19 years
  - 20 years or more
- CONTINUE TO PAGE 3
- SKIP TO PAGE 4

**CONTINUE TO PAGE LISTED WITH YOUR RESPONSE ABOVE**

If you have served as an election official for **LESS THAN 15 YEARS:**  
ANSWER QUESTIONS 5 AND 6.

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?

5. Compared to when I started, it is easier today for **voters...**

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
...to register to vote.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to identify where their polling place is.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to chose to vote early in person or by mail.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to vote.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Compared to when I started, 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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to administer pre- election voting.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to administer voting on Election Day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to certify election results.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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If you have served as an election official for **15 YEARS OR MORE**  
ANSWER QUESTIONS 7 AND 8.

We would like your opinion on how election administration has **changed since the passage of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in 2002**. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

7. Compared to administration of elections prior to the passage of HAVA, it is easier today for **voters...**

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
...to register to vote.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to identify where their polling place is.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to chose to vote early in person or by mail.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to vote.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Compared to administration of elections prior to the passage of HAVA, 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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to administer pre-election voting.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to administer voting on Election Day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...to certify election results.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE**

9. Your state has a form of **online voter registration**. Has online voter registration made your job as an election official easier or more difficult?

- Much more difficult
- More difficult
- No change
- Easier
- Much easier
- Too early to tell



9a. If you selected "TOO EARLY TO TELL"  
Recognizing that your state is still in this transitional period, do you think that online voter registration, once fully implemented, will make your job as an election official easier or more difficult?

- Much more difficult
- More difficult
- No change
- Easier
- Much easier
- I would need more information about OVR before answering

**CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE**

10. Your state has recently implemented **automatic voter registration**. Now that it has been implemented, is automatic voter registration making your job as an election official easier or more difficult?

- Much more difficult
- More difficult
- No change
- Easier
- Much easier
- Too early to tell



10a. If you selected “TOO EARLY TO TELL”  
Recognizing that your state is still in this transitional period, do you think that automatic voter registration, once fully implemented, will make your job as an election official easier or more difficult?

- Much more difficult
- More difficult
- No change
- Easier
- Much easier
- I would need more information about AVR before answering

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11. New election technologies may be used for many things (registering voters, checking voters in at the polls, counting ballots, etc). We'd like to learn your opinion about election technology in general without reference to any specific use.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
The use of new election technology has dramatically improved election administration in my jurisdiction.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have moved too quickly to adopt new election technologies in this country.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The benefits of new election technologies greatly outweigh the risks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When it comes to new election technologies, I think it is best to wait until all the bugs have been worked out.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Looking ahead to the 2018 election, how confident are you that your jurisdiction will have the financial resources required to obtain a sufficient number of each of the following?

	Very confident	Confident	Somewhat confident	Not at all confident	Not applicable
Poll workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bilingual poll workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical polling places	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessible voting machines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Looking ahead to the 2018 election, to what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
Poll workers in my jurisdiction will have the knowledge and skills required to do their jobs effectively.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My jurisdiction will have <b>adequate staff</b> to enter new voter registrations in time for Election Day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My jurisdiction will have <b>adequate time</b> to enter new voter registrations in time for Election Day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Looking ahead to the 2018 election, to what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding cybersecurity?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
My jurisdiction has <b>received sufficient guidance</b> from state and/or federal authorities regarding the security of our election systems.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident that voter registration lists <b>nationwide</b> will be secure from outside interference.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident that voter registration lists <b>in my state</b> will be secure from outside interference.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident that votes <b>nationwide</b> will be counted as intended.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident that votes <b>in my state</b> will be counted as intended.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE**



15. Which of the following activities have you done in the past year, or do you plan on doing in time for the 2018 November election? (Please select all that apply)

	I have done this within the past year	I plan to do this before the 2018 November election	Not applicable to my situation
Attended a training session about cybersecurity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Held cybersecurity training sessions for my employees or election workers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developed a communication plan to guide the office if a cyber-attack were to affect elections in my jurisdiction.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developed a plan to improve security of my computer systems against hacking.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Had my office's computer system audited for potential vulnerabilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conducted criminal background checks for all staff, vendors, contracts, and others supporting elections.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Required the use of multi-factor authentication for all administrative access.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disabled wireless peripheral access to computer devices unless required for a documented business need.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Made sure that administrative tasks related to election preparation are conducted on machines that are isolated from the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



16. In the last six months, my office has received inquiries about cybersecurity from the following sources (select all that apply):

- Members of the public
- Journalists
- Advocacy groups
- Elected officials
- Academics
- Federal and/or State government agencies
- My office has received no inquiries

17. To what extent have the following organizations been helpful to you in preparation for the 2018 election?

	Not at all helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Not applicable
The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your state association of election officials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your state elections office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Election Center (National Association of Election Officials)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International Association of Government Officials (iGO)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Department of Homeland Security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. When you first became an election official, did you receive training to prepare you for your duties?

- No  SKIP TO QUESTION 19 - NEXT PAGE
- Yes 

If you selected YES:


18a. How would you characterize your initial training as an election official?

- Extremely effective
- Very effective
- Moderately effective
- Slightly effective
- Not effective at all

**CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE**

19. Do you receive ongoing or regular professional education and training to prepare you for your duties?

No  SKIP TO QUESTION 20

Yes 

If you selected YES:

19a. How would you characterize your ongoing training as an election official?

Extremely effective

Very effective

Moderately effective

Slightly effective

Not effective at all

20. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements regarding the relationship between local election officials and the 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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The <b>lack of citizen knowledge</b> about voting rules and procedures causes significant problems when people go to vote.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The <b>primary responsibility</b> of local election officials is to <b>conduct the election</b> , not worry about voter education or voter satisfaction.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local election officials should consider it <b>part of their responsibilities</b> to work on voter education and voter satisfaction.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My office has <b>enough time and resources</b> to work on educating voters, along with conducting the election.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. If there is one change you could make that would help you run more efficient, secure, and fair elections in your jurisdiction, what would that be?

22. What is your age?

- 18 to 25
- 26 to 34
- 35 to 49
- 50 to 64
- 65 or more
- I prefer not to answer

23. How do you describe yourself?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Do not identify as female, male or transgender
- I prefer not to answer

**CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE**

24. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- No
- Yes
- I prefer not to answer

25. How would you describe yourself?

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Two or more races
- I prefer not to answer

26. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school
- Some college
- College
- Some graduate school
- Graduate school
- I prefer not to answer

27. Please select your salary range.

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 +
- I prefer not to answer

28. Are you a member of any of the following professional election organizations? Select all that apply.

- International Association of Government Officials (iGO)
- Election Center (National Association of Election Officials)
- Other state-level organization
- Other regional organization

29. Please specify which other state-level or regional election organizations you are a member of.

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

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

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