

# Overview of Democracy Fund Elections Program

NASED Summer Conference 2017

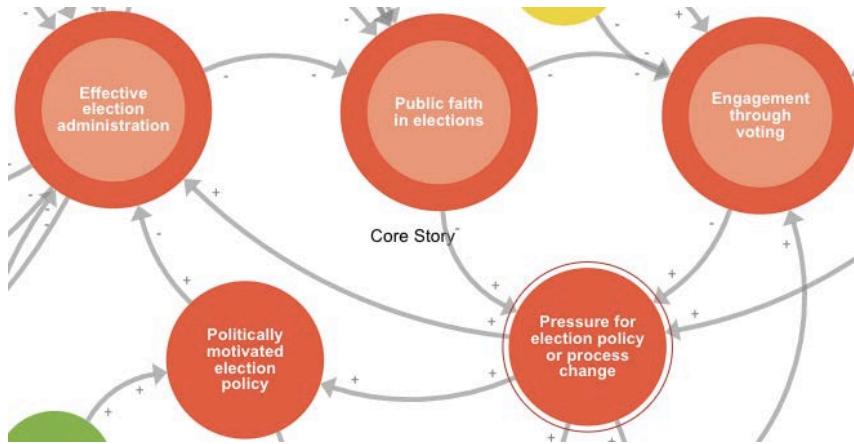
August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017



## Program Focus: Modern Elections

- ▶ We believe the American people deserve modern elections as part of a responsive political system. New technologies and smarter processes can help reduce barriers to voting, improve integrity and public trust in the electoral system.

# Systems Thinking



***“To understand the elections system in the United States, you need to understand...”***

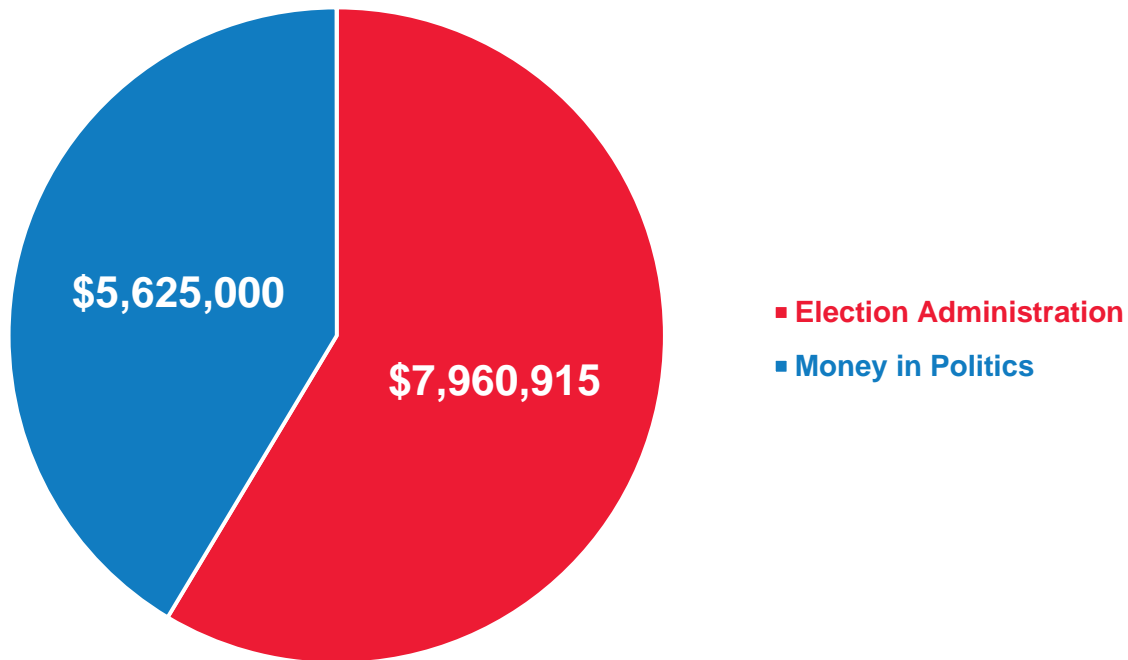
- Election processes that don't meet voter needs decrease trust in elections
- Decreased trust in elections and voter engagement increases pressure on policy makers to improve the system
- Successful adoption and implementation of bipartisan policies and best practices make election administration more effective
- Some policies are uniquely prone to political gamesmanship, which does not lead to more effective election administration



# Grantees and Funding



## Total Elections Spending by Program, 2012-2016



# GRANT METRICS

MISSION STATEMENT

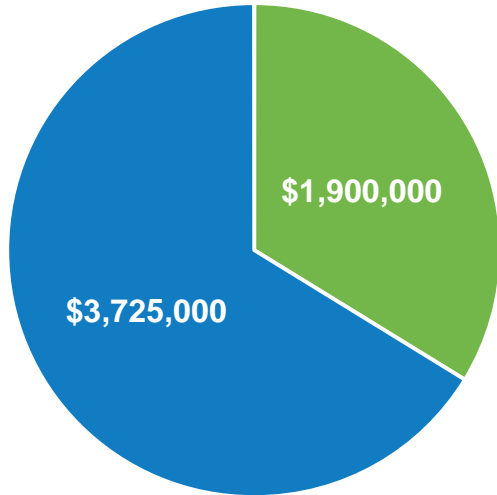
SYSTEMS MAPPING

GRANTS AND FUNDING

STRATEGY

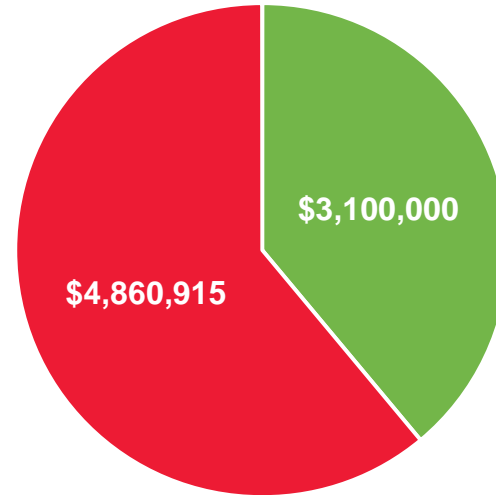
Next Steps: Network!

## Money in Politics Breakdown, 2012-2016



■ General Operating Support ■ Project Grants

## Election Administration Breakdown, 2012-2016



■ General Operating Support ■ Project Grants

# ELECTION ADMINISTRATION GRANTS

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## PROJECT GRANTEES



Program support for the Democracy Program's work on the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA), which includes research and technical assistance for election officials seeking to adopt best practices.



Program support for the Elections Initiative team, which seeks to provide support to states seeking to achieve the highest standards of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, convenience, and security of elections administration



Program support for their work in enforcing the "Motor Voter" requirements of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).



Program support for the Polling Place of the Future project, which builds and refines free-access tools that reduce long lines and provides other research support for election officials.



Program support for the National Conference of State Legislatures for its work on information sharing between state legislators and elections officials, as well as funding models for election administration costs.



The Military Voter Education Project will allow the MOAA Military Family Initiative to leverage new marketing efforts and current publications to inform and remind members of the military and their families of their federal rights as a UOCAVA (Uniformed Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act) voter.



## PROJECT GRANTEES



The Election Law Program, a joint project of William & Mary Law School and the National Center on State Courts, proposes to provide reliable, updatable State Election Law Wikis for state and federal court judges for the purpose of aiding them in reaching election law decisions in a prompt and fair manner.



Program support through Democracy Works for electionline.org, which provides the election administration community with unfiltered news and information, communicates innovation, and fosters information sharing across jurisdictions.



The Center for Election Innovation & Research, supported through the Hopewell Fund, is committed to research, convening, and leadership, as a resource for information. They aim to help the elections improve the conduct of elections and public confidence in those processes and systems.



Program support for survey work of public opinions about election administration and ongoing field and public communication of those results.

## GENERAL SUPPORT



The TurboVote program explores low-cost ways to increase civic engagement and voting through new civic technology and improving processes and data. Their aim is to make voting easier through use of technology and support for elections administrators and voters .



CTCL focuses on three areas: training local election officials to better inform voters through the use of technology, developing low- to no-cost tools for governmental use, and helping develop infrastructure to allow the capture of data during interactions between citizens and government.



Center for Civic Design designs voter and election materials that accommodate the needs of individuals of all educational levels, backgrounds, and skill levels.



Common Cause Education Fund seeks to improve election administration and the role of money in politics. At the national level, Common Cause Education Fund shapes conversations about voting and elections. Its state chapters build local coalitions to strengthen our democracy.

# Strategy



# STRATEGY ROADMAP

MISSION STATEMENT

SYSTEMS MAPPING

GRANTS AND FUNDING

**STRATEGY**

Next Steps: Network!

## NORTH STAR

Eligible citizens are motivated to vote, can do so with ease, and trust that election outcomes are fair and legitimate

## NEAR STAR

A modern, voter-centric election system

## STRATEGIES

Modernize Voter Registration Systems

Voter-Centric Election Administration

Trust in Elections

## TRACKS

Implement a strategic advocacy campaign

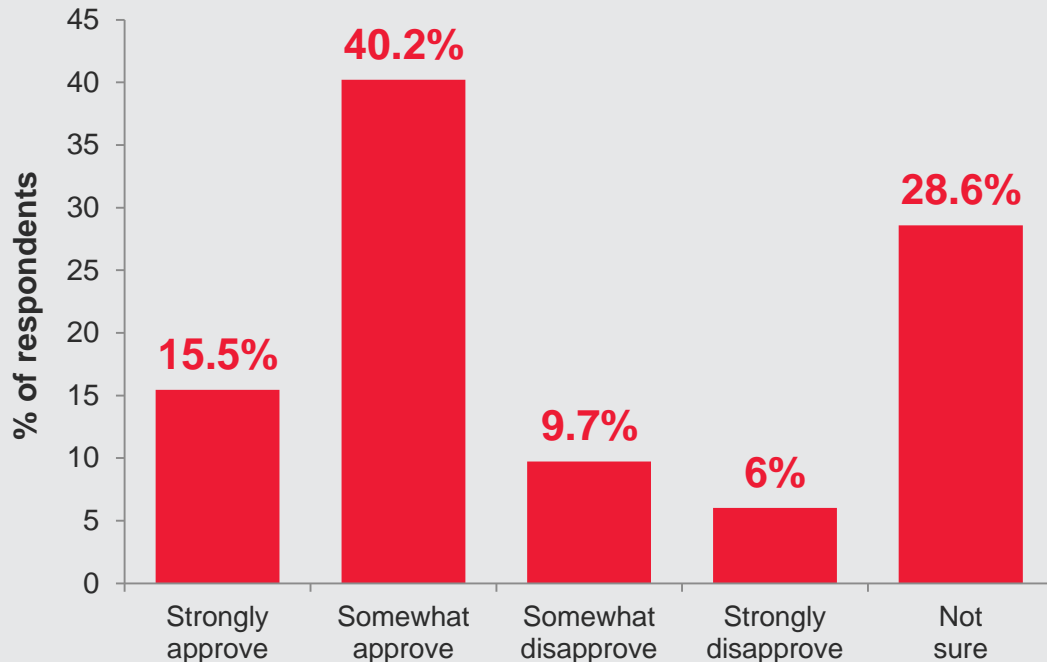
Support Motor Voter litigation, education, and technical support

Develop and integrate technology and tools into management practices

Create and support a network of election officials

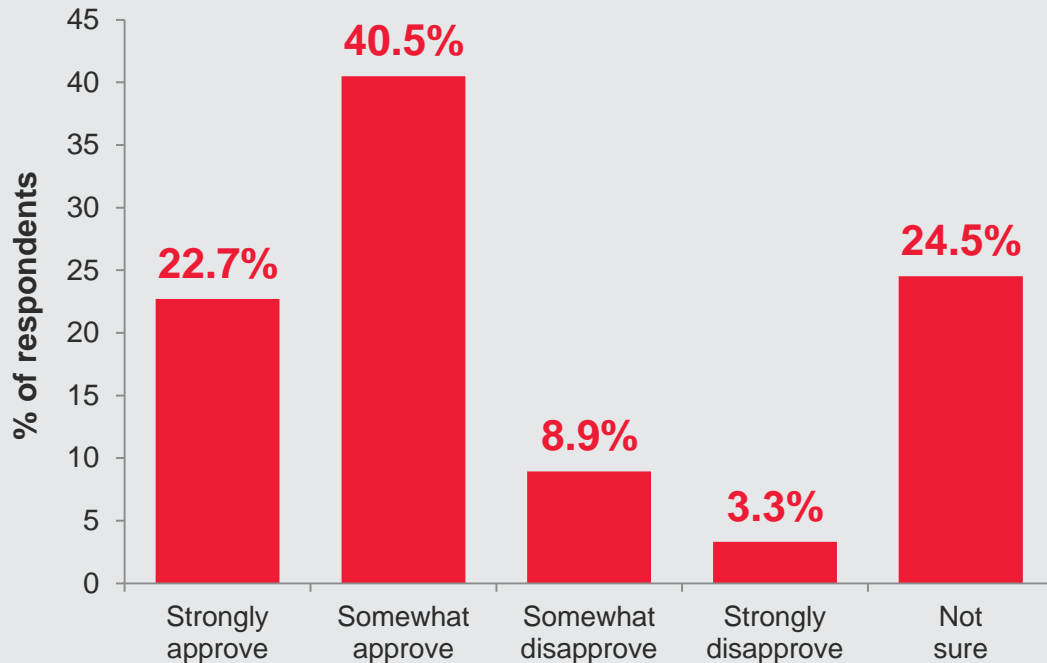
TBD

## Evaluation of top state election official



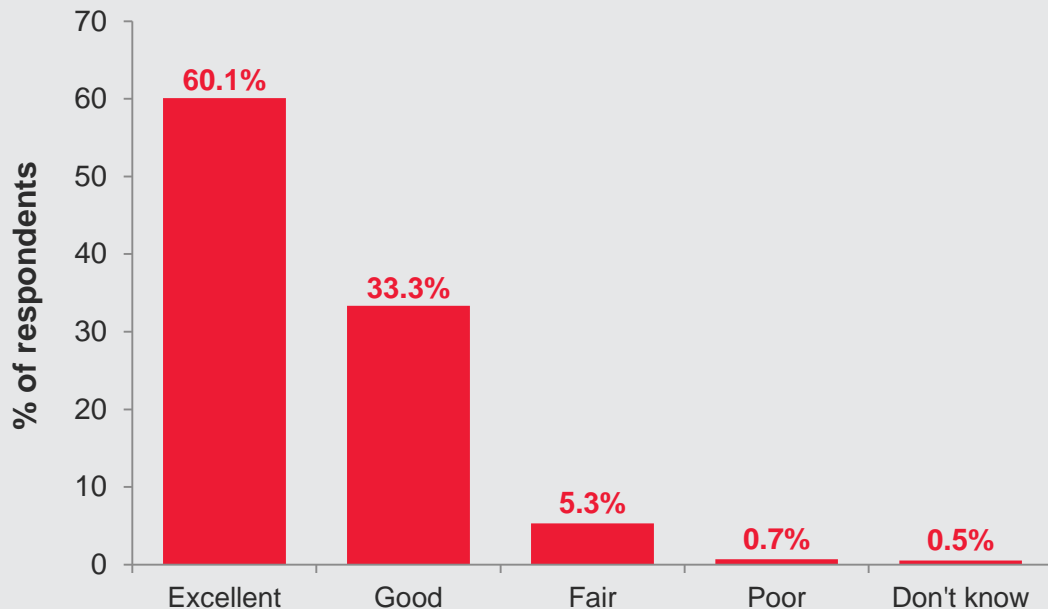
- Research plays a critical role in the work that we do.
- In the next few weeks will be releasing Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES) findings.
- This is a sneak peak...

## Evaluation of city/county election officials



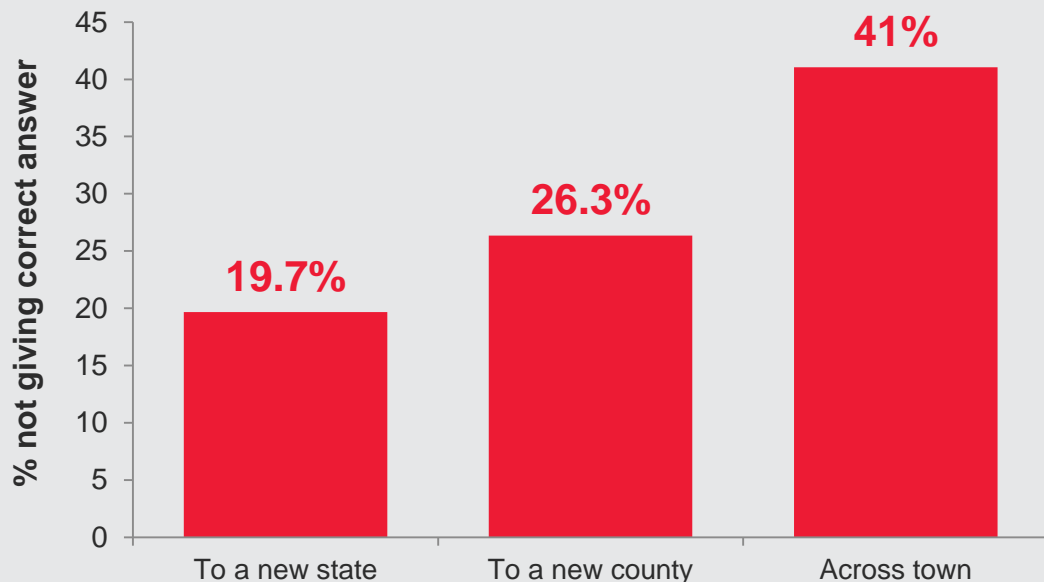
- Higher strong approval for local officials.
- Strong disapproval lower than for state official.

## How respondents rate poll workers



- Most poll workers receive a positive rating.
- The more contact a voter has, the more “local” the official is, one can conclude the higher the approval rating.

## Lack of knowledge of need to update registration upon moving



- CCES also surveys the respondent's understanding of some basics.
- Although the majority of voters gave the CORRECT answer to this question, the percent who gave the WRONG answer is very high (& part of list maintenance challenge).

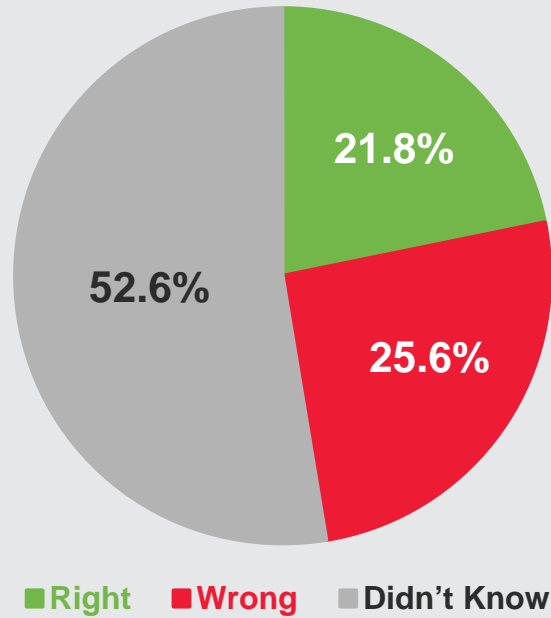


## Knowledge of online voter registration (OVR) in the state

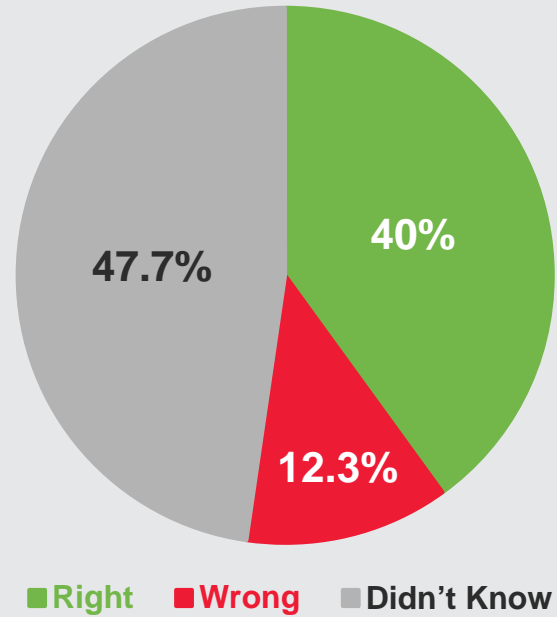


- Data can be used to help with voter education & outreach.

### Has OVR



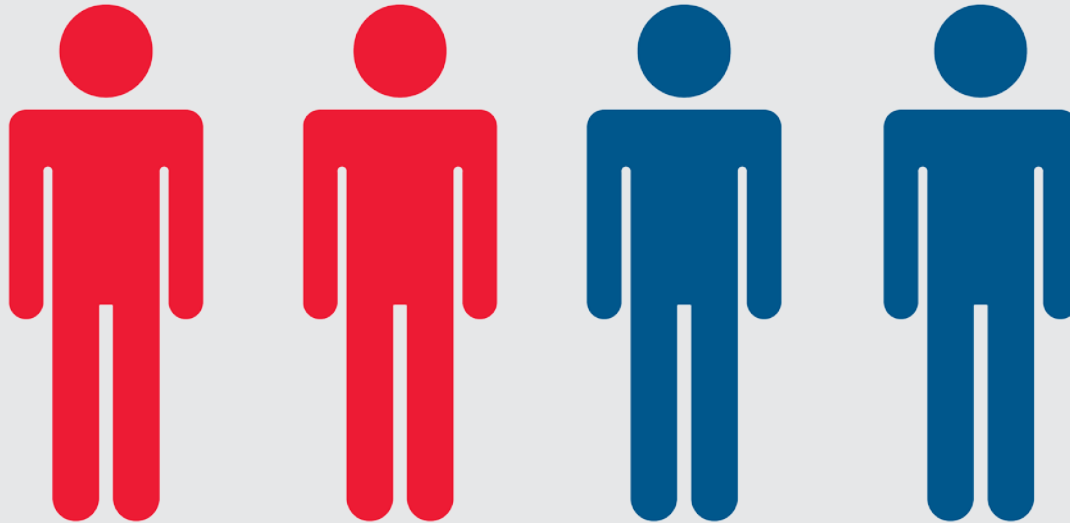
### No OVR



1 in 4 voters said that they *didn't* have OVR, but they *do*.



Half the voters who said that they *didn't know*, do have OVR.

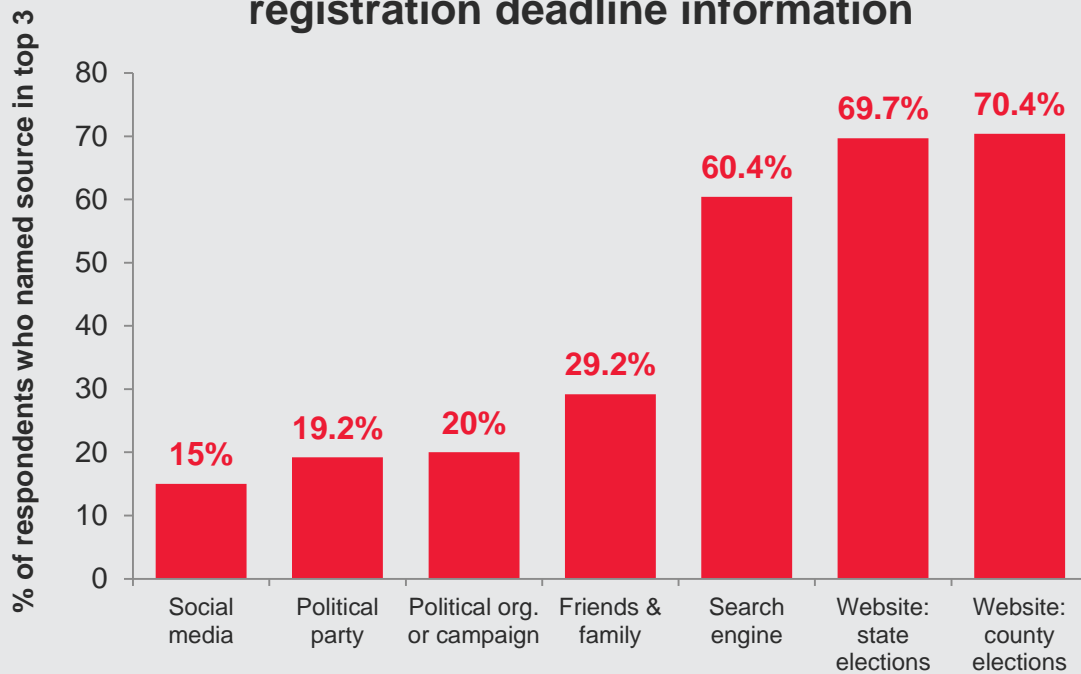


12% of the voters said that they *had* OVR, when they *didn't*.



*Consider what 12% of your registrations would be...*

## Top sources of registration deadline information



- This data demonstrates the need for keeping websites current!
- Also noting that the “Search Engine” category is second to official sites shows the impact of partnerships like VIP and with Google.

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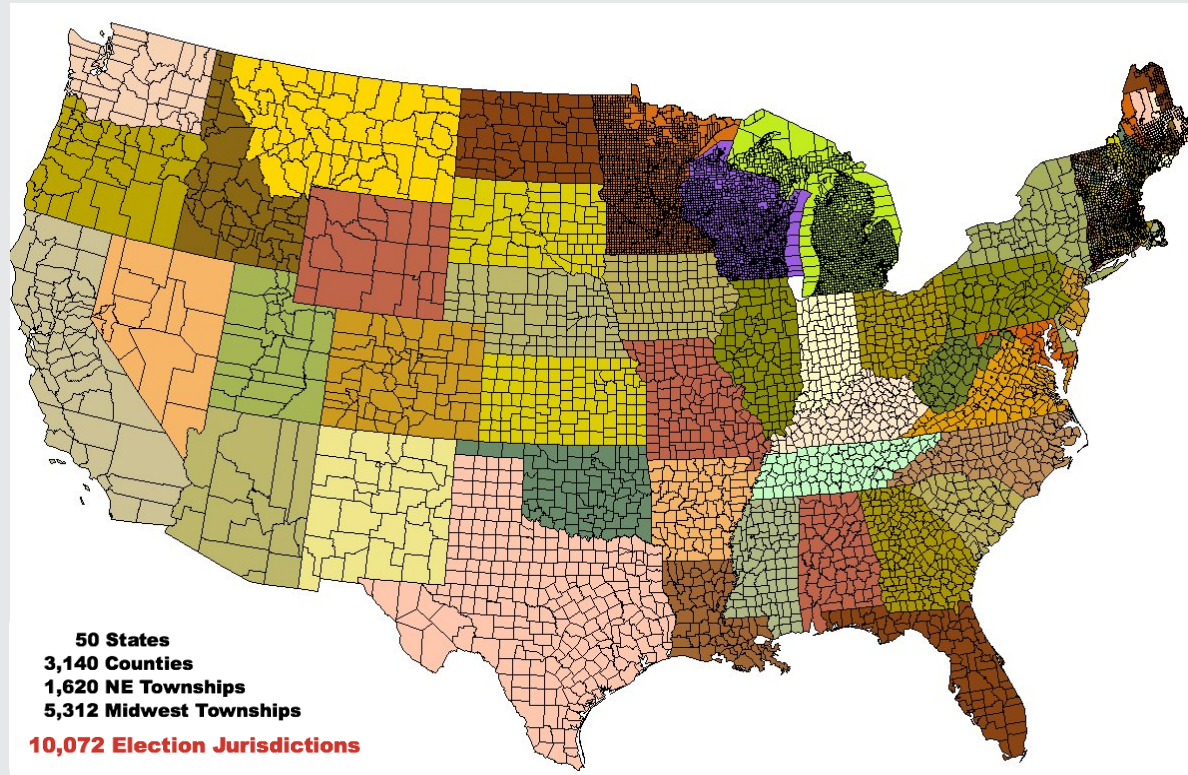
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TBD

# Network

Making connections for better elections.





- We know that there are many resources available, but knowledge of what is out there has not saturated the profession.
- We know that election officials want additional information to improve their processes, but have limited resources.



State  
Associations

Calendar of  
Events

News

Resources

Training

Share  
Space?

Research?

Partners?

Marketplace?

# State Associations

- Communication channel for state associations.
- Ability to share conference:
  - -Agendas
  - -Curriculums
  - -Speakers
- Contact information

# Resources

- Election resources from all your favorite organizations:
- -EAC
- -FVAP
- -CTCL tool kit
- -MEDSL tools
- -Etc.

# Training

- A comprehensive list of professionalism trainings that are available:
- -Election Center
- -IGO
- -University of MN
- -EAC Election Mgmt Guides
- -CTCL Summer classes
- Original content too!

# News

- Electionline
- Electionland
- Listing of relevant bloggers

# Calendar

- Calendar of events:
- -National conferences
- -State Association mtgs
- -EAC public meetings
- -Congressional hearings
- -Election Dates?
- -Your public meetings?  
Press conferences?



# Share Space?

- A place to post new projects.
- Notion that it would be a 1 page summary/teaser.

# Research?

- Would it be helpful to have a central repository for election-related research when it is published?

# Partners?

- Would it be helpful to have listings of some of the national organizations working in elections?
- Limited to those who participate in advisory boards?

# Marketplace?

- Possible place for vendors to advertise their products.
- Links to EAC RFP archives & best procurement practices.

The logo for the Democracy Fund features the words "democracy" and "fund" stacked vertically in a dark grey, sans-serif font. The text is partially overlaid by three overlapping circular arcs. A red arc is positioned at the top left, a blue arc is in the middle, and a grey arc is on the right. The arcs overlap each other and the text, creating a sense of interconnectedness.

democracy  
fund