2020 General Election Risk Posture – November 3, 2020

Situation

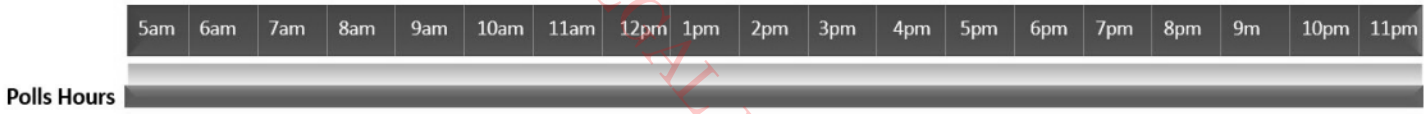
The 2020 General Election is on November 3, 2020. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories are holding elections.

Potential Challenges

Considering the reduction of in-person voting locations in most states and an anticipated surge in mail-in voting, nationwide challenges include potential poll-worker shortages, managing social distancing, long lines, and tabulation delays. Election officials may face recurring reasons for rejection of mail-in ballots including no voter signature, late submission, or because signatures do not match.

Poll Hours

The chart below displays the hours that polling places will be open throughout the country (5:00am to 11:00pm ET). Please see Appendix A for a chart displaying when polls are open (ET) in each of the 50 states.



State Elections Background

States vary in infrastructure configuration and use of CISA services. See Appendix B for maps displaying state-specific data for voter registration systems, CISA services, Albert Sensors, and local EI-ISAC membership.

- **Voter Registration System:** 37 states are Top Down, six are Bottom Up, and six are hybrid. One state (North Dakota) does not require voters to pre-register, and the District of Columbia is a single jurisdiction.
- **Voting Type:** Of the General Election states, eleven are using a percentage of systems without a paper audit trail (AR, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, MS, NJ, OK, TN, TX).
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:** All states with the exception of Alabama, Maine, and New Hampshire have received CISA services.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E) (b)(7)(E)
- **EI-ISAC Member:** All states are EI-ISAC members.
- **Albert Sensor:** All states have Albert Sensors (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** General Election states have varying levels of local EI-ISAC membership.
  - Seventeen states have between 0-33% local EI-ISAC membership
  - Seven states have between 34-66% local EI-ISAC membership
  - Twenty-seven states have between 67-100% local EI-ISAC membership

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Relationship

Of the General Election states and District of Columbia, CISA has a strong relationship with 30 states, a developing relationship with 18, and a limited relationship with three states. Please see the state-specific risk postures for additional information on each state's relationship.

Threat Awareness

CISA Intel is unaware of any specific, credible threat to United States elections infrastructure.

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration and Voter Check-in:**
  - The 37 top down states control their voter registration databases at the state level. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters.
  - The six bottom-up states control their voter registration databases at the local level. From a risk perspective, bottom-up states may have weaker, less consistent cybersecurity postures relative to top-down states based on availability of resources.
  - The six hybrid states have a mix of top-down and bottom-up registration characteristics including risk advantages and vulnerabilities.
  - One state (North Dakota) does not require voters to pre-register.
- **Vote Casting:** Forty states use vote cast systems with 100% paper backups. Eleven states are using some percentage of voting systems without a voter verified auditable paper record. These systems present additional risk, based on the difficulty of identifying electronic manipulation to ensure election integrity.
- **Early Vote Casting:** Forty-four states allow early voting, Colorado, Minnesota, Vermont, and Virginia are the earliest, beginning on September 19, 2020.
- **Election Websites:** Election websites are, by nature, subject to internet-based risks. Indicators that their integrity or availability have been affected may include voters showing up at the wrong locations.
- **Results Reporting:** Results are reported on state websites. Due to the increase in mail-in voting during the 2020 General Election, comprehensive results may not be reported on election night. Inability to report results or reporting prior to close of polls could be indicators these systems were targeted. Typosquatting of election results websites may cause public confusion.

Election Day Posture

- The Election Security Initiative (ESI) and the Election Operations Team (EOT) will stand up a coordination and incident response center, where incident response, intelligence analysis, communications, policy, and liaison officials will be on standby to assist election infrastructure entities with any situation that may arise.
- Most work is expected to occur at the unclassified level, with classified discussion only happening by exception and at the request of the Intelligence Community to share information. CISA's SCIF space will be available for full use by cleared ESI and EOT members, who will be working in adjacent space.
- ESI and the EOT will participate in both the federal and the state, local, tribal, and territorial chat rooms to ensure real-time situational awareness.
- ESI and the EOT will be prepared to explain the security impact of any situation that arises in coordination with other federal, state, local, and private sector partners.
- CISA will have scheduled touch points with interagency and private sector partners to ensure broad awareness.

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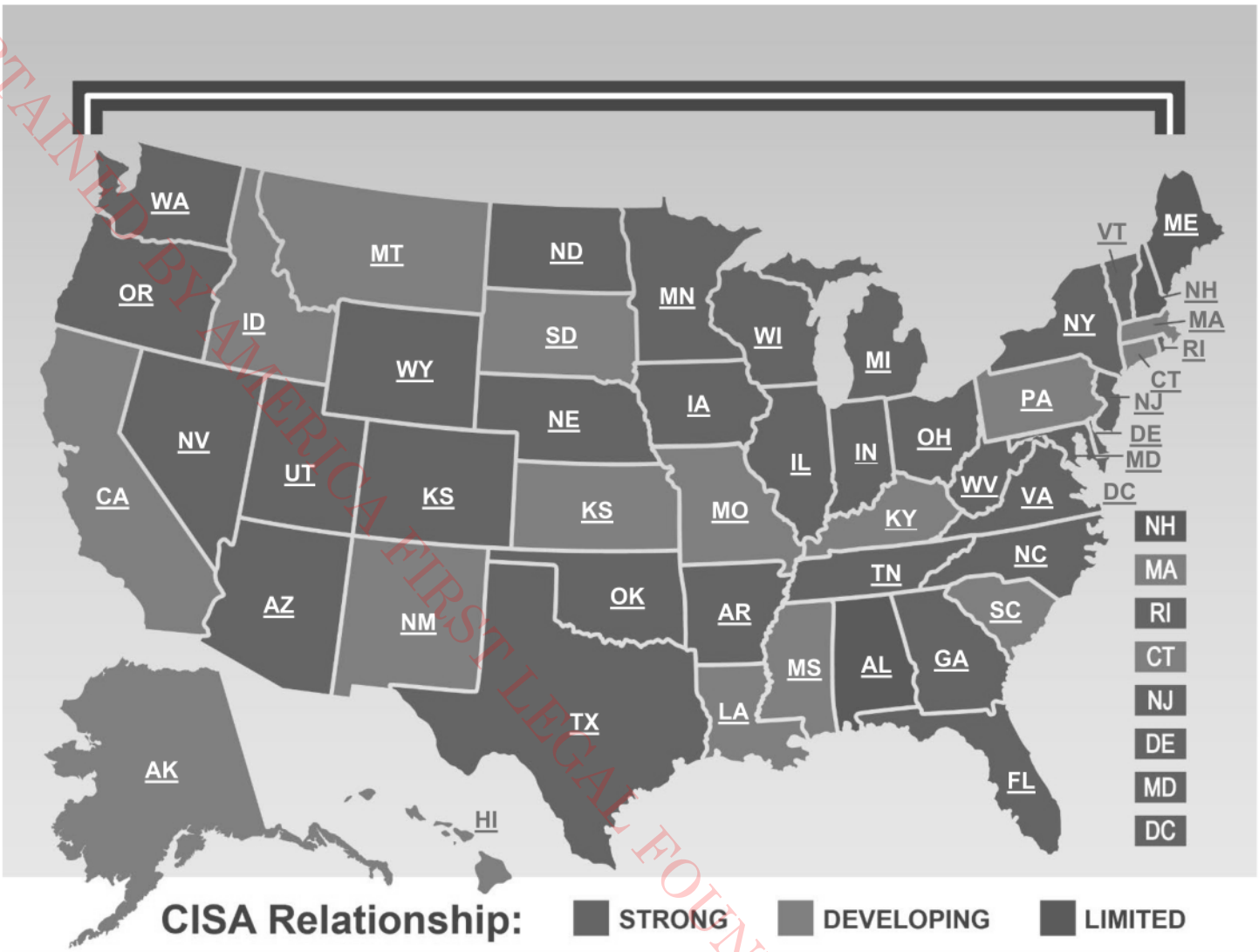

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
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North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
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Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

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Alabama

Potential Challenges

Alabama SoS John Merrill suggested during a recent interview that Alabama would not have delays in reporting their general election outcome, despite their expected increase in mail-in ballots. Election officials throughout the country have been messaging to voters that determining the outcome of the election on election night is unlikely due to the number of mail-in ballots that will need to be counted after Election Day during the canvass period. Local Alabama election officials are required to submit unofficial results by a deadline (November 13, 2020), in accordance with state law. These statements from the SoS may cause some Alabama voters to have unrealistic expectations of election night reporting. The state is also not necessarily providing additional staffing for processing mail-in ballots as staffing decisions are left up to local election officials. Many counties did not have typical staffing levels during the July runoff election as some longtime poll workers have decided not to sign-up due to COVID-19 concerns. The state expects similar shortages for the general election as interest in working at polls decreases. A lack of sufficient staff may result in additional delays. Alabama will not have drop boxes for mail-in ballots, but voters may use other postal carriers in addition to the United States Postal Service and can drop their ballots off in-person at election offices. SoS John Merrill publicly distributed his personal cell phone number (see "COVID-19 Considerations" below for more information) which may result in distributed denial of service (DDOS) and/or doxing attacks.

Relationship

CISA has a limited relationship with the Alabama election community. The state and local jurisdictions have not utilized any CISA services or engaged in the Last Mile initiative. Only 11% of local jurisdictions are members of the EI-ISAC. However, Alabama Secretary of State (SoS) John Merrill is an active, visible election official.

COVID-19 Considerations

Alabama is allowing fear of COVID-19 as a valid excuse to apply for a mail-in ballot. Alabama SoS John Merrill clarified publicly that neither voters nor poll workers will be required to wear a mask at voting precincts during the general election. Although Alabama is under a statewide mask order, the mandate specifically excludes polling places. Instead, the state is releasing guidance "encouraging" voters and poll workers to wear masks. SoS Merrill said any voter who is not allowed to cast a ballot because they are not wearing a mask should call the SoS Office or the Secretary's personal cell phone, the number of which he is providing publicly. There were at least two instances in the July runoff elections where voters were denied the ability to vote because they were not wearing a mask. Other measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 including distancing requirements, cleaning procedures, and polling place locations are up to local election officials at each precinct. The state has funds available to help county election officials obtain plexiglass shields, hand sanitizer, gloves, disinfectant spray, and provide optional masks to voters.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - None
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(7)(E) (b)(7)(E)
- **County-level Information:** 11% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (CT)

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- **Official Election Website:**
  https://www.sos.alabama.gov/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Alabama has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 19, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Alabama uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm (CT).
  - **Mail-In Ballots:** Due to COVID-19, all voters are eligible to use mail-in voting in the general election. All voters can select "I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls." All mail-in ballot applications must include a copy of a valid photo ID. Mail-in ballot applications must be received by the Absentee Election Manager for the voter's county by October 29, 2020. The deadline to return hand delivered absentee ballots is November 2, 2020 at 5:00pm (CT). Registered voters can download mail-in ballot applications from the SoS website, by calling the SoS Office, or by requesting the application from their local Absentee Election Manager. Mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than November 2, 2020 and received by 12:00pm (CT) on Election Day. UOCAVA voters must postmark their ballot by November 3, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Alabama does not offer early voting.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6); will provide in-person support while PSA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and CSA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C will provide virtual support to the Alabama SoS Office.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b)(6), and Regional Operations Manager (b)(6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.

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Alaska

Potential Challenges

Alaska election officials are particularly concerned with a potential for poll worker shortages in rural precincts. Due to the increase in mail-in ballots, results may take longer to count and certify which could shift some of the burden from the Division of Elections Headquarters to its Regional Offices. Election officials are encouraging voters to request mail-in ballots or to vote early to reduce wait times on Election Day. During the presidential primary, a record number of voters utilized mail-in voting, a trend that will likely continue for the General Election.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Alaska Division of Elections since a new state administration was sworn in December 2018. State election officials have met with the Region X Regional Director and CSA and are in regular communications with the state's PSA. Alaska has utilized one CISA service at the state level and no services at the local level. 75% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to COVID-19, Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer announced that registered Alaskan voters over the age of 65 will automatically receive a mail-in ballot application for the General Election. Some lawmakers have raised concerns that this creates unequal access to those who do not automatically receive ballot applications. Alaska will continue to offer no-excuse mail-in and early voting in addition to in-person voting. At in-person voting locations, election officials have implemented measures including social distancing, masks and spray shields, and frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 and 2020 State Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Alaska (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 75% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (AKT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.elections.alaska.gov/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Alaska has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. All national elections are run by the Alaska Division of Elections; municipal and borough officials are not involved. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. Alaska allows voter registration applications to be submitted online, by mail, or in person at a Division of Elections Office or voter registration agency. The regular voter registration deadline is October 4, 2020. Voter registration forms must be submitted by mail, fax, email, or in-person to the regional election office and postmarked or received by October 4, 2020. Alaska allows same-day registration in presidential

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election years, but voters who do so may only cast a vote for the presidential election. Additionally, Alaska law allows for the automatic voter registration of eligible applicants when applying for a Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD).

- **Vote Casting:** Alaska uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm (AKT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Alaska offers no-excuse mail-in voting. Voters may request a mail-in ballot online, by fax, by mail, or by phone through the Division of Elections. Mail-in ballot applications returned by mail must be received by the regional election office by October 24, 2020. Ballots will be mailed to voters approximately 25 days prior to Election Day (October 9, 2020). Voters must return completed mail-in ballots by mail, fax, or email to the regional election office and be postmarked by November 3, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Alaska offers early and in-person absentee voting beginning in most locations on October 19, 2020 and through Election Day. Early voting is only available at certain voting locations that have the ability to establish a secure connection with the voter registration database system. Times, dates, and district ballots available vary depending on the location. Absentee in-person voting is available at all voting locations. Eligibility to vote will be verified after voting for in-person absentee ballots. Early and in-person absentee ballots will be counted beginning election night and up to 15 days after Election Day (November 19, 2020).

Election Day Posture

- The Alaska Protective (PSA) Security Advisor will support the Division of Elections Headquarters in Juneau, monitoring the election and communicating with Region X, the EI-ISAC, and federal partners.
- The Alaska PSA will coordinate with the Alaska Election Security Working Group (FBI, US Attorney's Office, state CISO, and Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and DHS I&A).

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Arizona

Potential Challenges

Maricopa County is home to a majority of the state's population and receives significant media attention. Should there be any major issues in Maricopa County on Election Day, it would present significant challenges for state election officials. In the past, the state has had difficulty convincing other Arizona counties outside of Maricopa to manage cyber and infrastructure risk. The General Election takes place during wildfire season. Fire activity could limit polling places and impact voter turnout. Some counties have announced a significant reduction in polling places, while other counties have yet to communicate any changes. Voters may also be confused on election procedures due to several fierce debates happening in the state legislature about voting during the pandemic. However, the state is hosting virtual town halls to clarify procedures and answer questions about the upcoming General Election. Additionally, difficulty in accessing postal service delivery times has been an issue for some residents in past elections and likely will continue to be a challenge.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Arizona election community. Arizona state-level officials have been very receptive to CISA efforts in the past including CISA services and risk management recommendations since 2017. The Arizona Secretary of State's (SoS) Office has expressed interest in setting up monthly meetings with CISA in preparation for the general election. Local CISA staff are connected with Runbeck Election Services, an Arizona-based service provider of ballot print, mail, equipment, and technology for jurisdictions across the country. CISA regional staff are also connected with the Arizona Fusion Center and National Guard.

COVID-19 Considerations

Although Arizona is already a predominantly mail-in voting state with more than 70% of voters using mail-in voting options, officials anticipate an unprecedented surge in mail-in ballot requests. The state government has reached a deadlock on several COVID-19 related election legislation efforts. These ongoing debates leave election rules in flux. The state's ban on the returning of others' ballots (sometimes called "ballot harvesting"), the validity of ballots cast at incorrect polling places, and inconsistent deadlines for fixing a mailed ballot with a mismatched signature versus no signature at all. Activist groups seeking to push initiatives on the ballot have had difficulty collecting signatures in a major COVID-19 hotspot, and courts have rejected their requests to waive the signature requirement. With these issues unresolved, Arizona voters and election officials may have to adjust to changing rules leading right up to Election Day. The Arizona SoS office launched a website (www.arizona.vote) to educate the public on voting considerations during the November 2020 general election.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Hybrid
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
  (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 73% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-7:00pm (MT)

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- **Official Election Website:**
  https://azsos.gov/elections

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Arizona has a hybrid voter registration system, meaning the SoS oversees elections and local election offices transmit data to the state in real time. Hybrid models are a combination of top-down and bottom-up models including risk advantages and vulnerabilities. The regular voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020 for in person and oniline registration. Mailed registration must be postmarked by Octrobe 5, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Arizona uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 6:00am to 7:00pm (MT). The SoS is encouraging voters to utilize mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Mail-in ballots must be received by the voter's local election office by 7:00pm (MT) on November 3, 2020. Voters may return ballots by mail or deliver them to designated drop-off locations in their county. The SoS has encouraged voters to mail their completed mail-in ballots by October 27, 2020 to ensure they reach election offices by the deadline.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Registered voters have two options to obtain a mail-in ballot: joining the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) or making a one-time request for a mail-in ballot. Voters may sign up for the PEVL when they register to vote or sign up via the Arizona SoS website. Alternatively, voters may request a one-time mail-in ballot online, by calling their county recorder, submitting a written request form, or emailing their county recorder. To receive a mail-in ballot for the 2020 General Election, voters must submit their request or sign up for the PEVL by October 23, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Arizona will allow early in-person voting from October 7, 2020 through October 30, 2020. Early voting will be available at designated community voting locations. Hours may vary by location, and the SoS encourages voters to contact their local election office for exact hours of operation.

Election Day Posture

- The regional Physical Security Advisors and the Cyber Security Advisor in Arizona will monitor, report, and support elections partners virtually through the Arizona Election HSIN portal and collaboration channels and sync calls.
- The Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) will be the primary hub of information. State officials will advise if the State EOC will activate, however, at this time there are no plans to do so.

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Arkansas

Potential Challenges

The state's election cybersecurity incident response and communications plans were recently updated through after-action recommendations from the Election Cyber Tabletop Exercise. These plans have not been tested via real-world events and may be unfamiliar to some key personnel. This lack of familiarity may present challenges should a cyber incident occur.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson signed an executive order in August allowing all Arkansas voters the option to request a mail-in ballot using fear of contracting COVID-19 as an excuse. Additionally, the Arkansas SoS Election Office will ensure appropriate social distancing and PPE protocols for in-person voting. To further protect the safety of on-site staff, the election office staff monitoring operations for the General Election will be at an alternate location (rather than the Capitol) to ensure adequate social distancing.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
  (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 1% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:30am-7:30am (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Arkansas election community. CISA, DHS I&A, FBI, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM), and the Arkansas Secretary of State (SoS) continue to support joint physical and cybersecurity collaboration and planning efforts in preparation for November. The SoS has utilized multiple physical and cyber resources from CISA to increase their security posture for the upcoming election. The state is working closely with ADEM, CISA, I&A and FBI on enhancing their incident response and communications plan to incorporate a more whole community and efficient response during election incidents. CISA field staff is heavily engaged with various election security working groups at the state and federal level, including the FBI's Election Security Working Group.

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Arkansas has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020. Returning uniformed service members, Merchant Marines, individuals serving outside of the country in support of national security, and

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their spouses and dependents may request extended time to register in-person should they miss the deadline.

- **Vote Casting:** Arkansas uses paper ballots; DREs with VVPAT; and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 7:30am to 7:30pm (CT). Voters are encouraged to use mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. All mail-in ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Due to COVID-19, Governor Asa Hutchinson has expanded the acceptable reasons to request a mail-in ballot to include fear of contracting COVID-19. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is October 27, 2020. Once the application is approved, the county clerk will mail a postage prepaid mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter.
- **Early Voting:** Arkansas will allow early in-person voting from October 19, 2020 – November 2, 2020. Early voting is available between the hours of 8:00am to 6:00pm (CT) Monday through Friday; 10:00am to 4:00pm (CT) on Saturdays; and ending at 5:00pm (CT) on the Monday before Election Day. Off-site early voting hours may vary by county.

Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) will coordinate with Region VI Incident Support Group to share election related information.
- The state election office has requested that the local PSA be on-site to support election activities. PSA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and the DHS I&A Officer for Arkansas are working with the Arkansas SoS on a joint DHS/Arkansas HSIN monitoring site for November.
- CISA Regional support for the state election office is anticipated to cover a longer timeframe as pre- and post-election support activities may go beyond Election Day.

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California

Potential Challenges

California's governor in June signed a plan into law to send all active voters mail-in ballots. The biggest issue the state will face is misinformation and disinformation regarding the time it takes to count ballots and the number of ballots to be counted. California will have millions of ballots to process after Election Day and will take an extended time to finalize the count but must certify within 31 days. On June 3, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom gave counties permission to limit their in-person polling locations if they offer early voting for at least three days leading up to the election. This leaves the onus on the counties to determine which polling places will be open and for which days leading up to the election. This could potentially confuse voters as well. Due to recent wildfires, election officials may have challenges mailing ballots to displaced voters who no longer reside at their registration address. Additionally, voting centers may move or close if impacted by wildfires. To ensure sufficient numbers of poll workers, California has launched an initiative to recruit volunteers, which also takes advantage of national efforts to generate poll worker participation. Los Angeles County, which requires 16,000 poll workers, is planning to use county employees to staff polling centers. Other jurisdictions may follow suit if they see a reduction in volunteers.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the California election community. State and local entities have utilized several CISA services and 100% of local jurisdictions are members of the EI-ISAC. However, there has been some resistance to CISA assistance recently due to the highly politicized nature of the 2020 General Election. Local entities also have significant influence in the California election community, and it is difficult for CISA to have strong relationships with every jurisdiction due to the size of the state. Neal Kelley, Election Administrator for Orange County, is a member of the EIS GCC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, on June 16, 2020, Gov. Newsom passed a mandate into law for all county election offices to send mail-in ballots to all active voters with no application required. Ballots will not be automatically sent to "inactive" voters who have not voted in recent elections. However, these voters may still apply for a mail-in ballot. Voters may still vote in-person during early voting on dates specified at the county level. All early voting will be within October 5, 2020 and November 2, 2020. In-person voting will also be offered, at a minimum, for a four-day period from October 31, 2020 to Election Day, though many counties, including Los Angeles County, are doing 10 days at numerous sites. Many jurisdictions in the state will utilize voting centers and close many in-person polling places. The SoS Office launched Vote Safe California to educate the public on voting considerations during the General Election. The campaign seeks to inform voters on a variety of topics including how to prepare to vote, early voting and mail-in voting options, election security, and safely voting during the COVID-19 pandemic. All registered California voters are encouraged to prepare to vote by verifying their voter registration and signing up for ballot tracking before the election. The SoS also unveiled an election worker training tool online for each of their counties to use.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Bottom-Up
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs; and DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Vulnerability Scanning: 10/7/2016
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) r.
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (PT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** California has a bottom-up registration system, meaning local jurisdictions control the input and management of voter registration. Jurisdictions transmit data in real time to the statewide database. From a risk perspective, bottom-up states tend to have weaker, less consistent cybersecurity postures relative to top-down states based on availability of resources. Conversely, the advantage of the bottom-up model is it lacks a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt check-in at a statewide scale. The regular voter registration deadline is October 19, 2020. Same-day registration (also called "Conditional Voter Registration") is also available in-person on Election Day November 3, 2020 and during early voting from October 5, 2020 until November 2, 2020 (early voting dates may vary by county).
- **Vote Casting:** California uses paper ballots; BMDs; and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am (PT) to 8:00pm (PT). Voters are encouraged to use mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked no later than November 3, 2020 and received by November 20, 2020. Voters can also drop off ballots at a secure drop box, polling place, vote center, or county elections office by 8:00pm (PT) on November 3, 2020.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Due to COVID-19, California governor Gavin Newsom signed into law a mandate for all county election offices to mail ballots to all active voters with no application required. Mail-in ballots with prepaid postage will be mailed out beginning on October 5, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** California will allow early in-person voting from October 5, 2020 to November 2, 2020. Exact early voting hours, dates, and locations are determined at the county level and will be posted on the California SoS website. Each county will have at least one early voting site open at for least four days beginning the Saturday before Election Day (October 31, 2020). All voters are eligible to vote early.

Election Day Posture

- Region IX Operations will stand up a HSIN site and collaboration channels to support regional elections activities. Regional leadership will monitor, report, and direct activities through the Operations section, and will remain in contact with CISA headquarters, election partners, and regional staff/field personnel.
- Protective Security Advisors (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisors (CSA) will support the California SoS Office and other California Elections Security Task Force (CalESTF) partner agencies through in-person deployments at established command posts. Southern California PSAs and CSAs will support their FBI Cyberhood Watch center and both SoCal regional fusion centers. Discussions are still on-going if this support will be in-person or virtual.

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Colorado

Potential Challenges

Colorado uses a statewide voter registration database that transfers data in real time. The system has crashed every General Election since 2014 and may present challenges for election officials. Since 2018, there are 18 new clerks operating local clerk offices, including four out of the five largest counties in the state. Colorado has joined a multi-state lawsuit over United States Postal Service delays in the run-up to the General Election. Due to recent wildfires, election officials may have challenges mailing ballots to displaced voters who no longer reside at their registration address. Additionally, polling places and voting centers may move or close if impacted by wildfires. CISA R8 participated in a meeting in October where the Chief of Elections discussed concerns with wildfires and their readiness to address them. Approximately 40 days prior to Election Day, the SoS announced increased funding to pay for one Voting Service and Polling Center (VSPC) per county to open on the Sunday before Election Day. This has created conflict as counties had not planned for Sunday operations, including hiring election judges to work that day. Also, many counties feel they cannot open just one, which may create budgetary constraints.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Colorado election community. State-level officials have been very receptive to CISA efforts in the past including allowing Protective Security Advisors (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisors (CSA) to sit in the SoS command center during elections. Based on this prior relationship, there are opportunities for CISA to better engage county-level officials. Colorado is at the forefront of many election innovations, including vote-by-mail and the vote center model. The SoS has formed a new Rapid Response Election Security Cyber Unit (RESCU), a highly trained team of election security experts who will help protect Colorado's elections from cyber attacks, foreign interference, and disinformation campaigns by working with county clerks on cyber preparedness. CISA staff are connected with Dominion, a Colorado-based major provider of ballot print, mail, equipment, and technology services.

COVID-19 Considerations

The SoS has expressed confidence in the state's ability to conduct the General Election despite postal delays, citing the three-week window for mailing ballots ahead of the election and the 300+ statewide drop boxes and voting centers for voters to return ballots in person. The SoS announced a program to provide funding for up to 100 additional ballot drop boxes for the general election. Through this grant program, counties could apply for funding to install additional ballot drop boxes. Each of Colorado's 64 counties is encouraged to add at least one drop box. Approximately 75% of mail-in ballots are returned by drop box in Colorado state elections. Ballots are encouraged to be returned to a drop box if being returned in the eight days before the election. Drop boxes are secured by various measures, including video surveillance, chain-of-custody logs, and daily retrieval of ballots. Colorado is under a statewide mask mandate requiring all individuals to wear masks where social distancing is difficult. Election facilities will require social distancing and will limit occupancy as needed.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Vote-by-Mail; Vote Centers
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

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  - Last Mile: 2018 State- and County-Level Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 State- and County-Level Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(7)(E) (b)(7)(E)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 7:00pm (MT)
- **Official Election Website:** www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Colorado has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 26, 2020 in order to receive a mail-in ballot, but registration is available in person during early voting and Election Day.
- **Vote Casting:** Colorado automatically mails every voter a ballot. Ensuring there is an auditable paper record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct with a Risk Limiting Audit. On Election Day, VSPCs will be open between 7:00am and 7:00pm (MT) across the state.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All voters are eligible to utilize mail-in voting without an excuse, and the state sends all registered voters a ballot in the mail. The deadline to register to vote in order to receive a mail-in ballot automatically is October 26, 2020. Voted ballots must be returned by Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Colorado offers in-person early voting at VSPCs beginning October 19, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6); PSA (b)(6); and CSA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); will provide in-person support at the Colorado SoS office.
- Region VIII Regional Director, CPS, and Operations Staff will provide virtual support to elections activities.

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Connecticut

Potential Challenges

Connecticut administers elections at the township level. There is one Democrat and one Republican registrar in addition to the town clerk. The SoS is planning to send out mail-in ballot applications rather than the town clerks, which has contributed to confusion and prompted concern about fraud and legal challenges. These concerns were compounded by a delay of the SoS sending mail-in ballots and overall delays in postal deliveries during the August primary.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Connecticut election community. Connecticut has used three CISA services at the state level and no services at the local level. Only 25% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC. To enhance election security and resilience, the Connecticut Secretary of State (SoS) is leveraging CISA's Cyber Resilience Review to conduct a statewide cyber risk assessment of the state's cyber posture for all 169 municipalities.

COVID-19 Considerations

Connecticut has expanded mail-in voting eligibility to all voters and will send ballot applications to all voters with prepaid postage for return. However, this policy change contributed to a significant increase in ballot requests for the August primary, as much as ten times the level of 2016 in some towns. The demands of packaging and counting ballots as well as responding to increased voter inquiries has inundated election staff, a likely precursor for the general election and longer time needed to process ballots. As of July 28, Connecticut has not closed any polling places.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 25% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am – 8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Common-Elements/V5-Template---Redesign/Elections--Voting--Home-Page

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Connecticut has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 27, 2020. Connecticut has automatic voter registration.

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- **Vote Casting:** Connecticut uses paper ballots and BMDs. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open between 6:00am and 8:00pm (ET) across the state.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Connecticut has extended the ability to vote by mail to all voters for the General Election due to COVID-19 concerns. The SoS will mail all voters a mail-in ballot application. The deadline for requesting a ballot is November 2, 2020. Voted ballots must be returned by Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Connecticut does not offer early, in-person voting.

Election Day Posture

- CISA Region I will assume a heightened state of operational readiness to respond to events and incidents affecting the election and supporting infrastructures. CISA Region I will be monitoring remotely and standing by if support is requested. The Physical Security Advisor, Cybersecurity Advisor, and Regional Team will remain in close contact with the Connecticut SoS Office, Connecticut Fusion Center, Connecticut National Guard, DHS counterparts, FBI, and all relevant election partners on Election Day.

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Delaware

Potential Challenges

Delaware is using a new statewide voting system that has moved from paperless Direct Recording Electronic systems to a hybrid ballot-marking device and tabulator (ES&S ExpressVote XL). The ExpressVote XL was first used statewide in the primary. The state allows UOCAVA voters and voters with specific needs to use an electronic ballot delivery and marking system. UOCAVA voters have been permitted to use electronic ballot delivery and return since 2010, and voters who are sick or disabled were also authorized to do so in 2012. For the presidential primary, both were able to use electronic ballot return, but due to recently published cybersecurity concerns about this system, the state paused offering this option for a period of time. Delaware reinstated the pilot program for accessible electronic delivery and marking of ballots with additional security enhancements. Immediate steps included a switch to client-side ballot marking and discontinuing the electronic ballot return option. These changes directly address concerns raised about the practice. Voters continue to be provided their ballots electronically, can mark their ballots electronically, and have options to return marked ballots by mail, fax, or email with the ability to be encrypted.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Delaware election community. The state has utilized CISA services and engaged with the Last Mile effort. 100% of Delaware counties are members of the EI-ISAC. However, local entities have not utilized any CISA services.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to COVID-19, on June 25, 2020 the state passed a bill relaxing the requirements and allowable excuses to utilize mail-in voting in primary, general, and special elections this year. The state experienced a substantial increase in mail-in voting in the 2020 presidential primary and anticipate a similar trend in November.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Hybrid BMD and Scanner
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes, (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://elections.delaware.gov/index.shtml

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Delaware has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of

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resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 10, 2020. Uniformed service members and citizens living internationally must register by October 19, 2020.

- **Vote Casting:** Delaware recently switched from DREs without VVPAT to a Hybrid BMD and Scanner. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am (ET) to 8:00pm (ET). Voters are encouraged to utilize mail-in voting due to COVID-19. All mail-in ballots must be received by the voter's local Department of Elections office by 8:00pm (ET) on November 3, 2020.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Delaware distinguishes between absentee ballots and mail-in ballots. Absentee ballots require a valid excuse and are traditionally meant for voters who plan to be physically out of their municipality on Election Day (e.g., college students, those on vacation, members of the military, etc.). However, COVID-19 considerations have been added as a valid reason to request an absentee ballot for 2020 elections. Mail-in voting is also available to all Delaware voters and does not require a reason to apply. Both application forms can be downloaded from Delaware's voting website iVote.de.gov. Voters must submit an online, mailed, or in-person application to use either method. Applications must be received (not just postmarked) by the voter's county election office by 5:00pm (ET) on October 30, 2020. Once the application is approved, the County Clerk will mail a postage prepaid absentee/mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter. Ballots must be received by the county election office by 8:00pm (ET) on November 3, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Delaware does not offer early voting. The state government passed a bill legalizing early voting; however this bill doesn't go into effect until 2022.

Election Day Posture

- CISA personnel will support and coordinate with election stakeholders via chatrooms and other online platforms. Personnel may support in person if requested.

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District of Columbia

Potential Challenges

Due to COVID-19, the DC Board of Elections (DCBOE) has announced it will only open 89 voting centers on Election Day, compared to its usual 143. The DCBOE recently discontinued their online voter registration app without widely publicizing the decision. DCBOE has created a fillable form to replace the app. The form allows a voter to fill out the form online, sign it on-screen, and submit the form electronically allowing an option to register completely online. Election officials cited technical challenges with the app and do not expect to release a new app before the election. DCBOE is introducing a new mail ballot sorting machine before the General Election. Introducing this type of technology on a truncated timeline creates the potential for operational and mechanical error.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the DC election community. Election officials have been willing to meet with CISA, but have only utilized one CISA service. DC is a member of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the District has launched the "Vote Safe DC" campaign. The DCBOE has announced they will mail all active voters a mail-in ballot, as well as offer early in-person voting at 16 voting centers from October 27, 2020 to November 2, 2020. On Election Day, the District will open 89 vote centers.

District Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Single Jurisdiction
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs
- **CISA Services for Elections at the district level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - N/A
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** DC is an EI-ISAC member
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.dcboe.org/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** DC has single voter registration system, meaning the District controls the input and management of the district-wide voter registration database. The regular voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020. However, DC also offers same day registration during its early voting period and on Election Day, so voters may register when voting in-person between October 27, 2020 and November 3, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** DC uses paper ballots and BMDs. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, voting centers will be open from 6:00am (ET) to 7:00pm (ET). Voters are strongly encouraged to use mail-in voting due to COVID-19. All mail-in ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 and received by November 10, 2020 to be considered valid.

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  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All registered voters are eligible to vote by mail-in ballot. All voters will be sent a mail-in ballot by the DCBOE, they do not need to apply. Ballots will be mailed with prepaid postage. The DCBOE has not announced the date they will mail ballots out as of August 14, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** DC will allow early in-person absentee voting from October 27, 2020 – November 2, 2020. Early voting will be available at 16 voting centers across the district during normal business hours from 8:30am (ET) to 7:00pm (ET) each day. Voters do not need to qualify for early voting.

Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisors (PSA) anticipate that the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DCHSEMA) will activate its emergency operations center (EOC) on Election Day.
  - If COVID restrictions have been lifted, PSAs will have a seat in the DCHSEMA EOC
  - If COVID restrictions are still in-place PSAs will provide virtual support through chat rooms and the DCHSEMA WebEOC.

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Florida

Potential Challenges

The Florida Department of State (DoS) has expressed concerns related to the potential impact of social media disinformation on election activities. In response to this concern, the FBI and Florida Department of Law Enforcement will have additional analysts available at the "Florida Election War Room" located at the DoS on Election Day to conduct social media monitoring. Florida elections have historically received substantial media attention and this trend has continued recently. The increased scrutiny the state is under during this election cycle may be a challenge for state and local election officials. Two of Florida's largest counties (Broward and Palm Beach) have new election supervisors since the 2018 elections.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Florida election community. State and local election offices have utilized numerous CISA services over the past three years and 100% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC. The Governor recently appropriated money to the Florida DoS to establish cyber navigators to support county election officials in conducting risk assessments, implementing risk mitigation measures, and providing Election Day support. (b)(6) (Escambia County Supervisor of Elections) serves on the GCC Executive Committee.

COVID-19 Considerations

Mail-in voting is available to all Florida voters without an excuse which was first enacted in 2002. In 2016, Florida lawmakers changed the name from "absentee" ballots to "vote-by-mail" ballots. Voters must request a mail-in ballot since the state will not automatically send mail-in ballots to all registered voters. Florida election officials may begin processing mail-in ballots 22 days before Election Day (October 12, 2020) which may mitigate results reporting occurring more slowly than usual. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis will allow state employees to serve as poll workers and is encouraging school districts to close on Election Day.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
  -
  -
  -
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Florida
  (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/

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Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Florida has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020. Voter registration is available online, by mail, in person, or through several state agencies while voters access their services. Voters who have been discharged or separated from the Merchant Marines or armed forces, or from employment outside the territorial United States can register until 5:00pm (ET) the Friday before Election Day October 30, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Florida uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All registered Florida voters are eligible to utilize mail-in voting without an excuse. Mailed ballot requests must be mailed no later than 5:00pm (ET) ten days before the election (October 24, 2020). A voter may pick up their own mail-in ballot at any time once the ballot becomes available, including on Election Day. A voter's designee can pick up a ballot starting nine days before the election (October 25, 2020) if they have completed the required affidavit. Mail-in ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections' office by mail or dropped off in person no later than 7:00pm (ET) on Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Florida has early voting from October 24, 2020 through October 31, 2020. Counties are required to offer early voting these dates but may choose to offer early voting on one or more of the following days: October 19-23, 2020 and November 1, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- Supervisor PSA (b)(6) and CSA (b)(6) will provide in-person support while PSA (b)(6) PSA (b)(6) and PSA (b)(6) will provide virtual support to the Florida DoS on Election Day.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b)(6) and Regional Operations Manager (b)(6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.

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Georgia

Potential Challenges

Tens of thousands of Georgia voter registrations may be changed to "inactive" status because mail-in ballot applications for the presidential primary were undeliverable. The state sent mail-in ballot applications to every registered voter in April for the presidential primary. While these voters will still be able to vote in the General Election, moving them to inactive status is a step toward canceling their registration. This practice may cause confusion among some voters and cause them to believe they are not eligible to vote in the presidential election. During the presidential primary, Georgia struggled with long lines, poll worker shortages, and challenges with new voting machines. The state has taken steps to mitigate these issues for the general election including poll worker recruitment drives; utilizing the State Farm Arena as an "early voting megasite" in Atlanta; a mail-in ballot application website; and increased drop boxes in many counties. The state blamed local election jurisdictions for many of the challenges experienced during the primaries. Local election officials have expressed resentment and frustration over this which may result in a disconnect between state and local entities. Recent reports of third-party groups from other states sending mail-in ballot applications has caused confusion among some voters. Some voters have indicated they are unsure of the legitimacy of these ballot applications, although the practice is legal under Georgia law. Additionally, this has caused election administrators to manage applications from the same voter coming in through multiple different sources. Challenges during the primary and ongoing disputes between state and local election officials has resulted in increased media attention on the state for the general election.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Georgia election community. Georgia has utilized CISA services at the state and local level. 100% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC. While Governor Brian Kemp, former Georgia Secretary of State (SoS) was initially a vocal opponent of the critical infrastructure designation for elections, working relationships at the staff level between the state and CISA have improved in recent years, including regular engagements with the Protective Security Advisor (PSA). Georgia has taken steps to upgrade their cyber and infrastructure posture as well as build resilience in their election processes. The state had limited engagement with CISA during these efforts.

COVID-19 Considerations

Since 2005, all Georgia voters are eligible to use mail-in ballots without an excuse. During the presidential primary, Georgia sent mail-in ballot applications to all active voters. The state Election Board approved creating a mail-in ballot application website for voters to access and apply for mail-in ballots instead of sending mail-in ballot applications to every voter. Due to COVID-19 and the anticipated influx of mail-in ballots, the State Election Board also allowed county election officials to begin processing mail-in ballots two weeks before Election Day. In the past, officials were permitted to start processing mail-in ballots only one week before Election Day. While mail-in ballots may be verified and scanned ahead of Election Day. Some jurisdictions in the state received grant money from the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) to fund elections during COVID-19.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -

- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** www.sos.ga.gov/elections

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Georgia has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Georgia uses paper ballots and BMDs. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All registered Georgia voters are eligible to vote using mail-in ballots without an excuse. Voters may begin requesting mail-in ballots 180 days before the election (May 7, 2020) up until the Friday before the election (October 30, 2020). Voters may request mail-in ballots online, by mail, by fax, or in person at the County Board of Registrar's Office. UOCAVA voters may receive mail-in ballots by electronic transmission. The state will begin distributing mail-in ballots on September 15, 2020. Voted mail-in ballots must arrive at county election offices by Election Day. Military or overseas voters have until November 5, 2020 for their ballots to arrive at the election office.
- **Early Voting:** Georgia offers in-person early voting (called "advance voting") beginning the fourth Monday before the election (October 12, 2020) and ending the Friday before the election (October 30, 2020). Georgia also has Saturday voting available on October 24, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- Chief PSA (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) will provide in-person support at the Atlanta FBI Field Office.
- CSA (b)(3):6 USC will provide in-person support at the Georgia SoS Office.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b)(3):6 USC and Regional Operations Manager (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.

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Hawaii

Potential Challenges

Hawaii became an almost exclusively vote-by-mail state in 2019. The 2020 General Election will be the largest test of the state's mail-in voting system yet, and the COVID-19 pandemic may exacerbate the learning curve. However, Hawaii has had more time than most states to prepare for a largely remote election process. The General Election also takes place during hurricane season. Hurricane activity during the election could limit polling places and impact voter turnout on Election Day.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Hawaii Secretary of State (SoS) office. The state has expressed a willingness to meet and has increased its engagement with CISA services in the past two years. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) have been involved in many election support meetings and have also connected with DoD cyber support contacts.100% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

In 2019, Hawaii transitioned to vote-by-mail and consolidated early voting centers. The state has not announced any changes from this procedure due to COVID-19, and the office of elections will remain open during regular business hours. Election officials have urged voters to submit their ballot three to five days before the election to ensure all ballots are received by the closing of election night on November 3, 2020. Hawaii currently has a partial stay-at-home order in place and a 14-day quarantine for travelers. However, the state will begin a pre-travel testing program exemption beginning on October 15, 2020. The Hawaii Office of Elections is using social media to educate the public on voting considerations during the November 2020 General Election. The effort seeks to inform voters on a variety of topics including how to prepare to vote and mail-in voting options.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Hawaii has one DHS-sponsored Election Infrastructure security clearance.
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am to 7:00pm (HT)
- **Official Election Website:** www.elections.hawaii.gov/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter registration and voter check-in:** Hawaii has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020. Voters may also visit

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one of the state's voting centers from October 20, 2020 to November 3, 2020 to register and vote in person.

- **Vote Casting:** Hawaii uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. In 2019, the Hawaii legislature passed Act 136, SLH 2019, which states that all registered voters will be mailed ballots for every election. Hawaii started this in 2020. For the 2020 General Election, ballots will be mailed to all registered voters beginning in mid-October 2020 (exact date yet to be determined). Act 136 also establishes voter service centers where voters may drop off their ballots or register and vote in person. These centers will be open from October 20, 2020 to November 2, 2020 Monday through Saturday from 8:00am to 4:30pm (HT) and on November 3, 2020 from 7:00am to 7:00pm (HT). Voters are encouraged to utilize mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Election officials must receive all completed ballots by 7:00pm (HT) on November 3, 2020. Voters may return these ballots in person at voting centers or at designated drop off locations or return them by mail using prepaid postage sent with the ballot. The Hawaii Office of Elections recommends any voters returning their completed ballots by mail do so three to five days before the election to ensure they are received in time.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All Hawaiian voters are sent mail-in ballots automatically.
- **Early Voting:** Hawaii will allow early in-person voting from October 20, 2020 through November 2, 2020. Early voting will be available at voter service centers from October 20, 2020 to November 2, 2020 Monday through Saturday from 8:00am to 4:30pm (HT). These voting centers also offer same-day registration.

Election Day Posture

- Region IX Operations will use HSIN, collaboration channels, and a dedicated Election Dashboard to support PSAs in the field.
- Hawaii election officials are continuing to review COVID-19 conditions to determine if they will activate the SOC or coordinate virtually.

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Idaho

Potential Challenges

Idaho anticipates poll worker shortages as many counties rely on volunteers who are in at-risk categories for COVID-19. State officials have also expressed concern about the spread of misinformation, particularly related to election locations and mail-in ballots. Additionally, during the mail-in primary election, the SoS office implemented a new platform to aggregate security reports from county election offices. Several counties encountered election reporting challenges with Tenex election software when reporting county results to the state which may again present challenges in the general election.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Idaho Secretary of State (SoS) office. Idaho did not participate in Tabletop the Vote 2020 and has not used any CISA services at the state level except for Last Mile products. However, the State Election Director has expressed a willingness to engage with CISA. Additionally, the low rate of local participation in the EI-ISAC may limit visibility of emerging issues in non-member counties. There is a high level of autonomy at the local level and some jurisdictions do not have strong relationships with the state.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Idaho passed a law allowing election officials to distribute mail-in ballots beginning 30 days before the election (October 4, 2020) and processing ballots seven days before the election (October 27, 2020). Idaho officials are encouraging voters to utilize no-excuse mail-in voting but are conducting in-person voting at regular precincts on Election Day. There will be requirements for masks, social distancing, and availability of hand sanitizer per the state, county, and city ordinances at in-person voting locations. These requirements will align with the guidance and requirements set forth by the Idaho Health and Welfare Department under delegation of the Governor.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - Vulnerability Scanning: Three counties in 2020
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Idaho (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(7)(E) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 18% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 8:00am - 8:00pm (MT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.idaho.gov/elections-division/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Idaho has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of

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resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 9, 2020. Mail-in voter registrations must be postmarked on or before October 9, 2020. Residents may also submit voter registration applications to the county clerk's office before 5:00pm (MT) or submit online applications until midnight on the day of registration deadline. Idaho provides Election Day registration.

- **Vote Casting:** Idaho uses paper ballots and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, most polling places will be open form 8:00am to 8:00pm (MT) but may open earlier if decided by the county.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Idaho allows no-excuse mail-in voting. Residents may request a mail-in ballot in writing from their county clerk. Mail-in ballot applications must be received by mail or in-person by October 23, 2020. Completed ballots must be returned to the county clerk by 8:00pm (MT) on Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Idaho allows voters to vote in-person before Election Day at early voting sites beginning on October 19, 2020. Most counties designate the county courthouse or elections office as the early voting site. However, interested voters should contact their county clerk for locations, dates, and time for early voting in their county. Early voting ends in all counties at 5:00pm (MT) on October 30, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- The Idaho Protective Security Advisor (PSA) will support the Idaho Fusion Center between 8:00am and 9:00pm (MT) on Election Day and will participate in discussion rooms on Election Day.
- The Idaho PSA will coordinate with the Deputy SoS on a regular basis to ensure effective communication and timely updates on voting throughout the state.

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Illinois

Potential Challenges

Following Election Day, Illinois faces the potential for protests and heightened tensions that can potentially spur civil unrest, particularly in Chicago and neighboring suburbs. State and local law enforcement, CISA, and federal partners continue to share intelligence.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Illinois State Board of Elections and leadership of county elections associations. CISA Region V, through outreach from Physical Security Advisors (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisors (CSA) continue to engage with the Illinois State Election Task Force and Working Group on training, assessment requests, and information sharing. CISA continues to promote available resources to Illinois local election officials including Vulnerability Scanning and Remote Penetration Testing. 100% of local election officials are members of EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

On August 28, 2020 the Illinois Department of Public Health issued "COVID-19 Guidance for Election Polling Places" to protect the safety and health of voters as they vote in-person during early voting and on Election Day. In accordance with the guidance, all local election authorities are to develop written COVID-19 prevention plans for all polling sites within their jurisdiction. Plans will contain specific COVID-19 safety and training instructions and the names of individuals responsible for implementing the plan. Illinois election officials have also been encouraging voters to utilize mail-in voting or to vote early. On June 16, 2020, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed into law several election reforms in response to COVID-19. The law includes a plan to send all voters who participated in an election since 2018 a mail-in ballot application; allows 16-year-olds to serve as election judges; and makes Election Day a state holiday, which enables state and local government employees to serve as poll workers. The law also requires counties to offer expanded early voting hours and curbside voting during the early voting period.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Bottom Up
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 Last Mile State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 County-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 State-Level Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - AIS: One county in 2016

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Illinois (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.

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- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-7:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.elections.il.gov/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Illinois has a bottom-up registration system, meaning local jurisdictions control the input and management of voter registration. Jurisdictions transmit data on a daily basis to the statewide database. From a risk perspective, bottom-up states tend to have weaker, less consistent cybersecurity postures relative to top-down states based on availability of resources. Conversely, the advantage of the bottom-up model is it lacks a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt check-in at a statewide scale. The in-person voter registration deadline is October 6, 2020. The online voter registration deadline is October 18, 2020. Illinois also allows "grace period" registration from October 7, 2020 to November 3, 2020 where residents can register to vote at a limited number of polling locations if they bring two forms of ID with at least one that has a current address. These "grace period" registrants can vote the same day that they register. Active military and overseas voters may submit their voter registration and completed ballot at the same time.
- **Vote Casting:** Illinois uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 6:00am (CT) to 7:00pm (CT). Mail-in ballots must be postmarked November 3, 2020 and received by the voter's county election office by November 17, 2020. Voters may also return their mail-in ballots in-person at their local election office. The deadline for in-person submission of mail-in ballots is November 3, 2020.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All registered voters are eligible to use mail-in voting. Applications are required and must be received by the voter's county clerk by October 29, 2020 if submitted by mail or online, or on November 2, 2020 if returned in-person. Once the application is approved, the county clerk will mail a postage prepaid mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter. In June 2020, Gov. Pritzker signed into a law a mandate to all counties to automatically send all voters who participated in an election since 2018 a mail-in ballot application.
- **Early Voting:** Illinois will allow early in-person voting. Timelines vary by county, but most early voting begins on September 24, 2020 and ends on November 2, 2020. Exact early voting polling hours and locations are determined at the county level and will be published on the state's election website on September 17, 2020 and refreshed weekly. All counties are required to have early polling locations open from at least 8:30am (CT) to 7:00pm (CT) on weekdays and from 9:00am (CT) to 5:00pm (CT) on the weekends and holidays.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6) will support General Election on-site at the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC) in Springfield, IL.
- CSA (b)(6) will be remotely supporting the State Board of Election and STIC HSIN Connect Room.
- CISA Region V Operations, RD, Chicago District PSAs, and RPSA will be monitoring remotely (Chicago) and standing by if support is requested.
- CISA Region V Operations will also participate in multiple chat rooms, dashboards, and collaboration sites during the voting period to monitor election activities, including the ESI dashboard that will be used to communicate directly with CISA Headquarters.

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Indiana

Potential Challenges

Indiana faces poll worker and staff shortages in order to operate polling places and to count the record number of expected mail-in ballots. The SoS expects voters to request as many as 1.3-1.8 million mail-in ballots even while normal, in-person election procedures resume. Counties are working with local post offices to design envelopes that clearly identify mail-in ballots to ensure their speedy delivery ahead of deadlines. A Federal Judge has ruled mail-in ballots postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received on or before November 13, 2020 will be counted. However, the SoS has previously advised voters to mail applications for mail-in ballots no later than October 19, 2020 and return their voted ballots to their county elections office by October 27, 2020. In a departure from election procedures during the primary election in June, state election officials have not extended no-excuse mail-in voting for the General Election, which could result in confusion among some voters. Furthermore, pending lawsuits against the state could complicate voters' understanding of their options, particularly if the lawsuits are resolved in favor of extending mail-in voting to all voters.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Indiana elections community. State election officials have been willing to partner with CISA as well as private sector partners. Indiana participated in the MS-ISAC pilot and has used CISA services at the state level. The Secretary of State (SoS) is a former NASS President and former EI SSA GCC Executive Committee member. The state has made a strong effort to inform voters of election security measures put into place and has contracted with a third-party vendor to prevent intrusion into state and county computer systems. However, local jurisdictions have a low rate of participation in the EI-ISAC and have not used CISA services.

COVID-19 Considerations

Indiana will move forward with a normal election process, with state election officials citing that the Governor's Executive Order for residents to stay at home has been lifted. Under the state's plan, voter concern about COVID-19 does not qualify as an excuse to utilize mail-in voting. The SoS advises voters who are concerned about waiting in a line to vote on Election Day to vote early in person. County election board offices will be open 28 days before the election (October 6, 2020), including the two weekends prior, to all voters without requiring an excuse. The Indiana National Guard will distribute supplies to each of 92 counties prior to the start of early voting. The SoS has procured adequate PPE for both poll workers and voters on Election Day including N95 masks for poll workers and face masks for voters. Polling places will have hand sanitizer for poll workers and disinfectant for voting equipment and poll books. Marion County, Indiana's largest county in which voters experienced long waits up to three hours during the primary elections, has announced that both Bankers Life Field House and Lucas Oil Stadium will serve as vote centers on Election Day.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballot; DREs with VVPAT; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
  -
  - Last Mile: 2018 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. Online and covered via election-specific sensor.
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 8% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am – 6:00pm local time (CT and ET)
- **Official Election Website:** www.in.gov/sos/elections

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Indiana has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020 by mail or online.
- **Vote Casting:** Indiana uses paper ballots; DREs with VVPAT; and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, vote centers will be open between 6:00am and 6:00pm local time (CT and ET) across the state.
- **Early Voting:** Indiana offers in-person absentee voting starting October 6, 2020, including the two weekends prior to Election Day.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Only voters with an eligible excuse may use mail-in voting. Eligible excuses do not include fears related to COVID-19, a significant reduction in eligibility compared to the most recent Indiana primary election. Mail-in ballots must be requested by October 22, 2020. A Federal Judge has ruled mail-in ballots postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received on or before November 13, 2020 will be counted. However, the SoS has previously advised voters to mail applications for mail-in ballots no later than October 19, 2020 and return their voted ballots to their county elections office by October 27, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisor (b)(6) will support Indiana elections on-site at the State Emergency Operations Center.
- Cybersecurity Advisor (b)(6) will support remotely by monitoring the State Board of Election HSIN Connect Room.
- CISA Region V Operations, RD, and RPSA will monitor remotely (Chicago) and stand by if support is requested.
- CISA Region V Operations will also participate in multiple chat rooms, dashboards, and collaboration sites during the voting period to monitor election activities, including the ESI internal dashboard that will be used to communicate directly with CISA Headquarters.

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Iowa

Potential Challenges

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed a bill that denies election officials the ability to use voter databases to confirm missing information on mail-in ballot requests. Election officials now must contact requesters by phone or email within 24 hours to collect missing information. If phone and email contact is unsuccessful, county auditors must mail a letter to the requestor. Many election officials were opposed to the bill, arguing that it adds complexities to existing processes. The Iowa SoS has released guidance saying that counties cannot use drop boxes during the 2020 election, despite their use in many counties during previous elections including the 2020 presidential primary. Instead, the state has instructed counties to establish "no-contact delivery systems for use during regular business hours." The drop box guidance may cause confusion among election officials and voters. CISA field staff distributed Ballot Drop Box Guidance to the SoS and referenced it during the last SVTC.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Iowa Secretary of State (SoS) office. SoS Paul Pate has been willing to meet with CISA and has utilized a range of CISA services. Iowa is a member of the GCC, has implemented improvements to the statewide networks, and has created a statewide task force that includes CISA participation to communicate risks, provide mitigation strategies, and prepare incident response plans.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Iowa SoS Paul Pate announced that he will be sending all active registered voters a mail-in ballot application. The Iowa SoS distributed PPE to counties including face shields, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and social distancing markers for use at the polls. Additionally, the SoS is supplying funds for counties to purchase additional PPE, supplies, training, and for disinfecting resources at polling places.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 State Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 95% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00 am-9:00 pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/general/index.html

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Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Iowa has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 24, 2020. Election Day registration is available at polling places for those who miss the pre-registration deadline. Voter registration deadlines do not apply to military and overseas voters.
- **Vote Casting:** Iowa uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am (CT) to 9:00pm (CT) statewide. Mail-in ballots must be received by the county auditor's office by the close of polls on Election Day. Mail-in ballots received after the close of polls on Election Day must be postmarked on or before November 2, 2020 and be received by the county auditor's office no later than 12:00pm (CT) on November 9, 2020 to be considered valid. Voted mail-in ballots cannot be delivered to the polling place on Election Day.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Requests to receive a mail-in ballot must be received by the county auditor's office by 5:00pm (CT) on October 23, 2020. Iowa recommends submitting mail-in ballot requests as soon as possible to allow for enough time for return. Mail-in ballots for military/UOCAVA voters are available no later than September 18, 2020. For military voters, requests for mail-in ballots must be received by 5:00pm (CT) on October 30, 2020 and requests for to receive a ballot electronically by email or fax must be received by close of business on November 2, 2020. Requests for mail-in ballots that are unlikely to be returned by mail on time will include a notification with the provided ballot.
- **Early Voting:** Iowa will allow early mail-in ballots to be cast in person before the election. In-person absentee ballots will be available at the county auditor's office between October 5, 2020 and November 2, 2020 during normal business hours.

Election Day Posture

- The Iowa Protective Security Advisor and Cybersecurity Advisor will continue to provide support leading up to and on Election Day including threat and incident monitoring/reporting.
- Region VII staff will be actively coordinating information and reporting.

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Kansas

Potential Challenges

Local election officials in Kansas have faced limited travel, limited staffing, and competing priorities which has created challenges related to information sharing between the Kansas election community and CISA.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Kansas election community. CISA field staff regularly coordinate with Secretary of State (SoS) Scott Schwab and the state Director of Elections. CISA is also included in the state communications plan, which has been activated numerous times over the past three years. However, the state has accepted limited service offerings at the state level and only 64% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Since 1996, Kansas has allowed voters to cast mail-in ballots without an excuse. Due to COVID-19, SoS Schwab expanded the state mail-in voting process to send applications for mail-in ballots to registered voters for the primary elections and has updated the SoS website to allow voters to track the status of mail ballot applications. For the General Election, counties will send applications for mail-in ballots as well as postcard notifications explaining how to apply for a mail-in ballot to encourage residents to vote in advance by mail to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate long lines on Election Day.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
  -
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 64% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.ks.gov/elections/elections.html

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Kansas has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. Kansas allows voter registration applications to be submitted online, by mail, or in-person. Residents may register online using a valid Kansas driver's license or non-driver's identification card. Residents without a valid driver's license or non-driver's identification must use a paper application to register to vote. The regular voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020. Voter registration forms submitted by mail must be returned to the county election office and postmarked on or before October 13, 2020. Kansas does not allow Election Day voter registration.

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- **Vote Casting:** Kansas uses paper ballots; DREs with VVPAT; and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm (CT); however, state law allows counties to open polling places as early as 6:00am (CT) and close as late as 8:00pm (CT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Kansas allows no excuse, mail-in advance voting. Residents must complete an application for an advance ballot and submit to the county election office by October 27, 2020. Ballots will be mailed to applicants beginning October 14, 2020. Returned ballots must be postmarked on or before November 2, 2020 and returned to the county election office by the close of business on November 6, 2020 to be valid.
- **Early Voting:** Kansas allows in-person advance voting at county election offices and satellite locations up to 20 days before an election which may begin October 14, 2020. All counties must offer in-person advance voting by October 27, 2020. The deadline for in-person advance voting is 12:00pm (CT) November 2, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- CISA Region VII continues to maintain a heightened state of operations readiness to respond to events and incidents affecting the election and supporting infrastructures. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) remain in close contact with the Kansas SoS Office, Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC), Kansas National Guard, DHS counterparts, FBI and all relevant election partners.
- On Election Day, PSA (b)(6) will deploy to the FBI Kansas City Command Post. CSA (b)(6) will be remotely monitoring and standing by if support is requested. CISA Region VII staff will be actively coordinating information and reporting.

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Kentucky

Potential Challenges

Kentucky Secretary of State (SoS) Michael Adams and Governor Andy Beshear had ongoing public disagreements about utilizing a no-excuse mail-in voting model for the General Election prior to issuing an executive order in mid-August. Kentucky announced they will allow COVID-19 as a valid excuse to utilize mail-in voting. There is also an ongoing lawsuit by several Kentucky voting rights groups asking a judge to require election officials to keep the same rules they implemented for the presidential primary. The leadership disagreements and lawsuits may cause confusion among some voters without a widespread public messaging campaign clarifying how the commonwealth will administer the general election. Kentucky is facing a shortage of poll workers for the general election and SoS Adams has called on young people to volunteer.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Kentucky election community. The commonwealth has utilized several CISA services at the commonwealth level, completed Last Mile products, and DHS is a member of Kentucky's election security task force. However, the commonwealth has not utilized any CISA services at the local level and only 23% of its locals are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Kentucky will allow COVID-19 as a valid excuse to utilize mail-in voting although it will not "encourage" voters to do so. Voters in some counties have already experienced delays in receiving their ballots in the previous primary elections as election officials and staff process a significant increase in requests. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by November 6, 2020. Kentucky has added in-person early voting beginning October 13, 2020, Monday through Saturday. At least one drop box is in place in each county. Kentucky voters who were unable to get a driver's license or photo ID due to the pandemic because their clerk's office was closed, or because they were afraid of exposing themselves to COVID-19, can sign a document explaining this concern to cast their ballot. Kentucky has also added an online portal to request mail-in ballots.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the commonwealth level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 County-Level Snapshot Posters delivered; 2020 Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 23% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-6:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** www.elect.ky.gov

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Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Kentucky has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the commonwealth controls the input and management of the commonwealth-wide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The online, mail-in, and in-person voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Kentucky uses paper ballots and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 6:00am-6:00pm (ET). Voters in line by 6:00pm will be permitted to vote. Polling places in the Central Time Zone will also be open from 6:00am-6:00pm (CT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Mail-in ballots must be returned by the close of polls on Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Due to COVID-19, Kentucky has added in-person early voting beginning October 13, 2020. Mail-in ballots must be returned by close of polls on Election Day.

Election Day Posture

- Supervisor Protective Security Advisor (SPSA) (b)(6) will provide in-person support at the Kentucky SoS Office.
- CSA (b)(6) will provide virtual support for Kentucky on election day.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b)(6) and Regional Operations Manager (b)(6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.

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Louisiana

Potential Challenges

Louisiana voters must qualify for a mail-in ballot for the General Election, unlike the presidential primary where all voters could request a mail-in ballot. The change in procedure may cause confusion for some voters who may be expecting to apply for a mail-in ballot but do not meet the state's eligibility requirements. Additionally, COVID-19 may lead to logistical challenges including the availability of polling places, commissioners, election officials, PPE, and sanitization supplies for in-person voting.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Louisiana election community. The Secretary of State's (SoS) Office directly coordinates with CISA as well as other key federal and state entities to implement a robust cyber security posture to protect Louisiana's election security infrastructure. Though Louisiana election security infrastructure has adopted few CISA cybersecurity services at the state and local level, the SoS office adopted alternative services to provide similar capabilities. The SoS is a member of the EI-ISAC Government Coordinating Council (GCC). The SoS shares relevant information to parish clerk of courts/registrars, in accordance with the state's top-down structure. However, only 3% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, SoS Kyle Ardoin released an emergency plan for the General Election. The plan stipulates that a positive COVID-19 test result qualifies voters to receive a mail-in ballot. This has been met with backlash as activists argue insufficient and untimely testing will prevent thousands from voting. Voters may still vote in person during early voting from October 16, 2020-October 27, 2020 or on Election Day. The early voting period was expanded from seven to ten days and hours have been expanded due to COVID-19. During the presidential primary, the state allowed all voters to apply for mail-in ballots. For the General Election, voters must qualify for a mail-in ballot to apply including those who have tested positive for COVID-19. The request will go into the Statewide Voter Registration System and then be routed to the voter's parish registrar, who will send out the ballot. Voters will be strongly encouraged to wear protective face coverings, but they will not be turned away from the polls for failure to wear them. Disposable masks will be available to voters at all early voting locations and Election Day polling places.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 3% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-8:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Pages/default.aspx

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Louisiana has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020 for in-person and mail-in registration. Online registrations will be open until 11:59pm (CT) on October 13, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Louisiana uses DREs without VVPAT. Zero percent of Louisiana voters voting at a polling location are voting using systems with VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 6:00am (CT) to 8:00pm (CT). Currently, Louisiana is one of six states that still require voters provide a reason to utilize mail-in voting for the 2020 General Election. Regular completed mail-in ballots must be received by the voter's parish registrar's office by 4:30pm (CT) on November 2, 2020. Completed mail-in ballots by military personnel and/or their dependents, U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S., or voters that are hospitalized must be received by the voter's parish registrar of voters by 8:00pm (CT) on November 3, 2020. Voters can mail their completed ballot or the voter or an immediate family member can return them to the parish registrar of voters in-person.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Voters must qualify for mail-in voting and apply for a ballot. Regular applications must be received by the voter's parish registrar by 4:30pm (CT) on October 30, 2020. Military personnel and/or their dependents, U.S. citizens residing abroad, or voters that are hospitalized must request their ballot by 4:30pm (CT) on November 2, 2020. Once the application is approved, the county clerk will mail a postage prepaid mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter.
- **Early Voting:** Louisiana will allow early in-person voting from October 16, 2020-October 27, 2020, excluding Sunday, October 25, 2020. Early voting will be available at the parish registrar or designated community voting location from 8:30am (CT) to 6:00pm (CT). All voters are eligible to vote early.

Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b)(6) will support the Louisiana SoS as required (physical or virtual), including participating in HSIN Connect chatrooms.
- PSA (b)(6) will coordinate with the Region VI Incident Support Group to share election security information. PSAs will communicate any threat information to the State CISO and SoS CISO.
- PSA (b)(6) is coordinating with the State's Election Integrity Working Group, which includes the FBI, National Guard Bureau, and Fusion Center.

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Maine

Potential Challenges

Potential challenges may include mailing and returning ballots on-time because of the state's rural nature; long lines; and tabulation delays, especially since Maine for the first time will be using ranked choice voting for the Presidential election. The Maine Supreme Court ruled that ranked choice voting will be used in the Presidential Election, but the Maine GOP is exploring further options for review by the federal courts. A change to this policy could result in confusion for some voters. A group of voters has sued the state and several municipalities, arguing that the state violated federal law by not providing an electronic alternative to paper ballots for people who are visually impaired and wish to utilize mail-in voting.

Relationship

CISA has a limited relationship with the Maine election community. The state and local jurisdictions have not utilized CISA services. There is also minimal local EI-ISAC membership. The state has expressed a willingness to engage but may require targeted outreach. CISA has built a relationship with the Maine Office of Information Technology, Chief Information Officer, and Chief Information Security Officer. Maine elections officials have attended multiple security briefings and participated in two regional forums.

COVID-19 Considerations

The state's decision to allow voters during the July primary election to pick up mail-in ballots until the close of polls (several days longer than in past elections) led to confusion in smaller cities and towns. These cities and towns had to accommodate voters at city halls and at polling places while the state received a record number of mail-in ballot requests. Election officials reported a shortage of poll workers amidst COVID-19 concerns during the July primary as well. Officials responded by encouraging voters to cast mail-in ballots and consolidating polling places. Maine passed an Executive Order to allow mail-in ballot processing to begin seven days before the general election (October 27, 2020) and allow in-person absentee voting up to the second business day before Election Day (October 30, 2020). Municipalities may change polling locations up to 60 days prior to the election with the Governor's approval. Maine has instituted a 50-person gathering limit in each voting space within a polling location. This mandate is to promote physical distancing and requires voter lines outside polling places to be marked with signage to enforce distancing.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:** None
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Maine (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (ET)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** <1% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Maine has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt in the voting process for a number of voters.

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Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020 although voters may register in person through Election Day, including same-day registration.

- **Vote Casting:** Maine uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 6:00am to 8:00pm (ET), although poll opening times vary by locality between 6:00am and 10:00pm (ET). Maine is a split electoral vote state – they use the "congressional district method", allocating two electoral votes to the state popular vote winner (representing the two senatorial votes), and one electoral vote to the popular vote winner in each Congressional district. Only Maine and Nebraska allocate electoral college votes this way.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Maine offers no-excuse mail-in voting to all voters. Mail-in ballots must be requested by October 31, 2020 and must be received by the close of polls on Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Maine will allow early in-person absentee voting at the municipal clerks' offices ahead of Election Day as soon as mail-in ballots are ready, beginning as early as October 4, 2020 and ending October 30, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- CISA Region I will assume a heightened state of operational readiness to respond to events and incidents affecting the election and supporting infrastructures. CISA Region I will be monitoring remotely and standing by if support is requested. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA), Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA), and Regional Team will remain in close contact with the Maine Secretary of State's Office, Maine Information and Analysis Center (MIAC), Maine National Guard, DHS counterparts, FBI, and all relevant election partners on Election Day.

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Maryland

Potential Challenges

The president of the Maryland Association of Election Officials reported on August 5, 2020 that the state's roster of election judges has decreased 40%, representing a shortage of approximately 14,000 judges needed to have all in-person voting locations operational. Election officials have proposed significantly consolidating polling locations to address this issue. Governor Larry Hogan, however, has requested all polling locations remain open. Election officials have reported difficulty obtaining the printing capacity to send all voters mail-in ballot applications as the governor has requested. Maryland's primary on June 2, 2020 faced significant challenges, including delayed tabulation, misprinted ballots, voters receiving their ballots late or not receiving them at all, and one county receiving ballots written exclusively in Spanish. Election officials anticipate similar challenges in conducting the General Election under the current plan proposed by the governor. Additionally, during the February Special Election, the state experienced e-pollbook connectivity issues. The e-pollbook challenges have been rectified and will be in use for the General Election. Deadlines and in-person voting options may potentially change before November as debate between the governor's office and the state's leading election officials remains ongoing. Due to issues in ballot printing in the primary, Maryland decided to split ballots between two vendors. The vendor that printed the primary ballots did not print ballots for the General Election, requiring the state to use the new vendor for all its ballots.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the State of Maryland, particularly with the Secretary of State's (SoS) office. Maryland has 100% EI-ISAC participation at the local level. Additionally, state and local election offices have taken advantage of several CISA services consistently for the past three years.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Maryland has elected to send mail-in ballot applications to all registered voters. Governor Larry Hogan has also urged election officials to keep every in-person voting place and early-voting site open. However, because of poll worker and election judge shortages, this may be prove difficult.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 County-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
  (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://elections.maryland.gov/index.html

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Maryland has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020. Maryland also offers same-day registration, so voters can register at their early voting center or at the polling place on Election Day.
- **Vote Casting:** Maryland uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 7:00am (ET) to 8:00pm (ET). Voters are encouraged to use mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. All mail-in ballots must be received by the voter's local board of elections by 8:00pm (ET) on November 3, 2020 if delivered by hand. Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received by 10:00am (ET) on November 13, 2020.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All Maryland voters are eligible to use mail-in voting. Applications are required and can be downloaded from the state election website and will also be mailed to all registered voters. Voters can mail, email, or drop off their completed applications at their local election office. Completed applications must be received by October 20, 2020. Once the application is approved, the county clerk will send the voter a ballot either by mail, fax, or a download link from the state's election website. Voters select their preferred method in their mail-in voting application.
- **Early Voting:** Maryland will allow early in-person voting from October 26, 2020 through November 2, 2020. Early voting will be available at the county courthouse, annex, or designated community voting location from 8:00am (ET) to 8:00pm (ET) each day.

Election Day Posture

- CISA personnel will provide virtual support to election stakeholders via chatrooms and online platforms.

OBTAINED BY ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Massachusetts

Potential Challenges

Massachusetts administers elections at the township and city level, not at the county level. This means there is an increased number of local election officials, many of whom work part time and have very limited resources. Massachusetts manages this risk through greater commonwealth control and engagement. In February, before the presidential primary election, the Secretary of Commonwealth reported to federal partners an incident of suspicious, increased traffic to election websites.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Massachusetts election community. The commonwealth has utilized some CISA services and risk management recommendations. Election officials from the commonwealth have participated in two regional forums. Massachusetts also has a low rate of EI-ISAC participation.

COVID-19 Considerations

Massachusetts will allow all voters to use mail-in ballots in the November General Election. State law requires the Secretary of Commonwealth to send mail-in ballot applications to voters by September 14, 2020 and to conduct a public awareness campaign about mail-in voting. The commonwealth is sending mail-in ballot applications in two iterations—the first on July 1, 2020 and the second on September 14, 2020. To vote by mail, voters must send their applications at least four business days before the election (October 30, 2020) and postmark their ballots by November 3, 2020. Clerks will accept ballots until 5:00pm ET on November 6, 2020, an extension of the usual ballot return deadline. To limit crowding at polling places, Massachusetts has added weekend voting to its in-person early voting period on October 17-18, 2020 and October 24-25, 2020.

Commonwealth Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the commonwealth level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
  (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 9% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Massachusetts has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the commonwealth controls the input and management of the commonwealth-wide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 14, 2020. Massachusetts has automatic voter registration.

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- **Vote Casting:** Massachusetts uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open between 7:00am and 8:00pm (ET) across the commonwealth.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Massachusetts has extended the ability to vote by mail to all voters for the general election due to COVID-19 concerns. The Secretary of Commonwealth will mail all voters a mail-in ballot application and conduct a public awareness campaign around voting by mail. The deadline for requesting a ballot is October 28, 2020. Voted ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by November 6, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Massachusetts offers early, in-person voting from October 17, 2020 to October 30, 2020. This includes additional early voting days on the weekends of October 17-18, 2020 and October 24-25, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- CISA Region I will assume a heightened state of operational readiness to respond to events and incidents affecting the election and supporting infrastructures. CISA Region I will be monitoring remotely and standing by if support is requested. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) will remain in close contact with the Massachusetts Secretary of Commonwealth Office, Commonwealth Fusion Center, DHS counterparts, FBI, and all relevant election partners on Election Day. The PSA and CSA may participate in the Massachusetts Election Day Situation Room.

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Michigan

Potential Challenges

Michigan received national attention after their August statewide primary when reports of over 800 ballots from deceased individuals were cast. State officials noted the voters died after casting their ballot and thus their vote was not counted as outlined by Michigan law. This situation led to claims of voter fraud although no illegitimate votes were counted. This misinformation may lead to a lack of confidence in the Michigan mail-in voting process and cause confusion among some voters. Following the August primary, press reports indicated that 72% of the absentee voting precincts in Detroit had ballot counts that were out of balance by at least one vote. This means that the number of voters tracked in precinct poll books did not match the number of ballots counted. The state is currently investigating the discrepancy. There was a recent misinformation campaign targeting predominately African American communities in Michigan which falsely told voters that applying for a mail-in ballot would result in law enforcement tracking the individuals. This misinformation may lead to confusion, distrust, and lower turnout among some voters. The state is currently working to implement multifactor authentication on the voter registration database but this may not be fully implemented by November 3, 2020.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Michigan election community. Michigan has utilized CISA services at the state and local level. The state worked with CISA to develop 2020 Last Mile products. The Michigan Secretary of State (SoS) established an Election Security Commission which includes CISA representation (Matt Masterson) in its membership. CISA field staff regularly engage the Michigan election community.

COVID-19 Considerations

Most jurisdictions in Michigan have started using new envelopes for mail-in ballots which are redesigned to help the United States Postal Service easily identify and swiftly process election mail. Notably, Detroit is still using older envelopes which may contribute to tabulation delays for a large number of votes. Although Michigan has had no-excuse mail-in voting since 2018, the state is sending mail-in ballot applications to every registered voter. State lawmakers passed a bill to allow cities with at least 25,000 people to start pre-processing absentee ballots at 10:00am (ET) on November 2, 2020. To be permitted to pre-process ballots, local government clerk's offices had to notify the Michigan SoS office by October 12, 2020. Ford Field will house eight of 12 receiving boards in the City of Detroit to assist with processing ballots. In addition to the venue, the Detroit Lions are dedicating staff and other resources to support the general election. The Michigan Bureau of Elections (BOE) is providing PPE to all polling locations.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
  - (b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. Online and covered via statewide sensor.
- **County-level Information:** 5% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.michigan.gov/sos/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Michigan has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 4, 2020 and same-day registration is available.
- **Vote Casting:** Michigan uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open at 7:00am (ET) and close at 8:00pm (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All Michigan voters are eligible for no-excuse mail-in voting. Voters may begin requesting mail-in ballots 40 days before the election (September 24, 2020) through 5:00pm (ET) the Friday before the election (October 30, 2020). Voters may request a mail-in ballot online, by mail, or in person. Mail-in ballots postmarked before Election Day may be received up until November 17, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** The only type of early voting Michigan offers is via the mail-in voting process. Voters may request and return their mail-in ballots beginning September 24, 2020 through November 17, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA (b)(6) will be with BOE and Department Technology, Management and Budget personnel the day of the election. Additional assistance will be provided leading up to this event.
- CISA Region V Operations, RD, Protective Security Advisors (PSA) for Michigan, and the RPSA will be monitoring remotely (Chicago) and standing by if support is requested.
- CISA Region V Operations will also participate in multiple chat rooms, dashboards, and collaboration sites during the voting period to monitor election activities, including the ESI internal dashboard that will be used to communicate directly with CISA Headquarters.

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Minnesota

Potential Challenges

Minnesota has experienced a relatively high turnover of county, city, and township election officials. By law, the OSS is required to train the county officials in even years. OSS typically delivers training as a three-day offsite conference but conducted it virtually this year due to COVID-19. This turnover and virtual training may lead to election officials who are less familiar with policies, processes, and procedures. The Secretary of State (SoS) has advised it will take longer than past elections to tabulate votes and advises voters who wish to use mail-in voting to do so as early as possible. This includes dropping off their voted ballot at designated locations or election offices during early voting. Minnesota expects a surge in mail-in ballots for the General Election. At least two-thirds of voters in the spring primary elections cast ballots by mail.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Minnesota election community, including a working partnership with the Office of the Secretary of State (OSS) and several local offices. The state is a member of the EIS-GCC and has utilized CISA services. Local level utilization is growing and a primary focus for regional staff. 75% of local jurisdictions are now members of EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

A consent decree in place for the General Election changes mail-in ballot policies by removing the requirement that mail-in voting occur before a witness. It also extends the window in which voted ballots may be received to be counted. As long as ballots are postmarked by Election Day, they may be received by the county until seven days after the election (November 10, 2020). Existing statutes required ballots to be received by Election Day. Minnesota has divided federal CARES Act funds between OSS and the state's 87 counties. OSS has designed a formula that counties may use to distribute their funds to cities and townships. Local funds will be used to purchase face masks for all poll workers and voters who do not wear their own as well as hand sanitizer and disinfectant for all polling places. OSS is using its funds to encourage people to vote from home, including sending a mail-in voting application to voters who have not already applied or who live in mail ballot precincts. The Minnesota OSS and Department of Health have developed guidance for polling place safety that includes social distancing. The legislature approved a law in May extending the deadline for establishing polling places from December 31, 2019 to July 1, 2020, allowing cities the ability to move polling locations from senior residential and assisted living facilities.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 State Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 75% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.

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- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 8:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Minnesota has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020 by mail or online. Voters may also register in person during early voting or at the polling place on Election Day. This is a resilience measure if voter registration data is altered or deleted.
- **Vote Casting:** Minnesota uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open between 7:00am and 8:00pm (CT) across the state, although towns with fewer than 500 residents are not required to open until 10:00am (CT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All Minnesota voters are eligible to use mail-in voting without an excuse. The mail-in ballot request deadline is November 2, 2020. Voted ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received within seven days of the election (November 10, 2020). The OSS encourages voters to cast ballots by mail.
- **Early Voting:** Minnesota offers in-person absentee voting at county election offices and other designated city and town locations starting September 18, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- SPSA (b)(6) Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b)(6) nd Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) (b)(6) will be supporting the election virtually, actively monitoring and providing support with the ability to go to the Minnesota State Fusion Center or FBI as required.
- CISA Region V Operations, RD, and RPSA will be monitoring remotely and standing by if support is requested.
- CISA Region V Operations will participate in multiple chat rooms, dashboards, and collaboration sites during the voting period to monitor election activities, including the ESI dashboard that will be used to communicate directly with CISA Headquarters.

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Mississippi

Potential Challenges

Mississippi Secretary of State (SoS) Michael Watson noted recently that there are 3.4 million registered voters but only 2.9 million residents in the state. The SoS has sent letters to election commissioners across the state encouraging them to "clean up" their voter rolls. This discrepancy may cause challenges with voter registration and check-in and may erode trust among some voters. Advocacy groups have filed a lawsuit against the SoS asking for the state to move to a no-excuse mail-in voting model.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Mississippi election community. The state has utilized several CISA services at the state level but none at the local level. Mississippi has also not engaged in the Last Mile program. Additionally, only 10% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC. At the state level, election officials have had regular engagement and been willing to meet with CISA.

COVID-19 Considerations

Mississippi is requiring an excuse to utilize mail-in voting during the General Election. Fear of contracting COVID-19 is not a valid excuse. The state legislature voted to include voters who are ordered by a physician to quarantine due to COVID-19 or those who are caring for someone ordered to quarantine as valid excuses to utilize mail-in voting. SoS Michael Watson has noted concern about significantly expanding mail-in voting as only 3.5% of ballots in the state are mailed during typical elections. Additionally, Mississippi is requiring that all voters wear a mask if they vote in person.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Hybrid
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
  -
  -
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A).
- **County-level Information:** 10% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.sos.ms.gov/Elections-Voting/Pages/default.aspx

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Mississippi has a hybrid voter registration system, meaning the SoS oversees elections and local election offices transmit data to the state in real time. Hybrid models are a combination of top-down and bottom-up models including risk advantages and vulnerabilities. Mailed voter registration must be postmarked by October 5, 2020. Registration forms are available for download from the SoS website. In-person registration is available until October 5, 2020 at 12:00pm (CT). Registration is also available at the Department of Public Safety and other government agencies.

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- **Vote Casting:** Mississippi uses paper ballots; DREs with VVPAT; and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. Polling places are open at 7:00am (CT) and close at 7:00pm (CT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** There is no mail-in ballot request deadline, but the state recommends submitting requests no later than October 27, 2020. Mail-in ballots must be received by 5:00pm (CT) on November 2, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Mississippi does not offer in-person early voting options. Mail-in voting is the only type of early voting available.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6) will provide in-person support to the Mississippi SoS Office on Election Day.
- CS (b)(6) will provide virtual support to the Mississippi SoS Office on Election Day.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b)(6) and Regional Operations Manager (b)(6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.

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Missouri

Potential Challenges

While Missouri state law requires mail-in ballots to be notarized for free, recently passed legislation does not authorize free notarization for mail-in ballots. Voters may be challenged to obtain free notarization and should refer to the state's election website for a list of no-cost notary resources. The state continues to update list of no-cost notary resources, with several locations in highly populated areas.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to COVID-19, Governor Parson signed Senate Bill 631 on June 4, 2020 that authorized use of mail-in ballots for the August 4, 2020 primary and November General Election. Voters may utilize mail-in ballots with notarization of the ballot envelope. Voters in at-risk categories for contracting or transmitting COVID-19 are eligible to vote by mail-in ballot without obtaining notarization.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Missouri election community. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA) coordinates Election Day support at the Secretary of State's (SoS) Office with all supporting agencies. The PSA remains connected with the SoS Chief of Staff, participates in secure video teleconferences, supports tabletop exercises, and responds to all state inquiries. The PSA and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) have presented at the county clerk statewide meetings. However, Missouri has requested few CISA services and only 52% of local jurisdictions are members of the EI-ISAC.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:** (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 52% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-7:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Missouri has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. Missouri allows voter registration applications to be submitted online, by mail, or in person. Residents may request a registration application to be mailed to them within 3-5 business days. The regular voter registration deadline is October 7, 2020. Voter registration forms submitted by mail must be returned to the local election authority and postmarked by October 7, 2020. Missouri does not allow same-day voter registration.

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- **Vote Casting:** Missouri uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 6:00am to 7:00pm (CT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Missouri allows excused mail-in voting for registered voters with one of seven reasons beginning September 22, 2020. Voters may request mail-in ballots from their local election authority in person, by mail, by fax, or by e-mail. Relatives within the second degree (spouse, parents, and children) may complete a mail-in ballot application, in person, on behalf of the voter who wishes to utilize mail-in voting. Mail-in ballot requests must be received by the local election authority by 5:00pm (CT) on October 21, 2020. Voters may cast mail-in ballots in the office of the local election authority until 5:00pm (CT) on November 2, 2020. Mail-in ballots must be returned in the provided envelope, signed, and witnessed by a notary and received by 7:00pm (CT) on November 3, 2020 to be counted.
- **Early Voting:** Missouri does not offer an early voting period.

Election Day Posture

- CISA Region VII continues to maintain a heightened state of operations readiness to respond to events and incidents affecting the election and supporting infrastructures.
- CISA Region VII is coordinating with state entities including the SoS, State of Missouri Department of Public Safety, and the Missouri State Fusion Center and will be postured to assist state and local entities as needed on Election Day.
- On Election Day, the Missouri PSA will deploy to the SoS office accompanied by a state cyber representative, Social Media Analyst, State Fusion Center representative, DHS IO, and potentially a FBI SA. The CSA will be remotely monitoring. CISA Region VII staff will be actively coordinating information and reporting.

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Montana

Potential Challenges

A majority of counties in Montana will conduct the General Election primarily by mail. Mail-in voting challenges include stopping the spread of misinformation related to process changes; mailing and returning ballots on-time and accurately; and potential tabulation delays. Although mail-in ballots may be requested until the day before the election, voted ballots must be returned by the close of polls on Election Day. Voters should plan to request ballots well in advance and return them in person to avoid potential delivery delays. Voting rights groups in Montana recently challenged a 2018 law that significantly restricts the number of ballots that "ballot collectors" are permitted to submit. According to critics, this law has disproportionately affected rural and tribal voters. On May 20, 2020, a Montana judge put a temporary restraining order on the law, which the state argues was passed too close to the June 2, 2020 primary. This legal battle may create confusion for some voters and ballot collectors in rural areas.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Montana election community. The state has met with CISA representatives and has used CISA services but does not currently have any individuals with a DHS-sponsored Election Infrastructure security clearance. Local jurisdictions have not used CISA services, and only 23% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC. The Montana Protective Security Advisor (PSA) has a very good working relationship with all three state election officials in the Secretary of State's (SoS) Office. To date, the PSA has not had an opportunity to work with any county election officials but has conducted outreach to the counties through educational "#PROTECT2020" briefings and provided election security information.

COVID-19 Considerations

Montana's governor issued an executive order allowing counties to make their own decisions about expanded access to mail-in and early voting for the General Election. All counties will be required to maintain in-person voting options with social distancing measures in place. Counties were required to submit their election plan to the SoS by September 9, 2020. For the General Election, 46 of 56 counties in the state will conduct their election primarily by mail. The executive order also provides expanded timelines for voter registration, ballot distribution, and early voting opportunities. The directive extends the close of regular voter registration until 10 days before the election (October 24, 2020) to minimize the need for in-person registration or lines. At least 33 counties have chosen to mail ballots directly to voters after several county election commissioners had petitioned the state to allow this change, citing poll worker shortages and the loss of polling place venues due to health concerns related to COVID-19.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - [redacted]
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E) [redacted]
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) [redacted] (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) [redacted]
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 23% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 8:00pm (MT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sosmt.gov/elections/

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Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Montana has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 26, 2020 (extended by the Governor's executive order), and late registration is available in person until Election Day.
- **Vote Casting:** Montana uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open between 7:00am and 8:00pm (MT) across the state, although counties with fewer than 400 registered voters may open as late as 12:00pm (MT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All voters may request a mail-in ballot until the day before the election. However, as ballots must arrive by the close of polls on Election Day, voters are encouraged to request their ballot at least one week in advance and return it in person to ensure timely delivery.
- **Early Voting:** Montana offers in-person absentee voting as mail-in ballots are available, beginning at least as early as October 4, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6) Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) (b)(6) Region VIII Regional Director, CPS, and Operations Staff will monitor and support elections activities by virtual means.

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Nebraska

Potential Challenges

Considering the impact of COVID-19 and an anticipated surge in mail-in voting, challenges include potential poll-worker shortages, managing social distancing, long lines, and tabulation delays.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Nebraska election offices sent mail-in ballot applications to all registered voters for the primary election on May 12. The SoS has encouraged voters who want a mail-in ballot for the General Election to request one from local election officials or download the form online. To request a mail-in ballot for the General Election, registered voters must obtain, complete, and submit an application before October 23, 2020. Voters may still vote in person during Early Voting from October 5, 2020 – November 2, 2020 or on Election Day. The Nebraska SoS and local election officials published COVID-19 protection guidelines that advocate for early in-person voting at local election offices, mail-in voting, and to include social distancing and mitigation measures at polling locations on Election Day.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Nebraska Secretary of State (SoS) office. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) have also built an excellent relationship with the SoS and local election community. Nebraska Deputy SoS Wayne Bena has offered ample praise of the state's partnership with DHS. 100% of all Nebraska county elections commissioners are members of the EI-ISAC. Local CISA staff are connected with ES&S, a Nebraska-based service provider of ballot print, mail, equipment, and technology services for jurisdictions across the country.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
  -
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 8:00am - 8:00pm (CT); 7:00am - 7:00pm (MT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/2020-elections

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Nebraska has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 16, 2020. Mail-in voter registration must be mailed and postmarked on or before October 16, 2020. Military and overseas voters must complete the

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Federal Post Card Application which serves as both a registration application and an early-voting application.

- **Vote Casting:** Nebraska uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 8:00am to 8:00pm (CT), and from 7:00am to 7:00pm (MT). All early voting ballots whether delivered in person, by mail, or by other carrier must arrive at the county election official's office before the closing of polls on Election Day (8:00pm (CT), 7:00pm (MT)). Military and overseas voters who receive a ballot and do not think it will arrive at the county election office by the deadline should contact the county election office to make other arrangements. Nebraska is a split electoral vote state – they use the "congressional district method", allocating two electoral votes to the state popular vote winner (representing the two senatorial votes), and one electoral vote to the popular vote winner in each Congressional district. Only Maine and Nebraska allocate electoral college votes this way.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Nebraska is a "no-excuse" state, meaning any registered voter may request an early-voting (mail-in) ballot, and is not required to provide a reason. The state is mailing every registered voter a mail-in ballot application Applications are required and must be received by the county election office by 6:00pm on October 23, 2020. Regular early-voting ballots are not sent out or voted until at least 35 days before the election (September 29, 2020).
- **Early Voting:** Nebraska will allow early in-person voting for a period beginning 30 days prior to the election and ending the day before the election (October 5, 2020 – November 2, 2020). Early voting will be available at county election offices during normal business hours.

Election Day Posture

- On Election Day, the Nebraska Protective Security Advisor (PSA) will deploy in-person to the Nebraska SoS Election Operations Center in Lincoln, NE to monitor statewide voting and potential for incidents. The Regional Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) will be remotely monitoring statewide voting and potential for incidents. The Regional staff will be actively coordinating information and reporting.

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Nevada

Potential Challenges

Nevada faced eight-hour lines in Las Vegas and Reno during the 2020 Presidential Primary due to a reduction in polling places. The state plans to reduce polling locations again for the 2020 General Election which may lead again to long lines. Nevada has relatively limited experience conducting a mail-in voting election.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Nevada election community. Nevada has a 100% rate of local membership in the EI-ISAC. Protective Security Advisors (PSA) are in the process of assisting the Nevada Secretary of State's (SoS) Office with physical vulnerability assessments at their facilities in Carson City and North Las Vegas. In addition, PSAs have conducted physical security assessments at several local election offices and have provided feedback to election partners with options for consideration.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, on August 2, 2020 the Nevada state legislature passed a bill enabling the state to send mail-in ballots to all registered voters, without the need for voters to apply for them. The state followed the same procedure for the 2020 presidential primary election. The state also reduced the number of polling places open for the primary election, and this reduction is expected in the General Election as well. State law requires at least 140 polling locations open throughout the state including 100 polling sites in Clark County. Voters may still vote in person during early voting from October 17, 2020-October 30, 2020 or on Election Day on November 3, 2020. The state legislature and election officials have been fiercely debating along party lines over who has the authority to return ballots on behalf of another, also known as "ballot harvesting." Under the current plan, a ballot collector/returner does not have to be related to the voter to submit their ballot. Several lawsuits have been filed against the new mail-in voting system.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Bottom-Up
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots, DREs w/ VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 County-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (PT)
- **Official Election Website:** www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Nevada has a bottom-up registration system, meaning local jurisdictions control the input and management of voter registration. Jurisdictions transmit data on a daily basis to the statewide database. From a risk perspective, bottom-up states tend to have weaker, less consistent cybersecurity postures relative to top-down states based on availability of resources. Conversely, the advantage of the

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bottom-up model is it lacks a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt check-in at a statewide scale. In-person registrations must be complete and mail-in registrations must be received by October 6, 2020. The deadline to register online is October 29, 2020. Same-day registration is also available during the early voting period from October 17, 2020 until October 30, 2020 and also on Election Day.

- **Vote Casting:** Nevada uses paper ballots and DREs w/ VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 7:00am (PT) to 7:00pm (PT). Voters are encouraged to use mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 to be valid. Voters may also return their mail-in ballots in-person at their local county clerk's office and designated drop-off locations. The deadline for in-person submission of mail-in ballots is 7:00pm (PT) on November 3, 2020.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** For the 2020 General Election, all voters will be automatically sent a mail-in ballot.
- **Early Voting:** Nevada will allow early in-person voting from October 17, 2020-October 30, 2020. Early voting locations and exact hours are determined at the county level and are published on the Nevada SoS website. All voters are eligible to vote early.

Election Day Posture

- The PSA in Carson City District is planning to deploy in-person to the Nevada SoS Office at the State Capitol building.
- The Las Vegas PSA will deploy in-person to the SoS Office in North Las Vegas and will support the Election Integrity Task Force and the Election Operations Center.

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New Hampshire

Potential Challenges

Many New Hampshire towns still count votes by hand, but most of the state's ballots are tallied by machines. During an exercise to probe for vulnerabilities at a technology conference in summer 2019, ethical hackers were able to manipulate results produced by the optical scanner used widely throughout New Hampshire. Some jurisdictions in New Hampshire use ballot-counting machines (AccuVote) that are no longer manufactured and whose operating system is no longer supported by Microsoft, making repairs challenging. The potential risks posed by ballot-counting machines malfunctioning during a high turnout election is demonstrated by the close margins of the New Hampshire U.S. Senate and Presidential races in 2016, both decided by a <1% vote margin. Most federal election security funds that the state received in 2018 went to state-level security expenses, leaving localities responsible for the costs of security upgrades. Elections are run at the township level which often leads to lower volume of voting per polling location. However, this is often indicative of less technical and cybersecurity awareness among township-level election officials.

Relationship

CISA has a limited relationship with the New Hampshire election community. The Secretary of State (SoS) has refused to engage with CISA, and the state has not utilized any services. The Deputy SoS has attributed this to a "healthy distrust" of outside agencies, relying instead on private contracts for cybersecurity assessments. CISA has a more productive relationship with New Hampshire's Chief Information Officer.

COVID-19 Considerations

New Hampshire has extended the ability to use mail-in voting to all voters for the September primary elections and November General Election. A memo released by the SoS indicates that CARES Act funding will provide PPE and hand sanitizer to poll workers for the fall elections, but masks will need to be reused in both elections. Local election officials reported during March 2020 municipal elections that hand sanitizer clogged ballot scanners when ballots wet with disinfectant broke down in the machine. New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management will assist with equipment delivery to polling places.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:** None
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** None
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** <1% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** New (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. Online and covered via statewide sensor.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am – 7:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.nh.gov/VoteNH.aspx

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration** New Hampshire has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability

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of resources. The voter registration deadline for the general election varies between six and 13 days (October 21, 2020 – October 28, 2020) before the election depending on the locality. The state will allow voters to register by mail for the General Election. Same-day registration is available on Election Day.

- **Vote Casting:** New Hampshire uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open between 6:00am and 7:00pm (ET) across the state, although the poll opening time varies by locality between 6:00am and 11:00am (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** New Hampshire has extended mail-in voting to all voters for the General Election due to COVID-19 concerns. There is no deadline for requesting a ballot, but voters are encouraged to request a ballot by October 27, 2020. Voted ballots must be returned in-person or by mail by Election Day at 5:00pm (ET).
- **Early Voting:** New Hampshire does not offer early in-person voting.

Election Day Posture

- CISA Region I will assume a heightened state of operational readiness to respond to events and incidents affecting the election and supporting infrastructures. CISA Region I will be monitoring remotely and standing by if support is requested. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) will remain in close contact with the New Hampshire SoS Office, New Hampshire Intelligence Fusion Center, New Hampshire National Guard, DHS counterparts, FBI, and all relevant election partners on Election Day.

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New Jersey

Potential Challenges

New Jersey is expecting to face challenges related to mis- and disinformation on social media. State officials indicated in a recent tabletop exercise that budget constraints may lead to a reduction in staff to count mail-in ballots. This reduction in staffing may delay election results. In response to New Jersey's mail-in voting expansion, President Trump's reelection campaign, the Republican National Committee, and the New Jersey Republican State Committee are suing the State of New Jersey in an effort to stop expanded mail-in voting. Following a July city council race in Paterson, New Jersey, the state Attorney General filed voter fraud charges against a city councilman and councilman-elect. The individuals were charged with fraud in casting mail-in votes, unauthorized possession of ballots, and tampering with public records. The ongoing lawsuits coupled with the high-profile voter fraud allegations may lead to distrust of the mail-in voting process among some voters.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the New Jersey election community. Bob Giles, New Jersey's State Election Director, is a close partner with CISA. 100% of New Jersey's local election officials are members of the EI-ISAC. New Jersey is actively engaged in the Last Mile effort including developing 2020 products. State and local jurisdictions in New Jersey have utilized several CISA services. Region II Protective Security Advisors (PSA) maintain excellent relationships with various state and local agencies. Region II staff recently facilitated a statewide election security tabletop exercise.

COVID-19 Considerations

On August 13, in response to COVID-19 Governor Murphy announced the General Election will be conducted primarily through mail-in voting. This expansion includes an expansion of the number of secure ballot drop box locations (at least 10 per county) and limiting the number of in-person voting centers. The state will mail ballots to every registered voter with prepaid postage. Each county must open at least one polling place in each municipality and at least 50% of its usual number of polling places. If a county cannot meet this threshold it must "utilize schools or other large facilities to serve as large voting centers, which will accommodate more voting districts in one polling place." Individuals voting in-person will cast a provisional (paper) ballot. All polling places must adhere to sanitation guidelines and are modifying the layout of polling places to meet social distancing standards. Some polling places are considering drive-in voting to minimize crowding

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 County-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** New (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/index.shtml

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Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** New Jersey has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** New Jersey uses paper ballots and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 6:00am to 8:00pm (ET). Voters are encouraged to utilize mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Each county is required to open at least one polling place in each municipality for in-person voting.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Due to COVID-19, New Jersey will send mail-in ballots to all registered voters with prepaid postage. The deadline to apply for a mail-In ballot for the General Election is October 27, 2020. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 and received by 8:00pm (ET) on November 10, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** New Jersey allows for early in-person absentee voting 45 days before the election (September 19, 2020). In-person absentee voting ends at 3:00pm (ET) on November 2, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- PSAs and CPS will support Election Day activities at the NJ State Fusion Center, Emergency Operations Center, NJ Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC) located on the NJ State Police Headquarters Campus in West Trenton, NJ.
- The Region II Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) will virtually support election activities from the EI-ISAC in East Greenbush, NY.

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New Mexico

Potential Challenges

Many counties across New Mexico lack dedicated IT personnel and have limited funding to support cybersecurity efforts. The counties remain vigilant and aware of the cyber threat but are hampered by resource constraints. This lack of IT resources may present challenges should a cybersecurity incident occur.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the New Mexico election community. State election officials are open to CISA assistance and are a member of the GCC. However, state and local officials have utilized few CISA services. Only 48% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA) partnered with the New Mexico Secretary of State's (SoS) Office, the State Fusion Center, and the FBI in 2019 to establish an Interagency Election Security Working Group, which meets quarterly to discuss the current threat environment, actions to enhance election security within the state, and to coordinate efforts across state agencies.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to COVID-19, voters are encouraged to utilize no-excuse mail-in voting. Mail-in ballot applications are available to all registered voters, but the state will not automatically mail applications to voters. The state is anticipating a large influx of mail-in ballots and is encouraging voters to mail their ballots as early as possible, ideally by October 27, 2020. Voters will be able to track their mail-in-ballots using an individualized bar code located on the envelope. For the first time, voters must sign the outer envelope of mail-in ballots and write down the last four digits of their social security number. State election officials have expressed confidence in the ability of the United States Postal Service to handle the increase in mail-in ballots but have said the most reliable method of returning mail-in ballots is hand delivering ballots to clerk's offices, drop boxes, or voting centers. The SoS Office is providing PPE, sanitation best practices, and training to election officials, vendors, and volunteers in all jurisdictions.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** New (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 48% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (MT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** New Mexico has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of

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resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 6, 2020 but has been extended to 6:00pm (MT) the Saturday before the election (October 31, 2020). Returning uniformed service members, Merchant Marines, individuals serving outside of the country in support of national security, and their spouses and dependents may request extended time to register in-person should they miss the deadline.

- **Vote Casting:** New Mexico uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm (MT). Voters are encouraged to utilize mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Mail-in ballots are available to all registered voters and requests must be submitted by October 20, 2020. The state recommends that voters return their mail-in ballots by October 27, 2020 to ensure ballots are received on time. Mail-in ballots must be received by Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** New Mexico will allow early in-person voting on October 17-October 31, 2020. Early voting will be available at county courthouses, annexes, or designated community voting locations Monday through Saturday from 10:00am to 7:00pm (MT) during those dates.

Election Day Posture

- On Election Day, the New Mexico Emergency Operations Center will serve as the Command Center for the SoS Office.
- PSA (b)(6) will coordinate with Region VI Incident Support Group to share election related security information.
- PSA (b)(6) will support the EOC in person (or remote, pending a surge in COVID-19 cases), along with representatives from various state and federal agencies.
- The SoS has established a HSIN room to serve as the primary platform for information sharing, reporting and coordination across all state and local election officials, IT support personnel, and federal partners.
- PSA (b)(6) will participate in the SoS HSIN Room, along with national and regional federal rooms during the operational period.

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New York

Potential Challenges

New York is expecting to face challenges related to mis- and disinformation on social media. State officials indicated in a recent tabletop exercise that budget constraints may lead to a reduction in staff to count mail-in ballots. Extensive delays occurred in declaring winners during the June primaries due to a major increase in mail-in ballots. These delays may lead to decreased voter confidence in the state's mail-in voting system for the General Election. During the June primary, thousands of voters failed to provide the proper signatures on their mail-in ballots. To mitigate this issue, the state will include a red "X", red arrow, and/or large print to remind voters to sign the corresponding affirmation letter included with their General Election mail-in ballot.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the New York Secretary of State (SoS) office and with the New York election community. State and county jurisdictions have utilized several CISA services. 100% of New York's local election officials are members of the EI-ISAC. The SoS maintains an open dialogue with CISA and has participated in multiple CISA-sponsored exercises. Region II staff worked with the CISA Exercises Team to design and facilitate four Tabletop Exercises for the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE) in July 2020.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to COVID-19, New York is allowing any registered voter to claim fear of contracting COVID-19 as a valid excuse to use mail-in voting. Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order on August 24, 2020 that requires boards of election to take certain steps to "inform voters of upcoming deadlines, be prepared for upcoming elections, and help ensure mail-in ballots can be used in all elections." Among these requirements are that boards of election must send mailings outlining all deadlines to voters by September 8, 2020 and submit a staffing plan to the NYSBOE by September 20, 2020. All mail-in ballots postmarked on or before Election Day or received by local boards of elections by November 4, 2020 will be counted. Local boards of elections are implementing a variety of COVID-19 safety procedures at polling sites including designated voting areas for voters who decline to wear face coverings.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Bottom-Up
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
  -
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** New (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes; (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-9:00am (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.elections.ny.gov/

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Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** New York has a bottom-up registration system, meaning local jurisdictions control the input and management of voter registration. Jurisdictions transmit data in real time to the statewide database. From a risk perspective, bottom-up states tend to have weaker, less consistent cybersecurity postures relative to top-down states based on availability of resources. Conversely, the advantage of the bottom-up model is it lacks a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt check-in at a statewide scale. The voter registration deadline for New York is October 9, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** New York uses paper ballots and BMDs. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Due to COVID-19, the state has expanded mail-in voting to all registered voters. In-person voting sites will be open on November 3, 2020, but this option is encouraged only for voters who cannot vote-by-mail.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is November 2, 2020. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day or be received by the board of elections without a postmark on the day after the election (November 4, 2020) to be counted. Ballots with a postmark demonstrating they were mailed on or before Election Day will be counted if received by November 10, 2020. Voters may begin requesting mail-in ballots on August 20, 2020. By executive order, county boards of election must adopt a uniform, clarified envelope for mail-in ballots.
- **Early Voting:** In-person early voting is required for all counties in New York from October 24, 2020 through November 1, 2020. From a risk perspective, early voting may provide a measure of warning of emerging issues.

Election Day Posture

- The Albany Protective Security Advisor (PSA) will be located at the NYS Intelligence Center along with the Region II CSA supporting Election Day operations from the EI-ISAC in East Greenbush, NY.
- The Region II Regional Director will support CISA Senior Leadership from the EI-ISAC.
- Other PSAs will participate in in-district monitoring and coordination with NYC Cyber Command, local boards of election, and support to the FBI's New York Field Office Countering Foreign Influence Squad.

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North Carolina

Potential Challenges

North Carolina has received a seven-fold increase in mail-in ballot requests for the 2020 General Election compared to the 2016 General Election. The state is expecting up to 40% of voters to utilize mail-in voting compared to just 5% during typical elections. This increase in mail-in ballot requests may cause logistical challenges for state and local election officials. The State Board of Elections (SBOE) has issued clarification on their website stating that a photo I.D. is not required to vote but confusion may arise due to a new bill passed by the legislature which includes a provision about voter I.D. requirements. The SBOE passed a resolution allowing ballots missing the witness signature to be cured using an affidavit attesting it was them that cast the ballot, as well as allowing ballots postmarked on Election Day to be accepted if they arrive within six days after Election Day. A court ruling will allow the affidavit cure process to move forward, however the postmark timeframe is pending in a federal appeals court (as of October 20, 2020). Both Republican Board Members resigned the day after the SBOE passed these resolutions, leaving the SBOE with only three Democratic Board Members six weeks before the election. There are additional ongoing lawsuits related to photo I.D. as well as online ballot delivery, marking, and return for voters with disabilities. The State also implemented an online electronic return system, Democracy Live, for UOCAVA voters for the first time. CISA assessed that electronic return is high risk.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the North Carolina election community. State officials have been willing to meet and partner with CISA. 100% of local jurisdictions are members of the EI-ISAC. State and local jurisdictions have utilized several CISA services and are currently developing Last Mile products.

COVID-19 Considerations

The North Carolina State Legislature passed a law in May 2020 to increase funding for mail-in voting during 2020 elections. The bill also reduces the witness signature requirement for completed mail-in ballots from two witnesses to one witness. The SBOE recommends the witness "should not observe so closely that they can see how the voter votes." The SBOE also issued an emergency order on July 17, 2020 mandating a number of modifications to in-person voting for the General Election. These include modifications to early voting (see the "Early Voting" bullet below) and mandating a number of significant precautions to protect voters and poll workers from the spread of disease (e.g., social distancing, frequent sanitizing of common surfaces, and requiring election officials to wear face coverings). The order confirmed that voters will not be required to wear masks while voting.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** North (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:30am-7:30pm (ET)

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- **Official Election Website:**
  https://www.ncsbe.gov/index.html

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** North Carolina has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 9, 2020 and same-day registration is available during early voting. Department of Motor Vehicles customers are permitted to register to vote online.
- **Vote Casting:** North Carolina uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open at 6:30am (ET) and close at 7:30pm (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** The mail-in ballot request deadline is October 27, 2020. All voters are eligible to utilize mail-in voting without an excuse. Returned ballots must be received by 5:00pm (ET) on Election Day, regardless of when the ballot is postmarked. This timeframe may change pending the federal appeals court decisions (see the "Potential Challenges" section above for more information. North Carolina reduced its signature requirement for completed mail-in ballots from two to one for 2020 elections. The state legislature also passed a bill to increase funding for mail-in voting.
- **Early Voting:** In addition to mail-in voting, North Carolina offers in-person early voting from October 14, 2020 through October 30, 2020. In-person early voting occurs Monday through Friday during regular business hours at county boards of elections. Per the SBOE July 17 emergency order, all county boards of elections must open each early voting site for at least 10 hours on the weekends of October 17, 2020 through October 18, 2020 and October 24, 2020 through October 25, 2020. Each county board also must open one early voting site per 20,000 registered voters. County boards may apply for a waiver if their proposed plan sufficiently serves the voting population, maintains social distancing, and reduces the likelihood of long lines.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6) and Branch Chief (b)(6) will provide in-person support to the SBOE on Election Day.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b)(6) and Regional Operations Manager (b)(6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.

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North Dakota

Potential Challenges

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has warned North Dakota about potential mail-in ballot delivery delays. There is no deadline to request a mail-in ballot in the state and voted ballots must be postmarked the day before the election. However, the state election director has cited existing election procedures that require county auditors to publicize difficulties in ballot delivery and processing as the election date nears. This procedure will alert voters about the need to return ballots to their election office in person or use a drop box to ensure timely delivery. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by November 2, 2020 and received by Monday, November 9, 2020, which does not conflict with USPS's two- to five-day turnaround window.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the North Dakota election community. The state Protective Security Advisor (PSA) and Cyber Security Advisor (CSA) have a positive working relationship with the Secretary of State's (SoS) Office. The state Election Director is new to the position as of this year. Local jurisdictions have not used any CISA services, but this is due to the simplicity of the voting system and a robust IT staff capable of performing these services in-house. The PSA has assisted in coordinating security clearances for all senior SoS staff and has accompanied the Assistant SoS to primary election polling stations to provide enhanced security measures. The PSA is currently coordinating several secure video teleconference briefings between the SoS and state fusion center to provide coordination on Permanent Certifications.

COVID-19 Considerations

The June presidential primary was conducted entirely by mail and all polling places were closed. For the General Election, all counties will maintain in-person voting and use secure drop boxes for mail-in ballots.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** N/A
  - State does not require voters to pre-register.
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** North (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 58% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 9:00pm local time (MT and CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalList.aspx

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** North Dakota is the only state that does not require voter registration. Precincts in North Dakota maintain a list of voters who have voted in previous elections.
- **Vote Casting:** North Dakota uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, vote centers will be open between 7:00am and 9:00pm local time (MT and CT) across the state. Opening times vary between 7:00am and 9:00am (MT and CT). Closing times vary between 7:00pm and 9:00pm (MT and CT).

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  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Any resident may apply for a mail-in ballot. There is no declared deadline to request a ballot. Voted ballots must be postmarked by November 2, 2020 and received by November 9, 2020. Voters waiting until late October to return a ballot are advised to return it in person or deposit it in a drop box to ensure timely delivery.
- **Early Voting:** North Dakota offers in-person early voting starting October 19, 2020 at the discretion of the county.

Election Day Posture

- Region VIII Regional Director, North Dakota PSA (b)(6) CSA (b)(6) CPS, and Operations Staff will provide virtual support to elections activities.
- PSA (b)(6) offered to assist with any on-site support to the North Dakota SoS Office, North Dakota Elections Office, or the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (SLIC - Fusion Center). All respondents replied that no assistance was needed at this time but would contact PSA (b)(6) should a need arise.

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Ohio

Potential Challenges

Ohio county boards of elections (BOEs) have received mail-in ballot requests at an unprecedented rate. Local BOEs are hiring additional staff, preparing orders for more mail-in ballots and mailing materials, and redistributing resources to manage the influx of mail-in ballot requests. Some rural BOEs lack financial resources to hire professional IT assistance. The Secretary of State's (SoS) Office has technical assistance available to these counties upon request. The state anticipates poll worker shortages and some businesses are offering paid leave to staff willing to volunteer at the polls. High school and college-aged Ohioans are encouraged to volunteer. There is an ongoing dispute between Ohio SoS Frank LaRose and state Democrats involving the breadth of authority of the SoS to make election process changes. For example, Democrats have urged the SoS to create an online mail-in ballot request system. LaRose argues only the state legislature has this authority which prevents him from acting. The Ohio Democrat Party has sued LaRose over this and other issues.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Ohio election community. The state is very engaged and has utilized CISA services and risk management recommendations at both the state and local levels. CISA field staff has established excellent relationships with state and local level entities. CISA has assisted with implementing various directives issued by the Ohio SoS to the state's 88 county BOEs. 100% of local entities are members of the EI-ISAC. Ohio Protective Security Advisors (PSA) participate in monthly teleconferences with Ohio state election officials.

COVID-19 Considerations

Ohio will send a mail-in ballot application to every registered voter. On August 12, 2020, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health, SoS LaRose issued the Ohio Voting Safety Plan to the state's 88 county BOEs. The 48-point plan sets forth requirements for BOEs as well as recommendations for voters for the General Election. BOEs must provide curbside voting and have a secure drop box at every BOE for voters who do not want to enter the polling location or refuse to wear a mask. Further, the SoS Office is requiring BOEs to move polling locations out of facilities that serve vulnerable populations. Specific guidance for curbside voting is forthcoming. Some BOEs have modified their early voting polling spaces to address COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. For example, the Hamilton County Board of Elections has significantly expanded its early voting space to allow for large numbers of voters during the early voting period (October 6 – November 2, 2020).The state is exploring alternative funding for postage including through the state Controlling Board which has seen an increase in funds due to a record number of business filings during the COVID-19 crisis. Currently, voters must pay for their own postage. Due to the increase in mail-in voting, local county BOEs are adopting a wide array of procedural changes including conducting poll worker training earlier in the year and using federal money to purchase additional equipment (e.g., letter openers and scanners).

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Bottom-Up
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballot; DREs with VVPAT; Ballot Marking Devices
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered

- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Ohio (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:30am-7:30pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** www.sos.state.oh.us/elections

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Ohio has a bottom-up voter registration system, meaning local jurisdictions control the input and management of voter registration. Jurisdictions transmit data in real time to the statewide database. From a risk perspective, bottom-up states tend to have weaker, less consistent cybersecurity postures relative to top-down states based on availability of resources. Conversely, the advantage of the bottom-up model is it lacks a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt check-in at a statewide scale. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020. Ohio does not offer same day registration.
- **Vote Casting:** Ohio uses paper ballots; BMDs; and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open from 6:30am – 7:30pm (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All voters are eligible to utilize mail-in voting. Voters can request mail-in ballots for each individual election beginning on January 1, 2020. Voters must complete and submit a separate application for each election in which they want to vote. They must request a mail-in ballot at least three days prior to the election (October 31, 2020) and postmark it by the day before (November 2, 2020). Ballots may also be returned in person to the voter's county BOE by 7:30pm (ET) on Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Starting the day after the close of voter registration (October 6, 2020), all registered voters may request a mail-in ballot and vote early in person at their county BOE or early voting center as designated by the county. Early voting ends the day before Election Day (November 2, 2020).

Election Day Posture

- SPSA (b)(6) PSA (b)(6) , and PSA (b)(6) will either staff the state and regional fusion centers or support remotely including monitoring appropriate HSIN Connect Rooms, State WebEOC, and County WebEOCs or Knowledge Centers. Current COVID-19 directives will dictate the in-person support.
- Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) (b)(6) will be supporting remotely, monitoring appropriate HSIN Connect Rooms.
- CISA Region V Operations, Regional Director, and RPSA will be monitoring remotely (Chicago) and standing by if support is requested.
- CISA Region V Operations will also participate in multiple chat rooms, dashboards, and collaboration sites during the voting period to monitor election activities, including the ESI internal dashboard that will be used to communicate directly with CISA Headquarters.

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Oklahoma

Potential Challenges

Oklahoma has fairly stringent requirements for how to validate mail-in ballots. "Standard absentee ballot" affidavits (indicated by a yellow stripe) may be notarized or the voter may submit a copy of a valid ID. "Physically incapacitated or caretaker absentee ballot" affidavits (indicated by a pink stripe) may be witnessed by two people or the voter may submit a copy of a valid ID (see the "Mail-in Ballots" subsection below for more information). This system may cause confusion for some voters and create social distancing challenges due to the multiple witness requirement. Mail-in ballots returned in-person must be dropped off by November 2, 2020 rather than on Election Day. This may cause confusion for some voters who are unaware of this requirement. Oklahoma has only three days of early voting (October 29, 2020-October 31, 2020) which may present challenges for voters who wish to vote early but are unable to accommodate those days.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Oklahoma election community. Paul Ziriax, the State Election Board Secretary has been a close partner with CISA since 2017 and is very receptive to CISA efforts including cybersecurity and risk management recommendations. The State Election Board holds recurring security briefings with its 77 election boards and requests CISA staff to present on current challenges facing local election boards. The State Election Board Secretary recently requested the Protective Security Advisor (PSA) to brief all county election board workers on physical security best practices, potential threats, and ways to improve communications with state and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies. In addition, the state regularly requests the PSA to sit in the State Election Board Command Center during elections. The PSA is also a member of the Oklahoma State Election Board Security Working Group and the Oklahoma State Election Board Emergency Team.

COVID-19 Considerations

The state has expanded voter eligibility for "physically incapacitated" absentee voting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the traditional qualifications, voters may now apply for a "physically incapacitated" absentee ballot if they have tested positive for COVID-19, are awaiting a test result, are experiencing symptoms, are in a high-risk demographic, or were recommended by a physician to socially isolate (see the "Mail-in Ballots" subsection below for more information). Advocacy groups are lobbying state courts to relax absentee verification requirements even further. The state passed additional legislation to accommodate several requests from the state election board, including giving state employees paid time-off to be a poll worker, securing additional funding and PPE, and granting the state election board the ability to consolidate in-person voting locations. State election officials are encouraging voters to utilize mail-in voting but are designing in-person locations to meet social distancing requirements.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Hybrid
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 State Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
  - (b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 1% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.ok.gov/elections/index.html

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Oklahoma has a hybrid voter registration system where the SoS oversees elections and local election offices transmit data to the state daily. Hybrid models are a combination of top-down and bottom-up models including risk advantages and vulnerabilities. The regular voter registration deadline is October 9, 2020. Voters must submit a physical copy of their registration form which must be received by their county election board office by October 9, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Oklahoma uses paper ballots and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am (CT) to 7:00pm (CT). Voters are encouraged to utilize mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. All mailed ballots must be received by the voter's county election board by 7:00pm (CT) on November 3, 2020. Voters can also submit their mail-in ballots in-person during business hours at their county election board through November 2, 2020.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Oklahoma has two different tiers of mail-in voting statuses that determine how a voter may submit their ballot. All voters are eligible for "standard" absentee ballots. The state has expanded voter eligibility for "physically incapacitated" absentee voting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the traditional qualifications, voters may now apply for a "physically incapacitated" absentee ballot if they have tested positive for COVID-19, are awaiting a test result, are experiencing symptoms, are in a high-risk demographic, or were recommended by a physician to socially isolate. Voters do not need to report which of these qualifications they meet to request this level of absentee ballot. "Standard" absentee ballot voters may not have anyone else physically return their ballot on their behalf. "Physically incapacitated" voters must return their ballots by mail, or they can have an agent physically return their ballot. "Physically incapacitated" absentee voters may also submit a copy of their ID or include two witness signatures to validate their ballot. "Standard" absentee voters may be notarized or the voter may submit a copy of a valid ID. Deadlines are the same for both tiers. Applications are required and must be received by the voter's county election board by 5:00pm (CT) on October 27, 2020. Once the application is approved, the county clerk will send a mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter.
- **Early Voting:** Oklahoma will allow early in-person voting from October 29, 2020-October 31, 2020. Early voting will be available at all county election board offices. Early voting locations will be open from 8:00am to 6:00pm (CT) on October 29 and October 30, 2020, and 9:00am to 2:00pm (CT) on October 31, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6) will be on-site at the Oklahoma Election Board headquarter on Election Day.
- PSA (b)(6) will be in close contact with Region VI Incident Support Group to pass any election related security information to them for information only, or for action depending upon the nature of the event.
- PSA (b)(6) will also be in close contact with the FBI's election crime coordinator and in contact with FBI's local election command post which will be activated on Election Day.

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Oregon

Potential Challenges

Oregon has experienced ongoing civil unrest recently which may pose challenges for administering elections in large cities. These challenges include the potential to limit voter access to drop boxes. Since the state is primarily a vote-by-mail state, COVID-19 will impact the printing and distribution of mail-in ballots. Election officials anticipate recent media attention surrounding the United States Postal Service may increase usage of drop box locations. Requirements for security, location, and ballot retrieval related to drop boxes may present challenges for election officials. Due to recent wildfires, election officials may face challenges mailing ballots to displaced voters who no longer reside at their registration address. Additionally, voting centers may move or close if impacted by wildfires.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Office of the Oregon Secretary of State (SoS). The Oregon Protective Security Advisor (PSA) established the Oregon TIGER Team (Threat Information Gathering and Election Resources) in the summer of 2018. The Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) and PSA have presented at five Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) conferences to discuss election infrastructure security threats and CISA resources. The state and local jurisdictions have utilized several CISA services. 100% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Oregon mails all voters a ballot. Due to COVID-19, many counties in the state have increased the number of outdoor drop boxes available. Notably, libraries in a large Oregon county are allowing voters to return their ballots through the book return slot. The Oregon Director of Elections continues to push for good public health hygiene at state and county election offices. Prior to the Oregon primary in May, the Oregon PSA coordinated the delivery of PPE gloves, hand sanitizer and masks for every county election office in the state. Since May, there have been no additional requests for PPE in support of the general election.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 and 2020 State Election Security Snapshot delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am - 8:00pm (PT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.oregon.gov/voting-elections

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Oregon has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters.

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Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is 11:59:59 pm (PT) on October 13, 2020. Residents may register to vote using the online voter registration application. Alternatively, residents may complete a voter registration form and return to the local county elections office or mail and postmark on or before October 13, 2020.

- **Vote Casting:** Oregon sends a paper ballot to all voters. However, voters may still cast ballots at the local municipal clerk's office between 7:00am and 8:00pm (PT) on Election Day. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Registered voters will receive a mail-in ballot two to three weeks before the election. Voters may return their ballot by mail or deposit completed ballots in drop boxes available up to 18 days before the election (October 16, 2020). Ballots must be received by 8:00 pm (PT) on Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Oregon allows access to drop boxes for ballot submission ahead of the election at election offices or other staffed locations (libraries, city halls, etc.) or outdoor mailboxes (drive-by or walking traffic) up to 18 days before Election Day (October 16, 2020).

Election Day Posture

- The Oregon PSA and CSA will support both the Oregon TITAN Fusion Center and the Oregon Emergency Coordination Center, located in Salem, OR.
- The PSA and CSA will coordinate with the CISA Region X Operations Team in Seattle.

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Pennsylvania

Potential Challenges

There are numerous ongoing lawsuits in Pennsylvania over ballot access and ballot drop boxes. These lawsuits prevented all Pennsylvania counties from sending out mail-in ballots on September 14, 2020, the first day they were legally able to do so. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled on September 17, 2020 that county boards of election are permitted to collect hand-delivered mail-in ballots at locations other than their office addresses to include drop boxes. The commonwealth is also implementing a Democracy Live ballot delivery and marking for voters with disabilities for the first time which may present challenges due to unfamiliarity with the system. Also, most jurisdictions are voting on paper ballots for the first year, due to the requirement to update all voting systems by December 31, 2019. Prior to 2020, many counties voted on paperless DREs. The commonwealth also had a major overhaul in legislation changing the process for elections, including no-excuse mail-in voting, change in registration deadline from 30 days before election day to 15 days prior, removal of straight party voting, and others.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the Pennsylvania Secretary of State (SoS) office. Pennsylvania has been willing to meet and utilize CISA services. However, only one county has utilized a CISA service and no entity at the commonwealth or local level has utilized CISA services since 2018.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Pennsylvania SoS office is encouraging voters to take advantage of the commonwealth's universal mail-in voting system. On July 31, 2020, SoS Kathy Boockvar announced that the commonwealth would provide prepaid return postage for all mail-in ballots for the General Election. During the presidential primary, over 50% of ballots cast were mail-in ballots compared to just 4% in 2016 and 2018. This increase is likely to persist for the general election.

Commonwealth Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs; Hybrid Ballot Marking Devices; Scanners
- **CISA Services for Elections at the commonwealth level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - [redacted]
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) [redacted]
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E) [redacted]
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) [redacted] (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) [redacted]
- **County-level Information:** 66% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Pages/default.aspx

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Pennsylvania has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the commonwealth controls the input and management of the commonwealth-wide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states

following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 19, 2020. The commonwealth has recently upgraded its voter registration database to improve intrusion detection and incorporate two-factor authentication.

- **Vote Casting:** Pennsylvania uses paper ballots; ballot marking devices; hybrid ballot marking devices; and scanners. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am (ET) to 8:00pm (ET). Voters are encouraged to utilize mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. All mail-in ballots must be postmarked by 8:00pm (ET) on Election Day and received by 5:00pm (ET) on November 6, 2020 to be counted.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Pennsylvania distinguishes between absentee ballots and mail-in ballots. Absentee ballots require a valid excuse and are designed for voters who plan to be physically out of their municipality on Election Day (e.g., college students, those on vacation, members of the military, etc.). For 2020 elections, COVID-19 has been added as a qualifying reason on the absentee ballot application. Mail-in voting is available to all Pennsylvania voters and does not require a reason to apply. Voters must submit an online, mailed, or in-person application to use either method. Applications must be received (not just postmarked) by the voter's county election office by 5:00pm (ET) on October 27, 2020. Once the application is approved, the County Clerk will mail a postage prepaid absentee/mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter. Ballots must be postmarked by 8:00pm (ET) on Election Day and received by 5:00pm (ET) on November 6, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Pennsylvania is setting up 16 satellite offices, which are legally an extension of their main election office, for early in-person absentee voting. These satellite offices will have three terminals connected to the statewide database to perform full voter registration services. Officials at these locations may also issue mail-in ballot packets that can be voted and deposited on site or taken home to be completed.

Election Day Posture

- CISA personnel will support and coordinate with election stakeholders via chatrooms and other online platforms. CISA personnel will support in-person if requested.

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Rhode Island

Potential Challenges

Rhode Island has dual authority over its elections. The Secretary of State (SoS) oversees voter registration as well as creating and mailing ballots. The Board of Elections oversees polling places, voting equipment, tabulation, results reporting, and canvassing. In light of the shift to predominately mail-in voting, this dual authority may create some confusion regarding election administration and may cause potential confusion among voters when seeking election-related information. Election officials expect reporting the winner of the General Election will take several days, because all mail-in ballots are sent to the Board of Elections and processed manually, while machine votes are counted in real time at each precinct after polls close. Officials have expressed concern that tabulation and reporting delays could create opportunity for mistrust of the electoral process. Local election officials are struggling to recruit poll workers, and state election officials have made efforts to appeal to state workers to serve as poll workers. Poll worker shortages could contribute to fewer polling places, potentially leading to long lines and confusion among voters.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Rhode Island election community. Rhode Island has used several CISA services at the state level, and 100% of local jurisdictions are members of the EI-ISAC. The state assembled a state-level election task force including the SoS, Governor, and DHS ahead of the 2018 midterm elections. The state was the first to conduct a Risk-Limiting Audit using ballots cast at local precincts across the state and has implemented multifactor authentication for personnel who require access to the statewide voter registration database. CISA Region I has also provided support to the Rhode Island National Guard as they leveraged the Elections Cyber Tabletop Exercise Package for planning purposes. However, local jurisdictions have not used CISA services.

COVID-19 Considerations

The Supreme Court upheld Rhode Island's policy change that mail-in ballots cast during the COVID-19 pandemic did not require witness signatures given that state officials have agreed to the change and that the policy had previously been relaxed during the June primary. The legal complaint was brought by the Republican National Committee and the State Republican Party. The state is sending mail-in ballot applications to all voters for the General Election. Additionally, this is the first election that the state is allowing early in-person voting.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Hybrid
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) [redacted]
  - Last Mile: 2018 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Rhode (b)(7)(E) [redacted]
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) [redacted] (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) [redacted]
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:**

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- https://elections.ri.gov/ (Board of Elections)
- https://vote.sos.ri.gov/ (Secretary of State)

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Rhode Island has a hybrid voter registration system, meaning the SoS oversees elections and local election offices transmit data to the state daily. Hybrid models are a combination of top-down and bottom-up models including risk advantages and vulnerabilities. The voter registration deadline is October 4, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Rhode Island uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open between 7:00am and 8:00pm (ET) across the state.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All voters are eligible to vote by mail without an excuse. The deadline for requesting a ballot is October 13, 2020. If circumstances arise within 20 days of an election, voters may request an emergency mail ballot until November 2, 2020. Voted ballots must be returned by Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** For the first time, Rhode Island is offering in-person early voting at the voter's city or town hall beginning on October 14, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- CISA Region I will assume a heightened state of operational readiness to respond to events and incidents affecting the election and supporting infrastructures. CISA Region I will be monitoring remotely and standing by if support is requested. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA), Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA), and Regional Team will remain in close contact with the Rhode Island SoS Office, Rhode Island Fusion Center, Rhode Island National Guard, DHS counterparts, FBI, and all relevant election partners on Election Day.

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South Carolina

Potential Challenges

On September 16, 2020 the Governor signed a bill authorizing all voters to utilize mail-in voting, as long as their ballot application is received by October 24, 2020. The bill did not allow for the ballot drop boxes nor did it eliminate the requirement for a witness signature, as requested by the State Board of Elections. On September 19, a court eliminated the requirement for a witness signature, but on September 24, the Court of Appeals overturned the earlier ruling. Also, in the primary and runoff elections, the requirement for witness signature was eliminated. All of these changes in a short timeline and change between elections may cause challenges for election officials and confusion among voters.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the South Carolina election community. The state has utilized only one CISA service at the state level and none at the local level. South Carolina has not shown significant interest in utilizing additional CISA services. South Carolina also invited CISA representatives to observe their 2020 presidential primary. The Executive Director of the South Carolina State Election Commission is a member of the EIS-GCC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Election officials will be permitted to open mail-in ballots the day before the General Election (November 2, 2020) to begin processing. Currently, individuals will have to vote in person unless they are a qualified mail-in voter.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** BMDs
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** South (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.scvotes.gov/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** South Carolina has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by October 5, 2020; the in-person registration deadline is October 2, 2020; and the email or fax registration deadline is October 4, 2020. South Carolina does not offer same day registration. In-person registration is also available at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

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- **Vote Casting:** South Carolina uses BMDs for all voters, which the state implemented in October 2019. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open at 7:00am (ET) and close at 7:00pm (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** The mail-in ballot request deadline is October 30, 2020. Mail-in ballots must be received by 7:00pm (ET) on Election Day. South Carolina requires a valid excuse to utilize mail-in voting. Eligible voters may vote mail-in in-person until 5:00pm (ET) the day before Election Day (November 2, 2020). In light of COVID-19 and a potential influx of mail-in ballots, election officials are permitted to begin processing mail-in ballots the day before the election.
- **Early Voting:** South Carolina offers in-person mail-in voting up until 5:00pm (ET) on November 2, 2020. The state does not offer other types of early voting.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6) will provide in-person support and Branch Chief (b)(6) will provide virtual support to the South Carolina State Election Commission on Election Day.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b)(6) and Regional Operations Manager (b)(6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.

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South Dakota

Potential Challenges

During the South Dakota primary election in June, several jurisdictions experienced reporting delays due to the large increase of mail-in ballots. Jurisdictions were not adequately staffed to verify mail-in ballots in a timely fashion. The rate of ballots cast by mail increased from 13.9% in the 2016 primary to 58% in the June 2020 primary. Several jurisdictions are in the planning stages to remedy this issue for the General Election, including recruiting volunteers to help verify mail-in ballots. South Dakota was warned by the United States Postal Service about possible delays in delivering mail-in ballots, as the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot is the day before the election. The SoS has said that voters should consider returning their ballots in person or voting in person if they have not mailed their ballot by late October to ensure their vote is counted. Many counties have set up ballot drop boxes.

Relationship

CISA has a developing relationship with the South Dakota election community. The state Protective Security Advisor (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) have a positive working relationship with the South Dakota Secretary of State's (SoS) Office and leverages that relationship to coordinate election security issues and pass information to local county election officials. However, the state has used few CISA services and only 12% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

In response to COVID-19, the South Dakota SoS Office is encouraging all South Dakotans to utilize the state's mail-in voting option for upcoming elections. The state sent mail-in ballot applications to all registered voters at the mailing address listed on their voter registration form ahead of the June primary election. These ballot applications offered voters the choice to request a ballot for all 2020 elections. Voters who did not select that option will have to re-request a mail-in ballot for the General Election. In-person voting is still an option for several counties.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** South (b)(7)(B)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 12% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 7:00pm local time (MT and CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/voting/default.aspx

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** South Dakota has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of

voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. Additionally, by state law, all polling sites must have a printed hard copy of their precinct's voter registration, which helps mitigate the impact should the Voter Registration be targeted. The voter registration deadline is October 19, 2020 by mail or online.

- **Vote Casting:** South Dakota uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, vote centers will be open between 7:00am and 7:00pm local time (MT and CT) across the state.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Mail-in ballot applications were mailed to all registered voters at the mailing address listed on their voter registration form before the June primary election. Voters who did not receive an application or who did not select to receive a General Election ballot as well may request a ballot up until the day before the election. Voted ballots must be received by the County Election Official on Election Day in enough time to deliver it to the voter's precinct before the polls close. SoS has encouraged voters to mail their ballots by mid-October.
- **Early Voting:** South Dakota offers in-person absentee voting starting September 18, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- South Dakota PSA (b)(6) will provide support in person at the SoS Office.
- CSA (b)(6) will provide support by virtual means.
- Region VIII Regional Director, CPS, and Operations Staff will monitor/support elections activities virtually.

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Tennessee

Potential Challenges

The Tennessee Supreme Court ruling reversing the ability of all registered voters to use mail-in voting may cause confusion among some voters (see the COVID-19 Considerations section below).

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Tennessee election community. State and local partners have utilized several CISA services since 2018. State officials have expressed appreciated for CISA assistance with past elections challenges, specifically in Knox County. 100% of local jurisdictions are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

On August 5, 2020, the Tennessee Supreme Court overturned the option for all eligible voters to utilize mail-in voting in the General Election due to COVID-19. In June, a lower Tennessee court expanded mail-in voting to all registered voters and allowed fear of contracting COVID-19 as a valid excuse. The state Supreme Court ruling restores Tennessee's excuse-based system. However, voters who are diagnosed, test positive, or are exposed to someone with COVID-19 remain eligible for mail-in voting.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Bottom-Up
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  -
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (ET); 7:00am-7:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.tn.gov/elections

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Tennessee has a bottom-up voter registration system, meaning local jurisdictions control the input and management of voter registration. Jurisdictions transmit data on a daily basis to the statewide database. From a risk perspective, bottom-up states tend to have weaker, less consistent cybersecurity postures relative to top-down states based on availability of resources. Conversely, the advantage of the bottom-up model is it lacks a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt check-in at a statewide scale. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Tennessee uses paper ballots; DREs with VVPAT; and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. Each county determines what time their polling places open, although most open at 7:00am (ET and CT). All polling places in the Eastern Time Zone are required to close at 8:00pm (ET) and those in the Central Time Zone are required to close by 7:00pm (CT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Voters may begin requesting mail-in ballots 90 days before the election (August 5, 2020) and up to seven days before the election (October 27, 2020). Mail-in voting requires a valid

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excuse as outlined on the Secretary of State (SoS) website. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Mail-in ballots must be returned by close of polls on Election Day.

- **Early Voting:** To vote early, voters must appear in person at either the county election commission office or at a satellite voting location opened by the county election commission. The early voting period begins on October 14, 2020 and ends on October 29, 2020. Mail-in ballots must be returned by close of polls on election day.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6) will provide in-person support while PSA (b)(6) and CSA (b)(6) will provide virtual support to the Tennessee SoS Office on Election Day.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b)(6) and Regional Operations Manager (b)(6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.

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Texas

Potential Challenges

Some Texas counties have attempted to expand their mail-in voting efforts but have faced legal pushback from the Texas State Attorney General. In one high profile legal battle, the Texas State Supreme Court blocked Harris County (which houses Houston) from sending mail-in ballot applications to over two million voters. These ongoing legal disputes may cause confusion among voters and result in a compressed timeline for establishing additional in-person polling places if needed. During the July 14th runoff election, a vendor software issue resulted in an 80-minute delay in reporting election results. While this did not affect the accuracy of results, it may result in decreased confidence among the public during the General Election.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Texas election community, particularly the Texas Secretary of State's (SoS) office. DHS I&A has coordinated monthly classified briefings from June to August and bi-monthly classified meetings from September to November. DHS I&A is also providing weekly threat information to the Texas SoS and other election officials. CISA staff are connected with Hart, a Texas-based major provider of ballot print, mail, equipment, and technology services. Texas election officials have utilized numerous CISA services at the state and local levels. 72% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Texas is one of six states that has not opened mail-in voting to any voter concerned about getting COVID-19. The Texas SoS released Health Protocols for Voters, a minimum level of recommended health protocols for all voters in Texas, election officials, employees, and poll workers. The Texas SoS is encouraging all eligible Texas voters to vote early. Texas is one of nine states that does not allow residents to register online.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Hybrid
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile Products: 2018 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile Products: 2018 County-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Texas (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 72% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/

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Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Texas has a hybrid voter registration system, meaning the SoS oversees elections and local election offices transmit data to the state daily. Hybrid models are a combination of top-down and bottom-up models including risk advantages and vulnerabilities. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Texas uses paper ballots; DREs with VVPAT; and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 7:30am to 7:00pm (CT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** To qualify for a mail-in ballot, voters must be 65 years or older, be disabled, be out of the country on Election Day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance, or be confined in jail but otherwise eligible. Mail-in ballot applications must be dropped off in person by October 13, 2020 or received by mail by October 23, 2020. For most voters, mail-in ballots must be postmarked by 7:00pm (CT) on Election Day and received by 5:00pm (CT) on November 4, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Texas will allow early in-person voting from October 19, 2020 through October 30, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b)(6) will support the Texas SoS physically or virtually on Election Day as required.
- PSA (b)(6) will coordinate with Region VI Incident Support Group to share any election security information.
- PSA (b)(6) will participate in the HSIN Connect rooms for real-time coordination, communication, and reporting of incidents.

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Utah

Potential Challenges

Utah has had an extensive mail-in voting system since 2012 and currently conducts elections primarily by mail. Based on their relationships with local postmasters and years of experience, local election officials are confident that the 2020 election will be smoothly executed by mail as in past years. United States Postal Service (USPS) officials that serve Utah and the surrounding region say mail-in ballots only make up a fraction of the service's load and should therefore not pose a challenge to USPS' ability to process ballot, even if turnout exceeds past years. A report by the Brookings Institution gave Utah an "A" for its ability to conduct an election during the pandemic. Utah is considering allowing signature cure forms to be sent and received electronically which may present cybersecurity challenges.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Utah election community and has been steadily engaged with them since 2017. The Protective Security Advisors (PSA) and the Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) have developed a strong relationship with the Utah Director of Elections and his staff within the Lieutenant Governor's Office. The Lieutenant Governor's Office has worked with CISA to encourage all county clerks to take advantage of security assessments. The state and one county have utilized CISA services and participated in the MS-ISAC pilot. 100% of counties are members of EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Utah passed legislation requiring counties to offer in-person voting and allowing them to implement alternative methods, including outdoor and drive-thru options. It also instructs the Lieutenant Governor to conduct a campaign to educate voters about changes in voter registration, methods, and processes for casting ballots and to encourage voters to utilize mail-in voting. It requires counties that have a higher risk of ballots being postmarked late to work with their local post office to date stamp those ballots as they come in and to establish additional drop boxes.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Vote by Mail; Paper Ballots; BMDs; and DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Utah (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 8:00pm (MT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://vote.utah.gov/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Utah has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters.

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Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 23, 2020 in order to automatically receive a mail-in ballot, but registration is available in person during early voting and Election Day.

- **Vote Casting:** Utah primarily utilizes mail-in voting and uses paper ballots, BMDs, and DREs with VVPAT at the polls. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open between 7:00am and 8:00pm (MT) across the state.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Registered voters will automatically receive a ballot in the mail. Ballots will be mailed between October 13, 2020 and October 27, 2020 depending on the county. Voters who do not receive a ballot during this timeframe should immediately contact their local election office.
- **Early Voting:** Utah offers in-person early voting October 20-30, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- PSA [(b)(6)], CSA [(b)(6)] and CPS [(b)(6)] will provide in-person support at the Utah State Cyber Center.
- Region VIII Regional Director and Operations Staff will virtually support election activities.

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Vermont

Potential Challenges

The State of Vermont administers elections at the township and city level. In many jurisdictions, the election official is part-time and has limited resources and support. The Secretary of State (SoS) of Vermont provides additional information and support to its locals to help manage the risks of township- and city-level resource challenges. During an exercise to probe for vulnerabilities at a technology conference in summer 2019, ethical hackers were able to manipulate results produced by the optical scanner that many Vermont towns use. However, Vermont election officials say that hackers would need physical access to the machines and the use of voter-marked paper ballots offer a backstop in case of such interference.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Vermont election community, but engagement and local EI-ISAC membership is low. Jim Condos, Vermont SoS, is the former president of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) and former member of the GCC Ex-Com. SoS Condos has presented at multiple CISA-led regional forums. Vermont also regularly shares activity from its networks with CISA.

COVID-19 Considerations

Vermont will send mail-in ballots to all active, registered voters for the November General Election. This expansion of mail-in voting comes after the state legislature voted largely along party lines to grant the SoS full authority to unilaterally make emergency election decisions. This vote came after prior disagreement during Spring 2020 between the SoS and Governor over mail-in voting.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** None
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 15% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Polling Hours:** 5:00am – 7:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Vermont has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. Voters may register to vote through Election Day, including same-day registration on Election Day.
- **Vote Casting:** Vermont uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be

open from 5:00am to 7:00pm (ET), although the poll opening time varies by locality between 5:00am and 10:00pm (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Vermont offers no-excuse mail-in voting to all voters. Due to COVID-19 concerns, Vermont will send mail-in ballots to all active, registered voters. Voters who do not receive a mail-in ballot may request one until November 2, 2020. Voted ballots must be returned to the town clerk's office until the day before the election or to the polling place on Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Vermont will allow early voting at town clerks' offices as soon as mail-in ballots are ready, starting at least as early as September 19, 2020 through Election Day.

Election Day Posture

- CISA Region I will assume a heightened state of operational readiness to respond to events and incidents affecting the election and supporting infrastructures. CISA Region I will be monitoring remotely and standing by if support is requested. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) will remain in close contact with the Vermont SoS Office, Vermont Fusion Center, DHS counterparts, FBI, and all relevant election partners on Election Day.

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Virginia

Potential Challenges

In early August, the non-profit group Center for Voter Information sent ~500,000 unsolicited mail-in ballot applications to Virginians, many of which had incorrect return addresses. This led to confusion among voters about the legitimacy of the ballot applications and the mail-in voting system overall. Additionally, a local Virginia election official reported that they contacted a major manufacturer of ballot drop boxes and was informed drop boxes were on back order until late September. This compressed timeline for obtaining drop boxes may present time constraints for local election officials and cause some drop boxes to be set up later than expected.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Virginia election community and has been steadily engaged with them since 2015. Virginia participated in the EI-ISAC pilot and has utilized multiple CISA services. 60% of local jurisdictions in the Commonwealth are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to COVID-19, the Commonwealth has expanded in-person absentee early voting from the week prior to the election to 45 days before the election. In February 2020, Governor Ralph Northam signed into law no-excuse mail-in voting eligibility to all voters. The Commonwealth is anticipating an increase in this service for the General Election. The United States District Court ruled in late August that mail-in voters will not have to obtain a witness signature for the General Election. The state has appropriated $2 million for prepaid postage for all mail-in ballots, will allow the use of drop boxes, and will implement a mail-in ballot cure process. The Commonwealth is providing PPE for all in-person polling places.

Commonwealth Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the Commonwealth level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 60% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-7:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.elections.virginia.gov/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Virginia has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the Commonwealth controls the input and management of the Commonwealth-wide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based

on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020. Registrations are due by 5:00pm (ET) in person or 11:59pm (ET) online.

- **Vote Casting:** Virginia uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 6:00am (ET) to 7:00pm (ET). Voters are encouraged to use mail-in voting due to COVID-19. All mail-in ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 and received by November 6, 2020 to be considered valid.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All registered voters are eligible to apply for a mail-in ballot. Applications must be received by the voter's local registrar by October 26, 2020. Once the application is approved, the local registrar will mail a postage prepaid mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter.
- **Early Voting:** New to the 2020 General Election, Virginia will allow early in-person absentee voting from September 19, 2020 – October 31, 2020. Early voting will be available at the voter's local registrar's office during normal business hours and Saturdays 9:00am (ET) to 5:00pm (ET). Voters do not need to qualify for early voting.

Election Day Posture

- CISA Cybersecurity Advisors (CSA) and Protective Security Advisors (PSA) will support the Virginia Department of Elections command center during on Elections Day.

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Washington

Potential Challenges

Washington has experienced ongoing civil unrest recently which may pose challenges for administering elections in large cities. These challenges include the potential to limit voter access to drop boxes. Since the state is a vote-by-mail state, COVID-19 may impact the printing and distribution of mail-in ballots. The highest risk areas highlighted in the Washington State Election Task Force's current threat landscape are email, phone, social media, and physical threats; natural hazards; UOCAVA email ballots and voter registration information cybersecurity; and foreign interference/influence. Targets of concern in the state include voter registration databases, tabulation systems, drop boxes, private vendor ballot printing companies, and ballot processing and storage facilities. Due to recent wildfires, election officials may have challenges mailing ballots to displaced voters who no longer reside at their registration address. Additionally, voting centers may move or close if impacted by wildfires.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with Washington Secretary of State (SoS) Kim Wyman. The Protective Security Advisor (PSA) established the Washington Election Task Force to understand and identify risks to elections, campaigns, and political infrastructure within the state, as well as share information on the threats and vulnerabilities to election infrastructure from all sources. State and local entities have utilized several CISA services and 100% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC.

COVID-19 Considerations

Washington automatically mails ballots to all registered voters. In mid-September, a mailer sent out by the United States Postal Service encouraged voters to "plan ahead" and request a mail-in ballot at least 15 days before the election. SoS Kim Wyman released a clarifying statement that Washington voters do not need to request a ballot and will receive one automatically if registered. State election officials continue to push for good public health hygiene at state and county election offices but have not requested additional PPE.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Vote-by-Mail
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 and 2020 State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 County-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
  (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** County voting centers open during normal business hours beginning October 16, 2020 through 8:00pm (PT) on Election Day
- **Official Election Website:** https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/

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Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Washington has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The state provides mail-in ballots to all voters and has service centers where voters can obtain replacement ballots, which are connected to the statewide voter registration database. Online and mail-in voter registration must be received by October 26, 2020. Residents may also register to vote in-person during normal election office business hours and anytime before 8:00pm (PT) on Election Day.
- **Vote Casting:** Washington sends a paper ballot to all registered voters. However, each county will open a voting center during the voting period. Voting centers will be open during business hours during the voting period beginning October 16, 2020 and ending at 8:00pm (PT) on Election Day. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** The state will mail a ballot to every eligible registered voter by October 16, 2020. Completed ballots must be returned by mail and postmarked by Election Day or deposited in an official drop box beginning October 16, 2020 through 8:00pm (PT) on Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Washington voters may cast ballots during the voting period beginning October 16, 2020. Completed ballots must be postmarked by Election Day or deposited in an official drop box by 8:00pm (PT) on Election Day. Residents may also vote in-person at county voting centers during the election period.

Election Day Posture

- A Washington PSA will support the SoS Election Office in Olympia, WA with the FBI Election Crimes Coordinator. A Washington PSA and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) will support the State Fusion Center in Seattle, WA.

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West Virginia

Potential Challenges

West Virginia will not be sending mail-in ballots to every registered voter as they did for the presidential primary. The change in procedure may cause confusion for some voters who may expect to receive an mail-in ballot application rather than having to apply. In early 2020, due to security concerns with the Voatz app, West Virginia changed its UOCAVA online voting solution to the Democracy Live online ballot delivery, marking, and return system. This system can be used for mail-in voting by voters with disabilities, as well.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the West Virginia Secretary of State (SoS) office. West Virginia SoS Mac Warner is very focused on countering foreign influence. Significantly, Secretary Warner provided a presentation on the topic at the National Association of State Election Directors 2019 Summer Conference. Additionally, the state doubled the rate of local EI-ISAC membership between July 2019 and August 2019. The state recently signed on to participate in the CISA Crossfeed pilot.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, on April 1, 2020, Governor Jim Justice expanded mail-in ballot application availability to all registered voters. Voters may still vote in person during early voting from October 21, 2020-October 31, 2020 or on the November 3, 2020 Election Day. During the presidential primary, the state sent mail-in ballot applications to every registered voter. For the General Election, voters must request a mail-in ballot beginning August 12, 2020. The request will go into the Statewide Voter Registration System and then be routed to the voter's county clerk, who will send out the ballot with prepaid postage. In response to the volume of mail-in ballots, the SoS Office launched a partnered with Democracy Live to build an online mail-in ballot request portal prior to the General Election.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2019 Last Mile State-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** West
  (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 62% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:30am-7:30pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.wv.gov/elections/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** West Virginia has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020. Returning uniformed service

members, Merchant Marines, individuals serving outside of the country in support of national security, and their spouses and dependents may request extended time to register in-person should they miss the deadline.

- **Vote Casting:** West Virginia uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 6:30am (ET) to 7:30pm (ET). Voters are encouraged to use mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Mail-in ballots without a postmark must be received by the voter's county election office by 7:30pm (ET) on November 3, 2020. Ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day and overseas ballots must be received by November 8, 2020. Voters may also return their mail-in ballots in-person at their local election office. The deadline for in-person submission of mail-in ballots is November 2, 2020.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Due to COVID-19, Governor Jim Justice expanded mail-in ballot application availability to all registered voters. Applications are required and must be received by the voter's county Clerk by October 28, 2020. Once the application is approved, the county clerk will send a postage prepaid mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter.
- **Early Voting:** West Virginia will allow early in-person voting from October 21, 2020-October 31, 2020. Early voting will be available at the county courthouse, annex, or designated community voting location during normal business hours and Saturdays 9:00am (ET) to 5:00pm (ET).

Election Day Posture

- CISA personnel will support and coordinate with election stakeholders via chatrooms and other online platforms. CISA personnel will support in-person, if requested.

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Wisconsin

Potential Challenges

Wisconsin may be unable to recruit the 30,000+ poll workers needed for the General Election. Public health concerns about COVID-19 have reduced volunteers from normal recruitment numbers in a year when the WEC expects high in-person turnout and needs staff to process a surge in mail-in ballots. The state saw a jump from 6% mail-in ballots in pre-COVID-19 elections to 82% mail-in ballots in the most recent primary election. The United States Postal Service has warned the state about possible challenges to meeting its mail-in ballot request and return deadlines (October 29, 2020 and Election Day respectively). The WEC has advised voters who plan use mail-in voting to do so as early as possible, warning that it may take up to two weeks in total to receive and return a mail-in ballot. With the expected surge in mail-in ballots, Wisconsin may encounter tabulation and reporting delays compared to past years, as the state does not allow election officials to begin processing ballots before Election Day. Continued civil unrest in Wisconsin could pose challenges for the election community to conduct safe and smooth in-person voting. Civil unrest leading up to Election Day may threaten the security and access to polling places.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Wisconsin election community at the state level and a developing relationship at the local level. CISA Region V has established an effective working relationship with the Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC) through outreach from Protective Security Advisors (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisors (CSA). This outreach includes being active members of the Wisconsin Election Security Council established by WEC to improve cyber and physical security preparedness ahead of the 2020 elections. A bipartisan group of politicians has launched VoteSafe WI to support confidence in the election system and to support both in-person and mail-in voting. Wisconsin has the most election jurisdictions in the country (1,852 jurisdictions at the municipal level and 72 county clerks), creating challenges to effectively engaging at the local level. Only 2% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC. The WEC has developed a procedure for distributing simple, actionable guidelines for local jurisdictions based on EI-ISAC notifications.

COVID-19 Considerations

The WEC is in the process of securing the supplies necessary for the safe administration of in-person voting, but many vendors around the state have exhausted their supply of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and other cleaning supplies. The state is planning to implement de-escalation training for clerks to handle encounters related to face coverings. Recognizing challenges to voting during the spring primary amid COVID-19, including long lines at reduced polling places and a high number of rejected mail-in ballots, the WEC has mailed all registered voters informational packets that outline voters' options for casting ballots in the General Election. These packets include mail-in ballot applications, for which all voters are eligible without providing an excuse. The Center for Tech and Civic Life, a nonprofit voting advocacy group, will give five cities (Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Kenosha, and Racine) a total of $6.3 million in grants to support election administration. Funds will go toward polling stations, curbside voting, public education, and PPE for poll workers.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Hybrid
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballot; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2020 Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered

- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:** (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A) (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 2% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 8:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://elections.wi.gov/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Wisconsin has a hybrid voter registration system, meaning the WEC oversees elections and local election offices transmit data to the state in real time. Hybrid models are a combination of top-down and bottom-up models including risk advantages and vulnerabilities. The voter registration deadline is October 14, 2020 by mail or online. Voters may register in person after this date at the municipal clerk's office or at the polling place on Election Day.
- **Vote Casting:** Wisconsin uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open between 7:00am and 8:00pm (CT) across the state.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All Wisconsin voters are eligible to utilize mail-in voting without an excuse. The WEC mailed all voters a mail-in ballot application with an informational packet that encourages them to vote as early as possible, notifying that it may take as long as two weeks to deliver and return a ballot by mail. The mail-in ballot request deadline is October 29, 2020. Voted ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by November 9, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Wisconsin offers in-person absentee voting in municipal clerks' offices starting October 20, 2020, although hours and dates vary by locality.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6) will be located at WEC HQ in downtown Madison, WI and connected virtually to WSIC. CISA will be supporting all election operations virtually, rather than in person, based on current COVID-19 public health guidelines and guidance from CISA leadership.
- CSA's (b)(6) and (b)(6) will be monitoring remotely and standing by if additional local support is requested.
- CISA Region V Operations, Regional Director, and RPSA will be monitoring remotely (from Chicago) and standing by if support is requested.
- CISA Region V Operations will also participate in multiple chat rooms, dashboards, and collaboration sites during the voting period to monitor election activities, including the ESI dashboard that will be used to communicate directly with CISA Headquarters.

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Wyoming

Potential Challenges

Wyoming allows voters to request mail-in ballots until the day before the election. This is a potential point of confusion for voters, as ballots must be returned by the close of polls on Election Day to be counted. This late request deadline could result in some votes not being counted if voters wait until the week before the election to make a request, as the Secretary of State (SoS) advises that mail delivery within a county can take up to seven days. The state used ranked-choice voting for the first time this year, which could contribute to confusion among some voters. Wyoming recently upgraded all of their voting machines. While staff received training on the new systems, unfamiliarity with the operating systems may cause challenges.

Relationship

CISA has a strong relationship with the Wyoming election community. The Wyoming Protective Security Advisor (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) have well-established relationships with state election officials. The Wyoming Secretary of State (SoS) was the first elections official to agree to meet with CISA staff during the 2017 elections outreach. Wyoming has utilized few CISA services at the state and local levels, but 100% of locals are members of the EI-ISAC. Wyoming recently upgraded their voting machines in all 23 counties. CISA completed physical security assessments on all ballot storage facilities shortly after the upgrade.

COVID-19 Considerations

Wyoming's August 2020 primary election had record turnout and was the first election in the state where more votes were cast before Election Day than in person at vote centers. The state made an exception to allow some counties to begin processing ballots before the close of polls for the first time. The state might avoid reporting delays in future elections with a high percentage of mail-in ballots by continuing to allow counties to start tallying votes earlier. Despite being one of the states that received a warning from the United States Postal Service (USPS) about possible challenges in meeting the state's mail-in voting deadlines, state election officials have said they are not concerned about USPS changes significantly affecting the delivery of mail-in ballots. Wyoming has encouraged voters to either return their ballots in person or to vote in person.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 7:00pm (MT)
- **Official Election Website:** https://sos.wyo.gov/elections/

Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Wyoming has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters.

Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 19, 2020 by mail or online, although registration is available in person during early voting and Election Day.

- **Vote Casting:** Wyoming uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, vote centers will be open between 7:00am and 7:00pm (MT) across the state.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All voters may request a mail-in ballot until the day before the election. However, as ballots must arrive by the close of polls on Election Day, voters are encouraged to request their ballot at least one week in advance and return it in person to ensure timely delivery.
- **Early Voting:** Wyoming offers in-person absentee voting in county clerks offices as mail-in ballots are available starting September 24, 2020.

Election Day Posture

- PSA (b)(6) will provide in-person support at the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security.
- CSA (b)(6) Region VIII Regional Director, CPS (b)(6) and Operations Staff will provide virtual support to election activities.

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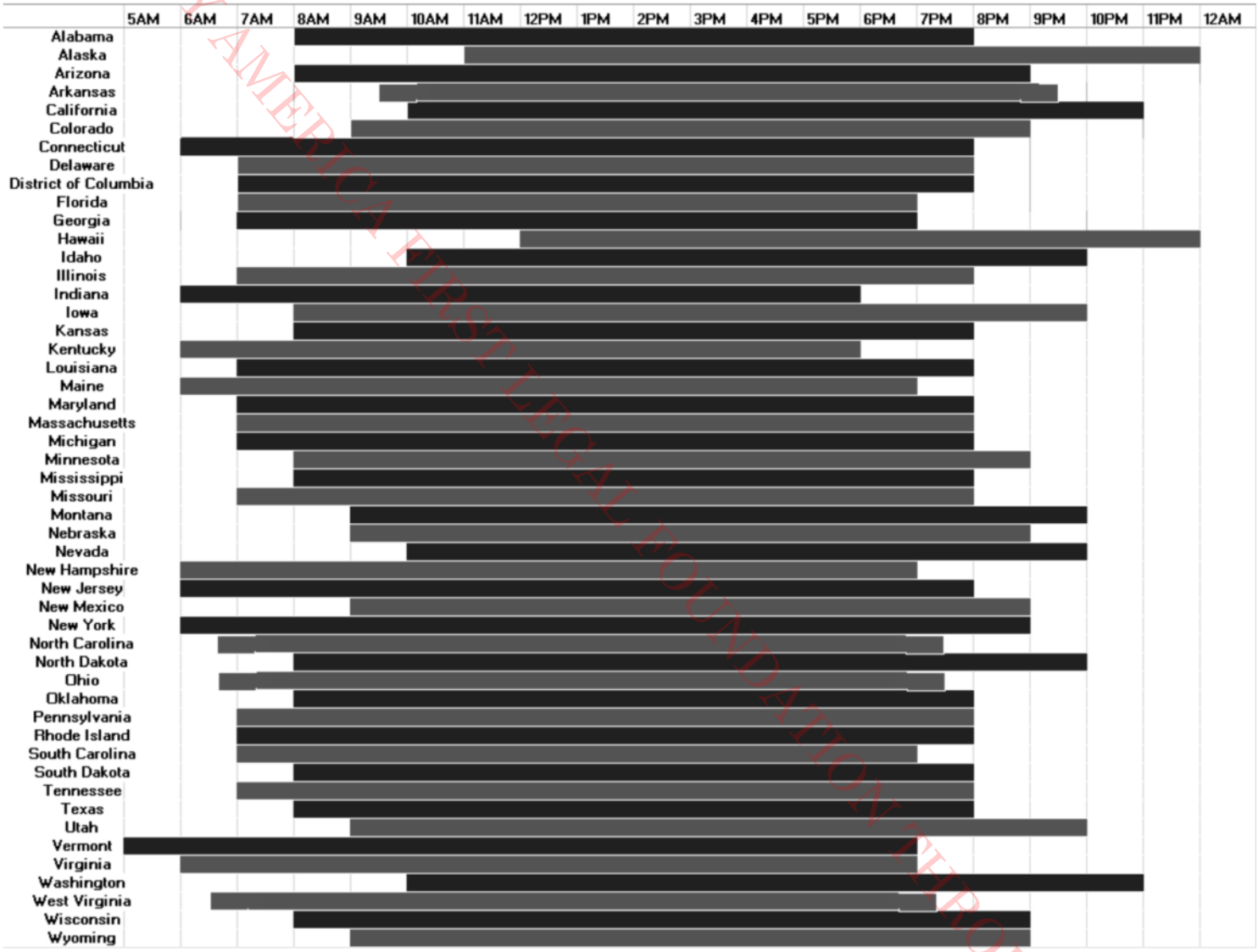
Appendix A: Poll Times (ET)



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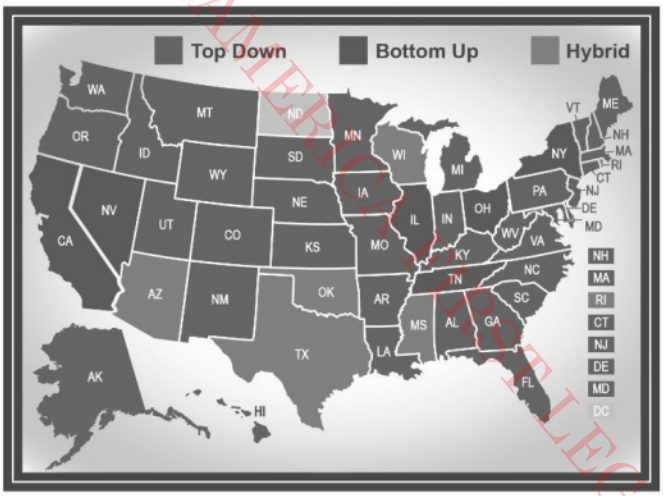
Appendix B: State Elections Background

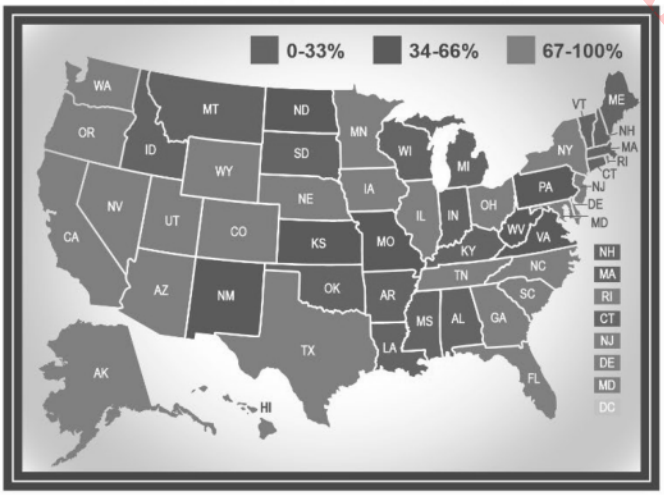
REGISTRATION SYSTEM



ALBERT SENSOR

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

LOCAL EI-ISAC MEMBERSHIP



STATE-LEVEL CISA SERVICES

FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

DHS-12550001695 07/31/2023

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From:	(b)(6)
To:	Snell, Allison (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Alli Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Geoff (b)(6)
CC:	(b)(6)
Subject:	FW: 2020 General Election Risk Posture
Date:	2020/10/20 18:43:49
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5) Does this align with your conversation with Don R today, Allison?

Best,

(b)(6) Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA | (b)(6)
(b)(6)

From: IP Region 4 Ops (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6:41 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
TOM (b)(6) ; IP Region 4 Ops (b)(6)
Subject: FW: 2020 General Election Risk Posture

Good Evening (b)(6)

Earlier today, the regional Ops teams received what was titled the *CISA Overview – General Election Risk Posture* from CISA IOD Current Ops. Was wondering if you had a few moments tomorrow morning to discuss this attachment (b)(5)
(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

If possible, please give me a call at your earliest convenience tomorrow.

Best,

(b)(6)
Protective Security Advisor, Savannah, GA
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Cell: (b)(6) (b)(6)

CISA Wordmark CMYK 20181115_4 color seal with dk blue text

From: CISA CurOps (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:22 PM
To: CISA Elections Overview (b)(6) IP Region 1 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 2 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 3 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 4 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 5 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 6 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 7 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 8 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 9 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 10 Ops (b)(6)
Cc: CISA CurOps (b)(6)
Subject: 2020 General Election Risk Posture

All,
The CISA General Election Risk Posture document is current as of October 20, 2020. This document is for information purposes only and may be subject to change as a result of litigation or changes to state laws. Voters should always seek the most up-to-date election information from their state and local elected officials.

CISA IOD Current Operations
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Department of Homeland Security
(b)(6)

Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) S
Recipient:	Snell, Allison (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

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OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2020/10/20 18:43:42
Delivered Date:	2020/10/20 18:43:49

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From:	Robinson, Donald (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) D (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	Snell, Allison (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b) (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: 2020 General Election Risk Posture
Date:	2020/10/20 19:06:38
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Allison,

I just noticed (b)(6) sent her feedback direct to (b)(6) Sorry, I said we'd send to you.

Thanks for listening today.

Don

From: IP Region 4 Ops (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6:43 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: 2020 General Election Risk Posture

Please see below. This is what I sent. (b)(6) and I will work with (b)(6) NRMC to address the concerns if there is room for modifications.

- (b)(6)

From: IP Region 4 Ops
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6:41 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) P Region 4 Ops (b)(6)
Subject: FW: 2020 General Election Risk Posture

Good Evening (b)(6)

Earlier today, the regional Ops teams received what was titled the *CISA Overview – General Election Risk Posture* from CISA IOD Current Ops. Was wondering if you had a few moments tomorrow morning to discuss this attachment (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

If possible, please give me a call at your earliest convenience tomorrow.

Best,

(b)(6)
Protective Security Advisor, Savannah, GA
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Cell: (b)(6) (b)(6)

CISA Wordmark CMYK 20181115_4 color seal with dk blue text

From: CISA CurOps (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:22 PM
To: CISA Elections Overview (b)(6) IP Region 1 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 2 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 3 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 4 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 5 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 6 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 7 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 8 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 9 Ops (b)(6) IP Region 10 Ops (b)(6)
Cc: CISA CurOps (b)(6)
Subject: 2020 General Election Risk Posture

All,
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CISA IOD Current Operations
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Department of Homeland Security
(b)(6)

Sender	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Snell, Allison (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2020/10/20 19:06:32

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Delivered Date:	2020/10/20 19:06:38

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OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From:	Haglund, Sean (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	Driggers, Richard (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Harris, Steven (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Frantz, Andrew (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	Delaney, Laura (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Breor, Scott (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

We closed the loop on this today with the FBI. Within the SIOC construct there will be 2 separate command posts. One will be focused on cyber/election fraud, while the Preventing Violence and Criminal Activity (PVCA) command post will address physical security threats to election infrastructure.

Due to COVID restrictions, the PVCA will be staffed by "pods" of 8 personnel shifts. The staff dedicated to each shift will remain fixed to minimize the risk of cross contamination. The PVCA CP has OBP contact information as well as access to a suite of OBP C-IED preparedness program and resource information. The PVCA CP will provide OBP with a daily activity summary and will reach out as needed for additional support.

Please provide any additional information on CISA elections reporting processes and the elections OPORD that may be helpful in coordinating CISA/PVCA communications.

V/r

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Associate Director, Office for Bombing Prevention
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Office: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Email: (b)(6)

From: Driggers, Richard (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Harris, Steven (b)(6)
Cc: Delaney, Laura (b)(6) ; Breor, Scott (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Snell, Allison
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: SIOC Detail

Thanks Steve. I'm good to go. Just need to make sure Dennis and Will are familiar with our elections reporting processes, the elections OPORD that getting to be final (hopefully next week), and have all the appropriate contacts, distorts, etc.

Thanks again for the assistance.

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Rick

Sender:	Haglund, Sean (b)(6)
Recipient:	Driggers, Richard (b)(6) Harris, Steven (b)(6) Delaney, Laura (b)(6) Breor, Scott (b)(6) Snell, Allison (b)(6) Wales, Alexis (b)(6) Drumm, Robert (b)(6) <robert.drumm@cisa.dhs.gov>;
Sent Date:	2020/10/21 11:20:23
Delivered Date:	2020/10/21 11:20:36

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OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From:	(b)(6)
To:	CSD Elections Warning & Response (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	2020 General Election Risk Posture
Date:	2020/10/22 11:04:15
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

LOE-4 Team,

See attached for our published 2020 CISA General Election Risk Posture overview. The document is U//FOUO and is cleared for internal CISA use, as well as sharing with our IC partners for situational awareness.

A few things to note:

- • The map on page 3 is clickable to jump to any of the states for easier navigation.
- • The CISA General Election Risk Posture document is current as of October 20, 2020. This document is for information purposes only and may be subject to change as a result of litigation or changes to state laws. Voters should always seek the most up-to-date election information from their state and local elected officials.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

(b)(6)
Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst, National Risk Management Center
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Office (b)(6) | Cell: (b)(6)
Email (b)(6) | JWICS: (b)(6)

Sender	(b)(6)
Recipient:	CSD Elections Warning & Response /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2020/10/22 11:03:39

Delivered Date:	2020/10/22 11:04:15

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From:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) S (b)(6)
To:	ESI Core Team (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	2020 General Election Risk Posture
Date:	2020/10/22 11:06:42
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

See attached for our 2020 General Election Risk Posture Overview. Shout out to our own (b)(6) for his awesome work supporting this over the past months.

Note that this may be updated as information changes before Election Day.

Best,

(b)(6) | Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA | (b)(6)
(b)(6)

From (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 11:04 AM
To: CSD Elections Warning & Response (b)(6)
Subject: 2020 General Election Risk Posture

LOE-4 Team,

See attached for our published 2020 CISA General Election Risk Posture overview. The document is U//FOUO and is cleared for internal CISA use, as well as sharing with our IC partners for situational awareness.

A few things to note:

- • The map on page 3 is clickable to jump to any of the states for easier navigation.
- • The CISA General Election Risk Posture document is current as of October 20, 2020. This document is for information purposes only and may be subject to change as a result of litigation or changes to state laws. Voters should always seek the most up-to-date election information from their state and local elected officials.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

(b)(6)
Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst, National Risk Management Center
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Office: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6) JWICS: (b)(6)

Sender:	(b)(6)
Recipient:	ESI Core Team (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2020/10/22 11:06:36
Delivered Date:	2020/10/22 11:06:42

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OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From:	Masterson, Matthew (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: 2020 General Election Risk Posture
Date:	2020/10/22 11:11:50
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

All,

First, thank you all for your tremendous work over the last couple days. I have heard from a lot of folks in the election community about how much they appreciated the speed at which we turned around information, our willingness to share that info quickly and the ability to be public where we could in order to support them and their conversations with their voters. Really tremendous work by all of you and your teams.

Second, attached is our general election risk posture document. This mirrors that documents we created during the primary elections and has all states and territories covered in one document. We will update this as circumstances change and I will pass along updated versions. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Matt

Matthew V. Masterson
Senior Cybersecurity Advisor
Department of Homeland Security
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)

Sender:	Masterson, Matthew (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	(b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2020/10/22 11:11:45

Delivered Date:	2020/10/22 11:11:50
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From:	CRS Reports (b)(6)
To:	Scully, Brian (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) Bri
Subject:	CRS Reports
Date:	2020/10/23 08:00:32
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

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CQ CRS Reports

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U.S. Challenges to China's Farm Policies

Report No. IN11469

Subject(s): Agriculture; Congress; Taxation; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

•

The Electoral College: A 2020 Presidential Election Timeline

Report No. IF11641

Subject(s): Elections; State and Local Government; Politics and Government

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

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CARES Act Payroll Support to Air Carriers and Contractors

Report No. IN11482

Subject(s): Congress; Transportation; Politics and Government; Labor

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

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Bolivia's October 2020 General Elections

Report No. IN11198

Subject(s): Congress; Economic Policy; Elections; The Americas; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

•

COVID-19: Government Resources for Real-Time Economic Indicators

Report No. IN11521

Subject(s): Congress; Economic Policy; Taxation; Labor; Politics and Government; Health Policy

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-

Copyright in Code: Supreme Court Hears Landmark Software Case in Google v. Oracle

Report No. LSB10543
Subject(s): Law; Technology; Politics and Government
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

-

Brunei Darussalam

Report No. IF11009
Subject(s): International Affairs
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

-

U.S. Farm Support: Outlook for Compliance with WTO Commitments, 2018 to 2020

Report No. R46577
Subject(s): Agriculture; Politics and Government; International Affairs
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

-

Crisis in Mali

Report No. IF10116
Subject(s): International Affairs
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

•

'Stage One' U.S.-Japan Agreement: Agriculture

Report No. R46576
Subject(s): Agriculture; International Affairs; Foreign Countries & Regions
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

•

U.S. Withdrawal from the World Health Organization: Process and Implications

Report No. R46575
Subject(s): Budget; International Affairs; Health Policy; Disabled Persons
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

•

Human Rights Challenges in Mexico: Addressing Enforced Disappearances

Report No. IF11669
Subject(s): Criminal Justice; Executive Branch Depts.; Politics and Government; International Affairs; Law; Foreign Countries & Regions
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

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Small Business Mentor-Protege Programs

Report No. R41722

Subject(s): Politics and Government

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

•

The Enactment of Appropriations Measures During Lame Duck Sessions

Report No. R46574

Subject(s): Budget

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

•

Is Mandatory Detention of Unlawful Entrants Seeking Asylum Constitutional?

Report No. LSB10343

Subject(s): Congress; Criminal Justice; Politics and Government; Immigration; Law; Executive Branch Depts.

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/20/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

•

Kyrgyz Parliamentary Elections Annulled Amid Protests and Unrest

Report No. IN11517
Subject(s): Congress; Criminal Justice; Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/20/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

•

Federal Telecommunications Modernization: Transitioning from Networx to Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions

Report No. IF11668
Subject(s): Politics and Government
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/19/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

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Sender:	CRS Reports (b)(6)
Recipient:	Scully, Brian (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2020/10/23 08:00:15
Delivered Date:	2020/10/23 08:00:32
Message Flags:	Unread

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CRS Reports

U.S. Challenges to China's Farm Policies
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037440?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IN11469
Agriculture; Congress; Taxation; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

The Electoral College: A 2020 Presidential Election Timeline
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037439?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IF11641
Elections; State and Local Government; Politics and Government
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

CARES Act Payroll Support to Air Carriers and Contractors
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037438?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IN11482
Congress; Transportation; Politics and Government; Labor
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

Bolivia's October 2020 General Elections
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037437?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IN11198
Congress; Economic Policy; Elections; The Americas; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

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https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036299?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IN11521
Congress; Economic Policy; Taxation; Labor; Politics and Government; Health Policy
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

Copyright in Code: Supreme Court Hears Landmark Software Case in Google v. Oracle
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036298?srcpage=cqah
Report No. LSB10543
Law; Technology; Politics and Government
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

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Brunei Darussalam
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036297?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IF11009
International Affairs
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

U.S. Farm Support: Outlook for Compliance with WTO Commitments, 2018 to 2020
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037441?srcpage=cqah
Report No. R46577
Agriculture; Politics and Government; International Affairs
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

Crisis in Mali
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036300?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IF10116
International Affairs
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

'Stage One' U.S.-Japan Agreement: Agriculture
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036305?srcpage=cqah
Report No. R46576
Agriculture; International Affairs; Foreign Countries & Regions
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

U.S. Withdrawal from the World Health Organization: Process and Implications
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036304?srcpage=cqah
Report No. R46575
Budget; International Affairs; Health Policy; Disabled Persons
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

Human Rights Challenges in Mexico: Addressing Enforced Disappearances
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036301?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IF11669
Criminal Justice; Executive Branch Depts.; Politics and Government; International Affairs; Law; Foreign Countries & Regions
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

Small Business Mentor-Protege Programs
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036302?srcpage=cqah

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Report No. R41722
Politics and Government
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

The Enactment of Appropriations Measures During Lame Duck Sessions
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036303?srcpage=cqah
Report No. R46574
Budget
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

Is Mandatory Detention of Unlawful Entrants Seeking Asylum Constitutional?
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036306?srcpage=cqah
Report No. LSB10343
Congress; Criminal Justice; Politics and Government; Immigration; Law; Executive Branch Depts.
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/20/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

Kyrgyz Parliamentary Elections Annulled Amid Protests and Unrest
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036307?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IN11517
Congress; Criminal Justice; Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/20/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

Federal Telecommunications Modernization: Transitioning from Networx to Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions
https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036308?srcpage=cqah
Report No. IF11668
Politics and Government
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/19/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)

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```
            }
            div.header-rules span.toprule {
```

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```
                background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/blackrule2px.gif) repeat-x;
                width: 517px;
                position: absolute;
                top: 0;
                height: 15px;
            }
            div.header-rules span.bottomrule {
                background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/blackrule1px.gif) repeat-x;
                width: 517px;
                position: absolute;
                top: 0;
                height: 15px;
            }
            .schedules-group p {
                margin: 6px 0;
            }
            .schedules-group h4.committee {
                font-size: 16px;
                color: #900;
                background-color: #eed;
                margin: 6px 0;
                padding: 2px 5px;
            }
            .mycal-hed {
                background-color: #FFF5D6;
                padding: 2px 5px;
            }
            div.mycal-icon {
                background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/icon_addto_cal_pda.gif) no-repeat;
                padding: 0 0 5px 20px;
                height: 20px;
            }
            .schedules-addtocal-alreadytrack {
                color: #666;
                font-style: italic;
            }
            h1.govdocs-onestep-hed {
               width: auto;
               height: auto;
               margin: 0 0 25px;
               line-height: 25px;
               font-weight: 700;
               font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
               font-size: 14px;
               color: #115F85;
               text-align: left;
               text-transform: uppercase;
            }
            #govdocs-highlights,
            .govdocs-hits {
```

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```
                position: relative;
            }
            #govdocs-highlights h5 {
                margin-bottom: 0;
            }
            #govdocs-highlights p {
                margin: 6px 0;
            }
            .govdocs-hits p {
                margin: 0;
            }
            .hitl-excerpts {
                margin-top: 6px;
                padding: 5px 5px 0 5px;
                color: #333;
                background-color: #f9f9f2;
            }
            .hitl-excerpts p,
            .hitl-excerpts div {
                margin: 6px 0;
            }
            .excerpt {
                padding: 0 10px 6px 10px;
            }
            .excerpt .keyword {
                font-weight: bold;
                color: #eb0c0c;
            }
            .today {
                font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
                font-size: 12px;
                margin: 6px 0;
                position: relative;
            }
            .today p {
                margin: 6px 0;
            }
            .today h4 {
                font-size: 20px;
            }
            .today h5 {
                font-size: 16px;
            }
            .today h6 {
                font-size: 15px;
            }
            .kikker {
                color: #666;
            }
            .today div.header-rules span.toprule {
                background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/yellowrule.gif) repeat-x;
                width: 517px;
```

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```
                position: absolute;
                top: 0;
                height: 15px;
            }
            #about-alert {
                font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
                font-size: 10px;
                color: #666;
            }
            #about-alert div.alert-info span.hiderule {
                background: #e8f0f6;
                width: 150px;
                position: absolute;
                top: 0;
                height: 15px;
            }
            .alert-info {
                margin: 0;
                position: relative;
            }
            #about-alert h4 {
                font-size: 12px;
                margin: 0;
                color: #036;
            }
            #about-alert p,
            #about-alert div {
                margin: 9px 0 0;
            }
            #about-alert br {
                margin: 0;
                padding: 0;
                line-height: 0;
            }
            #leaderboard-ad {
                font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
                font-size: 10px;
                text-align: center;
                padding: 0;
                margin: 0 0 5px;
            }
            #leaderboard-ad p.leaderboard span.hiderule {
                background: #fff;
                width: 550px;
                position: absolute;
                top: 0;
                height: 15px;
            }
            .leaderboard {
                margin: 0;
                position: relative;
            }
```

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```
                #footer p {
                    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
    sans-serif;
                    font-size: 10px;
                    text-align: center;
                    padding: 0;
                    margin: 0;
                }
                .kikker-story {
                    color: #696969;
                    margin: 5px 0;
                }
                .sked-top {
                    padding-bottom: 8px;
                }
                .sked-top .headline {
                    font-weight: bold;
                    padding: 10px 0;
                }
                .sked-top .class {
                    font-style: italic;
                    padding-bottom: 8px;
                }
                .sked-top .text {
                    padding-top: 10px;
                    padding-bottom: 8px;
                }
                .sked-label-top {
                    font-style: italic;
                    text-align: right;
                    vertical-align: top;
                    padding: 2px 8px 2px 3px;
                    background-color: #F9F9F2;
                }
                .sked-text-top {
                    vertical-align: top;
                    padding: 3px 0 0;
                    background-color: #F9F9F2;
                }
                .sked-text-top .highlight-flag {
                    color: #EB0C0C;
                    font-weight: bold;
                }
                .sked-label {
                    font-style: italic;
                    text-align: right;
                    vertical-align: top;
                    padding: 2px 12px 2px 4px;
                }
                .sked-text {
                    vertical-align: top;
                    padding: 2px 0 0;
                }
                .sked-text .item {
```

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```
                padding-bottom: .4em;
            }
            .sked-status {
                color: #EB0C0C;
                padding: 0 0 2px 1px;
            }
            /* FLOORVIDEO HITS
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ */

            div.floor-video-hit-container {
                width: 500px;
            }
            div.floor-video-hit-container img {
                padding-left: 10px;
            }
            /* ONE-STEP ALERTS
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ */

            #one-step {
                font-size: 12px;
            }
            #box {
                max-width: 600px;
                margin: 0 auto;
            }
            #container {}
            #main {padding: 20px;}

            .hitlist-headline {
               margin: 0 0 5px;
               font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
               font-weight: normal;
               font-size: 16px;
               line-height: 25px;
               color: #333;
            }

            .hitlist-headline a {
                 font-weight: 600;
                color: #333 !important;
                text-decoration: none;
            }

            .hitlist-headline a:hover, .hitlist-headline a:focus {
                text-decoration: underline;
            }

            .hitlist-headline span {
                font-weight: normal;
            }
            .hitlist-text,
            .hitlist-source {
                margin: 0;
```

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```
                font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
                font-weight: normal !important;
                color: #616161;
                font-size: 16px;
                line-height: 25px;
            }
            .hitlist-source {
                border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;
                padding-bottom: 30px;
                margin-bottom: 30px;
            }
            .amendment-hits .hitlist-source {
                border-bottom: 0;
                margin-bottom: 0;
                padding-bottom: 0;
            }
            .subscription {
               font-size: 14px;
               color: #9E9E9E;
               margin-top: 100px;
               margin-bottom: 0 !important;
            }
            #one-step #container,
            #one-step h1 {
                width: 550px;
            }
            #one-step h2,
            #one-step .header-h2 {
                display: block;
                position: relative;
                margin: 10px 0;
                font-size: 14px;
                width: 100%;
            }
            #one-step h2 span,
            #one-step .header-h2 span {
                position: absolute;
                top: 0;
                left: 0;
                width: 100%;
            }
            #one-step h3 {
                position: relative;
                margin: 0;
                font-size: 12px;
                margin-bottom: 6px;
            }
            #one-step h3 span {
                position: absolute;
                top: 0;
                left: 0;
                width: 101px;
                height: 16px;
```

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```
}
#one-step .subhed {
    font-weight: bold;
    margin-top: 5px;
}
#one-step .weekly span {
    background: url('http://plus.cq.com/images/cqmagazine-
logo.png');
    height: 29px;
    background-repeat: no-repeat;
    background-position: center;
}
#one-step a:link,
a:visited {
    color: #5cadcf;
}
#one-step p {
    margin: 2px 0;
}
#one-step .hitlist-headline {
    font-size: 12px;
}
#one-step .section-header {
    font-size: 14px;
    margin: 0 0 15px 0;
    color: #000;
    text-transform: uppercase;
    padding-bottom: 3px;
    border-bottom: 1px solid #ccc;
}
#one-step .section-box {
    position: relative;
    margin-bottom: 22px;
}
#one-step .section-box h4,
#one-step .section-box .header-h4 {
    font-size: 14px;
    margin: 6px 0 0 0;
    font-weight: bold;
}
#one-step .news-column {
    float: left;
    margin-right: 12px;
    width: 47%;
}
#one-step .news-column .alert-hit {
    margin-bottom: 18px;
}
#one-step .related-items-head {
    color: #555;
}
#one-step .hitlist-headline {
    margin-bottom: 8px;
}
```

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```
                #one-step .updated {
                    color: #990000;
                }
                #one-step .yellowrule {
                    position: relative;
                }
                #one-step .yellowrule span {
                    background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/yellowrule.gif) repeat-x;
                    width: 100%;
                    position: absolute;
                    top: 0;
                    height: 15px;
                }
                #one-step .clear {
                    clear: both;
                    height: 15px;
                }
                #one-step .header-break {
                    height: 14px;
                }
                /* ONE-STEP ALERTS - SPECIAL STYLES FOR CQ MAGAZINE
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ */

                #one-step .coverbox {
                    float: left;
                    margin: 0 12px 15px 0;
                }
                #one-step .coverbox img {
                    border: 1px solid #ccc;
                    padding: 6px;
                }
                #one-step .columnist {
                    margin-bottom: 20px;
                }
                #one-step .columnist h4 {
                    margin-top: 0;
                }
                #one-step .columnistbox {
                    border-left: 0 solid #ccc;
                    margin: 0 0 3px 0;
                }
                #one-step .columnistbox strong {
                    font-size: 13px;
                    color: #444;
                }
                #about-alert-box {
                    font-size: 11px;
                    color: #666;
                    padding: 6px 12px;
                    border-top: 1px solid #ccc;
                    margin-top: 20px;
                    height: 0.01%;
                }
```

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```
                #about-alert-box h4 {
                    font-size: 12px;
                    margin: 0;
                }
                #about-alert-info {
                    width: 35%;
                    float: left;
                }
                #about-alert-delivery-id {
                    clear: left;
                }
                .alert-control-edit,
                .alert-control-delete,
                .alert-control-suspend,
                .alert-control-manage {
                    padding: 0 0 5px 20px;
                    height: auto;
                    margin: 0;
                    float: right;
                    width: 55%;
                }
                .alert-control-edit {
                    background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/alert_icon_edit.gif) no-repeat;
                }
                .alert-control-delete {
                    background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/alert_icon_delete.gif) no-repeat;
                }
                .alert-control-suspend {
                    background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/alert_icon_suspend.gif) no-repeat;
                }
                /* bottom box ad style */

                div#bottom-box-ad {
                    margin: 20px 0;
                }
                /* Doc Display styles */

                div.document {
                    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
                    font-size: 130%;
                    line-height: 1.5;
                    color: #555666;
                }
                div.document h1,
                div.document h2,
                div.document h3 {
                    color: #000000;
                }
                div.document strong {
                    font-weight: bold;
```

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```
}
div.document em {
    font-style: italic;
}
div.document .kikker,
div.document .kikker-story {
    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
    font-size: 90%;
}
/* Document kikkers/headers, toc, and footer */

.document-header {
    /* margin-top:1em;
       margin-bottom:1em;
       padding:1em 0; */
}
.document-header .document-changeflag {
    text-transform: uppercase;
    letter-spacing: 1px;
    color: #c00;
}
.document-header .document-headline {
    margin-top: 1em;
    margin-bottom: 1em;
    font-size: 150%;
    font-weight: bold;
}
.document-header .document-publication {
    color: #777;
    margin-bottom: 8px;
}
.document-header .document-displaydate {
    color: #777;
    margin-bottom: 8px;
}
.document-header .document-wordcount {
    color: #777;
    margin-bottom: 8px;
}
div.document-toc-container h3 {
    margin: 20px 0 5px 0;
    color: #333;
    font-size: 140%;
}
div.document-toc-container div.section-with-keyword {
    margin: 5px 0;
    font-size: 110%;
}
/* Navigating between documents */

div.document-navigation {
    margin: 0 0 10px 0;
    padding: 5px;
```

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```
        border: 1px solid #E3DFD0;
        background-color: #F4F2EC;
    }
    div.document-navigation a.previous {} div.document-navigation
a.next {
        float: right;
    }
    /* Navigating within a document */

    div.section-navigation {
        margin: 5px 0 0 0;
    }
    div.section-navigation a.previous {
        padding-right: 15px;
    }
    div.section-navigation a.next {} .document-toc-container {
        padding-bottom: 20px;
        margin-bottom: 20px;
        border-bottom: 3px solid #ccc;
    }
    .document-toc-container h2 {
        color: #555;
        font-size: 110%;
    }
    .document-toc-container ul {
        list-style-type: disc;
        margin-left: 18px;
    }
    .document-toc-container ul li {
        margin-bottom: 3px;
    }
    .document-footer {
        margin-top: 15px;
        color: #555;
    }
    .document-footer div.source-service,
    .document-footer div.document-footer-tagline {
        margin-bottom: 4px;
    }
    .document-footer .source-service span {
        font-weight: bold;
    }
    .document-footer .document-footer-tagline {
        font-style: italic;
    }
    .document-footer .cq-copyright {
        display: none;
    }
    /* Aggregated Documents ----------------------------*/

    .docagg-container {} .docagg-document {
        margin-top: 25px;
        padding-top: 25px;
        border-top: 3px solid #ccc;
```

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```
}
.docagg-container > div.docagg-document:first-child {
    margin-top: 0;
    padding-top: 0;
    border-top: 0;
}
/* Document Links ----------------------------------*/

.document-links {} .document-links a {
    color: #3482A4;
}
.document-links a.disabled {
    color: #777 !important;
    cursor: default;
    text-decoration: none !important;
}
.document-links ul {
    list-style-type: none;
}
.document-links li {
    float: right;
    padding-left: 10px;
}
/* Related styles for TOC, sections, etc. */

.highlight,
.section-with-keyword {
    background-color: #ffffcc;
}
div.toc-subheader {
    margin: 8px 0;
    color: #555;
    font-size: 110%;
}
/* Doc Specific Publications ------------------- */

.document-header .document-uscode {}
/* Doc Advertisements */

.component-adpanel {
    padding-bottom: 20px;
}
/* Meta Info ---------------------------------------*/

.docMeta {
    margin: 12px 0 12px 12px;
    color: #a0a0a0;
    background-color: #ffffcc;
    padding: 10px;
}
.docMeta table tr {
    vertical-align: top;
    border: solid;
    border-width: 0 0 1px 0;
```

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```
    border-color: #cccc99;
}
.docMeta table th {
    padding: 3px 5px;
    text-align: right;
    white-space: nowrap;
}
.docMeta table td {
    padding: 3px 0;
    line-height: 120%;
}
/* PDFs */

div.pdf-docdisplay embed.pdf {
    width: 100%;
    height: 600px;
    z-index: 0;
    position: relative;
}
div.pdf-docdisplay {
    z-index: 0;
}
/* Start of OLD markup for 5.31 */

div.headline-story {
    font-size: 150%;
    font-weight: bold;
    color: #000000;
    line-height: 109%;
    padding-top: 10px;
}
div.pubdate {
    margin-bottom: 10px;
}
.byline-story {
    margin: 5px 0 15px;
    color: #888888 !important;
    font-size: 90%;
}
.noindent-story {
    padding: 10px;
    font-size: 110%;
    border: 1px solid #ccc;
    background-color: #efefef;
}
.indented-story {
    padding: 0 20px;
    /*font-size:110%;*/
}
.newshead-story {
    font-weight: bold;
}
.story p {
    /*font-size:110%;*/
```

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```
            }
            small {
                font-size: 110%;
            }
            .kikker-story {
                color: #777;
                margin-bottom: 10px;
                font-size: 90%;
                /* was 100 */
            }
            .newsheadnormal-story {
                font-size: 120%;
                /* was 130 */

                font-weight: bold;
                margin-top: 15px;
                margin-bottom: 0;
            }
            .person-ref,
            .document-ref,
            .bill-ref {} .footer-story {
                color: #555;
                padding-top: 5px;
                border-top: 1px solid #eee;
            }
            /* Doc Boxes STYLING */

            div#section-minor div.module ul.document-list li {
                border-top: 1px dotted #ccc;
                margin: 0 6px 5px 0;
                padding-top: 5px;
            }
            div#section-minor div.module ul.document-list li:first-child
{
                border-top: 0;
                padding-top: 0;
            }
            div#section-minor div.module ul.content-options.radio {
                margin-top: 7px;
                margin-bottom: 7px;
            }
            div#section-minor div.module ul.content-options.radio input {
                margin-bottom: 5px;
                margin-right: 5px;
                _margin-bottom: 2px;
                _margin-right: 2px;
            }
            /* Individual doc box components */

            div#section-minor div.module div.component-
billscomparisonpanel {
                margin-bottom: 6px;
            }
```

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```
            div#section-minor div.module div.component-
billscomparisonlongformbox li.other-version p {
                margin-left: 0;
            }
            /* hack */

            div.component-documentkikker div.kikker-story {
                font-size: 100%;
            }
            div.story div.kikker-story {
                font-size: 70%;
                line-height: normal;
            }
            /* Store link */

            div#container div#store-link {
                text-align: right;
                font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
                font-size: 12px;
                background-color: #e8f0f6;
                border-top: 10px solid #e8f0f6;
                border-bottom: 10px solid #e8f0f6;
            }
            div#container div#store-link a {
                color: #3482A4;
                padding-left: 22px;
                background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/cart.gif) 0 50% no-repeat;
            }
            /* Call to action */

            .cta {
                text-align: center;
                background: #f1f1f1;
                margin: 15px 0;
                padding: 6px 0;
            }
            .cta a {
                text-decoration: none;
            }
            .cta a img {
                vertical-align: middle;
            }
           .logo {
              margin: 0 0 10px;
            }
           .footer {
             background: #F9F9F9;
             margin-top: 30px;
             padding: 30px;
             text-align: center;
             font-size: 14px;
             line-height: 24px;
```

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```
                font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
                color: #616161;
                }

               /*.alert-hit {
                   display: none;
               }*/

                .img-container {
                margin: 25px 0 60px;
                text-align: center;
                }

                .amendment-hits {
                    margin-top: 0;
                    padding-top: 30px;
                    border-top: 1px solid #d4d1d3;
                }

                .amendment-hits ul {
                   margin-top: -30px !important;
              }
                .crs {
                   border-top: 0;
                }
                .crs ul {
                   margin-top: 0 !important;
                }
                .hide {
                    position: absolute;
                    overflow: hidden;
                    clip: rect(0,0,0,0);
                    width: 0 !important;
                    height: 0;
                }
                .address {
                    margin-bottom: 20px;
                }
      </style>
<div style="max-width: 600px; margin: 0 auto;" id="box">
<div id="container">
<div id="main">
<div style="margin: 25px 0 60px; text-align: center;" class="img-
container">
<img style="width: 463px;" width="463" alt="CQ CRS Reports"
src="http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/newsletters/cq-crs-reports-
logo.png"></div>
<div style="padding-top: 0; border-top: 0;" class="amendment-hits crs">
<response>
```

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```
<ul style="margin: 0; padding-left: 0; list-style: none;">
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid
#d4d1d3;">
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto,
Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-
height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037440?srcpage=cqah">U.S. Challenges to
China's Farm Policies</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11469</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Agriculture;
Congress; Taxation; International Affairs; Politics and Government;
Foreign Countries &amp;amp; Regions</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>
</li>
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height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037439?srcpage=cqah">The Electoral College:
A 2020 Presidential Election Timeline</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IF11641</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
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line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Elections;
State and Local Government; Politics and Government</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>
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<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid
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height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037438?srcpage=cqah">CARES Act Payroll
Support to Air Carriers and Contractors</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11482</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Congress;
Transportation; Politics and Government; Labor</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>
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Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-
height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037437?srcpage=cqah">Bolivia's October 2020
General Elections</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11198</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Congress;
Economic Policy; Elections; The Americas; International Affairs; Politics
and Government; Foreign Countries &amp;amp; Regions</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
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line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>
</li>
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height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
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```
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036299?srcpage=cqah">COVID-19: Government
Resources for Real-Time Economic Indicators</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11521</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Congress;
Economic Policy; Taxation; Labor; Politics and Government; Health
Policy</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
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<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)</p>
</li>
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid
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Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-
height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036298?srcpage=cqah">Copyright in Code:
Supreme Court Hears Landmark Software Case in Google v. Oracle</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. LSB10543</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
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line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Law;
Technology; Politics and Government</span>
</p>
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line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)</p>
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Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-
height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036297?srcpage=cqah">Brunei Darussalam</a>
</h2>
```

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```
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
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<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span
class="subjects">International Affairs</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
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<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)</p>
</li>
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height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037441?srcpage=cqah">U.S. Farm Support:
Outlook for Compliance with WTO Commitments, 2018 to 2020</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46577</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Agriculture;
Politics and Government; International Affairs</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>
</li>
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Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-
height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036300?srcpage=cqah">Crisis in Mali</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IF10116</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
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<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span
class="subjects">International Affairs</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)</p>
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Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-
height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036305?srcpage=cqah">'Stage One' U.S.-Japan
Agreement: Agriculture</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46576</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Agriculture;
International Affairs; Foreign Countries &amp;amp; Regions</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)</p>
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<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036304?srcpage=cqah">U.S. Withdrawal from
the World Health Organization: Process and Implications</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46575</p>
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Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Budget;
International Affairs; Health Policy; Disabled Persons</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
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Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)</p>
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<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036301?srcpage=cqah">Human Rights
Challenges in Mexico: Addressing Enforced Disappearances</a>
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line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IF11669</p>
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line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Criminal
Justice; Executive Branch Depts.; Politics and Government; International
Affairs; Law; Foreign Countries &amp;amp; Regions</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
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<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)</p>
</li>
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height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;"
href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6036302?srcpage=cqah">Small Business Mentor-
Protege Programs</a>
</h2>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px;
line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R41722</p>
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<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Politics and
Government</span>
</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica,
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line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/22/2020)</p>
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<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid
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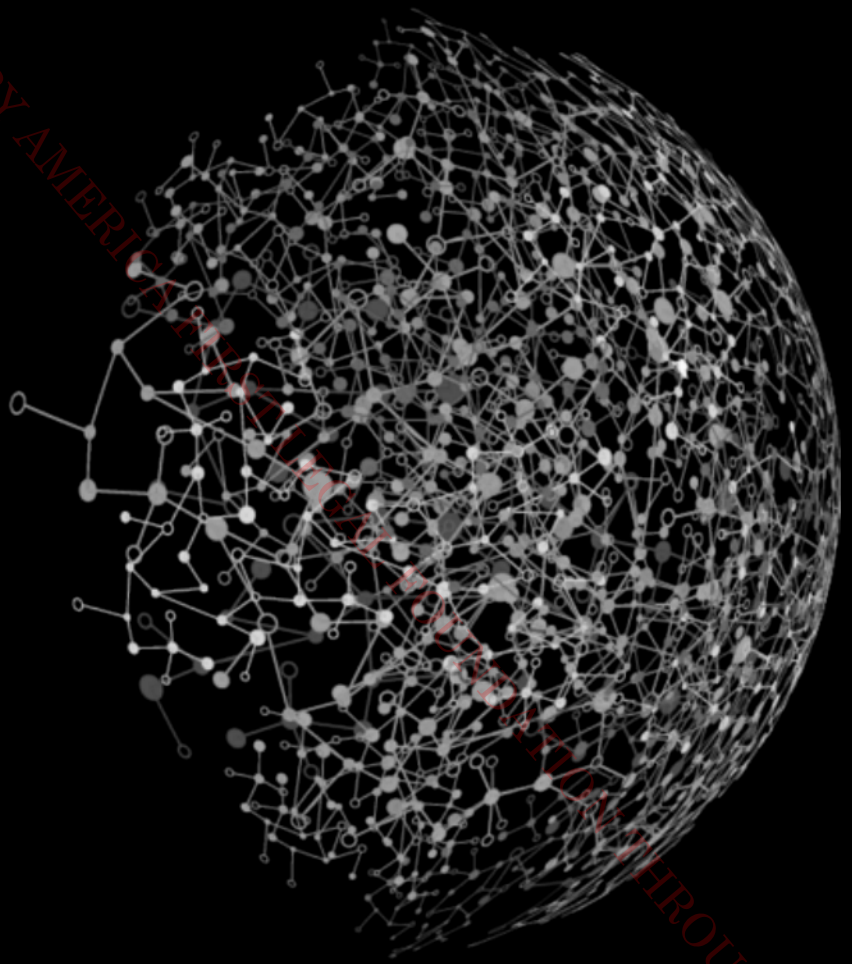

Elections Daily Digest

October 22, 2020

Scope Note: The following observations were developed from publicly available sources such as media reporting, social sensing tools, tools to detect inauthentic social media activity, content aggregators, social platforms, podcasts, online databases, and other open source data. This product was developed in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the Department of Homeland Security - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security - National Risk Management Center COVID-19 Disinformation, Misinformation, and Malinformation, and Critical Infrastructure Risks Operational Use of Social Media Rules of Behavior.

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Daily Social Media Trends: US Election Topics

Timeframe: October 21, 2020, 12:00AM – October 21, 2020, 11:59PM

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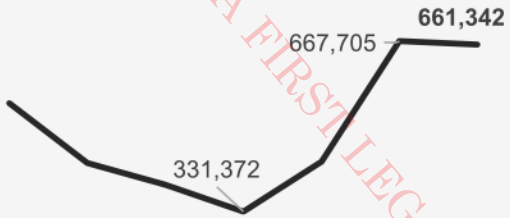
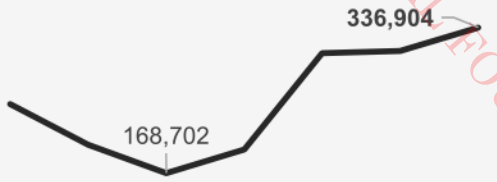
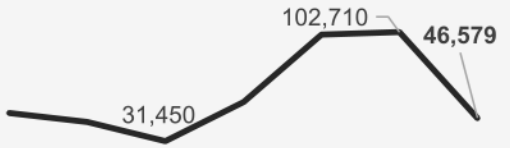
Topic	Total Mentions*	% Change in Mentions (since last period)	Volume and Velocity** (total mentions and rate of change over time) 10/15 10/16 10/17 10/18 10/19 10/20 10/21	Change in Sentiment*** (since last period)	Observations
Elections General Mentions Related to US Elections	**7.03M**	**▼8%**		▲3% more negative	• The total volume in the past 24 hours (October 21) **decreased 8%** compared to the total volume in the previous period (October 20). • **Critical Drivers:** Presidential candidates calling on their constituents to vote, the DNI press conference about Iranian and Russian election interference
Voter Suppression • Voter Intimidation • Polling Place Security • Impacts to Election Processes	**661K**	**▼<1%**		▲6% more negative	• A Democratic Member of Congress questioned if the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) was being honest with the American people about Iran sending "spoofed emails" to voters, claiming that Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials said the emails were meant to intimidate voters to vote for [POTUS]," not against him. • A reporter claimed that a college student received a threatening email "trying to intimidate her into voting for [POTUS]" and that the student was terrified because "[the sender] knew her personal info and email."
COVID-19 • Political Exploitation of COVID-19	**337K**	**▲9%**		▼5% less negative	• The Democratic presidential nominee asserted that the current Secretary of Education should be replaced with "an actual public school educator" who "is capable of guiding all of our schools through this pandemic." • A liberal commentator claimed that the purported Iranian election interference has diverted attention from the US COVID-19 death toll, which now exceeds 220,000.
Vote-By-Mail • Mail-in Ballots and Registration • Fraud Claims • Vote Counting	**46.6K**	**▼55%**		▲4% more negative	• A self-proclaimed progressive Democrat claimed that US Postal Service (USPS) mailboxes are completely full and suggested that this is evidence the Postmaster General is "stepping up his sabotaging of the mail." • A conservative economist asked for reassurance that Russia and Iran "can't counterfeit a mail-in ballot," even though they can access voter registration rolls, saying that he cannot understand "how anyone can be certain there is no fraud" when "we mail out millions of ballots."

* Total mentions is the number of individual pieces of content (including posts, comments, shares, retweets, and articles) including terms related to the topic.
** These figures are approximate.
*** Sentiment analysis is only accurate up to 75% and can provide a holistic overview into the tone of a keyword search. It provides a look into the volume of documents each of which is assigned a tonality score of positive (green), negative (red), or neutral (gray), but should not be considered a definitive or complete snapshot of public sentiment.

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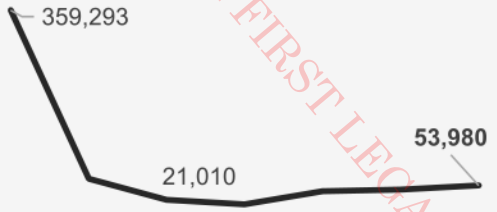
Daily Social Media Trends: US Election Topics

Timeframe: October 21, 2020, 12:00AM – October 21, 2020, 11:59PM

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Topic	Total Mentions*	% Change in Mentions (since last period)	Volume and Velocity** (total mentions and rate of change over time) 10/15 10/16 10/17 10/18 10/19 10/20 10/21	Change in Sentiment*** (since last period)	Observations
Elections General Mentions Related to US Elections	**7.03M**	**▼8%**		▲3% more negative	• The total volume in the past 24 hours (October 21) **decreased 8%** compared to the total volume in the previous period (October 20). • **Critical Drivers:** Presidential candidates calling on their constituents to vote, the DNI press conference about Iranian and Russian election interference
Removed/Flagged Social Media Posts • Enforcement of Social Media Community Guidelines	**54K**	**▲15%**		▼14% less negative	• Several conservative online activists called a new Twitter rule that temporarily prevents retweets, which all users can see, but allows quote tweets, which only an account's followers can see, until after the 2020 General Election as "blatant election interference against the [POTUS] Campaign." • POTUS's son decried "blatant election interference to help Democrats" and called for Twitter executives to be subpoenaed. • A conservative journalist claimed that another journalist called for social media platforms to "censor" POTUS until after the 2020 General Election to keep the general public from "questioning the corruption and degradation."
Election Technology • Voting Technology Issues	**27K**	**▼37%**		▲8% more negative	• A conservative journalist alleged that Twitter accounts associated with the political left have spread a "massive disinfo campaign" against POTUS's personal lawyer, referencing a released clip from an upcoming "mockumentary" in which said lawyer is portrayed in a sexually-compromised situation. • A self-proclaimed election security advocate accused a journalist from a syndicated news outlet of spreading "misinformation" by stating that it would be "almost impossible" for hackers to alter vote tallies.

* Total mentions is the number of individual pieces of content (including posts, comments, shares, retweets, and articles) including terms related to the topic.
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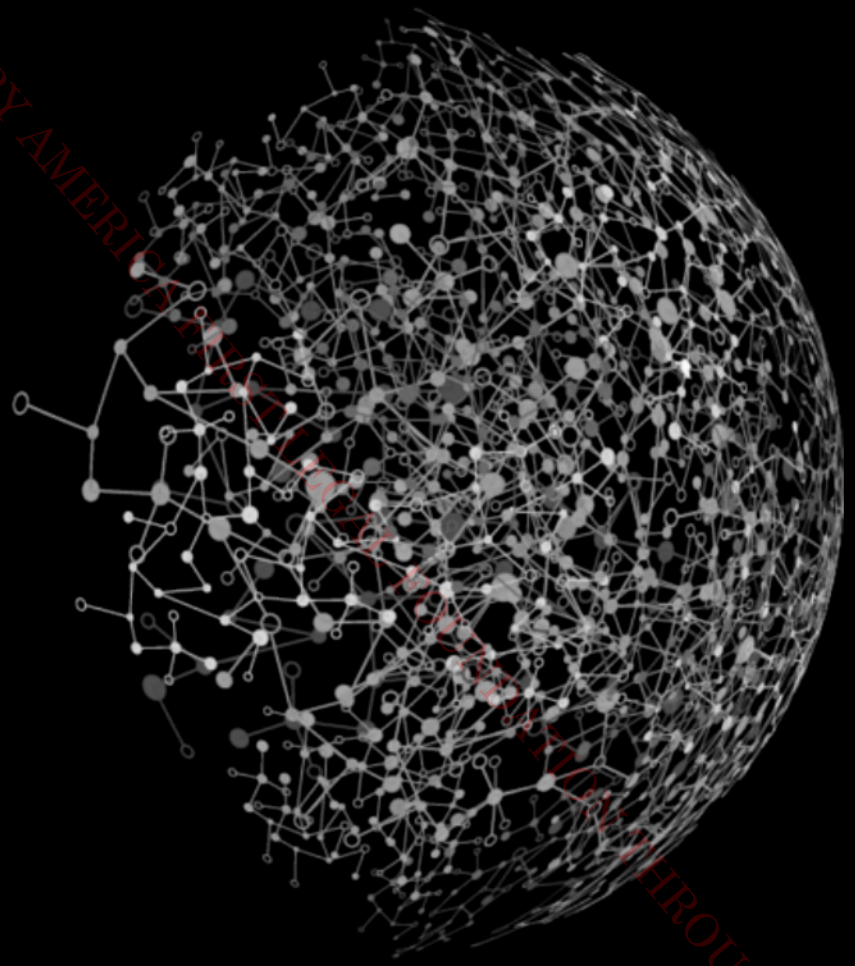

Elections and COVID-19 Weekly Digest

October 22, 2020

Scope Note: The following insights were developed from publicly available sources such as media reporting, social sensing tools, tools to detect inauthentic social media activity, content aggregators, social platforms, podcasts, online databases, and other open source data. This product was developed in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the Department of Homeland Security - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security - National Risk Management Center COVID-19 Disinformation, Misinformation, and Malinformation, and Critical Infrastructure Risks Operational Use of Social Media Rules of Behavior.

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US Elections

The scale of election-related MDM narratives and associated online conversations collectively present an unprecedented risk to the execution of the presidential election, the acceptance of its results, and the peaceful transition of power. For example, homegrown and foreign MDM about mail-in ballot "fraud" is contributing to partisan calls for Americans to serve as "poll watchers" to monitor potential voter fraud on Election Day. There is now widespread concern – supported by reporting from US syndicated news – that these election-related MDM campaigns may lead directly to voter suppression and political violence.

Daily Social Media Trends: US Election Topics

Timeframe: October 12, 2020, 12:00AM – October 18, 2020, 11:59PM

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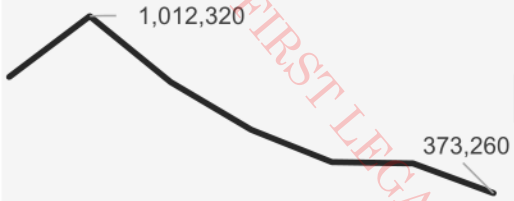
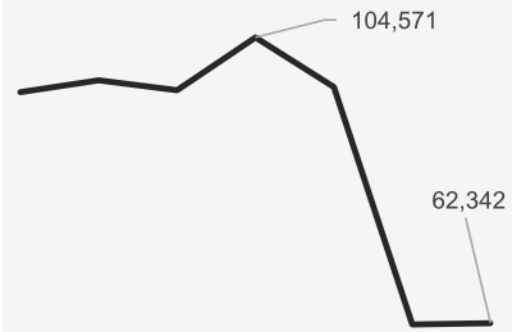
Topic	Total Mentions*	% Change in Mentions (since last period)	Volume and Velocity** (total mentions and rate of change over time) Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun	Change in Sentiment*** (since last period)	Observations
Elections General Mentions Related to US Elections	**52.4M**	▲10%		*negative sentiment flat*	• Total volume in the past 30 days (September 18 to October 18) has **increased 51%** compared to total volume in the previous 30 days (August 19 to September 17). • **Critical Driver(s):** Political campaign posts from POTUS, the Democratic presidential nominee, and their supporters
Voter Suppression • Voter Intimidation • Polling Place Security • Impacts to Election Processes	**4.52M**	▲38%		*negative sentiment flat*	• Liberal activists described long lines at early voting locations, particularly in Texas and Georgia, as voter suppression tactics. • In response to the Virginia voter registration website being temporarily unavailable, an American actor characterized the voter registration process as a voter suppression mechanism.
COVID-19 • Political Exploitation of COVID-19	**2.54M**	▼40%		*negative sentiment flat*	• Democratic leaders and pundits criticized the Senate Majority Leader for prioritizing a Supreme Court confirmation over a COVID-19 aid package. • A Twitter account associated with the QAnon conspiracy theory implied that an increase in COVID-19 cases in the United States two weeks prior to the election is part of a Democratic strategy to resist POTUS's re-election.
Election Technology • Voting Technology Issues	**639K**	▼5%		*negative sentiment flat*	• The president of a conservative activist group shared his group's report that suggests liberals plan to remove POTUS by threatening violence and secession. • An investigative writer implied that there may be a suspicious connection between the Director of CISA and his previous employer, a technology company that is launching election system software nationwide (see Slide 14). • Liberal advocates of electoral integrity claimed that slow voter check-in systems are suppressing voting in Georgia. One advocate suspected malevolence, stating that a leader of the company that manufactures the voter check-in systems is a former Republican official.

* Total mentions is the number of individual pieces of content (including posts, comments, shares, retweets, and articles) including terms related to the topic.

** These figures are approximate.

*** Sentiment analysis is only accurate up to 75% and can provide a holistic overview into the tone of a keyword search. It provides a look into the volume of documents each of which is assigned a tonality score of positive (green), negative (red), or neutral (gray), but should not be considered a definitive or complete snapshot of public sentiment.

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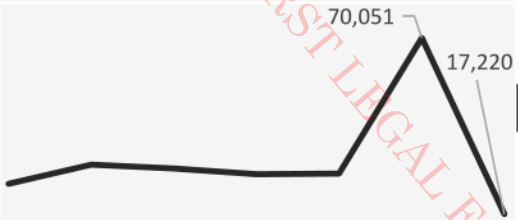
Daily Social Media Trends: US Election Topics

Timeframe: October 12, 2020, 12:00AM – October 18, 2020, 11:59PM

Topic	Total Mentions*	% Change in Mentions (since last period)	Volume and Velocity** (total mentions and rate of change over time) Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun	Change in Sentiment*** (since last period)	Observations
Vote-By-Mail • Mail-in Ballots and Registration • Fraud Claims • Vote Counting	**436K**	**▼41%**			• Republicans, including POTUS, suggested that Democrats are attempting nationwide mail-in voter fraud to "rig" the election. • Democrats stated that Republicans are attempting to cheat in the election by using tactics such as placing unofficial ballot drop boxes in California.
Removed/Flagged Social Media Posts • Enforcement of Social Media Community Guidelines	**236K**	**▲52%**			• Several prominent Republicans labelled Twitter's efforts to minimize the spread of an unverified news story about the Democratic presidential nominee's son as election interference.

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* Total mentions is the number of individual pieces of content (including posts, comments, shares, retweets, and articles) including terms related to the topic.
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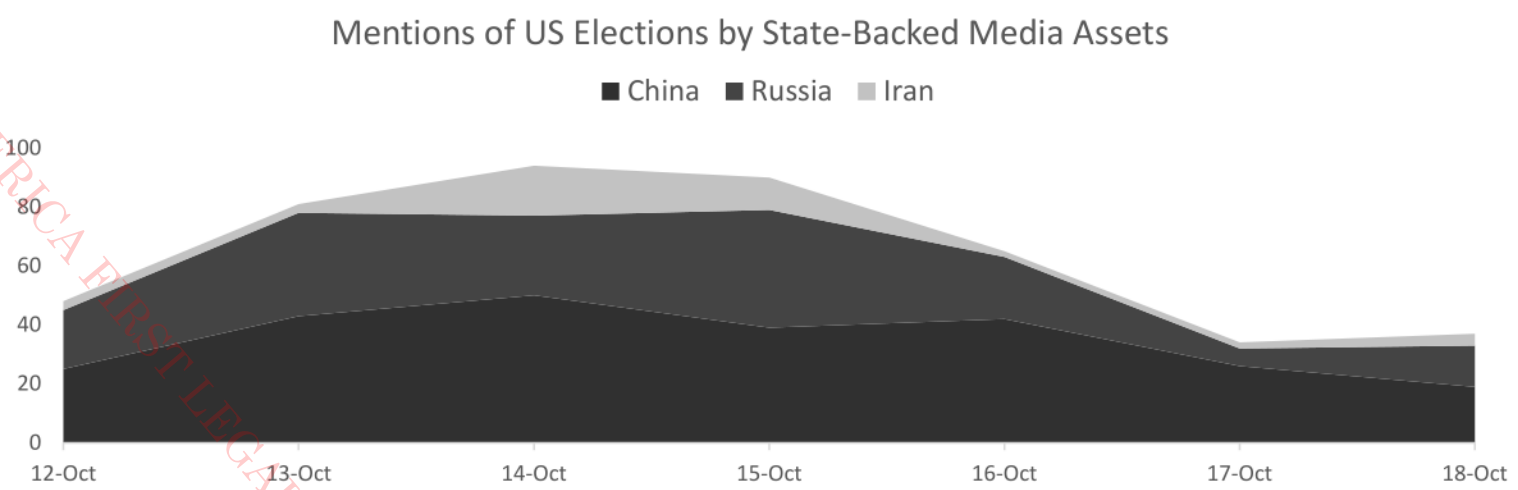
DHS-1255001755 07/31/2023

Overt Foreign Influence Narratives: US Elections

Timeframe: October 12, 2020, 12:00AM – October 18, 2020, 11:59PM

State	Total # of Mentions** (since last week)	% Change in Mentions (since last week)
China	244	▲16%
Russia	163	▼14%
Iran	42	▲75%

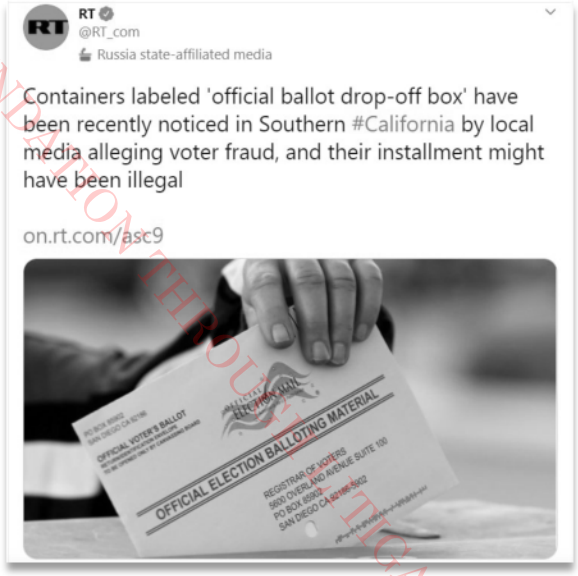
** mentions of narratives about US Elections



Key Observations

Mentions of US Elections by Chinese and Iranian state-backed media assets[1] increased during this period, while mentions by Russian state-backed media assets decreased. Russian accounts amplified narratives relating to voting irregularities, while Chinese and Iranian accounts broadcasted developments in the US presidential election. The activity from October 12 to 18 corresponded to the following narratives:

- **Russia:** *RT*, a Russian state-owned media outlet, shared its own article about "FAKE ballot boxes" placed around California by the state's Republican Party. The article highlighted Republicans defending the practice and Democrats accusing Republicans of "election rigging." This reporting potentially seeks to exacerbate existing sociopolitical tensions and sow distrust in the integrity of the US election system.
- **Iran:** *Press TV*, an Iranian state-owned media outlet, shared a video predicting the "very real" possibility of American political extremists resorting to violence following the US election, reporting on the history of US political violence over the past few years and the increased sales of firearms. This narrative potentially seeks to sow fear and exacerbate existing sociopolitical tensions.



Posts by Russian, Chinese, and Iranian state-backed media assets

DHS-1255001756 07/31/2023

[1] *State-backed media asset: A social media account identified as consistently promoting narratives promulgated by official state media outlets*

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COVID-19

Social Media Trends: COVID-19 Topics

Timeframe: October 12, 2020, 12:00AM – October 18, 2020, 11:59PM

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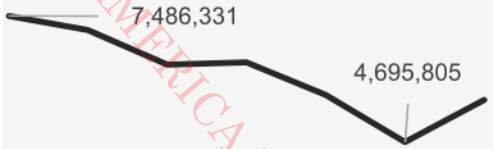
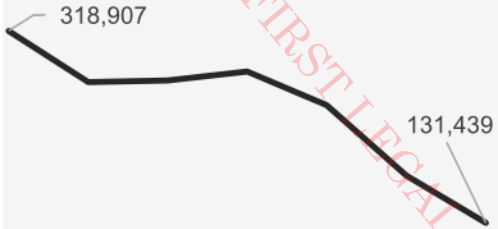
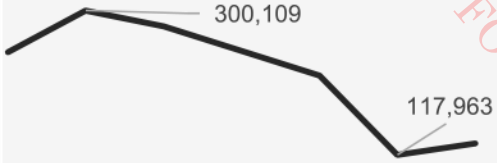
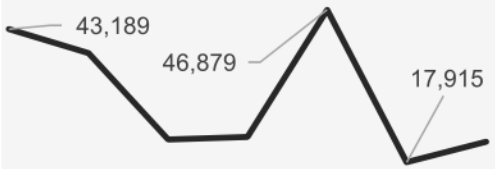
Topic	Total Mentions*	% Change in Mentions (since previous week)	Volume and Velocity** (total mentions and rate of change over time) Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun	Change in Sentiment*** (since previous week)	Observations
COVID-19 General Mentions Related to COVID-19	**43.8M**	**▼29%**		*negative sentiment flat*	• Total volume in the past 30 days (September 18 to October 18) has **increased 7%** compared to total volume in the previous 30 days (August 19 to September 17). • **Critical Driver(s):** Delays in COVID-19 aid package due to Supreme Court justice confirmation
School Reopening • Safety of students returning to school	**1.71M**	**▼18%**		▲3% more negative	• Conservative media personalities suggested that COVID-19 restrictions are unnecessary and that schools should be open in person, citing crowds of Los Angeles Lakers fans celebrating as justification. • A doctor alleged that the media has reported on supposedly fraudulent medical studies to justify COVID-19 restrictions but do not report on COVID-19 treatments.
Business Reopening • Private businesses lifting restrictions	**1.56M**	**▼19%**		*negative sentiment flat*	• A prominent progressive politician claimed that billionaires in the health care industry have become wealthier while 12 million Americans have lost health care during the COVID-19 pandemic. • A conservative media personality criticized the Democratic Speaker of the House for refusing to agree to a COVID-19 relief package.
Vaccines • Safety and efficacy of potential COVID-19 vaccines & opposition	**362K**	**▲4%**		*negative sentiment flat*	• News outlets reported that Johnson & Johnson paused advanced clinical trials of its experimental COVID-19 vaccine. • POTUS stated that American seniors will be the “first in line” to receive an approved COVID-19 vaccine. • Conservative online activists stated that the Democratic presidential candidate would mandate a COVID-19 vaccine.
Masks • Opposition to mask requirements & conspiracies	**214K**	**▼22%**		*negative sentiment flat*	• Liberal Twitter accounts criticized conservative politicians for not wearing masks and for holding public events. • A conservative Twitter account claimed that a CDC report stated that 85% of COVID-19 patients were “always” or “often” wearing a mask prior to their infection.

[1]Total mentions is the number of individual pieces of content (including posts, comments, shares, retweets, and articles) including terms related to the topic

[2] These figures are approximate.

[3] Sentiment analysis is only accurate up to 75% and can provide a holistic overview into the tone of a keyword search. It provides a look into the volume of documents each of which is assigned a tonality score of positive (green), negative (red), or neutral (gray), but should not be considered a definitive or complete snapshot of public sentiment. For example, in many cases the gray area fluctuates not as a result of an increase or decrease in "neutral" sentiment but instead because content could not be assessed as either positive or negative.

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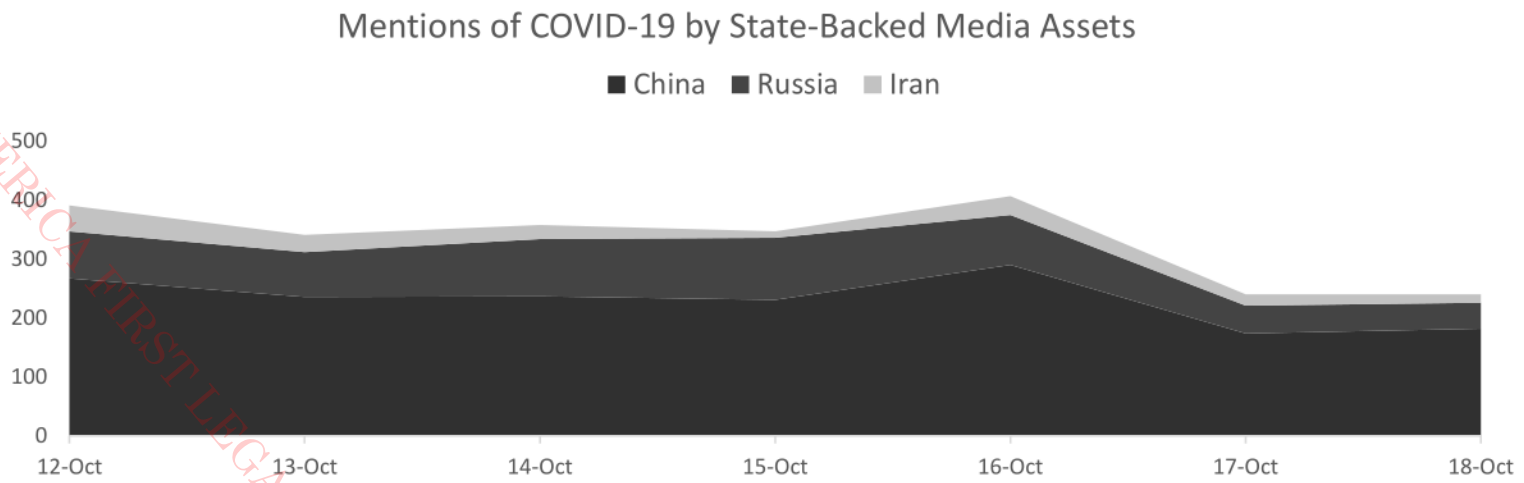
~~DRAFT: PRE-DECISIONAL WORKING PAPER~~

Overt Foreign Influence Narratives: COVID-19

Timeframe: October 12, 2020, 12:00AM – October 18, 2020, 11:59PM

State	Total # of Mentions** *(since last week)*	% Change in Mentions *(since last week)*
China	1.62K	▲8%
Russia	534	▼1%
Iran	173	▼31%

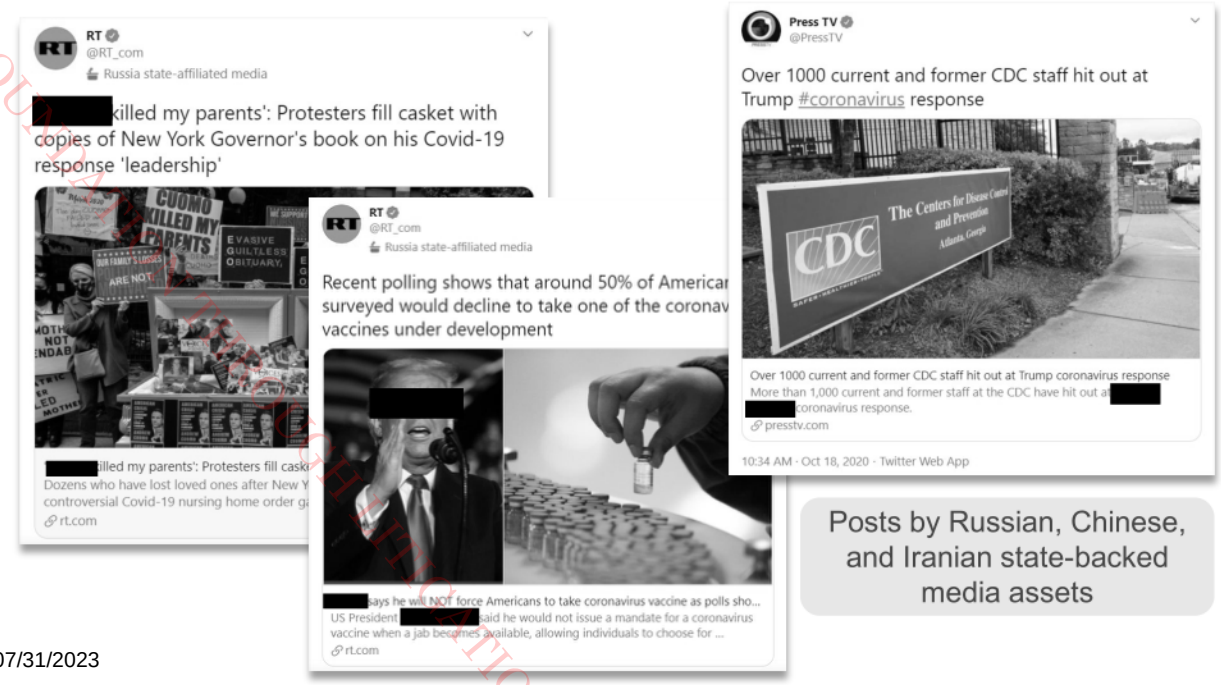
**mentions of narratives about COVID-19



Key Observations

Mentions of COVID-19 by Chinese state-backed media assets[1] increased during this period, while mentions by Russian and Iranian state-backed media assets decreased. The activity from October 12 to 18 corresponded with the following narratives:

- **Russia:** *RT*, a Russian state-owned media outlet, tweeted its own article reporting that protestors criticized the Governor of New York's response to COVID-19 and blamed him for the death of their family members. This reporting potentially seeks to portray the US COVID-19 response as ineffective and to evoke public discontent with Democratic political leadership.
- **Russia:** *RT,* a Russian state-owned media outlet, tweeted its own article about a recent poll, conducted by an American syndicated news outlet, which indicated that approximately half of Americans would not take a COVID-19 vaccine. This reporting potentially seeks to increase vaccine hesitancy amongst the American public.
- **Iran***: Press TV*, an Iranian state-owned media outlet, reported that current and former staff at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have publicly criticized POTUS's administration and CDC leadership for their handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. This reporting potentially seeks to portray the overall US COVID-19 response as ineffective and highlight the divide between politicians and the medical community over the COVID-19 response.



Posts by Russian, Chinese, and Iranian state-backed media assets

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[1]*State-backed media asset: A social media account identified as consistently promoting narratives promulgated by official state media outlets*

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MDM Narrative Analysis

Analysis: Russian state-affiliated media suggests that US technology and media companies are suppressing a news story to hinder POTUS's reelection (1/2)

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MDM NARRATIVES

- *Political, media, and technology companies are covering up a story about the Democratic presidential candidate to undermine POTUS's re-election*

CONTEXT

On October 14th, an American daily tabloid newspaper published an article containing unsubstantiated allegations that the Democratic presidential nominee's son introduced his father to several executives from a Ukrainian energy company. This article, and posts sharing it, were quickly flagged and removed by Twitter and Facebook, citing policies on sharing "hacked" and "potentially harmful" information. Russian state-owned media outlets criticized social media platforms for removing the posts and the mainstream American media outlets for not reporting this unsubstantiated claim, while accounts exhibiting bot-like behavior accused the platforms and outlets of election interference. This narrative is linked to prior accusations that American social media platforms and media outlets exhibit "liberal bias" and conduct "censorship" to benefit the Democratic presidential nominee and oppose POTUS.

Several articles from *RT*, a Russian state-owned media outlet, questioned why the Democratic presidential nominee has not been challenged during debates and town halls about his son's alleged business connections with Ukraine and implied that the media is protecting the nominee from this narrative. *RT* also criticized Twitter and Facebook for flagging and removing the original article and locking the accounts of those who did share the article, including those of high-profile public officials.

This narrative uses language that implies the existence of a "deep-state" and therefore suggests a larger conspiracy to protect global elites like the Democratic presidential nominee's family. This could be intended to target anti-establishment accounts including QAnon[1] conspiracy theorists and other accounts engaging with conspiratorial content. This narrative could inflame skepticism about the integrity of the American electoral system and intensify distrust of American social media platforms and mainstream media outlets.

TOP KEYWORDS

Risks To NCFs

- **Conduct Elections:** This narrative could potentially disrupt the ability to hold free and fair elections by using MDM to degrade the image of a presidential candidate to influence the outcome of the election. It could also sow distrust in the US electoral system and the results of the election.

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[1] "QAnon" is a conspiracy theory that first emerged in 2017, centered around an anonymous figure known as "Q". Q claims to possess a top-level security clearance and evidence of a worldwide criminal enterprise, including a pedophilia ring, led by top Democratic figures and celebrities working in conjunction with the "Deep State" to undermine POTUS.

Analysis: Russian state-affiliated media suggests that US technology and media companies are suppressing a news story to hinder POTUS's reelection (2/2)

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Inauthentic Amplification

Several accounts exhibiting bot-like activity have retweeted popular posts asserting that technology and media companies are suppressing a damaging news story about the Democratic presidential candidate.

Foreign Influence

Russia:

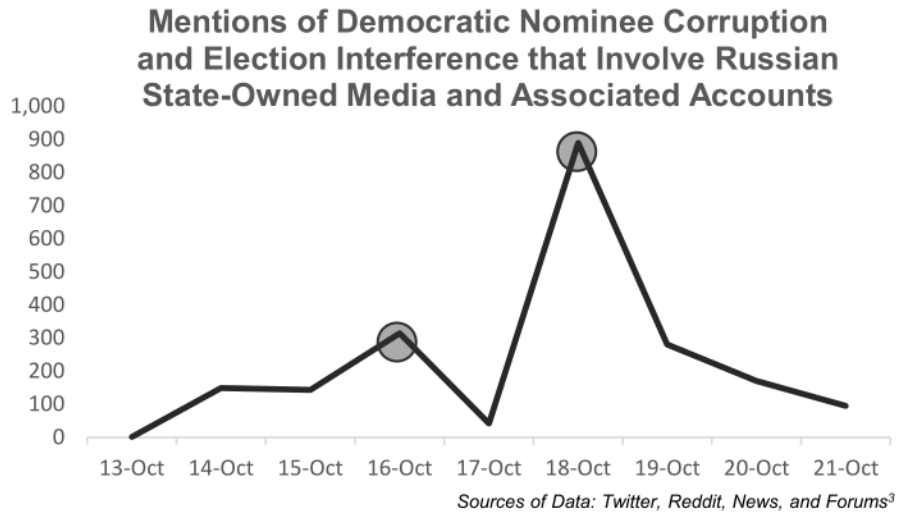
Russian state-owned media outlets, most notably *RT*, have spread this narrative in at least five separate articles. At least 47 accounts exhibiting bot-like activity have retweeted posts related to the news story and assertions that technology and media companies have suppressed the news story over 3,200 times from October 14 to October 20. These accounts have also been linked to past MDM campaigns that were possibly coordinated by the Russian Federation.

This narrative's primary objective is likely to paint the Democratic presidential nominee, presumably through association with his son, as corrupt and untrustworthy to influence the outcome of the presidential election. The US Intelligence Community has asserted[1] that the Russian Federation is actively working to denigrate the Democratic presidential nominee and aid POTUS's reelection. A potential secondary and related objective may be to exacerbate sociopolitical divisions by emboldening the narratives of conspiracy theory groups that believe the entire US political system is "rigged" and "corrupt." Specific articles and posts allude to the idea of a "deep state" of elites who use illegal means to maintain the political status quo, a concept that is found throughout the QAnon[2] conspiracy.

Target Audience

This narrative is designed to appeal to audiences, particularly those associated with the QAnon[2] conspiracy community, who distrust technology companies and mainstream media. This narrative has been amplified by QAnon accounts and shared internationally in social media groups across at least three foreign countries, with the latter possibly indicating an attempt to portray the US as an illiberal democracy.

Activity Volume



Sources of Data: Twitter, Reddit, News, and Forums[3]

The peak in mentions on October 16 is associated with engagement with an RT article claiming that media elites are trying to cover up the news story about the Democratic presidential candidate's son to benefit the "establishment." Most of the engagement with the article resulted from a liberal media personality highlighting that Russian state-owned media outlets were amplifying the news story.

The peak on October 18 is associated with multiple posts about expectations of more e-mail leaks, alleged actions by the lawyers of the Democratic presidential candidates' son, and posts suggesting that the candidate's son possessed images of child pornography.

The underlying themes of elites working to conserve "the establishment," oppose POTUS, and engage in pedophilia align with beliefs among QAnon followers.

[1] *The Office of the Director of National Security Press release from Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center*

[2] *"QAnon" is a conspiracy theory that first emerged in 2017, centered around an anonymous figure known as "Q". Q claims to possess a top-level security clearance and evidence of a worldwide criminal enterprise, including a pedophilia ring, led by top Democratic figures and celebrities working in conjunction with the "Deep State" to undermine POTUS.*

[3] *This analysis includes limited data from Facebook due to the company's current terms of service*

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Narratives to Watch

Emerging: Narratives to Watch

The following emerging narratives have not yet gained sufficient traction to warrant further analysis but still merit ongoing monitoring as appropriate.

⚑ = indication of foreign influence observed

Topic	Narrative	Most Recent Notable Activity	Latest Insights
US Election	⚑ *The director of DHS CISA has a suspicious connection to a technology company's election system software package.*	October 15, 2020	On October 15th, an independent journalist based in Chile suggested that there is a suspicious connection between an American technology company's new election system software package and the current Director of the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), who is a former executive of the aforementioned American technology company. The journalist also linked to a report she published on a news website in May 2019 about the military-industrial complex extending into election infrastructure. The news website has previously been the target of accusations that it reprints articles from RT and Sputnik. It also has a Russian version of its site and a partner and contributor who is an RT correspondent. This narrative does not appear to have grown beyond this single tweet, which garnered about 600 retweets and 1.3k likes, and seems to have reached its peak engagement on October 15.
US Election	*A US Congresswoman is involved in ballot harvesting and a cash-for-ballots scheme.*	October 6, 2020	On October 4th, a right-wing activist group shared a video claiming, through unidentified sources and with no verifiable evidence, that the campaign of the Congressional Representative from Minnesota's 5th district had collected ballots illegally and was offering cash for ballots. The narrative was amplified by several prominent conservatives, but also quickly discredited by several syndicated news outlets.
US Election	*POTUS and the Republican party are plotting to steal the 2020 election.*	September 23, 2020	On September 23rd, a professor of journalism and political columnist claimed POTUS had a 7-step plan to "steal the presidency," including "blocking mail-in votes" and "using GOP officials to block voters." Also, following POTUS's claim that he will "wait and see" before committing to a peaceful transfer of power, anti-POTUS accounts began trending the hashtag "#[POTUS]CoupPlot."
US Election	*The Intelligence Community is abusing its power to target POTUS and supports mail-in voting "chaos."*	September 14, 2020	On September 14th, the president of a conservative action group (with substantial Twitter followers) tweeted that the US Intelligence Community was launching a "coup" to target POTUS. He claimed that the Intelligence Community supports mail-in voting "chaos" and pushes POTUS smears.

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From:	Dragseth, John (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	Scully, Brian (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	Social Media Sensing Observations
Date:	2020/10/23 09:47:54
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Latest Social Media Sensing material attached.

Distro: NRMC Leadership, ESI Leadership, IRAC/IOB Leads, SPP Election POCs, OCC

(b)(6)
Countering Foreign Influence Task Force
DHS | CISA | National Risk Management Center
(b)(6) (HSDN) | (b)(6)
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Recipient:	Scully, Brian (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2020/10/23 09:47:24
Delivered Date:	2020/10/23 09:47:54

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From:	(b)(6)
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Latest Social Media Sensing material attached.

Distro: NRMC Leadership, ESI Leadership, IRAC/IOB Leads, SPP Election POCs, OCC

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Countering Foreign Influence Task Force
DHS | CISA | National Risk Management Center
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From: (b)(6)

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Subject:	Elections Interagency Sync (classified)
Date:	2020/10/23 10:39:14
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Interagency Partners,

Please see the attached documents.

The "CISA Overview – General Election Risk Posture" is a U//FOUO document and is cleared for federal government use for situational awareness.

A few things to note:

- • The map on page 3 is clickable to jump to any of the states for easier navigation.
- • The CISA General Election Risk Posture document is current as of October 20, 2020. This document is for information purposes only and may be subject to change as a result of litigation or changes to state laws. Voters should always seek the most up-to-date election information from their state and local elected officials.

The "Available Voter File Information" document comes directly from the Elections Assistance Commission and is a DRAFT document. This has the public and non-public aspects of voter reg for all 50 states. Please do not distribute widely. The EAC is planning to post this on their website soon.

Kind Regards,

(b)(6)
Elections Warning and Response Lead
Branch Chief, Hunt
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
Voice: (O) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Email: J (b)(6)

Chat with me on teams!

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Product ID: AA20-296B

October 22, 2020

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Iranian State-Sponsored Advanced Persistent Threat Actors Threaten Election-Related Systems

SUMMARY

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are warning that Iranian advanced persistent threat (APT) actors are likely intent on influencing and interfering with the U.S. elections to sow discord among voters and undermine public confidence in the U.S. electoral process.

The APT actors are creating fictitious media sites and spoofing legitimate media sites to spread obtained U.S. voter-registration data, anti-American propaganda, and misinformation about voter suppression, voter fraud, and ballot fraud.

The APT actors have historically exploited critical vulnerabilities to conduct distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, structured query language (SQL) injections attacks, spear-phishing campaigns, website defacements, and disinformation campaigns.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

These actors have conducted a significant number of intrusions against U.S.-based networks since August 2019. The actors leveraged several Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs)—notably CVE-2020-5902 and CVE-2017-9248—pertaining to virtual private networks (VPNs) and content management systems (CMSs).

- CVE-2020-5902 affects F5 VPNs. Remote attackers could exploit this vulnerability to execute arbitrary code.[1]

[1] F5 Security Advisory: K52145254: TMUI RCE vulnerability CVE-2020-5902: https://support.f5.com/csp/article/K52145254

To report suspicious or criminal activity related to information found in this Joint Cybersecurity Advisory, contact your local FBI field office at www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field, or the FBI's 24/7 Cyber Watch (CyWatch) at (855) 292-3937 or by e-mail at CyWatch@fbi.gov. When available, please include the following information regarding the incident: date, time, and location of the incident; type of activity; number of people affected; type of equipment used for the activity; the name of the submitting company or organization; and a designated point of contact. To request incident response resources or technical assistance related to these threats, contact CISA at Central@cisa.dhs.gov.

This document is marked TLP:WHITE. Disclosure is not limited. Sources may use TLP:WHITE when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release. Subject to standard copyright rules, TLP:WHITE information may be distributed without restriction. For more information on the Traffic Light Protocol, see https://us-cert.cisa.gov/tlp.

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- CVE-2017-9248 affects Telerik UI. Attackers could exploit this vulnerability in web applications using Telerik UI for ASP.NET AJAX to conduct cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks.[2]

Historically, these actors have conducted DDoS attacks, SQL injections attacks, spear-phishing campaigns, website defacements, and disinformation campaigns. These activities could render these systems temporarily inaccessible to the public or election officials, which could slow, but would not prevent, voting or the reporting of results.

- **A DDoS attack** could slow or render election-related public-facing websites inaccessible by flooding the internet-accessible server with requests; this would prevent users from accessing online resources, such as voting information or non-official voting results. In the past, cyber actors have falsely claimed DDoS attacks have compromised the integrity of voting systems in an effort to mislead the public that their attack would prevent a voter from casting a ballot or change votes already cast.
- **A SQL injection** involves a threat actor inserting malicious code into the entry field of an application, causing that code to execute if entries have not been sanitized. SQL injections are among the most dangerous and common exploits affecting websites. A SQL injection into a media company's CMS could enable a cyber actor access to network systems to manipulate content or falsify news reports prior to publication.
- **Spear-phishing messages** may not be easily detectible. These emails often ask victims to fill out forms or verify information through links embedded in the email. APT actors use spear phishing to gain access to information—often credentials, such as passwords—and to identify follow-on victims. A malicious cyber actor could use compromised email access to spread disinformation to the victims' contacts or collect information sent to or from the compromised account.
- **Public-facing website defacements** typically involve a cyber threat actor compromising the website or its associated CMS, allowing the actor to upload images to the site's landing page. In situations where such public-facing websites relate to elections (e.g., the website of a county board of elections), defacements could cast doubt on the security and legitimacy of the websites' information. If cyber actors were able to successfully change an election-related website, the underlying data and internal systems would remain uncompromised.
- **Disinformation campaigns** involve malign actions taken by foreign governments or actors designed to sow discord, manipulate public discourse, or discredit the electoral system. Malicious actors often use social media as well as fictitious and spoofed media sites for these campaigns. Social media companies have worked to counter these actors' use of social media platforms to promote fictitious news stories by removing the news stories and accounts related to the malicious activity. However, these adversaries will continue their attempts to create fictitious accounts that promote divisive storylines to sow discord, even after the election.

[2] Progress Telerik details for CVE-2017-9248: https://www.telerik.com/support/kb/aspnet-ajax/details/cryptographic-weakness

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MITIGATIONS

The following recommended mitigations list includes self-protection strategies against the cyber techniques used by the APT actors:

- Validate input—input validation is a method of sanitizing untrusted input provided by web application users. Implementing input validation can protect against security flaws of web applications by significantly reducing the probability of successful exploitation. Types of attacks possibly prevented include SQL injection, XSS, and command injection.
- Audit your network for systems using Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) and other internet-facing services. Disable the service if unneeded or install available patches. Users may need to work with their technology vendors to confirm that patches will not affect system processes.
- Verify all cloud-based virtual machine instances with a public IP; do not have open RDP ports, unless there is a valid business reason to do so. Place any system with an open RDP port behind a firewall and require users to use a VPN to access it through the firewall.
- Enable strong password requirements and account lockout policies to defend against brute-force attacks.
- Apply multi-factor authentication, when possible.
- Apply system and software updates regularly, particularly if you are deploying products affected by CVE-2020-5902 and CVE-2017-9248.
    - For patch information CVE-2020-5902, refer to F5 VPN vulnerabilities.
    - For patch information on CVE-2017-9248, refer to Progress Telerik details for CVE-2017-9248.
- Maintain a good information back-up strategy that involves routinely backing up all critical data and system configuration information on a separate device. Store the backups offline; verify their integrity and restoration process.
- Enable logging and ensure logging mechanisms capture RDP logins. Keep logs for a minimum of 90 days and review them regularly to detect intrusion attempts.
- When creating cloud-based virtual machines, adhere to the cloud provider's best practices for remote access.
- Ensure third parties that require RDP access are required to follow internal policies on remote access.
- Minimize network exposure for all control system devices. Where possible, critical devices should not have RDP enabled.
- Regulate and limit external to internal RDP connections. When external access to internal resources is required, use secure methods, such as VPNs, recognizing VPNs are only as secure as the connected devices.

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- Be aware of unsolicited contact on social media from any individual you do not know.
- Be aware of attempts to pass links or files via social media from anyone you do not know.
- Be aware of unsolicited requests to share a file via online services.
- Be aware of email messages conveying suspicious alerts or other online accounts, including login notifications from foreign countries or other alerts indicating attempted unauthorized access to your accounts.
- Be suspicious of emails purporting to be from legitimate online services (e.g., the images in the email appear to be slightly pixelated and/or grainy, language in the email seems off, the email originates from an IP address not attributable to the provider/company).
- Be suspicious of unsolicited email messages that contain shortened links (e.g., via `tinyurl`, `bit.ly`).
- Use security features provided by social media platforms, use strong passwords, change passwords frequently, and use a different password for each social media account.
- See CISA's Tip on Best Practices for Securing Election Systems for more information.

General Mitigations

Keep applications and systems updated and patched

Apply all available software updates and patches; automate this process to the greatest extent possible (e.g., by using an update service provided directly from the vendor). Automating updates and patches is critical because of the speed at which threat actors create exploits after a patch is released. These "N-day" exploits can be as damaging as a zero-day exploits. Vendor updates must also be authentic; updates are typically signed and delivered over protected links to ensure the integrity of the content. Without rapid and thorough patch application, threat actors can operate inside a defender's patch cycle.[3] In addition to updating the application, use tools (e.g., the OWASP Dependency-Check Project tool[4]) to identify publicly known vulnerabilities in third-party libraries that the application depends on.

Scan web applications for SQL injection and other common web vulnerabilities

Implement a plan to scan public-facing web servers for common web vulnerabilities (SQL injection, cross-site scripting, etc.); use a commercial web application vulnerability scanner in combination with a source code scanner.[5] As vulnerabilities are found, they should be fixed or patched. This is especially crucial for networks that host older web applications; as sites get older, more vulnerabilities are discovered and exposed.

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[3] NSA "NSA'S Top Ten Cybersecurity Mitigation Strategies: https://www.nsa.gov/Portals/70/documents/what-we-do/cybersecurity/professional-resources/csi-nsas-top10-cybersecurity-mitigation-strategies.pdf
[4] OWASP Dependency-Check: https://owasp.org/www-project-dependency-check/
[5] NSA "Defending Against the Exploitation of SQL Vulnerabilities to Compromise a Network": https://apps.nsa.gov/iaarchive/library/ia-guidance/tech-briefs/defending-against-the-exploitation-of-sql-vulnerabilities-to.cfm

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Deploy a web application firewall

Deploy a web application firewall (WAF) to help prevent invalid input attacks and other attacks destined for the web application. WAFs are intrusion/detection/prevention devices that inspect each web request made to and from the web application to determine if the request is malicious. Some WAFs install on the host system and others are dedicated devices that sit in front of the web application. WAFs also weaken the effectiveness of automated web vulnerability scanning tools.

Deploy techniques to protect against web shells

Patch web application vulnerabilities or fix configuration weaknesses that allow web shell attacks, and follow guidance on detecting and preventing web shell malware.[6] Malicious cyber actors often deploy web shells—software that can enable remote administration—on a victim's web server. Malicious cyber actors can use web shells to execute arbitrary system commands, which are commonly sent over HTTP or HTTPS. Attackers often create web shells by adding or modifying a file in an existing web application. Web shells provide attackers with persistent access to a compromised network using communications channels disguised to blend in with legitimate traffic. Web shell malware is a long-standing, pervasive threat that continues to evade many security tools.

Use multi-factor authentication for administrator accounts

Prioritize protection for accounts with elevated privileges, with remote access, and/or used on high value assets.[7] Use physical token-based authentication systems to supplement knowledge-based factors such as passwords and personal identification numbers (PINs).[8] Organizations should migrate away from single-factor authentication, such as password-based systems, which are subject to poor user choices and more susceptible to credential theft, forgery, and password reuse across multiple systems.

Remediate critical web application security risks

First, identify and remediate critical web application security risks first; then, move on to other less critical vulnerabilities. Follow available guidance on securing web applications.[9,10,11]

How do I respond to unauthorized access to election-related systems?

Implement your security incident response and business continuity plan

It may take time for your organization's IT professionals to isolate and remove threats to your systems and restore normal operations. In the meantime, take steps to maintain your organization's essential

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[6] NSA & ASD "CyberSecurity Information: Detect and Prevent Web Shell Malware": https://media.defense.gov/2020/Jun/09/2002313081/-1/-1/0/CSI-DETECT-AND-PREVENT-WEB-SHELL-MALWARE-20200422.PDF

[7] https://us-cert.cisa.gov/cdm/event/Identifying-and-Protecting-High-Value-Assets-Closer-Look-Governance-Needs-HVAs

[8] NSA "NSA'S Top Ten Cybersecurity Mitigation Strategies": https://www.nsa.gov/Portals/70/documents/what-we-do/cybersecurity/professional-resources/csi-nsas-top10-cybersecurity-mitigation-strategies.pdf

[9] NSA "Building Web Applications – Security for Developers": https://apps.nsa.gov/iaarchive/library/ia-guidance/security-tips/building-web-applications-security-recommendations-for.cfm

[10] OWASP Top Ten: https://owasp.org/www-project-top-ten/

[11] 2020 CWE Top 25 Most Dangerous Software Weaknesses: https://cwe.mitre.org/top25/archive/2020/2020_cwe_top25.html

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functions according to your business continuity plan. Organizations should maintain and regularly test backup plans, disaster recovery plans, and business continuity procedures.

Contact CISA or law enforcement immediately

To report an intrusion and to request incident response resources or technical assistance, contact CISA (Central@cisa.dhs.gov or 888-282-0870) or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through a local field office or the FBI's Cyber Division (CyWatch@ic.fbi.gov or 855-292-3937).

RESOURCES

- CISA Tip: Best Practices for Securing Election Systems
- CISA Tip: Securing Voter Registration Data
- CISA Tip: Website Security
- CISA Tip: Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Attacks
- CISA Tip: Securing Network Infrastructure Devices
- CISA Joint Advisory: Technical Approaches to Uncovering and Remediating Malicious Activity
- CISA Insights: Actions to Counter Email-Based Attacks On Election-related Entities
- FBI and CISA Public Service Announcement (PSA): Spoofed Internet Domains and Email Accounts Pose Cyber and Disinformation Risks to Voters
- FBI and CISA PSA: Foreign Actors Likely to Use Online Journals to Spread Disinformation Regarding 2020 Elections
- FBI and CISA PSA: Distributed Denial of Service Attacks Could Hinder Access to Voting Information, Would Not Prevent Voting
- FBI and CISA PSA: False Claims of Hacked Voter Information Likely Intended to Cast Doubt on Legitimacy of U.S. Elections
- FBI and CISA PSA: Cyber Threats to Voting Processes Could Slow But Not Prevent Voting
- FBI and CISA PSA: Foreign Actors and Cybercriminals Likely to Spread Disinformation Regarding 2020 Election Results

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TLP:WHITE

Product ID: AA20-296A

October 22, 2020

Russian State-Sponsored Advanced Persistent Threat Actor Compromises U.S. Government Targets

SUMMARY

***Callout Box**: This joint cybersecurity advisory uses the MITRE Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge (ATT&CK®) framework. See the ATT&CK for Enterprise framework for all referenced threat actor tactics and techniques.*

This joint cybersecurity advisory—written by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)—provides information on Russian state-sponsored advanced persistent threat (APT) actor activity targeting various U.S. state, local, territorial, and tribal (SLTT) government networks, as well as aviation networks. This advisory updates joint CISA-FBI cybersecurity advisory AA20-283A: APT Actors Chaining Vulnerabilities Against SLTT, Critical Infrastructure, and Elections Organizations.

Since at least September 2020, a Russian state-sponsored APT actor—known variously as Berserk Bear, Energetic Bear, TeamSpy, Dragonfly, Havex, Crouching Yeti, and Koala in open-source reporting—has conducted a campaign against a wide variety of U.S. targets. The Russian state-sponsored APT actor has targeted dozens of SLTT government and aviation networks, attempted intrusions at several SLTT organizations, successfully compromised network infrastructure, and as of October 1, 2020, exfiltrated data from at least two victim servers.

The Russian-sponsored APT actor is obtaining user and administrator credentials to establish initial access, enable lateral movement once inside the network, and locate high value assets in order to exfiltrate data. In at least one compromise, the APT actor laterally traversed an SLTT victim network and accessed documents related to:

- Sensitive network configurations and passwords.
- Standard operating procedures (SOP), such as enrolling in multi-factor authentication (MFA).
- IT instructions, such as requesting password resets.

To report suspicious or criminal activity related to information found in this Joint Cybersecurity Advisory, contact your local FBI field office at www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field, or the FBI's 24/7 Cyber Watch (CyWatch) at (855) 292-3937 or by e-mail at CyWatch@fbi.gov. When available, please include the following information regarding the incident: date, time, and location of the incident; type of activity; number of people affected; type of equipment used for the activity; the name of the submitting company or organization; and a designated point of contact. To request incident response resources or technical assistance related to these threats, contact CISA at CISAServiceDesk@cisa.dhs.gov.

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- Vendors and purchasing information.
- Printing access badges.

To date, the FBI and CISA have no information to indicate this APT actor has intentionally disrupted any aviation, education, elections, or government operations. However, the actor may be seeking access to obtain future disruption options, to influence U.S. policies and actions, or to delegitimize SLTT government entities.

As this recent malicious activity has been directed at SLTT government networks, there may be some risk to elections information housed on SLTT government networks. However, the FBI and CISA have no evidence to date that integrity of elections data has been compromised. Due to the heightened awareness surrounding elections infrastructure and the targeting of SLTT government networks, the FBI and CISA will continue to monitor this activity and its proximity to elections infrastructure.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

The FBI and CISA have observed Russian state-sponsored APT actor activity targeting U.S. SLTT government networks, as well as aviation networks. The APT actor is using Turkish IP addresses `213.74.101[.]65`, `213.74.139[.]196`, and `212.252.30[.]170` to connect to victim web servers (*Exploit Public Facing Application* [T1190]).

The actor is using `213.74.101[.]65` and `213.74.139[.]196` to attempt brute force logins and, in several instances, attempted Structured Query Language (SQL) injections on victim websites (*Brute Force* [T1110]; *Exploit Public Facing Application* [T1190]). The APT actor also hosted malicious domains, including possible aviation sector target `columbusairports.microsoftonline[.]host`, which resolved to `108.177.235[.]92` and `[cityname].westus2.cloudapp.azure.com`; these domains are U.S. registered and are likely SLTT government targets (*Drive-By Compromise* [T1189]).

The APT actor scanned for vulnerable Citrix and Microsoft Exchange services and identified vulnerable systems, likely for future exploitation. This actor continues to exploit a Citrix Directory Traversal Bug (CVE-2019-19781) and a Microsoft Exchange remote code execution flaw (CVE-2020-0688).

The APT actor has been observed using Cisco AnyConnect Secure Socket Layer (SSL) virtual private network (VPN) connections to enable remote logins on at least one victim network, possibly enabled by an Exim Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) vulnerability (CVE 2019-10149) (*External Remote Services* [T1133]). More recently, the APT actor enumerated and exploited a Fortinet VPN vulnerability (CVE-2018-13379) for *Initial Access* [TA0001] and a Windows Netlogon vulnerability (CVE-2020-1472) to obtain access to Windows Active Directory (AD) servers for *Privilege Escalation* [TA0004] within the network (*Valid Accounts* [T1078]). These vulnerabilities can also be leveraged to compromise other devices on the network (*Lateral Movement* [TA0008]) and to maintain *Persistence* [TA0003]).

Between early February and mid-September, these APT actors used `213.74.101[.]65`, `212.252.30[.]170`, `5.196.167[.]184`, `37.139.7[.]16`, `149.56.20[.]55`, `91.227.68[.]97`, and `5.45.119[.]124` to target U.S. SLTT government networks. Successful authentications—including

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the compromise of Microsoft Office 365 (O365) accounts—have been observed on at least one victim network (*Valid Accounts* [T1078]).

MITIGATIONS

Indicators of Compromise

The APT actor used the following IP addresses and domains to carry out its objectives:

- `213.74.101[.]65`
- `213.74.139[.]196`
- `212.252.30[.]170`
- `5.196.167[.]184`
- `37.139.7[.]16`
- `149.56.20[.]55`
- `91.227.68[.]97`
- `138.201.186[.]43`
- `5.45.119[.]124`
- `193.37.212[.]43`
- `146.0.77[.]60`
- `51.159.28[.]101`
- `columbusairports.microsoftonline[.]host`
- `microsoftonline[.]host`
- `email.microsoftonline[.]services`
- `microsoftonline[.]services`
- `[cityname].westus2.cloudapp.azure.com`

IP address `51.159.28[.]101` appears to have been configured to receive stolen Windows New Technology Local Area Network Manager (NTLM) credentials. FBI and CISA recommend organizations take defensive actions to mitigate the risk of leaking NTLM credentials; specifically, organizations should disable NTLM or restrict outgoing NTLM. Organizations should consider blocking IP address `51.159.28[.]101` (although this action alone may not mitigate the threat, as the APT actor has likely established, or will establish, additional infrastructure points).

Organizations should check available logs for traffic to/from IP address `51.159.28[.]101` for indications of credential-harvesting activity. As the APT actors likely have—or will—establish additional infrastructure points, organizations should also monitor for Server Message Block (SMB) or WebDAV activity leaving the network to other IP addresses.

Refer to AA20-296A.stix for a downloadable copy of IOCs.

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Network Defense-in-Depth

Proper network defense-in-depth and adherence to information security best practices can assist in mitigating the threat and reducing the risk to critical infrastructure. The following guidance may assist organizations in developing network defense procedures.

- Keep all applications updated according to vendor recommendations, and especially prioritize updates for external facing applications and remote access services to address CVE-2019-19781, CVE-2020-0688, CVE 2019-10149, CVE-2018-13379, and CVE-2020-1472. Refer to table 1 for patch information on these CVEs.

Table 1: Patch information for CVEs

Vulnerability	Vulnerable Products	Patch Information
CVE-2019-19781	• Citrix Application Delivery Controller • Citrix Gateway • Citrix SDWAN WANOP	Citrix blog post: firmware updates for Citrix ADC and Citrix Gateway versions 11.1 and 12.0 Citrix blog post: security updates for Citrix SD-WAN WANOP release 10.2.6 and 11.0.3 Citrix blog post: firmware updates for Citrix ADC and Citrix Gateway versions 12.1 and 13.0 Citrix blog post: firmware updates for Citrix ADC and Citrix Gateway version 10.5

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Vulnerability	Vulnerable Products	Patch Information
CVE-2020-0688	• Microsoft Exchange Server 2010 Service Pack 3 Update Rollup 30 • Microsoft Exchange Server 2013 Cumulative Update 23 • Microsoft Exchange Server 2016 Cumulative Update 14 • Microsoft Exchange Server 2016 Cumulative Update 15 • Microsoft Exchange Server 2019 Cumulative Update 3 • Microsoft Exchange Server 2019 Cumulative Update 4	Microsoft Security Advisory for CVE-2020-0688
CVE-2019-10149	• Exim versions 4.87–4.91	Exim page for CVE-2019-10149
CVE-2018-13379	• FortiOS 6.0: 6.0.0 to 6.0.4 • FortiOS 5.6: 5.6.3 to 5.6.7 • FortiOS 5.4: 5.4.6 to 5.4.12	Fortinet Security Advisory: FG-IR-18-384
CVE-2020-1472	• Windows Server 2008 R2 for x64-based Systems Service Pack 1 • Windows Server 2008 R2 for x64-based Systems Service Pack 1 (Server Core installation) • Windows Server 2012 • Windows Server 2012 (Server Core installation) • Windows Server 2012 R2 • Windows Server 2016 • Windows Server 2019 • Windows Server 2019 (Server Core installation) • Windows Server, version 1903 (Server Core installation) • Windows Server, version 1909 (Server Core installation) • Windows Server, version 2004 (Server Core installation)	Microsoft Security Advisory for CVE-2020-1472

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- Follow Microsoft's guidance on monitoring logs for activity related to the Netlogon vulnerability, CVE-2020-1472.
- If appropriate for your organization's network, prevent external communication of all versions of SMB and related protocols at the network boundary by blocking Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) ports 139 and 445 and User Datagram Protocol (UDP) port 137. See the CISA publication on SMB Security Best Practices for more information.
- Implement the prevention, detection, and mitigation strategies outlined in:
    - CISA Alert TA15-314A – Compromised Web Servers and Web Shells – Threat Awareness and Guidance.
    - National Security Agency Cybersecurity Information Sheet U/OO/134094-20 – Detect and Prevent Web Shells Malware.
- Isolate external facing services in a network demilitarized zone (DMZ) since they are more exposed to malicious activity; enable robust logging, and monitor the logs for signs of compromise.
- Establish a training mechanism to inform end users on proper email and web usage, highlighting current information and analysis and including common indicators of phishing. End users should have clear instructions on how to report unusual or suspicious emails.
- Implement application controls to only allow execution from specified application directories. System administrators may implement this through Microsoft Software Restriction Policy, AppLocker, or similar software. Safe defaults allow applications to run from `PROGRAMFILES`, `PROGRAMFILES(X86)`, and `WINDOWS` folders. All other locations should be disallowed unless an exception is granted.
- Block Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) connections originating from untrusted external addresses unless an exception exists; routinely review exceptions on a regular basis for validity.

Comprehensive Account Resets

For accounts where NTLM password hashes or Kerberos tickets may have been compromised (e.g., through CVE-2020-1472), a *double-password-reset* may be required in order to prevent continued exploitation of those accounts. For domain-admin-level credentials, a reset of KRB-TGT "Golden Tickets" may be required, and Microsoft has released specialized guidance for this. Such a reset should be performed very carefully if needed.

If there is an observation of CVE-2020-1472 Netlogon activity or other indications of valid credential abuse, it should be assumed the APT actors have compromised AD administrative accounts. In such cases, the AD forest should not be fully trusted, and, therefore, a new forest should be deployed. Existing hosts from the old compromised forest cannot be migrated in without being rebuilt and rejoined to the new domain, but migration may be done through "creative destruction," wherein, as endpoints in the legacy forest are decommissioned, new ones can be built in the new forest. This will need to be completed in on-premise—as well as in Azure-hosted—AD instances.

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Note that fully resetting an AD forest is difficult and complex; it is best done with the assistance of personnel who have successfully completed the task previously.

It is critical to perform a full password reset on all user and computer accounts in the AD forest. Use the following steps as a guide.

1. Create a temporary administrator account, and use this account only for all administrative actions
2. Reset the Kerberos Ticket Granting Ticket (`krbtgt`) password;[1] this must be completed before any additional actions (a second reset will take place in step 5)
3. Wait for the `krbtgt` reset to propagate to all domain controllers (time may vary)
4. Reset all account passwords (passwords should be 15 characters or more and randomly assigned):
    a. User accounts (forced reset with no legacy password reuse)
    b. Local accounts on hosts (including local accounts not covered by Local Administrator Password Solution [LAPS])
    c. Service accounts
    d. Directory Services Restore Mode (DSRM) account
    e. Domain Controller machine account
    f. Application passwords
5. Reset the `krbtgt` password again
6. Wait for the `krbtgt` reset to propagate to all domain controllers (time may vary)
7. Reboot domain controllers
8. Reboot all endpoints

The following accounts should be reset:

- AD Kerberos Authentication Master (2x)
- All Active Directory Accounts
- All Active Directory Admin Accounts
- All Active Directory Service Accounts
- All Active Directory User Accounts
- DSRM Account on Domain Controllers
- Non-AD Privileged Application Accounts
- Non-AD Unprivileged Application Accounts
- Non-Windows Privileged Accounts
- Non-Windows User Accounts
- Windows Computer Accounts
- Windows Local Admin

[1] https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/identity/ad-ds/manage/ad-forest-recovery-resetting-the-krbtgt-password

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VPN Vulnerabilities

Implement the following recommendations to secure your organization's VPNs:

- **Update VPNs, network infrastructure devices, and devices** being used to remote into work environments with the latest software patches and security configurations. See CISA Tips Understanding Patches and Software Updates and Securing Network Infrastructure Devices. Wherever possible, enable automatic updates.
- **Implement MFA on all VPN connections to increase security**. Physical security tokens are the most secure form of MFA, followed by authenticator app-based MFA. SMS and email-based MFA should only be used when no other forms are available. If MFA is not implemented, require teleworkers to use strong passwords. See CISA Tips Choosing and Protecting Passwords and Supplementing Passwords for more information.

Discontinue unused VPN servers. Reduce your organization's attack surface by discontinuing unused VPN servers, which may act as a point of entry for attackers. To protect your organization against VPN vulnerabilities:

- **Audit** configuration and patch management programs.
- **Monitor** network traffic for unexpected and unapproved protocols, especially outbound to the Internet (e.g., Secure Shell [SSH], SMB, RDP).
- **Implement** MFA, especially for privileged accounts.
- **Use** separate administrative accounts on separate administration workstations.
- **Keep** software up to date. Enable automatic updates, if available.

REFERENCES

- APT Actors Chaining Vulnerabilities Against SLTT, Critical Infrastructure, and Elections Organizations – https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/alerts/aa20-283a
- CISA Activity Alert CVE-2019-19781 – https://us-cert/cisa.gov/ncas/alerts/aa20-031a
- CISA Vulnerability Bulletin – https://us-cert/cisa.gov/ncas/bulletins/SB19-161
- CISA Current Activity – https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/current-activity/2020/03/10/unpatched-microsoft-exchange-servers-vulnerable-cve-2020-0688
- Citrix Directory Traversal Bug (CVE-2019-19781) – https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2019-19781
- Microsoft Exchange remote code execution flaw (CVE-2020-0688) – https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2020-0688
- CVE-2018-13379 – https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2018-13379
- CVE-2020-1472 – https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2020-1472
- CVE 2019-10149 – https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2019-10149
- NCCIC/USCERT Alert TA15-314A – Compromised Web Servers and Web Shells – Threat Awareness and Guidance – https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/alerts/TA15-314A
- NCCIC/US-CERT publication on SMB Security Best Practices – https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/current-activity/2017/01/16/SMB-Security-Best-Practices

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