



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. CISA staff are connected with Hart, a Texas-based major provider of ballot print, mail, equipment, and technology services.

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 Secretary of State (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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
- RPT: Four counties between 2018 and 2019
- Last Mile Products: 2018 County-Level Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Texas (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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/>

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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Utah (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **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. 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

- Protective Security Advisor (b) (6) Cybersecurity Advisor (b) (6) and Chief Protective Security (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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)
 - **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
 - **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 15% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
 - **Polling Hours:** 5:00am – 7:00pm (ET)
 - **Official Election Website:** <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/>
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:** None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

(b) (3) (B)

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 and Cybersecurity Advisor will remain in close contact with the Vermont SoS Office, Vermont Fusion Center, DHS counterparts, FBI, and all relevant election partners on Election Day.



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.

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, the Virginia Governor 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the Commonwealth level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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 and Protective Security Advisors will support the Virginia Department of Elections command center during on Elections Day.



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.

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. The Secretary of State (SoS) 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:

(b) (7)(E)

Albert Sensor: Yes. (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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/>

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



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 a 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.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, on April 1, 2020, the West Virginia Governor 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 Secretary of State 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:** None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials,

providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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, the West Virginia Governor 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.



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 Wisconsin Election Commission (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. CISA Region V has established an effective working relationship with the 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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **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 returned by Election Day according to an early October federal appeals court decision. The previous deadline was that ballots had to 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 headquarters in downtown Madison, WI and connected virtually to Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center. 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.
- CSAs (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 Regional PSA 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.



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 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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services.
- Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **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.

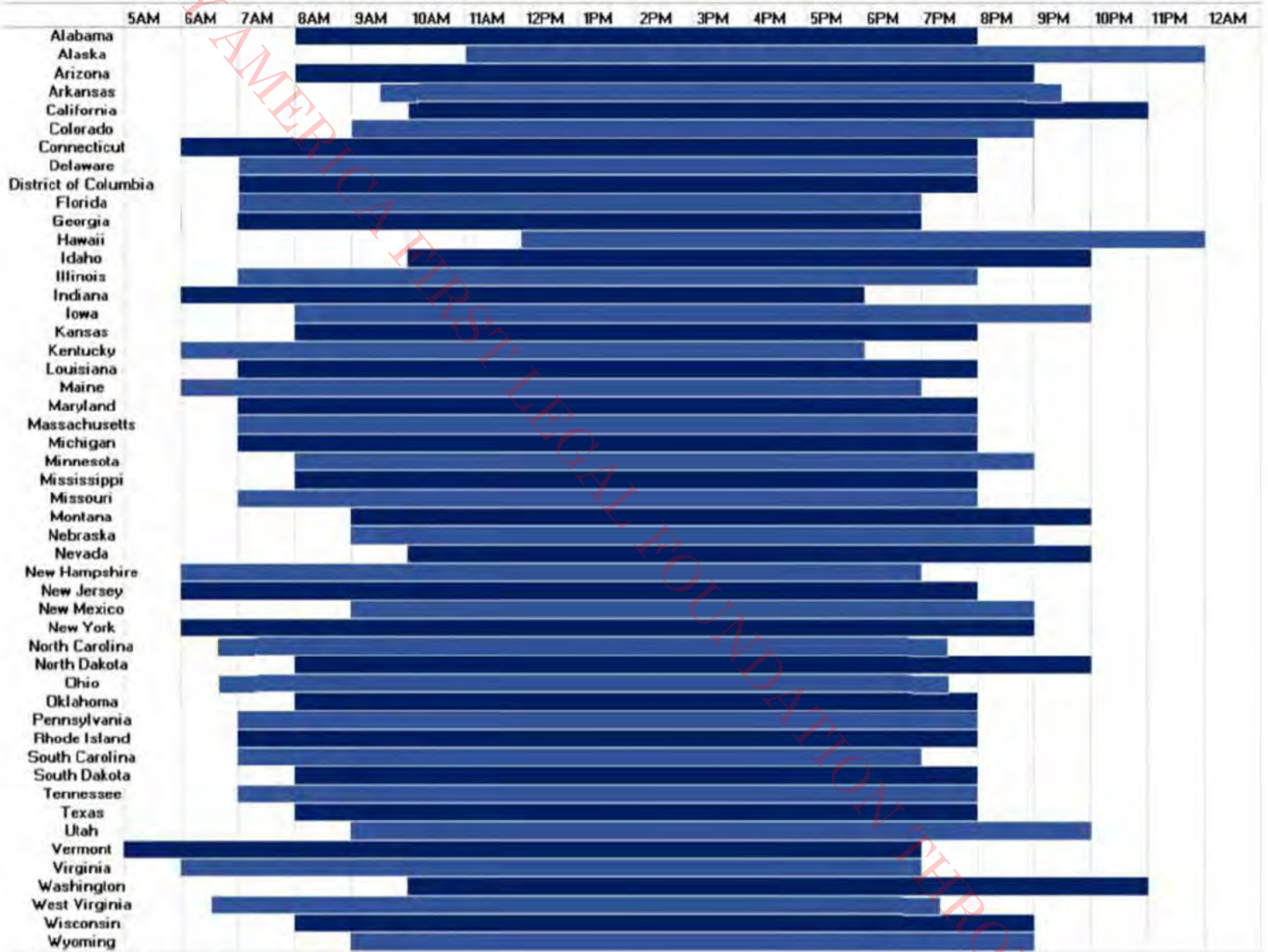
- **Vote Casting:** Wyoming uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, vote centers will be open between 7:00am and 7:00pm (MT) across the state.
 - **Mail-in Ballots:** 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

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



Appendix A: Poll Times (ET)



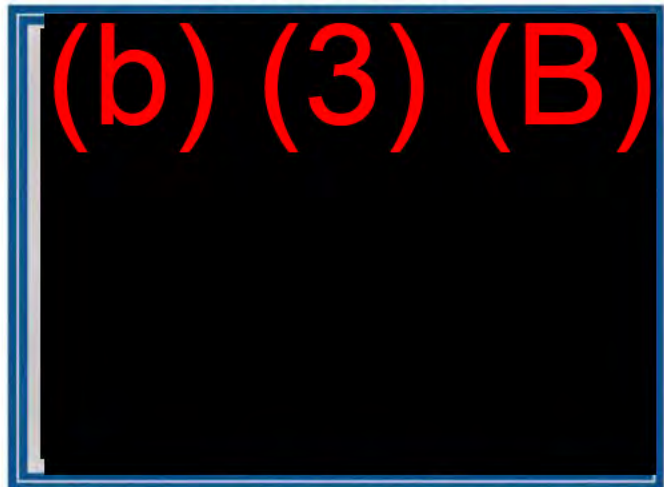


Appendix B: State Elections Background

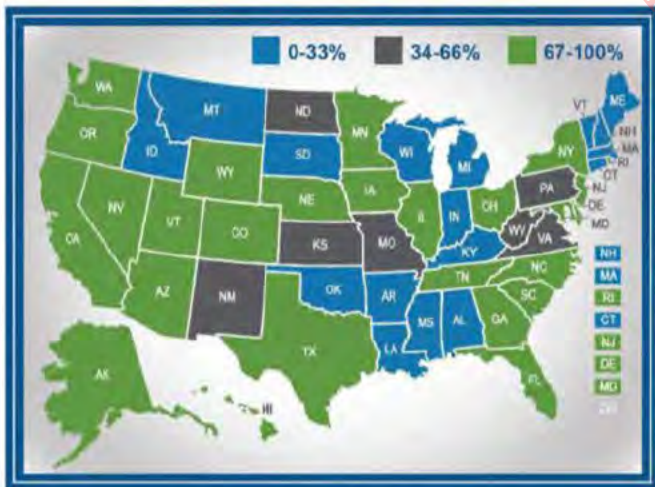
REGISTRATION SYSTEM



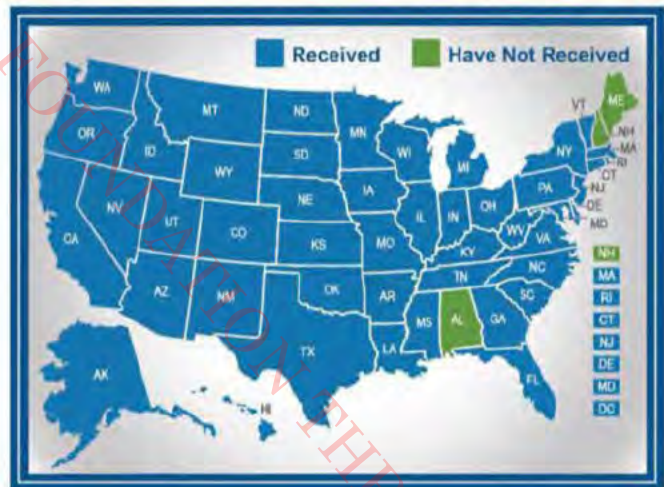
ALBERT SENSOR



LOCAL EI-ISAC MEMBERSHIP



STATE-LEVEL CISA CYBERSECURITY SERVICES*



*CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

File: [state_of_oregon.png](#) (42 KB, 747x446)



☐ **Oregon Ballot Status Website** [REDACTED] (ID: [REDACTED]) [REDACTED] 10/17/20(Sat)19:16:47 No.283240429 ► [>>283240907](#) [>>283242385](#) [>>283244808](#) [>>283246621](#) [>>283246814](#) [>>283248000](#) [>>283248490](#) [>>283250251](#)
[>>283250371](#) [>>283250630](#) [>>283254276](#) [>>283255479](#) [>>283256144](#) [>>283256590](#) [>>283257113](#) [>>283257234](#) [>>283257284](#) [>>283257442](#) [>>283257839](#) [>>283258128](#) [>>283258315](#) [>>283258484](#) [>>283259154](#) [>>283260731](#) [>>283261204](#)
[>>283261212](#) [>>283264531](#)

><https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/showVoterSearch.do>

If you live in Oregon and are registered to vote, your address and party are visible to anyone with your first/last name and date of birth. That's it.

What's worse is that you can change people's registration information once you are on their page.

Other states require the full address and sometimes more.

>what does this mean?

This means you are fucked if you have any enemies, live in Oregon, and are registered to vote.



(ID:) 10/17/20(Sat)19:46:23 No.283244640 ► >>283245022

File: [Capture.png](#) (7 KB, 1669x97)

Click on the "Update Registration" button below if your registration information needs to be corrected or updated.

Update Registration

New Search

Cancel

Can you really just fuck over someone from getting their ballot or change their party here?

DHS-1255-002494 10/26/2023



(ID: [REDACTED]) [REDACTED] 10/17/20(Sat)20:08:43 No.283247545 ► [>>283247656](#)

YOU CAN ACTUALLY VOTE ON THERE

>YOU CAN ACTUALLY VOTE ON THERE

YOU CAN ACTUALLY VOTE ON THERE

DHS-1255-002495 10/26/2023

>YOU CAN ACTUALLY VOTE ON THERE

Official Ballot Marion County, Oregon
November 03, 2020 24-320-1

Only for use by Military, Overseas and Voters with Disabilities

Instructions to Voter

To vote, select the box next to your choice. For write-in candidates, select the box next to write-in and then type the person's first and last name in the text box.

Attention!

Remember to review your ballot for mistakes! If you have any questions, call Marion County Elections Office at [REDACTED] for assistance.

Warning:

Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting is subject to a fine. (Oregon Revised Statutes 254.470)

Federal: United States President and Vice President

Your vote for the candidates for United States President and Vice President shall be a vote for the electors supporting those candidates, Vote for One



[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] (Republican)



[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] (Democrat)



[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] (Libertarian)

>>283247545

Forgot to attach pic

This is from my friend from high school I know his dob and it let me mark his ballot

>> [REDACTED] (ID: [REDACTED]) 10/17/20(Sat)20:11:30 No.283247919 ▶

>>283247656

I didn't submit. Not taking heat for that bullshit.

My Vote

Name:

Voter Status:

Active
Your voter registration is current and a ballot will be issued for the next election.

County:

Marion County

Party:

Not a member of a party

Residential Address:

ST NE
SALEM, OR

Mailing Address:

-Same-

My Ballot:

November 3, 2020 General Election

A ballot was sent to the following address on October 14, 2020:
ST NE
SALEM, OR

Voting instructions for voters with disabilities

Voting instructions for military and overseas voters

Mark My Ballot

Military/Overseas Voters Only - Download and print your required ballot return forms

Related Links:

County Elections Official

Ballot Dropsites

Elected Officials

Click on the "Update Registration" button below if your registration information needs to be corrected or updated.

(ID: [REDACTED])

10/17/20(Sat)20:27:44 No.283250064 ► >>283250702

>>283249739

DHS-1255-002498 10/26/2023

YOU CAN PRINT IT OFF AND BRING IT TO THE COURTHOUSE RETARD...NO ID REQUIRED

Welcome to ORESTAR! - Chromium

Welcome to ORESTAR! x +

secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/voterSea...

My Vote

Name: [REDACTED]

Voter Status: Active
Your voter registration is current and a ballot will be issued for the next election.

County: Washington County

Party: Not a member of a party

Residential Address: [REDACTED]
PORTLAND, OR [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: -Same-

My Ballot: November 3, 2020 General Election
A ballot was sent to the following address on October 14, 2020:
[REDACTED]
PORTLAND, OR [REDACTED]
[Voting instructions for voters with disabilities](#)
[Voting instructions for military and overseas voters](#)
[Mark My Ballot](#)
[Military/Overseas Voters Only - Download and print your required ballot return forms](#)

Related Links: [County Elections Official](#)
[Ballot Dropsites](#)
[Elected Officials](#)

Click on the "Update Registration" button below if your registration information needs to be corrected or updated.

Oregon Alternate Format Ballot - 34-364-1 - Chromium

OR Oregon Alternate Format x +

Not secure | oregonvotes.org/pages/ball...

Only for use by Military, Overseas and voters with Disabilities

Instructions to Voter

To vote, select the box next to your choice. For write-in candidates, select the box next to write-in and then type the person's first and last name in the text box.

Attention!

Remember to review your ballot for mistakes! If you have any questions, call Washington County Elections Office at [REDACTED] for assistance.

Warning:

Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting is subject to a fine. (Oregon Revised Statutes 254.470)

View one race at a time

Federal: United States President and Vice President

Your vote for the candidates for United States President and Vice President shall be a vote for the electors supporting those candidates, Vote for One

☐ [REDACTED] (Republican)

☐ [REDACTED] (Democrat)

☐ [REDACTED] (Libertarian)

☐ [REDACTED] (Pacific Green)

☐ [REDACTED] (Progressive)




☐ Write-in: If selected, enter the write-in candidate's name:

>>283240429 (OP)

HOLY ACTUAL FUCK

I literally can't believe this. I just tried [REDACTED] and checked different years. I'm not going to actually click it but holy shit.

Literally unbelievable you can make unlimited requests without a rate limit. This is unprecedented.

 (ID: )  0/17/20(Sat)22:15:59 No.283263532 ►

File: [oregon_full.gif](#) (1.64 MB, 2460x4784)



DHS-1255-002500 10/26/2023

THIS ANON FIGURED OUT A BUG IN THE VOER SYSTEMS IN OREGON
THIS IS HUGE

- >oregon has had huge delays in their voter ballots for the presidency getting out with majority still not having one
- >it's one of the few states that has 100% mail in balloting
- >the voter system online is so insecure that if you know someone's name and DOB you can change their registration
- >anon in another thread enters his friends information and realizes
- >he can change who he voted for
- >this is one of the easiest ways to tamper with an election ever conceived
- >if the dems use this they can make every person who has ever registered in oregon as a vote for the dem candidate

My Vote

Name:

Voter Status:

Active
Your voter registration is current and a ballot will be issued for the next election.

County:

Marion County

Party:

Not a member of a party

Residential Address:

SALEM, OR

Mailing Address:

-Same-

My Ballot:

November 3, 2020 General Election

A ballot was sent to the following address on October 14, 2020:

SALEM, OR

[Voting instructions for voters with disabilities](#)

[Voting instructions for military and overseas voters](#)

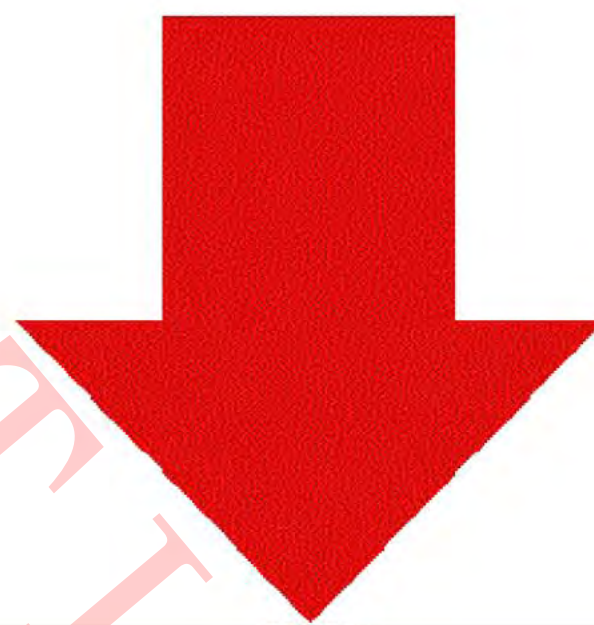
Mark My Ballot

Military/Overseas Voters Only - Download and print your required ballot return forms

Related Links:

[County Elections Official](#)
[Ballot Dropsites](#)
[Elected Officials](#)

Click on the "Update Registration" button below if your registration information needs to be corrected or updated.



Official Ballot Marion County, Oregon
November 03, 2020 24-320-1

Summary of your votes. After reviewing, print this page and return it to your County Election Office.

Federal: United States President and Vice PresidentYour vote for the candidates for United States President and Vice President shall be a vote for the electors supporting those candidates, Vote for One

You voted for:

/

(Republican)

Change your choice

Federal: US Senator, Vote for One

You voted for:

(Republican)

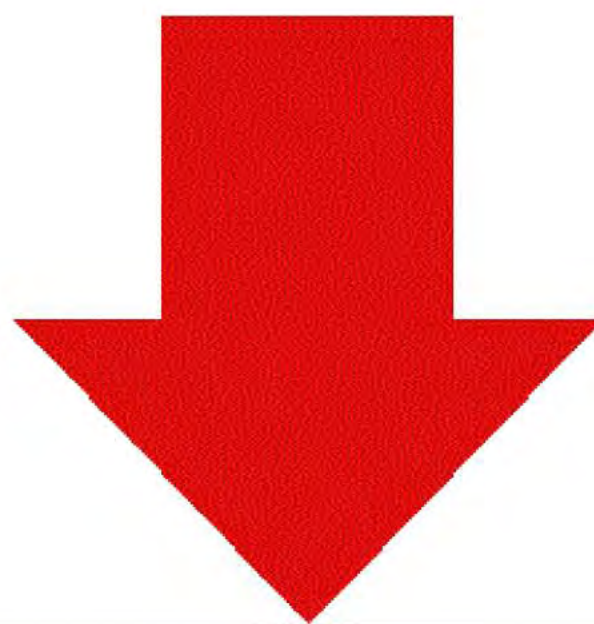
Change your choice

Federal: US Representative, 5th District, Vote for One

You voted for:

(Republican)

Change your choice



Official Ballot Marion County, Oregon
November 03, 2020 24-320-1

Only for use by Military, Overseas and Voters with Disabilities

Instructions to Voter

To vote, select the box next to your choice. For write-in candidates, select the box next to write-in and then type the person's first and last name in the text box.

Attention!
Remember to review your ballot for mistakes! If you have any questions, call Marion County Elections Office at for assistance.

Warning:
Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting is subject to a fine. (Oregon Revised Statutes 254.470)

Federal: United States President and Vice President
Your vote for the candidates for United States President and Vice President shall be a vote for the electors supporting those candidates, Vote for One

☒

(Republican)

☐

(Democrat)

My Vote

Name: [REDACTED]

Voter Status: Active
Your voter registration is current and a ballot will be issued for the next election.

County: Jackson County

Party: Not a member of a party

Residential Address: [REDACTED]
JACKSONVILLE, OR [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
JACKSONVILLE, OR [REDACTED]

My Ballot: **November 3, 2020 General Election**
A ballot was sent to the following address on October 16, 2020:
[REDACTED]
JACKSONVILLE, OR [REDACTED]
[Voting Instructions for voters with disabilities](#)
[Voting Instructions for military and overseas voters](#)
[Mark My Ballot](#)
[Military/Overseas Voters Only - Download and print your required ballot return forms](#)

Related Links: [County Elections Official](#)
[Ballot Dropsites](#)
[Elected Officials](#)

Click on the "Update Registration" button below if your registration information needs to be corrected or updated.

Update Registration

New Search

Cancel

From: Snell, Allison (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Seth McKinnis (b) (6)

To:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

CC:

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: OSIR disinformation

Date: 2020/10/29 11:25:00

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Can you work with (b) (6) on this? Our response will be coordinated internally with CISA peeps and I&A.

Allison L. Snell

Election Security Initiative

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Cell: (b) (6) Email: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:52 AM

To: Snell, Allison (b) (6)

Cc: Wiczorek, Erin (b) (6)

Subject: FW: OSIR disinformation

Do you have a timeline as laid out as below from Jason?

From: Lamote, Jason (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:20 AM

To: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: OSIR disinformation

My understanding is that I&A and CISA engaged with the Oregon Secretary of State regarding the attached open source intelligence report. Oregon determined that the vulnerabilities alleged online were not legitimate.

Can you check on the timeline for CISA/I&A engagement with Oregon? And any other relevant information that's worth sharing? I'll make sure to include you in the response back to SSCI once I&A gathers more information on their process.

Jason Lamote

Director - Cyber, Intelligence, Operations

From:

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

To:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Clark, Alaina

(b) (6)

Sendek, Sara

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: UNCLAS tour setup pics CENTRAL

Date: 2020/10/30 10:45:25

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Thanks, Allison.

EA: Attached infographics and maps are:

- • Mail-in Voting Processing Factors Map: A weekly-updated map that offers a visual of the movement in each state's mail-in ballot process.
- • Mail-in Voting 2020 Policy Changes Map: A map that offers a visual of changes established to each state as a result of COVID-19.
- • Mail-in Voting Election Integrity Safeguards Infographic: A product that provides the description and in-person equivalent for procedural and physical ballot safeguards.
- • Post-Election Process Mapping Infographic: A product that provides a timeline of post-election processes for the Presidential election from close of polls on Election Day, November 3, 2020, to Inauguration Day on January 20, 2021.
- • Election Results Reporting Risk and Mitigations Infographic: A product that provides an overview of the risks associated with results reporting systems and how they are managed through mitigating measures.
- • Election Infrastructure Cyber Risk Infographic
- • Mail in Voting Risk Infographic

Note that we'll have new maps coming out later today, but they are not yet complete (targeting around noon).

Best,

(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA |

(b) (6)



From: Snell, Allison (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:24 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Clark, Alaina (b) (6); Sendek, Sara (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: UNCLAS tour setup pics CENTRAL

Minus (b) (6) plus Sara and (b) (6)

We sent this over yesterday for consideration.

We also might want to display our policy/process maps.

(b) (6) can send over the latest.

Allison L. Snell
Election Security Initiative
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Cell: (b) (6) mail: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Snell, Allison (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: UNCLAS tour setup pics CENTRAL

Hey Allison and (b) (6)

Just thought of this - Is there anything you/ESI would want displayed in Central for the media tour today?

The Central team is prepping graphics for display during their "big screens". I gave them some suggestions based on what's been used for previous media tours last year and before. I saw a pic from [AS1 visit](#) a few months ago, but maybe there are others you might think appropriate or worth considering.

Regards,
(b) (6)

From: Clark, Alaina (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 9:01 PM
To: (b) (6) CISA Central <central@cisa.dhs.gov>; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: UNCLAS tour setup pics

I'll be at Glebe in the morning and come up to Central once I get settled.

Alaina R. Clark
Deputy Chief External Affairs Officer
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

(b) (6)



CISA Logo email signature

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 5:34 PM
To: CISA Central <central@cisa.dhs.gov>; (b) (6)
Cc: Clark, Alaina (b) (6)
Subject: UNCLAS tour setup pics

Great talking with you, (b) (6).

I attached some pictures of the usual graphics used previous for unclassified media tours. I plan to give you a call in the morning around 7:30 / 8:00, unless another time would be better. Obviously, some of these graphic images will need to be updated with CISA seal vice DHS, and replace NCCIC with Central.

Here are some links with graphics that would be useful too.

[\(b\) \(6\)](https://www.flickr.com/photos/(b) (6)) (mail-in ballot that is new, but I think would be great on one screen, if possible)

[\(b\) \(6\)](https://www.flickr.com/photos/(b) (6)) (map w/red dots of CI and other graphic)

I'll look for more tonight and AM, especially video which would be better. In the interim, I hope this helps with your search for now.

Take care,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Office of External Affairs

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Department of Homeland Security

(b) (6) m

Sender:

(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Recipient:

Clark, Alaina /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(b) (6)

Sendek, Sara (b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/10/30 10:42:56

Delivered Date: 2020/10/30 10:45:25

[illegible]

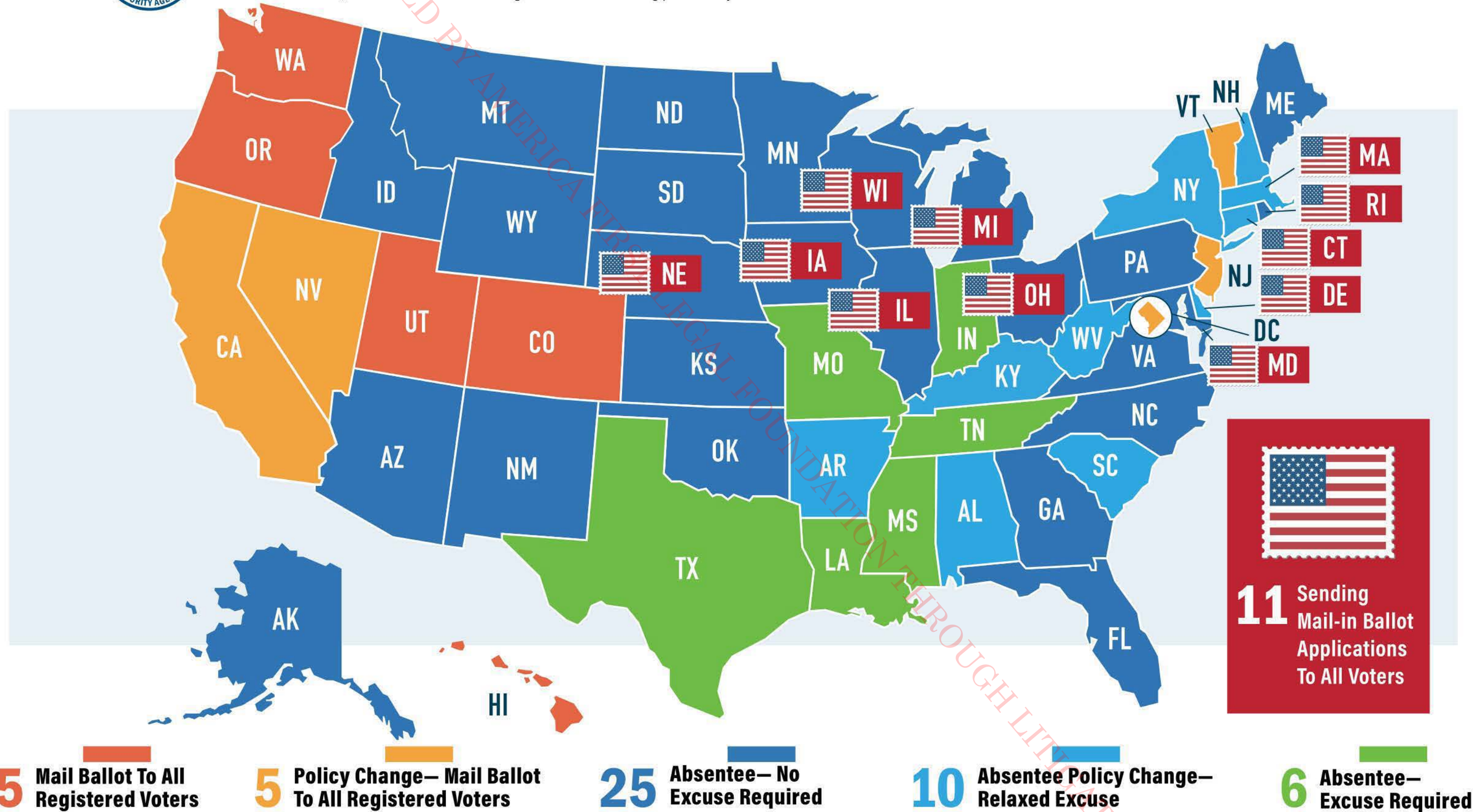
1 After Polls Close on Election Day or After Election Day

****Cities or townships with more than 25,000 may begin processing ballots the day before election day.**



MAIL-IN VOTING 2020 POLICY CHANGES

AS OF OCTOBER 22, 2020. NOTE: Additional changes to state mail-in voting policies may have occurred since this date.*



*This document is for information purposes only and may be subject to change as a result of litigation or changes to state laws. This data is sourced from state election calendars, NCSL, NASS, and NASED. CISA does not provide any warranties of any kind regarding this information. Voters should seek the most up-to-date election information from their state and local elected officials.



MAIL-IN VOTING RISK: INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROCESS

RISK

COMPENSATING CONTROLS



All forms of voting – in this case mail-in voting – bring a variety of cyber and infrastructure risks.

Risks to mail-in voting can be managed through various policies, procedures, and controls, which build layers of safeguards to defend the process from manipulation.



Implementation of mail-in voting infrastructure and processes within a compressed timeline may also introduce new risk.

Election officials must assess the risks of introducing new infrastructure with the operational risks associated with doing so in a compressed timeline before making a determination. Planning, preparation, training, and redundancy will build resiliency.



For mail-in voting, some of the risk under the control of election officials during in-person voting shifts to outside entities, such as ballot printers, mail processing facilities, and the United States Postal Service.

Private sector partners are implementing technical and procedural best practices and sharing information through the EI-ISAC.

USPS has a dedicated election mail program that includes an intelligent mail barcoding system enabling ballot tracking and chain of custody.



Integrity attacks on voter registration data and systems represent a comparatively higher risk in a mail-in voting environment when compared to an in-person voting environment.

Many jurisdictions have a cure process allowing voters correct a rejected ballot package.

A voter who does not receive a ballot in the mail can go to a voting location and vote a provisional ballot.



The outbound and inbound processing of mail-in ballots introduces additional infrastructure and technology, increasing potential scalability of cyber attacks.

Compensating controls for additional infrastructure are the same as other election technology and infrastructure, so election officials should focus on cyber risk management best practices to build resiliency in the overall election process.



Inbound mail-in ballot processes and tabulation take longer than in-person processing, causing tabulation of results to occur more slowly and resulting in more ballots to tabulate following election night.

Some jurisdictions have implemented election technology and infrastructure to speed up the process.

Some jurisdictions are legally afforded the opportunity to begin processing ballot application and ballots in advance of election day.

Election officials, media, candidates, and NGOs are educating voters and setting the expectation that it will take days, if not weeks, to determine the outcome of many races.



Disinformation risk to mail-in voting infrastructure and processes is similar to that of in-person voting while utilizing different content. Threat actors may leverage limited understanding regarding mail-in voting processes to mislead and confuse the public.

Election officials, media, candidates, and NGOs are educating voters about the mail voting process.

The National Association of Secretaries of State launched #TrustedInfo2020 to highlight state and local election officials as the credible, verified sources for election information.

ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE RISK



PROCESS

1. REGISTRATION

Voter
Registration

2. POLLBOOK

Pollbook
Preparation

Pollbook Use

3. VOTING MACHINE

Ballot
Preparation

Voting Machine
Preparation

Voting
Machine Use

4. TABULATION

Tabulation Use
(Precinct)

Tabulation Use
(Central)

Aggregation
(State)

5. WEBSITE

Website

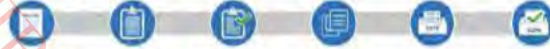
RISK ASSESSMENT

INTEGRITY ATTACKS



Integrity attacks on state-level voter registration systems, the preparation of election data, vote aggregation systems, and election websites present particular risk to the ability of jurisdictions to conduct elections.

AVAILABILITY ATTACKS



Availability attacks on state or local-level systems that support same-day registration, vote center check-in, or provisional voting also have the potential to pose meaningful risk to the ability of jurisdictions to conduct elections.

VOTING SYSTEMS



Voting systems present a high consequence target for threat actors but low likelihood of successful attacks at scale, meaning that there is lower risk of incidents when compared to other infrastructure components of the election process.

DIVERSE INFRASTRUCTURE



U.S. election systems are comprised of diverse infrastructure and security controls. However, even jurisdictions that implement cybersecurity best practices are potentially vulnerable to cyber attack by sophisticated cyber actors.

DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS



Disinformation campaigns related to election infrastructure can amplify disruptions of electoral processes and erode public trust in election results.



DIRECTOR'S WEEKLY OPERATIONS INFOGRAPHIC

CISA CENTRAL

202.282.9201

November 2, 2020

ALERT LEVELS

| | | | | |
|------|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| NTAS | None | Bulletin | Elevated | Imminent |
| NOC | Steady State | Awareness | Guarded | Concern |
| | | | Urgent | |

OPERATION & SITUATION UPDATES

Election Day Posture - 3 NOV

- 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 EI entities with any situation that may arise.
- 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 inter-agency and private sector partners to ensure broad awareness.

Zeta Recovery Efforts - Southeastern U.S.

- Recovery efforts are primarily focused around power restoration, particularly for polls and critical election facilities.
- Plans are in place ensuring electrical service is provided to polling stations, either through restoration or backup generation.
- Approximately 285,345 customers are without power across LA, AL, and OK.
- FCC deactivated DIRS for this event yesterday at 1300 ET.

COVID-19

- Upward trajectory in COVID-19 case count continues across 49 (+6) jurisdictions (US states and territories), with 3 (-5) jurisdictions in a plateau status, 3 (-2) jurisdictions on a downward trajectory.

ENGAGEMENTS

- 2 NOV: AD Brown and DAD DeLaurentis will participate in the SAFECOM/NCSWIC Leadership Bi-weekly Sync. DAD DeLaurentis will participate in the CAE & Component Requirements Executive Monthly Sync. AD Brown will participate in the General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) / CISA Next Generation Network (NGN) Meeting.
- 3 NOV: AD Brown will participate in the NSTAC Communications Resiliency Subcommittee Meeting.
- 3 NOV: (A)AD Willke and (A)DAD Walsh will attend the Communications SCC Leadership Touchpoint.
- 5 NOV: AD Ware will attend the weekly NSA sync.
- 5 NOV: (A)AD Willke will provide opening remarks at the Joint NGCC/NSCC CIPAC Quarterly Meeting.
- 5 NOV: DAD DeLaurentis will participate in the NSTAC Communications Resiliency Subcommittee Meeting.
- 6 NOV: (A)AD Willke will speak at (DAD DeLaurentis and (A)DAD Walsh attending) the CIPAC Cross-Sector Councils Leadership Touchpoint Conference Call.

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

- 3 NOV: Dir Krebs, ExDir Wales, and Senior Cybersecurity Advisor Wales will brief staff of US House and Senate. Subject: Election Day Update.
- 3 NOV: CISA will brief members and staff of US House and Senate. Subject: Tours of Election Security Operations Center. Participants TBD.
- 6 NOV: (A)DAD Hartman will brief HSGAC staff. Subject: DHS OIG report OIG-20-74, Cyber Information Sharing.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 5 NOV: D/Dir Travis will chair the final sync meeting with the OECD HLRF Secretariat. Key focus will be on operationalizing the critical functions, impacts of COVID 19 on critical risk and supply chain.
- 5 NOV: (A)DAD Kroese will lead the US delegation at the first North American Cybersecurity Cooperation Group between the three U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) governments and industry.

| | DIR | D/DIR | COS | (A)AD ISD | AD CSD | AD ECD | AD IOD | (A)AD SED | AD NRMCC |
|----------|-----|-------|-----|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Today | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | PA | NCR |
| Tomorrow | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | PA | NCR |

DHS-1255-002512 10/26/2023



DIRECTOR'S WEEKLY OPERATIONS INFOGRAPHIC

CISA CENTRAL

202.282.9201

November 2, 2020

ALERT LEVELS

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|
| NTAS | None | Bulletin | Elevated | Imminent | |
| NOC | Steady State | Awareness | Guarded | Concern | Urgent |

OPERATION & SITUATION UPDATES

Election Day Posture - 3 NOV

- 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 EI entities with any situation that may arise.
- 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 inter-agency and private sector partners to ensure broad awareness.

Zeta Recovery Efforts - Southeastern U.S.

- Recovery efforts are primarily focused around power restoration, particularly for polls and critical election facilities.
- Plans are in place ensuring electrical service is provided to polling stations, either through restoration or backup generation.
- Approximately 285,345 customers are without power across LA, AL, and OK.
- FCC deactivated DIRS for this event yesterday at 1300 ET.

COVID-19

- Upward trajectory in COVID-19 case count continues across 49 (+6) jurisdictions (US states and territories), with 3 (-5) jurisdictions in a plateau status, 3 (-2) jurisdictions on a downward trajectory.

ENGAGEMENTS

- 2 NOV: AD Brown and DAD DeLaurentis will participate in the SAFECOM/NCSWIC Leadership Bi-weekly Sync. DAD DeLaurentis will participate in the CAE & Component Requirements Executive Monthly Sync. AD Brown will participate in the General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) / CISA Next Generation Network (NGN) Meeting.
- 3 NOV: AD Brown will participate in the NSTAC Communications Resiliency Subcommittee Meeting.
- 3 NOV: (A)AD Willke and (A)DAD Walsh will attend the Communications SCC Leadership Touchpoint.
- 5 NOV: AD Ware will attend the weekly NSA sync.
- 5 NOV: (A)AD Willke will provide opening remarks at the Joint NGCC/NSCC CIPAC Quarterly Meeting.
- 5 NOV: DAD DeLaurentis will participate in the NSTAC Communications Resiliency Subcommittee Meeting.
- 6 NOV: (A)AD Willke will speak at (DAD DeLaurentis and (A)DAD Walsh attending) the CIPAC Cross-Sector Councils Leadership Touchpoint Conference Call.

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

- 3 NOV: Dir Krebs, ExDir Wales, and Senior Cybersecurity Advisor Wales will brief staff of US House and Senate. Subject: Election Day Update.
- 3 NOV: CISA will brief members and staff of US House and Senate. Subject: Tours of Election Security Operations Center. Participants TBD.
- 6 NOV: (A)DAD Hartman will brief HSGAC staff. Subject: DHS OIG report OIG-20-74, Cyber Information Sharing.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 5 NOV: D/Dir Travis will chair the final sync meeting with the OECD HLRF Secretariat. Key focus will be on operationalizing the critical functions, impacts of COVID 19 on critical risk and supply chain.
- 5 NOV: (A)DAD Kroese will lead the US delegation at the first North American Cybersecurity Cooperation Group between the three U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) governments and industry.

| | DIR | D/DIR | COS | (A)AD ISD | AD CSD | AD ECD | AD IOD | (A)AD SED | AD NRMC |
|----------|-----|-------|-----|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Today | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | PA | NCR |
| Tomorrow | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | NCR | PA | NCR |

DHS-1255-002513 10/26/2023

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Masterson, Matthew /
(b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)
(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6)
Snell, Allison (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread
Date: 2020/11/02 09:59:54
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

ICYMI:

On Friday, Lawfare and the Stanford-MIT Healthy Elections Project released a backgrounder on counting and reporting the vote in each of the battleground states: <https://www.lawfareblog.com/preparing-election-night-counting-and-reporting-vote-battleground-states>

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) <cisa.dhs.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 10:41 AM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Snell,
Allison (b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

ICYMI-

National Archives put out an explainer pamphlet on the Electoral College for 2020:
<https://www.archives.gov/files/electoral-college/state-officials/presidential-election-brochure.pdf>

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 2:48 PM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

Snell,

Allison (b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

And here is FVAP's reference doc that shows in which state voters can use the FWAB for registration.

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 2:37 PM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

Snell,

Allison (b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

ICYMI, another recent resource folks might find valuable in explaining results processes:

- CRS - Federal Election Results: Frequently Asked Questions
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46565>

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 12:40 PM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

Snell,

Allison (b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

ICYMI, as mentioned on the last SME call re: physical security discussions –

- Georgetown Law's Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection recently released 50 state fact sheets on "unauthorized private militia groups and what to do if groups of armed individuals are near a polling place or voter registration drive."

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:00 AM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6); Snell,
Allison (b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elx info sharing thread

- Critical progress made on previous challenges experienced during April primary to ensuring the safety of in-person voting and the accessibility of voting by mail, thus leading officials to view the August primary as "a good test run" for November; but challenges remain with regard to poll worker recruitment, absentee ballot tracking, and pending litigation.
- 79% of absentee ballots were returned (713k of 898k total delivered to voters). State already has over 1M absentee ballot requests for Nov.
- 3 major challenges with absentee voting:
 - the process of mailing and returning ballots
 - high numbers of improperly completed ballots (figures not yet released)
 - the shortage of personnel to process ballots in a prompt manner
 - statewide shortage of 700 poll workers. 675 National Guard members deployed.
- Milwaukee was able to open 168 polling sites in August, compared to 5 in April. Previous elections saw 180 sites.
- August primary was largely free of last-minute litigation, which hampered April primary; but lots of ongoing litigation could impact November
- Links to a newer [study](#) that could not conclude that voting in April primary increased the spread of COVID, refuting an earlier [study](#).

From: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 9:27 AM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Snell,
Allison (b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elx info sharing thread

What were takeaways from this?

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

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Masterson, Matthew <(b) (6)>
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Snell,
Allison (b) (6)
Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

ICYMI –

another MIT/Stanford Healthy Elections report on WI, this time on the August primary:
https://healthyelections.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/wisconsin_09-16-20_primary_memo.pdf

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:17 PM
To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Cc: Hale, Geoffrey <(b) (6)> Snell,
Allison (b) (6)
Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

Another report on the WI primary from the MIT/Stanford Healthy Elections folks:
<https://healthyelections.org/state-updates/wisconsin>

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Snell,
Allison (b) (6)
Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

A few items from WI that I've seen:

- WI after action report and mail-in voting analysis from April presidential primary -
<https://elections.wi.gov/node/6908>
- Postal Service IG report from July on WI mail ballot issues in Milwaukee
<https://www.uspsaig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2020/20-235-R20.pdf>

From: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:58 AM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

Snell,

Allison (b) (6)

Subject: Re: SME elix info sharing thread

Anything from WI?

Matthew V. Masterson

Senior Cybersecurity Advisor

Department of Homeland Security

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) (b) (6) isa.dhs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:57:04 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

ICYMI -

- PA after action report - <https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Documents/2020-08-01-Act35Report.pdf>
- DC after action report - <https://dcboe.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?guid=64981f9e-9b7f-443e-90e1-b8b5854c72d0>

- Orange County, CA after action report and Nov plans - <https://www.ocvote.com/election-library/docs/2020%20COVID-19%20Report.pdf>

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:02 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

WV after action report on June primary:

<https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Documents/WV%202020%20Primary%20After%20Action%20Report.pdf>

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 12:51 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

Lengthy UNM report on 2018 elections in NM, includes info on public attitudes about cyber threats and election security.

https://polisci.unm.edu/c-sved/election_security_report_la7-1.pdf

From: (b) (6) cisa.dhs.gov>

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:09 PM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6) Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME ellex info sharing thread

Interesting 2010 Election Law Journal article about the 1918 Flu's impacts on election administration.

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

(b) (6)



cid:image001.png@01D69254.E1BF7F20

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 1:31 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6) Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME ellex info sharing thread

Another stadium to be used for a mega-voting site:

<https://twitter.com/sacramentokings/status/1284141606472302593?s=21>

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 12:05 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6); Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

FYI—

New report out yesterday from International IDEA on how COVID-19 and elections internationally:

<https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/managing-elections-during-covid-19-pandemic-considerations-decision-makers?lang=en>

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:28 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6); Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

Fulton County, GA just released their after-action report from the primary:

[https://mcusercontent.com/b55dd5dc75b5249128e0595f1/files/97b8cc9a-15bf-48a8-b081-b98a20b16938/FINAL Election Task Force Recommendations to BRE.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/b55dd5dc75b5249128e0595f1/files/97b8cc9a-15bf-48a8-b081-b98a20b16938/FINAL_Election_Task_Force_Recommendations_to_BRE.pdf)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:51 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6); Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

ICYMI –

Postal Service IG report on WI mail ballot issues <https://www.uspsaig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2020/20-235-R20.pdf>

MO to allow electronic return of UOCAVA ballots

<https://www.therolladailynews.com/news/20200710/missouri-military-overseas-voters-can-now-return-ballot-by-fax-email-or-voter-portal>

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 10:29 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6); Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

ICYMI –

OSET foundation post on counterfeit mail ballots

<https://www.asetfoundation.org/blog/2020/6/30/ballotnonsense>

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:30 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey

Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME ellex info sharing thread

ICYMI –

DE drops internet voting system news report from yesterday

<https://www.delawarepublic.org/post/delaware-drops-internet-based-voting-system-used-some-absentee-voters-amid-security-concerns>

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 11:27 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6), Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

Subject: RE: SME ellex info sharing thread

ICYMI –

LA County Report on March primary issues (e.g., lack of paper pollbook back-ups to EPBs):

<https://lavote.net/docs/rccc/board-correspondence/VSAP-Board-Report.pdf?v=2> (linked in Zetter's

Politico article today: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/17/la-county-blames-voter-check-in-tablets-for-election-day-chaos-324894>.

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:57 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey <(b) (6)>; Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME ellex info sharing thread

Also, ICYMI, WSJ piece from yesterday on DC allowing e-mail voting for Tuesday's primary.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/d-c-lets-voters-submit-ballots-by-email-after-mail-problems-11591211518?reflink=share_mobilewebshare

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:13 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey <(b) (6)>; Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME ellex info sharing thread

FYI - Nonprofit Vote webinar on digital voter engagement tools coming up on June 16.

Will be interesting to see how folks are using new digital tools to support voter registration in the COVID environment, and think about the associated risk.

WEBINAR: Digital Voter Engagement Tools

During the COVID Pandemic

Tuesday, June 16 2pm-3pmET/11am-NoonPT

Some estimates predict that **over 2 million new registrations will be lost** each month that DMVs, social service offices, and campaign or field activities are shut down or significantly limited as the nation tries to protect itself from the COVID-19 pandemic. If your organization is looking for digital tools to find unregistered voters, help voters with registration, and educate voters about the voting process and their ballot to fill the gap, this webinar is for you.

On **June 16 at 2pmET**, Nonprofit VOTE is bringing together leading civic tech tools in a virtual "resource fair" so you can find the solutions you need for engaging voters. We're taking the effort out of researching each tool and the awkwardness out of the traditional vendor tables at a conference. Attend the webinar to see demos from groups like **Vote411**, **BallotReady**, **Rock the Vote**, **TurboVote**, **Register2Vote** and use the Q&A box to get rapid answers to your questions about the platforms.

[RSVP NOW](#)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:57 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6); Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elix info sharing thread

Two items from late last week that may be of interest:

- The EAC announced a determination that the 2018 and 2020 HAVA election security grants do not expire until expended, as with previous HAVA funds. Earlier EAC guidance to states said the funds had to be expended within 5 years.
- Common Cause and Verified Voting jointly published a resource on electronic ballot delivery and marking.

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:21 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6); Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

Subject: SME elix info sharing thread

I'm expropriating this email thread to create an place for SMEs and others to share resources, news clips, and other assorted items of election geekery that may be relevant to our work.

Something I saw yesterday that is relevant to electronic voting:

- MI consent decree with National Federation of the Blind announced on accessible absentee voting <https://www.nfb.org/about-us/press-room/blind-michigan-voters-win-groundbreaking-lawsuit>. I don't see a copy of the consent decree itself, but will share if I can find it.

From: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 12:26 PM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6) Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6) Snell, Allison <(b) (6)>

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: WI and Covid study

We were passed the attached study relevant to the guidance we've developed.

Sender:

(b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Recipient:

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/02 09:59:53

Delivered Date: 2020/11/02 09:59:54

Message Flags: Unread

From:

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(b) (7)(A)

Hale, Geoffrey /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(b) (6)

To:

(b) (6)

Wales, Alexis (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

CC:

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: For Review: Election Day Issue Tracker

Date: 2020/11/02 11:00:52

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Hey team,

See attached for an Election Day Issue Tracker for consideration for use tomorrow. It includes background data on states (can customize to include more datapoints if helpful) and a matrix to track overall issues by infrastructure/ system type.

A few notes/questions:

- Do you have additional systems/types to include (b) (5)
- Note the cells in the infrastructure system matrix are formatted to adjust based on whether they have text in them.

Let me know if you have adjustments/changes/additional ideas. Thanks!

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)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Recipient: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison / (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/02 11:00:40

Delivered Date: 2020/11/02 11:00:52

From: Wales, Alexis (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey /

(b) (6)

To:

CISA Central /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

CC:

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: For Review: Election Day Issue Tracker

Date: 2020/11/02 11:33:22

Importance: High

Priority: Urgent

Type: Note

(b) (6)

Appreciate this. Because of the number of reporting "venues" tomorrow, it is critical that CISA works off **one** ground-truth "incident tracker."

Adding the folks that will be primarily 1. Receiving reporting from the interagency and 2. Receiving reporting and compiling situational reports.

@CISA Central and (b) (6) any issues with this formatting?

Alexis

Alexis K. Wales

Election Security Mission Manager
Cybersecurity Division
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Mobile: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6); Hale, Geoffrey
(b) (6); Wales, Alexis (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Cc: Snell, Allison (b) (6)
Subject: For Review: Election Day Issue Tracker

Hey team,

See attached for an Election Day Issue Tracker for consideration for use tomorrow. It includes background data on states (can customize to include more datapoints if helpful) and a matrix to track overall issues by infrastructure/ system type.

A few notes/questions:

- Do you have additional systems/types to include (b) (5)
(b) (6)
- Note the cells in the infrastructure system matrix are formatted to adjust based on whether they have text in them.

Let me know if you have adjustments/changes/additional ideas. Thanks!

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: Wales, Alexis (b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey

(b) (6)

CISA Central

geLab.

(b) (6)

Recipient:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison

(b) (6)

-Snell, Alli

(b) (6)

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/o=Exchange

(b) (6)

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Jillian /o=ExchangeLabs/ou

-Jillian

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/02 11:31:25

Delivered Date: 2020/11/02 11:33:22

From:

(b) (6)

To:

(b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

CC:

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: For Review: Updated Risk Posture Document

Date: 2020/11/02 11:34:46

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

(b) (6) and (b) (6),

We have our final risk posture update ready to push to EBT for publishing. Can you do a quick look through to ensure no further edits?

Updates in this document include: triple checking inclusion of all regional edits, updating with all CISA cybersecurity services, including regionally delivered cyber services, and adding a few new datapoints on VM services based on inputs from the regions that we were able to validate with additional VM data.

(b) (6) please note that we were unable to find any record of an RPT for SD. VM checked their records and has no record of an RPT for SD at any point (see attached email with R8 and VM for context). If you have any additional data on this from the regional perspective, please let us know and we can update accordingly.

If you have any edits, let us know by 4 PM today before we push this out to EBT for publishing ahead of the big day tomorrow.

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: (b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/02 11:34:10

Delivered Date: 2020/11/02 11:34:46

From: (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

CC: (b) (6)

Subject: ELECTIONS - Informational Re: South Dakota RPT Question

Date: 2020/10/30 09:10:50

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Sounds good (b) (6) just in case I went ahead and looked for any possible instance and can confirm that we have not performed any RPT assessments within SD for election customers at this time. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Regards,



Logo Description
automatically
generated

(b) (6)

Federal Lead – Vulnerability Evaluation
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Phone: (b) (6) Email: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 9:07 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: "Snell, Allison" (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: South Dakota RPT Question

That's correct. Thanks (b) (6)!!

(b) (6)

Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst, National Risk Management Center

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: 703 603-4979 | Cell: 202 680-0058

Email: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 8:58:17 AM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Re: South Dakota RPT Question

Good morning (b) (6)

Just to make sure I'm understanding your question correctly, are you looking to know if we have conducted an RPT for South Dakota at the state level or anywhere within the state including counties and localities?

Regards,



(b) (6)

Federal Lead – Vulnerability Evaluation
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Phone: (b) (6) | Email: (b) (6)

Logo Description
automatically
generated

From: (b) (6)

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 3:46 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: "Snell, Allison" (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: South Dakota RPT Question

VM and Region 8,

We're triple checking some information in our recent Election Risk Profile document and need clarification on whether an election-related RPT has occurred within South Dakota. (b) (6) your comments included an RPT on an unspecified date occurring in South Dakota, but (b) (6)'s VM data last shared with us doesn't have an RPT for the state.

(b) (6) Can you confirm no RPT has taken place within South Dakota?

(b) (6) Can you provide more context to your comment, including when you believe an RPT took place?

Really appreciate your help clarifying this.

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)

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

Recipient:

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/10/30 09:10:45

Delivered Date: 2020/10/30 09:10:50

From:

(b) (6)

Wales, Alexis (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

(b) (6)

To:

CISA Central

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

CC:

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: For Review: Election Day Issue Tracker

Date: 2020/11/02 11:50:43

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Thanks Alexis. Adding (b) (6) and (b) (6) from ESI as well and reattaching the same draft tracker.

Best,

(b) (6)

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

(b) (6)



From: Wales, Alexis (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 11:31 AM

To: (b) (6) Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6) Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

(b) (6) CISA Central <(b) (6)>

(b) (6)

Cc: Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: For Review: Election Day Issue Tracker

Importance: High

@ (b) (6) (b) (6)

Appreciate this. Because of the number of reporting "venues" tomorrow, it is critical that CISA works off one ground-truth "incident tracker."

Adding the folks that will be primarily 1. Receiving reporting from the interagency and 2. Receiving reporting and compiling situational reports.

@CISA Central and (b) (6) any issues with this formatting?

Alexis

Alexis K. Wales

Election Security Mission Manager

Cybersecurity Division

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Mobile: (b) (6)

From (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 11:01 AM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6); Hale, Geoffrey

(b) (6) Wales, Alexis (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6) germaine.roebuck@cisa.dhs.gov

Cc: Snell, Allison <(b) (6)>

Subject: For Review: Election Day Issue Tracker

Hey team,

See attached for an Election Day Issue Tracker for consideration for use tomorrow. It includes background data on states (can customize to include more datapoints if helpful) and a matrix to track overall issues by infrastructure/ system type.

A few notes/questions:

- Do you have additional systems/types to include (b) (5)
- Note the cells in the infrastructure system matrix are formatted to adjust based on whether they have text in them.

Let me know if you have adjustments/changes/additional ideas. Thanks!

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)

Wales, Alexis (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew /o=Exchangeccbs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Recipient:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/02 11:50:42

Delivered Date: 2020/11/02 11:50:43

From: CISA CurOps (b) (6)
(b) (6)
CISA Elections Overview (b) (6)
(b) (6)
IP Region 1 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)
IP Region 10 Ops (b) (6)
(b) (6)
IP Region 2 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)
IP Region 3 Ops /o (b) (6)
(b) (6)
IP Region 4 Ops (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
IP Region 5 Ops (b) (6)
(b) (6)
IP Region 6 Ops (b) (6)
(b) (6)
IP Region 7 Ops /o (b) (6)
(b) (6)
IP Region 8 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)
IP Region 9 Ops /o (b) (6)
(b) (6)
CISA CurOps (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: CISA Overview - General Election Risk Posture
Date: 2020/11/02 16:22:28
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

All,

The CISA General Election Risk Posture document is current as of November 2, 2020 and is a refresh of the October 28, 2020 CISA General Election Risk Posture document. 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.

V/r

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



Sender: CISA CurOps (b) (6)
(b) (6)

CISA Elections Overview (b) (6)
(b) (6)

IP Region 1 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)

IP Region 10 Ops (b) (6)
(b) (6)

IP Region 2 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)

IP Region 3 Ops (b) (6)
(b) (6)

IP Region 4 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)

Recipient: IP Region 5 Ops (b) (6)
(b) (6)

IP Region 6 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)

IP Region 7 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)

IP Region 8 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)

IP Region 9 Ops /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)

CISA CurOps /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/02 15:22:21

Delivered Date: 2020/11/02 15:22:28



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.

| 5am | 6am | 7am | 8am | 9am | 10am | 11am | 12pm | 1pm | 2pm | 3pm | 4pm | 5pm | 6pm | 7pm | 8pm | 9pm | 10pm | 11pm |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|

Polls Hours

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:** All states with the exception of Alabama, Maine, and New Hampshire have received CISA cybersecurity services.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** All states with the exception of Montana and New Hampshire have at least one individual with a DHS-sponsored Election Infrastructure security clearance.
- **EI-ISAC Member:** All states are EI-ISAC members.
- **Albert Sensor:** All states have Albert Sensors. Twenty-one are covered via a statewide sensor and thirty are covered via an election-specific sensor.
- **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



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.

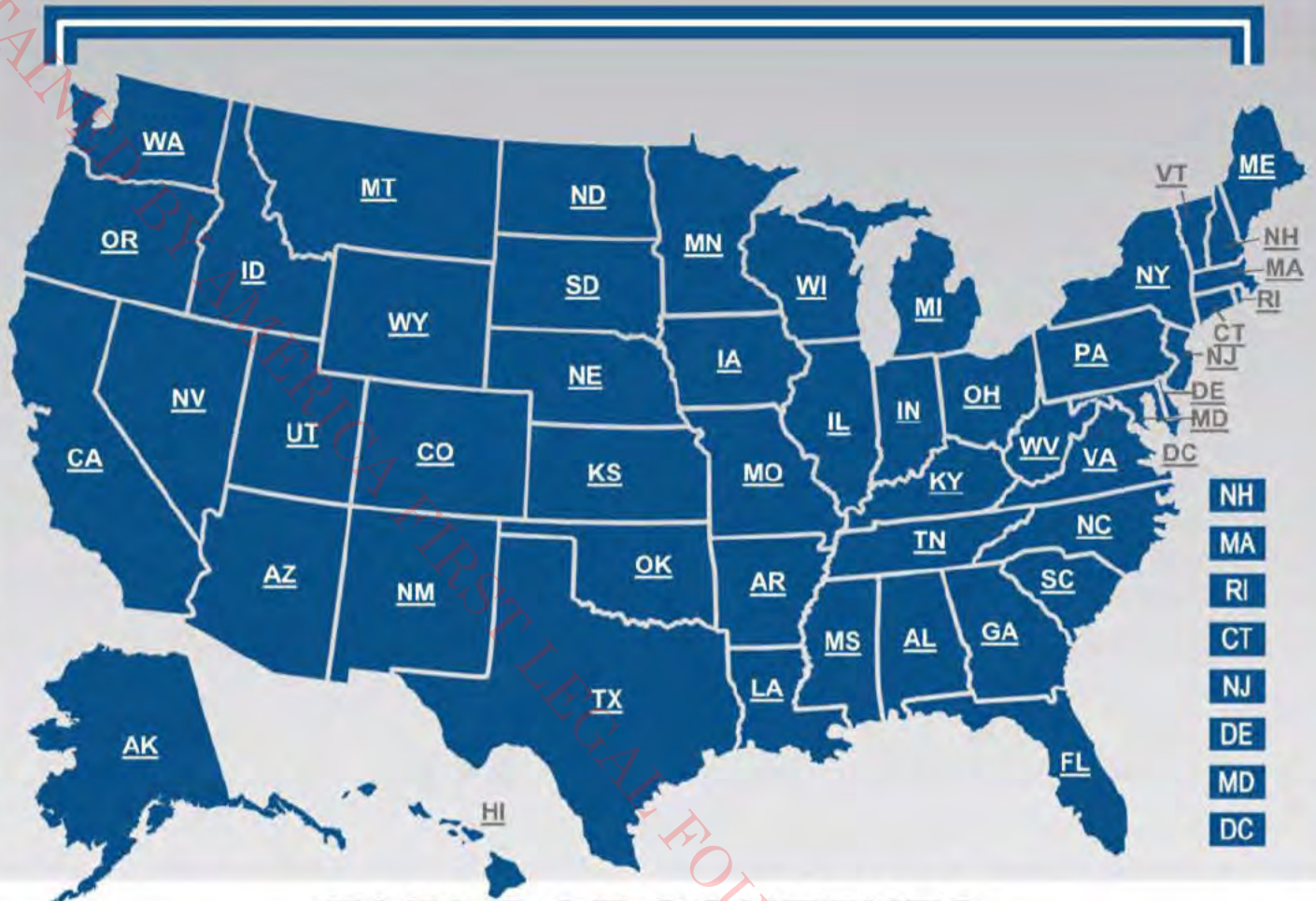


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Alabama

Potential Challenges

The Alabama Secretary of State (SoS) 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. The SoS 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.

COVID-19 Considerations

Alabama is allowing fear of COVID-19 as a valid excuse to apply for a mail-in ballot. The Alabama SoS 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. The SoS 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - None
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
 - (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 11% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:**
<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/>

Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

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

- Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b) (6) will provide in-person support while PSA (b) (6) and Cybersecurity Advisor (b) (6) will provide virtual support to the Alabama SoS Office.
- Regional Director (b) (6) Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b) (6) and Regional Operations Manager (b) (6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.



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. A new state administration was sworn in December 2018, but state election officials have met with the Region X Regional Director and Cybersecurity Advisor and are in regular communications with the state's Protective Security Advisor (PSA).

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to COVID-19, the Alaska Lieutenant Governor 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
 - Last Mile: 2018 and 2020 State Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Alaska (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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 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 PSA 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 Chief Information Security Officer, and Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and DHS Intelligence & Analysis).



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. 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 Secretary of State's (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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
 - (b) (7)(E)
 - **Albert Sensor** (b) (3) (B)
 - **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 73% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.

- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-7:00pm (MT)

- **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 online registration. Mailed registration must be postmarked by October 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 Emergency Operations Center will activate, however, at this time there are no plans to do so.



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. However, the Secretary of State (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 the Alaska Division of Emergency Management (ADEM), CISA, DHS Intelligence & Analysis (I&A), and the FBI on enhancing their incident response and communications plan to incorporate a more whole community and efficient response during election incidents.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Arkansas Governor 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 1% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:30am-7:30am (CT)
- **Official Election Website:**
<https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections>

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 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, the Arkansas Governor 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) 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) 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.



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, the Governor 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. 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. There has been resistance in California to CISA assistance recently due to the highly politicized nature of the 2020 General Election. Local entities have significant influence in the California election community, and it is difficult for CISA to engage every jurisdiction due to the size of the state.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID 19 outbreak, on June 16, 2020, the Governor 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 Secretary of State's (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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work

regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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, the California Governor 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.



Colorado

Potential Challenges

Colorado uses a statewide voter registration database that transfers data in real time. The system has experienced temporary access problems every General Election since 2014, but all problems were resolved and did not impact the ability to certify any election promptly. 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 Region VIII 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 Secretary of State (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. CISA staff are also connected with Dominion, a Colorado-based major provider of ballot print, mail, equipment, and technology services. The SoS has openly confronted the Trump Administration on elections issues, and the overt politicization has created the potential for Colorado to be an attractive target for adversaries.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work

regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **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. 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

- Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b) (6) PSA Maes, and Cybersecurity Advisor (b) (6) 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.



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 Secretary of State (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. To enhance election security and resilience, the Connecticut 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.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services.
- Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
 - (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **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.

- **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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
 - (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EISAC.
- **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

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](https://www.vote.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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the district level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - N/A
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials,

providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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.

- **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.



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. Additionally, The Florida 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. 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.

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. The Governor 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)

- (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Florida
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:**
<https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/>

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 Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b) (6) and Cybersecurity Advisor (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.



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. While the Georgia Governor, who formerly served as 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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services.

Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

▪ **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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) (6) will provide in-person support at the Atlanta FBI Field Office.
- Cybersecurity Advisor (b) (6) will provide in-person support at the Georgia SoS Office.
- Regional Director (b) (6), Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b) (6) and Regional Operations Manager (b) (6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work

regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Hawaii

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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

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 Protective Security Advisors in the field.
- Hawaii election officials are continuing to review COVID-19 conditions to determine if they will activate the SOC or coordinate virtually.



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 Secretary of State's (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. Local jurisdictions in Idaho have a high level of autonomy 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - Last Mile: 2020 Election Security Snapshot Poster and Election Day Emergency Response Guide delivered
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Idaho (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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 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 from 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.



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. 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.

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, the Illinois Governor 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Illinois (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.

- **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, the Illinois Governor 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, Regional Director, 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.



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 Secretary of State (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 appeals court ruled in early October 2020 that mail-in ballots must be returned by noon on Election Day. This ruling overturns a previous ruling by a lower federal court that mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received on or before November 13, 2020. The change in return deadline relatively close to Election Day may cause confusion among some voters. The SoS 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. Indiana 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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

OBTAI...
DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

Albert Sensor: (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

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.
 - **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 appeals court ruled in early October 2020 that mail-in ballots must be returned by noon on Election Day. This ruling overturns a previous ruling by a lower federal court that mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received on or before November 13, 2020. 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.
- **Early Voting:** Indiana offers in-person absentee voting starting October 6, 2020, including the two weekends prior to Election Day.

Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (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, Regional Director, and Regional PSA 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.



Iowa

Potential Challenges

The Iowa Governor 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 Secretary of State (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.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Iowa SoS 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Iowa

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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>

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.



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. However, CISA field staff regularly coordinate with the Secretary of State (SoS) 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.

COVID-19 Considerations

Since 1996, Kansas has allowed voters to cast mail-in ballots without an excuse. Due to COVID-19, the Kansas SoS 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
 - (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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.

- **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.



Kentucky

Potential Challenges

The Kentucky Secretary of State (SoS) and Governor 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 the SoS has called on young people to volunteer.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the commonwealth level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
 - (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 23% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-6:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** www.elect.ky.gov
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

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.
- Cybersecurity Advisor (b) (6) will provide virtual support for Kentucky on Election Day.
- Regional Director (b) (6), Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b) (6) and Regional Operations Manager (b) (6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.



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.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Louisiana Secretary of State (SoS) 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services.

Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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>

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 Chief Information Security Officer (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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - None
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Maine
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **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. 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, Cybersecurity Advisor, 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.



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. The Maryland Governor, 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.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Maryland has decided to send mail-in ballot applications to all registered voters. The Maryland Governor 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 difficult.

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

| Category | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|
| Category 1 | 100% |
| Category 2 | 100% |
| Category 3 | 100% |
| Category 4 | 100% |
| Category 5 | 100% |
| Category 6 | 100% |
| Category 7 | 100% |
| Category 8 | 100% |
| Category 9 | 100% |
| Category 10 | 100% |
| Category 11 | 100% |
| Category 12 | 100% |
| Category 13 | 100% |
| Category 14 | 100% |
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| Category 94 | 100% |
| Category 95 | 100% |
| Category 96 | 100% |
| Category 97 | 100% |
| Category 98 | 100% |
| Category 99 | 100% |
| Category 100 | 100% |

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (3) (B)

- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (ET)

<https://elections.maryland.gov/index.html>

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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the commonwealth level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work

regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **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.

- **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.



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.

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 before Election Day. To be permitted to pre-process ballots, local government clerk's offices had to notify the Michigan Secretary of State office by October 14, 2020. The bill also allows clerks to notify voters of any reason their vote will not be counted within 48 hours. The Michigan Governor signed the bill into law in early October. Additionally, 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

OBTAI...
DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:

- (b) (7)(E)
- Albert Sensor: (b) (3) (B)
- (b) (3) (B)

- Local EI-ISAC Membership: 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. According to a federal appeals court ruling in mid-October, mail-in ballots must be received on Election Day.
- 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 (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, Regional Director, Protective Security Advisors (PSA) for Michigan, and the Regional PSA 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.



Minnesota

Potential Challenges

Minnesota has experienced a relatively high turnover of county, city, and township election officials. By law, the Office of the Secretary of State (OSS) is required to train the county officials in even years. The 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.

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. The 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. The 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 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 75% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **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

- Supervisory Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b) (6) PSA Christianson, and Cybersecurity Advisor (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, Regional Director, and Regional PSA 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.



Mississippi

Potential Challenges

The Mississippi Secretary of State (SoS) 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.

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. The SoS 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials,

providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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.

- **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

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



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, the Missouri Governor 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.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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.

- **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 Secretary of State (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 Protective Security Advisor will deploy to the SoS office accompanied by a state cyber representative, Social Media Analyst, State Fusion Center representative, DHS Intelligence Operations, and potentially an FBI Special Agent. The Cybersecurity Advisor will be remotely monitoring. CISA Region VII staff will be actively coordinating information and reporting.



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.

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 Secretary of State 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work

regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **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/>

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

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



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. 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.

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 Secretary of State (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.

State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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

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 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 will be remotely monitoring statewide voting and potential for incidents. The Regional staff will be actively coordinating information and reporting.



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. 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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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

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.



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. The Secretary of State (SoS) has refused to engage with CISA to date. The Deputy SoS attributes 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - None
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3)(B)
(b) (3)(B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** <1% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **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 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 and Cybersecurity Advisor 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.



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.

COVID-19 Considerations

On August 13, in response to COVID-19 the New Jersey Governor 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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>

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

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



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.

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 Secretary of State (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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials,

providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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 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 (EOC) will serve as the Command Center for the SoS Office.
- Protective Security Advisor (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.



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.

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. The New York Governor 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 New York State Board of Elections 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work

regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-9:00am (ET)
- **Official Election Website:**
<https://www.elections.ny.gov/>

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 New York State Intelligence Center along with the Region II Cybersecurity Advisor 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 New York City Cyber Command, local boards of election, and support to the FBI's New York Field Office Countering Foreign Influence Squad.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:30am-7:30pm (ET)

- **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

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



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. 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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials,

providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

Albert Sensor (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

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).

- **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) Chief Protective Security, 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 Ronsberg should a need arise.



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 the Ohio SoS 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. The SoS argues only the state legislature has this authority which prevents him from acting. The Ohio Democrat Party has sued the SoS over this and other issues.

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, the SoS 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **(b) (3) (B)**
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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

- Supervisory Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (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 (b) (6) will be supporting remotely, monitoring appropriate HSIN Connect Rooms.
- CISA Region V Operations, Regional Director, and Regional PSA 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.



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. 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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work

regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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 State Election Board 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.



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.

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 Protective Security Advisor (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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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.

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 Cybersecurity Advisor (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.



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.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Pennsylvania Secretary of State (SoS) office is encouraging voters to take advantage of the commonwealth's universal mail-in voting system. On July 31, 2020, the SoS 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the commonwealth level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services.

Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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. The mail-in ballot return deadline was challenged in court, ultimately reaching the U.S. Supreme Court. In mid-October, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling upheld the November 6, 2020 deadline for accepting mail-in ballots.
- **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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
 - **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)
 - **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
 - **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
 - **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 8:00pm (ET)
 - **Official Election Website:**
 - <https://elections.ri.gov/> (Board of Elections)
 - <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/> (Secretary of State)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None

(b) (3) (B)

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, Cybersecurity Advisor, 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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials,

providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Y (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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.
- **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

- Protective Security Advisor (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.



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 Secretary of State (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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials,

providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)

- **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. The 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 Protective Security Advisor (b) (6) will provide support in person at the SoS Office.
- Cybersecurity Advisor (b) (6) will provide support by virtual means.
- Region VIII Regional Director, Chief Protective Security, and Operations Staff will monitor/support elections activities virtually.



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).

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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

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

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



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. CISA staff are connected with Hart, a Texas-based major provider of ballot print, mail, equipment, and technology services.

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 Secretary of State (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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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/>

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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
(b) (3) (B)
- **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. 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

- Protective Security Advisor (b) (6) Cybersecurity Advisor (b) (6) and Chief Protective Security (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.



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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
 - regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
 - (b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
 - (b) (3) (B)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work
 - **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 15% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
 - **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 and Cybersecurity Advisor will remain in close contact with the Vermont SoS Office, Vermont Fusion Center, DHS counterparts, FBI, and all relevant election partners on Election Day.



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.

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, the Virginia Governor 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the Commonwealth level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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 and Protective Security Advisors will support the Virginia Department of Elections command center during on Elections Day.



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.

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. The Secretary of State (SoS) 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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/>

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



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 a 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.

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, on April 1, 2020, the West Virginia Governor 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 Secretary of State Office launched a partnership 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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
 - None
- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work

regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
(b) (3) (B)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 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, the West Virginia Governor 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.



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 Wisconsin Election Commission (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. CISA Region V has established an effective working relationship with the 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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)
- **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 returned by Election Day according to an early October federal appeals court decision. The previous deadline was that ballots had to 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 headquarters in downtown Madison, WI and connected virtually to Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center. 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.
- CSAs (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 Regional PSA 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.



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 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.

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 Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b) (3) (B)

- **CISA Physical Security Services for Elections:** CISA Regional Personnel work

regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b) (7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** (b) (3) (B)

(b) (3) (B)

- **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.

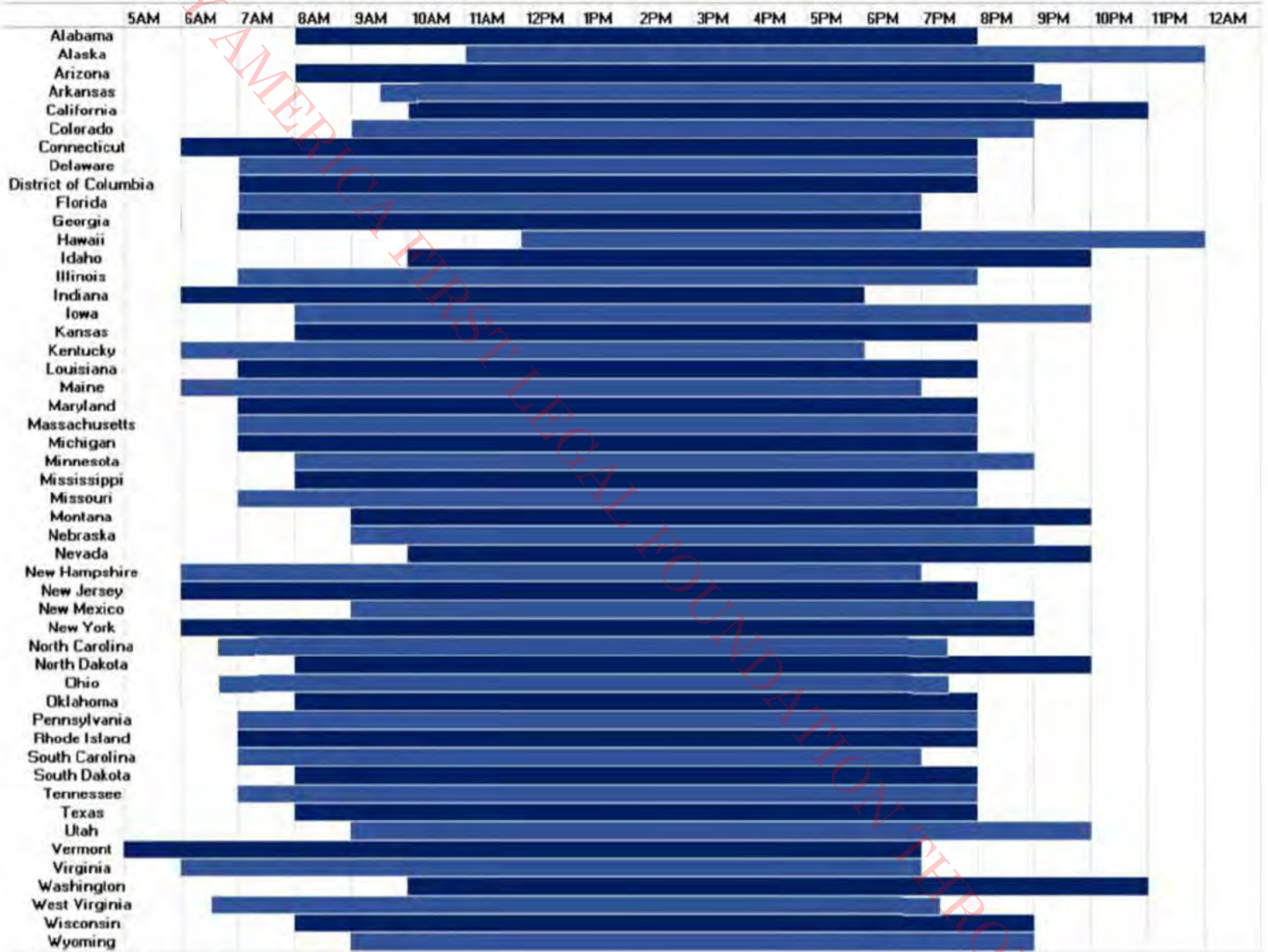
- **Vote Casting:** Wyoming uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, vote centers will be open between 7:00am and 7:00pm (MT) across the state.
- **Mail-in Ballots:** 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.

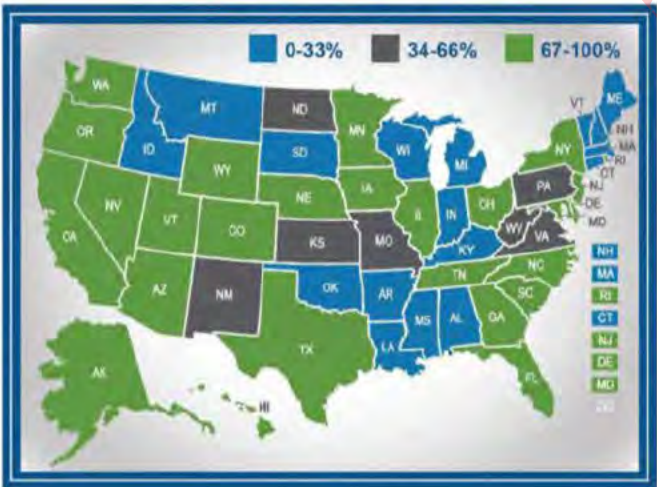
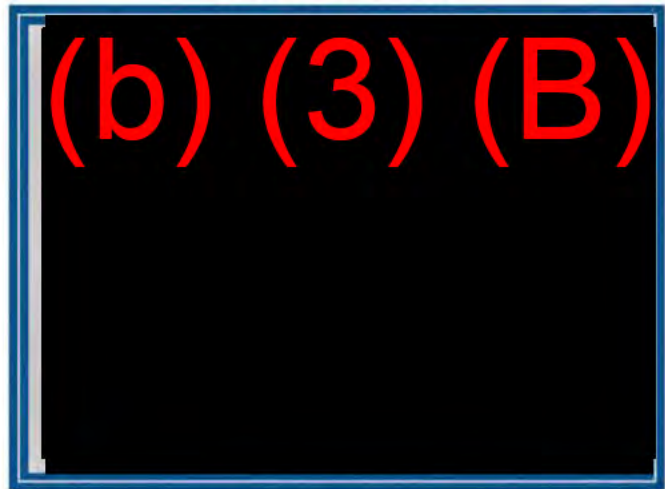
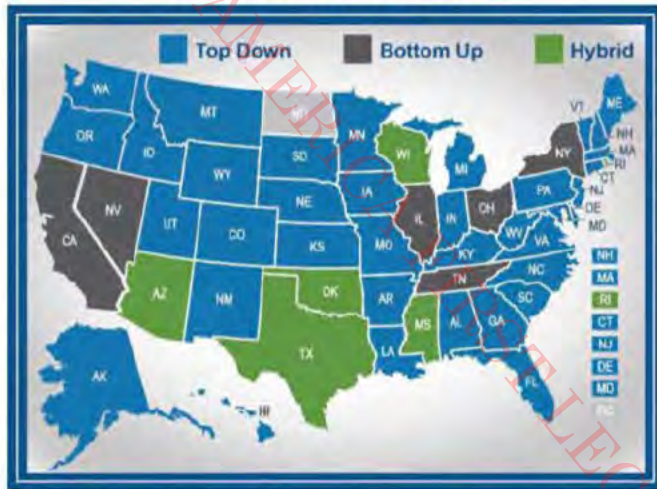
Election Day Posture

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



Appendix A: Poll Times (ET)





*CISA Regional Personnel work regularly with state and local election officials, providing a variety of physical security services. Due to the large number of services provided, they are not specifically listed here.

From: (b) (6) @fb.com>

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

To: Scully, Brian (b) (6)

(b) (6)

CC: (b) (6) @fb.com>

Subject: Re: Reporter Question About IRA?

Date: 2020/11/03 13:28:05

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

Thank you for the quick response!!

From: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 1:20:02 PM

To: (b) (6) @fb.com>; Scully, Brian (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6) @fb.com>

Subject: RE: Reporter Question About IRA?

(b) (6) we were asked about this report:

<https://www.eipartnership.net/rapid-response/russian-narratives-on-election-fraud>

Which my guess is that you are already familiar. Let me know if you need more.

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

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) @fb.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 1:16 PM

To: Scully, Brian (b) (6) Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)@fb.com>

Subject: Reporter Question About IRA?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

Hi Brian and Matt,

Happy Election Day, and thank you for the information shared earlier.

We heard from a reporter that possible activity by the IRA today was discussed on your external call recently. Do you have any added context? Anything we should be tracking?

As always, thank you so much,

(b) (6)

Sender: (b) (6)@fb.com>

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Recipient: Scully, Brian (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/03 13:27:45

Delivered Date: 2020/11/03 13:28:05

From: CEITF (b) (6)

To: CEITF AIL (b) (6)

Subject: FW: EIP 09:30am PT Nov. 4 Notes

Date: 2020/11/04 12:53:35

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 5:53:33 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik

To: CFITF

Subject: EIP 09:30am PT Nov. 4 Notes

What EIP has seen develop overnight:

1. • Uptick in claims of ballot fraud, irregularities about in-person voting reported from polling stations (ex: ballots allegedly showing as 'cancelled' on an online tracking system for Arizona; claims that counts in Michigan were being delayed)
2. • Uptick in generalized voter fraud chatter following the President's 2am ET speech. The phrase 'stop the steal' picked up again in response to an earlier tweet from the President
3. • Uptick in chatter about the potential for offline violence, including antisemitic hate speech and encouraging the implementation of the Insurrection Act
 1. • A video purportedly showing the stabbing of conservative activist in DC began to circulate - we're monitoring to ensure it's not used to incite violence
4. • No significant foreign interference events to flag
 1. • Some IRA-affiliated acts pushed stories with zero traction, including one on USPS
 2. • Russian and Iranian state-sponsored media outlets pushed messages around election outcomes being unimportant for their country
 3. • Russian state sponsored media is also highlighting tensions and overnight protests.
5. • Disinformation seems to chase the news
 1. • Pencils or sharpies provided to voters part of conspiracy to start election
 1. • Started in Chicago, picked up + applied to Connecticut, AZ following AZ call
 2. • As vote counts shifts, disinformation actors will recycle narratives
 1. • Especially if there are significant legal challenges
 3. • Platforms have so far been good at being on top of it, continued vigilance necessary
6. • Examples
 1. • Concern over vote tallying over night, shifts in tallies
 2. • Uptick in Spanish language misinformation content
 1. • On both political sides
7. • No widespread electoral violence on Election Day
 1. • So far election violence narratives have not gained traction
 2. • Focus seems instead to be on conspiratorial content about electoral fraud
8. • What to expect moving forward
 1. • Repurposing of content from Election Day to bolster claims of fraud and illegitimacy
 2. • Dis- and mis-information will continue to move geographically to focus on disputed states that become the focus of the political battle
 3. • Re-emergence of misinformation incidents and delegitimization themes to point back to earlier allegations - "see, the color revolution is happening", "remember those ballots in Miami?", etc
 4. • This is time where voting populace would be vulnerable to foreign disinformation

CEITE (b) (6)
Sender: (b) (6)
CEITE NIL (b) (6)
Recipient: (b) (6)
Sent Date: 2020/11/04 12:53:34
Delivered Date: 2020/11/04 12:53:35
Message Flags: Unread

From: CFITF (b) (6)
To: CFITF All (b) (6)

Subject: FW: EIP 09:30am PT Nov. 4 Notes

Date: 2020/11/04 12:53:35

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 5:53:33 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik

To: CFITF

Subject: EIP 09:30am PT Nov. 4 Notes

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 4. • This is time where voting populace would be vulnerable to foreign disinformation

CFITF (b) (6)
Sender: (b) (6)
CFITF All (b) (6)
Recipient: (b) (6)
Sent Date: 2020/11/04 12:53:34
Delivered Date: 2020/11/04 12:53:35

From:

(b) (6)

To:

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

(b) (6)

CC:

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Tableau Viz Data Refresh

Date: 2020/11/04 17:47:03

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

(b) (6) and (b) (6)

FYSA we updated the four state graphic you previously cleared to replace FL with NV.

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)

Sender:

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

Recipient:

(b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey /

(b) (6) (b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/04 17:47:01

Delivered Date: 2020/11/04 17:47:03

Message Flags: Unread



CRITICAL ELECTION TIMEFRAMES:

AZ, MI, NV, & PA*



TIMEFRAME KEY

*These states were selected as an illustrative sampling of the variation in state deadlines.

- Mail-In Ballot Start Date
- Mail-In Ballot Processing Can Begin
- Mail-In Ballot Request Deadline
- Early Voting or In-Person Absentee Begins

- Mail-In Ballot Cure Process Deadline
- Latest Deadline to Receive Mail-In Ballots
- Deadline to Receive UOCAVA Mail-In Ballots
- Provisional Ballot Adjudication Deadline

- Local Canvass/Certification Deadline
- State Certification Deadline

This document is for information purposes only and may be subject to change as a result of litigation or changes to state laws. This data is sourced from state election calendars, NCSL, NASS, and NASED. CISA does not provide any warranties of any kind regarding this information. Voters should seek the most up-to-date election information from their state and local elected officials.

DHS-1255-002659 10/26/2023

From: Scully, Brian (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

CC:

Subject: RE: Tracking Switchboard Reports

Date: 2020/11/04 19:36:00

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Here you go.

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 5:49 PM

To: Scully, Brian (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Tracking Switchboard Reports

(b) (5)

(b) (6)

Senior Counsel – Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief Counsel
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: (b) (6) Cell: (b) (6) JWICS: (b) (6)

Warning Attorney/Client Privilege*** Attorney Work Product*** This email and any attachments to it might contain communications between attorney and client, communications that are part of the agency deliberative process, or attorney-work product, all of which are privileged and not subject to disclosure outside the agency or to the public. Please consult with the CISA Office of the Chief Counsel before disclosing any information contained in this email.

From: Scully, Brian (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 5:48 PM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Tracking Switchboard Reports

H (b) (6),

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Regards,
Brian

From: CFITF - (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 3:18 PM
To: CFITF All - (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Tracking Switchboard Reports

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 8:17:35 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: CFITF
Cc: Eschels, Brian
Subject: Tracking Switchboard Reports

Hi CFITF –

I (b) (5)

Thanks!

(b) (6)
Senior Counsel – Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief Counsel
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Office: (b) (6) Cell: (b) (6) JWICS (b) (6)

WarningAttorney/Client Privilege***Attorney Work Product*** This email and any attachments to it might contain communications between attorney and client, communications that are part of the agency deliberative process, or attorney-work product, all of which are privileged and not subject to disclosure outside the agency or to the public. Please consult with the CISA Office of the Chief Counsel before disclosing any information contained in this email.

Sender: Scully, Brian </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (b) (6)>
(b) (6)
Recipient: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Sent Date: 2020/11/04 19:36:55
Delivered Date: 2020/11/04 19:36:00

From: Scully, Brian / (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

CC: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Tracking Switchboard Reports

Date: 2020/11/04 19:37:10

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Here you go.

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 5:49 PM

To: Scully, Brian (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Tracking Switchboard Reports

(b) (5)

(b) (6)

Senior Counsel – Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief Counsel

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: (b) (6) Cell: (b) (6) | JWICS: (b) (6)

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From: Scully, Brian (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 5:48 PM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Tracking Switchboard Reports

Hi (b) (6),

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Regards,
Brian

From: CFITF (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 3:18 PM

To: CFITF All (b) (6)

Subject: FW: Tracking Switchboard Reports

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 8:17:35 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik

To: CFITF

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: Tracking Switchboard Reports

Hi CFITF –

(b) (5)

Thanks!

(b) (6)

Senior Counsel – Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief Counsel
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: (b) (6) Cell: (b) (6) JWICS: (b) (6)

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Sender: Scully, Brian (b) (6)
Recipient: (b) (6)
Sent Date: 2020/11/04 19:36:55
Delivered Date: 2020/11/04 19:37:10
Message Flags: Unread

From

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sendek, Sara (b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

CC:

(b) (6)

Subject: Election Timeframes Infographic

Date: 2020/11/04 20:05:51

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

+EA/OCC

OCC, this is the same infographic you reviewed earlier today.

EA, this has gone through 508 compliance and is ready for publishing on CISA.gov pending your clearance.

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)

From: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 7:08 PM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: Snell, Allison

Subject: Re: Four States 508 version

Let's get up on the website.

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

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 7:03:51 PM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: Snell, Allison (b) (6)

Subject: Four States 508 version

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

All,

Attached is the final 508 compliant version of the four states deep dive infographic. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this information.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Subject Matter Expert
Lafayette Group, Inc.

(b) (6)

Sender:

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sendek, Sara (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Recipient:

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/04 20:05:37

Delivered Date: 2020/11/04 20:05:51

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION



CRITICAL ELECTION TIMEFRAMES:

AZ, MI, NV, & PA*



*These states were selected as an illustrative sampling of the variation in state deadlines.

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From: Snell, Allison (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Election Infrastructure (b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confirmation
Date: 2020/11/05 09:11:54
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Start with M&G with a copy to (b) (6).

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Election Infrastructure SSA (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:10:31 AM

To: Snell, Allison (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6) (7)

Subject: FW: Confirmation

Allison,

Not sure if we're tracking this rumor elsewhere, but this is the second email we've received on this topic this morning. Is this something that we may want to address on Rumor vs. Reality? Also, should I elevate to Central?

(b) (6)

Contract Support, Election Security Initiative
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Phone: (b) (6) Email: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:54 AM

To: Election Infrastructure SSA (b) (6)

Subject: Confirmation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

I have been seeing this meme on FB. Can you confirm or deny the validity of this?

BQQM  ELECTION FRAUD UPDATE!!!

THERE IS WATERMARKS on the official election ballots!!!! The original ballots are also registered on a QFS blockchain to prevent fraud. 12 states were targeted. The National

Guard has been deployed to 12 states: Alabama, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Texas, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Washington, Virginia, Delaware, Illinois and Kentucky and they are now counting the official ballots!!!!



image.png

Sender: Snell, Allison (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Election Infrastructure (b) (6)
Recipient: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 09:11:54

From: Election Infrastructure SSA (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)
(b) (6)
To: Hale, Geoffrey / o=(b) (6)
(b) (6)) (6)
Spell, Allison (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6)
Subject: DHS Ballot Watermark Rumor
Date: 2020/11/05 09:14:39
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Matt, Geoff,

Please see the below rumor re: DHS watermark on ballots/DHS election audit sting. This is the second email we've received related to this rumor this morning. Not sure if this is something we'd want to address on Rumor vs. Reality.

Thanks,

(b) (6)
Contract Support, Election Security Initiative
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Phone: (b) (6) Email: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Election Infrastructure SSA (b) (6)
Subject: Confirmation

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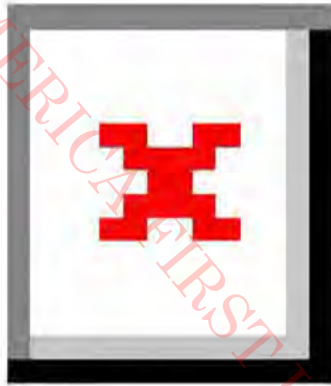


image.png

Sender: Election Infrastructure SSA (b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

Recipient: Spell, Allison (b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 09:14:38

Delivered Date: 2020/11/05 09:14:39

From: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)
(b) (6), (b) (6)
Election Infrastructure SSA (b) (6)
(b) (6)
To: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)
-Hale, Geoff
Snell, Allison (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: DHS Ballot Watermark Rumor
Date: 2020/11/05 09:22:19
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Let's take a look and see what we can put together.
Matthew V. Masterson
Senior Cybersecurity Advisor
Department of Homeland Security
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
From: Election Infrastructure SSA (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:14:38 AM
To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6) Hale, Geoffrey
(b) (6)
Cc: Snell, Allison (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: DHS Ballot Watermark Rumor

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Thanks,

(b) (6)
Contract Support, Election Security Initiative
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Phone: (b) (6) Email: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:54 AM

To: Election Infrastructure SSA (b) (6)

Subject: Confirmation

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I have been seeing this meme on FB. Can you confirm or deny the validity of this?

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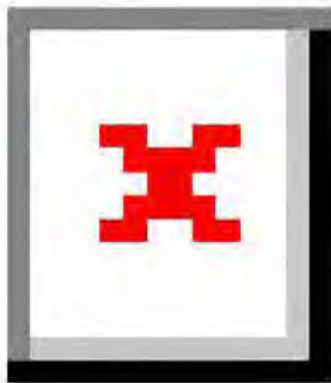


image.png

Sender: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Election Infrastructure (b) (6)

Recipient: (b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 09:22:18

Delivered Date: 2020/11/05 09:22:19

From:

(b) (6)

Scully, Brian (b) (6)

To:

(b) (6)

CC:

(b) (6) /c (b) (6)

Subject: MISINFO: "Stop the Steal" Facebook Group

Date: 2020/11/05 10:39:01

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Brian—CFI may be tracking already but we came across a Facebook group called "Stop the Steal" that is spreading a wide range of misinformation. The group has about 300k members and, according to CNN reports on Twitter, is gaining about 1,000 followers every 10 seconds. Wanted to pass along for awareness.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Contract Support

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Cell: (b) (6) Email: (b) (6)



Sender:

(b) (6)

Scully, Brian (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Recipient:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 10:39:01

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

From: Scully, Brian (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Kolasky, Robert (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

To: (b) (6)
Masterson, Matthew /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(b) (6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Snell, Allison (b) (6)
(b) (6)

CC: CFITF (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: Afternoon Election Disinfo Situational Report

Date: 2020/11/05 14:48:00

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Good afternoon,

Please see this afternoon's disinfo situational report attached.

Bob, we are still digging into Spanish language disinfo, but added a section at the end of the document with our findings so far.

Regards,
Brian

Sender: Scully, Brian (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Kolasky, Robert (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Recipient: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Snell, Allison (b) (6)

(b) (6)

CFITF (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 14:47:42

Delivered Date: 2020/11/05 14:48:00

Election 2020 Disinformation Sitrep – November 5th - Morning

Mis- and Dis- Narratives Growing Overnight and in the Morning

Call to Action: Stop the Steal

- Disinformation streams are coalescing around the slogan “Stop the Steal.” This call to action is typically paired with one or more identified disinformation narratives (ie. Ballot harvesting, illegal voting, ballot dumping) and urges audiences to respond in person with “boots on the ground.” One representative Facebook group [grew 300,000 followers overnight](#). Facebook announced the group has been taken down this afternoon.
- One particularly popular thread called for mobilization in AZ on Nov 6th.
- Calls to action more often feed polarization and agitation rather than physical manifestation. Widespread calls to interfere with Election Day activities at polling places largely fizzled out. This call, however, has likely played a part in the crowding witnessed outside of polling locations during the counting process in close jurisdictions.

False Narrative: DHS Sting Operation Will Uncover Election Shenanigans

- While still considered a niche narrative, continued spread among relevant audiences could mean trouble. This Q-Anon linked conspiracy theory claims that DHS, on behalf of the administration, produced ballots marked with radioactive isotopes or watermarks (either to denote fake OR valid, depending on the individual posting). After the election, a DHS audit will catch bad actors red-handed trying to steal the election from the current president.

False Narrative: Poll Watchers Denied Access to Observe Vote Counting

- False narratives are circulating online, especially among right-leaning communities, that conservatives are being denied access to observe vote counting and that this is indicative of widespread voter fraud.
- Large groups of people have gathered outside of vote counting location in MI, Philadelphia, PA, and Maricopa County, AZ demanding access to “observe” vote counting. State law allow for a specific number of observers from each party to observe the enumeration process. In the documented instances, the limit had already been met.
- Counter messages: CISA Rumor Control (*in process*)

False Narrative: More Votes than Voters

- Images and posts are emerging, largely among right-leaning communities, alleging that more ballots have been cast in in close states than there are registered voters.
- Most instances witnessed have compared 2018 or 2016 registration numbers to 2020 ballot numbers rather than an accurate 2020 to 2020 comparison.
- Counter messages: CISA Rumor Control (*in process*); [AP](#)

False Narrative: Slow/Irregular Ballot Counting in Swing States Indicates Fraud

- Rampant suspicion online, especially among right-leaning communities, that slower vote counting in swing states either creates opportunity for fraud or is because of widespread fraud.
- Routine and expected pauses in ballot counting are being depicted as proof of voter fraud. Disinformation circulating right-wing communities is claiming partisan ballot counters are pausing the count to buy time to ballot stuff.
- Poll watchers are being denied access to observe vote counting and that this is indicative of widespread voter fraud.
- Counter messages: CISA Rumor Control, [EIP](#)

Mis- and Dis- Trends from Election Official Reporting Channels

Narratives and examples that we have seen during election day and those likely to continue.

Prominent Narratives, by frequency:

- Distrust of race calling: distrust of races immediately being called, then flipping to favor one party, without votes being adequately reported/tallied
- Ballot dumping, "hiding", or randomly "finding" ballots
- Ballot stuffing/nullification conspiracies: e.g. more votes than registered voters; Sharpiegate; printing more ballots after polls closed
- Unofficial reporting swings denoting fraud: e.g. vote counts for one party suddenly increasing, or increasing at odd hours, early reporting to bolster fraud attempts
- Conspiracies to stop oversight: e.g. poll watchers being turned away, polling-place windows being covered to prevent observation, poll watchers faking party affiliation

Today's Reports from Election Officials:

| ID | Source | State | Category | Summary |
|---------------|--------|-------|--|--|
| EIP-842 | EIP | MI | Discrepancies in Website and Media Results | Screenshots of the MI SOS website are spreading claiming that Trump won not Biden. |
| EIP-864 | EIP | NV | Unverified claims | Tweet by a verified account claiming Nevada is releasing results early on 11/4, and that this means the election will be called for Biden. Calling it a coup. |
| CIS-MIS000170 | ISAC | CT | Alleged Election Fraud | Tweet containing claims of boxes of ballots in a car trunk all for a single party. |
| CIS-MIS000171 | ISAC | KY | Ballot Dumping | Claims that a ballot counter threw republican ballots in the trash. |
| CIS-MIS000172 | ISAC | MI | Alleged Election Fraud | Claim that democrats printed extra ballots, without knowing of non-radioactive isotope watermarks on "official ballots". |
| EIP-867 | EIP | MI | Alleged Election Fraud | 1) Experiences of poll challengers in Detroit (Wayne County) describing the counting of unverified ballots, false party affiliation, collusion with the governor, and removal of GOP lawyers. 2) A post with an alleged whistleblower claiming the post office was backdating mail in ballots. |

Be On the Lookout For:

There is now a significant catalogue of dis- and mis- info narratives and content from which bad actors can pull and re-inject into the information stream and audiences are primed to digest it.

- **False claims that observers have been denied access** to witness vote counting and that this is indicative of voter fraud and “ballot harvesting.”
- **Repurposing** of content from Election Day and the counting process to bolster claims of fraud and illegitimacy in remaining key races.
- **Deepstate and QAnon narratives:** DHS is already being pulled into disinfo streams, as CISA is a prominent face of election security. This category of disinformation is a function of audience belief in a secure election. As faith in legitimate outcomes diminish, belief in an unseen mover will increase among vulnerable audiences.
- **As anxiety over election results mounts, willingness to accept first available information increases regardless of validity.**

A Note on Non-English Dis- and Mis-information:

- The Election Integrity Project highlights regarding observed Spanish-language dis- and mis-: 1) Divided conversation, left making fun of Trump, right claiming voter fraud, 2) Claims of electoral fraud broadly and in Michigan, Wisconsin 4) Narratives align with English language disinfo, 3) Part of this conversation driven by large non-US based Spanish-language and Portuguese-language accounts
- Much of the observed Spanish-language disinformation content was also produced in English with the notable exception of video and livestream content. This could be indicative of a coordinated campaign and some level of automation. Observed content does not show particular tailoring towards Latinx issue areas.
- Many social media monitoring and disinformation analysis products leverage natural language processing and will pull in non-English language content by default if it shows up within the query parameters of keywords and location. Many data points regarding disinformation narratives and trends are inclusive of non-English language content, although not broken down.

From:

(b) (6)

To:

Subject: - Content

Date: 2020/11/05 15:03:28

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

FYI on some Spanish language materials – I am waiting to hear back from First draft, but related

BINGO!

image.png

Sender:

(b) (6)

Recipient:

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 15:02:47

Delivered Date: 2020/11/05 15:03:28

WAITING FOR ELECTION RESULTS BINGO



DHS-1255-002687 10/26/2023

United We Dream
ACTION

WAIT!

1. Wait for **certified results** from each state.

This might take days or even weeks.

2. Polls are just polls, they do not play a role in the outcome of the election

3. Most organizations and news outlets rely on **The Associated Press** to discern and report election results.

4. There may be **false claims** of elections outcomes, do not uplift these even to show that they are false.

DHS-1255-002688 10/26/2023



United We Dream
ACTION

pensando en los
debates, las
campañas de los
políticos, y las
elecciones

ah, pero cuando
me dicen que es
importante contar
cada voto aunque
tome un tiempo



DHS-1255-002683 10/26/2023



yo esperando con paciencia y calma
los resultados de las elecciones
porque tenemos que asegurarnos que
TODOS los votos sean contados



DHS-1255-002690 10/26/2023

TIMELINE OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE



NOV 4TH - NOV 23RD

MORE VOTES ARE COUNTED

Mail-in ballots can be counted as late as November 23rd in some states, like Washington.



NOV 3RD - ELECTION DAY

VOTERS VOTE, VOTES ARE COUNTED

While news networks will project winners of certain races, there are still provisional and mail-in ballots to count.



NOV 10TH - DEC 11TH

STATES CERTIFY ELECTION RESULTS

Starting a week after election day, state governments begin to certify their election results. All but California are mandated to occur by December 8th.

DEC 8TH

"SAFE HARBOR" TO DETERMINE ELECTION RESULTS AND ASSIGN ELECTORS

Under the Electoral Count Act, this is the date by which states are meant to have counted votes, settled disputes, and determined the winner of their electoral college votes.



DEC 14TH

ELECTORAL VOTES ARE CAST

This is the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, falling on December 14 for 2020. Six days after disputes are supposed to be settled, electors are supposed to meet in their respective states and cast votes for US President.

DEC 23RD

ELECTORAL VOTES MUST ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Certified electoral votes have 9 days to arrive at Capitol Hill.



JAN 6TH

ELECTORAL VOTES COUNTED

Members of the House and the Senate all meet in the House chamber who give their tallies to Pence, who announces the results and listens to objections. If there is no winner, the 435 members of the House decide the election.



JAN 3RD

NEW CONGRESS IS SWORN IN

This will be the official start date of the 117th Congress.



JAN 20TH

INAUGURATION DAY

A new president takes the oath of office at noon.

**United We Dream
ACTION**

DHS-1255-002693 10/26/2023

SOURCE: "TIMELINE OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE," 2020, CNN

From: (b) (6) @SOS.STATE.CO.US>

(b) (6) nased.org>;

(b) (6) @SOS.STATE.CO.US>;

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

To: Scully, Brian (b) (6)

CC:

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Help - Question

Date: 2020/11/05 17:25:14

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

Hey, (b) (6)

Completely. Get. It. Completely. Completely.

Thank you. Seriously. (b) (6) put us in touch with (b) (6), our regional rep. We just met with her and an ad rep named (b) (6). Again, super helpful/nice and said they would look into it. But also not sure they are the right folks to seriously consider this—and fast.

Let us know if you need more information/anything at all. And, again, thanks, (b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) nased.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:16 PM

To: (b) (6) @SOS.STATE.CO.US>; (b) (6)

(b) (6) @SOS.STATE.CO.US>; 'Masterson, Matthew' (b) (6)

'Scully, Brian' (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Help - Question

Thanks (b) (6)

(b) (6), now you see why I wrote so many profanity-laced emails in 2018!

Google let us know about the sensitive event policy at the end of September, and it's as frustrating as the similar ban on Facebook, since it means that election officials cannot respond via paid advertising. We also asked about search prioritization for state election websites on our social media working group call, though not quite in this context, and got an answer that leaned heavily on their OneBox search results. However, this use-case isn't one that we talked about, so I am happy to reach out to them about it since it's so pervasive. Who at Google were you in touch with?

Given the current environment, I'm willing to push Google on both of these issues.

(b) (6)

The contents of this message, together with any attachments, are confidential and intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message, or any attachment, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by email and delete this message, along with any attachments, from your computer.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@SOS.STATE.CO.US>

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:59 PM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@SOS.STATE.CO.US>; Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6); Scully, Brian (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) <(b) (6)@nased.org>

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Help - Question

+ NASS and NASED folks. Please see below. The advice from the Google folks we spoke to was that it would get more attention if they heard from more people, i.e., your members. They said this was the first they'd heard of concern with ads from trusted sources being prohibited, and also said the search folks are a completely separate area. They did say they'd talk internally, but we did not want to wait to get it in front of folks.

• (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6); Scully, Brian

(b) (6)

Cc:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Help - Question

Matt/Brian,

Know you are swamped. Will make this quick.

FBI/CISA repeatedly warned foreign adversaries want to undermine confidence in the process—particularly results. We took various actions to mitigate this threat/maintain confidence in our process.

A key effort was funneling folks to the SOS for information on registering, voting, and results. Ignore the bad stuff. Come to us. As such, we, among other things, purchased ads on Google. Devised a ton of key words, to include 'fraud', 'attack', etc. They key period—when we planned to spend most money—was right before and the two weeks after the election—since you all warned foreign adversaries could work to undermine results.

Google just informed us, however, they are freezing ads regarding election for the next seven days. Get the point of banning candidate, PAC, party, ads, etc. And support it. 100%. But SOS' are THE reliable source for results, so don't get why we are banned. Seems not right. We just chatted with two Google reps. They were super helpful and promised to look into things. But we are starting to see claims of fraud in CO. Time is of the essence. We want to use every measure possible to nip this in the bud. So we are escalating to see if you can help.

Of note, and also just a bit concerning, when you Google 'Colorado election fraud' tons of random and potentially misleading results come up. SOS is nowhere near the top, at least the 20th result. Know this is a search optimization issue. But also hoping Google can help with this. Of note, we did a quick search of *other states* and got *basically the same thing*. Also not good.

(b) (6)—you mentioned we should loop (b) (6). Don't have their emails. Can you plus them in?

Thanks,

(b) (6)



(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) SOS.STATE.CO.US

Sender: (b) (6) SOS.STATE.CO.US>

(b) (6)

Recipient: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Scully, Brian (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 17:24:32

Delivered Date: 2020/11/05 17:25:14

Message Flags: Unread

From: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

(b) (6)

To: smasterson@usa.dhs.gov

Scully, Brian (b) (6)

(b) (6)

CC:

Subject: RE: Help - Question

Date: 2020/11/05 17:30:44

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

I echo, (b) (6) I also put in a call to our government relations contact (b) (6) and I'm waiting to hear back.

Also, attached is an email I sent to Communications Directors on Sept. 29 notifying them of the ad policy "event."

(b) (6)

Director of Communications
National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)

(b) (6)

www.nass.org



From: (b) (6) nased.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:16 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) 'Masterson, Matthew' (b) (6)

'Scully, Brian' (b) (6)

(b) (6)

cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Help - Question

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(b) (6)

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From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@SOS.STATE.CO.US>

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:59 PM

To: (b) (6); Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6); Scully, Brian (b) (6)

(b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Help - Question

+ NASS and NASED folks. Please see below. The advice from the Google folks we spoke to was that it would get more attention if they heard from more people, i.e., your members. They said this was the first they'd heard of concern with ads from trusted sources being prohibited, and also said the search folks are a completely separate area. They did say they'd talk internally, but we did not want to wait to get it in front of folks.

- (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6); Scully, Brian

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Help - Question

Matt/Brian,

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A key effort was funneling folks to the SOS for information on registering, voting, and results. Ignore the bad stuff. Come to us. As such, we, among other things, purchased ads on Google. Devised a ton of key words, to include 'fraud', 'attack', etc. The key period—when we planned to spend most money—was right before and the two weeks after the election—since you all warned foreign adversaries could work to undermine results.

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(b) (6)—you mentioned we should loop Leslie/Amy. Don't have their emails. Can you plus them in?

Thanks,

(b) (6)



COSOS_logo_3c_h (1)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

@SOS.STATE.CO.US

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Sender:

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Scully, Brian

(b) (6)

Recipient:

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 17:24:43

Delivered Date: 2020/11/05 17:30:44

Message Flags: Unread

From:

To:

CC:

(b) (6)

Subject: NASS Communications: Several Updates

Date: 2020/09/29 11:42:40

Type: Note

Good Afternoon Communications Directors,

Don't TL;DR at me, but I have several odds and ends updates that I wanted to package together:

NEW Single Source CIS Mis/Disinformation Reporting Email

To help combat misinformation in elections, the EI-ISAC has teamed up with CISA, NASS, NASED, and Stanford University to establish a single source at which election officials can report misinformation found on social media.

Election officials and their representatives (that means you) can report misinformation to misinformation@cisecurity.org. The EI-ISAC will get the report to federal partners, the social media platforms through CISA, and the [Election Integrity Partnership](#) at Stanford University, where it will undergo analysis to determine if it's part of a broader disinformation campaign. The EI-ISAC will also inform officials when its partners identify a campaign. **You'll get an email informing you of what they've seen and what actions are being taken.**

When submitting, include a screenshot of the post; the URL (whenever possible); your name, role, jurisdiction, and official email address; and a description of why the post is misinformation. The EI-ISAC will process the report and keep you informed of its progress.

You can choose this streamlined route **and/or** still report directly to the platforms. It is up to you. **(Attached is the 8/28 email I sent detailing the respective processes for Facebook, Twitter, Google/YouTube and TikTok.)**

Business Insider Inquiry

I got word from a state that another *Business Insider* press inquiry is coming your way (if it hasn't already). Here's a snippet from the reporter's email:

I'm writing a story on a new report coming out Wednesday that says you're one of 44 states whose vote-by-mail application is not accessible to people with disabilities.

The organization putting the report (embargoed until Wednesday) together is planning to unveil on its site a space where disabled voters can access an application from your state. Those applications will be found here when the report drops: <https://accessibility.deque.com/vote-by-mail-applications>

I do not have a copy of the report, but I'd recommend conveying to the BI reporter your accessible voting by mail applications and other accessible measures you already have in place.

TikTok Utilizing Canivote.org

In the spirit of #TrustedInfo2020, we have been working with TikTok to ensure their 2020 Election Guide information links to your state-specific sites via NASS's canivote.org for voter registration, voter ID and find your polling place categories, and **not** third-party sites for those! **YAY!** Here's their [blog post release](#) for more information on their guide. **Please let your IT Director know you may receive higher website traffic with today's launch.**

Google Ad Plans After Nov. 3

(b) (6) reached out to me to provide an update on their plans for political advertising after the general election. Here's his email copy/pasted:

We will be implementing a sensitive event policy for political ads after polls close on November 3rd. While this policy is in place, advertisers will not be able to run ads referencing candidates, the election, or its outcome given that an unprecedented amount of votes will be counted after election day this year.

This policy will be broadly scoped across ads running through Google Ads, DV360, YouTube, and AdX Authorized Buyer and is intended to block all ads related to the election. It will include

ads that are currently in-scope of our election ads policy (mentioning a current state or federal officeholder or candidate, political party, or ballot measure), ads that reference federal or state elections within the ad, and any ads running on election-related search queries. We will carefully examine a number of factors before deciding to lift this policy for advertisers and share updates as we have them.

If you have questions please contact (b) (6).

National Months

As September closes out tomorrow, so does National Voter Registration Month. October brings us National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and American Archives Month. Also of note is Electronic Records Day, which is Saturday, October 10. Since it falls on the weekend, many people may choose to recognize it on Friday, October 9. NASS will recognize these on Twitter.

Thank you for reading my novel,

(b) (6)

Director of Communications
National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)
444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 401 | Washington, DC 20001
Desk: (b) (6) Cell: (b) (6)
www.nass.org



Sender: (b) (6)

Recipient: (b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/09/29 11:40:16

Delivered Date: 2020/09/29 11:42:40

From: (b) (6)

To: (b) (6)

CC: (b) (6)

Subject: NASS Communications: Mis/disinformation Social Media Platform Reporting Processes

Date: 2020/08/28 12:30:39

Importance: High

Priority: Urgent

Type: Note

Good Afternoon Communications Directors,

I know I've sent out how to report mis/disinformation to social media platforms before, but a few things have changed and Tik Tok is new to our game. Please, please, please take a look at these carefully, save it somewhere you'll remember, also print it out and duct tape/super glue it to something next to your computer 😊

Facebook/Instagram

- Send an email to reports@content.facebook.com and your Facebook point of contact; include "election issue" in subject line. Please include as much information as possible: screenshots, profile names, links, descriptions of what is incorrect, etc. The more information you include, the more likely Facebook will be able to act on it.
- Content that should be reported is:
 - Any content containing statements of intent, calls for action, or advocating for violence due to voting, voter registration, or the outcome of an election.
 - Any offers to buy or sell votes with cash or gifts.
 - Misrepresentation of the dates, locations, and times, and methods for voting or voter registration.
 - Misrepresentation of who can vote, qualifications for voting, whether a vote will be counted, and what information and/or materials must be provided in order to vote.
- Facebook Regional Contacts (which are newly updated):
 - (b) (6)
 - AZ, CO, IA, KS, NE, NM, NV, OK, TX, UT
 - (b) (6)
 - CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT,
 - (b) (6)
 - IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, WI
 - (b) (6)
 - CA and the US territories
 - (b) (6)
 - AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV
 - (b) (6)
 - AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

Twitter

- If your state is onboarded into the partner support portal, it provides a mechanism to report election issues and get them bumped to the head of the queue. Fill in the report with as much information as possible, including links if you have them. **Attached** is a list of the 38 on-boarded states.
 - If you're **not** on the list and would like to get on-boarded please email psponboarding@twitter.com, cc' gov@twitter.com and me for my awareness. These lists don't keep themselves 😊
- Here's the link <https://help.twitter.com/forms> to get started to report mis/disinfo.
 - You should have a green box at the top. **Attached** is a screenshot from my screen.
 - Then to report you click submit form. Then regarding and choose "integrity." It used to say election integrity, but with COVID-19 they changed it just to integrity.

- • Let me know if yours doesn't have those features.
- • NEW: Local election officials' Twitter accounts can now be onboarded into the partner support portal by emailing psponboarding@twitter.com, so please pass along to your locals. Please email gov@twitter.com if you have questions about this since it is so new.

Google/YouTube

- • If you see dis/misinformation on Google or YouTube, please get a screenshot and then send it, a link to the issue, and a description of what is inaccurate to this email civics-outreach@google.com and cc' these people: (b) (6)

Tik Tok

- • Email tiktok-integrity-escalations@tiktok.com with the video and the specifics of what is incorrect or misleading.
- • Here is a link to their [Community Standards](#). They specifically prohibit "Content that misleads community members about elections or other civic processes." Please feel free to share this information and email with your local election officials.
 - • **Important note:** Videos from Tik Tok are often shared on other platforms and they are branded with the Tik Tok logo. Videos do not need to be posted on Tik Tok to have the Tik Tok branding. A user can create a video, download it, and post it on other platforms and it will have the Tik Tok brand. So, if you see Tik Tok videos on other platforms and you report it, you may ultimately learn that it was never posted on TikTok. So be sure to report it to the platform you see it on (Ex: Tik Tok branded video viewed on Facebook should be reported to Facebook through the above method)

Happy Friday,

(b) (6)
Director of Communications
National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)
444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 401 | Washington, DC 20001
Desk: (b) (6) Cell: (b) (6)
www.nass.org



Sender

Recipient

Sent Date: 2020/08/28 12:30:39

| State | Handle |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Alaska | @ltgovmeyer |
| 1 Alabama | @alasecofstate |
| 1 Arizona | @SecretaryHobbs |
| 1 California | @casosvote |
| 1 Colorado | @COSecofState |
| 1 Connecticut | @sotsmerrill |
| 1 Delaware | @NCCElectionsDE |
| 1 Florida | @FLSecofState |
| 1 Idaho | @IDSecOfState |
| 1 Illinois | @illinoissbe |
| 1 Indiana | @secretarylawson |
| 1 Iowa | @iowasos |
| 1 Kansas | @kansasSOS |
| Kansas | @BACaskey |
| 1 Louisiana | @Louisiana_sos |
| 1 Maine | @MESecofState |
| 1 Maryland | @md_sbe |
| 1 Massachusetts | @VotingInMass |
| Massachusetts | @SecretaryOfMass |
| 1 Michigan | @MichSoS |
| 1 Minnesota | @MNSecofState |
| 1 Mississippi | @MississippiSOS |
| 1 Missouri | @MissouriSOS |
| 1 Nevada | @NVSOS |
| Nevada | @NVElect |
| 1 New Jersey | @SecretaryWay |
| 1 New York | @NYSBOE |
| North Carolina | @NCSecState |
| 1 North Carolina | @NCSBE |
| 1 Ohio | @SecLaRoseComms |
| 1 Oklahoma | @OKelections.gov |
| 1 Oregon | @OregonElections |
| 1 Pennsylvania | @PAStateDept |
| 1 Rhode Island | @RISecState |
| 1 South Carolina | @SCVotes |
| 1 Tennessee | @sectrehargett |
| 1 Texas | @TXsecofstate; @VoteTexas |
| 1 Utah | @ElectionsUtah |
| 1 Vermont | @VermontSOS |
| 1 Virginia | @VaElect |
| 1 Washington | @secstatewa |
| 1 West Virginia | @wvsosoffice |
| 1 Wisconsin | @WI_Elections |



[Help Center](#) > [Submit A Ticket](#)

If you aren't finding what you need in the Help Center, **submit a request** and we'll help you as quickly as we can.

DHS-1255-002707 10/26/2023

From: CFITF (b) (6)
To: CFITF All (b) (6)

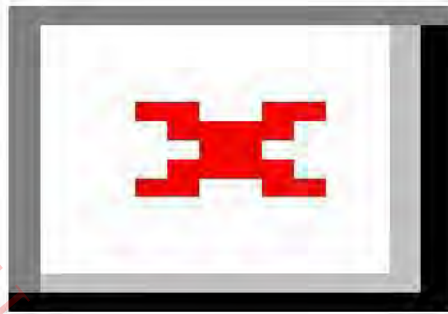
Subject: FW: EIP Briefing Notes Nov. 5 5pm ET
Date: 2020/11/05 18:04:16
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 11:03:19 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: CFITF
Subject: EIP Briefing Notes Nov. 5 5pm ET

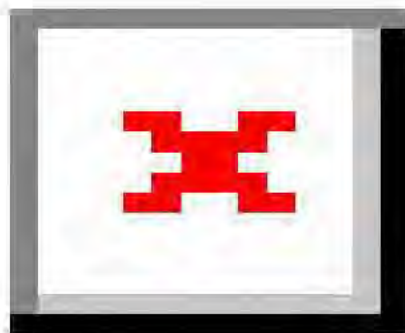
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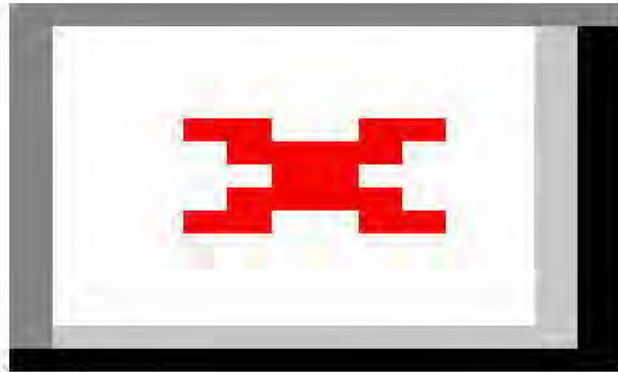


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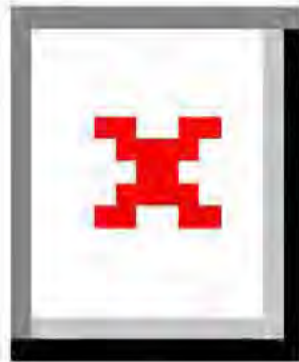


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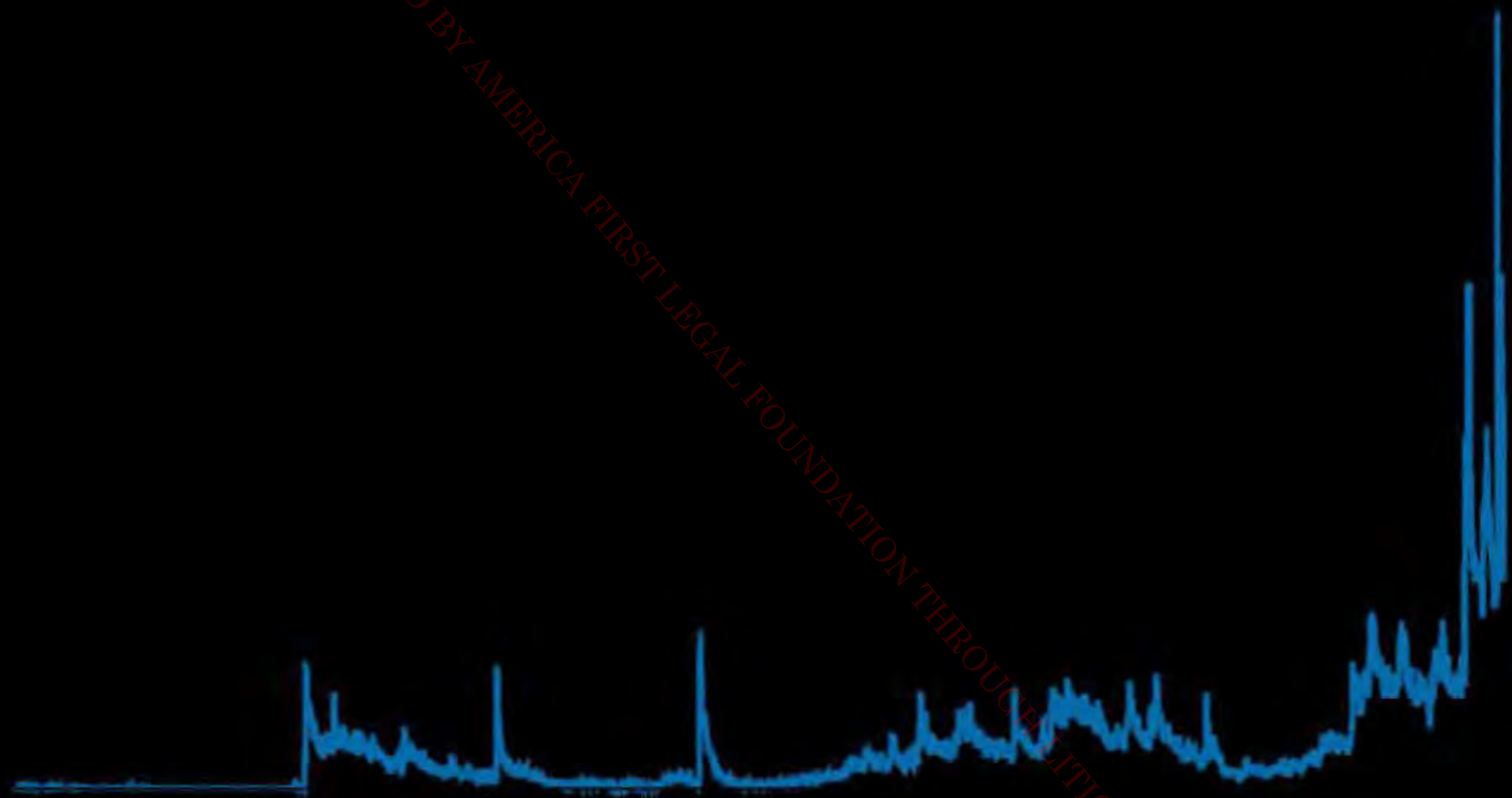
CFITF (b) (6)
Sender: (b) (6)

CFITF All (b) (6)
Recipient: (b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 18:03:21

Delivered Date: 2020/11/05 18:04:16

Message Flags: Unread



From:

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

To:

(b) (6)

Scully, Brian (b) (6)

CC:

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Help - Question

Date: 2020/11/05 18:09:15

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

Thanks again, (b) (6) Appreciate it.

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:44 PM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6) SOS.STATE.CO.US> (b) (6) nased.org; (b) (6)

(b) (6) Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

'Scully, Brian' (b) (6)

(b) (6) sso.org>

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Help - Question

Agreed. (b) (6) and I just sent an email to our contact (b) (6). We are hoping to get more clarity tomorrow sometime. Once we do, we'll circle back with you guys and ping our relevant lists.

In the meantime here is (b) (6)'s email if you'd like to ping (b) (6) too: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Director of Communications

National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 401 | Washington, DC 20001

Desk: (b) (6) Cell: (b) (6)

www.nass.org



From: (b) (6) SOS.STATE.CO.US

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:37 PM

To: (b) (6) sso.org; (b) (6) nased.org; (b) (6)

(b) (6) 'Masterson, Matthew' (b) (6)

'Scully, Brian' (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Help - Question

Thank you too, (b) (6). A lot.

This ad policy seems—off. That said, seems we had some internal confusion and should have been aware. That is on us.

Regardless, searching for elections and fraud should not turn up garbage. It should turn up SOS and other reliable sources at least at the top.

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:25 PM

To: (b) (6) nased.org; (b) (6) SOS.STATE.CO.US; (b) (6)

(b) (6) 'Masterson, Matthew' <(b) (6)>

'Scully, Brian' (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Help - Question

I echo, (b) (6). I also put in a call to our government relations contact (b) (6) and I'm waiting to hear back.

Also, attached is an email I sent to Communications Directors on Sept. 29 notifying them of the ad policy "event."

(b) (6)

Director of Communications

National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 401 | Washington, DC 20001

Desk: (b) (6) Cell: (b) (6)

www.nass.org

From: (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@nased.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:16 PM

To: (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@SOS.STATE.CO.US>; (b) (6)

(b) (6); 'Masterson, Matthew' <(b) (6)>

'Scully, Brian' <(b) (6)>

(b) (6)

Cc:

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Help - Question

Thanks (b) (6).

(b) (6), now you see why I wrote so many profanity-laced emails in 2018!

Google let us know about the sensitive event policy at the end of September, and it's as frustrating as the similar ban on Facebook, since it means that election officials cannot respond via paid advertising. We also asked about search prioritization for state election websites on our social media working group call, though not quite in this context, and got an answer that leaned heavily on their OneBox search results. However, this use-case isn't one that we talked about, so I am happy to reach out to them about it since it's so pervasive. Who at Google were you in touch with?

Given the current environment, I'm willing to push Google on both of these issues.

(b) (6)

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From: (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@SOS.STATE.CO.US>

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:59 PM

To: (b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew

(b) (6)

Scully, Brian (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Help - Question

+ NASS and NASED folks. Please see below. The advice from the Google folks we spoke to was that it would get more attention if they heard from more people, i.e., your members. They said this was the

first they'd heard of concern with ads from trusted sources being prohibited, and also said the search folks are a completely separate area. They did say they'd talk internally, but we did not want to wait to get it in front of folks.

• (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6); Scully, Brian

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: Help - Question

Matt/Brian,

Know you are swamped. Will make this quick.

FBI/CISA repeatedly warned foreign adversaries want to undermine confidence in the process—particularly results. We took various actions to mitigate this threat/maintain confidence in our process.

A key effort was funneling folks to the SOS for information on registering, voting, and results. Ignore the bad stuff. Come to us. As such, we, among other things, purchased ads on Google. Devised a ton of key words, to include 'fraud', 'attack', etc. The key period—when we planned to spend most money—was right before and the two weeks after the election—since you all warned foreign adversaries could work to undermine results.

Google just informed us, however, they are freezing ads regarding election for the next seven days. Get the point of banning candidate, PAC, party, ads, etc. And support it. 100%. But SOS' are THE reliable source for results, so don't get why we are banned. Seems not right. We just chatted with two Google reps. They were super helpful and promised to look into things. But we are starting to see claims of fraud in CO. Time is of the essence. We want to use every measure possible to nip this in the bud. So we are escalating to see if you can help.

Of note, and also just a bit concerning, when you Google 'Colorado election fraud' tons of random and potentially misleading results come up. SOS is nowhere near the top, at least the 20th result. Know this is a search optimization issue. But also hoping Google can help with this. Of note, we did a quick search of *other states* and got *basically the same thing*. Also not good.

(b) (6)—you mentioned we should loop (b) (6) (b) (6). Don't have their emails. Can you plus them in?

Thanks,

(b) (6)



COSOS_logo_3c_h (1)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

PSOS.STATE.CO.US

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Sender: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Masterson, Matthew /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(b) (6)

Scully, Brian (b) (6)

Recipient:

(b) (6)

Sent Date: 2020/11/05 18:08:33

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(b) (6)
To: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: EIP Briefing Notes Nov. 5 5pm ET

Date: 2020/11/05 18:29:48

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

(b) (6)

Countering Foreign Influence Task Force
DHS | CISA | National Risk Management Center

(b) (6) (HSDN) (b) (6) JWICS)

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) cisa.dhs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 6:03 PM

To: CFITF <cfitf@hq.dhs.gov>

Subject: EIP Briefing Notes Nov. 5 5pm ET

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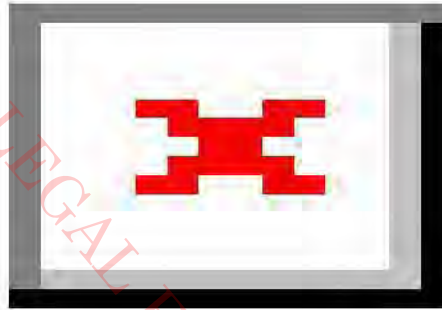
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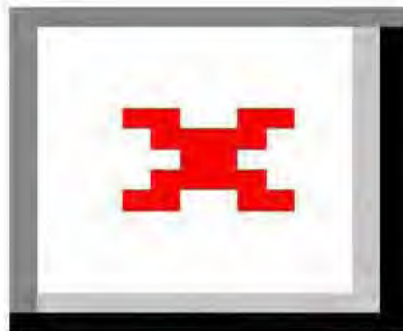


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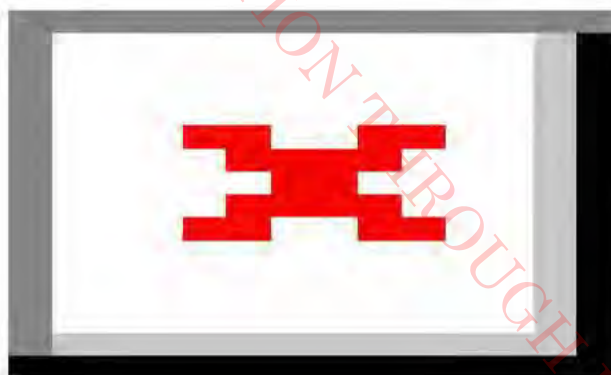
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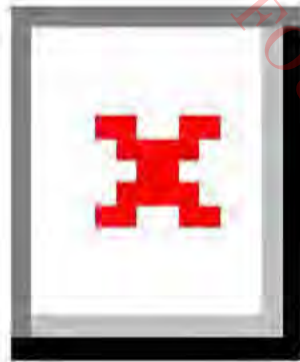


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Recipient: (b) (6)
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Message Flags: Unread Unsent

StopTheSteal, Nov 3-5

