



"The Way
Democracy Will Be"

6930 Carroll Ave., Suite 610
Takoma Park, MD 20912 - (301) 270-4616
(301) 270-4133 (fax) · info@fairvote.org
www.fairvote.org

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US Election Assistance Commission
1225 New York Avenue, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rob Richie and I am the executive director of a national nonpartisan, nonprofit election reform and voting rights organization based in Takoma Park, Maryland. Part of our work leading up to the November election focused on monitoring the preparedness of local election officials in a number of battleground states. Throughout the summer and early fall, FairVote researchers surveyed nearly 400 local election officials. We surveyed nearly every county clerk in Missouri, New Mexico, Colorado and Pennsylvania, as well as election officials in counties with at least 500,000 residents in Ohio, Florida, Minnesota, Michigan, Virginia and Wisconsin. We asked questions designed to shed light on the practices of the county, as well as their interpretation and compliance with state law.

The aim of our project was to increase transparency in election administration and monitor the actions of election officials. Our questions focused on five areas of election administration:

- Type of Voting Equipment
- Allocation of Poll Booths/Voting Machines in Each Precinct
- Written Booth/Machine Allocation Plan
- Readiness of Rough and Final Drafts of the Ballot
- Campus Polling Locations

In general, we found that most states lack uniform standards for conducting elections in these areas. Local election officials have wide discretion about how they plan for and conduct an election, which leads to a lack of uniformity among local jurisdictions in states. Most state statutes lack clear guidelines for local election officials and many state chief election officials fail to adequately direct their local counterparts.

In our conclusions, we suggest a series of reforms to help address these issues to ensure fairer elections, where every citizen experiences Election Day in a similar way regardless of where they live. Our recommendations include:

- Standardization of voting equipment
- Standardization of poll booth/voting machine allocation
- Adequate public input and transparency throughout the ballot design process

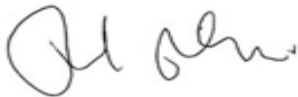
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- On-campus voting access on residential campuses
- State standards and guidelines
- Additional Election Management Guidelines from the Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
- Rule-making or enforcement authority for the EAC

I hope the attached National Report is helpful in your deliberations. All of the reports are available at <http://www.fairvote.org/sosresearch>.

FairVote is a national leader in research and analysis of a number of innovative electoral reforms. If we can be of further assistance or you would like any more detail about the methodology of this research and our other reform proposals, please feel free to contact me or report co-author Adam Fogel at your convenience. I can be reached at (301) 270-4616 or rr@fairvote.org.

Sincerely Yours,



Rob Richie
Executive Director, FairVote