

Standards for Election Excellence

The voluntary, nonpartisan Standards for Election Excellence define high performance for local election departments across key areas in U.S. election administration. Built in deep collaboration between local election officials from across the country and technologists, designers and other experts, the standards are designed to bring the elections community together to improve election operations and build public trust.

★ Available for Certification

Communications

★ Plain language	Your election office writes and speaks in a way that allows voters to easily find, understand, and use the information they need.
★ Information design	Your election office uses design and accessibility best practices to format information so it is easy to find, understand, and use.
★ Language access	Your election office understands your voters' language needs and prioritizes their preferred languages, dialects, and communication modes.
★ Voter communications	Your election office effectively distributes information through a variety of mediums that best reach your voters.
★ Community relationships	Your election office builds and maintains strong relationships in your community that foster trust in the election process.
Media relationships	Your election office proactively builds and maintains relationships with members of the media to communicate accurate election information.

Ballots and Audits

Ballot creation	Your election office creates ballots that are well-designed, accurate, and in formats that meet voters' needs.
Voting resources allocation	Your election office allocates the needed ballots, supplies, and equipment for voters to cast their ballots with ease.
★ Secure ballot management	Your office protects ballot security from printing to storage using comprehensive ballot management processes.
★ Tabulation audits	Your election office conducts tabulation audits on your voting equipment prior to certification to ensure the results are accurate.

Voting Operations

★ Voter registration rolls	Your election office manages voter registration records with attention to accuracy and timely processing.
In-person voting	Your election office supports voters' in-person voting needs with enough sites and well-organized operations.
Mail ballots	Your election office has a clear and efficient system for processing mail ballots.
Results reporting	Your election office accurately and promptly reports election results to keep the public informed.

Office Operations

Culture	Your election office articulates values that reinforce professional ethics and establish a positive environment for all election office staff.
★ Funding and budgets	Your election office understands your operational needs, communicates those needs to key decision-makers, and manages budgets responsibly.
Hiring	Your election office recruits and hires qualified candidates with the potential, temperament, and skills to successfully carry out their responsibilities.
Training and professional development	Your election office delivers training to onboard new staff, provides ongoing development within roles, and supports professional advancement in the field of election administration.
Management	Your election office effectively manages and retains competent staff by providing clear expectations, ongoing support, and recognition.

Poll Workers

Poll worker recruitment	Your election office recruits enough poll workers with the skills and competencies to successfully support voters in casting their ballots.
★ Poll worker training	Your election office delivers training that helps poll workers understand and conduct their responsibilities, equips them with the resources to find answers to their questions, and sets expectations of professionalism.
Poll worker management	Your election office manages poll workers by efficiently maintaining information, communicating effectively, and facilitating compensation.
Poll worker retention	Your election office supports retention of competent poll workers and honors their civic contribution by providing a positive poll worker experience, making poll workers feel appreciated, and incorporating feedback on their experience.

Emergencies and Security

★ Emergency planning	Your election office is prepared to address emergencies that disrupt administrative or voting functions
Physical security	Your election office maintains the security of physical spaces to protect people and materials during administration, voting, processing, storage, and transit.
Cybersecurity	Your election office ensures the integrity and operation of your digital infrastructure.

