

Election Transparency Scorecard – Local



For people to feel confidence in elections, voting technology should be transparent; election procedures should promote openness along with security; election laws should make it easy for candidates and/or voters to get reliable, manual recounts in close elections or when there is initial evidence of a problem in the election; and most importantly, citizens must be able to freely participate in observing elections. *How transparent are elections where you vote?*

To score how your local voting jurisdiction is working toward election transparency, Verified Voting needs the following information. For this survey, “voting jurisdiction” means county, parish, or township, depending on your area. *Please provide as much detail as possible.*

Voting System / Technology: *Is your voting technology “transparent”?*

- Y N ? Does the voting system in your voting jurisdiction include a voter-verified paper record? (e.g. paper optical scan ballots, touchscreens with voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT).) Specify: _____
- Y N ? *If your system is e-voting machines with VVPAT, are pollworkers trained to urge voters to check the VVPAT printout when they vote?*
- Y N ? Are pollworkers trained to periodically check that the VVPAT printer is working properly so no votes are lost to jams or printer malfunctions?
If no, please describe VVPAT training: _____
- _____
- Comments: _____
- Y N ? Are back-up (emergency) paper ballots required in your jurisdiction?
 Y N ? *If no, does your voting jurisdiction provide them anyway?*
- If your jurisdiction uses back-up paper ballots, how many are available per polling place? _____ What happens when those run out?

- Y N ? Are the back-up paper ballots described as “provisional” ballots?

Election Procedures and Practices: *Do your county/township/parish election management procedures emphasize openness along with security and checks/balances?*

What (if any) procedure/s should be changed in order to bring greater transparency to the election process in your jurisdiction? _____

- Y N ? Does the voting jurisdiction have detailed election procedures? *Describe or provide link:* _____
- Y N ? Are procedures documents public?
- Y N ? Are they available in hard copy upon request?
- Y N ? Are they easy to obtain?)
- How are procedures improved over time: Do officials...
- Y N ? - ask election workers about problems and their recommended solutions?
- Y N ? - track or gather information about problems on or prior to election day (e.g. follow up of voter complaints or machinery problems)?

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- If yes, how?* _____
What is done with the reports? _____
- __Y __N __? Are there citizen advisory or oversight boards in your voting jurisdiction?
If yes, please name the board or entity: _____
- __Y __N __? Is the public provided with opportunities for input about procedures?
__Y __N __? *If yes, is the public alerted in a timely and effective manner about these opportunities? Comments:* _____
- What weight/importance is citizen input given when decisions are being made? _____
- __Y __N __? Is there a citizen's election reform group in your area (town, county)?
If yes, please name: _____

Voting Jurisdiction Selection, Testing, Security –

- What tests of voting systems are conducted at the county/parish/township level? (*examples: acceptance testing, pre-election testing, post-election testing, testing after repair or software modification...*) Describe: _____
- __Y __N __? Do officials actively seek public observation of pre-election testing or other voting system testing? *If yes, describe outreach and/or provide link:* _____
- __Y __N __? Apart from logic & accuracy testing, does the jurisdiction test for security issues? Describe: _____
- How is equipment stored between elections? _____
How is original vote data stored after election? _____
How long is original vote data stored? _____
- __Y __N __? Is equipment set up in the polling place prior to Election Day or stored in an area other than its usual storage prior to Election Day (e.g. in poll-workers' homes)? *If yes, how is the equipment secured?* _____
- __Y __N __? Are vote counts conducted publicly?
How is the chain of custody of machines and ballots tracked? _____
- __Y __N __? Are there written procedures in place for tracking absentee ballots? *Link, or send copy to observer@verifiedvoting.org* _____
- __Y __N __? Is pre-approval required for updates or modifications to election software?
__Y __N __? - Are logs kept?
__Y __N __? - Software version numbers provided?
__Y __N __? - Software hash values publicly available?
- __Y __N __? Before election day, does your voting jurisdiction mail out sample ballots?
__Y __N __? *If no, does your voting jurisdiction make the same information available in another way (e.g. published in newspaper)? Specify:* _____

Election Laws & Rules: *Do laws support transparency, including requiring transparent equipment, audits, openness for observation, and making it easy for candidates to get reliable manual recounts? And, how are laws interpreted in your jurisdiction?*

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Y N ? Does your county or voting jurisdiction have laws –apart from state law if any—defining who is allowed in the polling place during voting hours?
Y N ? *If yes, does local law permit observers/watchers/monitors? If yes,*
Y N ? - Are credentials and/or pre-approval required (ex: registered political party or PAC)? Describe: _____

Y N ? Does state law require posting results at polling places on election night?
Y N ? *Does your jurisdiction post results at polling places?*
Y N ? Is pre-election testing required by law?
Y N ? Is post-election testing required by law?
Y N ? Regardless of state law or rule, does your local jurisdiction require voter-verified paper records? *If yes,*
Y N ? - Is this requirement in effect now? *If not, by when?* _____
Y N ? Are audits required by law in your state? *If no, does your jurisdiction do audits anyway, to check vote counts for accuracy?*
Y N ? - If audits are required, are they done for all types of voting systems and ballots used? (e.g. optical scan, DREs, absentee ballots etc.)
Y N ? - To your knowledge, are all audit requirements met in your jurisdiction (e.g. if the law requires random selection of precincts to be audited, is the selection truly random?) Comments: _____

Y N ? Does your jurisdiction have *recount rules that differ* from state rules due to charter or other variation of governance? *If yes, describe:* _____

Y N ? Can candidates or other concerned parties obtain manual recounts?
Y N ? - At a reasonable cost? *Describe cost:* _____
Set Varies Is the cost for recounts (e.g. cost per ballot or jurisdiction) established and made public, or is it variable?
Y N ? If variable, is the basis for calculating the cost made public?
Y N ? Does your jurisdiction allow the general public and the media to view the voter roll (with sensitive information redacted)?
Y N ? Can the public and media also obtain a copy of publicly available fields?
Y N ? Is a list of those slated for removal from the voter roll publicly available?
Y N ? Do county rules require alerting a registered voter that he or she is to be removed from the voter roll? *If yes, how far in advance?* _____
Y N ? Can the public view the approval/rejection and counting of provisional ballots? Who, if anyone, is invited to observe? _____
Y N ? Does your voting jurisdiction publicize number of provisional ballots cast, counted, and rejected, and reasons for disqualification of those rejected?
Y N ? Is your voting jurisdiction required to provide voting materials in languages other than English as designated under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act? *If yes, answer a-c below:*
Y N ? a) Does your voting jurisdiction do an adequate job of providing all the necessary materials in the required languages?
If no, please comment: _____

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__Y __N __? b) Does your voting jurisdiction provide adequate assistance at the polls, in the form of bilingual pollworkers, for persons who speak the languages in which written materials are required to be provided?

If no, please comment: _____

__Y __N __? c) Does your voting jurisdiction have someone available in the election office in the weeks prior to the election to answer questions from persons who speak the designated languages?

Citizen Observation: *To what extent can citizens participate in observing elections?*

Who is allowed in the polling place during the election day? (Please indicate who is *permitted to enter in actual practice in your jurisdiction, not just what state laws may say.*) Check all that apply:

- poll worker hired by local election office;
- technical worker hired by local election office or by voting system vendor;
- observers for state election division;
- observers selected by candidate / party / other organization;
- party candidates (not voting);
- party officers (not voting);
- citizen observers;
- news media representatives;
- challengers;
- other (describe): _____

__Y __N __? Does your jurisdiction require pre-approval for observers? *If yes, who approves, and what credentials (if any) are required?* _____

__Y __N __? Must you take an oath in order to observe?

__Y __N __? Must you be registered to vote in the jurisdiction in order to observe?

Apart from observers during the voting day:

__Y __N __Restricted Are interested citizens allowed to observe poll-opening procedures? *If restricted, list requirements:* _____

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__Y __N __Restricted Can interested citizens observe at the central tabulation facility? *If restricted, who can observe?* _____

__Y __N __? Are credentials required? *Describe:* _____

__Y __N __? Is there a specified limit on the *number* of people allowed to observe at the central tabulation facility at any one time? *If yes, number:* _____

__Y __N __? Can observers see all screen content, outputs, keyboards and media slots on the central tabulation equipment at all times? *Comments:* _____

__Y __N __Restricted If audits are conducted in your jurisdiction, can interested citizens watch? *If restricted list requirements:* _____

__Y __N __Restricted Can interested citizens observe recounts without restriction? *If restricted, list requirements:* _____