

Election Transparency Scorecard – State



To ensure public 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 is your state doing?*

To score how your state is working toward election transparency, Verified Voting needs the following information. *Please provide as much information as possible.*

Note: electronic copy of documents and/or photos, video and other media documentation are welcome. Please send to observer@verifiedvoting.org if you have relevant materials.

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

- Y N ? Does your state independently review voting system software and/or source code?
- Y N ? Does your state escrow voting system software and/or source code? Who has access to any escrow of voting system or the results of any review? _____
Under what circumstances? (*describe*) _____
- Y N ? Does your state allow the public to observe voting system testing?
- Y N ? Does your state videotape voting system testing and make the video available to the public?
- Y N ? Does the state require all voting systems to include a voter-verified paper record (VVPR)? (*e.g.: paper optical scan ballots, touchscreens with voter-verified paper audit trail printer, etc.*)
- Y N ? If not a requirement, does your state allow VVPR systems?
Specify: _____
- Y N ? Even if VVPR is not a requirement, has the state obtained VVPR systems in all jurisdictions (*e.g. through buying decisions*)?
- Y N ? Does the state require back-up (emergency) paper ballots?
 Y N ? *If yes, is there a recommended or required percentage or number per polling place? Specify:* _____
What happens when those run out? _____
- Y N ? Are the back-up paper ballots described as “provisional” ballots?
 Y N ? Are back-up paper ballots counted as standard (not provisional) ballots?

Election Transparency Scorecard – State

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

What (if any) procedure/s would you change in order to bring greater transparency to the election process in your state? _____

- __Y __N __? Does the state have detailed election procedures? *Provide link(s):* _____
- __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:*
- __Y __N __? Does the state ask counties and/or election workers about problems and/or their recommended solutions?
- __Y __N __? Does the state track election problems in any way, such as reviewing voter complaints or reports of machinery problems?
- If yes, how?* _____
- What is done with those reports? _____
- _____
- __Y __N __? Does the state sponsor citizen advisory or oversight boards on elections? *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:* _____

State Certification and Testing –

- __Y __N __? Does the state certify voting systems prior to their use or sale in the state?
- __Y __N __? Does the state test voting systems as a pre-requisite to permitting their use or sale in the state? *If yes, describe the testing process and/or provide link to document/s describing that process:* _____
- _____
- __Y __N __? Does the state utilize an independent testing agency (ITA) for testing?
- __Y __N __? Does the state do its own testing?
- __Y __N __? Does the state test for security issues? *If yes, describe:* _____
- _____
- __Y __N __? Are state reports about voting system testing made public?
- __Y __N __? Is the voting system testing process and/or certification exam public?
- __Y __N __? Does the certification process include opportunity for public comment? *If yes, describe the weight given to public comment in determining whether a voting system should be certified or not:* _____
- _____

Election Transparency Scorecard – State

Election Laws: *Do election laws support transparency, including requiring transparent equipment, audits, openness for observation, and making it easy for candidates to get reliable manual recounts?*

- Y N ? Does state law define who may enter a polling place during voting hours?
 Y N ? If yes, does the law permit observers/watchers/monitors?
 Y N ? If yes, are credentials and/or pre-approval required (ex: registered political party or PAC)? Describe: _____
- Y N ? Does the law require posting results at the polling place on election night?
 Y N ? Is pre-election testing required by law?
 Y N ? Is post-election testing required by law?
 Y N ? Are voter-verified paper records (VVPRs) required by law?
 Y N ? If yes, is this currently in effect?
If not, when will it take effect? _____
- Y N ? If no, are VVPRs required by administrative rule or regulation?
 Y N ? If yes, is this requirement currently in effect?
If not, when will it take effect? _____
- Y N ? Are audits required by law?
 Y N ? If yes, do audit requirements apply to all types of voting systems and ballots in the state? (e.g. optical scan, DRE, absentee ballots...)
- Y N ? What are the audit requirements, including percentage of precincts/votes to be audited? (*describe or provide link*) _____
-
- Y N ? Does your state have laws governing recounts?
 Y N ? Do any voting jurisdictions have recount rules that differ from state rules due to charter or other variation of governance? *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) set and made public, or is it variable?
 Y N ? If variable, is the basis for calculating the cost made public?
 Y N ? Does state law allow the general public and the media to view the statewide voter roll (with sensitive information redacted)?
 Y N ? Can the public and media get a copy of publicly available fields?
 Y N ? Is a list of those slated for removal from the voter roll publicly available?
 Y N ? Does the law 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 state law offer clear rules on how provisional ballots are counted?
 Y N ? Does the state publicize the numbers of provisional ballots cast, counted, and rejected, and reasons for disqualification of those rejected?
 Y N ? Must any voting jurisdiction in the state provide voting materials in additional languages under Sec. 203 of the Voting Rights Act? *If yes:*
 Y N ? a) Does the state provide any help or guidance to covered jurisdictions?
If no, please comment: _____

Election Transparency Scorecard – State

__Y __N __? b) Does the state require 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 the state assist non-English speaking voters from non-covered jurisdictions, who may have questions about election related matters?

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

Who is allowed in polling place during the election day? *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 __? Is pre-approval required for observers?
If yes, what credentials (if any) are required? _____

__Y __N __? Must observers take any oath?

__Y __N __? Must observers be registered voters in the jurisdiction they wish to watch?
Apart from observers during the voting day:

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

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

__Y __N Restricted Can interested citizens observe at central tabulation facilities while the tabulating process is going on? *If restricted, who is invited to observe?*

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

__Y __N __? Is there a limit on the number of people who are 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* _____

Thank you for participating in the Election Transparency Project!