

# Faces of Democracy

A campaign of election officials and workers to defend U.S. elections sponsored by Issue One

Election officials and poll workers operate on the frontlines of our democracy. No one knows better how elections work — what practices make them fair and secure, and how thousands of election workers across the country administered a smooth and safe 2020 election during an unprecedented pandemic.

They also know firsthand what it will take to achieve the same standards for safety and security in 2022 and 2024. The ongoing pandemic has shifted the way voters cast their ballots, requiring new procedures and capabilities. Cybersecurity attacks remain a constant threat, with Russia and China looking to exploit perceived weaknesses in our election infrastructure. At the same time, election officials and poll workers are facing an unprecedented campaign of intimidation and harassment from domestic actors, prompting many election officials and volunteers to leave their positions.

In a national survey of nearly 600 election officials, more than 75% said threats against election administrators and staff have increased in recent years. The percentage saying they are “very worried” about political leaders interfering in future elections has nearly tripled since before 2020.

In order to ensure the security of our elections and protect the election workers who run them, Congress should:

1. Authorize significant and regular investment in America’s election infrastructure to ensure our elections are adequately funded;
2. Provide new funding streams — through DHS, DOJ or the EAC — that election administrators and their staffs can utilize specifically for threat monitoring, safety and doxxing training, privacy services and home security;
3. Enhance information sharing and coordination about threats against election officials between federal, state and local law enforcement entities;
4. Clarify and expand existing federal protections against threats and intimidation to include authorized election agents, contractors, vendors, and volunteers;
5. Increase privacy protections for election workers and their families to protect against doxxing and harassment; and
6. Pass a full and complete update to the Electoral Count Act of 1887 to ensure the will of the people is upheld.

**Congress can meet this moment by making a historic investment in our nation’s election infrastructure.** These resources will equip states, localities, and election officials with the resources they need to ensure our elections are safe, secure, and accessible.



# Election officials on the challenges facing U.S. elections

“

I've testified before Congress on cyber security and the need for more election resources from the federal government to the states. We don't need a large sum of money every 10 years or every five years. **What we need is consistent, dedicated funding so that we can plan ahead and do the things that we need to do.** Administering our elections securely is not cheap. For instance, tabulators cost about five to \$6,000 each. We have close to 300 of those around the State of Vermont.”

- **Jim Condos**, Secretary of State, VT



“

As a poll worker who supervises an entire precinct in Denver, I've experienced racist insults while working the polls — people have questioned my citizenship and blamed me for the coronavirus pandemic. I've been concerned for my safety before. Poll workers today face challenges like this, and as someone who trains teams of poll workers, **more regular federal election funding would help us provide more advanced training** so both poll workers and law enforcement can be adequately prepared to de-escalate and handle situations appropriately.”

- **Virginia Chau**, Poll Worker, Denver, CO



“

**At one point I had such a credible threat that I had police officers with me.** These people were trying to get my home address and my social security number... I was actually at a viewing once and I heard people whispering about who I was, and I actually left. I had to leave church one Sunday.”

- **Lisa Deeley**, Philadelphia City Commissioner, PA



“

For a long time, elections have been chronically underfunded in America. And when you think about how elections are a core part of who we are as a nation, elections are categorized as critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security. At the same time, I think we have an antiquated idea of how elections work. **And really, our processes have changed. Technology has changed. And we have to step up our funding game as a country to make sure that we're recognized as the critical infrastructure that we are.**”

- **Justin Roebuck**, County Clerk, Ottawa County, MI

