

MFAF

County Election Official Survey Report [Interim]



OVERVIEW

The Michigan For America First Election Integrity team spent time reaching out to County, City and Township Level Election Officials statewide to set up interviews with the intent to complete pre-drafted questionnaires designed to establish certain basic information on county-level election systems and procedures. This is an interim report containing responses from 12 five counties and 20 city/townships. A final report on these surveys will be released shortly after each county is submitted.

REGISTRATIONS

Most counties report multiple agencies are helping them maintain clean voter rolls, including providing death certificates, change of address information and **cancellations of registrations** from **ERIC** along with cross-state checks. Daily, weekly and monthly registration audits are reported to be taking place across these counties, and certain EPoll Books are reportedly updated through the internet.

VOTING SYSTEMS

Michigan counties in this report use one of three voting systems: **HART**, **ES&S**, and **DOMINION Voting Systems**. Some of these are considered “hybrid” voting systems and use PVRs with BMDs, while retaining pre-printed, hand-marked ballots for Absentee ballots. Cities and townships typically use the voting system adopted by their respective counties.

Most cities and townships report that their voting systems are not connected to the internet at any point, however several townships using **HART** and **DOMINION** voting systems reported that their machines either currently contain, or contained until recently, **modems** inside which can connect to the internet and transmit data remotely to their respective counties. Yet other townships apparently reported that their machines have **wifi capability** but that it is “**turned off**” while election is being conducted.

Calibration is performed in house, but occasionally **third parties** are hired to perform calibration and public testing. Third parties are either **voting system manufacturers** or an organization called **Election Source**.

FUNDING

Six of the twenty cities and townships interviewed reported receiving funds from the **Center of Tech and Civic Life (CTCL/ Zuckerbucks)**, one reported receiving a State grant and the rest had no response to this question.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Security measures for ballot drop boxes could include **Limited Drop Box Sites**, **Chain of Custody** procedures, **Video Monitoring** and **Sworn Staffers** to handle the pickup of ballots.

MISCELLANEOUS

A common concern among the majority of cities and townships is **Security** and handling **Misinformation** related to the election process. The refusal to meet with those conducting this inquiry does not help promote clarity in the election process.

MFAF intends to help raise public awareness and education by asking basic questions and reporting to the People our understanding of the processes in place across the state.

Michigan is one of several states with a **decentralized state voting system structure**. There are more intricacies in the delegation of election procedures than many states. MFAF will provide

Michigan citizens with an understanding of where voters should take their complaints and concerns over their local election procedures.

COMPILED RESPONSES

(Q 1,2) What is your biggest concern about the upcoming election?

- 6 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported that MISINFORMATION was their biggest concern.
- 5 of the 12 reported that STAFF/RESOURCES was their biggest concern.
- 3 of the 12 reported that SECURITY was their biggest concern.
- 3 of the 12 reported that TURNING OUT VOTERS was their biggest concern.
- 2 of the 12 reported that COMPLICATIONS with ABSENTEE BALLOTS was their biggest concern.

(Q 3) Do you feel like you have the resources, equipment, personnel, and training needed to run an effective election in November?

- 10 of the 12 cities and townships reported that YES, they DO HAVE the resources and funds needed.

(Q 4a) During elections do you feel like you have an equal number of Democrats, Republicans and Independents to observe the process?

- 9 of the 12 city and townships reported that YES, they DO have EQUAL NUMBERS of party representatives.
- 1 of the 12 reported that NO, they DO NOT have equal numbers.
- 10 of the 12 had NO RESPONSE to this question.
- 2 of the 12 reported having more Ds than Rs involved in the process generally.

(Q 4b) Please describe the observation process.

- 7 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported that observation is a BIPARTISAN process.
- 1 of the 12 reported that observation is OPEN TO ANYONE.
- 1 of the 12 reported having NO OBSERVERS during the election process.
- 3 of the 12 reported having more Ds than Rs or Independents in the election process.
- 1 of the 12 reported that the process is not always equal

- 1 of the 12 reported the process as being Balanced but NOT EQUAL.
- 1 of the 12 simply MEETS REQUIREMENTS.

(Q 5) Is the Adjudication Process Bipartisan?

- 10 of the 12 cities and townships reported that YES the adjudication process IS BIPARTISAN with reps from ALL PARTIES ON THE BALLOT present.
- 9 of the 12 had NO RESPONSE to this question.
- 1 of the 12 reported that **adjudication is performed by voting system software.**

(Q 6) Where are Absentee Ballots Counted?

- 12 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported that their absentee ballots are counted at the city/township level.
- 8 of the 12 had NO RESPONSE to this question.

(Q 7) When was the last audit of the voter file in your city?

- 8 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported that they perform DAILY audits of their voter file.
- 5 of the 12 reported checking the QVF regularly to audit their voter file.
- 1 of the 12 reported using ERIC to update their voter file.
- 1 of the 12 reported that voters need to update their files themselves.
- 1 of the 12 reported that they updated last year.
- 1 of the 12 reported using the NCoA to update their voter files.
- 1 of the 12 reported that they updated their voter file during their last RLA.

(Q 8) How do you ensure deceased people are removed from the voter rolls? Do you receive a list from the county monthly? If not, how are you notified and when?

- 6 of the 12 cities and townships reported that the county issues monthly updates.
- 6 of the 12 reported that the SOS removes them as needed.
- 4 of the 12 reported using the QVF to update their own voter files.
- 3 of the 12 reported that they often check for obituaries.
- 2 of the 12 report daily updates of deceased citizen residents from the voter file.

(Q 9) When was the last time you had access to the National Change of Address List, or any other change of address list?

- 8 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported that they compare their voter files with the NCoA on a YEARLY basis.
- 3 of the 12 reported that they do not have access to this list or are ignorant of the list entirely.
- 1 of the 12 uses only the QVF to check for change of addresses for voters.

(Q 10) Are you confident that the voter rolls in your county are accurate and up to date?

- 10 of the 12 cities and townships reported that YES they ARE CONFIDENT in the accuracy of their voter files.
- 1 of the 12 reported that NO they ARE NOT CONFIDENT in the accuracy of their voter files.
- 9 of the 12 had NO RESPONSE to this question.

(Q 11) Do you have any households that have more than 7 individuals registered to vote at the same address?

- 10 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported that they are UNSURE of this data.
- 1 of the 12 reported finding 6 VOTERS IN ONE HOME.
- 9 of the 12 had NO RESPONSE to this question.
- Almost each of the 12 reported that this data would be difficult for them to track.

(Q 12) During registration, how do you verify that voters are citizens?

- 11 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported that the only way to verify is for a CITIZEN to SELF IDENTIFY ON THE FORM.
- 4 of the 12 reported that they compare forms with the QVF.
- Almost all of the 12 reported that voters must provide IDs when casting a ballot to confirm citizenship status.

(Q 13) Which type of voting systems/ tabulators do you use?

- 7 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported using HART Voting Systems.
- 1 of the 12 reported using ES&S Voting Systems.
- 3 of the 12 reported using DOMINION Voting Systems.

(Q 14) Who calibrates the voting machines/ tabulators?

- 8 of the 12 cities and townships reported that calibration is done in-house.
- 3 of the 12 reported hiring 3rd parties to calibrate machines.
- 1 of the 12 reported the hired 3rd party is the VOTING MACHINE VENDOR.
- 2 of the 12 reported the hired 3rd party is ELECTION SOURCE.
- 1 of the 12 reported that they abide by the SOS PROMULGATED RULES for calibration.

(Q 15a) Do you invite residents to witness the calibration? If so, how are residents notified?

- 11 of the 12 cities and townships reported that YES, the calibration and testing is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
- 1 of the 12 reported simply, NO.
- 10 of the 12 reported using NEWSPAPERS to notify.
- 7 of the 12 reported using ONLINE POSTINGS
- 5 of the 12 reported POSTING NOTICES at LOCAL OFFICES.
- 1 of the 12 reported using SOCIAL MEDIA
- 1 of the 12 reported placing TV ADS.

(Q 16) Are voting machines/ tabulators ever connected to the internet?

- 11 of the 12 cities and townships reported that NO, the VOTING MACHINES ARE NEVER ON THE INTERNET.
- 1 of the 12 reported that YES, their VOTING SYSTEMS ARE CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET.
- Several cities and townships reported that MODEMS are INSIDE their machines to report results to the county remotely.
- Several cities and townships reported that MODEMS were either REMOVED FROM THEIR MACHINES or the WIFI IS "TURNED OFF" for the current elections.

(Q 17) Do you think the changes made in Michigan election processes in response to COVID helped?

- 3 of the cities and townships reported thinking that the changes DID HELP.
- 1 of the 12 reported that they DID NOT HELP.
- 8 of the 12 reported NO CHANGE.

(Q 18) Did the city receive any funding or in-kind contributions for training, staff, voter

education or equipment, or for any other purpose from outside the State of Michigan?

- 6 of the 12 cities and townships reported receiving funds from CTCL.
- 1 of the 12 reported that their only funding was from the State.
- 5 of the 12 reported NO FUNDING.

(Q 19) Does the city require signatures to be verified for absentee ballots?

- Each of the 12 cities and townships confirmed that YES, SIGNATURES ARE VERIFIED BY THE CITY/TOWNSHIP for ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

(Q 20) What are your Chain of Custody Procedures for Ballot Drop Boxes?

- 4 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported using VIDEO SURVEILLANCE.
- Most of the 12 counties reported having SWORN STAFFERS handling the DROP BOX BALLOT RETRIEVAL.

(Q 21) Was there any point in time when the Drop Boxes were not under Video Surveillance?

- 3 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported that YES, there WERE TIMES WHEN DROP BOXES WERE NOT UNDER VIDEO SURVEILLANCE.
- 6 of the 12 reported that NO, there WAS NOT A TIME WHEN DROP BOXES WERE NOT UNDER VIDEO SURVEILLANCE.

(Q 22) Who is responsible for reviewing the Video Surveillance footage of Drop Boxes?

- 7 of the 12 cities and townships interviewed reported that SHERIFFS/ POLICE are responsible for reviewing the footage.
- 5 of the 12 reported that CITY CLERKS are responsible for reviewing the footage.
- 5 of the 12 reported that the IT DEPARTMENT is also responsible for reviewing the footage.

FOCUS POINTS

STAFFING

INTERNET ACCESS

ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCESS

REGISTRATION AUDITS (TEAMS, ERIC, DASHBOARD)

SECURITY CAMERAS

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

[Enter Tim's Analysis and Recommendations]



