Election Resiliency Communications Toolkit

Election officials know it's important to keep voters and community members educated during election season to ensure a resilient and transparent election process. This generic, nonpartisan resource includes basic information and links to several sources that can help navigate questions around election security, transparency, and accuracy.

1. **U.S. elections are safe, secure, and transparent.**
   Local and national leaders from both major political parties have consistently found no widespread fraud in US elections. This has been confirmed by federal law enforcement, security, and intelligence officials under the prior two administrations. An array of security measures is in place to safeguard elections.[1]

2. **Voting machines and tabulators do not rely on an internet connection on Election Day.**
   Cybersecurity experts have not found any remote manipulation of voting equipment on Election Day. While some jurisdictions use digital recording devices and others use paper ballots, all equipment used in elections is routinely tested before every election to verify accuracy and integrity. Election equipment must meet state and federal security standards. Some jurisdictions have an additional layer of local requirements and/or voluntary standards that make elections more secure.[2]

3. **Machine tabulators are more accurate than hand counts.**
   Many election offices use electronic tabulators to speed the vote-counting process and reduce errors. Machine counting has been found to have a lower error rate, be far faster, and be less expensive than other counting methods.[3]

4. **Post-election audits are routinely used to verify accuracy.**
   Many states require some type of audit after an election. Usually, this means that a small sample of votes that represents the broader community is double-checked for accuracy. Continual tracking of the ballots after they've been cast to ensure they're never tampered with is yet another layer of transparency and security.[4]

5. **Election results are unofficial until certified.**
   Preliminary results reported online or in the news media after polls close are unofficial results.[5] They may not include all mail-in or absentee ballots, ballots returned from overseas voters, and some precincts. This means results are only final once they have been certified by the appropriate local and state authorities.[6]

---

[1] https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac_assets/1/6/Electionsecurity_voter_pamphlet.pdf
[2] https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/voting-system-standards-testing-and-certification
[3] https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/elj.2017.0440
[4] https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/bestpractices/Chain_of_Custody_Best_Practices.pdf
[5] https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/election-results-canvass-and-certification
[6] https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/election-results-canvass-and-certification#Certification

6. **Election results reflect votes cast and not the preferences of election officials.**
   Most election administrators are duty-bound to report accurate results regardless of their personal preferences. Only the voters decide who wins a race – not election administrators, volunteers, or workers.[7]

7. **There is no evidence of widespread fraud.**
   Audits have repeatedly shown no pervasive irregularities in any statewide or national election that would have altered the results of a particular race. There are approximately 200,000 precincts in America and each state has its own system of election administration. The diversity of election systems across the country is a safeguard against large-scale manipulation.[8]

8. **Drop boxes are a safe ballot-return method.**
   Robust safeguards protect ballots returned via drop boxes from being tampered with, stolen, or destroyed. Many election offices have their drop boxes under 24-hour surveillance. Ballots delivered to drop boxes are retrieved by designated election officials, often in bipartisan teams, and then go through the same verification and authentication process as any other ballot.[9]

9. **Vote counting is open for observation.**
   Rigorous rules require a transparent vote-counting process. In many cases, representatives from major political parties and other monitors are invited to observe the vote-counting process, subject to rules and procedures that may vary across the 8,000 election jurisdictions in the United States. Processes for observation and challenging a ballot are in place in every jurisdiction.[10]

10. **Mail-in/absentee ballots are a safe and secure method of voting.**
    Local elections officials and their staff rigorously follow rules to ensure that the sanctity of a mailed or absentee ballot is always protected. Such safeguards can include matching a signature on a returned form or ballot envelope with the signature on a citizen's voter registration record, ensuring multiple ballots are not sent to, or returned from, the same voter, address and eligibility confirmation, and other protections.[11] [12]

11. **Poll workers are essential to ensure US elections are successful.**
    Most adults are eligible to volunteer at local precincts as a poll worker to help ensure elections run smoothly and transparently. It can be a great way to see how elections really work, dispel myths and rumors, and also serve your community.[13] Contact your local election office for details.

---

[7] https://www.ali.org/media/filer_public/8c/e0/8ce078e3-5b39-47ce-b393-4d5fbeec18be/ethical_standards_for_election_officials-jan2024.pdf
[8] https://www.eac.gov/voters/election-security
[9] https://www.cisa.gov/topics/election-security/rumor-vs-reality
[10] https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/policies-for-election-observers
[11] https://www.cisa.gov/topics/election-security/rumor-vs-reality
[12] https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/mail-voting-is-safe-secure/
[13] https://www.eac.gov/help-america-vote