



CENTER FOR
TECH AND
CIVIC LIFE

Annual Report **2024**

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TECHANDCIVICLIFE.ORG





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Catalyzing **excellent**
election administration
across every jurisdiction in
the United States.



Letter from our Executive Director

Tiana Epps-Johnson at the Alliance Debrief event in Chicago, 2024

Presidential election years are our Super Bowl at CTCL. We spend months and months in anticipation preparing and training for the big day. At CTCL, that looks like compiling and publishing comprehensive datasets so that voters nationwide have the information they need to make informed decisions when they cast their ballots. It looks like developing and providing election officials with best-in-class resources to make their election operations run reliably and securely. And it looks like advocating for robust, predictable funding so that election officials have the resources they need to support their voters, and in turn, our democracy.

Of course, instead of rooting for any particular team to win, for us at CTCL, the best possible outcome of Election Day is for voters across the country, no matter their zip code, to have their voices heard, and for election officials to be supported to run professional, secure, and inclusive elections. In 2024, thousands of election officials and volunteers showed up to deliver safe, secure, free, and fair elections for the American people. I'm honored and humbled that our team and our partners played a key role in supporting the election community to continue to meet the moment.

2024 was a year of audacious "firsts" for CTCL, advancing the field of election administration in new and exciting ways. With support from election officials and experts, we released voluntary, nonpartisan standards that define the shared

goals for all election departments across the U.S. We distributed over \$3.7 million in grants to over 350 rural and nonmetro election offices to help bridge the funding gap for administering safe and secure elections. We brought dozens of election officials to the Hill to meet with Members of Congress and lobby for their offices' needs for the very first time. We served as a research engine for the election field—releasing reports on local election official turnover and emergency spending in the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

As I reflect on the incredible foundation we laid in 2024, I'm filled with immense pride for the team we've built. The "firsts" we achieved this year are a testament to their unwavering commitment and the values we hold dear: determination, curiosity, collaboration, reflection, and inclusion.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are ready to build on this momentum and continue embracing new challenges. I have no doubt that with this extraordinary team, we will continue to make great strides down the field, each step propelling us toward our vision of a healthy democracy where every American thrives.

TIANA EPPS-JOHNSON

*Founder and Executive Director
Center for Tech and Civic Life*

Reaching More Voters with Civic Information

Local government officials have a direct impact on our lives. But all too often, we have very little information about them when it comes time to vote. That's where we come in. We provide affordable, open-source civic data, so that voters have access to the information they need to make informed decisions on their ballot.

Keeping civic information up-to-date in an election year

Since 2015, our Ballot Information Project has powered personalized ballot lookup tools built by Facebook, Google, Vote.org, and many more, and has been accessed hundreds of millions of times. Sourced directly from state and local election offices, the Ballot Information Project dataset includes every candidate from the federal level down to county level, along with websites, contact information, and short descriptions of each office's responsibilities.

In 2024, CTCL's Civic Information team worked hard to collect and publish public information about **primary and general elections in 53 U.S. states and territories, and elections in over 100 cities.** In addition to collecting data in our regular scope, we also collected off-cycle general election data in Wisconsin (April), Tennessee (August), and Alaska (October). We also expanded our dataset in 2024 to include

school board candidates in 12 states. Through our partnerships with organizations like Rock the Vote, Vote.org, ActiVote, and WeVote, **we reached hundreds of thousands of voters with accurate, nonpartisan ballot information.**

Throughout the election season, we worked diligently to update our Governance Project dataset as new officeholders were elected. This nationwide dataset of federal, state, and local elected officials includes officials' names, the offices they hold, party affiliation for partisan offices, contact information, websites, and social media handles. Maintaining an up-to-date Governance Project dataset helped to connect hundreds of thousands of constituents with accurate, nonpartisan officeholder information through partnerships like Google and ActiVote.



Connecting Spanish speaking voters with nonpartisan civic information

In 2024, CTCL expanded the impact of our nonpartisan ballot information to make it accessible to Spanish-speaking voters.

Spanish is the most commonly spoken language in the United States after English, and yet many Spanish-speaking voters have faced challenges in accessing vital election information in their native language. While Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires certain jurisdictions to provide election materials in languages other than English, these requirements apply to less than 5% of jurisdictions nationwide. This leaves many Spanish-speaking voters without sufficient nonpartisan resources to learn about candidates, issues, and offices on their ballots.

Until our 2024 program, there was no comprehensive dataset of ballot information available in Spanish, nor were there widely available online tools to look up that information in a way that was accessible and easy to use. This gap in resources has made it harder for Spanish-speaking voters to make informed decisions and fully engage in the democratic process.

CTCL is proud to have helped fill the gap. In 2024, we worked with a team of professional translators and proofreaders to translate our



1.8M
VOTERS REACHED



700K
VOTERS REACHED

“Increasing language access is essential to ensuring that every eligible voter can participate in the electoral process... Ultimately, language access enhances the fairness and transparency of elections, ensuring that all voices in our community are heard.”

ARMONDO SALUD

DEPUTY OF ELECTIONS, YOLO COUNTY, CA

Ballot Information Project dataset into Spanish, **creating the first and only nationwide dataset of ballot information available in both English and Spanish.** To connect voters with this information ahead of the 2024 general election, CTCL distributed grants to four non-partisan organizations to build fully translated Spanish ballot lookup tools and integrate them into existing nonpartisan voter engagement programs. This year's grantees include Vote.org, Rock the Vote, Poder Latinx, and Mi Familia Vota. We're proud to share that Vote.org reached nearly 700,000 voters with their ballot lookup tool this cycle, and Mi Familia Vota shared Rock the Vote's tool with over 1.8 million voters through nonpartisan canvassing, texting, and phone banking.



A phonebanking event run by Poder Latinx.

Diving deep into election official turnover

In 2024, thousands of new election officials stepped up to ensure our democracy ran smoothly.

In recent years, the high rate of local election officials (LEOs) leaving office has captured the public’s attention, prompting them to consider the implications for our elections. An average of 21% of county-elected LEOs began serving in 2021 and 26% began serving in 2023, which means that **in 2024, thousands of LEOs ran presidential, congressional, state, and local primary elections for the first time.**

Drawing on data from our Governance Project dataset, in 2024, CTCL collaborated with the Institute for Responsive Government (IRG) to produce a report to dive deeper into the data to shed light on the scope and context of LEO turnover. This report serves as the first part of a series researching LEO turnover and retention. The goal of this first report is to more comprehensively understand the extent of LEO turnover

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- **Not all states are experiencing high turnover.** Some states, including Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Iowa, have maintained stable levels of local election official tenure.
- **New election officials bring valuable experience.** While turnover may seem negative at first glance, many incoming LEOs have relevant government experience, helping to ensure continuity and stability in election administration. Additionally, new leaders bring innovative approaches to election security and accessibility.
- **State and national factors contribute to turnover.** The report identifies several factors—such as funding for election administration, support from state election departments, and the structure of local election offices—that may influence whether LEOs stay in their roles or leave.

**READ THE
FULL REPORT:**



<https://responsivegov.org/leo-report>



across the U.S. through snapshots of county-elected LEOs from 2019-2023 and to contextualize why LEO turnover might be happening. Ultimately, the desired outcome of this series is to provide insights about LEO turnover that are useful in advocating for much-needed resources for local election officials.

While our findings in this initial report affirm that there are high rates of LEOs leaving office, there is more to the story. As Sam Olikier-Friedland, Executive Director of the Institute for Responsive Government, noted: “While high turnover in

some states is concerning, the real story is that thousands of new local election officials are stepping up to ensure elections remain secure, accessible, and accurate.” Despite the mounting pressures—including threats, harassment, and a lack of resources—new leaders are rising to the occasion to safeguard our democracy with new perspectives, expertise, and backgrounds.

High levels of turnover also present an opportunity to press Congress to address the underlying needs of the election administration system. As Tiana Epps-Johnson, Founder and Executive

Director of CTCL, emphasized, “Just as local election officials are stepping up to serve their communities, federal, state, and local governments should step up to ensure they have the resources to succeed.” Adequate funding, peer support, and training opportunities are essential to ensure that local election officials can continue their critical work and remain in office.

“The real story is that thousands of new local election officials are stepping up to ensure elections remain **secure, accessible, and accurate.**”

SAM OLIKER-FRIEDLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IRG

What’s next?

While 2025 won’t be a major election year, we’ll still be working diligently to ensure that voters have the information they need to make informed decisions on their ballots in local elections. And we’ll continue to keep our datasets up-to-date and accurate; following the 2024 November general election, our team will be updating the contact information and social media information for over **21,500 officeholders** for our Governance Project dataset. On the research front, we’re looking forward to taking on more exciting research projects, and look forward to sharing more in 2025.

Presenting the turnover report at ESRA

In May, team members from CTCL’s Civic Information team had the opportunity to present at the Election, Science, Reform, and Administration Conference (ESRA) in Los Angeles. This annual conference brings together political scientists, election officials, and other leaders in the election administration space. The team presented findings from our [local election official turnover report](#) and set the stage for future research projects. We’re honored to have been able to showcase our work while elevating CTCL as a leader in the civic information space.



Associate Director of Government Services Keegan Hughes, Research Manager Barbara Davimora, and Strategy, Impact, and Learning Associate Saralyn Santos attend the ESRA conference.



Helping to Close Funding Gaps for Rural Election Offices

In 2024, we were humbled to grant over \$3.7 million to rural and nonmetro jurisdictions to help bridge the funding gap for administering safe and secure elections across the country.

CTCL's rural and nonmetro election infrastructure grant program

Leading up to the 2024 general election, local election departments across the U.S. unfortunately found themselves severely underfunded, especially after Congress cut Help America Vote Act funding to just \$55 million nationwide for FY24. Election officials in rural and nonmetro areas in particular continued to make it clear that one of their most pressing needs was funding, since most rural election offices do not receive regular funding from the federal government to administer federal elections.

In August 2024, CTCL launched the nonpartisan Rural and Nonmetro Election Infrastructure Grant Program in response to these funding challenges to provide crucial support to election offices in rural and nonmetro communities to help ensure that even the smallest jurisdictions would have the tools they need to administer elections smoothly and successfully. CTCL is proud to have played a role in this successful election cycle by granting over \$3.7 million to rural and nonmetro jurisdictions to help bridge the funding gap for administering safe and secure elections around the country.

In total 358 offices across 15 states received over \$3.7 million. The majority of offices receiving grants represent the smallest jurisdiction size (up to 5,000 eligible voters), receiving grants of up to \$5,000. But grantees also included small sized offices (5,001-25,000 eligible voters) and medium-sized offices (25,000-100,000 eligible voters).



\$3.7M +
DISTRIBUTED

358
ELECTION OFFICES

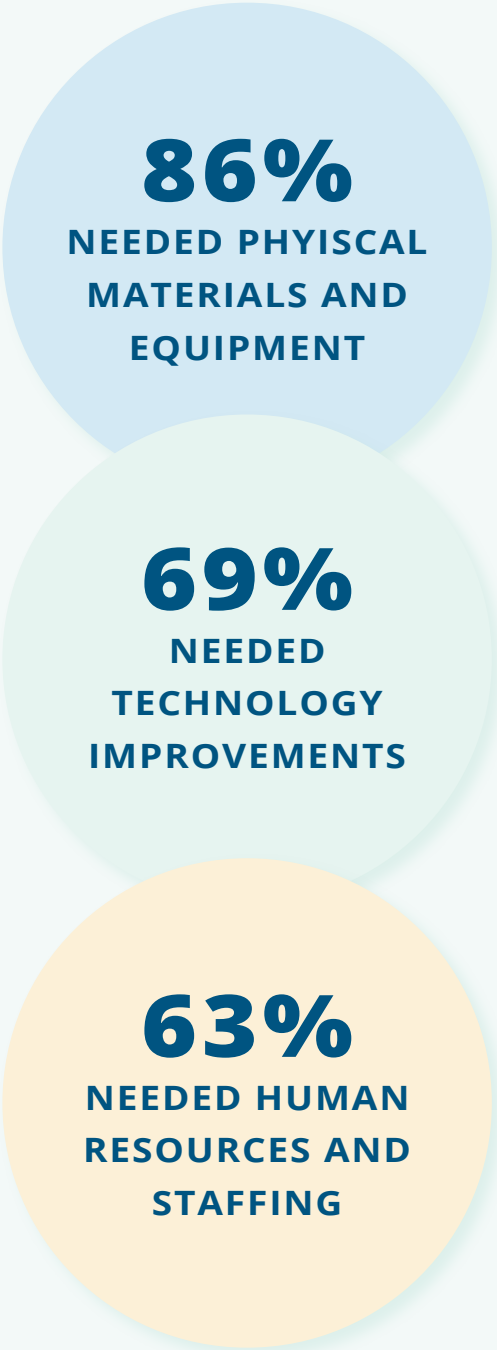
15
STATES

Big-ticket items and basic necessities

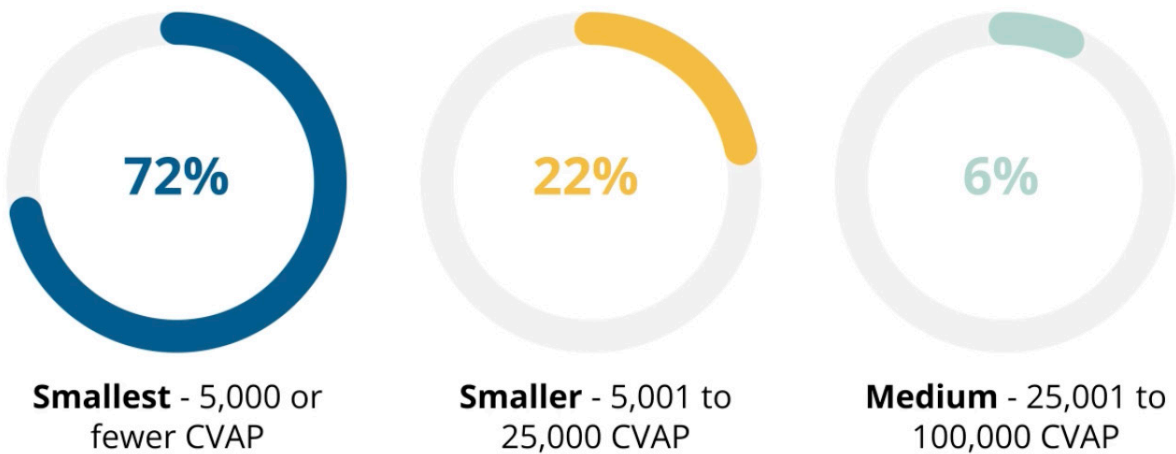
Offices applied for these grants for a variety of reasons, from covering specific or individual costs, to helping subsidize a general lack of funding needed for the 2024 election cycle and beyond. The top 5 most indicated reasons for applying for the grants were due to needing funding for:

- **One-time costs:** Election officials often face unexpected, one-time expenses that stretch their budgets and may not be covered by existing funding sources.
- **Big-ticket items:** Many jurisdictions need to purchase expensive equipment or technology upgrades, such as voting machines or secure servers.
- **Basic necessities:** Local governments, especially in rural areas, often lack the resources to cover basic needs like staffing, security measures, and access to essential services, including ADA compliance.
- **Gaps in basic services:** Due to insufficient funding, some election offices are forced to suspend even their bare minimum services.
- **Unfunded mandates:** Election offices are sometimes required to implement policies or standards that come with additional costs but without the corresponding funding to support them.

Notably, **many jurisdictions of all sizes intended to use grant funding to improve voting system security.** Election departments reported intending to purchase fireproof safes to store ballot materials, security cameras, locks, bulletproof glass, on-site deputies, and more.

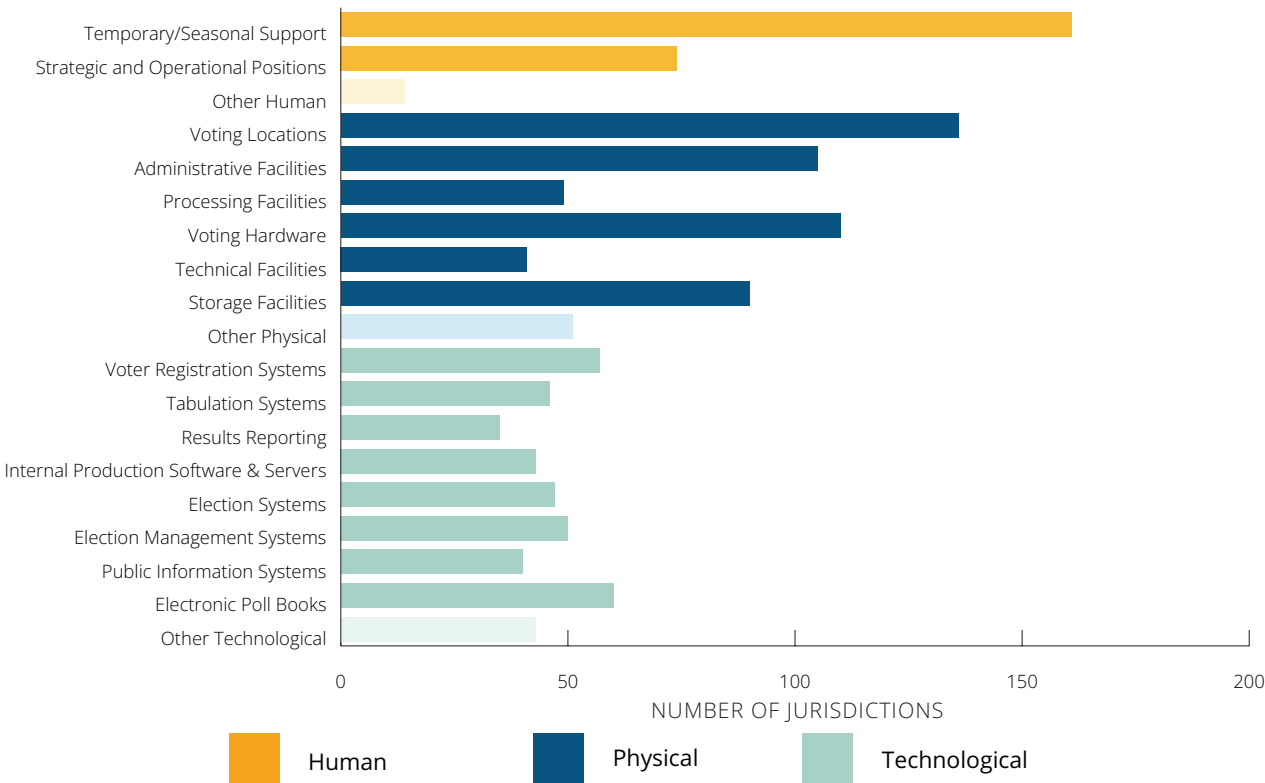


GRANTS BY JURISDICTION SIZE



CVAP= Citizen Voting Age Population

GRANTEE SPENDING PATTERNS



"We had heaters under the tables by the front door to keep our Election workers warm. We used waterproof storage bins to keep our ballots from getting damp in our vault ... Without this grant **we would have really struggled.**"

"Our **voting booths are over 40 years old** and were broken and hard to put together without getting hurt. The new ones pop right up and take so much less time to assemble - injury free!"

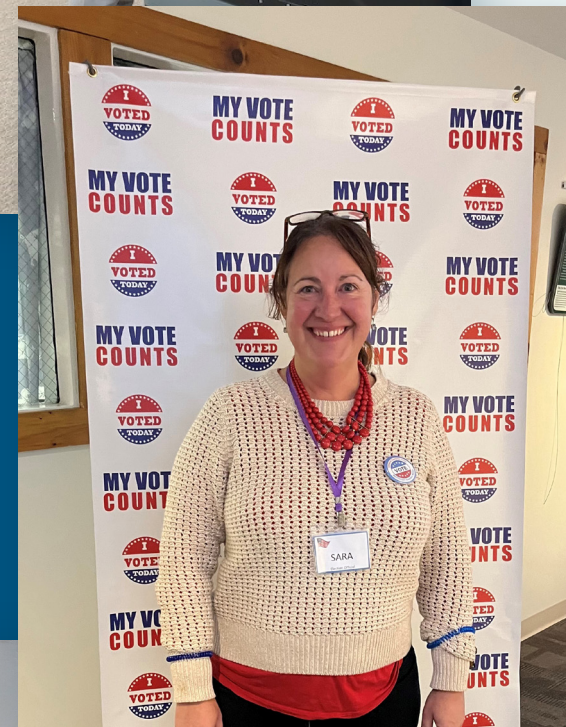
"I am not sure how we would have managed to timely process all the absentee ballots without the **additional manpower.**"

"Honestly, in a town with an **annual budget of \$400** for election supplies, this grant had a huge impact."

"The grant allowed me to recruit and train **14 additional volunteer poll workers** and surprise them with a gift card for a local business as a thank you."

"I am so excited to have these doors both open the way they should function and LOCK! **I've worried for the past two years** in my job."

"Many of our voters stop on their way home from work, so to have a **well lit parking lot** was great. It felt safer and our sign to remind people to stop was visible."



Modest grants, massive impacts

Where budgets are small, every dollar counts. Whether offsetting major investments in equipment, software or facilities, funding the postage and materials needed to conduct elections in person or by mail, or investing in Election Day security for poll workers and voters, grantees agreed that these funds would have an impact on the November election.

Overall, most offices (65.4%) reported that the money would have a "massive" impact on their election operations. Nearly all grantees receiving a grant of just \$5,000 or less (94%) said that receiving a grant of that amount would have a moderate to massive impact on their election operations. **That a grant of this size could have such an impact is a signal that the funding environment for local election offices remains very challenging.**

While the Rural and Nonmetro Election Infrastructure Grant program had a tremendous impact on its grantees, it is worth noting that **unmet needs and funding gaps persist for many rural and nonmetro election jurisdictions.** 38 offices requesting a total of \$265,000 asked to be added to the waitlist for grant funds, signaling that funding continues to be a challenge. While philanthropic programs such as this one may help fill gaps and address immediate needs, it is no substitute for robust, predictable government funding.

We continue to be in a process of listening to hard-working election officials across the country, to better understand their funding needs and how this grant program was one piece that helped them move towards excellence in election administration.



Funding Our Democracy

The Election Infrastructure Initiative advocates for reliable, predictable, and sufficient federal funding of elections, ensuring that election departments across America have the essential resources they need to serve voters.

Every election office in America should have the resources it needs to serve voters

We started off the year on a high note with the Election Infrastructure Initiative (EII) Coalition's first local election official advocacy day in January 2024. While hundreds of election officials were in D.C. for Election Center's Joint Election Officials Liaison Conference (JEOLC), we organized a Hill day where local election officials had meetings with 89 Members of Congress about their needs. We were inspired by the energy of election officials as they lobbied for themselves and their needs for the very first time, and we heard validating feedback from election officials and lawmakers alike. Building off of the success of this event, later, in August, we conducted our first pilot in-district advocacy day in 10 states during the August recess to establish a protocol that can be scaled in future years nationwide. These events were a boon for our bipartisan outreach and demonstrated the growing community that the EII Coalition has worked diligently to cultivate.

In March 2024, the EII Coalition helped successfully push Congress across the finish line to **secure \$55 million in elections infrastructure funding** for FY24. CTCL is proud of the work we did to activate election administrators, elected officials, and organizational partners to apply pressure on Congress to preserve the deal. \$1 million per state and \$200,000 per territory was distributed, providing election officials



EII was proud to receive an honorable mention from PR News' 2024 Impact Communication Awards for **Activism Campaign of the Year** for efforts to promote, impede, or direct social, political, economic, environmental reform and/or societal change.

with much needed resources during a busy election year. In a year with extremely challenging budget top-lines, HAVA Security Grants were the last grant line-item standing in the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Subcommittee bill, which is a reflection of relentless organizing from election administrators.

After celebrating that win, the EII Coalition shifted our focus to securing funds for FY25. Our team and partners activated ~300 county officials to submit appropriations requests and custom letters of support, and over 55,000 constituent authored request letters to Members of Congress advocating for \$400 million in elections funding for FY25. Plus, in the fall, we drafted and distributed a biweekly congressional newsletter, educating over 2,000 members of the Hill on all things election administration and funding.

For the first time, the EII Coalition expanded its capacity, by working with our EII

Coalition partner, the Institute for Responsive Government Action, to bring on a Senior Advisor for Election Infrastructure to be a regular presence at the Capitol, along with a team of four lobbyists to prepare the ground for a broader election infrastructure campaign in the 119th Congress to begin expanding our network on the Hill.

EII ended the year with Coalition partners and election officials having had over 450 meetings with lawmakers over the course of 2024, and our hard work paid off: dozens of bipartisan Appropriators publicly expressed their support for election infrastructure including committee and subcommittee leadership, and we solidified Chairwoman Collins as a champion of HAVA Security Grants. And the EII Coalition drafted authorizing legislation for the upcoming Congress to protect election infrastructure funding. All the while, we were able to position ourselves as go-to experts on election funding needs.

Engaging with and elevating the voices of local election officials

CTCL also continued our grassroots efforts to connect with election officials and reinforce the pressing need for increased federal funding to support them. **In 2024, we had a presence at a total of 71 state and regional association meetings.** We organized over 1,100 local election officials to take action on the Election Infrastructure Initiative by participating in biweekly partner calls, submitting requests, drafting op eds, meeting with their legislators, and signing petitions.

We also established an expanded annual partnership with the National Association of Counties, and have been particularly involved in the election subcommittee. Through this

partnership, we regularly educate county commissioners and election officials on how to build bipartisan relationships nationwide. One highlight from this partnership was a resolution led by Katharine Clark from Santa Fe, NM in July, endorsing expanding HAVA funds for election administration.

We're proud to have supported local election officials from across the country in making their voices heard about the urgent need for elections infrastructure funding. Supportive statements like these from state and local officials help ensure that the public and congress are aware of the need for sustained funding.



EII visits Washington, D.C. in January 2024.



We should move toward right-sizing federal investment.

JOHN THURSTON
ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE
TALK BUSINESS & POLITICS, MAY 26, 2024



As a Republican ... I firmly believe that investing in the security and efficiency of our electoral process is paramount.

LUIS A. VALDEZ-JIMENEZ
FLORIDA POLITICS, APRIL 4, 2024

“Paw-Ped” workshop for election officials

We held a “paw-ped” workshop at the Partnership for Large Elections Jurisdictions conference in Minneapolis in July 2024. Election officials had the chance for some R&R with adorable therapy dogs while we supported them in crafting an op-ed about election infrastructure funding.



Therapy dogs and their owners attend the “paw-ped” workshop at PLEJ.

Federal grants election infrastructure webinar series

As election officials wait for election appropriations, finding out about current federal funding opportunities can be overwhelming. That’s why we launched a new webinar series in 2024, led by national federal grants expert, Dan Meuse, where we shared our expertise and educated election officials about navigating the application process for federal grant opportunities.

Finally, the Department of Education provided new guidance in 2024 that state and local elections offices could hire college students that were eligible for Federal Work Study benefits free of charge. This was a pilot opportunity



available to election offices nationwide to help ease workforce limitations and budget constraints. To ensure election officials were aware of and could take advantage of this opportunity, we collaborated with Secretaries of State and higher education partners to develop publicly available guidance, generic job descriptions, and other educational materials for local clerks to hire college students in elections offices via Federal Work Study funds. In partnership with the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), we led a webinar titled Partnering with Higher Education: Expanding the Election Administration Workforce.

Partnering with Higher Education

Expanding the Election Administration Workforce

Date: Thursday, May 16th

Time: 12:00PM EST - 1:00 PM EST





Providing rapid response crisis support to election departments in need

One thing is clear each election season: when the unexpected inevitably happens, election officials need accurate information and support as soon as possible. That's why we put together a publicly available list of contact information of national organizations that can support election officials through emergencies, including government agencies and nonprofit organizations, and we published this nonpartisan resource ahead of Election Day so that thousands of election officials could keep it handy—just in case.

The 2024 election cycle had its fair share of unanticipated events, the FBI thwarting a terrorist threat to Oklahoma elections, and Hurricanes Helene and Milton impacting elections offices and elections mail. In each case, our team jumped into action to compile and disseminate the facts, push for emergency funding, and ensure that election officials could request emergency funding themselves.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, our team engaged in rapid response,

advocating for FEMA grants to be utilized for emergency continuation of election services and rehabilitation of voting equipment and facilities. Plus, we helped publicize information relating to USPS closures and service disruptions.

After the November election, we began research that would ultimately lead to a robust emergency report to estimate the emergency spending and imminent costs that election offices would need to take on for recovery and restoration from Hurricanes Helene and Milton.



At Jeffersontown High School in Louisville, Kentucky, hundreds of voters waited over two hours to cast their ballots due to slowdowns from the e-poll book system. [Courier Journal](#).



Top: Voters cast their ballots on Election Day, 2024 in a Black Mountain, North Carolina temporary voting site. [Reuters](#).

Bottom: The North Fork Voting House in Creston, North Carolina was destroyed by Hurricane Helene. [Ashe County Board of Elections via ABC News](#).

**READ THE
FULL REPORT:**



What's next?

We've spent years making election infrastructure funding a nonpartisan issue, and we're proud of the work we've done to build a strong foundation of bipartisan support from local, state, and federal stakeholders, led by a wide base of local election administrators. 2025 budget negotiations continue to be very tense, but our team and the EII Coalition worked tirelessly before the March 15 continuing resolution deadline to preserve \$75M in Help America Vote Act Funding. We'll work to be as nimble as possible in engaging in the discretionary budget, reconciliation process, and eventual introduction of authorizing legislation.

We aim to attend state association of election official conferences in all 50 states over the course of 2025. With an expanded team of 10, we'll be able to take full advantage of organizing opportunities to ultimately move closer to our objective of ensuring election officials receive predictable, robust government funding.



Catalyzing Excellence in Election Administration



Setting the standards for election excellence

2024 marked the two-year anniversary of the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence. We've accomplished a great deal since April of 2022: recruiting our inaugural cohort of Centers for Election Excellence, collaborating to draft and publish the first set of voluntary, nonpartisan Standards for Election Excellence, and curating and releasing generic, nonpartisan resources to help election departments achieve excellence.

Alongside a new website launch in February, we released the second set of draft voluntary, nonpartisan Standards for Election Excellence. This set of standards focused on communications, and included everything from effectively

distributing information to voters, to building and maintaining relationships with the media. In June, the Alliance released the next set of voluntary, nonpartisan standards focused on ballots and audits.

With three sets of Standards for Election Excellence out in the world, the Alliance has made lots of progress toward defining what excellent elections look like. And with each set of standards, we've gathered critical feedback from local election officials, election experts, and voter-supporting organizations to ensure that they are both achievable and impactful.

Behind the scenes of American democracy

are thousands of election officials in state and local governments working hard to make sure ballots are counted and voices are heard. CTCL supports election officials across the country with tools, training, and best practices to ensure U.S. elections are more inclusive and secure.



To complement the standards, and support election officials in gearing up for the 2024 primaries and general election, we also released several nonpartisan, generic professional development resources for election officials. In 2024, we added several new offerings to the Alliance resource library, including customizable voter outreach content, a post-election debrief toolkit, and a crisis communications toolkit. Plus, we hosted several publicly available webinars for

election officials to sharpen their communication and poll worker recruitment skills, and released a beta version of a training video game for poll workers to practice de-escalation techniques. In an effort to support election officials leading up to Election Day, we also hosted five monthly “Community of Practice” sessions—a space for a small group of election officials to share guidance, support, and best practices with one another.



IN THE ALLIANCE'S FIRST TWO YEARS:

26 sets of standards released across 6 categories

80 average attendees at in-person events

15 Centers for Election Excellence

6 partners involved

17 resources released

3,359 resource downloads

111 members of the election community gave feedback on the standards

Welcoming new election officials to the field

For the first time, in the fall of 2024, where legally permissible, we shipped out welcome boxes to election officials that were new to the elections field, welcoming them to the field and making sure they knew about the Alliance’s publicly available nonpartisan resources to help make running their first presidential election just a bit smoother. This was truly a cross-department collaboration, as we used data from our Civic Information team’s 2019-2023 Governance Project dataset, as well as the 2023 Local Election Official dataset to identify election officials who were new to the field. Our co-founder Tiana Epps-Johnson also added a personal touch by signing the welcome postcards to each official.



What’s next?

2025 is set to be a momentous year for the Alliance. We kicked off the year by finalizing and releasing the final three sets of nonpartisan Standards for Election Excellence. We’re thrilled that the complete set of 26 standards across 6 categories are now available to the public. As always, we’ll open those standards up to feedback from the elections community, and update them based on that feedback.

Around that same time in early 2025, we marked the close of the inaugural cohort’s 2-year journey as Centers for Election Excellence. We hosted an in-person event, The Debrief, to celebrate Centers’ participation in the program, acknowledging all that they contributed towards developing the values and standards and helping to define excellence for election administration nationwide. The event was also an opportunity for Centers and Alliance partners to reflect on the challenges and learnings from administering the 2024 elections.

With the inaugural cohort closed, we transitioned to recruiting and kicking off our second cohort of Centers for Election Excellence—the Pathfinders. With the comprehensive set of standards in place, election offices in this Pathfinder cohort will focus on researching what it takes to achieve the standards and chart pathways for the field. They’ll help deepen understanding of what resources are required to run excellent elections, how much excellent election administration costs, and how achieving excellence impacts voters. And they’ll be first in line to pursue official recognition through the Alliance certification platform. As we focus on recruiting

and leading the Pathfinder cohort, we anticipate focusing heavily on scalability and sustainability, so that we can ensure we can scale from supporting 75 offices today to 4x that size in coming years.

Finally, we’ll spend 2025 laying the groundwork for the new Alliance certification program, to be launched in 2026. This program will recognize election departments’ performance alongside the Alliance nonpartisan standards. A voluntary framework that includes self-study, the certification program will provide nonpartisan support and incentives to local election departments to meet high standards.

We’re so proud of the work we’ve done through the Alliance to create a vision for what excellent U.S. election administration looks like. We can’t wait to bring more election departments on board to explore what their path to excellence can be.





@HelloCTCL
techandcivicle.org



CENTER FOR
TECH AND
CIVIC LIFE

