Defending the Front Door and the Firewall
Improving the Cyber and Physical Security of Your Elections

NCSL Legislative Summit 2021
Introduction
Cyber
Physical
Discussion
Maurice Turner

Alliance for Securing Democracy (ASD) at the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)
United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT)
United States Senate
Other public & private sector organizations

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Alliance for Securing Democracy

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Ransomware-as-a-Service
Phishing for credentials
Confusing voters
Risks

- System disruption by foreign actors or hacktivists
- Accessing voter files & ballot definitions
- Fake websites

Reported Ransomware Attacks Against Schools per Year

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Mitigations

Vulnerability Disclosure Policy, Software updates, VVSG 2.0
Multi-factor Authentication & Zero-Trust Networking
.gov domain name
Threats

Ballot tampering

Equipment chain of custody

Violence against election officials & poll workers
Risks

Drop boxes
Local, shared, or cloud-based equipment
Amplification of misinformation

Center for Social Media and Politics at NYU

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Mitigations

Video surveillance

Limiting & logging access

Civic leadership
Discussion
Average Ransomware Payment

$100,000

Vulnerabilities Patched by Microsoft This Year

900
How will the US respond to a deliberate, persistent cyber attack on Election Day?

What happens when there aren’t enough poll workers because they fear for their safety?