How Did the 2020 Election Change the Election Integrity Landscape?

A Perspective on Local Election Officials

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AUBURN ROLE IN ELECTIONS
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH & PRACTICE INITIATIVE

- Training
- Technical assistance
- Research
- Graduate certificate
- Journal of Election Administration Research & Practice
WHO ARE LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS?

WHAT WE KNOW (OR THINK WE KNOW)

- ~7,000 jurisdictions
  - ~line staff ½ - 500
  - ~176,933 precincts
  - ~132,566 polling places
  - ~775,101 poll workers

- Officials
  - Female
  - Majority > 50 yrs old
  - Salaries vary widely
WHO ARE LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS?

PROFESSIONALISM

Professionalization Index 1.0, 2020 Data
WHO ARE LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS?

ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

- POLITICS
  - Partisan views about participation
- PROFESSIONALISM
  - Influence of networks, partner organizations
- RESOURCES
  - Influence of private sector
  - Lack of resources
- DEMANDS
  - Implications of outdated systems
WHAT DO ELECTION OFFICIALS NEED?

AND WHAT THEY WANT

• High satisfaction
• High sense of respect
• Not satisfied w/ $
• Higher knowledge than public, BUT
  Sense of the integrity of the results somewhat mirrors public

▸ Flexibility to innovate
▸ Reasonable deadlines to implement new law
▸ Many: greater financial support for work
▸ Greater protections