Election Officials: Structure Qualifications Training

POLICY ON ELECTION SYSTEMS

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Election Practices

- Vary greatly across the US
- Have different local and state structures
  - Appointed/elected
  - Centralized/decentralized
  - Single office/multiple offices
  - Single function/multiple functions
  - Voting systems
  - Ballot production
  - Financial support
Election Practices

- Use different and multiple methods
  - Early voting
  - No-excuse absentee
  - Vote centers
  - Provisional ballot cures
  - Run-offs
  - Recounts
  - Canvass and certification
  - Audits
Questions

- How are election officials prepared?
- Why does this matter? (~1%)
- What predicts state readiness and/or capacity?
  - To follow state election law
  - To meet voter expectations
Professionalism Matters

- Linked to better election performance regardless of structure or methods
- Grounded in
  - education and training/common knowledge and skills
  - networking
  - active exchange of ideas
  - ethical code
  - common language and expectations
PROFESSIONALISM INDEX

Theoretical Model

- Professional Training
  - State training
  - Other training

- State Assn Strength
  - Presence
  - Capacity

- National Presence
  - Leadership
  - Visibility

Professionalism Index
In Practice

▸ How can I know that people are doing what they are supposed to be doing?
▸ Will more training help?
▸ Will legislative training mandates help?
Create Multiple Types of Expertise

- Networking
  - National and state associations
- Professional certification
  - National and state options
  - CERA/Election Center + Auburn University
  - Example - FSASE
- University-based education
  - Auburn University
  - University of Minnesota
YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

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