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Center for Inclusive Democracy at USC Launches
Ballot Return Tool for Georgia

The Digital Tool Will Provide Daily Ballot Return Numbers
by County Precinct Up Until Jan. 5 Runoff Elections

Los Angeles, December 18, 2020 – The Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID) at the University of Southern California Price School of Public Policy School announced today the statewide roll-out of its Ballot Return Tool in Georgia. The Tool will provide election officials, voting advocates and the general public up-to-date numbers of ballots cast both by mail and in-person from now until the state’s January 5, 2021 U.S. Senate runoff elections.

Using voter registration data provided by the Georgia Secretary of State’s (SOS) Office, the web-based Ballot Return Tool provides visualized data maps of ballots returned by registered voters at the county precinct level. Numbers will be updated daily by CID using data publicly provided by the Georgia SOS Office.

“Given the significance of the upcoming U.S. Senate runoff elections in Georgia, our new online Ballot Return Tool will provide important up-to-date information and visualized data to election officials working to serve voters, which can be a particularly challenging task in the midst of a pandemic,” said Mindy Romero, Ph.D., director of CID at the USC Price School. “Equally important, this Tool will allow for greater transparency around the voting process, as well as provide communities the opportunity to better track voting and plan last-minute voter services and outreach.”

The Ballot Return Tool was first used in Los Angeles County during the 2020 General Election. It is the second web-based application offered by CID this year to help election officials and voting advocates plan election-related decision making and outreach. In August, CID expanded its Voting Location Siting Tool—a web-based interactive data mapping system initially launched in CA in 2018—to nine additional states, including Georgia. The Siting Tool helps communities identify accessible vote centers and polling places likely to have the most success serving voters. Its robust and detailed data maps have been widely used to inform voter outreach efforts at the community level.

CID Director Mindy Romero, Ph.D., will give a live demonstration of the Georgia Ballot Return Tool on Monday, Dec. 21, at 3:00 p.m. EST/12:00 p.m. PST. Media can RSVP HERE.

About the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID)
The Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID), formerly known as the California Civic Engagement Project, is part of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and is based in Sacramento. CID conducts a range of national and multi-state research initiatives exploring voting behavior, civic engagement, electoral and economic research, the intersection of social justice and democracy, and more. Its non-partisan research informs and empowers a wide
range of policy and organizing efforts aimed at eliminating disparities in social and economic well-being. Now a cornerstone project nested within CID’s larger umbrella, the California Civic Engagement Project continues to produce groundbreaking resources and research for California.

About the USC Price School of Public Policy
CID is housed within the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and based in the Price School Sacramento Center. Since 1929, the Price School has defined excellence and innovation in public affairs education and research. Ranked third nationwide among “America’s Best Graduate Schools” for public affairs, according to the U.S. News & World Report, the USC Price School faculty, scholars and students help shape the world around us. Graduates of the Price School fulfill and extend the School’s mission to improve the quality of life for people and their communities at home and abroad. The Price Sacramento Center was established in 1971 to ensure that key research finds its needed audience of policy makers and stakeholders in the state capital.

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