Overview of Democracy Fund Elections Program

NASED Summer Conference 2017
August 23rd, 2017
Program Focus: Modern Elections

We believe the American people deserve modern elections as part of a responsive political system. New technologies and smarter processes can help reduce barriers to voting, improve integrity and public trust in the electoral system.
"To understand the elections system in the United States, you need to understand..."

- Election processes that don’t meet voter needs decrease trust in elections
- Decreased trust in elections and voter engagement increases pressure on policy makers to improve the system
- Successful adoption and implementation of bipartisan policies and best practices make election administration more effective
- Some policies are uniquely prone to political gamesmanship, which does not lead to more effective election administration
Grantees and Funding
Total Elections Spending by Program, 2012-2016

- $7,960,915
- $5,625,000

- Election Administration
- Money in Politics
Money in Politics Breakdown, 2012-2016

- General Operating Support: $3,725,000
- Project Grants: $1,900,000

Election Administration Breakdown, 2012-2016

- General Operating Support: $4,860,915
- Project Grants: $3,100,000
### Project Grantees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Program Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bipartisan Policy Center</td>
<td>Program support for the Democracy Program's work on the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA), which includes research and technical assistance for election officials seeking to adopt best practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pew Charitable Trusts</td>
<td>Program support for the Elections Initiative team, which seeks to provide support to states seeking to achieve the highest standards of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, convenience, and security of elections administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demos.org</td>
<td>Program support for their work in enforcing the “Motor Voter” requirements of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
<td>Program support for the Polling Place of the Future project, which builds and refines free-access tools that reduce long lines and provides other research support for election officials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCSL</td>
<td>Program support for the National Conference of State Legislatures for its work on information sharing between state legislators and elections officials, as well as funding models for election administration costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOAA Military Officers Association of America</td>
<td>The Military Voter Education Project will allow the MOAA Military Family Initiative to leverage new marketing efforts and current publications to inform and remind members of the military and their families of their federal rights as a UOCAVA (Uniformed Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act) voter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PROJECT GRANTEEES

- **William & Mary Law School**

  The Election Law Program, a joint project of William & Mary Law School and the National Center on State Courts, proposes to provide reliable, updatable State Election Law Wikis for state and federal court judges for the purpose of aiding them in reaching election law decisions in a prompt and fair manner.

  Program support through Democracy Works for electiononline.org, which provides the election administration community with unfiltered news and information, communicates innovation, and fosters information sharing across jurisdictions.

- **Center for Election Innovation & Research**

  The Center for Election Innovation & Research, supported through the Hopewell Fund, is committed to research, convening, and leadership, as a resource for information. They aim to help the elections improve the conduct of elections and public confidence in those processes and systems.

  Program support for survey work of public opinions about election administration and ongoing field and public communication of those results.
The TurboVote program explores low-cost ways to increase civic engagement and voting through new civic technology and improving processes and data. Their aim is to make voting easier through use of technology and support for elections administrators and voters.

CTCL focuses on three areas: training local election officials to better inform voters through the use of technology, developing low- to no-cost tools for governmental use, and helping develop infrastructure to allow the capture of data during interactions between citizens and government.

Center for Civic Design designs voter and election materials that accommodate the needs of individuals of all educational levels, backgrounds, and skill levels.

Common Cause Education Fund seeks to improve election administration and the role of money in politics. At the national level, Common Cause Education Fund shapes conversations about voting and elections. Its state chapters build local coalitions to strengthen our democracy.
Strategy
Eligible citizens are motivated to vote, can do so with ease, and trust that election outcomes are fair and legitimate.

A modern, voter-centric election system

Modernize Voter Registration Systems

Support Motor Voter litigation, education, and technical support

Develop and integrate technology and tools into management practices

Create and support a network of election officials

TBD

Next Steps: Network!
Research plays a critical role in the work that we do.

In the next few weeks will be releasing Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES) findings.

This is a sneak peak…
Higher strong approval for local officials.

Strong disapproval lower than for state official.
Most poll workers receive a positive rating.

The more contact a voter has, the more “local” the official is, one can conclude the higher the approval rating.
CCES also surveys the respondent’s understanding of some basics.

Although the majority of voters gave the CORRECT answer to this question, the percent who gave the WRONG answer is very high (& part of list maintenance challenge).
Knowledge of online voter registration (OVR) in the state

- Data can be used to help with voter education & outreach.
1 in 4 voters said that they didn’t have OVR, but they do.
Half the voters who said that they *didn’t know, do* have OVR.
12% of the voters said that they *had* OVR, when they *didn’t*.

Consider what 12% of your registrations would be…
RESEARCH

Top sources of registration deadline information

- This data demonstrates the need for keeping websites current!
- Also noting that the “Search Engine” category is second to official sites shows the impact of partnerships like VIP and with Google.
Eligible citizens are motivated to vote, can do so with ease, and trust that election outcomes are fair and legitimate.

A modern, voter-centric election system

Modernize Voter Registration Systems

Support Motor Voter litigation, education, and technical support

Develop and integrate technology and tools into management practices

Create and support a network of election officials

TBD

NORTH STAR

NEAR STAR

STRATEGIES

TRACKS
Network

Making connections for better elections.
• We know that there are many resources available, but knowledge of what is out there has not saturated the profession.

• We know that election officials want additional information to improve their processes, but have limited resources.
State Associations

- Communication channel for state associations.
- Ability to share conference:
  - Agendas
  - Curriculums
  - Speakers
- Contact information
Election resources from all your favorite organizations:

- EAC
- FVAP
- CTCL tool kit
- MEDSL tools
- Etc.
A comprehensive list of professionalism trainings that are available:

- Election Center
- IGO
- University of MN
- EAC Election Mgmt Guides
- CTCL Summer classes
- Original content too!
News

- Electionline
- Electionland
- Listing of relevant bloggers
- Calendar of events:
  - National conferences
  - State Association mtgs
  - EAC public meetings
  - Congressional hearings
  - Election Dates?
  - Your public meetings? Press conferences?
- A place to post new projects.
- Notion that it would be a 1 page summary/teaser.
• Would it be helpful to have a central repository for election-related research when it is published?
• Would it be helpful to have listings of some of the national organizations working in elections?

• Limited to those who participate in advisory boards?
Marketplace?

- Possible place for vendors to advertise their products.
- Links to EAC RFP archives & best procurement practices.