Securing the Election
Frontline

NASED Winter 2019
Texas Landscape

• 254 counties
• Decentralized election structure
• No direct relationship with vendors
HAVA Part II

- Texas share with the match is over 24 million
- Title I money for election improvement
- Specific improvement emphasized is election security
Leveraging existing structure

- Not enough money for a meaningful grant program
- State Department of Information Resources (DIR) contract
- **Procurement already done for security services**
- Easy onboarding for the counties to contract with DIR and order the service
Election Security Assessments

• Tailored to Texas
• Includes full cyber assessment using the NIST framework
• Goes beyond that to look at physical security policies and procedures
• Personalized and actionable report of results
• Report goes to the county only—State gets only aggregate results to inform any potential policy changes
Timeline

• Goal is to have as many assessments completed by this fall as possible
• There is money to assist with remediation, but we don’t know yet how far it will go
• Intention is to have necessary remediations accomplished by summer of 2020
Future Steps

• Asked in our budget request for personnel and travel budget to continue this work into the future.

• Traveling to the counties and training them on security and election procedures will further our assist and advise capability
Direct Relationship Assessment

• We have worked with the DIR vendor to perform a similar assessment on our voter registration database
• We are scheduling a DHS risk and vulnerability assessment as well
• Installed the Albert sensor and instituted other traffic pattern monitoring and assessment tools