



State Office: Iowa Secretary of State Paul D. Pate

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Title of Program: Be the Expert: A Three-Pronged Approach to Positioning County Election Commissioners as Trusted Sources

Project lead: Michael Ross, Deputy Secretary and Chief of Staff

Description of the program: Local election officials play a critical role in maintaining the integrity and public trust of elections, particularly amid unprecedented turnover rates that have seen nearly 40% of officials nationwide and just over 30% of Iowa officials being new to their roles prior to the 2024 General Election. To address these challenges, Iowa's Secretary of State Paul Pate has implemented the "Be the Expert" program, a comprehensive initiative designed to support and train county election commissioners, ultimately helping to build public confidence in the electoral process. The efforts show promising results and boost trust in elections among Iowans. A 2024 Iowa Poll revealed that 91% of likely Iowa voters now have confidence in state elections, a significant increase from previous years.

Subject area of nomination: Elections



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local election officials are integral to safe, secure, and fair elections. As the frontlines to the elections process, their access to resources and their positions in the community is key to building trust in elections across the nation.

Ensuring local county officials have the necessary resources and training to administer smooth and accurate elections is particularly challenging today, while we are seeing increased turnover rates amongst local election officials. Prior to the 2024 General Election, nearly 40% of all election officials nationwide were new to their roles, with turnover rates at their highest in at least two decades. In Iowa, election offices faced similar challenges – a third of county election commissioners had never administered a presidential general election. This turnover rate has been relatively standard over the last few years.

Lack of firsthand experience and training can result in mistakes, which are usually avoidable. Mistakes further diminish public trust in elections, which is already at low levels. In Iowa, there are between 100 and 200 elections a year. Training and preparedness for county election commissioners and their staff must be a year-round effort.

As the state commissioner of elections, Secretary of State Paul Pate works closely with his staff and local election officials in all of Iowa's 99 counties on a layered program that goes beyond training and administrative procedures required by Iowa law. Our "Be the Expert" program encapsulates our efforts to support election officials and help present election leaders in a favorable light – as trusted sources and election experts. By positioning auditors as trusted sources of election information in their communities, we are ensuring the public can trust them and the elections they administer and that county commissioners and their teams are perceived as knowledgeable, trusted experts. Collectively, it builds on our efforts statewide to be trusted sources to make sure our office and election officials have a good reputation for administering safe and secure elections on behalf of Iowa voters.

Iowa's 99 county auditors play critical roles in administering safe and secure elections. As the county's commissioner of elections, auditors and their staff conduct county, city, school, state, and federal elections and maintain voter records.

This effort provides county auditors with tangible tools and actionable steps to not only administer secure elections, but engage with their community, from the public to other local county officials. This three-pronged approach integrates training and relationship building with cybersecurity support and communications resources.

"91% of Iowans have trust in Iowa elections, a significant increase from previous years."

-2024 Iowa Poll



We have seen Iowans' trust in elections build in the past few years. A 2024 Iowa Poll found that 91% of likely Iowa voters had confidence in Iowa elections and 74% in national elections. This is a significant increase from 2022 when only 65% of likely Iowa voters indicated they had confidence in U.S. elections, and 30% reported they were “doubtful 2022 results across the U.S. would be counted as voters intended.”

HISTORY

Since Secretary Pate took office in 2015, the initiatives in our training program have evolved from the first iteration including attendance at county association conferences and an 800-page printed paper handbook, which pre-dated Secretary Pate's term. The handbook has been in its current format for more than 20 years, and has been maintained, updated, and expanded over the course of that time by several administrations. Today's program integrates an interactive online portal with resources, hands-on tabletop exercises, proactive and reactive press support, and intricate cybersecurity assistance.

TIMELINE

- Prior to 2015 – Election Administrator Handbook (EAH) was distributed to all 99 county auditors.
- Prior to 2015 – Began attending the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) annual conference to build relationships with other county officials, including county commissioners/board of supervisors who are key decision-makers. Our presence included a booth in the exhibit hall.
- 2018 – Provided hands-on tabletop exercises for county election commissioners and their local election teams (including IT, emergency management administrators (EMAs), law enforcement and sheriffs, etc.) with support from the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).
- 2020 – Instituted weekly virtual meetings for the six weeks leading up to a primary or general election and two weeks following for “just in time” training and information distribution.
- 2021 – Created an electronic version of the election administrator handbook.
- 2021 – Launched Bug Bounty partnership with counties and enhanced cybersecurity support provided by the state for local county election offices.
- 2022 – Modernized the online version of the election administrator handbook to format for more intuitive searching and guided user experience.
- 2022 – Implemented training sessions separated into six districts for smaller groups and tailored experiences, thus meeting local officials closer to their home counties.
- 2024 – Launched Law Enforcement Guidebook for county law enforcement and auditors
- 2025 – In the process of transitioning the election administrator online database to an interactive portal with new tools



The program continues to adapt as new needs arise and the landscape evolves. The next iteration of the online portal will include a program that allows election officials to submit a date of an upcoming local election, automatically updating a calendar with key dates and deadlines required by Iowa law. Our office will continue our cybersecurity presence among the counties as technology evolves, including a higher concentration on social engineering and how these tactics can assist bad actors in attacking our systems and demonstrating the impact of AI in elections community and infrastructure.

SIGNIFICANCE

In Iowa, we believe our elections are only as strong as our frontlines – from poll workers to county commissioners, these individuals play a critical role in strengthening our election processes and ensuring election integrity for Iowans in all 99 counties. Iowa’s three-pronged approach to supporting county officials positions them as trusted sources and provides them with the necessary resources to “Be the Expert.” The approach combines in-person visits for new county commissioners, updated Incident Response Plans (IRP), and more fully integrated cyber training with the rest of our training for effect and to help counties build on their images with their constituents and position themselves as trusted sources and election experts. In turn, these efforts loop back into our priorities of increasing trust in elections and positioning our office as a trusted source for Iowans.

Be the Expert: combines training, resources, cybersecurity assistance, and communication support to position county election officials as trusted sources and election experts.

Because of the increased turnover rate of local election officials, year-round training and opportunities for intra-county relationship building on election efforts are of the utmost importance. Relationships between county departments such as emergency managers, IT directors, law enforcement, and election offices are critical in administering smooth elections and handling any potential crises that may pop up around or during an election. Our office emphasized fostering opportunities to develop these relationships – both between county departments and between our office and specific county agencies – which has allowed for safer and smoother elections in all corners of the state.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Providing hands-on opportunities for local county officials has proven critical in providing counties with the necessary support to administer a clean, fair, and smooth election. 2024 national research showed that many local governments are struggling more than ever with limited budgets, small staffs, and high turnover rates. Unfortunately, this is reflected in county election offices across Iowa, and as such, there is not enough time or resources to dedicate to the detailed training necessary to run efficient elections.



Our office has staff dedicated to training opportunities, and over the last year, we have invested more time and resources than ever before in enhancing training opportunities for local election officials.

In-person and virtual training and tabletop exercises

Our ongoing training sessions include:

- Weekly virtual meetings for the six weeks leading up to a primary, general or city-school election and four weeks following
- Attendance at annual ISAC and Iowa State Association of County Auditors annual conferences, including a full or half day of training sessions
- Annual district trainings – where our office travels to each of the six auditor districts within the state and provides in-depth training and workshops
- Tabletop exercises with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in the six districts

Our office annually attends the CISA Tabletop the Vote tabletop exercise (TTX). To capture the most relevant scenarios, we provided in-person opportunities for our county election offices to participate in tailored TTX sessions. We not only personally invited each county auditor and their staff, but our team also distributed personal invitations to each county’s election security partners – including county IT, EMAs, and law enforcement. These in-person, hands on exercises resulted in each county compiling and/or updating an Incident Response Plan (IRP).

Our office has made it a requirement that each county not only compile an IRP but also file it with our office annually. County auditors are also encouraged to share their IRPs with other county departments, ensuring each partner understands expectations and can prepare accordingly. This ensures offsite availability should a county need its IRP when it is not able to access its offices. This addition has been a critical component in working with each county to administer fair, smooth, and secure elections in all 99 counties.

Streamlined administration with user-friendly resources

Beyond providing the necessary training required by Iowa law, our staff is committed to providing adequate tools that support commissioners in their election administration and streamline their duties. This, in turn, supports commissioners as they position themselves as trusted sources and experts in their respective communities.

A key component of this was the transition of a printed, hard copy election administrator handbook into today’s iteration. This interactive, searchable portal allows for more efficient administration and the ability to quickly understand and ensure they are accurately following election law and official Iowa Secretary of State guidance. Today’s portal is constantly evolving and updated to include essential deadlines, key forms and documents, FAQs, and video



recordings of in-person and virtual training for any election staff unable to attend or who need to review specific portions.

Our team records most training sessions, whether virtual or in-person, for storage on the portal. Because all counties are not created equally – and many rural counties have limited staff and resources – it is particularly important to have video records of training sessions, ensuring that election offices with limited staff and resources who may not be able to attend sessions have all the information easily accessible. This also ensures that all 99 counties are provided the same information and receive answers to their questions. Consistency in knowledge and understanding of election law and administration is crucial to administering fair and accurate elections.

“91% of Iowans have trust in Iowa elections, a significant increase from previous years.”

-2024 Iowa Poll

With at least 200 elections happening annually, the ability to tailor the product for a community’s specific needs is instrumental in streamlining administration. The next iteration of the portal will feature a calendar option that allows county election staff to input a specific election date. The software will develop a calendar with specific dates and deadlines as required by Iowa law, saving auditors valuable time in manually formulating dates and deadlines. Further, this process ensures accuracy in administration efforts and saves our staff valuable time in answering questions and verifying dates and deadlines on behalf of counties.

Expanding training opportunities by providing opportunities for relationship-building

Just as administering elections at the state level requires partnerships from other state, federal, and local agencies, local election officials rely on key partnerships to support a variety of facets. Intra-county relationships between election partners, such as county IT, EMAs, and law enforcement, are critical in maintaining secure elections. However, with county staff siloed off and often in separate buildings miles away, maintaining those relationships can be difficult.

The Iowa Secretary of State initiated relationships with county election partners beyond county auditors, including county IT teams, sheriffs, and emergency management administrators. Relationships between our office and county IT teams were strengthened through 2022’s Bug Bounty partnership, which was established, in large part, to build on existing relationships with IT directors. Since implementing the Bug Bounty program, communications with county IT teams have dramatically improved, and we’ve created a Slack channel for information sharing between county IT teams and our office for election-related issues, fostering ongoing communications that allow us to better react to the needs of counties and election-related matters. Upon receiving notification of potential cyber incidents, we are better prepared to communicate not only with the county auditors but with their county IT departments.



We've also made sure that the IT Director for ISAC has a seat at our table during our quarterly security meetings with other state, federal, and local partners, and include them in our press conferences and other initiatives leading up to elections. Ensuring that IT directors have representation in these meetings help us develop our relationships with county IT departments and ultimately helps us predict and respond to election-related needs and incidents.

In 2024, our office emphasized building relationships with county law enforcement and emergency management administrators (EMA). Through direct communication with the Iowa EMA Association, our office has been able to share potential threats and other relevant information directly, which is pushed out to county EMAs via the association's communication methods. This strategy allows us to reach county EMAs with no existing relationship, by leveraging an already trusted voice in the space. Our team was invited to present at the annual conference, as well as the Iowa Homeland Security annual conference, for the first time in 2024, which has allowed us a more significant presence among county EMA officials and to build rapport.

We also increased outreach efforts with local law enforcement, updating officials on threats and other relevant information. Direct lines of communication allow us to reach local communities quickly and without gatekeepers. As a result of these efforts, our staff was invited to present to the Iowa State Sheriffs Deputies Association board early in 2024 on the laws relating to the election and related security measures, the importance of tabletop exercises and developing IRPs, expanding partnerships within the counties, and today's threat landscape, including new threats such as swatting, doxing, and bomb threats. These relationships ultimately allowed our staff to work directly with a county sheriff on education around swatting, and our team invited the sheriff to present to county auditors in person at one of their conferences, providing key information about the dangers of swatting and steps to take should an incident occur. Our office also saw immense benefit in hearing directly from law enforcement officials on their specific concerns and questions relating to elections, helping us better develop resources to support their efforts, including our Law Enforcement Guide.

The new Law Enforcement Guidebook combines input from local law enforcement and election officials to provide a one-stop shop for all the resources needed to ensure secure elections on election day.



Notably, our partnership resulted in the creation of a Law Enforcement Guidebook and its distribution to local law enforcement in all of Iowa's 99 counties. Upon receiving feedback from county auditors and law enforcement officers, our office decided to create a new resource that would educate and guide auditors on the role of law enforcement in elections and provide law enforcement officers with resources to be more informed about specific election laws. Working with the Iowa State Sheriffs Deputies Association, our team met directly with county sheriffs to gather feedback on what information would prove most valuable to law enforcement and how best to structure and present the information. Input was invaluable in providing a tool that would be widely used and easily accessible for law enforcement officers.

Further analysis of the input provided by local law enforcement allowed our office to identify some of the most anticipated reasons law enforcement could be called to a polling place or otherwise on election day, allowing us to emphasize providing detailed guidance around those specific instances and corresponding laws. This feedback also resulted in our offering the resource in both a hard copy and electronic version. The electronic version proved to be valuable so law enforcement could easily access the resource in patrol cars or on the go when needed.

CYBERSECURITY MEASURES

Election cybersecurity remains a race without a finish line. To that end, there is growing momentum in election offices around the country to institute Vulnerability Disclosure Programs and Bug Bounty programs to help election officials bolster their cyber maturity. The Iowa Secretary of State's Office became the first election office in the nation to launch a Bug Bounty program and the first agency in our state. We offer monetary rewards to security researchers who find vulnerabilities in websites and applications maintained by the Secretary of State's office.

A Bug Bounty program offers ethical security hackers recognition and compensation for reporting bugs, especially security exploits and vulnerabilities. These programs allow qualified developers to discover and resolve bugs before the general public is aware of them, preventing incidents of widespread abuse and data breaches.

Our statewide Bug Bounty program launched in 2022, before the November general election. It was a valuable addition to Iowa's Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP), launched in 2020. We were the second state election office in the country to launch a VDP.

Following the success of our statewide Bug Bounty program, the Iowa Secretary of State launched a separate but related Bug Bounty program in three counties, allowing us to improve our efforts to ensure that every county in Iowa has top-notch cybersecurity and that our elections are protected on every level. We shared information around vulnerabilities found in our three volunteer counties with all 99 county IT departments, allowing all counties to collectively respond and mitigate potential risks.



Iowa's county Bug Bounty Program found 18 vulnerabilities across three counties – before bad actors could manipulate them.

Our initial Bug Bounty program included a full ransom of \$25,000. To date, we have paid almost \$9,000 to ethical hackers who reported vulnerabilities to us. Through our county Bug Bounty program, we paid out a total of \$5,625 to ethical hackers who reported 18 vulnerabilities in county systems. The number of vulnerabilities was much lower than expected, which reinforced the understanding that educational outreach, training, and support on cybersecurity measures is working.

After around four years of working with Bugcrowd, our cost to them has been approximately \$175,000. Although that sum might seem like a lot at first glance, this is a fantastic return on investment. It is worth noting that there is much flexibility around cost, prize pool and transferring costs, and can be adjusted to best fit other state and county budgets and resources.

A malicious actor hacking into one of our websites could have caused significant damage to voter confidence that could not be quantified in monetary value. Additionally, ransomware bounties have cost government entities millions of dollars in recent years. Having an ethical hacker find the vulnerability and giving them a monetary reward is much more cost-effective in cybersecurity.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

While many county election offices lack the staff and resources to disseminate public communications efforts, public information campaigns are key in positioning election officials as trusted sources and election experts. Our staff has added key communications support for county election teams throughout the year, from dedicated toolkits to answering reactive media requests. Communications training has become a component of in-person and virtual training sessions, especially media and crisis communications training. County auditors are also encouraged to include crisis communications plans in their Incident Response Plans, which are developed at security tabletop exercises hosted in conjunction with CISA.

Proactive press release templates, reactive media support

In 2019, our office began developing press release templates that could be updated quickly and efficiently, allowing them to tailor the press releases to their communities and with their key messages. Initially, these press releases focused on election-specific events, such as the pre-testing of election equipment and updates on post-election audits. In the following years, we've added press release templates focused on civic holidays such as Poll Worker Recruitment Day and National Voter Registration Month, as well as informational campaigns around our Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking program.



Detailed toolkits with holistic communications support

In 2023, we began developing comprehensive communications toolkits for election offices that include press release templates, best practices for working with the media, crisis communications planning, speech examples, posters, social media graphics and captions, social media best practices, and crisis holding statements that can be tailored to reflect specific incidents affecting counties around election day.

IMPACT

The ultimate goal of our “Be the Expert” program is to support auditors and help position them as trusted sources and election experts in their communities. Because local governments have limited budgets, staff, and resources, our office has prioritized using our resources to make these tasks more efficient and accessible to local election offices.

It’s essential to provide local election offices with these resources as many election offices across the county experience higher turnover rates. As of January 2025, around one-third of Iowa’s county auditors will be new to that role or have never before administered an election. This turnover rate has been typical for our state over the last few years.

We require county auditors and their staff to attend these trainings. Over the last year, more than 300 auditors and their staff attended our in-person district training events, which makes up about an estimated 75% of total county election staff statewide. Participation in training opportunities continues to increase year over year as new opportunities are added. One particular draw has been the addition of guest speakers to the training curriculum, such as speakers from the US Postal Service and de-escalation and swatting experts.

“The TTX session I attended with my local law enforcement, IT director, and EMA leaders was the first time we’d ever been in a room together. The session allowed us to collaborate better, and we feel more prepared than ever for the next election.”

-A county auditor after attending the CISA IRP TTX

We have received positive feedback from county election officials on multiple occasions. Notably, after facilitating tabletop exercises with county election staff and their local partners (IT, EMA, law enforcement, etc.), one county election commissioner noted that it had been the first time they had ever been in the same room with each other, and the training opened lines of communication and allowed for better collaboration.

Further, staff has been able to decrease the time spent answering one-off questions from local election offices, instead dedicating time to training and proactively answering questions. Many hours have been saved in reactive support, and resources are now better spent actually



administering elections. Perhaps most notably, our staff has developed better relationships with county auditors and has seen increased lines of communication.

Regarding cyber support, our county Bug Bounty program found 18 moderate vulnerabilities in county systems, which was, thankfully, under expectations. By identifying these specific vulnerabilities, we have been able to update our training modules and educational outreach around cybersecurity, placing more focus on these vulnerabilities and mitigating similar risks in other counties.

County election officials have also taken advantage of communications support, and we have seen key media placements in many local newspapers from county auditors who leverage press release templates. Now, more counties have a social media presence and share trusted information with their constituents. Our staff has also been able to support a number of county officials in reactive media requests, assisting them in drafting statements and responses to a number of press questions. This includes crisis communications support around election day – a few county auditors leveraged the holding statements provided by our team to keep the public apprised of situations that came up on election day. Proactive communications support, from press release templates to social media posts, has allowed county auditors to join our choir of trusted sources for election information seamlessly and helped us spread critical information to the public.

This program has reinforced to Iowans the importance of turning to trusted sources and election experts for election-related information. Proactive communications support and training opportunities further position local election offices as THE election experts.

As members of NASS, we have all made efforts to position Secretaries of State and election commissioners as trusted sources and election experts. Our comprehensive training initiatives for local election officials have positioned county auditors as trusted sources, allowing them to “Be the Expert” in their communities.

These efforts have been instrumental in reshaping the narrative around elections within our state, helping reinforce our office as a trusted source, combatting misinformation, and further positioning our office and county election officials as trusted election experts.

We have seen trust in elections build over the last few years. Notably, in 2024, the Iowa Poll found that 91% of Iowans trusted Iowa elections and 75% trusted U.S. elections – an increase from 2022, when 65% of Iowans indicated they had trust in America’s election process.



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

District Auditor Training Presentation Slides



Welcome

- SOS Introductions
- Purpose of district trainings
- Housekeeping

District Training Agenda

- Administration
 - Primary Election
 - Housekeeping
- Communications
- Lunch!
- Cybersecurity
- Administration
 - General Election
- Training Updates

Primary Election

UOCAVAs

- Assisting overseas civilians
- Postmark guarantee
 - Irrelevant if using private delivery services
 - May need to enter a post office and request a postmark
 - Postmarked Monday, June 3 and received by your office noon on Monday, June 10

Tips to Counter Misinformation

- Do not amplify mis-, dis-, mal-information by repeating falsehoods.
- Do not ignore and hope they will go away.
- Proactively share the trusted facts. Repeat the truth, over and over again. Voters will know who to turn to when they have questions.



Media Coverage of Auditors National Voter Registration

Hampton Chronicle
Publication Date: 09/19/2023 Page Number: 006

Title: Franklin County Auditor Flint Encourages Iowans to Participate in National Voter Registration Month
Author:
Size : 25 Inches Sq Hampton, IA Circulation: 2695
Keywords: National Association of Secretaries of State – Paul Pate – Secretary Of State – VoterReadyIowa.gov

Franklin County Auditor Flint Encourages Iowans to Participate in National Voter Registration Month

DES MOINES – Franklin County Auditor, Katy Flint, and Iowa Secretary of State, Paul Pate, are encouraging Iowans to celebrate National Voter Registration Month in September by registering to vote. For Iowans who are already registered, it is important to make sure your information is current. National Registration Day is September 19, 2023. "Our office is dedicated to making sure that everyone who is eligible to register and vote does, following the state laws. We are happy to help anyone needing to register or update their registration," said Auditor Flint. The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) established September as National Voter Registration Month in 2002 as a non-partisan means of encouraging voter participation and increasing awareness about state requirements and deadlines for voting. "Voting is the best way to make your voice heard and I want to see every eligible Iowan participate in the upcoming city and school elections in November," said Secretary Pate. "In order to participate in our election process, it's critical to register to vote and make sure your registration is current. Registering to vote only takes a few minutes, but in voting, Iowans can make a long-lasting impact." To register to vote in Iowa, you must be at least 17 years old. The deadline to pre-register before November's city-school election is Monday, October 23. To check your voter registration status, register to vote, or update your information, visit voterready.iowa.gov or stop by the Franklin County Auditor's Office.

Akron Homelotner
Publication Date: 09/08/2023 Page Number: 006

Title: Plymouth County Auditor encourages Iowans to participate in National Voter Registration Month
Author:
Size : 28 Inches Sq Akron, IA Circulation: 1577
Keywords: National Association of Secretaries of State – Paul Pate – Secretary Of State – VoterReadyIowa.gov

Plymouth County Auditor encourages Iowans to participate in National Voter Registration Month

Plymouth County Auditor Stacey Feldman and Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate are encouraging Iowans to celebrate National Voter Registration Month in September by registering to vote. For Iowans who are already registered, it's important to make sure your information is current. National Voter Registration Day is September 19, 2023. Last year, many Iowans registered to vote during National Voter Registration Month. Approximately 90 percent of eligible Iowans are registered to vote. "In Iowa, registering to vote is a simple process that is accessible in many ways to all legal citizens. This is an important duty of being a US citizen, and voting has an important impact on your local community, schools, cities, county, state and country," Auditor Feldman stated. The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) established September as National Voter Registration Month in 2002 as a non-partisan means of encouraging voter participation and increasing awareness about state requirements and deadlines for voting. "Voting is the best way to make your voice heard, and I want to see every eligible Iowan participate in the upcoming city and school elections in November," said Secretary Pate. "In order to participate in our election process, it's critical to register to vote and make sure your registration is current. Registering to vote only takes a few minutes, but in voting, Iowans can make a long-lasting impact." To register to vote in Iowa, you must be at least 17 years old. The deadline to register before November's city-school election is Monday, October 23, 2023, and an election day registration process can also be used to register to vote after October 23 in the Auditor's office. Voters can also register on election day at their voting location. To check your voter registration status, register to vote, or update your information, visit VoterReady.Iowa.gov.

Media Coverage of Auditors Post Election Audit

Clarksville Star
Publication Date: 11/16/2023 Page Number: 001

Title: Auditor's Office conducts postelection audit in Butler County to ensure integrity of the vote
Author:
Size : 22 Inches Sq Clarksville, IA Circulation: 1068
Keywords: election integrity – Paul Pate – Secretary Of State – VoterReadyIowa.gov

Auditor's Office conducts post-election audit in Butler County to ensure integrity of the vote

ALLISON – Butler County Auditor Green conducted a successful post-election audit of the November City-School election on Nov. 9, 2023. Ballots in the 2-CL (Clarksville) precinct were hand-counted by election officials to ensure they matched the totals reported by the ballot tabulator. The precinct was randomly selected by the Secretary of State following Election Day. The Mayor race was audited. The results matched 100 percent. Auditor Green stated, "Butler County should know how fortunate we all are for having a great staff in the Auditor's office and wonderful poll workers administering our local elections. I am thankful to all of them for making this election successful." See AUDITOR: Page 5

AUDITOR FROM PAGE 1

"I'd like to thank the county auditors and the election officials and poll workers across the state for their hard work this year," Secretary Pate said. "We conducted another fair, secure election in Iowa, and these hand-count audits are one more way we ensure the integrity of the vote." Every ballot tabulator in Iowa undergoes a public pre-election test to ensure it will count votes accurately on Election Day. Post-election audits are mandatory in all 99 counties following each election. For the City-School Election, one randomly chosen precinct in each county is required to conduct a post-election audit to verify the machine count. For more information about election security in Iowa, visit the Secretary of State's website at sos.iowa.gov. Information about the voting process is available at VoterReady.Iowa.gov.

Sun Courier
Publication Date: 11/17/2023 Page Number: 002

Title: Auditor Deters conducts post-election audit in Grundy Co. to ensure integrity of the vote
Author:
Size : 24 Inches Sq Gladbrook, IA Circulation: 783
Keywords: election integrity – Paul Pate – Secretary Of State – VoterReadyIowa.gov

Auditor Deters conducts post-election audit in Grundy Co. to ensure integrity of the vote

SUN COURIER – Grundy County Auditor Rhonda R. Deters conducted a successful post-election audit of the November City-School election on November 13, 2023. Ballots in Precinct 7 were hand-counted by election officials to ensure they matched the totals reported by the ballot tabulator. The precinct was randomly selected by the Secretary of State following Election Day. The race for Mayor in Grundy Center was audited. The results matched 100 percent. Auditor Deters said that the audit is proof of the reliability of the election system in Iowa. "This is exactly what we expected and what we want to see," said Grundy County Auditor Rhonda R. Deters. "The hand count shows that our machines are accurately counting the ballots. This is one of numerous safeguards to the system, and it is especially significant because it is proof after the fact." "I'd like to thank the county auditors and the election officials and poll workers across the state for their hard work this year," Secretary Pate said. "We conducted another fair, secure election in Iowa, and these hand-count audits are one more way we ensure the integrity of the vote." Every ballot tabulator in Iowa undergoes a public pre-election test to ensure it will count votes accurately on Election Day. Post-election audits are mandatory in all 99 counties following each election. For the City-School Election, one randomly chosen precinct in each county is required to conduct a post-election audit to verify the machine count. For more information about election security in Iowa, visit the Secretary of State's website at sos.iowa.gov. Information about the voting process is available at VoterReady.Iowa.gov.



Media Coverage Auditors Trusted Information

Cherokee Chronicle Times
Publication Date: 06/14/2024 Page Number: 003

Title: Cherokee Co. Auditor Glenke conducts post-election audit to ensure integrity of the election
Author:
Size : 32 Inches Sq Cherokee,IA Circulation: 2201
Keywords: election integrity – Secretary Of State – Voter ID / right to vote – VoterReadyIowa.gov



Cherokee County Audit Board members: (left to right) Rhonda Saxon, Jeannette Grant, Auditor Kris Glenke, Leon Klotz, Brian Winterhof and Jan Witcombe.

Cherokee Co. Auditor Glenke conducts post-election audit to ensure integrity of the vote

Cherokee County Auditor Kris Glenke conducted a successful post-election audit of the June Primary election on June 10. Ballots in the Quinby precinct were hand-counted by election officials to ensure they matched the totals reported by the ballot tabulator.

The precinct was randomly selected by the Secretary of State following Election Day. The US Representative District 4 race and County Board of Supervisors District 1 races were audited. The results matched 100%.

"The results matched exactly and this is the outcome all voters and election officials should expect with every election," reported Auditor

Glenke. "Our county's election was smooth and well-run because of the planning and preparations completed by Auditor's staff, the dedication and enthusiasm of poll workers, and the voters who exercised their right to vote in a respectful manner. This great working relationship should strengthen the confidence voters have that every vote matters in Cherokee County."

Every ballot tabulator in Iowa undergoes a public pre-election test to ensure it will count votes accurately on Election Day. Post-election audits are mandatory in all 99 counties following each election. For the Primary Election, one randomly chosen precinct in each county is required to conduct a post-election audit to verify the machine count.

For more information about election security in Iowa, visit the Secretary of State's website at sos.iowa.gov. Information about the voting process is available at VoterReadyIowa.gov.

Eagle Grove Eagle
Publication Date: 05/19/2024 Page Number: 005

Title: Look for Consensus on Election Results at the Local Level
Author:
Size : 39 Inches Sq Eagle Grove,IA Circulation: 1595
Keywords: election integrity – Paul Pate – Secretary Of State

Look for Consensus on Election Results at the Local Level

By Edward Lynn, Editor

Directly under this article is a press release from Secretary of State Paul Pate's office calling attention to the issue of false information spread by lying propagandists with political, or anti-American agendas, and the people they've fooled. I applaud Secretary Pate's office for shining a light on the problem of rampant misinformation (wrong information), disinformation (lies) and malinformation (lies of omission, or information lacking context, or twisted out of context) across social media and propaganda outlets with the audacity to call themselves "news". It is very much a real problem, and Secretary Pate has a history of bravely standing up against it, including from powerful people within his own party.

That local news publishers and broadcasters of record across Iowa and the nation also have a long history, of ten centuries long, of faithfully and factually reporting election results. And they should not be overlooked as trustworthy sources of information. Local journalists are members of the same communities they report to, and as such are accountable to the community in a way that national or even state-wide reporters aren't, which has the desirable effect of generally keeping them honest.


And so I encourage you to look for consensus about election results between the local media of record, with a long history of honest reporting; and whose reporters are there about town day after day, year after year, and the County Auditor's and Secretary of State's offices. When you see it, you should be reassured as to the accuracy and truth of the reporting. And when you don't, that's a red flag that something may be wrong.

Remember that Iowa's Secretary of State and Iowa's County Auditors are all elected officials, and partisan members of one political party or the other. And do not forget that in our time, when this kind of partisan misinformation with a political motive is rampant, and there have been efforts by political parties to put partisans willing to lie about election results into the positions to declare them, we as citizens should be made aware that ever that partisans can never be accepted as the sole and only arbiters of fact. That they can demonstrate after some time in office their integrity when it comes to factually reporting election results.

Here in Wright County, Iowa, we have the luxury of having both an Auditor and a Secretary of State who have demonstrated that kind of history of integrity where election results are concerned. And, I dare say, local media with over a century long history of showing the same integrity. A tradition I am dedicated to carrying on, and believe the other editors in the county to be dedicated to as well.

Look for consensus among us all. Probably, you will see it. But if you don't, remember which are political party agents, and which are not. Not just now, not just with the people currently in place in these positions of Secretary of State, County Auditor, and local news Editors, but in the future too. And not just here, but anywhere you may one day go.

PEO Training Slides



Precinct Election Official Training

OFFICE OF IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE
PURSUANT TO IOWA CODE § 49.126


A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE PAUL D. PATE

Each year Iowa needs over 10,000 precinct election officials just like you to ensure the election process runs smoothly. Well-run elections are the key to our democracy, which binds the fabric of our society.

By actively participating in trainings like this, we collectively increase our knowledge and build our skills to better support voters through the entire voting process.


Thank you for your dedication and service to your community. You are the real heroes behind Iowa's safe and secure elections.

In appreciation,
Paul



PROTECT EACH PERSON'S RIGHT TO VOTE

- Never turn a voter away without offering them a provisional ballot.
- If a voter is in the wrong precinct, direct the voter to the correct precinct.
- If a voter insists on voting in your precinct or if the voter insists the election register is wrong, offer the voter a provisional ballot.




KNOWLEDGE CHECK: TRUE OR FALSE

- When preparing to close the polls, its ok to close early if you believe no one else will vote.
Answer: False
- Print the election results from the equipment *before* transmitting results to the auditor.
Answer: True
- Follow the instructions from the auditor when taking down and returning election equipment.
Answer: True




Swatting Preparedness Handout from Auditor Trainings




IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

Paul D. Pate

SOS Alert Bulletin from the Office of the
Iowa Secretary of State: SWATTING





What is swatting?
Swatting is a term used to describe criminal activity by an individual or group who knowingly provides false information to police suggesting that a threat exists at a particular location so that police respond with tactical units, or what is commonly known as a SWAT (special weapons and tactics) team. Knowingly calling 911 with a false report can result in a felony charge in Iowa.

Who are potential targets of swatting?
Election officials, election offices, and polling locations could be potential targets of swatting—especially in the lead-up to an election. Swatting attacks that lead law enforcement to election offices or polling locations have the potential to disrupt the election process, including preventing individuals from voting and potentially decreasing confidence in the electoral process.

How to prepare for swatting


1. Ensure your elections office establishes a dialogue with a local police or sheriff representative who may be designated as the elections liaison.
2. Provide the liaison with the names and home addresses of election officials and key or higher risk staff, specific locations of voting centers and counting facilities, and any other relevant election-related locations within your jurisdiction.
3. Ask law enforcement if it is possible to have a flag put into their computer-aided dispatch system to alert 911 staff and responding officers of the nature of those locations, with a specific note about concerns regarding swatting.
4. Provide police and 911 staff with 24-hour cell phone numbers for critical elections staff who can be reached in the event of possible false reports.
5. Encourage police to confer with federal authorities such as the FBI or DHS on current trends in swatting as well as ways to spot indicators of swatting.
6. Establish protocols for communication between elections staff to share information in the event that one or more jurisdictions experience a swatting call so that others can be alerted to be on the lookout for similar incidents.
7. Train your staff to remain calm in the event of such an episode and consult with your local police on an area-specific protocol to quickly and succinctly relay to responding officers that everyone is safe.
8. Maintain best protocols to ensure security plans remain confidential for the safety of the public.

Common indicators of swatting

1. A swatter may block or spoof their phone number using an uninitialized cell phone displaying a 911-area code so the ANI/ALI may show all 9s or 0s instead of a phone number, or it may show a 661-area code Skype call, another frequent method swatters use.
2. The call comes in on a non-emergency line and shows as blocked, unavailable, or private. Some swatters spoof the phone number to match the address they are swatting if the victim has a landline phone.
3. The background noise does not match the scenario. In an incident where someone is shot or there are hostages, there is likely to be background noise.
4. Most swatters are not in the same city, state, or country, so the caller is unfamiliar with local street, business, or city name pronunciations.
5. Finally, almost all swatters say these three things: they are armed, they are suicidal, and they are going to kill any responders that come to the scene.

Protect yourself from swatting

1. Do not post any information that could allow someone to determine your location in any public place.
2. Do not use geo-tagged photos on social media.
3. Hide your I.P. address by using a proxy.
4. Review your online information, know its location, and remove any personal information.



Your next steps: Please report any incidents or suspicious activity to local law enforcement.



TTX Training Photos



Auditor Toolkit Examples

SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS

NATIONAL POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT DAY

“What are the working hours for a poll worker?”

It's a long day! Polls are open from 7:00 am-8:00 pm, and precinct election officials start setting up at 6:00 am.

APPLY TODAY AT POLLWORKER.IOWA.GOV

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

NATIONAL POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT DAY

“What does a poll worker do?”

On Election Day, you'll check in voters and issue ballots, ensure every voter is given one ballot for every ballot, and ensure every ballot is counted. Designated officials will oversee on-site special ballot marking devices for those with disabilities. You may also assist with curbside voting for voters who choose to vote from their cars.

APPLY TODAY AT POLLWORKER.IOWA.GOV

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

NATIONAL POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT DAY

“Do poll workers get paid?”

YES. You would be paid for your training session and for your work on Election Day. Rates vary from county to county.

APPLY TODAY AT POLLWORKER.IOWA.GOV

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

NATIONAL POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT DAY

“What requirements are there to be a poll worker?”

- Be registered to vote in Iowa
- Be at least 17 years old
- Be a resident of the county you serve in
- Complete the required training

APPLY TODAY AT POLLWORKER.IOWA.GOV

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

POLLWORKER.IOWA.GOV

WHAT IS NATIONAL POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT DAY?

NATIONAL POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT DAY, AUG. 1, 2024, is a national day of action established by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to encourage people to help America vote by signing up to be a poll worker. By encouraging more people to become poll workers in their communities, National Poll Worker Recruitment Day is addressing the critical shortage of poll workers, strengthening our democracy, inspiring greater civic engagement and volunteerism, and helping America vote.

About the EAC: The EAC is the only federal agency solely focused on election administration. Their mission is to help election officials improve the administration of elections and help Americans participate in the voting process. National Poll Worker Recruitment Day is one way the EAC is working to fulfill this mission.

GOALS

- Encourage civic-minded Iowans to sign up to be poll workers in the upcoming elections.
- Remind Iowans that poll workers are trusted friends and neighbors.
- Share information about Iowa's safe and secure elections.

POLLWORKER.IOWA.GOV

SOCIAL MEDIA CAPTIONS

Iowa Elections Need Poll Workers
We can't do it without you! Join us in making Iowa elections the best for our voters by ensuring every voice is heard and every ballot counts. Your participation is crucial to uphold the integrity of our democracy. Visit pollworker.iowa.gov to learn more. #NationalPollWorkerRecruitmentDay #IowaElections

Elections Need Dedicated Iowans
Your vote matters, and so does your involvement in the election process. Your community needs passionate individuals like you to protect the integrity of our democracy. Join the ranks of Iowa's poll workers and make a real difference where it counts. Visit pollworker.iowa.gov to learn more. #NationalPollWorkerRecruitmentDay #IowaElections

What do poll workers do?
Poll workers safeguard Iowa's democracy. Join others in your community by ensuring our elections are fair, secure, and accessible to all. Be a community hero - become a poll worker today and help shape Iowa's future. Visit pollworker.iowa.gov to learn more. #NationalPollWorkerRecruitmentDay #IowaElections

Do poll workers get paid?
No matter the town, no matter the county, Iowa needs YOU to help run our elections! Sign up as a poll worker and receive compensation for your time on and preparing for Election Day. Get started at pollworker.iowa.gov #IowaVotes #ElectionIntegrity

What are the requirements for poll workers?
Becoming a poll worker in Iowa takes just a few steps! If you qualify you'll play a crucial role in maintaining our state's reputation for election excellence. Learn more at pollworker.iowa.gov #NationalPollWorkerRecruitmentDay #IowaElections

What hours do poll workers work?
Our poll workers dedicate long days to uphold election integrity and ensure every vote counts. We want you to be a part of this crucial process. Join us and make a difference in your community! Learn more at pollworker.iowa.gov #NationalPollWorkerRecruitmentDay #IowaElections

POLLWORKER.IOWA.GOV



Toolkit Press Release Sample for Auditors

BEST PRACTICES WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

- Update the highlighted sections in templates to reflect your specific office.
- There is a section to add a quote as well. This is an opportunity to be personal and specific about the importance of voter registration and participation.
- It is a best practice to copy and paste the press release into the body of the email.
- Keep emails to press short. You can include an introductory email before the press release to the reporter, or you can simply just send the press release with no additional commentary. Reporters (especially local reporters) get A LOT of these and it's easy to get lost in the shuffle. As a rule, all written outreach should be succinct and easy to read.
- If you have photos that are relevant to the topic, include those. If not, you can include photos of your team, a headshot, etc.
- If you are sending to more than one member of the media, it is important to either send separate emails or blind copy (BCC) the members of the media, so the emails are kept private.
- For additional resources, contact the Communications Director for the Iowa Secretary of State, Ashley Hunt at Ashley.Hunt@sos.iowa.gov.

POLLWORKER.IOWA.GOV

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Incident Response Plan Auditor Training Template Examples

County Auditor's Incident Response Plan






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INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY

This guide is designed to prepare election officials for events that could impact polling places, election administration processes, & election day activities.

WHO: County Auditors and their staff as well as other county partners

WHAT: Unspecified events that may impact elections such as natural disasters, active threats, technological issues, and communication errors

WHEN: Pre-Election, Election Day, Post-Election

WHERE: County Auditor offices and polling places

WHY: Prepare County Auditors, their staff, and county partners to respond to an incident that may interfere with election administration

References:

Prior to Election Day, please review the following:

- Iowa State Patrol Area District Map: <https://ios.pswa.gov/locations/iowa-state-patrol/district-offices>
- DHS Active Shooter guide or website: https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active_shooter_booklet.pdf
- DHS Bomb Threat Procedures & Checklist: <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/dhs-dhs-bomb-threat-guidance-brochure-2016-508.pdf>
- Cyber Incident Report Form: <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/dhs-cyber-incident-report-form.pdf>
- Iowa Election Administrator's Handbook: <https://ios.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/publications/iowa-election-administrator-handbook>

Contacts:

- Review all contacts and ensure they are up to date and familiar to staff
- County Auditor Directory or website: <https://ios.legis.iowa.gov/directories/county-auditor.asp?CountyID=00>
- Iowa State Patrol contacts or website: <https://ios.pswa.gov/locations/iowa-state-patrol/district-offices>
- Local Law Enforcement contacts
- Local First Responder (Fire & EMS) contacts

INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY
Page 4

DHS BOMB THREAT CHECKLIST

Date: ___/___/___ Phone number where call was received: ___-___-____
Time: ___:___ Time caller hung up: ___:___

<p>Ask the Caller:</p> <p>Where is the bomb located? (Building, floor, room, etc.)</p> <p>When will it go off?</p> <p>What does it look like?</p> <p>What kind of bomb is it?</p> <p>What will make it explode?</p> <p>Did you place the bomb?</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>What is your name?</p> <p>Information about the Caller:</p> <p>Where is the caller located?</p> <p>Estimated age</p> <p>Is the caller familiar? If so, who does it sound like?</p> <p>Other points:</p> <p>Exact Words of Threat:</p> <p>Other:</p>	<p>Caller's Voice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Male</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Female</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Accent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Energy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Calm</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Clearing Throat</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Coughing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cracking Voice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Crying</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deep Breathing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gasped</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gravelled</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Laughing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Limp</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Loud</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nasal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Normal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Raspy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ragged</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Raspy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slow</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stammer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	<p>Background Sounds</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Animal noises</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chair noises</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen noises</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Street noises</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bells</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TPA System</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conversation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Music</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Silence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Static</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Office machinery</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Factory machinery</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hand</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ring</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>Threat Language</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ambiguous</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Triggred message</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dramatical</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Profane</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Threat spoken</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>
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BOMB THREAT PROCEDURES
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NATURAL DISASTER


	Pre/Post Election	Election Day
County Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceed immediately to your pre-designated Tornado Shelter area. Shelter area. Stay away from window glass, doors, and glass enclosed areas. Remain in assigned area until advised to leave. Call/Txt 9-1-1. Remain in assigned area until advised to leave. If needed and possible, evacuate with tabulators and ballots. Contact SOS Elections Team & report in work classroom. Inform public via social media & press if needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceed immediately to your pre-designated Tornado Shelter area. Stay away from window glass, doors, and glass enclosed areas. If time allows, transport tabulator and/or ballots to secure location. Remain in assigned area until advised to leave. Call/Txt 9-1-1. Contact SOS Elections Team & report in IOLN classroom. If approved by SOS, move to alternative site. Post signs to direct voters to new location. Notify voters via website, local media, social media sites & signs that the election will be conducted as scheduled.
Polling Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call/Txt 9-1-1. Contact SOS Elections Team. Identify alternative site. Post signs to direct voters to new location. Notify POC of new location. Notify voters via website, local media, social media sites & signs that the election will be conducted as scheduled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceed immediately to your pre-designated Tornado Shelter area. Stay away from window glass, doors, and glass enclosed areas. If time allows, transport tabulator and/or ballots to secure location. Remain in assigned area until advised to leave. Call/Txt 9-1-1. Contact SOS Elections Team & report in IOLN classroom. If approved by SOS, move to alternative site. Post signs to direct voters to new location. Notify voters via website, local media, social media sites & signs that the election will continue as scheduled.

NATURAL DISASTER
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2024 Law Enforcement Handbook

**UPHOLDING
ELECTION
SECURITY:
GUIDANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**



SOS Phone: 515-281-5204
SOS Email: Elections@SOS.iowa.gov
Voting Hours: 7 AM- 8 PM

Dear law enforcement officers,

I am writing to extend my sincere appreciation for your tireless efforts in safeguarding the integrity and security of our elections. Your dedication is vital to ensuring that voters and poll workers can perform their work feeling safe and confident. To support your important work, I am excited to introduce a new resource: Upholding Election Security: Guidance for Law Enforcement. This guidebook is intended to serve as a valuable reference, ensuring that you have the information you need at your fingertips to act swiftly and appropriately when issues arise.

We are also mindful of the importance of your safety as you carry out these critical duties. Ensuring a safe environment for all election officials and law enforcement officers is paramount. Should you have any questions or need further assistance with the guidebook or any related matters, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thank you once again for your dedication, and please stay safe as you continue to be a cornerstone of our electoral system.

Paul D. Pate
Paul D. Pate
Iowa Secretary of State

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2



Media Privileges

VOTERS CAN

Film inside of a polling place if they are there for the purpose of voting and not violating another law

Ballot Selfies: an individual takes a picture of their own ballot, either before or after they have voted

Use of cameras is prohibited if used for the purpose of violating chapter 39A, if it interferes with other voters, or if it interferes with operation of polling place

Simple misdemeanor [Iowa Code § 49.88\(1\), IAC 721-21.77\(49\)](#)

Q. What if a voter comes to the polling place with a t-shirt and hat supporting a candidate that is on the ballot?

A. That would be allowable as long as they are in the process of checking in/voting and not breaking another law, such as loitering in the polling place or attempting to solicit votes.

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VOTERS CANNOT

Simple Misdemeanor:
Photograph if it interferes with other voters or the operation of the polling place
[Iowa Code § 49.88\(1\), IAC 721-21.77\(49\)](#)

Destroy anything that has been posted as provided by law
[Iowa Code § 39A.5\(1\)\(a\)\(4\)](#)

Destroy supplies or articles that are there for the purpose of helping voters to prepare their ballots
[Iowa Code § 39A.5\(1\)\(a\)\(5\)](#)

Aggravated Misdemeanor:
Take the ballot outside of the voting room
[Iowa Code § 39A.3\(1\)\(a\)\(7\)](#)

Make or have possession of a counterfeit ballot
[Iowa Code § 39A.3\(1\)\(a\)\(2\)](#)

Encourage a person to vote knowing they are not qualified to do so
[Iowa Code § 39A.5\(1\)\(c\)\(3\)](#)

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SUPPORTING LINKS

Sample Media coverage from press release templates

National Voter Registration Day

- Akron Homeowner - [Plymouth County Auditor encourages Iowans to participate in National Voter Registration Month](#)
- Bayard News Gazette - [September Voter Registration Month](#)
- Corning Adams Co Free Press - [September is Voter Registration Month](#)
- Jefferson Herald - [Greene County Auditor encourages Iowans to participate in National Voter Registration Month](#)
- Leon Journal – Reporter - [Secretary Pate and County Auditor Hoover Celebrate Iowa Poll Workers](#)
- Vinton Eagle - [Benton County Auditor encourages Iowans to participate in National Voter Registration Month](#)
- Hampton Chronicle - [Franklin County Auditor Flint Encourages Iowans to Participate in National Voter Registration Month](#)

Post-Election Audits

- [Allison Butler Co Star Journal](#)
- [Clarksville Star](#)
- [Cresco Time Plain Dealer](#)
- [Parkersburg Eclipse News Review](#)
- [Grundy County Register](#)
- [Greene Recorder](#)
- [Graettinger Times](#)
- [Gladbrook Sun Courier](#)

TrustedInfo OpEd

- [Eagle Grove Eagle](#)
- [Accompanying editorial by editor](#)
- [Sigourney News Review](#)

Poll Worker Recruitment

- Hampton Chronicle - [Secretary Pate and Katy Flint, Franklin Co. Auditor, Celebrate Iowa Poll Workers](#)

Examples of communications toolkits

- [Poll Worker Recruitment](#)
- [General Election Communications](#)

