Strengthening Democracy For All Voters
Effective Democracy

When one leg falters, we all fall.
Election interference is not a matter of if, but a matter of when.

The planning is happening “as we sit here. And [these hostile actors] intend to do it in the next election.”

*Robert S. Mueller III’s testimony before the House Intelligence Committee, July 24, 2019*
Unexpected Events

Our election systems are susceptible to:

- Solar Technical malfunctions
- Machine breakdowns
- Human error
- Unexpected Events (coronavirus)

### THREATS:

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- Machine breakdowns
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**SPECIAL REPORT**

February 3, 2020

App Used to Tabulate Votes Is Said to Have Been Inadequately Tested

The app was quickly put together in the past two months and was not properly tested at a statewide scale, according to people briefed on the matter.

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**Editors' Picks**

- The Accusations Were Lies. But Could We Prove It?
- Is It OK to Take a Walk?

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A spokesperson for the state party issued a statement late Monday denying that the delays were the result of the new app’s failure.

“We found inconsistencies in the reporting of three sets of results,” said Mandy McClure, the spokesperson. She added that this was “simply a reporting issue, the app did not go down and this is not a hack or an intrusion.”

“The underlying data and paper trail is sound,” she continued. “We will still take time to further report the results.”

But multiple Iowa Democratic county chairs said they had struggled to use the app and were experiencing hold delays of up to an hour when calling into a phone hotline the party has used for decades.

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DES MOINES — The app that the Iowa Democratic Party commissioned to tabulate and report results from the caucuses on Monday was not properly tested at a statewide scale, said people who were briefed on the app by the state party.

It was quickly put together in just the past two months, said the people, some of whom asked to remain anonymous because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The party decided to use the app only after another proposal for reporting votes — which entailed having caucus participants call in their votes over the phone — was abandoned, according to the advice of Democratic National Committee officials, according to David Jefferson, a board member of Verified Voting, a nonpartisan election integrity organization.

Late Monday night, chairs of county parties were told to start calling into a phone hotline the party has used for decades.

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But multiple Iowa Democratic county chairs said they had struggled to use the app and were experiencing hold delays of up to an hour when calling into a phone hotline the party has used for decades.
Perceived Threats:

“If we can’t trust the results, then why vote?”

“The system is rigged.”

“The people at my polling place weren’t able to help me. I’m not going back.”

American Voters Worry They Can’t Spot Misleading Information, Poll Finds

January 21, 2020

And while a majority of Americans say spotting the difference between fact and fake information on social media is difficult and gotten harder since 2016, few feel confident that technology companies will prevent the misuse of social media to influence the 2020 elections.

Is misinformation getting harder to spot? The new survey from PBS NewsHour, NPR and Marist Poll found that 59 percent of Americans say it is hard to identify false information — intentionally misleading and inaccurate stories presented as truth — on social media. Another 37 percent disagreed, saying it is easy to spot.

Furthermore, with the 2020 presidential campaign about to pick up in earnest, more than half of U.S. adults said discerning these fake or deceptive stories has become increasingly difficult over the last four years. That sentiment was shared by 58 percent of Democrats, 55 percent of independents and a slightly lower proportion of Republicans at 44 percent.

Misinformation is evolving on different platforms and messages are becoming more nuanced and images more realistic. “Deep fake” videos, while relatively rare in the false information ecosystem, have been identified as an emerging threat against people’s sense of what is real and what is not.

The fact that Americans are aware of the threat of misinformation is important, said Brendan Nyhan, a political scientist at Dartmouth College who studies false information, persuasion and social networks. But it is “unreasonable” to expect an average person to fact-check “off the top of their head” every piece of information whizzing past them as they scroll through their social media feeds, he said.

“Everyday people don’t follow politics very closely,” he said. “Fact-checking is very difficult work.”
We can’t prevent every scenario, but we can…

Build Resiliency
Develop Recovery Plans
Encourage Transparency
Educate The Public
Who We Are

- 15+ years of promoting the responsible use of technology in elections
- Committed to evidence-driven advocacy and voter education
- Focused on practical solutions that emphasize resiliency and recovery
- Listened to by election officials, government agencies, grassroots organizers, national democracy groups, the media, and the public
- Our staff, Board & Board of Advisors are nationally-recognized subject matter experts on the issue of election integrity and the responsible use of technology
Use of Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Voting Systems for all voters in the U.S.

DREs record and tally votes electronically and do not provide a paper ballot that can be verified by the voter.
Pa.’s election system is on the verge of the largest changes in decades – in time for the 2020 election

“Audits are useful not only for the problems they find but also for the assurance that votes were counted correctly.”

Mark Lindeman
Interim Co-Director

Rhode Island Seeks to Restore Voters’ Trust in Elections

“Verified Voting, a nonprofit organization that has long tracked voting machine usage by jurisdiction, has for the first time begun compiling electronic pollbook usage data and made it available online.”

Excerpt from “The election security hole everyone ignores”
Verified Voting is working tirelessly to prepare America for the 2020 election and beyond.
With your help, Verified Voting can:

- Advance best practices that support resilient voting systems and verifiable election results:
  - Voter-verified paper ballots
  - Strong chain of custody
  - Proper ballot accounting & physical ballot security
  - Risk-limiting audits

- Help election officials and administrators prepare for November with the time, resources, and technical assistance they need

- Oppose inherently insecure “solutions” (i.e. online and mobile voting)

- Secure the voting pipeline from registration, to administration, to equipment, to databases
FUNDING NEEDS

$1.9 Million
our current budget

$4 Million
will allow us to...

Expand priority states

Instill resiliency & recovery in a rapidly changing landscape

Educate and engage voters nationwide
$6.5 Billion
spent on 2016 campaigns ($2.4 billion on presidential)

$20-30 Million
spent by individual funders into voter registration and GOTV efforts per election cycle
Take The Next Step

Now more than ever, every voter needs assurance their vote will be counted as cast.

They – and we – are counting on you.
Contact Us

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