

# *Working with Local Election Officials*

## Housekeeping

- This call will be recorded and shared.
- There will be time for questions at the end of the presentation
- Please stay muted, unless you are speaking.



## Today's Presenters

- Chelsey Cartwright, Democracy Truth Project Manager
- Jeanette Senecal, Senior Director, Mission Impact



## Today's Agenda

- What's your experience working with election officials?
- Who are local election officials?
- Getting to know your election official
- How can we support and engage election officials?
- How can we protect election officials?
- Activating and sustaining relationships with election officials

## Why working with LEOs is important

- Leagues play a vital role in connecting voters' needs to election officials
- Working closely with local election officials at the state and local level gives Leagues insight to the challenges that they face and how best to address them
- Leagues learn how to meet voters' needs and bring diverse voices to the table

## Working with Local Election Officials

How many of you have already worked with  
your local election official?

## Who are local election officials?

- Mostly women, over 50, predominantly white
- From the community, hardworking, and dedicated
- Most local election officials are elected to serve
- Since elections are managed by local jurisdictions, there are vast differences between election offices that serve the largest and smallest populations
- When it comes to election offices, 75% of all offices serve only 8% of voters, and 8% of election offices serve 75% of voters

## Getting to know your election official

- Meet your local election official
- Introduce yourself, your League and your goals
- Learn more about their goals and pain points
- Be a collaborative partner in supporting the election process in your community



# Duties of Election Officials

- Election Management
- Implementing election legislation
- Administration of the voter registration process
- Assistance with training poll workers and materials on running elections
- Testing and certification of voting machines
- Equipping voting locations

## What election officials bring to the table

- They can expand staffing, language access, and polling place alterations
- They can receive feedback on problematic election judges
- They do have govt. funds to send accurate mailers to all voters
- They are in charge and have accountability of the success of an election
- Really care about civic groups in the community and their voting experience

## **Building a relationship with Local Election Officials**

What works best in building your relationship with local election officials? What are some best practices that have been fruitful?

## How can Leagues support LEOs?

- Use earned media to explain the voting process
- Partner on distributing resources to volunteer, spread the word, and engage
- Foster a feeling like their community ‘has their back’
- Build up a voting public that understands the complexity of the voting process
- Gather best practices from other local and State leagues
- Get to know others in local government to identify how best to work with LEOs
- Explore to determine if resources (financial or staff) are the primary blocker for the LEO, identify ways to solve

# Engaging with your local election officials

- Inquire about a community advisory committee
- Engage with staff and relevant personnel
- Get familiar with statewide, county, and municipal officials
- Each state's election administration structure and procedures are different and vary widely
- This decentralized structure allows for innovation and experimentation

## Conversations to guide LEOs

- LWVUS created a list of questions to guide conversations with LEOs
- Leagues can structure conversations with LEOs using these questions to deepen their relationship and learn more about a day-in-the-life of LEOs
- The list of was created to help Leagues ask specific questions to identify problems or issues that may arise as part of the election process

## How can Leagues best engage LEOs?

- Understanding their election calendar- general, primary, qualification etc.
- Know if they've been sued recently (and by the LWV)
- Know whether they are elected or appointed and who their “boss” is
- Understanding how much of a lift your ask is, and how urgent it seems. The bigger the ask, the earlier you should approach, and the more support you may need to provide to aid their effort
- Sometime LEOs won't be able to do something under law, but may actually welcome a suit that could be settled in a manner that works for both LEO and League

# How can Leagues support election officials?

- Public support for policies LEOs can't support directly
- Praise for LEOs to their election boards and public for jobs well done
- Support for growing budgets of election offices
- Amplifying public information that LEOs want shared
- Be a trusted messenger of accurate election information
- LTEs and op-eds on their experience
- Supply of poll worker recruitment through local efforts



## Help recruit poll workers

- We encourage League leaders to help recruit poll workers as part of our ongoing Power the Polls efforts
- Visit: [www.powerthepolls.org/LWV](http://www.powerthepolls.org/LWV)
- A poll worker recruitment toolkit is in the works and will be shared out soon!

# A day in the life of election officials



# Protecting Election Officials

- Threats and intimidation against election officials are on the rise
- Election officials are being trained on how to protect themselves during election season
- Preparedness for physical safety and carrying out the election smoothly is a key priority
- Focus on the fundamentals along with AI training and IT security systems trainings

## Activate and sustain your relationship

- Know your election official, who they are, how they think, how you can help them, what's the best approach on how to get them to help voters
- What are some specific things you can commit to doing differently?
- Consider raising unusual issues to state/ national League
- Utilize the Election Observation Toolkit
- LWV and election officials can be friends and work well together

## LWVUS Resources

- [No Time to Fail Screening Toolkit](#)
- [Election Observer Toolkit](#)
- [Questions for Local Election Officials](#)
- [Election Preparation Toolkit](#)
- [Election Season VOTE411 Graphics & Sample Posts](#)

## Workshop Feedback

- Please dedicate a few moments to complete the feedback form for this workshop
- Let us know what you think about this workshop
- On Sunday you'll receive a link in your email about your overall convention experience
- Thank you!