



TOGETHER we can improve
our elections
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Confidence in U.S. Elections is Sliding

Democrats' Trust in Government "Has Cratered"

**38% of Democrats
& 72% of Republicans
Believe Election
Results Are
Not Legitimate**

- "Americans' trust in various U.S. federal government institutions remains mired near five-decade lows."
- Democrats' trust "has cratered"

Gallup | Nov. 2025

-YouGov

The Economist / YouGov | June 27 - 30, 2025 • [Get the data](#)

#CountTheVote is a groundbreaking national network of election observers training to monitor & protect the midterms.

The most comprehensive, nonpartisan, data-based, election verification program in U.S. history. The goal is to give volunteers an opportunity to actively participate in monitoring and protecting their local elections, in order to increase confidence in election results, identify trouble spots and reduce the chance that U.S. elections will be plunged into chaos, or even violence, following an election.



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We've Been Covered, Quoted & Featured in:



Together we can improve the security and transparency of our elections

To learn more about our work and explore partnership opportunities, please reach out to us at community@SMARTelections.us

#ProtectTheMidterms



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Welcome!

To a Caring Community Improving Elections



**We're
here to
connect
with you.**

**We create a culture
of gratitude and
support. That's why
our logo is a heart.**

ABOUT US:

SMART Elections is a non-partisan organization dedicated to transforming U.S. elections by expanding public oversight, improving security, and advocating for fair, accessible voting. Our mission is to ensure that elections are transparent, have high participation and inspire public confidence.

OUR HISTORY: We were founded in 2019 by an election security journalist, a filmmaker and a computer security expert. **Our leadership has 20 years of experience in election reform.**

RESOURCES: We've created a library of resources for you to learn at your own pace including;

- [A Glossary](#) of Election Terms
- [Research & election statutes](#) on every state & Puerto Rico
- [FAQs](#) on Areas of Election Observation

OUR GOAL: We want elections that are transparent, have high participation and inspire public confidence. We want you to have full confidence that your vote is counted correctly.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- **We have partnerships with orgs around the country.**
- **Your team members fill out a simple google form & we take it from there.** We have a volunteer management system that helps us stay connected with observers throughout the process. Your organization will have access to that data at any time.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE? **Observers will want to dedicate a minimum of 2-3 hours for training, or more, if they want to learn about more aspects of the election.** Observing itself can take an hour to several days if the observer decides to do more - like several days of Early Voting.

WHY OBSERVE?

- **Problems with U.S. elections are not new.** It is not always comfortable to discuss them, but we must if we want to improve our electoral process
- **Often technology is overlooked,** but tech is at the center of our elections now. We register, vote and count votes with technology. It is imperative for the public to have a better understanding of, and more confidence in, this technology that impacts almost every aspect of our lives.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING? **You will be observing different aspects of the election,** from the testing of the voting machines, to observing voters cast their ballots, to the auditing of the vote count.

WILL I HAVE SUPPORT? **Yes.** We develop networks at the local, state & federal level, so you have support during the process & in reporting what you find.

CAN PROBLEMS BE SOLVED THIS WAY? **Yes. We have located and started solving many issues this way.** We have been doing election observation for 5 years, and each election we get better at locating and solving problems.

DO YOU APPRECIATE MY TIME? **Very much. We are immensely grateful for all that you do.**



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WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY ABOUT WORKING WITH US?

- **“Smart Elections is the most thorough, vigilant, informed, and engaged source for information on our elections systems.”**
- Diana Finch, Longtime NYC Pollworker
- **“I have been working in local elections for nearly 20 years and following federal election anomalies for about as long. I support your work and want to be involved.”**
- Substack Supporter
- **“Very grateful for your efforts on behalf of election integrity”**
- Barbara Glassman Supporter

ONE OBSERVERS STORY: Alice started observing with SMART Elections in Tulare County, CA in 2025. She observed mail-in ballot processing. She said in her report, “Most of my time was spent talking to the supervisor in charge of vote counting ... She was very friendly and answered all my questions ... ***Her wish was that more people would come to observe.***” One of the most important take-aways from Alice’s report was that many of the ballots that get mailed in don’t get counted. “Approximately 1000-1200 ballots are “challenged” due to signature problems. ***Of those, typically less than 50% are eventually cured.***”

Because of Alice’s work, and the other California observers, SMART Elections has gathered research about the high percentages of ballots that get mailed-in, but not counted.

- We are developing a list of recommendations for election officials
- We’ve created a community check list to help voters make fewer mistakes on their mail-in ballots. (see next page)
- We are also researching potential areas of fraud that can occur with mail-in voting. Our work is nonpartisan and evidence-based.

Inform Your Community

(Sample Checklist for mail-in voting)

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- When is the last day to register to vote?
- When are absentee ballots sent out?
- When is the last day to send absentee ballots back?
- When do they have to be received by ?(Election Day to be safe)
- Where are dropboxes in my community?
- What are the rules regarding filling out the ballot?
- Can I track a ballot as it's sent to me, and when I send it back?

Substack





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6 Sessions of Observation Training

We can tailor these sessions to fit your team members' interests & schedules

Support includes:

- In-person training
- Video modules
- Slide decks & instructions
- FAQs & checklists for each topic
- Branded nametags

A 6-session online training series is available. Training covers **how to protect our elections** through observation & verification of these systems:

IN-PERSON VOTING: Learn how to compare the number of voters to the number of ballots, as well as ways to check if the results are accurate.

VOTER ROLLS: Learn how to request voter rolls & check they are accurate. Voter rolls determine who gets to vote.

LOGIC AND ACCURACY: Document whether election officials are using best practices when testing voting machines.

VOTE-BY-MAIL: Mail-in ballots are at risk from both fraud and the possibility of rejection. Learn how to observe this process and what you can do to help ensure that valid votes get counted and not rejected.

AUDITS: Learn to evaluate post-election audits, How many ballots are actually audited? For what races? Are discrepancies discovered? How are they addressed?

ELECTION NIGHT: Track vote totals as they are collected and reported through election management systems and the media.



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Experience & Vision Are Needed

#ProtectTheMidterms



Learn about SMART Elections

- Leadership with two decades of experience covering election security
 - Organized & moderated a [Senate briefing](#) on election security
 - Coverage of the [DEF CON security conference](#)
- A plan to restore confidence in U.S. elections through nonpartisan observation & local involvement
 - Effective [election verification program](#)
- A history of success
 - Pilot programs & observation in 14 states
 - [Security investigations](#) with 4 million views
 - Groundbreaking [litigation](#)
 - Nonpartisan collaboration with people across the political spectrum

“Free & fair elections are the bedrock of our democracy. We need assurances that elections are secured against malign actors who would rob voters of their voices”

- Dawn Taylor, volunteer SMART Elections

