



PROTECTING OUR **DEMOCRACY**

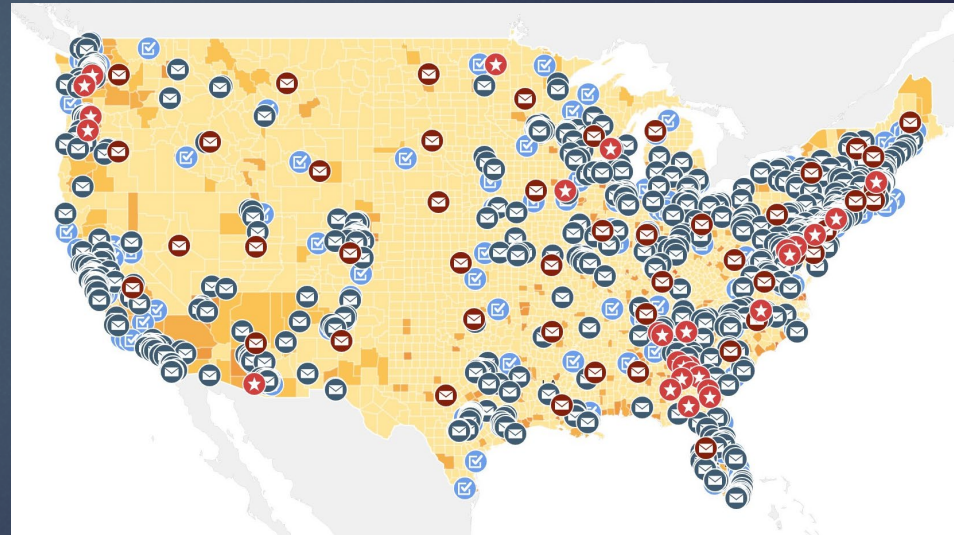
Connect to Action Event
September 7, 2022

Protect Our Election – Our Mission

- Launched in 2020 with a specific focus on our democracy's most overlooked and under-supported resource: local election officials
- In the leadup to and aftermath of the 2020 General Election, we connected voters with their local officials to build positive relationships
- We have evolved along two parallel paths:
 - Supporting the election officials who do their job the right way by providing digital tools and resources
 - Assessing the risk posed by “election infiltrators” who seek to introduce bias, chaos, and anti-democratic sentiment to our electoral process
- We have established national partnerships with groups like Choose Democracy, The Union, Count Every Vote, the Global Disinformation Index, and the Election Reformers Network

Protect Our Election – Our Impact

- Built a coalition of ~25 co-signing organizations on the Petition to Protect Our Election, and leveraged those relationships to spread our calls to action
- Generated over 16,000 direct contacts between voters and their state or local election officials (all 50 states and ~700 counties)
- Used our advocacy platform to encourage constituent action on a number of issues – impeachment, accountability, EC reform, etc.
- Now offer a suite of digital services to local election officials who need help with social media, threat assessments, and personal data protection



Election Administration 101

- State-level oversight is different everywhere:
 - 26 states have an elected official with authority over elections
 - 24 states have an appointed official or board with authority over elections
- Local-level oversight is different everywhere:
 - Some states have relatively streamlined hierarchies, with a single public official in charge of election administration at the county-level
 - Other states have messier org charts, with one or more county-level boards overseeing an appointed/hired administrative officer
 - And some states do all of this at the local/municipal level
- **Poll workers** are generally temporary paid employees who are trained and approved to conduct elections at the precinct level
- **Poll observers/watchers** are typically partisan appointees who are allowed inside the polling place to observe the process

The Threats To Democracy

Politics

Heeding Steve Bannon's Call, Election Deniers Organize to Seize Control of the GOP — and Reshape America's Elections

by Isaac Arnsdorf, Doug Bock Clark, Alexandra Berzon and Anjeanette Damon

Sept. 2, 2021, 5 a.m. EDT



POLITICS

TRUMP'S NEXT COUP HAS ALREADY BEGUN

January 6 was practice. Donald Trump's GOP is much better positioned to subvert the next election.

By Barton Gellman

'We have a project': QAnon followers eye swing state election official races

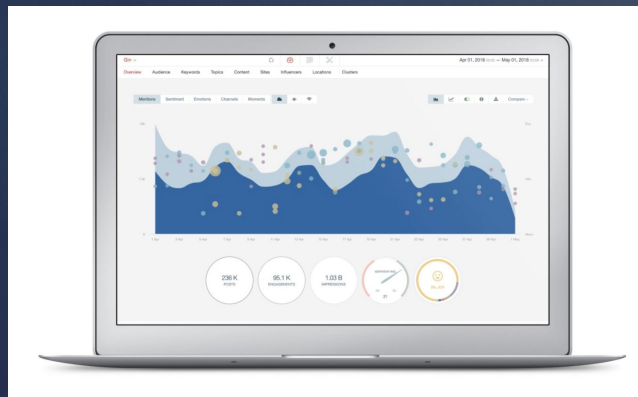
As part of a calculated assault on democracy, QAnon steered far-right candidates toward secretary of state contests



The elected candidates would be in prime position to overturn election results as they fit. Photograph: Bloomberg/Getty Images

Protect Our Election – Our Intel

- Thanks to the team at VPP, Protect Our Election has been able to assemble a uniquely detailed look at the people who are in a position to impact election administration
- We've spent months combing through public records, media coverage, and social media posts to identify potential trouble spots at the local levels



- We are now sharing our findings to help grassroots organizations prioritize counties, towns, and precincts
- We are building an automated tool to ensure an evergreen approach to the data

Protect Our Election – Take Action

- Sign up for PoE alerts ([link](#))
- Follow Protect Our Election (and other accounts [found here](#)) on social media and help us amplify the truth
- Use our lookup tool to determine whether you live in a county or state that presents red flags this fall



- Act as a conduit to your local party organizers and help pass along our research
- Write a letter to the editor to alert your community (tool launching soon)
- Attend county or town election board meetings
- Share information from the ground with us
- Join our [Volunteer Research Team](#)



VoPro Pros

(Voter Protection Pros)

- ▶ Grew out of a passion for pro-democracy work in 2020
- ▶ Now over 1,000 professional-grade volunteer members, organizers, and activists
- ▶ We are committed to empowering everyone to take part in the democratic process
- ▶ We believe in Voter Protection (VoPro) by everyone for everyone, especially for those who are systematically disenfranchised from the voting process

An Introduction to Action

- Become a paid poll worker in your county. When a county doesn't have enough poll workers, they may close polling locations. Complete an application here to get started: www.powerthepolls.org/signup
- Volunteer as a poll observer/watcher. Both political parties are allowed to have **two volunteers each** inside polling locations to monitor the process. There is no limit to how many can be outside of the polling location. Training is provided. Shorter time commitment but important to the election process. You can sign up for this volunteer role through the voter protection team of your political party.
- Volunteer on any state's voter hotline, answering voters' questions in real time. You sign up for this role through a state's political party. You do not have to be a lawyer, or even from the state, to fill this role. Training is provided. You can share as many hours as you want on as many hotlines across the country.

VPP: How You Can Help



- Volunteer your time to recruit election volunteers. Make phone calls to encourage others to volunteer and participate in the election process.
- Volunteer your time to contact voters whose absentee ballots have been rejected and need to be cured in order to count.
- Volunteer your time to research Election Deniers for Protect Our Election ([link](#))
- Stay informed on voter suppression activities by subscribing to Democracy Docket. Get their free weekly newsletter here - www.democracymarket.com/subscribe
- Consider becoming part of the VoPro Pros community.

VPP: The Next 60 Days

Happening now

- Ballot chase calls into New Hampshire
- Poll observer and hotline volunteer recruitment in four states: North Carolina, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania

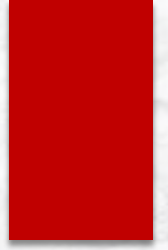
Starting mid-September

- Administrative work - manning poll observer email inbox and assigning polling locations in LBJ
- Ballot chase calls for North Carolina and Georgia
- Researching absentee ballot process in PA
- Election denier research in NH and MI

Planned for October

- Ballot curing for North Carolina, Georgia and Nevada
- Confirmation calls to poll observers in several states

Q&A/Links



- ▶ <https://www.protectourelection.com/take-action-support-democracy>
- ▶ <https://www.protectourelection.com/research-team>
- ▶ <https://www.vopropros.com>
- ▶ <https://www.powerthepolls.org/signup>
- ▶ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/election-administration-at-state-and-local-levels.aspx>

