

Ready for 2002, Forgetting 2000

Election Officials Oppose Federal Standards
And
See Only Minor Impact of Election 2000

A Survey
Of
State and Local Election Officials

*Conducted for
The Election Reform Information Project*

*Conducted by
Princeton Survey Research Associates*

January 2002

Executive Summary

The Florida vote-counting controversy in the year 2000 that held the nation in thrall and the outcome of the presidential election in doubt has had only a minor impact on the nation's election operations, a new survey finds.

Calls for major reform and proposed legislation promulgating sweeping new federal standards for U.S. elections in the wake of Florida's problems do not find support among the men and women responsible for actually setting up the precincts, checking the voters and tallying the ballots, according to the survey conducted for the Election Reform Information Project.

The flurry of studies, commissions and reports on Election 2000 draw a polite, if unenthusiastic, response from election officials, who do not voice much respect for those who conducted the studies.

Efforts to legislate federal standards for voting technology, recount procedures and ballot design do not win the backing of most election officials. For state election officials, only the call for federal standards for voting technology has majority support. Among local election officials, opinions on federal standards are sharply divided, with a majority backing only federal standards for recount procedures.

Despite arguments in the halls of Congress that the nation's election system is teetering on the verge of collapse, state and local election officials say they are more than ready for the 2002 elections, without new federal standards or money, without increased budgets and without new technology.

Across the board, election officials report generally that a major barrier to improvements in election operations is money. Budgets have not been raised and election staffs have not been enlarged. Thus, the one area where the election officials see the federal government being helpful would be in providing grants to states and counties to fund election improvements.

And nine of ten American voters will cast their ballots on the same voting technology in 2002 as they faced in 2000.

In sum, the survey finds not much has changed as election officials look to their next big challenge, the 2002 congressional and gubernatorial elections.

The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates and is based on telephone interviews with the chief election officials in 36 states and the chief election officials in 208 local jurisdictions (counties, cities and towns). The interviews were conducted from October 16 to November 9, 2001.

Florida: Much talk, little impact

A little more than a year after the furor over the vote tally in the presidential balloting in Florida, the nation's election officials say that the sound and fury of late 2000 has not made much difference in America's precincts.

The Florida furor focused the public's attention on election operations – the details of how elections are organized, how votes are cast, how they are counted and recounted – with an intensity never before experienced in the United States.

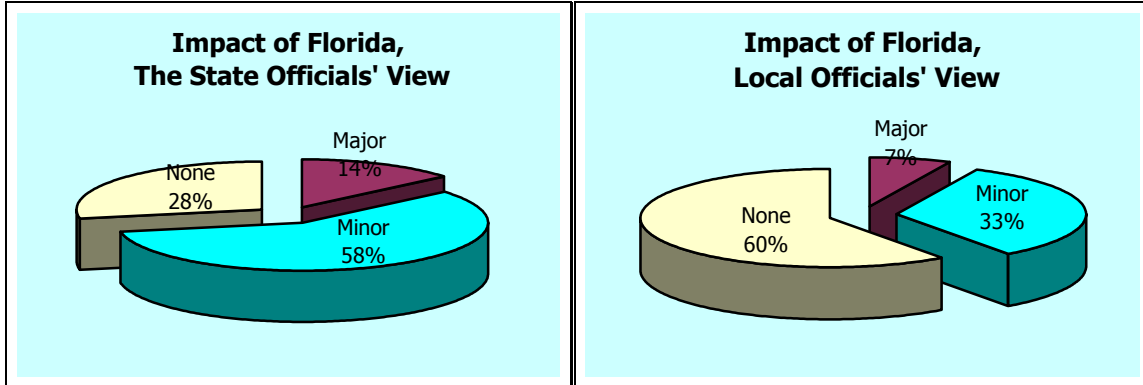
Americans did not know who would be the next President for nearly a month after the balloting concluded in the 2000 elections, because the evenly divided election hung on the outcome of a raging dispute over who won the most votes in Florida, Al Gore and George W. Bush. The intense operational, political and legal battle to decide who won Florida and thus the presidency captivated the nation as the intricacies of counting punch-card ballots, voter confusion over proper voting technique and high-decibel debates over the "proper procedures" dominate the newspaper front pages and the airwaves.

In the aftermath of that furor, surprise and chagrin was expressed at the fragility of the nation's election system and the extraordinary variation from state to state and even from county to county in how ballots were cast and counted. There were calls for reform and promises of federal action. Commissions were formed and studies began of how to fix what many called a broken election system. Legislation was introduced in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate.

"The real story is about the pathetic and tragic situation of our electoral system of this country," said Sen. Christopher Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat. "It didn't happen in one event and in one state. It is in all 50 states – some worse than others – and has been going on for years."

Despite the intense controversy created in late 2000, most election officials say the Florida vote-counting controversy has had little impact on their work, although state officials are more likely to see at least a minor impact than local officials do.

Only 14 percent of the state election officials say the Florida furor has had a major impact on their plans for the 2002 election. Fifty-eight percent of the state officials say the controversy has had a minor impact, and 28 percent say it has had no impact.



In contrast, a majority of local election officials (60%) say the Florida controversy had no impact at all on their plans for the upcoming elections. A third (33%) say it had a minor impact. And only seven percent say it had a major impact.

Those officials who said the Florida furor had no impact on their plans for 2002 were asked why it had no impact. The question was open-ended, allowing the officials to detail their thinking on the impact. The principal reasons these officials see no impact is that their current systems work well (31%); that they are well prepared for 2002 (23%); and that the procedures in use are different from, and better than, those used in Florida (17%) – no “butterfly ballots” or “hanging chads”.

But for some election officials, the impact of the 2000 election controversy is clear. Among the election officials who say the Florida controversy had an impact, majorities of these state election officials (58%) and local election officials (55%) say the furor made their jobs harder. Only 15 percent of this group of state officials and 12 percent of the local officials say it made their job easier. The remainder in each group did not answer the question.

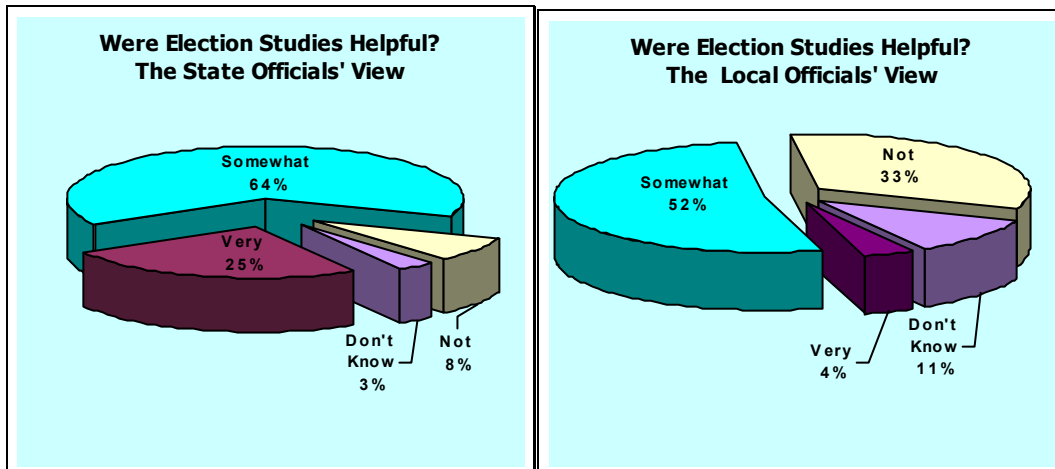
The major reasons that the election officials say their jobs are tougher are a loss of confidence in the system (20%); the need to justify their current operations (18%); and public scrutiny in general (17%).

There are not any significant differences by geographic region in the opinions of election officials on these issues. And that lack of differences is reflected in many of the other questions in the survey as well.

Blue-Ribbon Panels and In-Depth Reports

The reaction to the various studies and commissions after the election 2000 problems receive a decidedly lukewarm reaction from officials. Majorities term the studies only somewhat helpful, with a full third of the local officials saying the studies were not helpful at all.

One in four state election officials (25%) say that the studies were very helpful, but only 4 percent of the local officials took that view. Majorities of each group (64% of state officials, 52% of local officials) say the studies were somewhat helpful. Eight percent of the state officials and 33 percent of the local officials say the studies were *not* helpful.



Those election officials who say the studies are at least somewhat helpful explain that the blue-ribbon panels and other reports focused attention on areas that need improvement and brought attention to election operations. Those who say the studies were not helpful called the efforts a waste of time or say that the issues in Florida simply do not apply in their state or locale.

One reason for the tepid response is that the election officials have a low opinion of the knowledge of election processes among those doing the studies. Only 36 percent of the election officials say the commission members were knowledgeable. Thirty percent say they were not knowledgeable and a 34 percent refused to answer or say they didn't know. There is a minor regional split on this issue, with those in the Northeast and Midwest being slightly more likely to think the commission members were knowledgeable than those in the South and West.

Federal Standards

One immediate reaction to the public's discovery of wide state-to-state (and even county-to-county) variations in voting laws, regulations and practices was calls for federal standards for election operations. Despite the long tradition of state and local control of elections – grounded in constitutional language – major legislation pushing federal election standards passed the House in 2001 with a similar bill sporting bipartisan support emerging in the Senate.

The gap between the view from the federal level and the view from the state and local levels could not be wider.

"These are minimum standards that no one can disagree with," said Sen. Dodd upon the introduction of the Senate bill in late 2001, crafted after months of behind-the-scenes negotiations.

State and local officials do disagree with this view from Washington. State officials, in particular, declare their deep opposition to federal standards, rejecting federal standards in five of six areas. Only in voting technology do the state officials say they would back federal standards.

In fact, 22 percent of these state officials say they cannot support standards in any of the six areas. And only three percent support federal standards in all six areas.

Where state election officials are fairly united in their firm opposition to federal standards, local election officials are much more splintered on the issues, tending to split on all six areas of possible standards. Only on procedures for recounts and contested elections does support for federal standards reach a majority among local officials.

Looking at it another way, 26 percent of the local election officials support none of the six standards. But 16 percent support standards in all six of the areas. These local officials already operate under state standards in many of these areas. Thus, federal standards might just become another layer of bureaucracy and rules for local officials.

Little Support for Federal Voting Standards

	Support	Oppose
Voting technology and machinery		
State Officials	69%	22%
Local Officials	41%	47%
Vote counting procedures		
State Officials	31%	58%
Local Officials	48%	40%
Election official recruitment and training		
State Officials	17%	75%
Local Officials	48%	45%
Election Day operations and procedures		
State Officials	14%	78%
Local Officials	42%	45%
Procedures for recounts and contested elections		
State Officials	17%	72%
Local Officials	52%	38%
Ballot design		
State Officials	11%	81%
Local Officials	38%	50%

Four of the areas of possible standards are addressed in either the House or Senate bills in some manner: voting technology and machinery; vote-counting procedures; election official recruitment and training; and Election Day operations and procedures.

Voting technology is one area where the state and local officials come closest to agreement with the need for federal standards. Fully 69 percent of the state officials interviewed support such standards, while 22 percent are opposed. The state and local officials are evenly divided, with 41 percent supporting federal standards and 47 percent opposed. This is the only standard supported by a majority of state election officials interviewed.

In the other three areas addressed by legislation, there is a clear distinction of opinion among the officials. The state officials are firmly opposed to federal standards. Local officials are evenly divided on the issues.

For example, only 31 percent of the state officials support federal standards on voting counting procedures and 58 percent are opposed. But among local

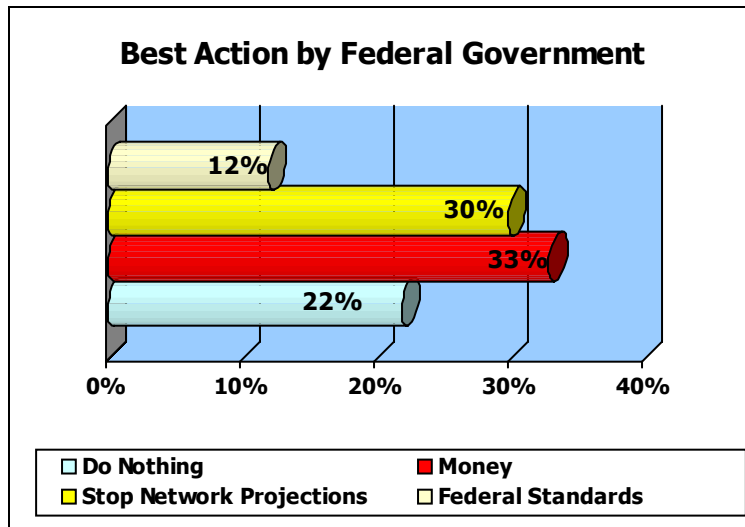
officials, 48 percent support federal standards, but just about as many, 40 percent, oppose the idea.

Two of the possible sets of federal standards are not addressed in current legislation: ballot design and procedures for recounts and contested elections.

Ironically, local officials support federal standards for procedures for recounts and contested elections by a 52 percent to 38 percent margin, even though such standards have not been written into any existing legislation. State officials are opposed by an overwhelming 17 percent to 72 percent edge.

And federal standards for ballot design – to avoid furors like the Palm Beach County, Florida, “butterfly ballot” – do not find much support. State officials oppose such standards by 11 percent to 81 percent margin, with local officials opposing them by a 38 percent to 50 percent edge.

In fact, implementing federal standards for elections is at the bottom of the list of the actions that the federal government could take that would be most helpful in the eyes of these officials. A third (33%) say providing money to help fund elections would be the most useful step and 30 percent say stopping network election projections. Only 12 percent say federal standards are the way to go. Fully 22 percent say the government can be most helpful by staying out of state and local operations altogether.



Both the House and Senate legislation includes a major role for the U.S. Department of Justice for enforcing federal election standards if such are adopted. And state and local officials do not want that. They are much more likely to say that the Federal Election Commission should be charged with the

task. Two-thirds mention the FEC, while only 4 percent name the Justice Department. About one in eight (12%) say a new federal agency should be created. Many local and state election officials already have experience with Justice Department oversight, particularly in the South, where the Voting Rights Act is often the source of the federal jurisdiction. (Both pieces of federal legislation call for a federal advisory commission on standards, but the enforcement powers would be given to the Justice Department.)

More federal involvement in elections is just not something these officials would like to see. Only one in nine (11%) said more federal involvement would improve their local election operations, while 36 percent say such an increased involvement would harm their work. About the same number (35%) say it would make no difference.

The state and local election officials do have starkly different opinions when it comes to federal financial help. See the description of election budgeting in the next section.

Ready to go for 2002

Almost without exception, state and local election officials say they are ready for the 2002 elections. Sixty-seven percent of the state officials questioned and 63 percent of the local officials rate their operations readiness as excellent. And a third of each (33% each) rate their readiness as good.

Most local officials see little difference in their readiness now versus this time before the 2002 elections. Seventy-seven percent of the local officials say they are about as prepared this time as they were for 2000. Nineteen percent say they are better prepared. State officials are more optimistic, with 47 percent saying they are better prepared and 53 percent saying they are as well prepared as they were in 2000.

State officials have a high opinion of the readiness of local officials. And vice versa.

- ✓ Forty-seven percent of state officials rate the readiness of the local officials in their states as excellent and 47 percent rate it as good.
- ✓ And local officials rate the state officials pretty well too: 46 percent say their state of readiness is excellent and 35 percent say good.

Changes in the law

About a quarter of state and local election officials (25%) report major changes in the election laws in their state since 2000, with a somewhat smaller number (18%) reporting other major changes in regulations and procedures.

One in five (20%) say that changes have been made to make absentee balloting easier and 18 percent say improvements have been made by law in voter registration procedures. Fifteen percent mention the creation of central voter registry and 12 percent say punch card ballots have been eliminated by law.

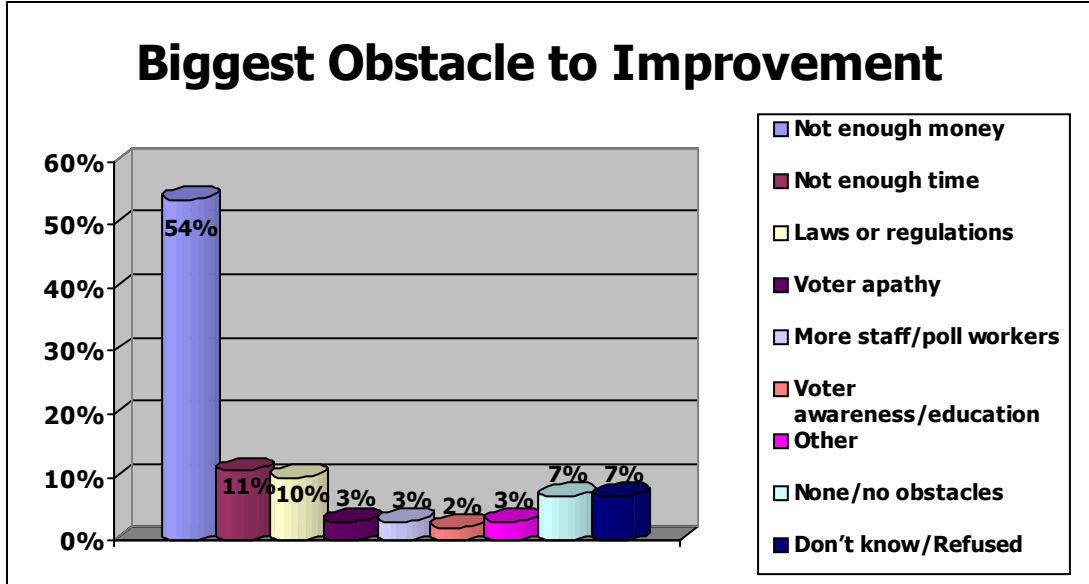
One interesting breakout in the numbers is that the impact of the Florida election furor is directly related to changes in the law since 2000. Among election officials who say they the Election 2000 controversy had a big impact, 58 percent report major changes in their election laws in the past year. Among those who say Florida had no impact, only 22 percent report major legal changes.

Changes in the money

There is not a lot more money around for election operations this year. Forty-five percent of the election officials report that their budgets for 2002 have been approved, while 50 percent say they have not. The rest did not answer.

Among those whose budgets are already in place, about half (51%) asked for more money. And a fair number received that increase. Overall, 42 percent of those whose budgets are in place received more money for the elections in 2002. Seven percent reported decreased budgets and 49 percent report no change. This is a second area where the Florida furor had an impact. Of the election officials who say the Election 2000 furor had a big impact, 70 percent report higher budgets for 2002. Of those who say Election 2000 had no impact, only 31 percent report higher budgets have been approved.

Among those whose budgets are still under consideration, 46 percent asked for more money. And they are a pretty optimistic bunch: 68 percent expect to receive at least most of the increased money they have requested. It is clear that even marginally increased budgets do not mean bigger election staffs. Only 11 percent report increased staffing, while 86 percent report no change and three percent report a decline in election staff.

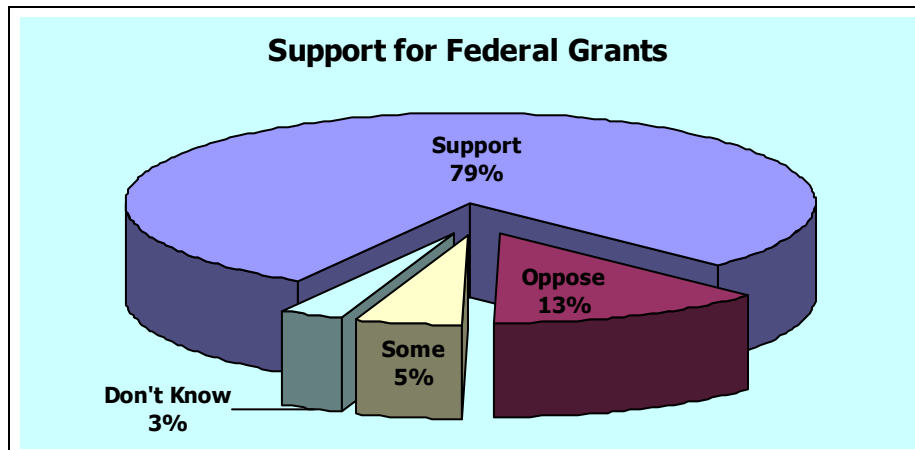


Officials say that money is the biggest obstacle they face in trying to improve election operations. Fully 54 percent say that not enough money available is the principal reason that they have not been able to improve operations since 2000. Eleven percent say that there was not enough time to make the improvements and 10 percent say that laws or regulations stood in the way.

Federal Money

The local and state election officials would welcome federal grants to improve the election process, even if they do not want federal standards telling them how to do their jobs. And Congress seems willing to oblige: the House bill contains \$2.65 billion for states, counties and cities over three years, while the Senate language calls for \$3.4 billion over five years.

Fully four in five election officials (79%) support federal grants to fund modernizing various parts of the election process. Only 13 percent oppose such grants. State officials and local officials have similar attitudes on this issue.



Specifically, grants to support modernizing election technology and machinery draw the strongest support. A total of 86 percent of the election officials support such federal grants. Somewhat smaller majorities call for money for Election Day operations (70%) and money for election official recruitment and training (73%).

The House bill, in particular, would give counties and cities \$6,000 per precinct to replace punch-card voting machines, the source of so much controversy and confusion in Florida in 2000. With 16 percent of the officials reporting they still use such machines, the money for replacing the machines could be substantial.

The debate on possible federal grants to fund election operations has covered the possibility of block grants to state and local governments based on population or a program to which state and local governments would apply for specific grants for specific purposes. The specific grants are the preferred approach by a two-to-one margin (61% v. 26%).

No change in the machinery

With all the talk of antiquated election machinery in Florida, it is crystal clear that most American voters will face the same election technology in 2002 that they used in 2000.

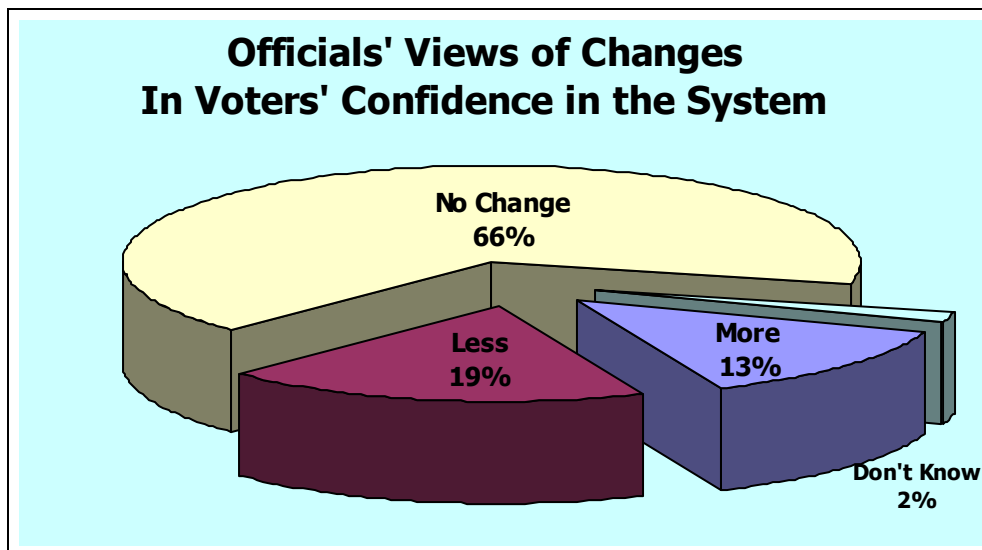
Ninety-one percent of the election officials report that they have not changed voting technology since the last presidential election.

About one in five election officials in this group (22%) say they wanted to change election technologies this year, but did not. And the reason was money: 76 percent said there were just not the funds available to buy new technology for the 2002 elections.

From the Voters' View

The average voter probably will not see much change in 2002, election officials conclude. Only 13 percent say that voters in their jurisdiction will find it is easier to cast a vote in 2002 than in 2000. Eighty-four percent say there will be no difference and two percent warn it will be harder.

There is a bit less optimism from the election officials about what they think the voters' views will be. Again 13 percent say that the voters will have more confidence in the process than in 2000, but 19 percent say the voters will have less confidence. Two-thirds expect the voters' level of confidence not to change.



APPENDICES

I. Methodology

II. Topline

Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates and is based on telephone interviews with the chief election officials in 36 states and the chief election officials in 208 counties, cities and towns.

The interviews were conducted from October 16 to November 9, 2001.

Efforts were made to interview the chief election officials in each of the 50 states. The list of chief election officers was drawn from the National Association of State Election Directors roster. A letter from the Election Reform Information Project was sent to each chief election official in advance of the interview, requesting his or her participation. Repeated telephone calls were made to each official and their staff to arrange appointments for the interviews. Interviews were completed with 36 of those officials. No sampling was done to select these respondents.

Sampling techniques were used to choose the initial list of local election officials to be interviewed.

The sample of local election officials was drawn from a list of all major voting jurisdictions in the name, proportional to the voting age population of the voting jurisdiction. In general, the voting jurisdictions used were counties. In New England, the appropriate voting jurisdiction varied by state, but was often a city, town or smaller area. This design meant that some very large counties were certain to be selected for the sample. The list of local election officials was provided by Election Data Services Inc. of Washington D.C., a consulting firm with extensive expertise in election operations.

A letter from the Election Reform Information Project was sent to each election official in advance of the interview, requesting his or her participation. Repeated telephone calls were made to each official and their staff to arrange appointments for the interviews. A total of 317 local election officials were contacted and asked to participate. A total of 208 interviews were completed.

Election Officials Survey Preparing for 2002

Final Topline Results

November 30, 2001
Princeton Survey Research Associates
For The Election Reform Information Project

Final results based on N=36 State Election Officials
208 County/Local Election Officials

Interview dates: October 16 – November 09, 2001

Q1. How would you rate your department's readiness for the 2002 elections...excellent, good, only fair, poor?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	67	63	Excellent
	33	33	Good
	0	2	Only fair
	0	*	Poor
	0	1	Don't know/Refused

Q2. Would you say your department is better prepared now than you were for the 2000 elections, not as well prepared or about the same as for 2000?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	47	19	Better than 2000
	0	3	Worse than 2000
	53	77	About the same as 2000
	0	1	Don't know/Refused

Q3. How would you rate the readiness of the county and local election officials in your state for the 2002 elections...excellent, good, only fair, poor?

Based on state officials only [N=36].

%	47	Excellent
	47	Good
	0	Only fair
	0	Poor
	6	Don't know/Refused

- Q4.** Would you say that the county and local election officials in your state are better prepared now than they were for the 2000 elections, not as well prepared or about the same as for 2000?

Based on state officials only [N=36].

%	44	Better than 2000
	0	Worse than 2000
	50	About the same as 2000
	6	Don't know/Refused

- Q5.** How would you rate the readiness of the state election officials in your state for the 2002 elections...excellent, good, only fair, poor?

Based on county/local officials only [N=208].

%	46	Excellent
	35	Good
	6	Only fair
	*	Poor
	13	Don't know/Refused

- Q6.** Would you say that the state election officials in your state are better prepared now than they were for the 2000 elections, not as well prepared or about the same as for 2000?

Based on county/local officials only [N=208].

%	35	Better than 2000
	2	Worse than 2000
	54	About the same as 2000
	9	Don't know/Refused

Q7. Have there been any major changes in election laws in your state since 2000?

% 25 Yes
74 No
2 Don't know/Refused

Q7b. In your view, what were the two or three most significant changes in state election laws since 2000?

*Based on those who have major changes in election laws [N=60].
Multiple responses accepted.*

% 22 Clarification/Rewrite of election laws/standards
20 Easier absentee ballot access/process
18 Improved registration procedures/Continuous registration
15 Established a central Voter registry
12 Eliminated punch card ballots
8 New primary system
3 New training requirements for election workers/administrators/inspectors
3 Increased polling hours/accessibility
25 Other
3 Don't know/Refused

Q8. Other than changes mandated by new laws you have already mentioned, have there been any major changes in election procedures or operations in your state since 2000?

% 18 Yes
79 No
3 Don't know/Refused

Q8b. In your view, what were the two or three most significant changes in state election procedures or operations since 2000?

*Based on those who have major changes in election procedures [N=44].
Multiple responses accepted*

% 18 Clarification/Rewrite of election laws/standards
14 Improved registration procedures/Continuous registration
14 Established/Improved central Voter registry
11 Easier absentee ballot access/process
9 New training requirements for election workers/administrators/inspectors
9 New/Refurbished voting machines
7 Increased polling hours/accessibility
7 Increased budget/staff
7 Eliminated punch card ballots
7 Education/Awareness of voting public
7 New election management computer system
5 Redistricting/Redrawn precincts
9 Other
0 Don't know/Refused

Q9. Has your department's/office's budget for the 2002 elections been approved at this point?

% 45 Yes
50 No
4 Don't know/Refused

Q9b. Did you request an increased budget for your office/department for the 2002 elections compared with previous election years?

Based on those who have approved 2002 election budget [N=111].

% 51 Yes, requested increase
46 No, did not request increase
3 Asked for same budget as before
0 Don't know/Refused

Q9c. Compared with 2000, was your budget for the 2002 elections increased, decreased or kept the same?

Based on those who have approved 2002 election budget [N=111].

% 42 Increased
7 Decreased
49 Stayed about the same
2 Don't know/Refused

Q9d. Have you requested increased spending amounts for your office/department for the 2002 elections?

Based on those who do not have approved 2002 election budget [N=123].

% 46 Yes
50 No
3 Don't know/Refused

Q9e. Do you expect that you will receive all of the budget increases your requested, most of them, only some of them or very few or none of them?

Based on those who have requested increased spending [N=57].

%	33	All of the increases
	35	Most of the increases
	11	Only some of the increases
	14	Very few or none
	7	Don't know/Refused

Q10. Since 2000, has your staffing for elections been increased, decreased or kept the same?

%	11	Increased
	3	Decreased
	86	Stayed about the same
	*	Don't know/Refused

Q11. Has the controversy over the vote counting operations in Florida in 2000 Presidential Election had a big impact on your plans for elections in 2002, a minor impact or no impact at all?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	14	7	Big Impact
	58	33	Minor Impact
	28	60	No impact
	0	1	Don't know/Refused

Q11b. Why do you think it had no impact in your state/county/locale?

Based on those who believe the 2000 Election had no impact on their 2002 election plans. State [N=10] County/Local [N=124].

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	50	21	We were well prepared in/before 2000/Satisfied with our system
	40	15	We have different procedures from Florida/"no punch cards/butterfly ballots/hanging chads"
	10	32	Our system (optical scanning/voting machines/paper ballots) is very reliable/works well
	0	14	We are small/rural/don't have any problems
	0	4	People in my state must be smarter than those in Florida/"We do it right..."
	0	4	It had no impact/Not affected
	0	3	Our election workers are top notch/standards are strict (anything other than system)
	0	6	Other
	0	0	Don't know/Refused

Q11c. Did the controversy make your job harder or easier?

Based on those who believe the 2000 Election had a big or minor impact on their 2002 election plans [N=108].

%	56	Harder
	13	Easier
	31	Don't know/Refused

Q11d. How did it make it harder?

Based on those who say controversy made job harder [N=60].

%	20	Public perception/loss of confidence in the system
	18	Need to justify/defend our system/reassure/educate public
	17	Public scrutiny
	15	Time spent answering questions/surveys/the media
	13	Time spent reviewing procedures/systems/revising standards/training
	10	Raises awareness/Causes us to check/recount
	7	Other
	0	Don't know/Refused

Q11e. How did it make it easier?

Based on those who say controversy made job easier [N=14].

%	36	People are more educated/interested/Greater awareness
	29	New reforms make us better/nw computerizing
	14	New machines
	7	Got the funding for central registry
	14	Other
	0	Don't know/Refused

Q12. Since the 2000 elections, there have been a number of commissions and studies of elections that have called for various changes in the way elections are conducted in this country. In general, have you found those studies and commissions been very helpful to you, somewhat helpful or have they not been helpful?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	25	4	Very Helpful
	64	52	Somewhat helpful
	8	33	Not helpful
	3	11	Don't know/Refused

Q12a. Why do you feel that way?

Based on those who said very, somewhat or not helpful. State [N=35] County/Local [N=185].

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	23	5	Many of the recommendations are already in place
	20	18	Brings to light additional issues to consider/problems we could face/Raises awareness
	20	14	Always looking to improve/Have some good recommendations
	9	8	Criticism of the studies/Waste of money/Wrong people doing them
	9	3	Documents/verifies the need for certain changes/helps us secure additional funding
	3	14	No impact on our system/Nothing has changed/mandated
	3	6	Ideas are unrealistic/don't apply to our state/more regulations
	0	7	Haven't seen them/studied them yet
	0	6	No problems/Satisfied
	0	4	Could lead to more consistency
	0	3	Improvements are being considered/nothing concrete yet
	0	1	Increased the voter interest
	14	10	Other
	0	2	Don't know/Refused

Q13. Thinking about these commissions and those who studied the elections processes after the 2000 balloting, do you think that the people who were members of the commissions and the task forces knew and understood enough about the way elections are conducted or do you think they did not know and understand enough about elections?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	33	36	Knew enough
	36	29	Did not know enough
	31	35	Don't know/Refused

Q14. Some of those commissions have called for the federal government to set standards in various areas of elections operations. I'm going to read a list of some areas where federal standards have been discussed. For each, I'd like to know if you favor or oppose federal standards? (First/Next) Do you support or oppose federal standards for...

	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>SUPPORT SOME/OPPOSE OTHERS</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED</u>
a. Ballot design				
State	11	81	0	8
Local	38	50	3	8
b. Voting technology and machinery				
State	69	22	3	6
Local	41	47	4	8
c. Election Day operations and procedures				
State	14	78	6	3
Local	42	45	5	8
d. Election official recruitment and training				
State	17	75	3	6
Local	48	45	4	4
e. Vote counting procedures				
State	31	58	8	3
Local	48	40	5	7
f. Procedures for recounts and contested elections				
State	17	72	8	3
Local	52	38	1	9

Q15. If federal standards are adopted, what agency would you like to see oversee and enforce the standards – the Department of Justice, the Federal Election Commission or a new federal agency?

%	<u>STATE</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>	
0	5		Department of Justice
75	65		Federal Election Commission
17	11		A new federal agency
3	2		State agency, rather than federal
3	1		Other comment/not an agency
3	1		None
0	15		Don't know/Refused

Q16. In addition, some of the reports have called on the federal government to make grants to the states and local governments to fund modernizing various portions of election operations. In general do you support or oppose federal government grants to the states for such purposes?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	83	78	Support
	3	15	Oppose
	11	4	Support some, Oppose others
	3	3	Don't know/Refused

Q17. Now specifically, do you support or oppose federal grants to states and local governments for...

	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT SOME/OPPOSE OTHERS	DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED
a. Modernizing voting technology and machinery				
State	97	0	0	3
Local	84	11	2	3
b. More money for Election Day operations and procedures				
State	67	22	3	8
Local	71	25	1	3
c. More money for Election official recruitment and training				
State	81	14	0	6
Local	72	25	0	3

Q18. If the federal government were to offer grants for elections, would you prefer to see the federal government offer block grants to states and local governments based on population ... or would you prefer that the federal government make grants to the states and local governments that apply for specific grants for specific purposes?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	39	24	Block grants
	53	63	State/local applications
	3	1	Support some, Oppose others
	6	12	Don't know/Refused

Q19. I'm going to read a list of four actions the federal government could take with regard to elections. Which one of these four do you think would be the most helpful to improve election operations in your state/county/city/town? Would it be...

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	47	30	Providing money to help election operations
	19	11	Implementing national standards for elections
	11	34	Stopping network TV election projections or
	17	23	Staying out of state and local election operations altogether
	6	3	Don't know/Refused

Q20. In your state/county/city/town, what the voting technology will be used by the majority of voters in 2002?

%	50	Optical scan machines
	20	Paper ballots
	16	Punch card machines
	16	Lever machines
	9	Direct recording equipment ("DRE")
	4	Touchscreen
	1	ACCUVOTE
	1	AVM/AVC
	*	Mark-sense ballot
	*	Shoup
	*	Other (Specify)
	3	Don't know/Refused

Q21. Is that the same voting technology that most voters used in 2000, or has it changed since 2000?

%	91	Same
	7	Different
	2	Don't know/Refused

Q21b. Did you want to change voting technologies for 2002?

Based on those who use same voting technologies [N=222].

%	22	Yes
	75	No
	3	Don't know/Refused

Q21c. Why didn't you change technologies? Was it because there was no money to change, not enough time to make the change or laws or regulations prevented the change?

Based on those who wanted to change voting technologies [N=49].

%	76	No money available
	6	Laws or regulations prevented it
	6	Satisfaction with current system
	4	Not enough time
	2	Other (Specify)
	6	Don't know/Refused

Q21d. Why didn't you want to change technologies? Was it because current technology is adequate, there was no money to change, not enough time to make the change or laws or regulations prevented the change?

Based on those who didn't want to change voting technologies [N=167].

%	84	Current Technology is adequate/No need to change
	10	No money available
	5	Not enough time
	1	Laws or regulations prevented it
	1	Other (Specify)
	0	Don't know/Refused

Q21e. What was the old technology that was used and why was the change made?

Based on those who changed technologies [N=17].

Multiple responses accepted

%	29	Punch cards
	29	System was old/obsolete/inconvenient
	24	Lever machines
	24	Can be misread/Improved accuracy
	24	Paper ballots
	12	Data vote/data vote punch
	12	Upgrading our technology
	6	"Not in precinct" voting machines
	6	State funds available
	6	Required hand count
	18	Other
	0	Don't know/Refused

Q22. What is the biggest obstacle you face in trying to improve the election operations in your state/county/locale? Was it...

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	75	50	Not enough money available
	6	12	Not enough time
	8	10	Laws or regulations prevented it
	0	8	None/no obstacles
	0	3	More staff/poll workers/people
	3	3	Voter turnout/voter apathy
	3	2	Voter awareness/voter education
	0	4	Other (Specify)
	6	7	Don't know/Refused

Q23. Would more federal involvement in elections improve the elections operations in your state/county/locale, would it harm election operations or would it make no difference?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	19	10	Improve
	28	38	Harm
	19	38	Make no difference
	33	15	Don't know/Refused

Q24. Should there be greater state oversight and control of county and local election operations in your state or is the current level of oversight appropriate?

Based on state officials only [N=36].

%	28	Greater state oversight
	67	Current level is adequate
	6	Don't know/Refused

Q25. Would greater state oversight and control of county and local election operations in your state improve election operations, would it harm election operations or would it make no difference?

Based on county/local officials only [N=208].

%	27	Improve
	16	Harm
	50	Make no difference
	6	Don't know/Refused

Q26. Thinking about elections from the viewpoint of the average voter in your state/county/locale, do you think the voters casting ballots in the elections in 2002 will find it easier to cast a ballot than in 2000, harder to cast a ballot or will there be no difference?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	25	11	Easier
	0	2	Harder
	69	87	No difference
	6	*	Don't know/Refused

Q27. Just give me your best estimate, do you think the voters in your state/county/locale, now have more confidence in the election process than in 2000, less confidence or do you think the voters' level of confidence has not changed?

%	STATE	LOCAL	
	14	13	More confidence
	25	18	Less Confidence
	61	66	No change
	0	2	Don't know/Refused