



**ELECTION
PROTECTION
INITIATIVE**

**ELECTION INTEGRITY
TOOLKIT**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Part I. The Role of Officers
of Election in State Election
Infrastructure**



3

**Part II. How to Take Action
Right Now**



5

**Part III. Questions to Ask
and Things to Learn**



6

**Part IV. Conclusion and
Next Steps**



7

PART I

THE ROLE OF OFFICERS OF ELECTION IN STATE ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

Activists involved in the battle for election integrity need to develop a sophisticated understanding of the key players in the administration of elections in their states. In Georgia, this starts with the Secretary of State, Brad Raffensperger, who “oversees voting, tracks annual corporate filings, grants professional licenses, and oversees the state’s securities market.” This is a popular election that happens every four years. Visit Georgia’s Secretary of State website for more information about this position.

But what about one level down from there? The Secretary of State office has an Elections Division that “organizes and oversees all election activity, including voter registration, municipal, state, county, and federal elections.” Essentially, elections and registration activity happens at the local level with oversight and support of the Elections Division. Within the Elections Divisions page on the Georgia Secretary of State website, you can find all the specific responsibilities of these members.

It is at the county level that voters are registered, an accurate list of electors is maintained, and the elections are conducted and certified.

Within the local level, the elected Probate Judge acts as the Superintendent of Elections. This Superintendent is in charge of instructing “poll officers and others in their duties,” as well as receiving “from poll officers the returns of all primaries and elections, to canvass and compute the same and to certify... results.” The duties also extend to “announce publicly, the results of all primaries and elections held in his or her county,” and overall “to conduct all elections in such a manner as to guarantee the secrecy of the ballot and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.”

Below the county level are the precinct-level election observers—like you, hopefully. The Georgia Voter Guide website outlines the responsibilities that election observers fill: “They open and close the polling precincts, check voters in, assist them, and ensure that your vote gets counted.” You can apply to be an election observer on the Georgia Secretary of State’s website or by contacting your County Elections Office.

Each Election Day, officers of elections answer questions and make decisions that matter.

Questions like:

- Why is the voter not on the list?
- Does this voter need to cast a provisional ballot?
- Are multiple election workers attending to those who are voting curbside?

The outcomes of situations like these not only can affect the results of close elections, but also can determine whether voters themselves have confidence in the system. This sentiment is at the heart of the democratic process and election integrity.

Although disputed elections sometimes generate headlines for ending up in the courts or the Secretary of State's office, most disagreements over election processes do not rise to that level. Instead, the people who staff the polling places on Election Day and in the weeks leading up to Election Day handle these situations in early voting and mail-in ballots. Elections officers play a crucial role in ensuring the validity of each vote and the integrity of elections. Many do not know that when someone casts a ballot, it is counted—period. By the time problems reach beyond the walls of the polling place, it is often too late. The advantage of well-trained election officers is that they can handle problems before they become problems.

The move towards mass mail-in and early voting has boosted the need for well-trained and dedicated election officers. Even as we teach the value of voting in person on Election Day, we still need activists to play a role in running the process at early voting locations, processing absentee ballots, and reviewing and examining the late-arriving absentee ballots.

We at FreedomWorks have consistently heard that our activists who serve as election officers need a support network. As the leading conservative grassroots organization, our job is to ensure our activists have the resources and networks they need to succeed as election officers. As we train activists to become election officers, we will also build this network.

Believe it or not, election administration is an area that has historically been understaffed and underfunded. The left is familiar with this game; we need our people on the inside—all the more reason to get involved today.

You can take steps right now to play a part in our elections from the inside. With many elections offices seeking new people to apply, activists have the opportunity to get involved in this process-right now-to improve the future of our country and the integrity of the election system. Let's not wake up in October of 2022 frantically trying to fill the few election administration spots available before the 2022 midterms. **Let's Act Now.**

1. Reach out to your County Party chairs

- a. Initiate a conversation with them. Form a friendship.
- b. Express an interest in getting involved in elections and applying to be an election official or poll worker. It is likely that the political parties in your jurisdiction provide lists of those who want to be elections officers. Ask to be included on this list.
- c. Ask where the most help is needed, and where any problems are. County Party chairs will have a good sense of these issues.
- d. Get to know the members of your local Election Boards. Become acquainted with others who have served as elections officers.

2. Find the application to be an election officer or election observer on your county's website and fill it out! We need independent-minded people as officers of elections.

3. Even if you talk with your County Party chair and are included in your County Party's list of potential elections officers, you still should apply on the website.

4. After you apply, if you do not hear anything, continue to follow up with the County Board of Elections. Make the occasional phone call and email. Offer to come in for an interview, if you like. Keep yourself on their minds.

5. Recruit your friends and family do the same thing. The more, the merrier! Everyone has something to contribute, and we can learn from each other.

6. Stay in touch with FreedomWorks. Keep us updated on everything. (See Part III for more)

- a. Let us know how your progress towards becoming an election officer or election observer is going.
- b. What are you hearing from others?
- c. What changes could be made to improve the election administration process in your area?

For many conservatives, this is new territory. As you get involved in the process of election administration, here is a partial list of things to think about, both in and out of election season:

- 1. What are your state's election laws that govern:**
 - a. Emergency extensions of voting hours (Ex. if there is a power outage)
 - b. The prompt counting and security of ballots—machine or paper—during and after the polls close
 - c. Procedures for ensuring that all elections officials are in compliance with state law
 - d. What to do when a problem is identified the day of voting
- 2. What nonprofit organizations are active in registering voters and performing other election-related activities in your community? Are conservatives well represented in these organizations?**
- 3. What problems have occurred in past elections in your state? What have you learned from your conversations with others who have worked to administer elections?**
- 4. What is the process for documenting all hotline calls and written reports that identify potential issues as voting is on-going?**
- 5. What is the process of contacting election attorneys, the Secretary of State, and law enforcement to prevent illegal activities from occurring during voting? Is this process explained accurately beforehand?**
- 6. What does your state do to remove deceased and inactive voters from its lists? How can volunteers assist in this process?**
- 7. What is the process for verifying the registration of new voters? How can volunteers assist in this process?**
- 8. What is the process for protecting vulnerable voters from exploitation, and is this process being followed? Especially considering pandemic related changes to voting practices, plans need to be developed to protect these vulnerable voters:**
 - a. Those residing in nursing homes or assisted living facilities
 - b. Those with disabilities who require assistance in voting
 - c. Those who are receiving care in hospitals
 - d. Those who are homeless or living in shelters

The battle for election integrity is fundamental. For far too long, the left has dominated the election administration space. Just as conservatives must reform and reclaim the educational system, the bureaucracy of government, and the corporate culture in America, so must we involve ourselves in the administration of our elections. The good news is that there are many of us, and everyone has a part to play. This toolkit does not cover every scenario; it intends to provide an overview of states' election infrastructure and the role that elections officers play in it; to shape activists' thinking as they work to involve themselves as elections officers and learn more about election laws.

Here is what you can do right now:

1. Visit FreedomWorks.org/ElectionProtection and sign up for election integrity updates.
2. Reach out to your County Part chair and ask to be included on his or her list of elections officers.
3. Apply to become an elections officer on your county's website.
4. Research your state's election laws and regulations.
5. Befriend your County Board of Elections members and always seek new opportunities to assist.
6. Keep FreedomWorks in the loop!

Working together, FreedomWorks activists will secure our elections for years to come.