



FIRST IN THE NATION VOTING
DEMANDS
FIRST IN THE NATION SECURITY



NASS IDEAS Award | 2019

Key components to protecting elections at every level

- Key partnership with state OCIO and county IT professionals
- County-by-county approach
- Sustained advocacy
- Building a human firewall by requiring all elections staff to undergo basic cybersecurity training
- Registering counties for cyber-protection services provided by OCIO

OUTREACH
TO THE COUNTIES





INTERNAL FORTIFICATION



Securing a state's elections requires a thorough examination of the state's internal systems.

Here are some steps we took in Iowa that you can implement in your state to protect your systems:

- Requiring all staff to undergo cybersecurity training on an annual basis.
- Conducting a comprehensive review of our Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, including an exploration of the functionality and costs of a revised elections and voter registration system.
- Working with vendor to ensure voter registration system is secure and in a CJIS-compliant data center
- Inviting U.S. Department of Homeland Security to conduct risk and vulnerability assessment and weekly scans.
- Implementing two-factor authentication for all users.
- Requiring staff to undergo security risk training provided by DHS & FBI

Iowa's OCIO has been a key partner throughout this four-year journey to ensure the cybersecurity of the state's elections systems and that of all 99 counties. However, there are numerous other entities SOS partnered with to ensure first-in-the-nation security.

Agencies that play huge roles in securing Iowa's elections include:

- The state's Office of the Chief Information Officer
- County Information Technology organization
- State and Federal Departments of Homeland Security
- National Guard
- Governor's Office

PARTNERING
WITH OTHER ENTITIES



BOOSTING VOTER CONFIDENCE



Fair elections are the cornerstone of our constitutional republic. The erosion of public confidence in our elections due to foreign interference would be disastrous. Therefore, clear and consistent communication to the voters about the steps we are taking is necessary. This is done through outreach, personal interaction, social media and traditional media.

- Conducting frequent media availabilities
- Inviting national experts like Matt Masterson and Chris Krebs from DHS to visit and talk to media
- Partnering with EAC to create election security video
- Partnering with DHS on cybersecurity snapshot posters
- Meeting with county election commissioners across the state and spreading the message of secure elections through media availabilities with local outlets