LEGISLATIVE ELECTION TRENDS: WHAT’S AHEAD

WENDY UNDERHILL, NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
WHAT DOES NCSL’S ELECTIONS TEAM DO?

- Answer questions
- Publish The Canvass (*please subscribe*)
- Track legislative trends
- Encourage connections with election officials
LOOKING BACKWARDS TO LOOK FORWARD

“You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards.” – Steve Jobs
2018 ELECTION LEGISLATION

- 219 bills enacted
- 3 states enacted none
- Most enactments: CA (23)
- 4 states not in session
STORIES OF 2018: ABSENTEE & EARLY VOTING

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

POLITICS | ELECTION 2018

Early-Voter Turnout Surges as Parties Stage Final Push
STORIES OF 2018: ABSENTEE & EARLY VOTING

- 231 bills
- 35 enactments
ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING IN 2019?

- In states that don’t have it: expansion
- In states that do have it: Fine tuning the process
  - Third Party Returnees/Designees
  - Return Deadlines
  - Ballot Handling After Election Day
STORIES OF 2018: POST ELECTION AUDITS


GETTING THE COUNT RIGHT: EXPERTS DEBATE ELECTION AUDITS AT MIT CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 13, 2018 | NINA SPARLING
Regular PEAs
31 bills/6 enactments

Risk Limiting Audits
7 bills/1 enacted
Post Election Audits in 2019?

- More states adopting PEAs
- More states piloting Risk Limiting Audits
- Recounts & Audits
- Ballot Adjudication/Voter Intent
FEATURE

The Crisis of Election Security

As the midterms approach, America’s electronic voting systems are more vulnerable than ever. Why isn’t anyone trying to fix them?
STORIES OF 2018: CYBERSECURITY

- 7 bills, 1 enacted
- 0 blockchain bills
- 0 internet voting bills
CYBERSECURITY IN 2019?

- More help from the feds
- More training opportunities
- More “table top exercises”
- An expansion of the concept to “Election Infrastructure”
Bipartisan efforts to expand voter access in more than 30 states
STORIES OF 2018: VOTER REGISTRATION

- 46 enacted bills in 21 states
VOTER REGISTRATION IN 2019?

- Expansion of online voter registration
- Expansion of automated voter registration
- Expansion of Election Day registration
- Revisiting how lists are maintained
- More states joining the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)
Most states, including Texas and Florida, now require showing ID to vote. Here's the full state-by-state breakdown.
STORIES OF 2018: VOTER ID

Voter Identification Laws in Effect in 2018

- Strict Photo ID
- Strict Non-Photo ID
- Photo ID requested
- ID requested, photo not required
- No document required to vote

- 4 enactments
VOTER ID IN 2019?

- Citizenship
- Signature Verification for absentee ballots
- Expanding IDs that are accepted
- Fine tuning residency definitions
STORIES OF 2018: VOTING TECHNOLOGY

AFRICA

Voting Equipment Goes Up In Flames In Congo’s Capital As Election Approaches

December 13, 2018 · 12:48 PM ET

COLIN DWYER
17 enacted bills in 13 states
2019?

No predictions yet!
2019 ELECTION LEGISLATIVE PREDICTIONS

With A Presidential Election Coming...

- National Popular Vote Compact
- Changing Primary Dates
- Tax Return Disclosure
- Faithless Electors
2019 ELECTION LEGISLATIVE PREDICTIONS

And some other potential items to watch...

- Ballot measures
- Ranked choice voting
- Restoration of voting for ex-felons
- States tackling major reforms
DON’T SKIMP ON I VOTED STICKERS!
The Canvass

Election Legislation Database

Election Security: What Legislators (And Others) Need to Know

The Price of Democracy: Splitting the Bill for Elections

2020 Census Resources and Legislation
NCSL REDISTRICTING SEMINARS FOR LEGISLATORS, LEGISLATIVE STAFF AND OTHERS

Everyone is welcome!

❖ June 20-23, 2019 | Providence, R.I.
❖ Oct. 24-27, 2019 | Columbus, Ohio
❖ May 6-10, 2020 | Las Vegas, Nev.
❖ January 2021 | Washington, D.C.
QUESTIONS?

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