**Resource Allocation Report**

**Expected Findings:**

1. There is wide variation in both *how* polling places are resourced throughout the country, and *how well* they are resourced
   * This variation shows up in both the *type* of regulation as well as the *amount* of regulation
2. Polling place resourcing has not bounced back from Recession-era cuts
   * This is geographically concentrated
3. These differences in polling place resourcing are not randomly distributed: low-income and minority neighborhoods are less likely to have well-resourced polling places.
4. These disparities in polling place resourcing show up on election day
   * Certain policy regimes result in better experiences at the polls on election day
     + Places with less regulation see more variation in election day experience, with lower-income areas in states with less regulation bearing the brunt
   * Voters with less-well-resourced polling places wait longer in line and report a worse experience voting

**Tasks**

* Interviews with friendly election administrators
  + “If you had a team at the Brennan Center digging into resource allocation, where would you want them to focus?”
* Fifty-state survey of polling place resourcing requirements
  + How are elections funded?
    - How much money comes from the state?
    - Do counties have to raise the money by providing other services?
    - Is parity between counties mandated? Incentivized? Ensured?
    - How has the funding landscape changed after the Recession-era cuts?
    - Are there partisan considerations here? Do purple states under-resource areas where the opposition party is concentrated? (IE, does WI under-fund Madison and Milwaukee?)
  + What rules govern machines available?
    - Are there requirements about additional machines, planned replacements, etc?
    - We have type / age of machine in each county from Verified Voting already
  + When can jurisdictions close / move polling places? What requirements / restrictions are in place?
* State-specific research (largely though public records requests)
  + How did actual spending compare to expected spending?
  + How much money was set aside for emergencies (such as moving a polling place due to a storm)? How much was actually spent?
  + How many polling places did each county have?
  + How many poll workers and machine did each polling place have?
  + How many polling places were moved / closed? How was that information communicated?
  + When did each polling place transfer their results to the central agency?
  + How many registered voters were assigned to each polling place?
  + How many ballots were cast at each polling place?
  + What was the street address of each polling place? (To get neighborhood demographics)
* Analysis of National Surveys
  + From CCES:
    - Where did people wait in the longest lines?
    - What were the demographics of voters who waited in the longest lines?
    - Where did voters report having the worst experiences on election day?
* Multiple Data Sources
  + Did funding / wait times / election performance / etc change post-*Shelby County* in covered jurisdictions?
  + In big counties – do differences in wait times seem to be explained by variation *between* counties (county X had $Y per voter, but county Z had $A per voter) or *within* counties (voters in the same county reported very different wait times)
  + Did purge rates seem to have any impact on election performance?
  + Is there evidence of turnout effects over time? If a polling place was poorly funded in 2016, was there lower turnout in 2018?

**Timeline**

* Mid-June
  + All public records requests out
  + Interviews with friendly election administrators done
* End of summer (Sept 1)
  + Public records requests returned and ready to be analyzed
  + 50 state survey done
    - All states categorized by funding type
    - Preliminary sense of what we think are the best systems, and which are the worst
  + Good handle on national data / surveys
    - CCES model up and running
      * Ready to incorporate state-level findings and public records request information as covariates in models
    - Incorporation of EAVS data (released June 30)
* Mid-October
  + Deep-dive into public records request responses done
  + Full incorporation of public records requests and state-specific indicators incorporated into statistical analyses
* Early December
  + Full draft of report written
* Mid-January
  + Final draft of report done
  + Draft to Communications
* Early March
  + Publication