

How Can We Increase Confidence in Election Security?

TRAINING, TRANSPARENCY & EDUCATION

As we rapidly approach the 2020 elections in the United States, global tech association ISACA is sharing a study of more than 3,000 IT governance, risk, security and audit professionals in the US that it conducted in January and again in July. Respondents were asked about election security issues and their level of trust in the system. **Results show that confidence levels are low—and declining.** What's causing uncertainty about election security? Whose responsibility is it to change that, and how can trust be restored? View insights from the survey below.

TOP THREATS TO ELECTION SECURITY:

- 73%** Misinformation/disinformation campaigns.
- 64%** Tampering with tabulation of voter results.
- 62%** Hacking or tampering with voter registration rolls.
Hacking or tampering with voting machines.

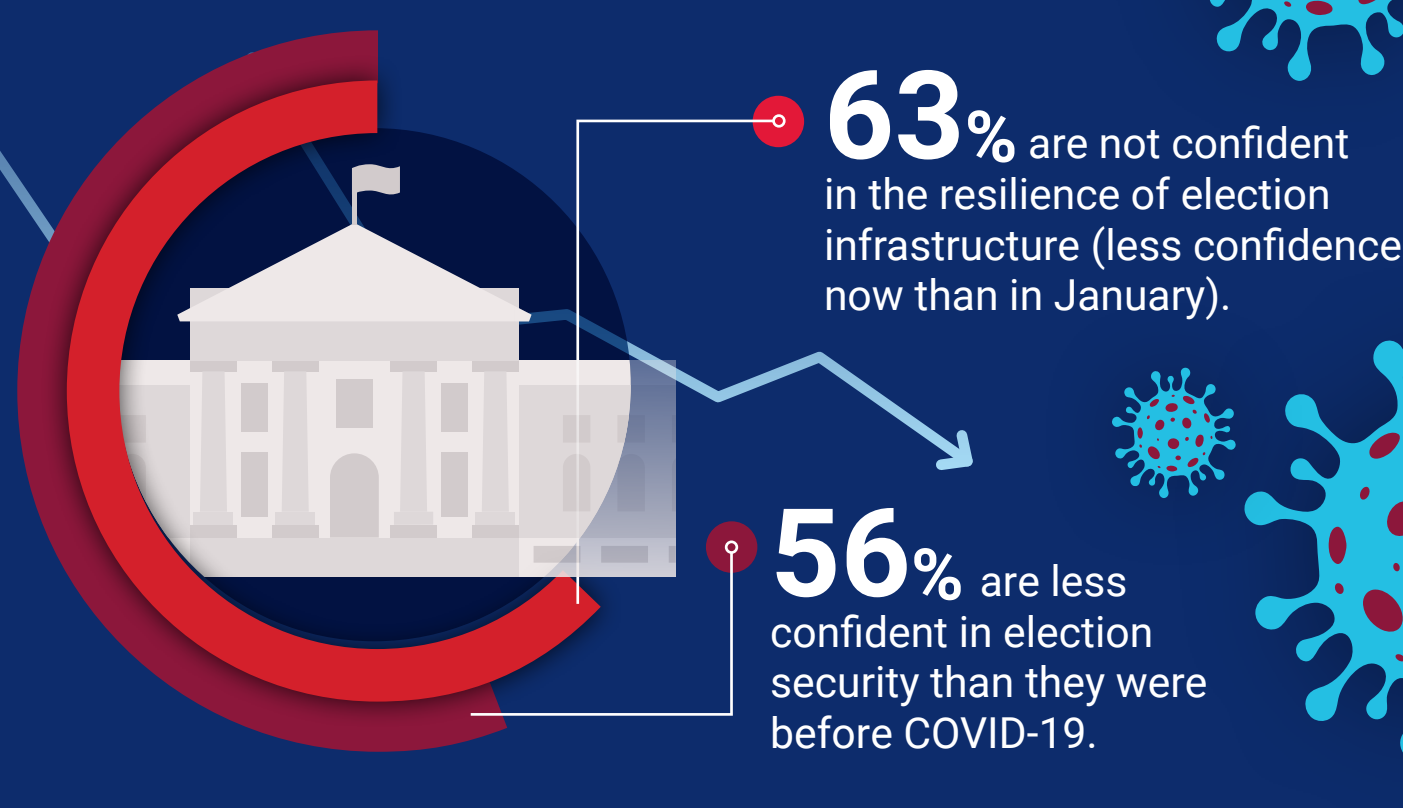


say misinformation campaigns directed to the US electorate have made them less confident in the integrity of the 2020 election.



say it is likely that at least one of those threats will significantly impact the 2020 election.

Declining Confidence



FUNDING, LEGISLATION AND TECHNICAL CONTROLS—All Lacking, According to Respondents



60% say current laws do not serve as an effective deterrent to discourage hacking or other technical threats from interfering with the next election.

57% say funding is not sufficient to prevent hacking of elections.

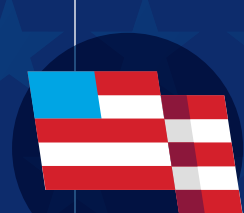
51% say the technical controls needed to prevent hacking or other technical threats are not in place.



TOP 3 STEPS TO Ensure Voter Confidence and Accountability:

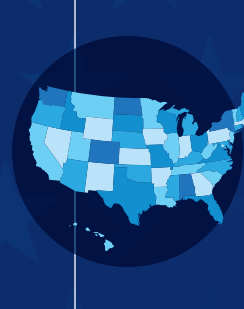
- 1 EDUCATING THE ELECTORATE ABOUT MISINFORMATION (65%)**
- 2 USING ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES WITH PAPER AUDIT TRAILS (64%)**
- 3 INCREASED TRAINING FOR ELECTION AND ELECTION SECURITY PERSONNEL (62%)**

WHO IS MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR Election Security?



44% FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The federal government has an opportunity to do more to standardize, share best practices and provide resources to local election efforts.



28% STATE GOVERNMENTS

States should focus on improving process and protocol around tech and cyber specifically.



25% LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Local counties and municipalities need more trained people to support state-level efforts for a holistic approach to the election workforce.

A Call to Action

While confidence is low, the reality is that federal, state, and local governments continue to harden the election infrastructure technical controls and security procedures, say experts.

"The overwhelming majority of localities have sound election security procedures in place, but the public's perception does not match the reality. This means that governments, from the county level on up, need to clearly and robustly communicate about what they are doing to secure their election infrastructure."

GREGORY J. TOUHILL

Former Federal CISO Gregory J. Touhill, CISM, CISSP, Brigadier Gen. (retired)
ISACA board director and president of the AppGate Federal Group



Responsibilities That Governments, Corporations and the Electorate Share to Educate, Learn and Increase Trust:

- 1 ACT NOW TO PREPARE THE POLLING STATIONS.**
Many experienced polling officials are retirees in higher-risk categories who may not be available to administer polling stations during the pandemic. Now is the time for local governments and communities and to actively encourage, recruit and train younger volunteers to become polling officials to ensure each precinct has sufficient well-trained polling officials to administer each polling station.
- 2 DEMONSTRATE CAPABILITY TO SECURELY ADMINISTER THE ELECTION.**
Find and fix issues before they become a problem on election day. Perform advanced testing of polling stations, procedures and equipment. Ensure physical security and public health concerns are appropriately addressed. Require paper records of electronic voting at all precincts. Recounts are likely, and paper trails are important for independent third-party audits.
- 3 COMMUNICATE CLEARLY, FREQUENTLY AND TRANSPARENTLY.**
Free and fair elections are at the core of our democracy. Local governments should invite public feedback and act quickly to address concerns. Additionally, they should proactively communicate the actions they are taking to safeguard elections. Increasing transparency about what they are doing to secure election infrastructure will help instill confidence in the electorate.
- 4 BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO DEFEAT DISINFORMATION.**
Social media platforms have begun to step up and label false information when it is known to be false—this needs to continue and be adopted by all social platforms. The electorate has a responsibility too, to ensure that they verify the integrity of the information they share.



Get the facts



View full results of ISACA's 2020 Election Security Study at www.isaca.org/election-security

NOTE: ISACA is a nonpartisan global technology association and learning organization.