

# Election Funding Project

## National Survey Data Summary 2015

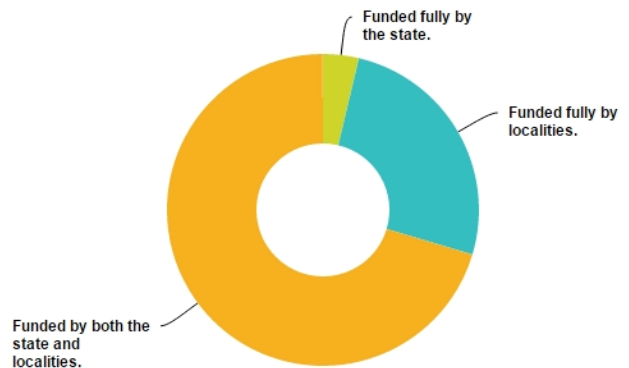
### National Survey

- 27 state election officials responded to the California Forward state election funding survey.

### Election Administration Funding

- 70% share financial responsibility between state and local governments
- 26% have local governments financially responsible
- 4% have state governments financially responsible

Are elections state-funded, locally-funded, or a combination of the two?



### Responsibility for Election Services

- Significant variation exists among states, with no one operating the same as another
- Many states share outreach activities, while staffing and ballot printing are mostly local responsibilities
- Trends:
  - State and local governments provide their own staff
  - States typically provide some training, but it is not usually mandatory
  - Voter outreach is shared

- Every state administers elections differently with varied divisions of responsibility and funding between state and local governments, and between county and other municipal governments.

### Funding Models

- General findings suggest state governments pass legislation regarding how local governments should operate elections; however, these are not often reimbursed aside from special elections with federal and/or state candidates or measures
- Of the states that have funding methods between state and local governments, these can be broken up into broad categories

Which election services are considered state, local, or shared responsibilities?



### Group A: Centralized Election Administration and Funding

- Uniform voting systems
- Responsibility is primarily at the state level
- Reimbursements from state, or if state incurs cost upfront, from the counties for some costs
  - New Mexico – The state funds voting systems, supplies and ballots. This is done in part by a ‘Voting System Revolving Fund’.
  - Georgia – The state funds the Center for Election Systems through Kennesaw State University, which builds ballots and collects data. Voting systems were initially purchased by the state.
  - Maryland – The state selects and funds voting systems, counties reimburse for a pro-rata share of 50% of the total cost.

### Group B: Decentralized Election Administration and Funding

- Local governments select and purchase voting equipment
- Responsibility is primarily at the local level
- Reimbursements to county from other local jurisdictions
  - Seven of the responding states had similar models to California with decentralized election administration, costs incurred by local governments and reimbursements sought from local jurisdictions.
  - There are varying methodologies and formulas counties use for seeking reimbursement from local jurisdictions for the cost of election services.

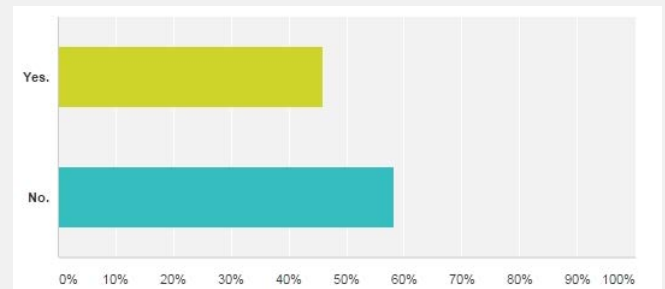
### Group C: Shared Election Administration and Funding

- 70% of states share election responsibilities and funding between state and local governments, as well as local governments and jurisdictions.

- Entities are charged for their determined ‘fair share’ of election costs
  - Colorado – The state reimburses for even-year elections at \$0.90 per active voter in counties with less than 10,000 voters, and \$0.80 per active voter in counties with more than 10,000 voters.
  - Louisiana – The state pays 75% of election costs, while the remaining 25% of total costs are divided by a pro-rata share between local jurisdictions. The state pays the costs up front and is reimbursed by localities.
  - Arizona – The State reimburses counties at a flat rate of \$1.25 per registered voter.
  - Minnesota – Entities are charged by the amount of space they take on the ballot: (total costs) X (% of voters in jurisdiction) X (% of total column inches on ballot).

### Collaboration: Resource Sharing and Partnerships

Do localities collaborate in election administration to reduce costs and/or increase effectiveness (such as sharing resources, or partnering to purchase from vendors)? If so please provide an example of this collaboration.



- Alabama – Some counties partner on bid requests for voting equipment.
- Arizona – Some counties partner to order voter registration forms and other supplies at a reduced cost.
- Kansas – The largest four counties have partnered on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for voting equipment, and have worked with the Election Assistance Commission to draft the document.