

Election Funding Project

County Survey Data Summary 2015

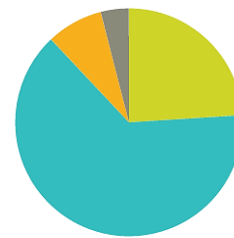
Considerations with Strongest Agreement:

- 96% agree or somewhat agree that California should adopt a different funding framework for elections.
- 88% agree or somewhat agree that there should be collaboration among counties in providing election services and procuring voting equipment.
- 76% indicated voting equipment needs to be replaced within 3-4 years, with 44% of those needing replacement within 1-2 years.
- 81% are interested in exploring alternative funding methods for elections.

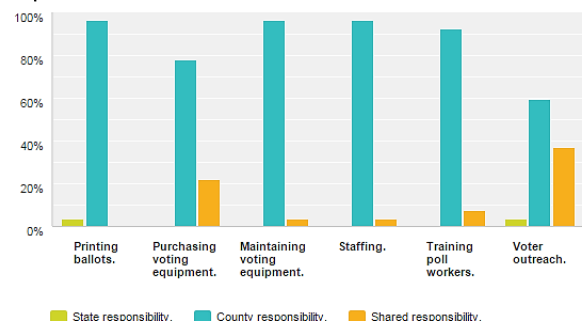
Highlights:

- Most interested in: block grants, categorical grants, matching funds and bonds
- Some interest in competitive grants and revolving funds
- Very little interest in low-interest loans
- Significant differences in what election-related activities are local, state or shared responsibilities, and what counties think they should be
- Almost all election-related activities are the responsibility of counties
- Many counties indicated most responsibilities should be shared between state and local governments, and that entities should pay their 'fair share' of election costs.

Do you agree with the statement, "There should be more collaboration between counties when providing election services and procuring election equipment"?



When administering state-related elections, which election services ARE state, county, or shared responsibilities?



When administering state-related, which election services SHOULD be state, county or shared responsibilities?



33

County election officials responded to California Forward's election funding survey

Determining a Jurisdiction's Fair Share

- Counties request reimbursements from local jurisdictions for the cost of election services.
- Methodologies and formulas for jurisdiction reimbursements vary by county.
- Some include staff time and equipment use, others do not.
- Some bill direct costs, while others have flat fees.
- Some have formal calculation formulas or Board of Supervisor fee schedules.
- Variance exists within counties with some billing special districts flat fees while school districts are billed direct costs.
- Most involve a pro-rata share based on:
 - Number of measures/candidates
 - Number of registered voters
 - Number of jurisdictions
 - Number of polling places

- Voting systems
- Administration
- Education
- Building space

- Aside from funding, counties indicated there were other ways the state could assist in the procurement of voting systems:
 - Streamlined certification and approval processes
 - Updating law/statute to accommodate new technology
 - Consulting and collaborating with counties on new laws/regulations
 - Flexible and timely regulation adoption
 - Pilot project authorization
 - Policies to expand the market of available products, systems and services

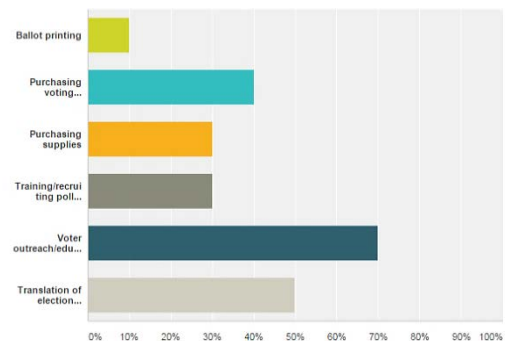
Counties Face Many Challenges

- Inadequate funding for:
 - New laws and regulations
 - Complying with mandates
 - Purchasing voting systems
 - Special elections
- Lack of uniformity and resources, time, distance, scale, coordination and communication are challenges in collaboration between counties.
- Some counties indicated differences in opinion and vision, as well as differences in purchasing policies and law interpretation played a role in lack of collaboration.

Defining a Solution

- Counties indicated a need of funding for:
 - Staff

Has your county collaborated with another county or counties to provide the following election services:



What areas of election administration in your county would benefit more from funding? Select any that apply.

