



CITIES LEAD IN IMPLEMENTING ELECTIONS, BUT NEED MORE SUPPORT TO DRIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

City leaders are residents' most trusted government officials. Yet cities need more resources to support their work and make voting and elections accessible, safe, and secure to achieve 100% voter turnout.



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CITIES IN THE 2020 ELECTION?

Cities are **ADVOCATES** to other levels of government for civic engagement and 100% voter turnout



of city leaders see their primary role in elections to support county, state, and federal elections boards.

their residents on how, when, and where to vote

Cities are **EDUCATORS** for



providing education and information to residents on voting and elections

of city leaders view

their primary role as

Cities are **IMPLEMENTORS** of voting infrastructure that enables accessible, safe, and secure elections to all eligible voters



their primary role as **improving voting** infrastructure like drop boxes and poll sites.

of city leaders view

communities more in civic engagement and healthy local democracy.

Cities have an <u>opportunity</u> to lead their



of city leaders view their primary role in voter turnout efforts like voter registration and early voting outreach.

IN 2020, WHAT RESOURCES DO CITIES HAVE FOR VOTING AND ELECTIONS?



City leaders serve their communities and other government entities during elections. But when asked about their funding sources for election activities, city leaders report that they get most of their funding for voting and elections from their municipal budgets, with minimal funding from other sources. According to survey respondents:

from other local government

municipal voting and elections funding comes from city budgets

identified that their primary source of

entities like counties from nonprofit sources, philanthropic groups, and the business community

from state government reported that that their primary source

of funding was federal.

of those surveyed reported no funding for election activities from any source.



As implementors of voting and elections efforts, city leaders play a critical role in successful elections. Here is what is keeping city elections leaders up at night:



of city leaders are

turnout due to

logistical issues (e.g.,

transportation, time off)

WHAT DO CITIES NEED FOR FUTURE VOTING AND ELECTIONS WORK?

If given additional resources, city leaders would invest more in these three priority areas:



responsive leadership on civic engagement.





City leaders have the opportunity to lean into the leadership roles they already play in their communities in order to establish permanent investment and outreach on civic engagement. Cities are uniquely positioned to educate residents, advocate up to other levels of government,

and implement elections effectively making the voting process accessible, safe, and secure to all eligible voters. Elections happen more than just every four years—meaning city leaders have regular opportunities to lead with urgency, convey accurate information, and demonstrate

Local jurisdictions are the ones footing the bill for elections and city leaders know this. The last significant investment from the federal government in election administration was 18 years ago.

and federal governments, philanthropies, and civil society to achieve 100% voter turnout in every election.

Municipalities must receive more support from state