

The Brennan Center for Justice: Local Election Officials Survey

Methodology

- Benenson Strategy Group conducted 233 interviews from April 1 – April 7, 2021 among local election officials across the country.
 - The survey was conducted online using a sample provided by the Brennan Center.
- The margin of error for the dataset overall is +/- 6.4% at the 95% confidence interval. It is higher among subgroups.

Key findings

- Local election officials' motivation to serve is multifaceted, but primarily stems from an interest in their local communities.
- 1 in 3 local election officials are concerned about facing harassment or pressure while on the job.
- Local election officials almost universally believe that social media has contributed to divisiveness in the country, and many believe that social media has played a role in making their jobs more difficult and dangerous.

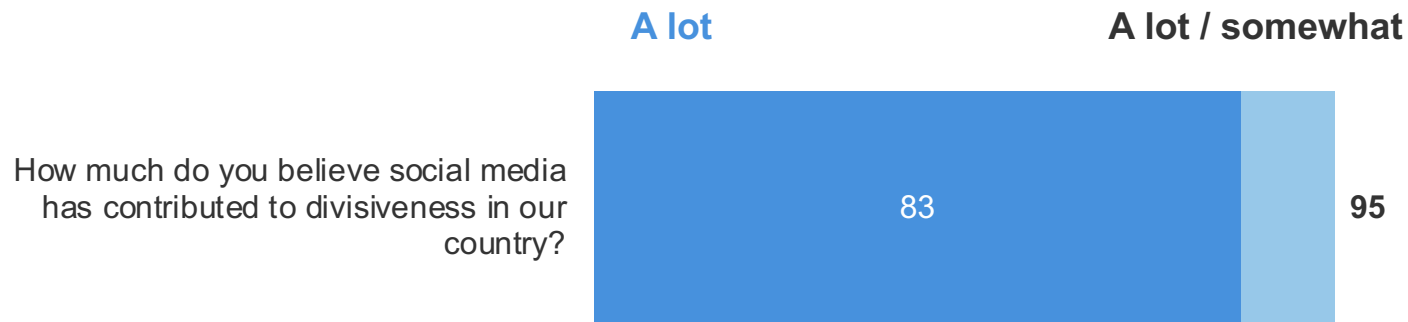
Local Election Officials serve for many reasons, not just one - but fundamentally do so in the interest of their local communities

Which of the following statements describe why you became a local election official?

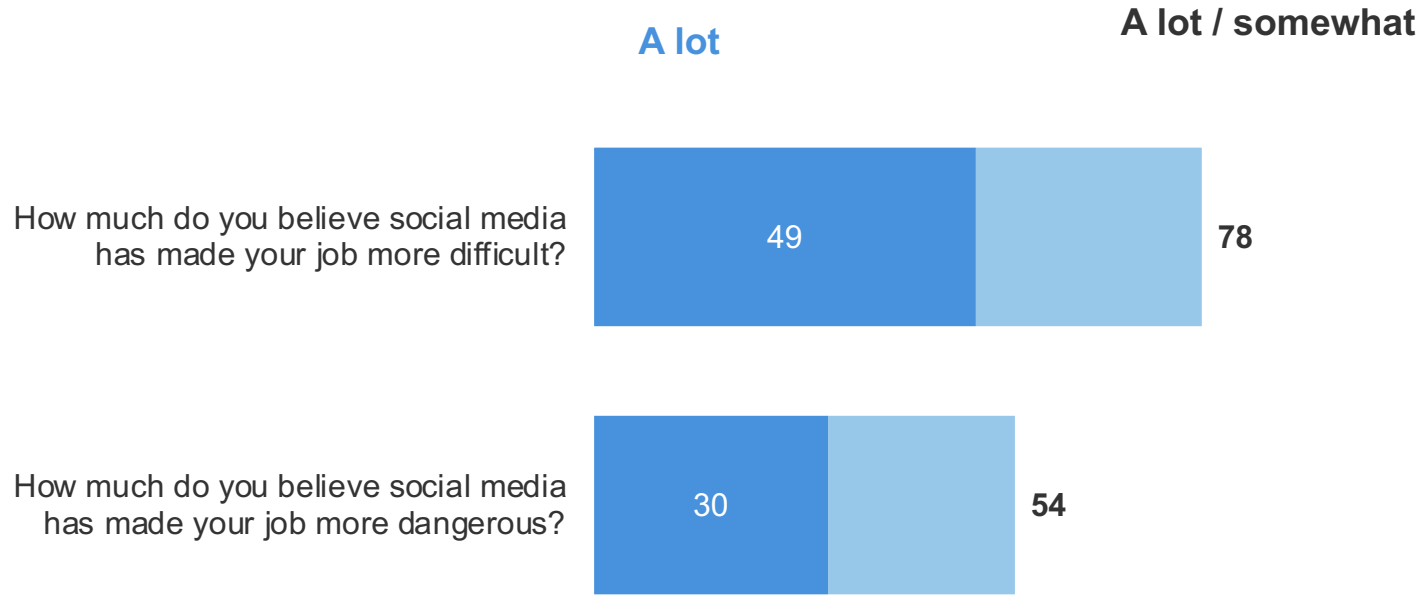
44% of Election Officials selected at least 4 of these responses



Social Media is making it more difficult to stay focused on the local; Almost all Election Officials believe social media is largely to blame for divisiveness

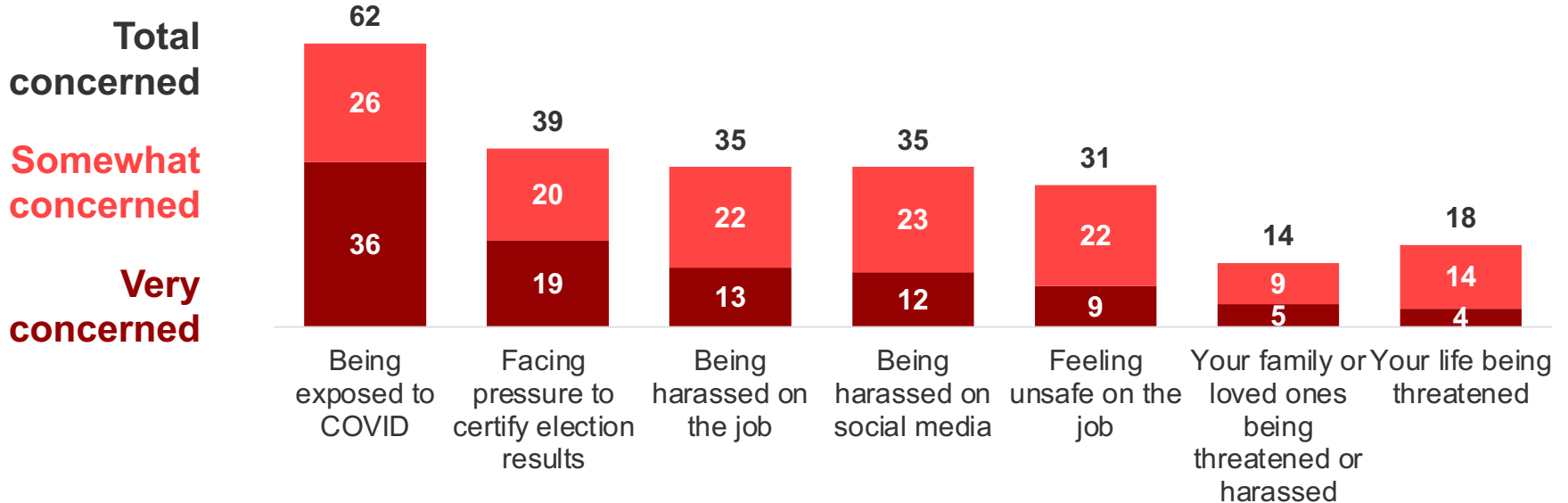


And as a result is making their job more difficult and dangerous



Concern about being exposed to COVID surpassed all other concerns, but 1 in 3 Election Officials were concerned about feeling unsafe or being harassed

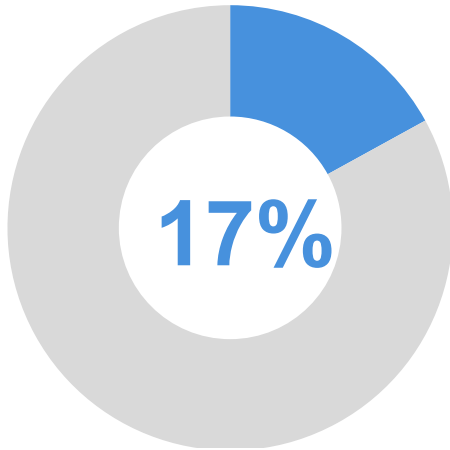
Using a scale of 1-4, please indicate how concerned you were with each of the following during the 2020 election cycle and during the time it took to count the votes, with 1 being very concerned and 4 being not at all concerned.



And they have reason to worry – 1 in 6 Local Election Officials have been threatened because of their job

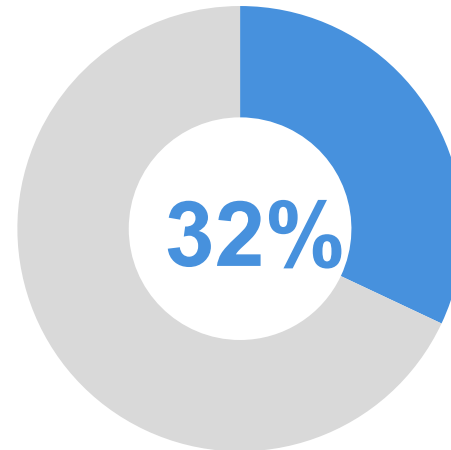
Have you ever been threatened because of your job as local election official?

% say yes



Have you ever felt unsafe because of your job as a local election official?

% say yes



Local Election Officials overwhelmingly believe government should be providing them with protection when needed

Do you think the government should provide protection and security services to local election officials when needed?

