Benenson Strategy Group conducted 596 interviews from January 31-February 14, 2022 among local election officials across the country and of all political affiliations.

The survey was conducted online using a list provided by the Brennan Center.

The margin of error for the dataset is +/- 3.95% at the 95% confidence interval. It is higher among subgroups.
1. **Local election officials need more support in their roles overall.**
   - More than 3 in 4 believe the federal government should be doing more to support them.
   - Although they feel the most support at the local level, nearly 1 in 3 local election officials still feel that their local government could be doing more to support them.
   - Few were familiar with the DOJ task force, but after being told about it, 57% of local election officials believe that task force will have at least some positive impact on their safety.

2. **Political attacks on the election system are taking a toll on local election officials – and are, in many cases, driving them out of their positions.**
   - Nearly three times as many local election officials are very worried about interference by political leaders in how they and fellow local election officials do their jobs going forward as they say they were before 2020.
   - 1 in 5 local election officials are “very” or “somewhat unlikely” to continue serving through 2024; politicians’ attacks on the system, stress, and retirement plans are the primary reasons they plan to leave their jobs.

3. **Threats against local election officials are more prevalent than data on reports to law enforcement indicate.**
   - 1 in 6 local election officials have experienced threats, and more than half of these cases have not been reported to law enforcement.

4. **Local election officials are acutely aware of increased threats against their colleagues, leaving many worried about retaining and hiring local election officials and workers going forward.**
   - More than 3 in 4 local election officials feel that threats against local election officials have increased in recent years.
   - Nearly 1 in 3 know of at least one election worker who has left their job at least in part because of fears for their safety, increased threats, or intimidation.
   - 3 in 5 are concerned that threats and harassment will make it harder to retain or recruit election workers going forward.

5. **Nearly 2 in 3 local election officials believe that false information is making their jobs more dangerous, and almost all blame social media for spreading it.**
   - More than half worry that incoming local election officials might buy into the “widespread fraud” narrative of the 2020 elections.
   - More than 3 in 4 local election officials believe that social media companies have not done enough to stop the spread of false information.
Threats, harassment, and intimidation
Local election officials are acutely aware of increased threats, and more than half are concerned about the safety of their colleagues going forward.

Do you feel that threats against election officials have increased, decreased, or have stayed about the same as in recent years?

- Increased: 22%
- Stayed about the same: 77%
- Decreased: 1%

Please indicate how concerned you are as an election official with each of the following in future elections.

- The safety of your colleagues: 19% Very / Somewhat concerned, 54% Very concerned
- Being harassed over the phone or voicemail: 18% Very / Somewhat concerned, 45% Very concerned
- Being verbally harassed on the job: 17% Very / Somewhat concerned, 48% Very concerned
- Being harassed on social media: 16% Very / Somewhat concerned, 41% Very concerned
- Your family or loved ones being threatened or harassed: 7% Very / Somewhat concerned, 21% Very concerned
- Being assaulted on the job: 6% Very / Somewhat concerned, 28% Very concerned

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE
1 in 6 local election officials have personally experienced threats; more than half of these local election officials have been threatened in person.

- **Have you ever been threatened because of your job as local election official?**
  - Yes = 17%
  - No = 83%

- **How have you been threatened?**
  - Over the phone = 73%
  - In person = 53%
  - Through social media = 37%
  - Through mail = 25%
  - Other =
More than half of threats against local election officials have gone unreported

Did you report this threat to law enforcement?
Among the 17% of local election officials who have been threatened because of their jobs

- Yes: 46%
- No: 54%

To whom did you report this threat?
Among the 8% of local election officials who have been threatened because of their jobs and reported this threat to law enforcement

- Local law enforcement: 89%
- Federal law enforcement: 22%
- State law enforcement: 22%
Political interference
Local election officials are concerned about political interference in the election process; 2020 appears to have been a tipping point

How worried are / were you about interference by political leaders in how you and your fellow election officials around the country do / did their jobs…?

Please indicate how concerned you are as an election official about facing pressure to certify election results in favor of a specific candidate or party.

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not concerned at all

Nearly one in five is concerned

Before 2020

- Not at all worried: 52%
- A little worried: 23%
- Somewhat worried: 12%
- Very worried: 13%

In future elections

- Very concerned: 14%
- Somewhat concerned: 27%
- Not too concerned: 36%
- Not concerned at all: 23%
Social media and false information
Local election officials say social media is making their jobs more difficult and dangerous

How much, if at all, do you believe social media has made your job as an election official more…?

- Difficult
  - A lot / Somewhat: 74%
  - Somewhat: 44%
  - A lot: 29%

- Dangerous
  - A lot / Somewhat: 58%
  - Somewhat: 29%

80% of those who have been threatened (page 6) feel that social media has made their jobs more dangerous.
Local election officials agree that social media is responsible for spreading false information, which nearly 2 in 3 say is making their jobs more dangerous.

How much, if at all, do you believe social media is responsible for spreading false information?

- A lot / Somewhat
  - Somewhat: 83%
  - A lot: 95%

How much, if at all, do you believe the spread of false information about elections has made your job as an election official more dangerous?

- A lot / Somewhat
  - Somewhat: 36%
  - A lot: 64%
...and more than 3 in 4 want social media companies to do more to stop the spread of false information

Which of the following comes closest to your view?

“Social media companies…to stop the spread of false information.”

- Haven't done enough: 11%
- Have done about the right amount: 12%
- Have done too much: 77%
More than half are concerned that some of their incoming colleagues might believe that widespread fraud occurred in 2020

Please indicate how concerned you are as an election official that some incoming local election officials might believe that there was widespread voter fraud during the 2020 elections.

- Very concerned: 27%
- Somewhat concerned: 47%
- Not too / Not at all concerned: 25%
The big picture
Despite numerous challenges, most local election officials enjoy their jobs and nearly a third say they are completely satisfied.

**How satisfied are you with your job as a local election official?**

*Please use a scale from 0-10 where 0 means “Not at all satisfied” and 10 means “Completely satisfied”.*

- 10: 18%
- 9: 29%
- 8: 21%
- 7: 19%
- 0-6: 13%

**Average satisfaction rating: 8/10**

**How much do you agree or disagree with the following?**

*Please use a scale from 1-5 where 1 means “Strongly disagree” and 5 means “Strongly agree”.*

- I feel fairly well satisfied with my job: 40% Strongly agree, 75% Somewhat agree, 25% Strongly / Somewhat agree
- I find real enjoyment in my job: 39% Strongly agree, 74% Somewhat agree, 21% Strongly / Somewhat agree
- Most days I am enthusiastic about my job: 39% Strongly agree, 74% Somewhat agree, 21% Strongly / Somewhat agree
- I like my job better than the average person: 36% Strongly agree, 69% Somewhat agree, 15% Strongly / Somewhat agree
Altruistic factors motivate local election officials to do their jobs

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

- It's an opportunity to serve my community. (Total: 58%, Completely satisfied: 61%)
- I enjoy being involved in my local community. (Total: 54%, Completely satisfied: 60%)
- I want to ensure that the election process runs as it should. (Total: 54%, Completely satisfied: 60%)
- I enjoy being involved in the democratic process. (Total: 52%, Completely satisfied: 56%)
- I get paid to do a good thing. (Total: 34%, Completely satisfied: 32%)
- It's my responsibility as a citizen. (Total: 34%, Completely satisfied: 38%)
- It is part of my job duties. (Total: 15%, Completely satisfied: 22%)
How likely are you to continue serving as a local election official going forward in the...?

- Very / Somewhat unlikely
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

Among the 20% of local election officials who say they’re unlikely to serve either in the 2022 or 2024 elections

- Too many political leaders are attacking a system that they know is fair and honest.
- My job as a local election official adds a lot of unnecessary stress.
- I am reaching retirement age.
- Politics in America has become too nasty.
- The pay is too low.
- My job as a local election official is too demanding.
- My job as a local election official requires too much of my time.

Which of the following statements come closest to describing why you are unlikely to continue to serve as a local election official? Please select your top two reasons.
In fact, many know an election worker who has left their job at least in part out of fear for their safety; 3 in 5 worry threats will make recruitment difficult.

Do you personally know of any local election officials or election workers who have left their jobs at least in part because of fear for their safety, increased threats, or intimidation?

- Yes, I know of one or two.
- Yes, I know of many.
- No, I don’t know of any.

Three in 10 know of at least one or two.

25% Yes, I know of one or two.
18% Yes, I know of many.
5% No, I don’t know of any.
70% Three in 10 know of at least one or two.

Please indicate how concerned you are as an election official that threats, harassment, and intimidation against local election officials will make it more difficult to retain or recruit election workers in future elections.

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not concerned at all

Three in five are concerned.

28% Very concerned
32% Somewhat concerned
22% Not too concerned
18% Not concerned at all

Three in five are concerned.
The retention problem is concentrated nearly entirely among the least satisfied local election officials.

How likely are you to continue serving as a local election official going forward in the...?

Showing total likely to continue serving in each election by satisfaction level out of 10.

- 92% for 2024 presidential election
- 94% for 2022 midterm elections

The retention problem is concentrated nearly entirely among the least satisfied local election officials.
Support from government
Most local election officials say both state and federal government must do more to support them in their jobs

When it comes to being supported in your role as a local election official, which of the following comes closer to your view?

- Is doing a good job
- Is taking some steps, but it's not enough and it should be doing more
- Is not doing anything

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Doing a Good Job</th>
<th>Doing Some Steps</th>
<th>Not Doing Anything</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local government</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State government</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal government</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearly 1 in 3 feels that their local government should be doing more.
While few are familiar with the DOJ task force, 57% believe it will have a positive effect when they are told about it.

The U.S. Department of Justice recently launched a task force to identify, investigate, and prosecute threats against local election officials. How familiar, if at all, are you with this task force?

- Never heard of: 42%
- Heard of, but don't know much: 48%
- Very familiar: 9%

How confident are you that this task force's investigation and prosecution of threats against election officials will make you feel safer in your role as an election official?

- Not at all confident: 10%
- Not very confident: 32%
- Somewhat confident: 47%
- Very confident: 10%
Thank you

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