

Friday, March 8, 2024 at 16:17:13 Eastern Standard Time

Subject: Open Records Request :: P009966-030624
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 at 3:24:08 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Columbia County Board of Commissioners
To: AO Records

EXTERNAL SENDER

--- Please respond above this line ---



03/08/2024

RE: Open Records Request on 3/6/2024 for Department - Other, Reference # P009966-030624

Dear Khahilia,

The County received a public records request from you on March 06, 2024. Your request mentioned:

"Please see the attached request (GA-COLUMBIA-24-0196)"

The County has reviewed its files and has located responsive records to your request. Please log in to the [Open Records Center](#) at the following link to retrieve the documents.

Department: [Other - P009966-030624](#)
Your cost is \$0.00.

If submitting payment as cash, exact change is needed. Checks can be made out to the Board of Commissioners.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this further, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Patrice R. Crawley
County Clerk
Board of Commissioners
706.868.3379

630 Ronald Reagan Drive * Building B 2nd Floor * Evans, GA 30809

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the [Open Records Center](#).

From: Gay, Nancy
Sent time: 12/21/2023 05:09:11 PM
To: Rick Richards, MD <DrR@eagleai.pro>
Subject: Agreement
Attachments: License Agreement with Eagle AI Network.docx image001.png

Good evening sir,

Attached is the agreement that the county attorney sent over. I am off tomorrow, and the county is closed Monday and Tuesday for the Christmas holiday. But, if you could come by one day next week after the holiday to sign the agreement, and hopefully my Chair will come by to sign it as well. then that part will be done. A A 😊

I hope you have a Merry Christmas!!

Thanks,



Nancy L. Gay
Executive Director
Columbia County Board of Elections
610 Ronald Reagan Drive
Building G3, Second Floor
PO Box 919
Evans, GA 30809
706-868-3355 (phone)
706-868-3358 (fax)
www.columbiacountyga.gov

From: Gay, Nancy
Sent time: 12/07/2023 09:24:50 AM
To: Rick Richards, MD <DrR@eagleai.pro>
Subject: Contact Information
Attachments: image001.png

Hey Dr. Richards,
Is it okay to give your cell phone out? We have received two calls this morning asking for it....

Thank you,



Nancy L. Gay
Executive Director
Columbia County Board of Elections
610 Ronald Reagan Drive
Building G3, Second Floor
PO Box 919
Evans, GA 30809
706-868-3355 (phone)
706-868-3358 (fax)
www.columbiacountyga.gov

From: electionline <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent time: 02/14/2024 05:56:35 AM
To: Gay, Nancy
Subject: electionline Daily News--February 14, 2024

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Daily News

February 14, 2024

 = Content may be behind a paywall.

How Cochise County got stuck with 10 tons of ballot paper it can't use; Oklahoma and Utah lawmakers push leg to ban ranked-choice; Judge rules restrictions on drop boxes don't keep Floridians from voting; Georgia election board votes down proposal to limit absentee voting.

Those and more from: Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin and national news.

[Daily News](#)

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From: electionline <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent time: 02/23/2024 06:32:06 AM
To: Gay, Nancy
Subject: electionline Daily News--February 23, 2024

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Daily News

February 23, 2024

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Washington state lawmakers advance bill making it a felony to threaten election workers; Georgia Republicans seek to stop automatic voter registration in state; House passes bill to end ranked choice voting option for Utah cities; Biden officials keep states waiting on expanding Medicaid voter registration.

Those and more from: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and national news.

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From: electionline <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent time: 02/28/2024 05:58:02 AM
To: Gay, Nancy
Subject: electionline Daily News--February 28, 2024

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Daily News

February 28, 2024

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Chatbotsâ€™™ inaccurate, misleading responses about US elections threaten to keep voters from polls; Anti-ranked choice voting initiative clears first hurdle on way to November ballot in Alaska; California county commission recommends hand counting ballots in violation of state law; Latest effort to take politics out of Virginia elections department dies in state Senate

Those and more from: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming and national news.

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From: electionline <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent time: 03/01/2024 05:57:31 AM
To: Gay, Nancy
Subject: electionline Daily News--March 1, 2024

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Daily News

March 1, 2024

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Indiana Legislature approves bill adding additional verification steps to voter registration; Utah Senate rejects effort to end ranked choice voting early; South Dakota Election officials say verbal abuse is common as lawmakers reject bill to protect them; Open-carry gun ban at polling places clears the Michigan Senate, faces battle in House

Those and more from: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and national news.

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From: electionline <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent time: 03/06/2024 06:00:06 AM
To: Gay, Nancy
Subject: electionline Daily News--March 6, 2024

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Daily News

March 6, 2024

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Kansas Senate rejects sweeping election changes after lawmakers gave initial approval; Bill eliminating drop boxes, banning ranked-choice voting passes Iowa House; Huntington Beach voter ID measure now ahead in early results; Thousands of voters in Alabama district drawn to boost Black political power got wrong information

Those and more from: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee Texas, Vermont, Virginia and national news.

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From: electionline <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent time: 12/07/2023 12:00:43 PM
To: Gay, Nancy
Subject: electionline Weekly--December 7, 2023

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electionline Weekly

December 7, 2023

In Focus This Week

Talk to the hand

The current state of the push to count ballots by hand

By M. Mindy Moretti
Electionline.org

Probably since the inception of the first voting machine, there have been skeptics.

However, that skepticism — by and large unfounded — reached a fever pitch in 2020 and has manifested itself in a rise in calls from some factors to count ballots by hand.

Elections officials, experts and advocates have all largely [come out against the idea of hand-counting ballots](#) other than in limited circumstances.

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To sign up, simply [visit our site](#) and provide us with your email and you'll begin receiving the news in your inbox each morning.

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Temporary electionline Schedule Changes

As we move into the holiday season and countdown to 2024, weâ€™ve got a few temporary changes to our schedule. These changes will mostly affect the Daily News.

Fridays in December â€™ The Daily News will post by 10am on Fridays in December (Dec. 8, 15, 22 and 29).

December 25 â€™ The Daily News will not publish.

December 26-29 â€™ The Daily News will post by 10 am all this week.

January 1, 2024 â€™ The Daily News will not publish.

[Read More](#)

Election News This Week

â€™Tis the Season: Three cheers to [Indian River County, Florida election workers](#) Joe and Sue Crowley and Rick Lewis for creating the countyâ€™s [Wreaths Across America](#) program. According to WQCS, Joe and Sue have both served as poll workers for the county and Sue serves as a clerk on Election Day and has assisted the Vote-By-Mail Department. Joe began his service at the elections office as a poll deputy and then was recruited to work in the warehouse as the logistics and equipment manager. Rick Lewis serves as a field technician. Field technicians receive specialized training to troubleshoot and provide assistance with equipment at the polling place. The trio has been laying wreaths since 2018 and since 2021 they have raised enough funds to honor every veteran buried in Indian River County. They raise enough money for nearly 3000 wreaths each year, which translates to nearly \$30,000.

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Legislative Updates

Federal Legislation: The House Administration Committee recently markup reported favorably [an octet of bills](#) â€™ a couple of which had bipartisan support, but most of which highlighted long-standing cross-party tensions on election-related issues. The most contentious of the bunch seek to make sure that noncitizens canâ€™t vote in federal or D.C. elections. The markup came more than four months after the committee [advanced](#) the [American Confidence in Elections Act](#), a package of roughly 50 bills that has so far not gotten a vote on the floor and has a remote chance of passing the Democrat-controlled Senate. â€™m optimistic that weâ€™ll still be able to see the floor [on the ACE Act] in the near future. Obviously we lost in time during October, but hopefully as we get ourselves back up and running, that bill will have the opportunity to fight for time House Administration Chairman Bryan Steil (R-Wisconsin) said ahead of the markup. â€™n addition to that, what weâ€™re doing is a series of bills, many of which are components of the ACE Act, in a standalone manner.â€™ On bipartisan votes, the committee advanced legislation to [protect election observer access](#) and to [protect against the influence of foreign nationals in elections](#), a legislative [recommendation](#) made by the bipartisan Federal Election Commission. The normal partisan cracks emerged on other legislation, including proposals that would allow states to [require proof of citizenship to vote by mail](#), that

would override a D.C. law [allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections](#), and that would [require the secretary of Homeland Security and the commissioner of Social Security](#) to provide states with information on the citizenship status of prospective voters.

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Legal Updates

Louisiana: Retired Louisiana Supreme Court justice E. Joseph Bleich ruled this week [the results of the election for Caddo Parish Sheriff are void](#). In the Nov. 18 runoff election, Henry Whitehorn defeated candidate John Nickelson by a single vote. When the recount occurred, officials confirmed found three additional votes for each candidate and Whitehorn remained one vote ahead of his opponent. Nickelson filed a lawsuit challenging the results and requesting a special election. He said the process was rushed and unlawful votes were cast in the election. Multiple people were found to have voted both by mail and in person. In a brief submitted to the First Judicial District Court, Whitehorn asserted, “The judiciary should not decide elections. Louisiana courts have made it clear that the results of an election are to be disturbed only under extraordinary circumstances where a plaintiff introduces compelling evidence that is sufficient to change the result in the election.” Four judges recused themselves from the case due to their friendships with Nickelson. The Louisiana Supreme Court assigned the case to Justice Bleich. On Dec. 5, he ruled the runoff election results are void and ordered a new runoff election. Whitehorn’s team is likely to appeal the decision.

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Opinions This Week

National Opinions: [Voting Rights Act, I, III, IV, V, VI, VII](#) | [Voting rights, II](#) | [Ranked choice voting](#)

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Upcoming Events

[Joint Election Officials Liaison Conference](#) (JELOC): The Election Center will hold the annual JELOC once again in Arlington, Virginia. Among the courses offered in conjunction with the conference will be Renewal Course 37. In addition to Election Center committee meetings, the convening will include briefings from many of the federal agencies that work with state and local elections officials—the U.S. EAC, FVAP, DOJ, CISA, FBI and the Council of State Governments. Additionally there will be briefings from NCSL, NASS, NASED, and NACo. Congressional staff have also been invited to provide remarks. **When:** January 10-14, 2024. **Where:** Arlington, Virginia.

[Read More](#)

Job Postings This Week

[Election Training and Operations Manager](#), Fairfax County, Virginiaâ€ Manages, designs, and implements election training and operational programs. Position requires an equal focus on three core areas: developing innovative online training modules, managing in-person training classes, and utilizing software and technology skills to enhance operational activities. Under supervision of the election manager, manages a team of up to 18 seasonal staff and coordinates closely with other teams within the Election Administration division. Ideal candidate will have strong technical skills, experience designing engaging training modules or other content, and an interest in making continuous improvements to the election process. As a member of the Office of Elections staff, participates in other activities related to election administration and voter registration on an as-needed basis. **Salary:** \$66,103.86 â€” \$110,173. **Deadline:** Dec. 15. **Application:** For the complete job listing and to apply, [click here](#).

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From: electionline <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent time: 02/15/2024 12:00:53 PM
To: Gay, Nancy
Subject: electionline Weekly--February 15, 2024

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electionline Weekly

February 15, 2024

In Focus This week

Preparing for and Responding to the Unexpected

Election Communications Help Is Just a Click Away

By [ideas42](#) and [The Elections Group](#)

Presidential election years always mean significant workloads for election administrators. Yet 2024 already feels different. People are paying close attention to the nuts and bolts of election administration, as they've done for the past four years, keeping the spotlight on election officials.

Luckily, election officials don't have to go it alone. There are tools, resources, and organizations to turn to for support, especially when mistakes happen.

The Elections Group is partnering with ideas42, a nonpartisan nonprofit that uses insights from behavioral science to improve lives, to present a webinar about how election officials can navigate unforeseen challenges: [What Happens: How Election Officials Can Respond Effectively When Mistakes Are Made](#). At noon ET on Tuesday, February 20, our teams will address how to both prepare for and respond to crisis situations that can arise in election administration communications. Experts from ideas42 and The Elections Group will share insights and communications resources to assist election administrators this election year.

[Read More](#)

AI Election Security Handbook

The ASD AI Election Security Handbook

Resource for responding to threats to election security

The [Alliance for Securing Democracy](#) at the German Marshall Fund of the United States released [The ASD AI Election Security Handbook](#) as a resource for elections officials responding to unprecedented threats to election security supercharged by technologies like artificial intelligence (AI).

Crafted by leading experts in emerging technologies and election integrity, the handbook describes the new

threats looming over this election cycle and offers real solutions for officials to safeguard democratic processes. From AI-generated disinformation campaigns to sophisticated cyberattacks targeting election infrastructure, the authors analyze the ways these technologies might be misused, share what experts are watching out for this cycle, and offer specific action items for officials and policymakers to safeguard election security.

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Election Security Updates

Election Mail Handling Procedures to Protect Against Hazardous Materials

CISA, FBI, EAC and USPS publish new tool for elections officials

This week, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), and the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) published [Election Mail Handling Procedures to Protect Against Hazardous Materials](#).

This resource helps officials understand safe mail handling procedures and provides guidance on responding to potential hazardous materials exposure.

Over the past two decades, U.S. government offices and employees have been the target of multiple incidents using letters containing hazardous materials, including suspicious letters mailed to election offices in California, Georgia, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington in 2023.

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Election News This Week

News From NACo: This week, the National Association of Counties held their Legislative Conference in DC. During the conference, they held a [Summit on Election Administration](#). Officials met with federal government officials, members of Congress, representatives from the private sector and more.

administration officials for a series of workshops and panels on issues ranging from disaster preparedness to artificial intelligence, to [funding](#) and more ahead of 2024's elections. "Each election cycle, counties play a role in managing over 100,000 polling places and coordinating the training of over 630,000 poll workers that are essential to ensure that citizens can exercise their right to vote," said Curtis Koch, auditor of Utah's Davis County and chair of one of NACo's policy steering committees, as he kicked off a session on election administration. Wisconsin Rep. Bryan Steil (R), chairman of the Committee on House Administration heard from many elections officials at the event about the need for funding but didn't seem optimistic about it. "I just don't want anybody to walk out of here thinking that all of a sudden a massive flow of funds is going to come forward," he told them. President Joe Biden was the [keynote speaker](#) of the conference and during his remarks he thanked election workers and directly addressed the threats they are facing. "To all the county election workers, thank you. I never thought I'd have to say this to anybody but thank you for your physical courage, thank you for your courage and your service to the community," Biden said. "The idea that I'd ever thought I'd be standing before over 1,000 county officials and having to thank somebody for being an election worker because they're putting their life at risk," he said. "Something's wrong, folks, we've got to change this. We've got to change the attitude in this country."

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New Reports, Research and Studies

Jail Voting Case Study: While many people are aware of the restrictions formerly incarcerated individuals face in voting, few know about the challenges faced by another group of incarcerated citizens: people in pretrial detention and those incarcerated for misdemeanors. Despite having the right to vote, incarcerated persons often confront challenges in registering and/or voting while being detained. In a [new case study](#) published by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Senior Researcher in Democratic Practice Tova Wang explores how the District of Columbia became one of the first jurisdictions in the country to make its central jail an early voting center and set up a polling place inside the facility.

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Legislative Updates

New Mexico: The House of Representatives voted this week in favor of a measure that would [prohibit firearms within 100 feet of polling places](#). Supporters have said the measure would prevent voter intimidation at the polls. Violations of the law would be a petty misdemeanor. Rep. Reena Szczepanski, D-Santa Fe, was a sponsor on a similar bill last year. This year, she said, several changes have been added to protect gun owners who are walking by or happen to be near a polling station but don't intend to vote there. There's also carve-outs for people who leave their guns in the car while they vote. Another exception was added on the House floor. As the bill has moved through committee, conservative legislators have pushed to allow concealed carry license holders to bring their weapons to the polling station. Until Tuesday, those amendments have failed to gain traction. During the debate, Rep. Bill Rehm, R-Albuquerque, introduced an amendment with the concealed carry exception, with a requirement that the gun must remain hidden. The amendment succeeded on the slimmest of margins with a 35-34 vote. Despite the addition of the compromise amendment, no Republicans voted in favor of the bill. The amendment succeeded on the slimmest of margins with a 35-34 vote. Despite the addition of the compromise amendment, no Republicans voted in favor of the bill. The altered bill headed to the Senate where the changes were approved. It now

[heads to the governor's desk for signature.](#)

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Legal Updates

Guam: Three federal judges heard arguments in Honolulu as the Ninth Circuit considered *Borja v. Nago*, a federal lawsuit that seeks to [expand voting rights in U.S. territories](#) by challenging discriminatory federal and state overseas voting laws. Under the challenged laws, former residents of Hawaii or other states who live in a foreign country or the Northern Mariana Islands remain free to vote for president by absentee ballot in their former state of residence. But former residents who live in Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or other territories cannot. The Borja plaintiffs argue this violates the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. The hearing was an appeal of a 2022 district court decision denying their claims, according to a press release from Right to Democracy. Neil Weare, co-counsel in the case and co-director of Right to Democracy, which has joined Borja to sue to advance democracy, equity, self-determination in U.S. territories, said the Ninth Circuit has the opportunity to ensure the same legal standards apply to voting in U.S. territories as they do to voting anywhere else. The lawsuit is part of a broader effort by Right to Democracy to advance democracy, equity, and self-determination in U.S. territories.

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Opinions This Week

National Opinions: [Artificial Intelligence](#) | [Ranked choice voting](#) | [Election integrity](#) | [Ranked choice voting](#) | [Vote by mail](#) | [Election certification process](#)

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

Social Media Training: Join Meta's Government and Social Impact team for a Meta Platforms best practices training for Election Authorities. During this training we'll cover best practices for building and engaging your community through Meta platforms, tools we developed for election offices, like [Voting Alerts](#), and the best ways to get platform support. Protecting elections is a top priority for Meta and we continue to invest a huge amount of effort and resources in this work — not just during election periods, but at all times. We look forward to connecting with you and talking more about this work. **When:** Feb. 15 2:30pm Eastern. **Where:** Online.

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[Executive Director](#), Texas Association of Election Officials” The Texas Association of Election Administrators is a not-for-profit professional association that represents election officials for 254 counties both appointed and elected. TAEA is an established association of more than 30 years. The purpose of the Texas Association of Elections Administrators (TAEA) is to promote the efficient integration of voter registration functions with the actual conduct of elections and to ensure that voter registration, voting, and vote tabulation are all carried out in accordance with the highest legal and ethical standards. The Executive Director position is being developed to administer and support the association. The TAEA seeks a contract Executive Director with diverse non-profit management, governance, conference planning, and communications experience. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors. The Board is elected by the association membership. The duties will be delegated to the Executive Director by the board and under the direction of the President of the Board. **Salary:** \$75,000. **Deadline:** Feb. 16. **Application:** For the complete job listing and to apply, [click here](#).

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From: electionline <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent time: 02/29/2024 12:13:02 PM
To: Gay, Nancy
Subject: electionline Weekly--February 29, 2024

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electionline Weekly

February 29, 2024

In Focus This Week

Who Voters Look to for Election Information in 2024

Survey explores Americans'™ election information habits

Jeff Allen, Katie Harbath, Rachel Orey, Thania Sanchez

A record number of voters will head to the polls this year, with more than 50 countries comprising half the planet's™ population due to hold national elections in 2024. This coincides with the wide and growing availability of sophisticated AI technology that will supercharge misinformation and cyberthreats.

To limit the spread of inaccurate or deceptive election information, we must understand how Americans get their information to begin with and how they feel about it.

To answer these questions, the Bipartisan Policy Center, the States United Democracy Center, and the Integrity Institute joined together to administer a national survey exploring Americans'™ election information habits.

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Election News This Week

Artificial Intelligence: The Associated Press has an interesting and alarming piece about a [new report](#) on the [impacts AI may have on the 2024 election](#). Elections officials and AI researchers took ChatGPT for a test run to see how well they responded to queries about voting. “The chatbots are not ready for primetime when it comes to giving important, nuanced information about elections,” said Seth Bluestein, a Republican city commissioner in Philadelphia. All five models they tested — OpenAI’s GPT-4, Meta’s Llama 2, Google’s Gemini, Anthropic’s Claude, and Mixtral from the French company Mistral — failed to varying degrees when asked to respond to basic questions about the democratic process, according to the report, which synthesized the workshop’s findings. Workshop participants rated more than half of the chatbots’ responses as inaccurate and categorized 40% of the responses as harmful, including perpetuating dated and inaccurate information that could limit voting rights, the report said. In Nevada, where same-day voter registration has been allowed since 2019, four of the five chatbots tested wrongly asserted that voters would be blocked from registering to vote weeks before Election Day. “It scared me, more than anything, because the information provided was wrong,” said Nevada Secretary of State Francisco Aguilar, a Democrat who participated in last month’s testing workshop.

[Read More](#)

Legislative Updates

Indiana: Poll worker safety was top of mind at the Statehouse this week as the House Courts and Criminal Code unanimously passed SB 170. The bill, if signed into law, would make [threatening, obstructing or injuring a poll worker](#) on election day a Level 6 Felony. According to the bill’s author, the bill attempts to address concerns about election-day staffing. Several people who testified in favor of the bill said poll workers are frustrated and fearful as they head into what could be the biggest presidential election in history.

Nebraska: Two election-related legislative proposals seeking to regulate artificial intelligence and [increase penalties for crimes against Nebraska election workers](#) appear to be stalled in 2024. [LB 1390](#), from Sen. Eliot Bostar of Lincoln, would extend a Class III misdemeanor in place for obstructing or hindering deputy registrars to threats and harassment against all election officials and workers, including poll workers. LB 1390 also provides a Class III misdemeanor for disseminating the home address of an election official if done without the official’s consent and intended to aid or assist in a criminal offense reasonably likely to cause death, bodily injury or stalking.

South Dakota: A bill introduced at the request of the Secretary of State’s Office [aiming to protect election workers](#) passed the House State Affairs Committee in an 8-5 vote this week in Pierre. [The bill](#) would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor if a person directly or indirectly threatens or intimidates an election official or poll worker “with the intent to improperly influence an election.” A Class 1 misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail and up to a \$2,000 fine. D

Washington: The Senate voted overwhelmingly to [make harassing election workers a felony](#). The bill would increase the possible penalty for harassing an election worker in person or by mail from up to one year in jail to up to five years in prison. It would also give targeted workers the opportunity to join a program run by the

secretary of state's office designed to keep their address confidential. The measure has already been approved by the House but will need to go back to that body for verification before heading to Gov. Jay Inslee's desk.

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Legal Updates

Delaware: Delaware Superior Court Judge Mark Conner [found early voting and permanent absentee voting statutes in the state to be unconstitutional](#). Conner struck down a request by the state election commissioner, Anthony J. Albence, alongside the Delaware Department of Elections, to dismiss a complaint stating that Delaware's early voting and permanent absentee voting statutes were violating the First State's constitution. The plaintiffs in the case were Michael Mennella and Republican Sen. Gerald Hocker. In his opinion, Conner stated: "The enactments of the General Assembly challenged today are inconsistent with our Constitution and therefore cannot stand." In his ruling, the judge noted the following about early voting: The Delaware Constitution designates only one day for general elections, but the state's early voting statute allows for voting at least 10 days before that one day. He stated that the "Constitution will prevail" when conflicts with statutes exist. The judge found that the state's early voting statute failed to meet the constitution's mandate to "secure secrecy and the independence of the voter, preserve the freedom and purity of elections and prevent fraud, corruption and intimidation" and that early voting went beyond the Legislature's limited authority granted by the constitution. Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings said her office [will appeal](#).

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Opinions This Week

National Opinions: [Voting rights](#) | [Poll workers](#) | [Early voting](#) | [Voting age](#) | [Ranked choice voting](#)

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Upcoming Events

[The Election Workforce: The Front Lines of Democracy](#): It's full steam ahead to 2024's general election. What are lawmakers and election administrators thinking about now to prepare? Find out in this four-part series, hosted by the National Conference of State Legislatures in partnership with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. We'll focus on the elections workforce; counting and recounts and more post-voting work; the voters' perspectives and voter confidence. Trustworthy elections are not possible without the work of thousands of front-line workers: election officials and poll workers. Tune in to the first of a four-part webinar series on election administration to hear U.S. Election Assistance Commissioner Ben Hovland describe the responsibilities these public servants hold, the perils they face, the benefits of civic engagement and state policies that support them. Bonus: what role do poll watchers or election observers play? **When:** March 8, 2pm Eastern. **Where:** Online.

[Read More](#)

Job Postings This Week

[Work Elections Fellowship Coordinator](#), Campus Vote Project’s Fair Elections Center’s Campus Vote Project seeks a WorkElections Fellowship Coordinator. The Fellowship Coordinator is a key member of our team. They are charged with quickly solidifying and deploying a program to recruit students to serve as poll workers across five states ahead of the November 2024 elections. The Fellowship Coordinator will supervise a team of five Supervising Fellows who will assist them and CVP State Coordinators in training and support CVP Democracy Fellows who receive an additional stipend to complete state-specific WorkElections recruitment for poll workers. This position reports to the CVP Curriculum and Research Manager with additional support from the National Special Projects Manager. Fair Elections Center’s Campus Vote Project (CVP) was launched in 2012 to expand our work on student voting issues. We work with universities, community colleges, faculty, students, and election officials to reduce barriers to student voting. CVP helps campuses institutionalize reforms that empower students with the information they need to register and vote. Campus Vote Project has three main areas of focus: institutionalizing voter engagement, providing up-to-date election information, and developing student leaders. Fair Elections Center also began [WorkElections.org](#) to address a struggle that many local election officials face: recruiting a sufficient number of poll workers – particularly those with in-demand technological and language skills, to help voters on Election Day. The online tool collects poll worker requirements and applications for thousands of jurisdictions across the country, providing a central source of simplified information for interested individuals who may not know how or where to apply. WorkElections seeks to facilitate poll worker recruitment to ensure that this year’s elections go as smoothly as possible. This position brings these two projects of Fair Elections Center together to further the missions of both: 1) by recruiting a pool of poll workers that are more representative of the communities they will serve, and 2) reducing barriers to student voting and welcoming more young voters into the democratic process. **Application:** For the complete job listing and to apply, [click here](#).

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Marketplace

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GA-COLUMBIA-24-0196-A-000020

From: Betsy Zachman <betsyzachman@yahoo.com>
Sent time: 02/05/2024 03:50:04 PM
To: Vote
Subject: Re: BallotTrax
Attachments: ElectronicBallot_Instructions_Oath_of_Elector.pdf Ranked_Choice_Ballot_Instruction_Oath_of_Elector.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Columbia County email system. Please exercise caution before clicking links, opening attachments, replying, or providing information to the sender.

Got it - Thank you!!!

On Monday, February 5, 2024 at 09:42:41 PM GMT+1, Vote <vote@columbiacountyga.gov> wrote:

From: Betsy Zachman <betsyzachman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:38 PM
To: Vote <Vote@columbiacountyga.gov>
Subject: Re: BallotTrax

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I'm hoping someone can help me.

I was able to download my absentee ballot but it wouldn't let me download the other document that just go with it and I can't get back in.

I don't know if it wasn't compatible with an iPad or not, but as an IT person often whomever designs sites don't take that into account and there's no doubt everything required.

Can someone please help me?

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Mon, Jan 1, 2024 at 14:41, Betsy Zachman

[<betsyzachman@yahoo.com>](mailto:betsyzachman@yahoo.com) wrote:

I know I had a typo on my absentee ballot (had to list "Box 4051" twice because your system doesn't accept the military address in the proper format (you require a second line for the address when we have to list the Box number on the first line - CMR 467, Box 4051.

I listed it as BIX on the first line but the proper BOX on the second address line.

Also the BallotTrax doesn't recognize any information for me to log in to track it. I sold my house at 1156 Brookstone Way in Augusta 30909 and updated my drivers license to what I'm using as my permanent address until I return and buy a new home - 6504 Reservoir Rd in Appling 30802. It wouldn't take either zip code to work.

From: Vote
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From: Gay, Nancy
Sent time: 12/07/2023 10:54:32 AM
To: DrR@eagleai.pro
Subject: RE: Contact Information
Attachments: image001.png image002.png

Okay â€“ thank you.



Nancy L. Gay
Executive Director
Columbia County Board of Elections
610 Ronald Reagan Drive
Building G3, Second Floor
PO Box 919
Evans, GA 30809
706-868-3355 (phone)
706-868-3358 (fax)
www.columbiacountyga.gov

From: DrR@eagleai.pro <DrR@eagleai.pro>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 10:52 AM
To: Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov>
Subject: Re: Contact Information

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Yes, thanks for asking.

Rick

John W. Richards, Jr., MD, MMM, CPE
CEO & President
EagleAI NETwork, LLC
706-840-2488 cell
drr@eagleai.pro

www.linkedin.com/in/DrRickRichards

[To Support EagleAI NETworkâ€¦](#)



On Dec 7, 2023, at 09:24, Gay, Nancy <NGAY@columbiacountyga.gov> wrote:

Hey Dr. Richards,
Is it okay to give your cell phone out? We have received two calls this morning asking for itâ€¦

Thank you,

<image001.png>
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To: DoNotReply@sos.ga.gov
Subject: The Buzz Post - Legislative Update February 5, 2024

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â€‹A [new discussion](#)â€‹ has been posted in The Buzz by Tonnie Adamsâ€‹ on 2/5/2024 11:15 AMâ€‹

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Legislative Update February 5, 2024

The legislature is not in session today. Here is an update on the legislature during the month of January:

First of all, please remember GAVREO Day at the Capitol this Wednesday February 7. We have a room reserved from 10:00 â€‹ 11:00 AM. Please invite your legislator to come by.

House bills:

HB 976 Elections; ballots used in optical scan voting systems shall use paper with a visible watermark security feature; provide

This bill will require a visible watermark on all official ballots on the BMD and absentee by mail ballots. The only cost will be the purchase of the hardware to implement the new watermark, which will be paid by the Secretary of State. This bill has passed the House and is awaiting action by the Senate Ethics Committee. Expect this bill to pass at some point or be included in an omnibus bill.

HB 974 Secretary of State; establish and maintain a state-wide system for the posting of scanned paper ballots; require

This bill requires the images of all ballots to be posted online. After discussion with the Secretary of State, the resolution required for all images was set at 200 DPI for BMD ballots (which is what our current scanners are capable of), and 600 DPI for the absentee by mail ballots (which will require a software upgrade). This bill has passed the Governmental Affairs Committee and is waiting to be sent to the floor for a full House vote.

HB 977 Elections; number of contests subject to risk-limiting audits; expand

After discussion on the number of races required to be audited, the bill was changed to require the top race to be audited (President, US Senate, or Governor), in addition to a second race to be determined by a five person panel (Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, Minority Leader of the House, Minority Leader of the Senate). This bill has passed the Governmental Affairs Committee and is waiting to be sent to the floor for a full House vote.

HB 975 Elections; prohibit bar codes, QR codes, and other machine codes on ballots printed by electronic ballot markers

This bill has been discussed in the Elections Subcommittee of Governmental Affairs, but no further action has been taken. 000036

Senate Bills

SB 355 Elections and Primaries; use of ranked-choice voting; prohibit

This bill restricts ranked-choice voting, except for UOCAVA ballots. This bill has passed the Senate and is awaiting action by the House.

SB 358 State Election Board; remove the Secretary of State; authorize the board to investigate

Removes the Secretary of State as an ex-officio member of the State Election Board and allows the SEB to investigate the Secretary of State. This bill has passed the Senate and is awaiting action by the House.

SB 189 Elections; text portions of ballots shall be counted for vote tabulation and recounts purposes; provide

This bill is similar to HB 975. This bill has passed the Senate Ethics Committee and is waiting to be sent to the full Senate for a vote.

SB 212 Probate Court Judges; relating to elections; end activities and duties

Passed by the Ethics Committee and is waiting to be sent to the full Senate for a floor vote.

Note that there are additional bills that have been filed in the House and Senate. As these bills are heard in the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Ethics Committee, there will be further updates.

New State Election Board Members:

John Fervier was elected Chairman of the State Election Board by the House and Senate.

Rick Jeffares was appointed by the Senate. He is the Senate appointee and is not voted on by the House.

Budget Update:

The supplemental budgets will be sent to the House this week. We have not heard if the funds for the UPS replacement was included in the amended budget for 2024.

If you would like to opt out of receiving email notifications for this discussion, click [here](#).

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