

# Georgia Municipal Association

October 25, 2022

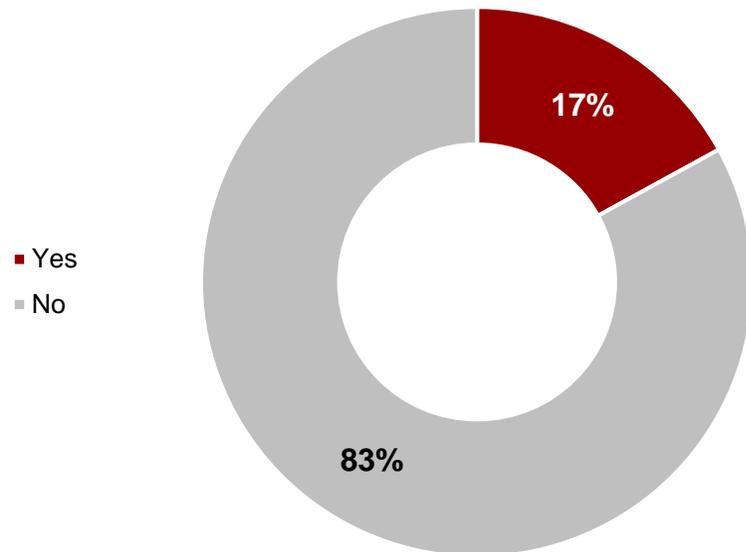
Chris Harvey, Deputy Executive Director, Georgia P.O.S.T. Council

Liz Howard, Senior Counsel, Brennan Center for Justice

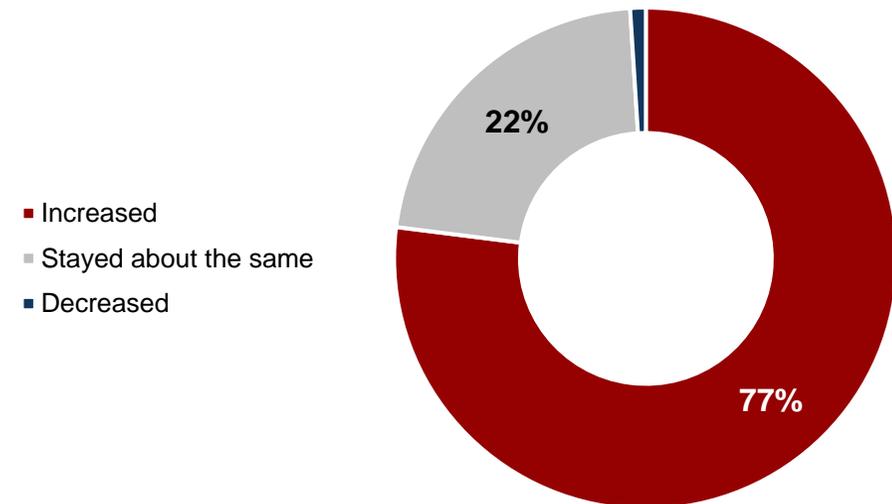
# Threats, Intimidation, & Violence

1 in 6 local election officials have personally experienced threats; 77% say that threats have increased in recent years

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



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

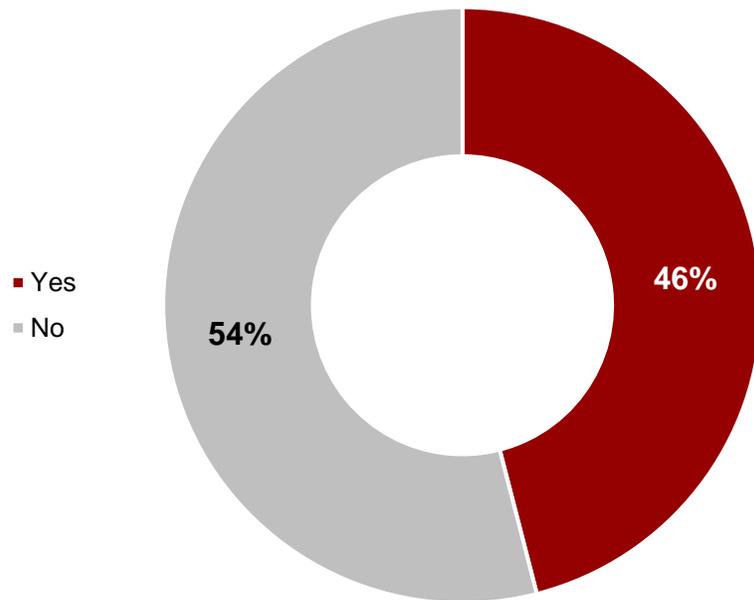


# Threats, Intimidation, & Violence

**More than half of threats against local election officials have gone unreported**

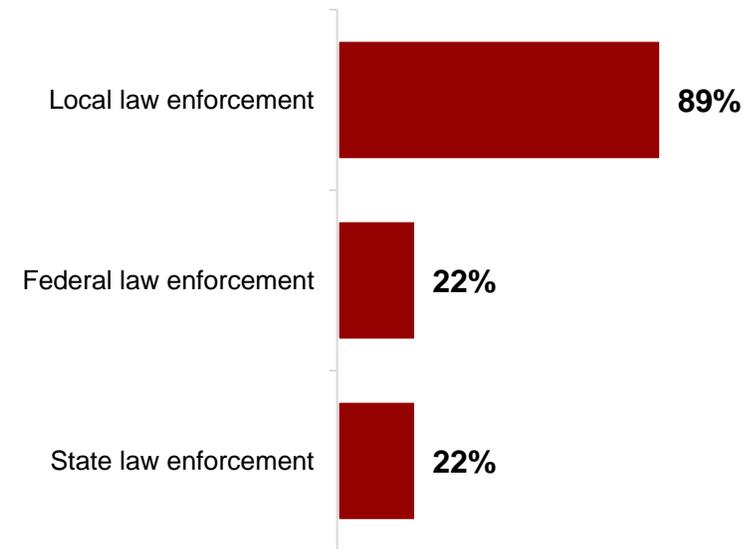
## Did you report this threat to law enforcement?

*Among the 17% of local election officials who have been threatened because of their jobs*



## 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*



# Threats in Georgia

We'll make the Boston bombings look like child's play at the poll sites in this county. You just f\_cking WAIT. This country was founded on righteous war, and if this is what is required of us to defend our democracy, we will step forward. We will hit every poll site, government office and beyond... You are all FAKER than the FAKE NEWS. F\_CK

This anonymous [threat](#) vowing to blow up polling sites was sent to about a dozen counties in Georgia.

# Threats in Georgia

- Paulding County Elections Director, Deirdre Holden, received an email with the subject line “F\*\*\*ING HEAR THIS PAULDING COUNTY OR DIE.”
- Secretary Raffensperger have received death threats that forced his family into hiding. His deputy, Jordan Fuchs, has received death threats after being doxed online.
- Polling manager in Taylorsville, Vanessa Montgomery, was followed home after delivering ballots.



Committee for

**SAFE AND SECURE  
ELECTIONS**

# Our Mission

The Committee for Safe and Secure Elections features cross-partisan experts in election administration and law enforcement who aim to support policies and practices that protect election workers and voters from violence, threats, and intimidation.

The Committee also works to build relationships and trust between election officials and law enforcement to better equip both to prevent and respond to threats and violence against voters and election workers.

# CSSE Goals

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To build trust and stronger relationships between election officials and law enforcement;

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To develop solutions that respond to and help curb the rise in intimidation, threats and violence against elections workers;

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And to create and share resources and best practices for law enforcement and election officials.

# A New Kind of Domestic Violence

## Threats against public servants define chilling January 6 hearing



Analysis by [Paul LeBlanc](#), CNN  
Updated 6:22 PM ET, Tue June 21, 2022

THE CYBERSECURITY 202

### Threats against election workers could have bad consequences



Analysis by [Joseph Marks](#)  
with research by [Aaron Schaffer](#)

June 22, 2022 at 7:40 a.m. EDT

## Violent Threats to Election Workers Are Common. Prosecutions Are Not.

The Jan. 6 hearings laid bare how threats have terrified some election officials. But a federal pledge to address them has so far come up nearly empty.



## One in five U.S. election workers may quit amid threats, politics

By Peter Eisler and Linda So



January 4, 2021

2:02 pm

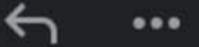


Response Time:  
2 Hours



EOTP 14:02

to me



Chris Harvey,  
Your days are numbered. The FBI can't save you. Out of kindness, we took a break during Christmas. We hope you enjoyed this holiday because it will be your last. Every time you leave your house in the morning, make sure to say goodbye to your family, as you may not see them again.

NEW



Name

Chris Harvey(William Christopher Harvey)

Email



The entire state of Georgia is under scrutiny. Harvey is the Director of Elections so why didn't he verify the signatures, as Trump stated on numerous occasions?



30030  
Decatur, Georgia

90% Personal Data

made with mematic

# Local Law Enforcement (LLE) and Local Election Officials (LEO) Collaboration

## Build

Build relationships and trust between election officials and law enforcement

## Support

Support policies and practices that protect election workers and voters from violence, threats, and intimidation

## Equip

Better equip them to prevent and respond to threats and violence against voters and election workers

# RESOURCES FOR ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS



# RESOURCES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



# Five Steps to Safer Elections

- 1 Meet**  
*Meet with counterparts and other stakeholders*
- 2 Share**  
*Share experiences, contact information, election details, and expectations*
- 3 Agree**  
*Agree to work together regularly and define rules of engagement where voters are present*
- 4 Plan**  
*Plan incident response, information sharing, and crisis communications*
- 5 Practice**  
*Practice information sharing and response plans*

# 1

## MEET

Meet with counterparts and other stakeholders

- Bring local partners to the table to build relationships
- Explain the need for security planning to community stakeholder groups
  - Identify and address concerns
- Consider whether to engage with other state or federal agencies

# 2

## SHARE

Share experiences, contact information, election details, and expectations

- The goals of the initial meeting are:
  - Sharing history of intimidation to show need for cooperation
  - Understanding each other's operating environment
  - Sharing key election details (calendar, locations, etc.)
  - Sharing contact information of liaisons and key staff
  - Setting expectations and boundaries, based on framework of law
  - Mapping a path forward
  - Identifying community stakeholder groups

# 3

## AGREE

Agree to work together regularly and define rules of engagement where voters are present

- A follow-up meeting should consider:
  - Routine security support for election operations
  - Statutory duties such as transport of secure materials
  - Other routine security oversight
  - Physical security advice
  - Security Communications
  - Rules of Engagement, especially where voters are present

# 4

## PLAN

Plan incident response, information sharing, and crisis communications

- Plan for Incident Response
  - Determine the scope and risk of an incident
  - Respond appropriately
  - Take protective measures for staff
  - Take preventive measures to ensure no recurrence of disturbance
- Plan crisis communications to create awareness, to deter further incidents
- Identify who must be notified in the case of an incident or emergency

# 5

## PRACTICE

### Practice information sharing and response plans

- Meet regularly
  - discuss new information, requirements and actions
- Conduct a tabletop exercise to role play scenarios and establish good habits and identify gaps.
  - Practice all aspects of emergency response, including communications



Committee for  
**SAFE AND SECURE  
ELECTIONS**

[safeelections.org](https://safeelections.org)

**BRENNAN  
CENTER**  

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**FOR JUSTICE**



THE  
ELECTIONS  
GROUP

**Protect**   
**Democracy** 

**R**  **Street**

Free markets. Real solutions.