



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

## PROGRAM PROFILE

# Elections and Redistricting

## OUR TEAM

The NCSL Elections and Redistricting Program is ready at any time to provide information or answer questions for legislators and legislative staff. Our team tracks state and federal legislative action, delivers in-depth analysis and reports, maintains comprehensive 50-state databases, answers research requests and provides customized training.

## A SAMPLE OF ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING ISSUES

### Election Administration

Each state has a different system for running its election: How does voter registration work? When can people vote? Where? By mail or in-person? Is voter ID required? Who pays for elections? What technology is certified for use? How do recounts, recalls and term limits differ in the states? NCSL maintains state-by-state data on these and other questions.

**Contact:** Wendy Underhill

### Fair and Secure Elections

Lawmakers of all political stripes want elections that are open to all qualified voters—and no one else. Accuracy, efficiency and accessibility are also important. Our objective work on election security, especially in this era of cybersecurity threats, is created with legislative needs in mind. Our team can help you bone up on all aspects of election technology and cybersecurity.

**Contact:** Wendy Underhill

### Redistricting

Our team is the premier source for information and training on redistricting. *Redistricting Law*, the standard reference on legal issues, is published and updated by NCSL's Redistricting and Elections Standing Committee prior to each redistricting cycle. Our team is well-versed in redistricting history and decision-making procedures, and we stay up to date on all the latest redistricting issues.

**Contact:** Ben Williams

### Campaign Finance

Our team tracks legislative action on money in politics in the states and D.C. As courts have struck down many campaign finance regulations, states have responded with either a sigh of relief or a call for new approaches, such as more disclosure requirements, public financing and revamping contribution limits—all with an eye on protecting freedom of speech.

**Contact:** Adam Kuckuk

## CONTACT US

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## Initiative and Referendum Processes

Twenty-four states permit voters to approve new laws on Election Day. Our team can tell you which states, and how the process works in each.

**Contact:** Wendy Underhill

## State Election Results

NCSL is the first organization in the nation to have the results of legislative elections—which chambers are held by Democrats and which by Republicans—and what any changes mean in the moment and over time. Our team also covers the results of all statewide ballot measures, which are often a good bellwether for policy issues lawmakers will face.

**Contact:** Ben Williams

## Primaries and Political Decisions

Open, closed or in between? States determine whether non-party members can participate in primaries. And they decide a host of other political questions, too: How are vacancies filled? Is straight-ticket voting permitted? How does each state distribute presidential electors for the Electoral College? Each state is unique, and our team can provide the details.

**Contact:** Ben Williams

## Census 2020

The decennial census is the single largest civilian undertaking in the U.S. The results of this federal data-gathering effort are used for congressional apportionment, redistricting, the allocation of over \$1 trillion in federal dollars each year, and decision making by businesses and policymakers. Our team tracks census processes, legal standing and data delivery schedules—and can provide general information, as well as examples of how states have maximized their “count” and thus their political clout.

**Contact:** Wendy Underhill

## Federal Election Issues

NCSL represents state legislatures’ interests to the federal government on elections issues, including redistricting and the census. NCSL's Washington, D.C., staff provide you with the latest information on actions by Congress and the administration.

**Contact:** Susan Parnas Frederick

## KEY RESOURCES

- **Bill Tracking Databases:** Searchable state legislation databases, including [elections policy](#), [campaign finance](#) and [statewide ballot measures](#).
- **The Canvass: NCSL’s Elections Newsletter:** [Subscribe](#) to our monthly newsletter to hear the latest.
- **The Redistricting Distribution List:** Email [elections-info@ncsl.org](mailto:elections-info@ncsl.org) to sign up for nonpartisan redistricting and census news.
- **Elections Staff Network/Redistricting Staff Network:** All legislative staff who work on elections or redistricting-related issues are invited to participate in these coordinated networks. Send a note to [elections-info@ncsl.org](mailto:elections-info@ncsl.org) to join either or both.
- **Redistricting and Elections Standing Committee:** [Learn more](#) about this Standing Committee, one of nine NCSL committees that serve as forums for state legislators and legislative staff to learn and share information regarding work in other states, and to maintain a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system.

### Reach out Anytime!

Contact the Elections and Redistricting team for more information or to arrange customized technical assistance in your state, such as briefings on state policy trends, in-depth research and meeting facilitation.