

**Southeast Ohio Election Research
Call for Proposals
Spring 2022**

Description: The ACLU of Ohio believes that the right to vote is the cornerstone of democracy. We are seeking an Independent Contractor to conduct research on Ohio's election systems, as well as election trends in Southeast Ohio, including but not limited to usage rates of Ohio's different voting methods, ballot security protocols, and voting impediments.

Key Qualifications & Methods: The Independent Contractor shall obtain information by employing online and offline research, including but not limited to submitting public records requests to government entities, in-person interviews, analyzing constitutional, statutory, and administrative requirements and processes, and Internet searches. The Independent Contractor must be comfortable working with data, conducting analysis, and have experience in voting/democracy work.

Project Overview: The purpose of this election research is to help inform the ACLU and coalition partners' policy/legal/organizing work on voting rights leading up to the 2024 presidential election. Research will be focused on the following 11 Southeastern Ohio counties:

- Belmont
- Columbiana
- Gallia
- Jefferson
- Lawrence
- Meigs
- Monroe
- Morgan
- Noble
- Scioto
- Washington

The main goal of this research is to identify and analyze Ohio's back-end ballot canvassing, tabulating, and auditing procedures. We want the researcher to compose a narrative explanation, in the form of a memorandum, describing in detail the constitutional, statutory, and administrative requirements county boards of election must follow when receiving voted ballots, canvassing the ballots, tabulating and reporting the results, and post-election audit procedures. At minimum, this project should include the relevant timelines, actors – including vulnerabilities where election administration duties could be influenced by partisan actors, ballot rejection and cure procedures. *In short – this memorandum should explain, in detail, what happens to a ballot from the time it is cast by the voter to when post-election audits are completed and the ballot discarded.*

A secondary objective of this research is to help collect Appalachian-specific information on a number of voting and election administration topics using 2020 Presidential Election results. The 11 Southeast Ohio counties named above will be the focus for this aspect of the research. The researcher should be prepared to obtain data through public records requests and have a functional knowledge of how to request records from appropriate state, and county, agencies.

- **Overarching goals**
 - Identify data gaps for future statehouse/SOS advocacy
 - Weak points in county Board of Election certification (able to be influenced or altered)
- **Voter Registration**
 - Number of Ohioans w/o SID or DL
 - Denial rates from NVRA (county Departments of Jobs and Family Services) agencies of paper form registrations
 - Online voter registration denial rates
- **Absentee Voting**
 - Identify days of early in-person voting with high usage rates
 - Dropbox usage rates for 2020 general election
 - Distance to county BOE (dropbox) for median voter
 - Number of county BOEs accessible via public transportation routes
 - Process of signature verification for absentee ballot requests and ballots
- **Election Day Voting**
 - Rate of polling location closures/consolidation for the past 2 general election cycles
 - Number of voters served by single (consolidated) polling location (urban v rural breakdown)
- **Supplemental Voter List Maintenance Procedures**
 - Analyze why voters are on the purge list (death, moved, inactivity)
 - Trends in purged universe (demographics, geography)

Compensation: Total compensation shall not exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000), to be billed by the Independent Contractor at \$30/hour.

Expectations and Deliverables: Starting June 30, 2022, the Independent Contractor shall produce monthly written progress reports summarizing duties, tasks, etc. completed. The Independent Contractor shall be available, on an as needed basis, for in-person meetings scheduled with the ACLU of Ohio Policy Director, Deputy Policy Director, or their designee to discuss and track project deliverables.

Key Dates and Deadlines:

Proposal submissions will be received on or before April 17, 2022.

The work engagement shall commence no later than June 1, 2022 and shall terminate on December 1, 2022.

HOW TO APPLY:

Email a current resume and proposal with project qualifications to cmarozzi@acluohio.org.

Successful candidates shall provide evidence of previous research completed similar in scope to this project. Candidates should have a minimum of 3-5 years of research experience demonstrated by their current resume or previous research. Previous election system research is preferred, but not required for this project.