



Elect on of cials across the country face increased public calls for greater electoral transparency. As a result, many elect on departments are considering providing or have already opted to provide livestreams of their ballot tabulat on processes, so that any interested member of the public can watch as ballots are counted. Several states go further by mandat ng livestreams.

While such init at ves are important as a public show of commitment to transparent elections, the mere use of cameras may not suffice to increase public understanding of how elections are run and may not help citizens determine whether elections are safe and secure.

The Carter Center of ers the following best pract ce recommendat ons to elect on of cials who are considering adding or reinforcing livestreams of their ballot tabulat on processes. Recommendat ons seek to help elect on of cials implement that increase public understanding of elect on procedures and safeguards.

•	Signs large enough to be visible over the livestream could be used to ident fy the elect on equipment that is visible through the video frame as well as to
	. For example, if ballots are manually adjudicated, a sign could indicate
	where the "Adjudicat on Board" is working. The Elect on Assistance Commission's
	and/or monitored by appointed mult part san teams
	represent ng the major registered polit cal part es (including, in some instances, independent or
	unaf liated voters). Such mult part san part cipat on in the tabulat on process serves as an
	important check against malfeasance. Where tabulat on is conducted and/or monitored by
	mult part san teams, elect on departments could consider purchasing colored vests, shirts or

¹ Merel Oc ed

ht ps://gz.com/1926439/how-to-watch-2020-elect on-ballots-being-counted

² Since 2021, for example, any county in Texas with a populat on of 10,000 or more must livestream ballot tabulat on. Security of Voted Ballots, Texas Elect on Code, Title 8. Vot ng Systems, Chapter 127. Processing Electronic Vot ng System Results, § 127.1232 (b) (2021). https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/EL/htm/EL.127.

<u>HTM</u>. Arizona also mandates live video recording of proceedings at the count ng center in every county in the state. Proceedings at the count ng center, Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 16. Elect ons and Electors, § 16-621 (D) (Accessed 16 June 2023). https://www.azleq.gov/ars/16/00621.htm.

canc that would	d ha vicible over a	ivestream and would	
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-	of the tabulat on room can help to ensure
may als	lous video coverage in the event of a technical glitch or outage. Mult ple viewing angles so alleviate dif cult es with viewers' being unable to fully witness proceedings, either e elect on workers' backs are to the cameras or because the layout of the room does not or a clear line of sight.
R	As elect on departments consider using addit onal cameras,
	Cameras should not be posit oned such that
	private individuals could access livestream footage and manipulate it to expose
	personally ident fying informat on of voters. This will likely place some limitat ons on the
	granularity of detail that private cit zens accessing livestreams will be able to view.
	Elect on departments may wish to cite relevant nat onal and/or state privacy statutes to
	help viewers understand why, for example, livestream cameras may not be closely zoomed in.
R	Elect on workers are operating in an increasingly tense political environment in which threats and harassment have become commonplace. Elect on departments should

would also be subject. In addit on, they should be bound by established norms for nonpart san elect on observat on, including but not limited to the following:⁴

- They must be impart all toward all candidates and outcomes and politically neutral. Additionally, they should be independent of government.
- They should not undertake an observat on ef ort either on the presumpt on that the
 process is credible nor that it lacks credibility. They should be guided by their data
 and findings and should take steps to ensure to the best of their ability that
 those findings will not be used to legit mize clearly undemocratic processes nor to
 undermine legit mate democratic outcomes.
- Nonpart san elect on observers should not themselves be candidates for any elected of ce to be contested nor related to any such candidates.
- Observers must be willing to follow all laws and elect on procedures on penalty of being denied further access to observe and their removal from the observat on ef ort. Prior to mobilizing, they must at end a structured training on these laws and procedures.
- Nonpart san elect on observers must agree to truthfully and accurately report what they see.
- Nonpart san elect on observers must agree to refrain from interfering in the elect on process in any way; their role is solely to monitor the process and document their findings. During the course of their duties, they will not in any way harass or intimidate voters or election of icials, at empt to influence voters or election of icials, share false or misleading information about the election,