

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: REVILY INSIGHTS
RE: ELECTION SECURITY IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

February 06, 2018

Overview

In a recently completed survey of likely Tennessee voters, Revely Insights found that a majority of the electorate is concerned about the risks facing the state’s election system and want to see state leaders do more to ensure our system is secure and modern.

Revely interviewed 700 random likely voters in Tennessee via live phone calls to both landline and cellphones across the state, with an oversample of likely Republican primary voters to specifically gauge their sentiment around the election security issue.

The results underscore the urgent need to implement modern policies and procedures to protect the integrity and security of Tennessee’s physical and digital election infrastructure.

Tennessee Voters Are Concerned About Security

When it comes to the state’s election system, over 50% of Tennessee voters report that they are concerned about a wide range of threats, from outdated voting machines to intentional tampering of election results and databases.

	Foreign Influence	Computer Hacking	Voting Infrastructure	Voter Data Privacy
Concerned	56%	69%	56%	55%

Of all the risks tested, “computer hacking” saw the widest bipartisan agreement, with a plurality of Republicans, Democrats and Independents reporting that they are either very or somewhat concerned.

	Computer Hacking		
	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Concerned	61%	82%	66%

The threats posed to our elections by computer hacking and “foreign countries or governments trying to influence elections” were also apparent to communities across the state, with majorities of both urban and rural areas reporting concern.

	Computer Hacking	
	Urban	Rural
Concerned	67%	72%

	Foreign Influence	
	Urban	Rural
Concerned	55%	57%

Voters overwhelmingly support solutions successful in other states

Voters want to see the state government make changes to protect Tennessee elections. In fact, roughly seven in ten (68%), including Republicans (66%), say current protections are not enough and that the state government “should be doing MORE to ensure our elections are modern, secure and free from tampering.”

Almost universally, voters (86%) report that they would support the state government “modernizing its election system to prevent tampering and hacking,” including 81% of those voters who approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president.

Policies that increase database security protocols along with secure data transfers so that eligible voters are correctly added to the rolls have been used in other states to give election officials the tools they need to better safeguard their systems and receive wide support from Tennessee voters. Indeed, 72% of all voters (71% of Republicans) say they would support improvements to the way voter data is shared between state agencies to increase voter roll accuracy. The endorsement is slightly higher among voters who approve of President Trump, with roughly three in four (74%) saying they would support such a policy.

Additionally, the clear majority of Tennessee voters (70%) view the state’s use of paperless, electronic-only voting machines as a risk (75% among Republicans) and would favor a switch to machines that produce a paper trail for verification purposes in the event of an election breach (71%).

Methodology Statement

Revily Insights conducted a Tennessee statewide survey of a random sample of 700 likely general election voters. Interviews were conducted by live phone interviews to landline (60% of sample) and cellular phones (40% of sample) from January 23rd - January 25th. The likely voters were determined by individuals' vote history in past general elections. The results have been weighted to the registered voting population in Tennessee. The poll margin error at the 95% confidence interval for 700 statewide voters is ± 3.7 percentage points.