

**2026 Election Verification Network Conference**  
**New York University**  
**Washington, DC**

***“Collaborative Resilience: A Collective Commitment to Secure Elections”***

**Wednesday, March 18**

2:00 pm **Welcome Reception (Registration table sponsored by Microsoft)**  
Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation Lobby

**Thursday, March 19**

8:00 am **Breakfast/Check-in (Registration table sponsored by The Brennan Center for Justice)**  
Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation Lobby

9:00 am **Welcome & Introductions**  
Abramson Family Auditorium  
Kevin Skoglund, Citizens for Better Elections; EVN Coordinating Committee Chair  
Grace Gordon, The Turnout, LLC; 2026 EVN Conference Co-Chair  
Corrie Emerson, Verified Voting; 2026 EVN Conference Co-Chair

9:15 am **Keynote Address**  
The Honorable Christopher Deluzio, U.S. House of Representatives, PA 17<sup>th</sup> District

9:45 am **Election Integrity and Security: Assessing the SAVE Act and the 2025 Executive Order**  
Moderator: Veronica Degraffenreid, Brennan Center for Justice  
Panelists: Amy Keith, Common Cause FL; John Odum, Montpelier, VT; Wren Orey, Bipartisan Policy Center

*This panel explores two consequential federal efforts in recent U.S. election policy: the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act (H.R. 22) and Make Elections Great Again (MEGA) Act of 2025. Both initiatives are positioned by their proponents as measures to strengthen election integrity. While they have commonalities, they also take different approaches—and raise significant questions about how elections should be made more secure and at what cost.*

10:30 am **Break sponsored by The Turnout, LLC**  
Pearlstein Family Foyer

10:45 am **Beyond Message Testing: An Audience-First Communications Strategy**  
Moderator: Corrie Emerson, Verified Voting  
Panelists: Kerrin Garripoli, Democracy Communications Collaborative; Jay Riestenberg, Secure Democracy USA

*In a fractured and hyperpolitical information ecosystem, how can the EVN community break through the noise to reach our audiences with information that increases voter confidence and participation? This panel will share data on the American public's perceptions of elections, offer strategies for identifying and segmenting audiences, and demonstrate how to reach them with targeted, compelling content. Learn how an "audience-first" approach can inform who needs to hear which story about our elections, who they trust as messengers, and the key messages that will most likely resonate.*

11:45 am **2026 Annual EVN Awards Ceremony**  
Genya Coulter, OSET Institute, Chair EVN Awards Committee

12:45 pm **Annual EVN Awards Luncheon**  
Catherine B. Reynold Foundation Lobby

1:45 pm **Keynote Address**  
Abramson Family Auditorium  
Pam Anderson, MPA, CERA, Electionland

2:45 pm **When Democracy Is Tested: How Cross-Sector Collaboration Protects Elections**  
Moderator: Avani Singh, Brennan Center for Justice  
Panelists: Kathy Boockvar, Athena Strategies, LLC; Aaron Hayman, Social Scout; Nathan Jaramillo, Bernalillo County, NM

*In recent years, the United States has witnessed an alarming rise in political violence targeting elections and elected officials. From swatting incidents and bomb threats to denial-of-service attacks, and confrontations with so-called First Amendment Auditors, these threats undermine public trust and pose significant risks to the physical safety of election officials, law enforcement, and voters. This session will explore how partnerships between election officials, law enforcement, and other stakeholders were absolutely critical to ensuring the integrity and resilience of the 2024 and 2025 elections, with learnings that can be applied to this year's midterms. In addition, law enforcement quick reference guides and other election-related resources will be provided.*

3:30 pm **Break sponsored by Microsoft**  
Pearlstein Family Foyer

3:45 pm **The Future of Election Security Testing**  
Abramson Family Auditorium  
Moderator: Jared Marcotte, The Turnout, LLC  
Panelists: Lindsey Forson, NASS; Commissioner Don Palmer, U.S. EAC; Dave Tackett, WV SoS Office;  
Spencer Wood, Election Security Exchange

*Artificial intelligence and the constantly evolving cybersecurity landscape make security testing particularly challenging, especially for under-resourced election offices. This panel will explore how election offices can modify their security policies to ensure that developers implement security best practices and account for AI developments in their security processes. Panelists will discuss security resources, cybersecurity tests, state security initiatives, and national verification programs, like RABET-V.*

## **Friday, March 20**

8:00 am **Breakfast/Check-in (Registration table sponsored by Bipartisan Policy Center)**  
Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation Lobby

8:50 am **Welcome & Introductions**  
Abramson Family Auditorium  
Kevin Skoglund, Citizens for Better Elections; EVN Coordinating Committee Chair  
Grace Gordon, The Turnout, LLC; 2026 EVN Conference Co-Chair  
Corrie Emerson, Verified Voting; 2026 EVN Conference Co-Chair

9:00 am **Keynote Address**  
The Honorable Adrian Fontes, Secretary of State, AZ

10:00 am **Preparing For—And Protecting Against—Federal Seizure of Voting Equipment**  
Moderator: Susannah Goodman, Common Cause  
Panelists: Matt Crane, CO County Clerks Association; Liz Howard, Brennan Center for Justice; Gowri Ramachandran, Brennan Center for Justice

*The president and his administration have signaled that they have the authority to seize voting machines, and as we have witnessed in the president's second term, all threats must be taken seriously. The panel will explore various legal scenarios in which voting machines (or voting machine parts) could be seized by federal authorities before, during, or after an election and the potential impacts on our elections. The panel will discuss counter strategies to inoculate, prevent, and recover from the impact of voting equipment seizure including legal strategies for advocates and election officials, communications tactics, and organizing strategies.*

10:45 am **Break**  
Pearlstein Family Foyer

11:00 am **What is Good? Considerations for Setting Audit Standards**  
Moderator: Matt Bernhard, Enhanced Voting  
Panelists: Pam Anderson, Electionland; Mark Lindeman, Verified Voting; Jennifer Morrell, Elections Group

*Election audits have become an increasingly popular mechanism for jurisdictions to provide transparency and robustness to their election processes. However, there are no uniform standards for election audits, be they inter-election, voter roll audits, pre-election logic and accuracy audits, election day quality assurance audits, post-election tabulation audits, or more. State requirements vary greatly, and the EAC has recently indicated it is working on its own standards. This panel will explore the current audit landscape, discuss the factors that make good audit standards, and the considerations needed to both assure quality and allow policymakers and election officials to deploy them effectively.*

12:00 pm **Connecting Experts, Advancing Security**  
Abramson Family Auditorium  
Moderator: Spencer Wood, Election Security Exchange  
Panelists: Luke Belant, NCSL; Chris Piper, Election Security Exchange; Meshach Walker, NJ SoS Office

*The panel will open with an overview of today's election security threats, then shift to how strong partnerships can turn strategy into action. Attendees will learn to leverage existing resources and build alliances across security experts, technologists, election officials, and the public. We will highlight how the election support community can assist local and state officials facing resource and capacity challenges, and close by sharing best practices and building common ground on security measures.*

12:45 pm **Lunch sponsored by Verified Voting**  
Catherine B Reynolds Foundation Lobby

1:45 pm **Protecting Election Officials from Polarization and Political Pressure**  
Moderator: Kevin Johnson, Election Reformers Network  
Panelists: Julie Anderson, After Office Advisors; Paul Kitchen, Floyd County Electoral Board; David Levine, City of Richmond, VA

*Politics in America is becoming increasingly existential; both sides fear the other side could destroy the country and will use every electoral tool imaginable to win. This context creates major pressures on election officials, particularly in our system where partisan-elected and partisan-appointed local election leaders play such an important role. The panel will present and discuss practical policy options for increasing the separation between election leaders and the political parties. These options include non-partisan elections, appointment options, ethics support programs, and conflict-of-interest guardrails.*

2:45 pm **Responding to Emergencies While Supporting UOCAVA Voters**  
Moderator: Casandra Hockenberry, The Council of State Governments  
Panelists: Karen Brinson Bell, Advance Elections, LLC; Jared Marcotte, The Turnout, LLC

*Emergency response in elections requires resilience, flexibility, and preparation. In addition to natural disasters, we have seen the frailty of the mail system and faced multiple internet and cloud-based outages. These issues affect all voters but, military and overseas voters require extra attention and detail during emergencies to ensure their ballots are transmitted and received in a timely manner. This panel will explore the mechanisms necessary to prepare for and respond to emergencies during the election period with special attention to considerations for UOCAVA voters. Panelists will discuss policies, planning, and real-world scenarios to ensure that election officials are ready to serve all voters during times of emergency.*

3:45 pm **Lightning Talks: Building Institutional and Informational Resilience in US Elections with Evidence from Research and Practice**  
Moderator: Thessalia Merivaki, McCourt School of Public Policy  
Speakers: Lisa Bryant, California State University Fresno; Martha Kropf, UNC, Charlotte; Alysoun McLaughlin, UMD; Natalie Scala, Towson University; Lisa Singh, Georgetown University

- 1. The spread of false content on social media: A project by researchers at the Massive Data Institute at Georgetown University.*
- 2. Improving turnout and the voter experience: A collaboration between Towson University, the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown, and the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections.*
- 3. Understanding what voters know - and don't - about elections: A project by researchers at Connecticut College, the McCourt School of Public Policy, California State University Fresno and the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.*
- 4. Understanding Overtime, Burnout, and Performance in Election Administration: A project by researchers at the Election Resilience Lab at the University of Maryland.*

4:45 pm **Closing Toast**  
Pearlstein Family Foyer

**This conference is sponsored in part by  
Bipartisan Policy Center, The Brennan Center for Justice, Microsoft, The Turnout, LLC, and Verified Voting**