



Preparing for the 2020 Election



A framework for public safety agencies to advance planning for the election and post election period.
Additional information and links to detailed resources follow.

NORMING



Pre- Election:

1. Publicly communicate expectations around safe in-person voting in the community
2. Understand your state and local laws regarding in person voting
3. Publicly express commitment to the safety of all peaceful demonstrators exercising their 1st Amendment rights



Election Day:

1. Publicly communicate expectations around supporting safe in-person voting for all eligible voters in the community
2. Publicly express commitment to the safety of all peaceful demonstrators exercising their 1st Amendment rights



Post Election Period:

1. Publicly express commitment to the safety of all peaceful demonstrators exercising their 1st Amendment rights

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Pre- Election:

1. Leverage relationships & build community partnerships
2. Convene conversations with key stakeholders to share information
3. Exchange contact information with community leaders
4. Provide guidance on the law to election workers, observers, advocates and candidates
5. Coordinate with stakeholders who can help diffuse tensions on the street
6. Establish position, criteria and role for Police/Protector Liaison Officer



Election Day:

1. Be prepared to receive communication from election officials, poll workers, poll watchers and community members
2. Coordinate and strategize with stakeholders to keep different groups separate from each other
3. Designate a Police/Protector Liaison Officer



Post-Election Period:

1. Actively maintain communication with the community to intervene and deescalate emerging crises
2. Engage with Police/Protector Liaison Officer

SAFETY



Pre-Election:

1. Understand local election laws & interaction between election officials & police
2. Be aware of state laws on open carry and unsanctioned militias
3. Refresh all relevant trainings
4. Assess opportunity for conflict based on publicly available data & identify opportunities for de-escalation
5. Draft & implement Incident Action Plan (IAP)
6. Plan a Unified Command Center
7. Review state laws and prepare for collaboration with partners including the National Guard & Emergency Management



Election Day:

1. Establish Unified Command Center & operations room with community stakeholders
2. Include trusted objective community observer(s) in decision making
3. Proceed with updated IAP
4. Anticipate potential for disruptive activities including violence



Post-Election Period:

1. Conduct debriefing & include community
2. Maintain Unified Command Center & operations room with community stakeholders
3. Engage trusted, objective, community observer(s) to advise on key decisions
4. Follow IAP holding all parties accountable
5. Follow PIO plans

COMMUNICATIONS



Pre- Election:

1. Support 1st Amendment rights (external)
2. Create a crisis comms. plan & share with security & community partners (internal)
3. Prepare plan for election day social media posts to share accurate & timely information (external)
4. Assemble a team for monitoring social media info. and devise verification plan (internal)
5. Educate staff & partners on disinformation campaigns (internal)
6. Use comms. plan to dispel inaccurate information (internal & external)



Election Day:

1. Support 1st Amendment rights (external)
2. Execute comms. plan to monitor social media and inform the community (external)
3. Use plan to monitor sites and dispel misinformation (internal & external)
4. Support mayors with communication to the community about role of the National Guard (external)
5. Follow PIO format & work with social media team to ensure consistent messaging (internal)



Post-Election Period:

1. Support 1st Amendment rights (external)
2. Coordinate with external partners (external)
3. Actively monitor sites to dispel misinformation (internal)
4. Ensure social media messaging is consistent with PIO (internal)