



PHYSICAL SECURITY CHECKLIST FOR POLLING LOCATIONS: **USER GUIDE**

PURPOSE

As part of the continued commitment to working collaboratively with those on the front lines of elections to manage risk to the nation's election infrastructure, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) developed the Physical Security Checklist for Polling Locations. This document, part of a comprehensive suite of resources, supports election personnel to enhance physical security at polling locations by reviewing existing security practices—and helping to identify areas for improvement—through an easy-to-use questionnaire.

HOW TO USE THE CHECKLIST

Individuals or groups responsible for preparing polling locations for use on election day may use this checklist to assess potential security vulnerabilities and identify actions for additional security improvements. Designed for ease of use, the checklist requires no prior security experience.

The checklist also includes overarching security practices that can be tailored to individual facilities, covering pre-planning and election day procedures. Implementation considerations should include site-specific challenges, available resources, existing facility security plans, prior risk assessments, and priorities for optimizing mitigation of the most critical risks.

The checklist broadly addresses several overarching security principles, including:

- Identifying an individual or group responsible for security and safety.
- Utilizing risk assessments to inform security.
- Developing plans to inform processes and procedures.
- Refining security measures before election day.
- Implementing mitigations and “day-of” security measures.
- Reporting suspicious behavior or potential incidents.

The checklist also consists of a PHYSICAL SECURITY QUICK REFERENCE SHEET. This reference sheet is designed to be used by any election personnel to rapidly assist in enhancing security awareness and contribute to a safe voting environment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CISA also offers free guidance and services on protective measures that election personnel can implement to protect election facilities and voting locations. For additional information, contact local CISA Security Advisors via central@cisa.dhs.gov or visit cisa.gov/about/regions/security-advisors.

To request or learn more about election and polling station security products, contact electionsecurity@cisa.dhs.gov.

#PROTECT2024