

TESTIMONY

***BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE OF
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS***

***Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and
Consumer Protection***

August 8, 2025



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ELECTIONS SYSTEM OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

INTRODUCTION

Good morning, Honorable Chairman Avery L. Lewis, distinguished members of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, esteemed colleagues joining us in person and virtually via YouTube and Facebook, members of the press, and the broader viewing and listening public.

My name is Caroline Fawkes, and I serve as the Supervisor of Elections of the Elections System of the Virgin Islands. I am proud to hold the designation of Certified Elections Registration Administrator (CERA), a credential I have maintained for over nine years.

It is a privilege to appear before this body to provide a comprehensive overview of the Office of the Supervisor of Elections. My testimony will address our enabling legislation and jurisdiction, current departmental challenges, proposed solutions, and other matters relevant to the agency's status, functions, and operations.

Vision, Mission & Commitment to Voters

Our work is guided by a clear vision and mission, both of which reflect our unwavering commitment to the voters of this territory. Our logo and motto - Fair, Accessible, Secure, and Transparent—encapsulates the values that define our operations and our promise to the public.

We remain steadfast in our dedication to ensuring that every eligible voter can participate in free and fair elections, supported by systems that are secure, transparent, and compliant with the American with Disability Act (ADA).

Vision Statement

To restore and strengthen public confidence in the electoral system by ensuring that all elections conducted in the United States Virgin Islands are Fair, Accessible, Secure, and Transparent.

Mission Statement

The Office of the Supervisor of Elections is committed to:

- Conducting reliable elections and maintaining accurate voter registration records for Virgin Islands citizens.
- Upholding all applicable laws, policies, and judicial decisions at both federal and local levels.
- Pursuing excellence and professional competence through continuous education and expertise in election administration.
- Preserving public trust in the integrity and impartiality of the electoral process.
- Ensuring equal access to democratic participation for all eligible voters.

- Serving as a positive and responsive presence in the community, accessible to individuals and groups alike.
- Safeguarding the public interest from undue influence or partisan manipulation, while respecting the rights of all.
- Operating efficiently through effective management, clear communication, and a well-structured election environment.
- Upholding the highest standards of integrity in every aspect of the electoral process.

Our Commitment to Voters

Our staff pledges to maintain accurate and up-to-date voter registration rolls, ensuring that every qualified voter has a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Staffing & Team Excellence

I begin by recognizing the exceptional team that powers this office. Collectively, our staff brings decades of experience to the administration of elections.

Terrell Alexandre, CERA – St. Croix Deputy Supervisor; Kevermay Douglas, CERA – St. Thomas/St. John Deputy Supervisor; Ulette Todmann-Hodge and Milagritos Venzen – Senior Elections Assistants; Sheri Richardson; Mari Felix; Stephanie Joseph; Uri

Peters; Mariana Romero – Election Assistants; and Tricia Johnson, Administrative Assistant; and Denise Moore, Administrator of Fiscal & Personnel Services, and Richard Wilson, Board of Elections Executive Assistant.

This team exemplifies professionalism, resilience, and innovation. They operate with independence and diligence, consistently meeting deadlines and exceeding expectations. Their proactive approach and resourcefulness allow us to navigate challenges effectively, fostering a collaborative and solutions-oriented work environment.

Office of the Supervisor

The Supervisor of Elections serves as a Constitutional Officer under the 1954 Revised Organic Act and Virgin Islands law, entrusted with administering elections and managing voter registration. This office plays a critical role in safeguarding the democratic process and ensuring public trust in electoral outcomes.

Core Responsibilities:

- **Voter Registration & Roll Maintenance:** Maintain accurate and current voter records.
- **Candidate Qualification:** Certify candidates for public office.
- **Poll Worker Recruitment:** Train and assign election personnel.
- **Cybersecurity Measures:** Protect election systems and voter data.

- **Voter Education & Outreach:** Promote understanding of voting procedures and civic engagement.
- **Absentee & Vote-by-Mail Services:**
 - Send advance election notices to overseas and military voters, and those requesting absentee ballots.
 - Accept, send, receive, and verify Vote-by-Mail ballots.
- **Voting Center Operations:** Acquire and equip voting centers for accessibility and efficiency.
- **Election Data & Equipment Management:**
 - Maintain statistics on election results, voting history, and registration trends.
 - Conduct pre- and post-election equipment testing.
 - Maintain financial records related to election operations.

These efforts collectively protect the integrity of ballots and voter rolls, while enhancing public confidence in the electoral process.

Voter Registration Requirements – U.S. Virgin Islands

To register as a voter in the U.S. Virgin Islands, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be at least 18 years old or turn 18 before the next election
- Meet the residency requirement
- Not be a convicted felon unless discharged or pardoned
- Not have been adjudged mentally incompetent to vote by a court of competent jurisdiction
- Not be registered elsewhere—in any other U.S. State or Territory, foreign country, or election district

Required Documents for Registration

Applicants must present **original documents** (copies are not accepted). Acceptable forms of identification include:

- United States Birth Certificate
- United States Passport
- Military Discharge Form (DD214)
- Naturalization Certificate

Online Voter Registration Portal

On January 16, 2025, the Elections System of the Virgin Islands launched its Online Voter Registration Portal, expanding access and convenience for voters. To date, the portal has been used by:

- 18 individuals on St. Thomas (STT)
- 1 individual on St. John (STJ)
- 10 individuals on St. Croix (STX)

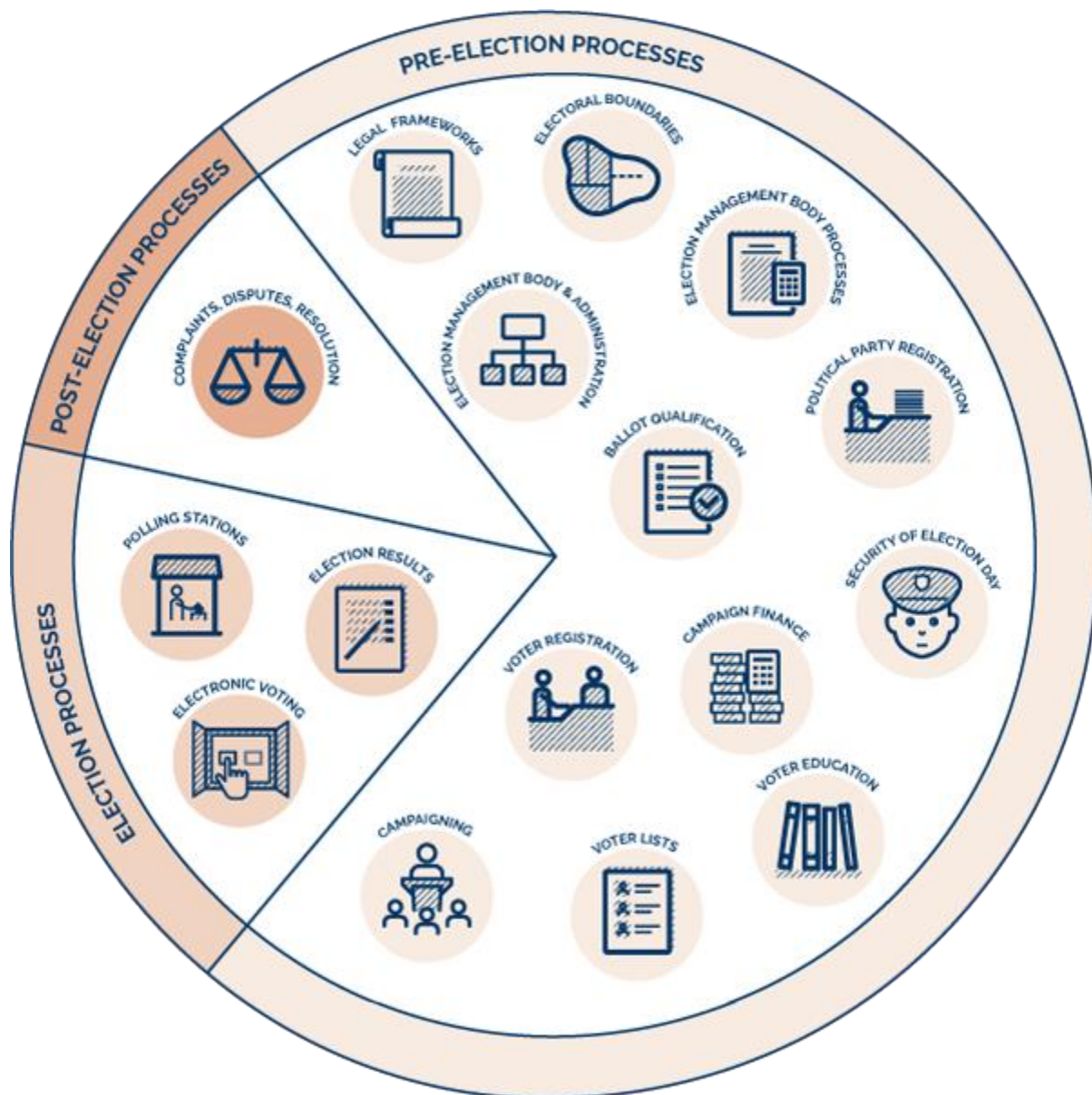
Through the portal, users can:

1. Register as a new voter
2. Update voter registration information
3. Cancel their voter registration
4. Request an absentee ballot

Online voter registration (OVR) was first introduced in Arizona in 2002 and has since gained widespread adoption due to its cost-effectiveness, efficiency, and ability to improve the accuracy of voter rolls. As of now, 43 states, Washington D.C., and Guam offer online registration. The Virgin Islands has now joined this group.

To urge the public to utilize online voter registration, we are committed to conducting major public education campaigns on this process throughout 2025–2026, fulfilling a long-standing goal to modernize voter access and engagement.

Elections are a process, not an event. Every election comprises numerous elements and involves multiple institutions and actors throughout the pre-election, election day and post-election periods, all of which affect the transparency, inclusiveness, accountability, and competitiveness of the election. The post-election period provides an opportunity for stakeholders to evaluate the process and undertake necessary reforms. ESVI evaluates the election process and defines ways to reform and strengthen elements within each phase. This critical time between elections is also used to prepare for future elections, including updating voter lists and addressing issues with the legal framework or institutional management.



153
 154 Elections are more than just a polling day exercise; they are the
 155 heartbeat of representative democracy. This foundational principle
 156 highlights the unequivocal fact that electoral processes are not merely
 157 administrative rituals but central mechanisms for legitimizing
 158 governance.

On election day we are not managing one event, we are managing multiple events. In 2014 we had over twenty-eight (28) polling places. For greater efficiency and convenient voter access, we now have eleven (11) voting centers, all happening simultaneously. This calls for accuracy, training, experience, dedication, synchronization, determination, and leadership.

Electoral management bodies encounter numerous risks across all phases of the electoral cycle. We operate in environments that are increasingly complex and sometimes volatile and where factors such as technology, demographics, human security, inaccurate or incomplete information and natural calamities, to mention a few, create increasing uncertainty. When risks are not understood and addressed, they can undermine the credibility of the process and the results it yields.

Strategic Planning

Elections are normally planned 18 to 24 months before polling day and occur as a widely dispersed exercise requiring significant planning and preparatory activities. Integrated strategic planning by the electoral and security institutions is essential. That is why we prioritize, allocate and coordinate necessary resources.

Elections are major logistical endeavors that require substantial resources and personnel mobilization.



Legislative Recommendations: Modernizing Title 18 of the Virgin Islands Code

Due to time consideration, I will be conservative with the length of this presentation. I will only list a few laws that we urgently recommend the need to be amended. We are aware some of these recommended amendments are already in the Legislature Legal Counsel for review. Some already have a BR number.

The Elections System of the Virgin Islands (ESVI) respectfully urges the Legislature to undertake a comprehensive update of VIC Title 18, which governs election law in the Territory. Originally enacted decades ago, Title 18 is now outdated, ambiguous, and insufficient to meet the demands of modern election administration.

To ensure alignment with current technologies, legal standards, and best practices, we propose targeted revisions that will enhance transparency, equity, and operational efficiency.

Proposed Revisions to Title 18 – Chapter 29

Disclosure and Limitations on Campaign Contributions (§ 901–911)

§ 902. Definitions

(2) “Committee” or “political committee”

Current language: Any committee, club, association, or other group of persons which receives contributions or makes expenditures during any calendar year in an aggregate amount exceeding \$1,000.

Proposed revision: Increase threshold to \$3,500.00.

Rationale: This provision dates back to 1990. To maintain relevance and fairness, contribution thresholds must be periodically adjusted for inflation and economic conditions.

§ 907. Limitations on Contributions

(a) No person shall make contributions:

(1) To any candidate or their authorized political committee
Current limit: \$1,000 per election

Proposed revision: Increase to \$3,500.00 per election

(2) To any multicandidate political committee

Rationale: These contribution limits have remained unchanged for over three decades. Updating them reflects economic realities and ensures that campaign financing regulations remain equitable and enforceable.

Why Modernization Matters

- Technological Alignment: Title 18 must reflect the digital tools and platforms now used in voter registration, ballot access, and campaign finance.
- Legal Clarity: Ambiguities in the current code hinder enforcement and public understanding.
- Best Practices: Aligning with national standards promotes transparency, voter confidence, and administrative efficiency.

We welcome collaboration with the Legislature and the public to ensure that Title 18 evolves to meet the needs of today's voters and election administrators. These proposed revisions are a critical step toward strengthening our democratic infrastructure.

Additional Legislative Recommendations: Proposed Additions and Revisions to Chapter 1 – General Provisions, Section 1, Definitions, and electoral reforms measures.

To modernize and clarify Virgin Islands Code Title 18, we respectfully propose the following additions and revisions to Chapter 1 – General

Provisions, Section 1:

◆ Add: Runoff Election

237 A continuation of the General Election is considered a second
238 election. It is held when the top vote-getting candidate in the initial
239 general election fails to achieve the minimum percentage of votes
240 required for victory.

241 ◆ Add: Initiative

242 The initiative process allows citizens to propose new statutes or
243 constitutional amendments. This mechanism enables voters to
244 bypass the Legislature by placing proposed measures directly on the
245 ballot. There are two types:

- 246 • Direct Initiative – Qualified proposals go directly to the ballot.
- 247 • Indirect Initiative – Proposals are submitted to the Legislature,
248 who may enact the measure or a similar version. If not enacted,
249 the proposal proceeds to the ballot for public vote.

250 ◆ Add: Referendum

251 The referendum process empowers citizens to challenge legislation
252 passed by the Legislature by placing it on the ballot for public vote.

- 253 • Legislative Referendum: A measure referred by the Legislature
254 for voter approval.
- 255 • Popular Referendum: A measure placed on the ballot through a
256 citizen petition to approve or repeal a law.

257 While similar to the initiative process, the popular referendum
258 specifically targets laws already enacted by the Legislature.

259 ◆ Add: Recall

260 Recall is a political mechanism that allows voters to remove and
261 replace a public official before the end of their term.

- 262 • Unlike impeachment, which is a legal process, recall is initiated
263 by citizens through petition and vote.

264 ◆ Revise: Recount

265 A recount is the re-tabulation of votes to verify the accuracy of
266 election results.

- 267 • Recounts may be triggered by narrow margins, allegations of
268 fraud, or administrative discrepancies. Suggest we add a
269 percentage to serve as the threshold.

- 270 • Candidate Eligibility: Individuals with felony convictions should
271 be prohibited from running for public offices such as Governor,
272 Lieutenant Governor, or Delegate to Congress.

273 **We recommend codifying the following practices to ensure**
274 **fairness and transparency in elections:**

275 This provision should be explicitly stated in Title 18, especially in
276 areas where the Revised Organic Act of 1954 is silent. The era of

277 informal “gentlemen’s agreements” must give way to clear,
278 enforceable law.

279 **Departmental Accomplishments**

280 The work of the Office of the Supervisor of Elections does not stop in
281 a non-election year and as such, we have made significant strides
282 this year in professional development, voter outreach, and
283 administrative improvements:

284 **Staff Training:**

285 Ninety-five percent (95%) of staff completed The Ritz-Carlton
286 Customer Service One-Day Training.

287 Many staff members have completed or are pursuing elections
288 certification through the Election Center.

289 Staff also participate in the Division of Personnel and the University
290 of the Virgin Islands trainings.

291 **Voter Communication:**

- 292 • Notices were sent to electors regarding inactive status, missing
293 documentation (e.g., birth date, social security number,
294 passport, or birth certificate number), name and address
295 changes, and required updates.

296 Picture IDs were mailed to voters who participated in early voting.

297 **Administrative Updates:**

- Polling precincts were renamed and reorganized to adapt to changing circumstances, utilized names of former elections officials and improve efficiency. This project entailed exporting files for over 50,000 registered voters. Letters were prepared and mailed informing voters of their new polling places.
- Two vendors (Experian and Accurant) have been contracted to provide an additional data management tool, a direct connection to over thirty-four billion current public records. To detect fraud, verify identities and conduct investigations.

Experian is a multinational data broker and consumer credit reporting company headquartered in Dublin, Ireland. Experian collects and aggregates information on more than one billion people and businesses including 235 million individual U.S. consumers and more than 25 million U.S. businesses.

Accurant for Government can be used to verify, locate, and authenticate the identities of people through Lexis Nexis. Accurant offers fast, efficient search technology that allows the user to instantly both locate people and authenticate their identities. It verifies such essential personal information as name, address and social security number or federal identification number. These vendors are respected voter registration and maintenance service providers assisting to

create process efficiencies and reduce the number of undeliverable mailers.

- By August 31st, we will launch an **ElectionStats** database on our elections website. ElectionStats, built by Civera since 2012, is a publishing platform and a searchable data warehouse of historic elections, ballot questions, and voter turnout statistics. This software brings public data to life. This portal will enable users to find what they are looking for in a few clicks, and the platform provides data visualizations to enhance their experience.

Operational Enhancements & Voter Engagement

The Office of the Supervisor of Elections continues to modernize and refine its operations to better serve the electorate and uphold democratic principles:

Voter Roll Maintenance & Outreach

- Letters were sent to voters with missing signatures, social security numbers and photos.
- Updates were made to street segments, including renaming and adjusting low/high street numbers.
- Renaming of street addresses and precincts were initiated to avoid confusion, accuracy, and standardization.
- Active and inactive voters were placed under “undeliverable” mailing status to ensure proper follow-up.

Voting Access

- Voting Centers were instituted in 2022, allowing voters to cast ballots at any location within their district.
- Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were produced in skit format and culturally familiar language for social media and television to increase awareness, create interest and engagement.

Technology & Innovation

To meet technical challenges, we are embracing innovative technologies which create environments for growth, learning and development:

- Next Gen E-Pollbooks and Printers were deployed to streamline check-in and ballot issuance.
- We are in the process of transitioning from manual documentation to electronic tablets for Election Judges, improving efficiency and accuracy in election day operations.
- Connected platforms improve communication and coordination across election teams.
- Transitioning to electronic documentation via tablets for Election Judges enhance efficiency and accuracy.

Voter Empowerment

My greatest desire is to see every eligible resident register and vote. The right to vote is one of our most cherished privileges as American citizens. We offer multiple avenues to exercise this right, including in person registration, online voter registration, absentee voting, early voting, and in-person at the voting centers.

Safeguarding Electoral Integrity & Protecting Officials

Electoral officials are the guardians of democracy, tasked with ensuring elections are conducted transparently, fairly, and lawfully. However, the evolving information environment presents serious threats to their safety and the credibility of the electoral process.

Emerging Threats

- Surveillance tools and spyware pose grave risks, particularly to female electoral officials in high-visibility roles. These technologies can be weaponized for smear campaigns, extortion, and doxing, with devastating personal and professional consequences.
- The credibility of electoral outcomes is jeopardized when officials are targeted, undermining public trust and democratic institutions.
- The rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI) amplifies the effectiveness of disinformation and manipulation, making coordinated attacks more sophisticated and damaging.

Harassment & Hostile Environment

Electoral staff and volunteers face increasing threats, including:

- Mailed fentanyl powder.
- Bomb scares
- Doxing and online harassment

Such hostility erodes morale and discourages civic participation, threatening the integrity of the electoral workforce. Despite these

concerns, ESVI continues its commitment to keep voters and staff safe while engaging in election processes but more is needed.

Strategic Response & Policy Recommendations

To protect electoral officials and preserve democratic processes, we urge the Legislature and stakeholders to consider the following:

Codes of Conduct

- Develop and enforce codes of conduct tailored to the roles of political parties, candidates, media, tech platforms, and civil society.
- Ensure all actors respect the independence and neutrality of electoral management bodies.

Strategic Communication

- Implement reputation management mechanisms to bolster public trust in elections.
- Establish a rapid response team to monitor and counter disinformation targeting electoral officials and processes.

Intersectional Protection

- Design targeted protections for electoral officials based on their roles, responsibilities, and exposure in both online and offline environments.
- Promote firm commitments from all stakeholders to uphold human rights and democratic values.

Challenges Facing the Office of the Supervisor of Elections

417 Despite our progress, several critical challenges continue to impact
418 the effectiveness and integrity of the Virgin Islands Elections System.
419 These issues require urgent attention and coordinated legislative and
420 public support:

421 ◆ Engaging Citizens

422 Educating citizens is not enough; we must empower them to take
423 their rightful place in democracy.

424 Voter registration must be framed not just as a legal requirement but
425 as a civic duty.

426 We must inspire participation, especially among the youths, by
427 emphasizing that voting is a powerful tool for change.

428 High school and university students should be actively registered and
429 encouraged to serve as election officials.

430 ◆ Recruiting Election Officials

431 Recruiting and retaining qualified election officials remains a
432 challenge.

433 We must build a pipeline of civic-minded individuals, including
434 students, to support election operations and uphold democratic
435 values.

436 ◆ Voting Center Conditions

437 Utilizing public schools as voting centers presents logistical and
438 environmental challenges:

439 Broken air conditioning creates uncomfortable conditions for voters
440 and staff.

441 Insufficient electrical outlets hinder the use of essential equipment.

442 Centralized locations

443 Such limitations may force us to rent private facilities, increasing
444 costs and complicating logistics.

445 ◆ Funding Dilemma

446 Our mission depends on adequate financial resources to:

- 447 • Maintain and expand voter outreach and education initiatives.
- 448 • Ensure reliable and efficient operations.
- 449 • Meet statutory deadlines and uphold electoral integrity.

450 Without sufficient funding, the credibility and functionality of our
451 electoral system are at risk.

452 ◆ Combatting Misinformation

453 The integrity of our elections is under siege from misinformation,
454 disinformation, and mal-information.

455 We urge voters to seek accurate information from our official website
456 at vivote.gov and/or contact our offices directly with questions. We
457 are always willing and able to help set the record straight

458

459 **Term Descriptions and Definitions for Clarity:**

460 **Misinformation**--false or misleading content shared unknowingly.

461 **Disinformation**--deliberately false content spread to deceive or
462 manipulate.

463 **Mal-information**--true information shared out of context or with
464 harmful intent.

465 Elections are built on trusting our systems, our data, and our
466 processes. Regrettably, that trust is being actively undermined by

adversaries, both domestic and foreign, using increasingly sophisticated influence tactics since 2016.

Voter Suppression and Disenfranchisement

Voter suppression tactics such as intimidation, misinformation, and restrictive voter registration laws can prevent eligible citizens from participating in elections.

Common Electoral Risks

1. Voter Suppression and Disenfranchisement

Voter suppression tactics such as intimidation, misinformation, and restrictive voter registration laws can prevent eligible citizens from participating in elections.

- **Mitigation Strategies:**

- Strengthening voter education campaigns to counter misinformation.
- Implementing policies that ensure equal access to polling stations.
- Encouraging local election monitoring to detect and report suppression efforts.

2. Electoral Violence and Intimidation

Violence during elections, often fueled by political tensions, can discourage voter participation and lead to instability. This includes attacks on candidates, polling stations, and election officials.

- **Mitigation Strategies:**

- Strengthening security at polling stations and high-risk areas.
- Engaging political parties in peace accords and electoral conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Conducting civic education programs that promote non-violent political participation.

3. Cybersecurity Threats

With the increasing use of technology in elections, cyber threats such as hacking, misinformation campaigns, and data breaches pose significant risks.

- Mitigation Strategies:

- Investing in robust cybersecurity infrastructure for election management systems.
- Conducting regular audits and penetration testing on electronic voting systems.
- Training election officials on cybersecurity best practices.
-

4. Logistical and Administrative Failures

Poor planning can result in delayed election materials, malfunctioning equipment, and disorganized polling stations, which may lead to voter frustration and disenfranchisement.

- Mitigation Strategies:

- Conducting thorough pre-election assessments and contingency planning.
- Ensuring timely distribution of election materials.
- Training election staff to handle unexpected challenges effectively.

6. Misinformation and Fake News

The spread of false information can mislead voters, create unnecessary panic, and influence election outcomes unfairly

- Mitigation Strategies:

- Fact-checking initiatives and collaboration with media organizations to counter false narratives.
- Promoting digital literacy and awareness campaigns among voters.
- Monitoring and regulating social media platforms to curb the spread of disinformation.

Elections should be a true reflection of the people’s will, free from manipulation, violence, and technical failures. By identifying and mitigating electoral risks, stakeholders—including electoral commissions, political parties, civil society organizations, and voters—can contribute to a more transparent, secure, and democratic process.

10 Reasons Why Voting Is Important

The history of voting and elections stretches back to ancient civilizations. In Ancient Greece, one of the earliest democracies, only male landowners could vote—a restriction echoed across centuries and continents. Over time, marginalized groups, including women, fought for and won expanded voting rights. Today, voting remains one of the most powerful tools citizens have to shape their society.

Here are ten compelling reasons why voting matters:

1.Voting Protects Democracy

A vibrant democracy depends on active participation. When citizens vote, elected officials are held accountable and must represent the interests of the people. Low voter turnout weakens this accountability and risks eroding democratic values.

2. Every Vote Matters

Elections are often decided by narrow margins. One vote can make the difference in local, territorial, and national outcomes. When everyone believes that their vote counts, democracy becomes more representative and inclusive.

3. Voting Shapes Social Agendas

Issues like marriage equality, reproductive rights, capital punishment, freedom of speech, and religious freedom are all influenced by elected officials. Voting ensures your voice is heard on the social issues that affect your life and community.

4. Voting Shapes the Economy

Economic policies—such as tax laws, student loan programs, healthcare costs, and social security—are determined by those in office. Voting allows citizens to influence how public funds are allocated and which economic priorities are pursued.

5. Voting Affects Environmental Policies

Climate change and environmental sustainability are urgent global concerns. Elected leaders make decisions about conservation,

energy, and environmental regulations. Voting empowers citizens to choose leaders who prioritize the planet's future.

6. Voting Influences Foreign Policy

Trade agreements, diplomatic relations, and military engagements all fall under foreign policy. These decisions impact gas prices, job markets, and international stability. Voting helps shape how your territory or nation interacts with the world.

7. Voting Impacts Your Wallet

From local taxes to national budgets, elected officials decide how money is spent and who pays what. Voting gives you a say in fiscal policies that directly affect your financial well-being.

8. Voting Holds Leaders Accountable

Elected officials must answer the voters. If they fail to deliver on promises or act against public interest, voters can remove them from the office. This accountability is the cornerstone of a functioning democracy.

9. Voting Impacts the Present and the Future

While voting addresses current concerns, it also shapes the future. Decisions made today affect generations to come—on education, infrastructure, civil rights, and more.

10. Voting Protects Human Rights

- The right to vote is a fundamental human right. It safeguards other rights, including freedom of expression and association. Participating in elections helps preserve the liberties that define democratic societies.

- Voter suppression is not a relic of the past—it is a persistent challenge that has shaped our nation since its founding. From the earliest days of the United States, anti-democratic forces have

- **Voting Rights for Disabled Americans**

While the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibits blanket disqualification, thirty-nine (39) states still have laws that can deny voting rights to individuals deemed “mentally incapacitated.” In all but eleven states, some disabled Americans remain barred from voting.

We must remain vigilant. The right to vote is not just a privilege, it is a human right that must be protected and expanded for all.

A Call to Action

The challenges we face are formidable, and the forces arrayed against us are powerful. But I have faith in the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands – and in all American people— that we hold true to our resilience, our ingenuity, and our unwavering commitment to the ideals that define this nation.

Together, we can protect the sanctity of our elections, empower every eligible voter, and ensure that democracy remains vibrant and strong in the Virgin Islands.

GOALS:

a. Participate in National Voter Registration Day on September 15th. The 2025 season of National Voter Registration Day has officially launched! The dedication of thousands of partner organizations is building a nationwide coalition to help ensure that America and the U.S. Virgin Islands are #VoteReady for their next trip to the ballot box.

b. Develop a platform that provides digital voter registration identification cards, allowing voters to store them on mobile devices.

c. Launch an interactive campaign to increase community awareness of our online voter registration portal, specifically targeting individuals aged 18-40.

d. Organize an Expo on all three islands on September 23, 2026. This event will coincide with the final day of registration before the period closes on October 11, 2026. Whether you are new to the voter registration process or a veteran of National Voter Registration Day, everyone can benefit from assistance getting their friends, family, and the broader community registered to vote. We will partner with various government and non-profit organizations to ensure that this event is informative, educational, and provides networking opportunities.

e. Purchase tablets and a portal on our website for the judges to compile their reports. This will transition them from manual journal reporting to electronic reporting.

f. Continue implementing upgraded technology and conducting successful elections in the 2026 Election cycle.

- 646 **g.** Increase voter registration numbers and participation rates.
- 647 **h.** Plan and execute another successful Civics Matter Quiz Bowl in
- 648 2025-2026 to include all the high schools territorially.

649

650 **Final Reflection**

651 The challenges we face are real. The forces working to undermine

652 democracy are powerful. But I have faith in the Virgin Islands

653 people—in our resilience, our ingenuity, and our unwavering

654 commitment to justice and equality.

655 Let us continue to protect the vote, empower every eligible citizen,

656 and ensure that democracy thrives in the Virgin Islands and beyond.

657 The Election System of the Virgin Islands has grown tremendously

658 since the beginning of 2000. Many initiatives were implemented first

659 in the Virgin Islands only to be replicated stateside. We are the

660 vanguards of election efficiency.

661

662 **Closing Remarks**

663 I will close with a quote that speaks to the spirit of progress and

664 adaptation: “*To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.*”

665 —Winston Churchill

666

667 Chairman Lewis, Members of the Committee on Government
668 Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection:
669 Thank you for the opportunity to present the operational functions,
670 accomplishments, challenges, and goals of the Office of the
671 Supervisor of Elections.
672 I am prepared to respond to any questions you may have relating to
673 the Office of the Supervisor operations.
674 Your Voice, Your Vote—and Your Vote is Your Voice.