

Laws Protecting Election Officials Against Threats

No updates required since April 22, 2024

Background

Beginning during the 2020 election cycle, state and local election officials have been the targets of an alarming increase in violent threats and harassment. Much of this rise can be linked to the proliferation of unfounded claims of voter fraud and rigged elections. As a result, some states have put in place new laws that seek to explicitly protect the election officials who protect our democracy. These additional protections may include increased criminal penalties for threatening or harassing officials, interfering with officials in the performance of their duties, or allowing officials to have their personal information exempted from public records. Note: Generally applicable state laws may already be in place that can be used to protect election officials and prosecute perpetrators of threats or intimidation. This map is intended to track new state laws explicitly intended to protect election officials in response to the recent increase in threats and harassment.

Scoring

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats, 1 point
- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats, 0 points

Summary Table

Category	Number	List
State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats	34 states & D.C.	Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas Connecticut Delaware D.C. Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Massachusetts Montana Nebraska New Jersey New York North Carolina North Dakota

		Ohio Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah West Virginia Wyoming
State has a law protecting election officials against threats	16 states	California Colorado Indiana Maine Maryland Michigan Minnesota Nevada New Hampshire New Mexico Oklahoma Oregon Vermont Virginia Washington Wisconsin

State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Alaska (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Arizona (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Arkansas (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

California (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials from threats (CA SB 1131 (2022)).

Colorado (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials from threats (CO HB 1273 (2022)).

Connecticut (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Delaware (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

D.C. (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Florida (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Georgia (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Hawaii (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Idaho (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Illinois (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Indiana (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats ([IN SB 170](#) (2024)).

Iowa (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Kansas (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Kentucky (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Louisiana (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Maine (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials from threats (ME HB 1354 (2022)).

Maryland (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials from threats (MD HB 585 (2024)).

Massachusetts (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Michigan (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials from threats (MI HB 4129 (2023)).

Minnesota (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials from threats (MN HF 1830 (2023)).

Mississippi (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Missouri (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Montana (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Nebraska (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Nevada (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats (NV SB 406 (2023)).

New Hampshire (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats (NH SB 405 (2022)).

New Jersey (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

New Mexico (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats (NM HB 4 (2023)).

New York (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

North Carolina (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

North Dakota (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Ohio (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Oklahoma (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats (OK SB 481 (2023)).

Oregon (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials from threats (OR HB 4144 (2022)).

Pennsylvania (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Rhode Island (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

South Carolina (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

South Dakota (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Tennessee (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Texas (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Utah (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Vermont (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats (VT SB 265 (2022)).

Virginia (0)

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats ([VA SB 364](#) (2024)).

Washington (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats (WA SB 5628 (2022)).

West Virginia (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Wisconsin (1)

- State has a law protecting election officials against threats (WI SB 822 (2024)).

Wyoming (0)

- State has not passed a law explicitly protecting election officials against threats

Democracy Map & Additional Resources

- See our Democracy Map, [Laws Protecting Election Officials Against Threats](#), which is updated in real time.