Symposium Contest Selection Criteria

Submissions will be no longer than 3,000 - 5,000 words (approximately 10 pages single spaced or 20 pages double spaced), will focus on innovative ways to finance election administration, and will address the following:

- 250-word summary (not included in total word count)
- Statement of problem and focus (level of government, part or whole of election systems and infrastructure, and so on)
- Proposed funding solution
- Theoretical explanation of why it should work (theory of change)
- Explication of financial impact
- Feasibility (technical and political)

Proposals will be scored in three rounds by teams of expert panelists.

1. In the first round, teams of two will be assigned a portion of the proposals to score.
2. The top 20 proposals will move to the second round, in which the full expert panel will review all 20 proposals and rank them, with the top 10 proposals provided feedback and invited to resubmit prior to the presentation at the Auburn University Symposium in October 2025.
3. The third round will consist of verbal presentations of proposals at the symposium grouped by type, during which the full expert panel will again review and score the proposals, and the top 5 winners will be awarded cash prizes.

All the top 10 proposals will be published in the *Journal of Election Administration Research & Practice* in the final issue for Volume 4 (2025) in December.

Review of proposals will be based on the following criteria:

1. Identification of funding problem
2. Development of creativity and innovative solutions that accurately reflects the legal and practical realities of US election administration
3. Sophistication of understanding of problem and theoretical description of solution
4. Accuracy of analysis of financial impact
5. Practical and political feasibility of solutions
6. Generalizability of solution for diffusion, especially proposals aimed at local and/or state funding or other third-party funding solutions
7. Clarity of proposal