



Symposium Contest Rules and Requirements

Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible to win a prize under this contest, participants (whether an individual, group of individuals, or entity) shall:

1. Register at https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6VAkdyYW9ebHSo6
2. Comply with all the requirements in the announcement.
3. EITHER participate in the voluntary information session OR affirmatively state in the registration form that participants will not participate.
In the case of a private entity, shall be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States, and in the case of an individual, whether participating singly or in a group.
4. Shall not be a government entity or government employee *acting within the scope of their employment*. Individuals who are government employees may submit in their individual capacity. NOTE: Government offices that want to apply may do so under the condition that they acknowledge that they can not receive a cash award; in these cases, the cash award will be given to the next winner down and so on. In addition, by applying they also agree to all of the other contest requirements and rules.
5. Shall not be an Auburn University employee *acting within the scope of their employment* and shall not be an Auburn University employee who is in some way associated with this contest or the related symposium.
6. Shall not be a member of the expert review panel or any other party involved in the design or execution of the contest or the immediately family members of such a party (i.e., spouse, parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild).
7. Shall be 19 years of age or older at the time of submission. Check with laws in individual states about age requirements.

Contest Rules:

1. There is NO entry fee for participating.
2. Individuals or organizations should only submit one entry as an individual or organization, but individuals or organizations may submit other entries as part of teams. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged but not required to apply.
3. Incomplete or out-of-scope proposals will not be accepted.
4. Submissions are original to authors who are responsible for their ideas and may not use AI to generate ideas.



5. By participating in this contest, each participant (whether an individual, group of individuals, or entity) attests that they are sole author or owner of, or has the right to use, any copyrightable works that the submission comprises, that the works are wholly original with the participant (or is an improved version of an existing work that the participant has sufficient rights to use and improve), and that the submission does not infringe any copyright or any other rights of any third party of which the participant is aware.
6. By participating in this contest, the participant grants to Auburn University and its contest partners irrevocable, paid-up, royalty-free nonexclusive worldwide license to reproduce, publish, post, link to, share, and display publicly the submission on the web or elsewhere, and a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice, or have practiced for or on its behalf, the solution throughout the world. Each participant will retain all other intellectual property rights in their submissions, as applicable.
7. To participate in the contest, each participant must attest that there are no legal obstacles to providing the above-referenced nonexclusive licenses of the participant's rights to Auburn University and its contest partners. To receive an award, participants will not be required to transfer their intellectual property rights to Auburn University, but participants must grant to Auburn University the nonexclusive licenses recited herein.
8. To participate in the contest, each participant agrees to the use of their submissions in contest proceedings to be published in the *Journal of Election Administration Research & Practice* published by the Election Center in coordination with Auburn University.
9. To participate in the contest, each participant or teams agrees that if selected in the top 10 proposals to attend and present their proposal at the Auburn University election administration symposium to be held at Auburn University October 26-28, 2025. We will cover the cost of travel for up to two people at \$1,000 per person.
10. Each participant agrees that their ideas are generated and presented for the public good, and if selected to participate agree to cooperate in strategy sessions on the final day of the symposium to work with other election and public finance practitioners, policymakers, media, funders, and other interested groups to develop plans for modifying, communicating, implementing, and disseminating ideas. Participants also agree to working with the conference organizers in the finalization of the journal issue and any media coverage. Participants are also encouraged to further participate with any working groups that are developed out of the symposium.



11. Participants acknowledge that the symposium presentation will be in front of a public audience and live-streamed, and will be led by a moderator with a timekeeper. Presentations will be for ten-minutes each, and visuals will be allowed. There will be a twenty-minute question and answer session by a sub-committee of the expert panelists.
12. Participants acknowledge that expert panelist deliberation, ranking, and a possible point system for scoring by the expert may be used to break ties.
13. Each participant (whether an individual, group of individuals, or entity) agrees to follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies.
14. By participating in this contest, each participant (whether an individual, group of individuals, or entity) agrees to assume any and all risks and waive claims against the Auburn University, the Election Center, or the Election Trust Initiative (hereafter referred to as contest partners) and their related entities, except in the case of willful misconduct, for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits, whether direct, indirect, or consequential, arising from participation in this contest, whether the injury, death, damage, or loss arises through negligence or otherwise.
15. As a condition for winning a cash prize in this contest, each participant (whether an individual, group of individuals, or entity) that has been selected as a winner must complete and submit all requested winner verification and payment documents within 15 business days of formal notification. Failure to return all required verification documents by the date specified in the notification may be a basis for disqualification of a cash prize winning submission.
16. Each participant (whether an individual, group of individuals, or entity) participating in this contest must comply with all terms and conditions of these rules, and participation in this contest constitutes each such participant's full and unconditional agreement to abide by these rules. Winning is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements herein.
17. Any portion of the contest may be nullified or withdrawn if it is found to be inconsistent with applicable laws, regulations, or policies.