



The non-partisan USC Center for Inclusive Democracy, formerly the California Civic Engagement Project, has developed a new [Voting Location Siting Tool](#) to help election officials and communities identify accessible and equitable U.S. voting locations for the upcoming November 2020 General Election.

This data-driven mapping tool is particularly important, given the logistical challenges currently faced by elections officials due to the coronavirus health pandemic. These challenges include likely shifts in voting behaviors related to social distancing and government implemented shutdowns, more limited poll worker availability, and the critical need to assure poll accessibility by diverse and underserved voting populations.

First launched in California during the 2018 Election, the tool is now being made available in 10 states that represent 43% of the U.S. population:

- **Arizona**
- **California**
- **Colorado**
- **Florida**
- **Georgia**
- **Michigan**
- **North Carolina**
- **Pennsylvania**
- **Texas**
- **Wisconsin**

## **How does the Tool work?**

The Voting Location Siting Tool uses a web-based interactive data mapping system to identify areas within a half mile in diameter where vote centers and polling places would likely have the most success in serving voters, especially harder-to-reach underserved voting populations. Areas are identified through a facility allocation model that incorporates local demographic and historical voting data, which can then be customized based on specific local needs.

## **What are the benefits of using the Tool?**

By using data-driven decision making, the Voting Location Siting Tool takes the guesswork out of locating polling sites and voting centers. It provides election officials a range of siting options that help assure impartial access to the ballot box for all in the community. In addition, the Tool provides a uniquely transparent and non-partisan way of voting site selection that the public can readily understand.

## **What has been the experience of those using the Tool?**

The success of the Voting Location Siting Tool has been noted by many registrars and voter advocacy groups working toward the accessible and equitable siting and implementation of voting locations. Read their [testimonials](#) to learn more.

**About the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID)**

The [Center for Inclusive Democracy](#) (CID), formerly known as the California Civic Engagement Project, is part of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and is based in Sacramento. CID conducts a range of national and multi-state research initiatives exploring voting behavior, civic engagement, electoral and economic research, the intersection of social justice and democracy, and more. Its research informs and empowers a wide range of policy and organizing efforts aimed at eliminating disparities in social and economic well-being. Now a cornerstone project nested within CID's larger umbrella, the California Civic Engagement Project continues to produce groundbreaking resources and research for California.

**About the USC Price School of Public Policy**

CID is housed within the [USC Sol Price School of Public Policy](#) and based in the Price School Sacramento Center. Since 1929, the Price School has defined excellence and innovation in public affairs education and research. Ranked third nationwide among "America's Best Graduate Schools" for public affairs, according to the *U.S. News & World Report*, the USC Price School faculty, scholars and students help shape the world around us. Graduates of the Price School fulfill and extend the School's mission to improve the quality of life for people and their communities at home and abroad. The Price Sacramento Center was established in 1971 to ensure that key research finds its needed audience of policy makers and stakeholders in the state capital.

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