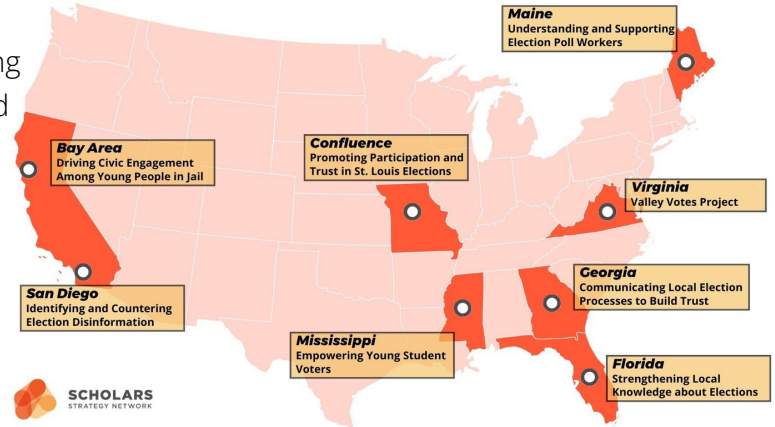# SSN Election Protection & Enhancement Program: Pilot Year Summary and Evaluation

Overview

The Scholars Strategy Network established the Election Protection & Enhancement Program (EPEP) in summer 2022 to better foster collaboration among researchers, community organizations, and practitioners in the field of voting and elections. SSN selected eight pilot projects for the 2022-23 academic year. Projects' efforts included registering college students in Mississippi and Florida and incarcerated individuals in the Bay Area to vote; informing voters in St. Louis, San Diego, Atlanta, and the Shenandoah Valley about election rules and polling locations; and surveying poll workers in Maine to gauge their perceptions of election security.

Maine
Understanding and Supporting Election Poll Workers

Bay Area
Driving Civic Engagement Among Young People in Jail

Confluence
Promoting Participation and Trust in St. Louis Elections

Virginia
Valley Votes Project

San Diego
Identifying and Countering Election Disinformation

Georgia
Communicating Local Election Processes to Build Trust

Mississippi
Empowering Young Student Voters

Florida
Strengthening Local Knowledge about Elections

SCHOLARS STRATEGY NETWORK

With support and programming from SSN Voting & Election Policy Associate Britah Odondi, advisor Judd Choate (Colorado Department of State), and national staff, these projects have yielded positive outcomes and strengthened the connection between academia, community organizations, and practitioners.

Project Outcomes

The activities that participants most commonly reported feeling more able or confident doing as a result of EPEP training and support were 1) incorporating community partners, 2) thinking creatively about dissemination, 3) writing for popular media, and 4) project management. These results reflect that EPEP achieved its primary goal of bridging the gap between academia and the wider community in which they work. Additional indicators reveal that EPEP incentivized scholars and community partners to collaboratively generate knowledge and create programming and resources that were inclusive of and responsive to the community.

45 events hosted (8 projects), 13 resources created (5 projects), 662 individuals registered to vote (3 projects), and 5,532 voters provided with election information (4 projects) in collaboration with **34 community partners** (8 projects) and **35 campus partners** at 20 campuses of 14 colleges and universities (5 projects).

210 volunteers (3 projects) and **280 students involved** (7 projects) in project efforts.

24 total project-related written pieces, including op-eds, media and university promotional articles, interviews, policy briefs, and chapter spotlights (8 projects).

9 academic deliverables, including conferences, presentations, and journal articles (5 projects).