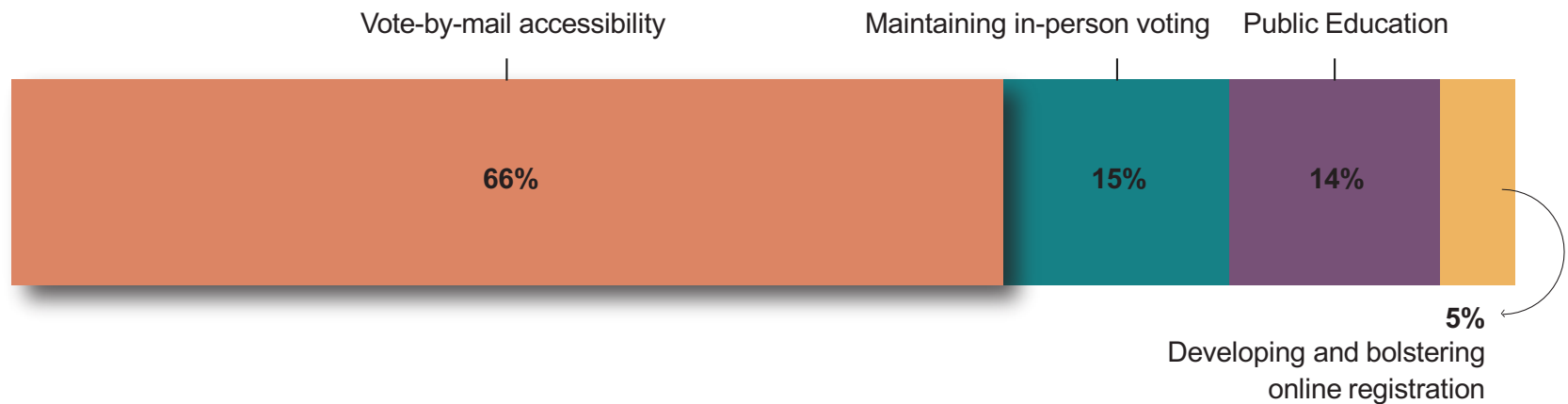




September 29, 2020

Estimated extra costs of running a Covid-19 resilient election

The upcoming election is faced with unprecedented challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Brennan Center has outlined a detailed plan to estimate the costs of running a free and fair election. While not exhaustive, these plans alone could cost up to \$2 billion nationwide.



Source: Brennan Center



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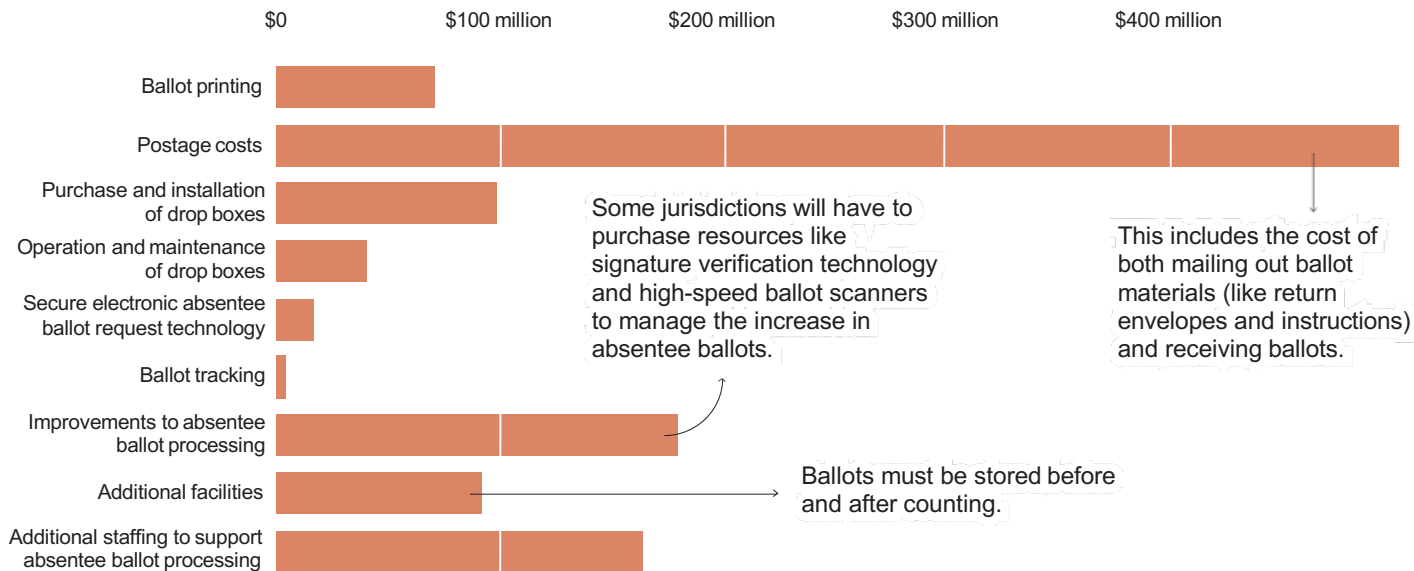
Ensuring vote-by-mail option is available to all voters

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$1.2 BILLION

As state officials anticipate a surge in absentee ballots this November, the focus will be on vote-by-mail efficiency. First, the costs of both printing and covering postage for ballots must be considered. The cost to print a ballot ranges from 21.4 to 35 cents per ballot. The increase in absentee ballots will also mean an increased need for drop boxes for voters to submit ballots directly.

These boxes are equipped with cameras and are installed in accessible locations.

The Brennan Center recommends that states offer voters the option to request ballots online or by phone — on top of the already available in-person and by-mail options. Additionally, as more voters are encouraged to vote by mail, jurisdictions will likely need to obtain commercial spaces to process and store absentee ballots.



Source: Brennan Center



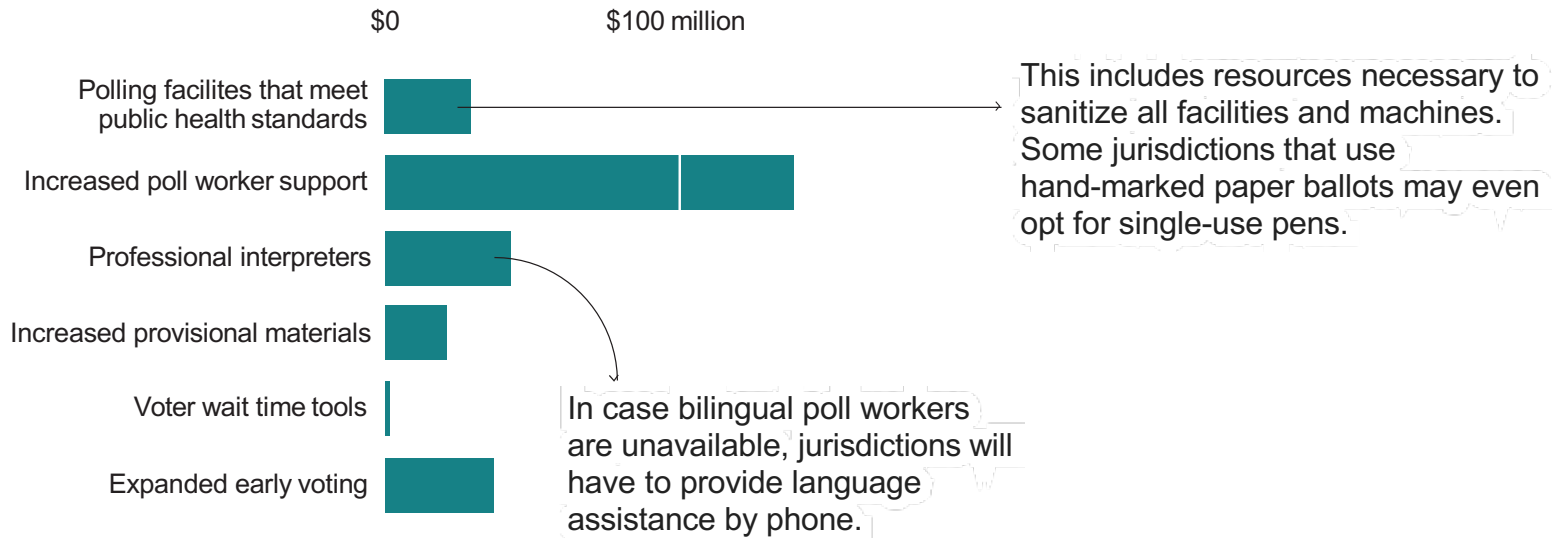
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Maintain in-person voting

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$271.4 MILLION

Despite the expected surge in voters opting to vote by mail, millions of Americans will also vote in person this year. This includes voters without access to Internet or mail, or those who need language assistance to vote. To safely serve these voters, jurisdictions will need to invest in cleaning and sanitizing resources, as well as methods to reduce lines and crowding times — like voter wait time tools.



Source: Brennan Center



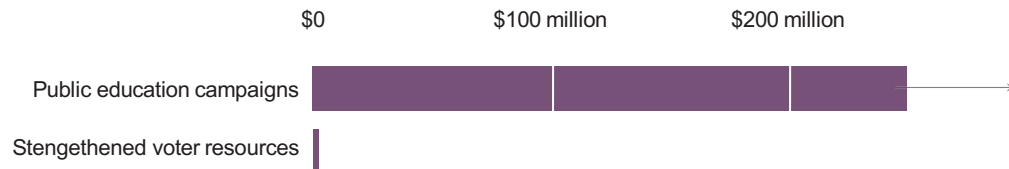
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Public education

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$252.1MILLION

Fear and disinformation surrounding the electoral process has increased as states look to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Brennan Center recommends state officials combat voter confusion by launching public education campaigns to inform voters of changes to rules and options to register to vote.

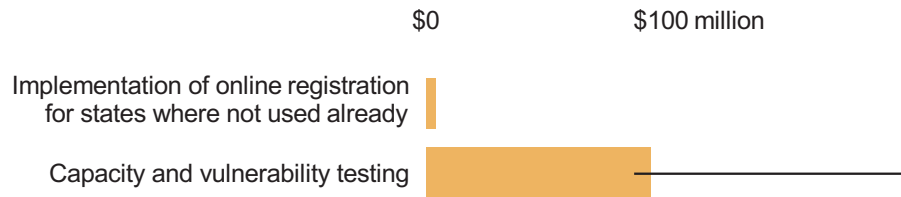


The Center recommends state officials launch public education campaigns via mailers, television, radio, etc. to inform voters about changes to voting rules and all available options to register to vote. These should be available in multiple non-English languages.

Developing and bolstering online registration

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$85.9 MILLION

According to the Brennan Center, millions of Americans update their registration information or register to vote for the first time in the weeks before every presidential election. As Covid-19 could disrupt this process and make timely registration difficult, it is recommended that states bolster online voter registration systems. This could mean implementing online registration for states that do not have that option available already or offering same-day registration.



The capacity and vulnerability of online voter registrations systems should be tested to ensure they can handle surges in web traffic.

Source: Brennan Center