An infographic with a central dark blue circle containing the text 'ELECTION VALIDATION PROJECT' and 'Increasing Trust in Elections Through Audits, Standards, and Testing'. Surrounding this central circle are several smaller circles of varying shades of blue, each containing a specific audit type or concept. The background is a gradient of blue with various white icons scattered throughout, including a checklist, a link, a network diagram, a group of people, a calculator, a printer, a laptop, and a map.

# ELECTION VALIDATION PROJECT

Increasing Trust in Elections Through Audits, Standards, and Testing

**RISK-LIMITING AUDITS**

**BALLOT RECONCILIATION & CHAIN OF CUSTODY**

**WHY AUDIT?**

**SECURITY AUDITS**

**RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

**VRDB AUDITS**

**L&A TESTS**

**BALLOT LAYOUT & DESIGN AUDITS**

**L&A TESTS**

**Clear away the clutter!**



# Let me teach you how to bake bread



- **What are the principles?**
- **What tools are available and how do they work?**
- **Recipe with measured ingredients and instructions**
- **Demonstrate and mentor**



# Risk-Limiting Audits

A Practical Guide for State and Local  
Election Officials

JENNIFER MORRELL | DECEMBER, 2018



- **Why audit?**
- **Why a risk-limiting audit?**
- **Foundation**
- **Policy considerations**
- **Voting equipment and technology**
- **Preparing for the audit**
- **Conducting the audit**
- **Post-audit feedback**
- **Communication**
- **Resources**

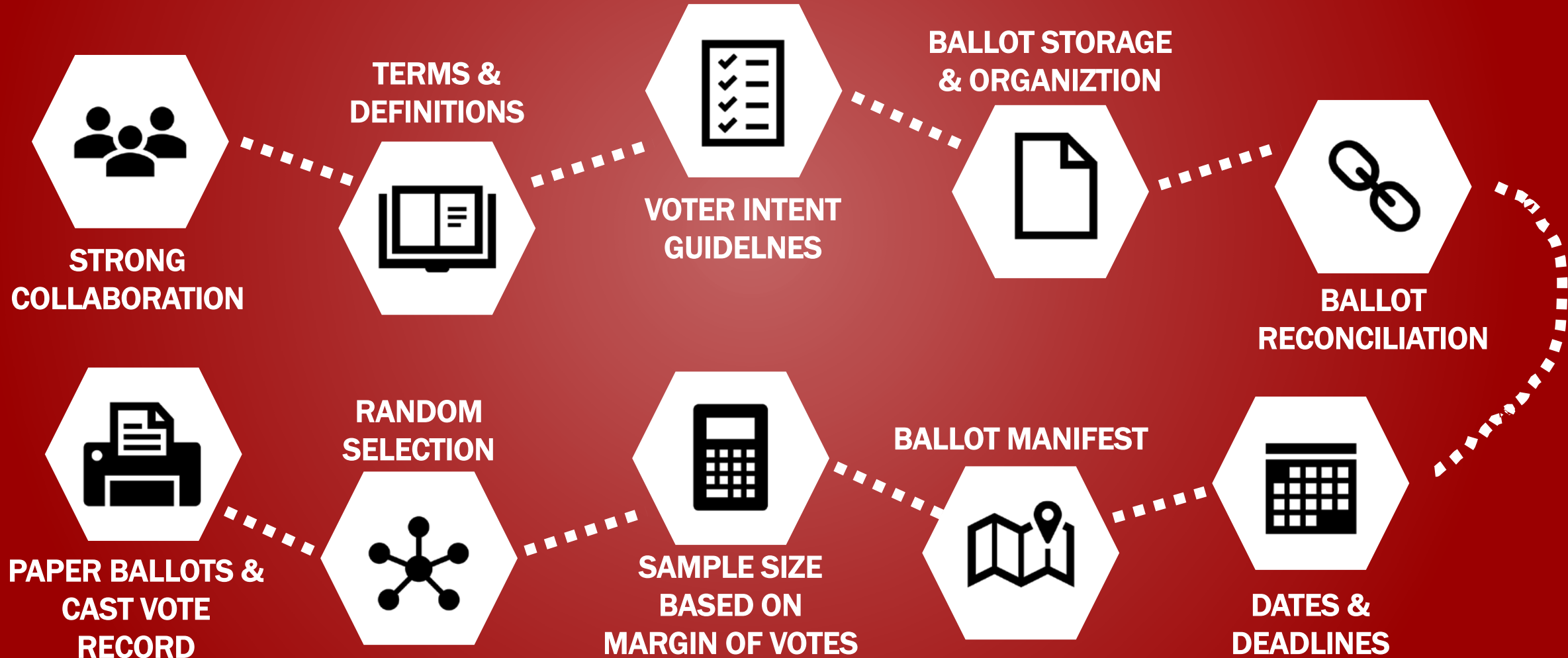


# Where are the gaps?

- **Communication**
- **Universal audit tool**
- **Ballot retrieving**
- **Voter anonymity**
- **Who sets the standards?**

# RISK-LIMITING AUDITS

It's a path... not an immediate destination



**Why only audit/test voting equipment?**

**Why not audit and validate other critical components of the election system?**



# Why do we audit?

- **Detects errors**
- **Provides accountability**
- **Deters fraud**
- **Limit risk**
- **Assurance of accuracy**
- **Provides feedback**



**State and local election offices work with a number of experts...**

- **Legal**
- **Communication/Social Media**
- **Data Analyst**
- **Project Management**
- **Cybersecurity**

**Why not experts in auditing and quality control?**



# What is an Audit?

**An audit is a systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining **audit evidence** [records, statements of fact or other information which are **relevant and verifiable**] and **evaluating it objectively** to determine the extent to which the **audit criteria** [set of policies, procedures or requirements] are fulfilled.**

Defined in ISO 19011:2011—Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems



# Three Types of Audits

- **Product Audit**
- **Process Audit**
- **System Audit**



# Phases of an Audit

- 1. Preparation**
- 2. Conducting the Audit**
- 3. Reporting & Feedback**
- 4. Closure**



# Internal & External Audits

- **First-party audit** – when an organization measures its strengths and weaknesses against its own procedures or against external standards.
- **Third-party audit** - performed by an independent audit organization and free of any conflict of interest.

# Why should we audit elections?

- Detects voting system errors
- Provides accountability to voters
- Deters fraudulent activity
- Limits the risk of certifying incorrect outcome
- Assures votes were counted & reported accurately
- Provides feedback for process improvement

**We are at our best when we face  
COMPLEX challenges together.**



# Public Trust In Elections

“The American electorate deserves a **modern, voter-centric election system that runs efficiently and inspires trust in electoral outcomes.**”

