

Monday, March 25, 2024 at 10:01:15 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: RE: Public Records Request
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 at 4:37:05 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Rob McQuade
To: AO Records
CC: Loree Stark
Attachments: image001.jpg, PRR A050_batch_3.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi Loree,

Attached is the next batch of responsive records. We are continuing to work our way through the records and hope to be completed by the end of next week.

Thanks,

Rob McQuade

From: Rob McQuade
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:58 PM
To: records@americanoversight.org
Subject: RE: Public Records Request

Good afternoon Ms. Stark,

Attached is the second batch of records responsive to your request. There are additional records we are working our way through and plan to provide those next week and will include documents responsive to your March 4, 2024 request in PRR-17-2024.

Sincerely,

Rob McQuade

From: Rob McQuade
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 5:47 PM
To: records@americanoversight.org
Subject: RE: Public Records Request

Ms. Stark,

Attached is the first tranche of records responsive to your request. We have identified additional responsive records but are nearing the statutorily allowed first two hours of free labor to process them pursuant to Idaho Code 74-102(10).

Currently, we estimate it will take approximately 4 more hours to review the responsive records. Per Idaho Code 74-102(10)(e), the rate for that employee is \$20 per hour. If the employee completes the request in a shorter amount of time, the remaining amount will be refunded and if the employee exceeds the amount of time needed, we may ask for additional funds. Please let us know if you would like us to continue to process the request and we can facilitate payment.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Rob McQuade

From: Rob McQuade <rmcquade@sos.idaho.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 5:48 PM

To: records@americanoversight.org

Subject: Re: Public Records Request

Hi Ms. Stark,

I tried calling earlier, but wanted to send an email in addition to my voicemail. Is there a time tomorrow we could touch base regarding the best way for us to share the records you requested?

All the best,

Rob McQuade

From: Rob McQuade

Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 3:28:38 PM

To: records@americanoversight.org <records@americanoversight.org>

Subject: Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Stark,

This email responds to your request February 21, 2024, to examine records under the Idaho Public Records Act, Idaho Code Title 74, Chapter 1. Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-103(2), our office has determined that more than three days is needed to locate records responsive to your request. Accordingly, we will respond to your request no later than March 6, 2024.

Sincerely,

Rob McQuade

Robert H. McQuade, Jr.



Assistant Chief Deputy
Office of the Idaho Secretary of State
Direct: (208) 332-2821
Email: rmcquade@sos.idaho.gov
700 W Jefferson St, Boise, ID 83720

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: jennifer.cook3@ks.gov
Subject: FW: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:54:48 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

I am forwarding the email below originally sent to the previous office holder, and congratulations on your new role!



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 at 11:51 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck

To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

With the last month of 2022 upon us, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what has now approached 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to create an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've solved numerous challenges not unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho. We built better processes for corporate filings, grew revenues without growing overhead, and innovated in cybersecurity, all while navigating what will certainly go down as a "difficult" election era. We built an office that I believe Idaho can be proud of, and now have the honor of passing that office on to its next Secretary.

It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began, but with a desire to serve more broadly, I am moving on to a new "next". One of our greatest achievements I believe during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an Idaho State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center.

The work we have underway at INSURE will be important not only for Idaho, but for our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper voter registration list maintenance.

INSURE is not yet, however, fully funded, so as a non-paid adjunct faculty member, I will be working on finding funding for the center. I am also creating a separate non-partisan nonprofit with multiple state partners across the country, the eventual beneficiaries of the various projects currently underway at INSURE (and those yet to be defined.) This non-profit will operationalize the INSURE projects for its state-partner members, starting with the inter-state voter list comparison and election-day incident management tools. The nonprofit is named "Opearent", a mash-up of the words OPEN and transPARENT, two key principles upon which it is founded.

With these ventures in mind, I seek your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/Boise State research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 non-profit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity of our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below.

Finally, knowing that funding projects of this level isn't an overnight process, I'll also be available as a freelance consultant. If you or someone you know has a project short on a motivated self-starter to drive it, or a specific shorter-term need that you think I could assist with, I'd love to discuss your vision and how I could bring my unique experiences and skillset to bear. As a bonus, I'm available effective immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck

Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...

(208) 585-7370 cell

chad@chadhouch.com

LinkedIn: [@chadhouch](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chadhouch)

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: Michelle.waddell@sos.ok.gov
Subject: FW: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:56:54 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Passing on the email below originally sent to Samantha. Thank you.

Chad



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 at 11:51 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck

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State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center. The work we have underway at INSURE will be important not only for Idaho, but for our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper voter registration list maintenance.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck

Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...

(208) 585-7370 cell

chad@chadhoulck.com

LinkedIn: [@chadhoulck](#)

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: chad@opearent.org
Subject: FW: [External] 2023 ISAC Annual Meeting Presentation Request
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 9:31:51 AM
Attachments: [CIS Conference 2023 Flier.pdf](#)

From: Mark King <Mark.King@cisecurity.org>
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:59 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: James Globe <James.Globe@cisecurity.org>
Subject: [External] 2023 ISAC Annual Meeting Presentation Request

Greetings Chad Houck,

You were kind enough to be a presenter at the 2022 ISAC Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. Your presentation was very well received and was considered one of the higher rated content by the CIS Agenda team for the event. The CIS Agenda Team would be pleased if you would consider being a presenter again for the 2023 MS-ISAC Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT (8/6/23 – 8/9/23).

The topic you presented was: *If You Build It (Right), They Will Comply: How Innovation & Incentivization Can Turn Federal Money Into Meaningful Local Impact*

For this year we would like you to present: On the same or similar topic. Grant Funding is a need in the SLTT community.

Of note, as we did last year, we will pay for travel and accommodation expenses for our speakers.

Myself and James Globe (CC'd on this email) are leading the Agenda Team for the 2023 agenda, so simply respond to this email if you are interested.

Thank you!

Mark King, PMP
Program Manager, Stakeholder Insight
Center for Internet Security, Inc
31 Tech Valley Drive, Suite 2
East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-516-3115

This message and attachments may contain confidential information. If it appears that this message was sent to you by mistake, any retention, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message and attachments is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the message and any attachments.

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From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: chad@opearent.org
Subject: FW: [External] You're Invited! NGA Webinar: State Support of Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:39:11 AM

From: Dolen, Casey <CDolen@NGA.ORG>
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 11:16 AM
To: NGA Cybersecurity <cyber@NGA.ORG>
Subject: [External] You're Invited! NGA Webinar: State Support of Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity

Dear State and Territorial Leaders,

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices is pleased to invite you to a webinar on **Thursday, February 16th from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. EST** to discuss critical infrastructure cyber response efforts and how state models are shaping out. More details and a registration link are included below. Please feel free to forward this invite to others in your network who may be interested in this topic, or let us know if you have a colleague you think should be added to this distribution list.

WEBINAR: STATE SUPPORT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CYBERSECURITY

Thursday, February 16th from 3:00-4:00 P.M. EST

In the wake of cyber attacks across the state, Wyoming created its Cyber Assistance Response Effort (CARE) team in 2019, quickly morphing into a response team in late-2020 that has been assisting critical infrastructure entities in cyber response ever since. Neighboring Utah's Statewide Information & Analysis Center (SIAC) has played a key role in the creation of the Governor's Cybersecurity Commission, which is mandated to gather information and share cybersecurity best practices with the state legislature. Please join the National Governors Association as we host officials from Wyoming and Utah to discuss each state's unique approach to improving cybersecurity response and resilience among the critical infrastructure sectors.

Speakers:

- **Mikki Munson**, Cybersecurity & Critical Infrastructure Protection Program Manager, Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Officer (PCII), Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
- **Katherine Chipman**, Supervisory Intelligence Analyst, Utah SIAC, Utah Department of Public Safety
- **Mallorie Nielsen**, Cyber Threat Intelligence Analyst, Utah SIAC, Utah Department of Public Safety

Please [register here](#) to receive access to the webinar link.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Casey Dolen, *Senior Policy Analyst, Cybersecurity*, at cdolen@nga.org.

We look forward to your attendance!

Casey Dolen

Senior Policy Analyst

444 North Capitol St NW, Ste 267

Washington, D.C. 20001

o: 202.624.5344 | m: 224.456.8740

CDolen@nga.org



From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Amit Jain](#); chadhouck@boisestate.edu
Subject: Federal Grant - UOCAVA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:54:01 PM

Amit,

This grant is also now open, and we would need a state partner... ie one of the Opearent member states, doesn't even necessarily have to be Idaho...

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=345475>

Ceiling of 20 grants funded, \$20M total, so about \$1M each it looks like. I bet they fund every app they get cuz they won't get 20 completed in 45 days.

CH

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Phil McGrane](#)
Subject: For your feedback please.
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 9:56:27 AM
Attachments: [Preparing for What.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

See attached.



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Chad Houck
To: chad@opearent.org
Subject: Fwd: [External] NASS Elections Committee: NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder 1/26 at 2:30PM ET, FVAP Grant Forecast, EAC FY2023 Election Security Grants
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:56:13 PM
Attachments: [NASS Elections Committee WebEx Bi-Weekly Call - 12623.msg](#)

From: Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 12:48:53 PM
To: Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>
Cc: Dodd, Stacy <sdodd@sso.org>; Milhofer, John <jmilhofer@sso.org>; Maria Benson <mbenson@sso.org>; Lindsey Forson <lforson@sso.org>; Brittany Hamilton <bhamilton@sso.org>
Subject: [External] NASS Elections Committee: NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder 1/26 at 2:30PM ET, FVAP Grant Forecast, EAC FY2023 Election Security Grants

Dear NASS Elections Committee, Communications Directors and IT Directors,

NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder – This Thursday, Jan 26 at 2:30PM ET – Calendar Info Attached

Don't forget our Elections Committee call this Thursday at 2:30PM ET. There is calendar info attached. DOD's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will be on to discuss the 2022 election and upcoming grant opportunities. See the information below that FVAP asked me to share:

"This is to inform you all of an upcoming grant opportunity. Please note, this announcement is a FORECAST only regarding an opportunity forthcoming. We anticipate the Effective Absentee Systems for Elections 3.0 grant to be officially posted in early February and will also send out another email at that time. To review the grant opportunity forecast please click here:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=345475>" Additionally, all questions and/or requests for clarification regarding the forecast should be addressed to the Grants Office: Ms. Heather Hay at heather.j.hay.civ@mail.mil

EAC's Election Security Grant Program for FY2023 – Notice of Distribution Amounts and Application

I went on the [EAC website](#) today to see if there was any info on the FY2023 Election Security Grants passed in the Omnibus Appropriations bill last month. I found this info below. The materials included in the grant award packet are not dated, so I don't know if you've received your packet yet or not. If not, please check out the information below. I know many of you and your teams are new, and a call would be very beneficial.

From the EAC website "The HAVA Election Security Funds were appropriated in 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023. The HAVA Election Security Fund appropriations, authorized under Title I Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, marked the first new appropriations for HAVA grants since FY 2010. This funding provides states with additional resources to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance technology and make certain election security improvements."

Requesting Funds - Eligible Applicants are States as defined by HAVA and the Appropriations

Act(s)

- [2023 Election Security Award Packet](#)
 - [State by State Allocation FY 2023](#)
 - [State Request Template](#)
 - [Program Narrative Guidelines](#)
 - [Budget Worksheet Guidelines](#)
 - [2023 Budget Worksheet Excel File](#)
 - [Certification of Terms and Conditions](#)
 - [GrantSolutions Amendment Instructions](#)

I reached out to the EAC Grants office this morning to see if they can participate on our call this week or if they are planning their own webinars to assist you with applying for these funds. I'll keep you posted.

Thanks,
Leslie

Leslie Reynolds
Executive Director
National Association of Secretaries of State
444 N. Capitol Street, NW Suite 401
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-3526
reynolds@sso.org

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: benaloh@microsoft.com
Subject: IEEE Panel
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:17:37 AM

Josh,

Great job on the panel. I'd love to touch base on some of the things we are going to be working on at Opearent in the near future, if you have some free time in the new year. Let me know if you'd be up to a call.

Thanks,

Chad

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [John Tobler](#)
Subject: Preparing for a new season... Your assistance requested
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 3:16:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

John –

This is the letter I plan to send tomorrow or Thursday, as well as a similar version that will be posted on my linkedIn. Any suggestions you have are appreciated. – CH

To my friends, colleagues, and to our esteemed Secretaries of State,

As we've reached the last month of 2022, I find myself once again at a crossroad – the transition between the now familiar and the approaching “next” – but before delving into that, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what is now approaching 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to bring together an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've gotten to solve numerous challenges not entirely unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho.

We've doubled revenue and the volume of corporate filings without increasing the office's overhead or workforce, by implementing technology where it made sense, and raising the wages of those willing to learn the new skills needed to run the new tools with greater efficiency than ever seen before. As a result, while the office used to run at a deficit to the state, we turn over an office whose annual revenue exceeds expenses by over \$3.5 Million.

With the assistance of Idaho's 44 county clerks and their incredible teams, we've seen Idaho through an era of tumultuous election scrutiny, distrust, and international pressures with barely the evidence of a blemish on her reputation, implementing first-of-kind cyber security practices, training, research, and systems monitoring. While perfection is always the goal, our audits show less than 0.06% error in elections, and even the smallest anomalies are run to ground by our county partners in those audits. We also went from well behind the curve in cyber preparedness, to a leading position as one of only 4 existing states to deploy a vulnerability disclosure policy, or VDP program, at the SOS level. We are similarly one of the few states to complete both physical and cybersecurity evaluations from CISA, and to execute a live remote relocation exercise of our Continuity Of Operations Plan (COOP), including all our divisions and our National Guard partners.

While not yet perfect, we've built an office that I believe the state can be proud of, with faster

responses, exemplary customer service, and transparency in our programs and communications. We now have the honor of passing a different office on to the next Secretary come January than the one my boss and mentor entered 8 years ago. It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began.

I will, however, be moving on, with a desire to serve not only Idaho, but the nation. One of the great accomplishments we achieved specifically during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an officially recognized BSU entity known as INSURE. The work we have underway at INSURE is important to not only Idaho, but to our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper registration list maintenance.

INSURE is not, however, fully funded at this time, so I will not be moving there on a full-time basis as was originally planned - yet. As a non-paid adjunct faculty member, I will be working on raising funding for the center. I am also creating a separate non-partisan nonprofit with multiple state partners across the country, the eventual beneficiaries of the various projects currently underway at INSURE (and those yet to be defined...) This non-profit will operationalize the results of the INSURE projects for its state-partner members, starting with the inter-state voter list comparison and election-day incident management tools. The nonprofit will be called "Opearent", a mash-up of the words OPEn and transpARENT, two principles upon which it is founded.

It is with these ventures in mind that I ask for your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/BSU research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 non-profit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity that currently exists in our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them in that regard. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below. I appreciate the introductions and inquiries.

Knowing that funding projects of this level isn't an overnight process, I'll be doing some initial freelance consulting work as well. If you or someone you know has a project short on someone to drive it, or a specific shorter-term need that you think I could assist you with, I'd love to discuss your vision and how I could bring my unique experiences and skillset to bear. As a bonus, I'm available relatively immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance on that path,



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(208) 585-7370 cell

chad@chadhouck.com

LinkedIn: [@chadhouck](#)



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709

From: [Josh Benaloh](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Subject: RE: IEEE Panel
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:37:51 AM

Thanks, Chad. I think that we had a very good panel in which people from a variety of backgrounds synced very well. Thanks to you for your part in making this happen.

I'm certainly happy to have a call – preferably after Jan. 1. My calendar is so far pretty flexible at that time, so feel free to suggest a time or two (or I can provide some available times if you prefer).

Josh

From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:18
To: Josh Benaloh <benaloh@microsoft.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] IEEE Panel

Josh,

Great job on the panel. I'd love to touch base on some of the things we are going to be working on at Oparent in the near future, if you have some free time in the new year. Let me know if you'd be up to a call.

Thanks,

Chad

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Mark King](#)
Cc: [James Globe](#)
Subject: Re: [External] 2023 ISAC Annual Meeting Presentation Request
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 9:07:08 AM

I'd be honored. I have a new contact address - chad@opearent.org if u could please move this conversation there. Also could we discuss an alternate topic perhaps? Or two?

From: Mark King <Mark.King@cisecurity.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 7:58:28 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: James Globe <James.Globe@cisecurity.org>
Subject: [External] 2023 ISAC Annual Meeting Presentation Request

Greetings Chad Houck,

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The topic you presented was: *If You Build It (Right), They Will Comply: How Innovation & Incentivization Can Turn Federal Money Into Meaningful Local Impact*

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Thank you!

Mark King, PMP
Program Manager, Stakeholder Insight
Center for Internet Security, Inc
31 Tech Valley Drive, Suite 2
East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-516-3115

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From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Trevor Timmons](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Hey man, what does this mean for you?
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:46:23 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Trevor – my longer answer... (you were just a day or two early!)

To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

With the last month of 2022 upon us, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what has now approached 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to create an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've solved numerous challenges not unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho. We built better processes for corporate filings, grew revenues without growing overhead, and innovated in cybersecurity, all while navigating what will certainly go down as a "difficult" election era. We built an office that I believe Idaho can be proud of, and now have the honor of passing that office on to its next Secretary.

It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began, but with a desire to serve more broadly, I am moving on to a new "next". One of our greatest achievements I believe during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an Idaho State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center. The work we have underway at INSURE will be important not only for Idaho, but for our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper voter registration list maintenance.

INSURE is not yet, however, fully funded, so as a non-paid adjunct faculty member, I will be working on finding funding for the center. I am also creating a separate non-partisan nonprofit with multiple state partners across the country, the eventual beneficiaries of the various projects currently underway at INSURE (and those yet to be defined.) This non-profit will operationalize the INSURE projects for its state-partner members, starting with the inter-state voter list comparison and election-day incident management tools. The nonprofit is named "Opearent", a mash-up of the words OPEn and transPARENT, two key principles upon which it is founded.

With these ventures in mind, I seek your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/Boise State research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 non-profit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity of our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below.

Finally, knowing that funding projects of this level isn't an overnight process, I'll also be available as a freelance consultant. If you or someone you know has a project short on a motivated self-starter to drive it, or a specific shorter-term need that you think I could assist with, I'd love to discuss your vision and how I could bring my unique experiences and skillset to bear. As a bonus, I'm available effective immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck
Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...
(208) 585-7370 cell
chad@chadhouck.com
LinkedIn: [@chadhouck](#)



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Trevor Timmons <Trevor.Timmons@coloradosos.gov>

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 9:20 AM

To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Subject: [External] Hey man, what does this mean for you?

<https://idahocapitalsun.com/briefs/incoming-idaho-secretary-of-state-announces-four-top-hires-for-new-office/>

- Trevor



Trevor Timmons

Chief Information Officer | Department of State
303-860-6946 (direct)
303-917-5880 (mobile)
303-894-2200 (office)
trevor.timmons@coloradosos.gov
1700 Broadway, Suite 550
Denver, CO 80290
Visit us at ColoradoSOS.gov

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Trevor Timmons](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Hey man, what does this mean for you?
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2023 1:14:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Trevor –

Give me a call next week. New email is chad@opearent.org, and cell is still 208-585-7370. Want to talk with you about possibly joining an advisory board or getting CO SOS in on the actual board. Will you be at NASS DC?

Chad

From: Trevor Timmons <Trevor.Timmons@coloradosos.gov>
Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 9:20 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: [External] Hey man, what does this mean for you?

<https://idahocapitalsun.com/briefs/incoming-idaho-secretary-of-state-announces-four-top-hires-for-new-office/>

- Trevor



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trevor.timmons@coloradosos.gov
1700 Broadway, Suite 550
Denver, CO 80290
Visit us at ColoradoSOS.gov

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Massimiliano Albanese](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Invitation to panel on election security
Date: Friday, November 18, 2022 9:11:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Chad Houck 175 word bio.docx](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Here you are.
CH



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From: Massimiliano Albanese <malbanes@gmu.edu>
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 6:25 PM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Invitation to panel on election security

Good evening,

Could you please send me a brief bio at your earliest convenience? Also, if we need to move the panel to the afternoon of December 14, would that work for you?

Thanks,
Max

Massimiliano Albanese, PhD

Associate Professor & Associate Chair for Research, Dept. of Information Sciences and Technology
Associate Director, Center for Secure Information Systems
Research Hall, Suite 417
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030, USA
Phone: (703) 993-1629
Email: malbanes@gmu.edu
Web: <http://csis.gmu.edu/albanese/>
LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/massimilianoalbanese>

From: Massimiliano Albanese <malbanes@gmu.edu>
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 10:34 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Invitation to panel on election security

Thanks for the quick reply!

The panel will include guests from industry, academia, and government to bring different perspectives to the table and discuss election security broadly. The plan is for each panelist to give opening remarks (no more than 10 minutes each) with their own perspective on election security, followed by a Q/A session. The common denominator, given the nature of the conference, is how technology can help address election security.

Thanks,
Max

Massimiliano Albanese, PhD

Associate Professor & Associate Chair for Research, Dept. of Information Sciences and Technology
Associate Director, Center for Secure Information Systems
Research Hall, Suite 417
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030, USA
Phone: (703) 993-1629
Email: malbanes@gmu.edu
Web: <http://csis.gmu.edu/albanese/>
LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/massimilianoalbanese>

From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 4:15 PM
To: Massimiliano Albanese <malbanes@gmu.edu>
Subject: Re: [External] Invitation to panel on election security

I'd be honored. Send me additional details please.

CH



CHAD HOUCK

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Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Massimiliano Albanese <malbanes@gmu.edu>
Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 12:54 PM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: [External] Invitation to panel on election security

Dear Mr. Houck,

Thanks again for your participation in the 1st Workshop on Election Infrastructure Security.

I have been asked to organize a panel on Election Security at the 4th IEEE International Conference on Trust, Privacy and Security in Intelligent Systems, and Applications, which will be held virtually from Dec 14-16, 2022 (<http://www.sis.pitt.edu/lersais/conference/tps/2022/>).

It is my pleasure to invite you to serve as one of the panelists. The panel will be held in the afternoon of December 15, 2022, at 1pm EST (the exact time can be adjusted based on the availability of panelists).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
Max

Massimiliano Albanese, PhD

Associate Professor & Associate Chair for Research, Dept. of Information Sciences and Technology
Associate Director, Center for Secure Information Systems

Research Hall, Suite 417

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA 22030, USA

Phone: (703) 993-1629

Email: malbanes@gmu.edu

Web: <http://csis.gmu.edu/albanese/>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/massimilianoalbanese>

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Amit Jain](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Federal Grant - UOCAVA
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:34:47 AM

See you then.
CH

From: Amit Jain <ajain@boisestate.edu>
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 at 10:16 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: chadhouck@boisestate.edu <chadhouck@boisestate.edu>
Subject: [External] Re: Federal Grant - UOCAVA

Interesting. Let's talk about it today if you are available. I have a couple of meetings but then I am free at 1:15 or so onward.

Sincerely,
--Amit

Amit Jain
Chair and Professor, Department of Computer Science
College of Engineering, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho 83725

Office: CCP 355, 777 W. Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone: 208-426-3821 *Mail Stop:* 2055 *Dept. office:* 208-426-5766

On Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 12:54 PM Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov> wrote:

Amit,

This grant is also now open, and we would need a state partner... ie one of the Oparent member states, doesn't even necessarily have to be Idaho...

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=345475>

Ceiling of 20 grants funded, \$20M total, so about \$1M each it looks like. I bet they fund every app they get cuz they won't get 20 completed in 45 days.

CH

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Emma Leyland](#)
Cc: [Dylan Fabris](#); [Monika Glowacki](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck
Date: Sunday, October 23, 2022 8:03:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

175 words:

Chad Houck is the founder of Opearent, a nonprofit created to provide states with the tools to better administer elections. As the former Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State and with a former consulting focus on operational and process improvements in IT and commerce, Chad was responsible for all aspects (Fiscal, Elections, IT, and Corporate divisions) of the Secretary of State office, including both the state appropriated budget and IDSOS Federal Grants programs. Mr. Houck served on the 2017 and 2022 Idaho Governor's Cybersecurity Task Forces and has assisted in execution of both virtual and in-person elections cybersecurity exercises in partnership with DHS, BSU, Harvard, and the state of Idaho. As a founder and Adjunct Faculty of the INSURE Elections Cybersecurity Center at Boise State University, Mr. Houck has provided testimony and presented at various security conferences and legislative hearings around the nation for CISA, the National Association of Secretary of State, Idaho Legislature, the Great State of Louisiana, and the Naval Postgraduate School, where Houck received his Master's in Homeland Security Studies in 2021.

Email will be chad@chadhouck.com. I've worded the bio a month or so into the future, as I'm still at IDSOS, but won't be come the new year...

And no, I will not be able to attend DC in December.

CH



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700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>
Date: Friday, October 21, 2022 at 9:15 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Apologies for the string of emails but wanted to follow up on:

- **Short bio (max 175 words) and headshot** to add to our bios document (Feel free to include your email and/or social media links to share with other participants)
- Whether you'll be able to **attend the in-person Dialogue meeting in D.C. on December 6 and 7** (more details in Monika's email below)

Thanks so much in advance and looking forward to your participation next Wednesday!

Best,

Emma



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

emma@convergencepolicy.org

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From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 16:01

To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

A quick follow up:

The calendar invites for Meeting 2 in October and Meeting 3 in November are in your inbox

Sharing again the [stakeholder bios](#) and [report-out from Meeting 1](#) for you to review ahead of Meeting 2

Please send us a short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to add to our bios document. Feel free to include your email and/or social media links to share with other participants

Details on Meeting 4 in-person in Washington, DC in December below – please let us know as soon as possible if you think you would be able to make it!

We are thrilled for your continued engagement in this important work!

Warm regards,

Monika

In-person Dialogue meeting in December in Washington, DC

We are thrilled by the near unanimous appetite for an in-person meeting that stakeholders expressed in the feedback survey for Meeting 1. Thus, we are planning a **one-and-a-half day meeting to be held in-person in Washington, DC on Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7**. It will roughly consist of:

Tuesday, December 6: gather in the afternoon for a Dialogue session, followed by a group dinner

Wednesday, December 7: gather mid-morning until early afternoon for a Dialogue session, with a break for a group lunch

As we mentioned during Meeting 1, Convergence's history of success with running multistakeholder dialogues demonstrates the power of in-person meeting time – it provides a sense of connection and empathy that is difficult to replicate via video, and allows for fuller and more complex engagement and collaboration, especially around tough topics such as ours.

We ask that everyone be vaccinated against COVID-19 and test the morning of the meeting for the safety of our Dialogue stakeholders and Convergence staff in attendance. We will provide tests at the door for anyone who needs them.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you can participate. If not, please let us know why.

From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 2:02 PM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>, Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Thanks so much for accepting our invitation – we are very much looking forward to having you participate as a key stakeholder in our Dialogue on *Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities!*

Monika will send you a calendar invite for the next Dialogue meeting which will be on Wednesday, Oct 26 from 10am-12pm PT/11am-1pm MT. We will share an agenda and pre-read closer to the date. We will then follow-up with placeholder invites for Dialogue meetings for the remainder of 2022 along with more information about our in-person meeting in Washington, D.C. in December.

Please send us a short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to include in the participant information document. Feel free to include your email and/or social media links in your bio to share with other participants.

We will keep you updated and thank you again for your commitment to staying involved with this project in the coming year. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Best,
Emma

P.S. Great catch on Diane's website! We'll be sure to pass that along to her. Very glad to hear you were interested enough in the group bios to have caught that!



Emma Leyland
Associate, Operations and Projects
[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)
emma@convergencepolicy.org
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From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 8:08 AM
To: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Monika,

Thank you for the invite. I'll see if I can make the next discussion if you'll please send me a calendar invite. Also, great group you've put together. I looked at a few of the people, and happened to notice this on Diane Benscoter's Antidote About Us page, if you'd pass it along. Appears that the last two paragraphs are repeated unintentionally. (on the plus side, the story was engaging enough that I read to the bottom!) <https://antidote.ngo/our-story/>

Graphical user interface, application, website Description automatically generated



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Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 11:27 PM

To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Following up once more to see if you would be interested in joining our ***Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities*** as a key stakeholder. We really appreciated your time and insights during the interview and would love to continue your engagement in this important work.

The community has already convened once on September 14 and our **next meeting is taking place on October 26 from 10am-12pm PT/11am-1pm MT**. Kindly find attached a confidential list of participants in the Dialogue, in case helpful in making up your mind.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the opportunity.

Warm regards,

Monika

Monika Glowacki (she/her)

Director

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

monika@convergencepolicy.org | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 at 11:39 AM

To: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Following up on our invite below to participate as a key stakeholder in our Dialogue on *Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities*.

The multistakeholder Dialogue group convenes once every 1-2 months for ~2 hours, beginning with our **first meeting this Wednesday, September 14th from 1-3pm ET** and lasting 12-15 months.

We are happy to answer any further questions you may have about this opportunity. Please let us know whether you can attend by replying to this email as soon as possible.

Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to your response!

Best,

Emma



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

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emma@convergencepolicy.org

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From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 16:54

To: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

We invite you to participate as a stakeholder in our Dialogue on *Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities*. We deeply appreciated the insights you shared with us during the assessment interview in May, especially about how disinformation impacts Idaho voters, as well as the important work your office and others are doing to push back against false and damaging narratives about elections. We are excited about the interest you and others have

expressed in starting a better conversation on this topic and working together to address shared concerns with consensus solutions.

To prepare for the Dialogue launch, we conducted over 200 interviews and hosted [3 drilldown workshops](#) with individuals with diverse expertise, influence and lived experience. Through this process we realized that though there is [great work being done in the space](#), there is tremendous potential for dialogue between stakeholders that can help break down barriers to communication and collaboration across sectors, identities, and ideologies. We also heard your feedback and have evolved the Dialogue title, originally *Digital Disinformation*, to reflect what we learned.

The multistakeholder Dialogue table will consist of ~25 stakeholders and will: (1) increase participants' understanding of key tensions, sub-issues and barriers to scale, (2) grow relationships to bolster collaboration across differences within and outside the group, (3) identify and fill gaps and needs in participants' work, (4) build consensus on solutions that address shared concerns at the informational, technological, political, social and psychological levels, and (5) jointly support, lead and scale actions to advance digital discourse for a thriving democracy and resilient communities.

Meeting details are as follows:

Dialogue meetings once every 1-2 months for ~2 hours, beginning in September 2022 and lasting 12-15 months, with some flexibility depending on the needs of the group. All meetings will be virtual, and some will offer an in-person option if there is enough interest and conditions allow.

All meetings will be guided by a professional facilitator and follow [Chatham House Rule](#) to build trust and allow for candor and creativity.

There will be elective opportunities to engage with other stakeholders outside of formal Dialogue meetings.

Our first Dialogue meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 14 from 1pm-3pm ET. If you are interested in joining, please let us know as soon as possible by replying to this email.

We are (confidentially) providing a list of confirmed participants so far below, in case helpful in making up your mind. Of particular interest to you might be the platforms joining (Meta, TikTok) as well as another Secretary of State office (Georgia). Note that because we have considered diversity in perspectives and expertise in selecting participants, this is an "invitation only" dialogue. If you are unable to participate, we would be happy to explore others in your network who could represent your interests but would rather discuss this with you before the invitation is extended elsewhere.

For over a decade, Convergence has consistently convened leaders and doers to build trust, create consensus solutions, and drive unlikely alliances for impact. Through our process, we have seen arch enemies turn into allies and spur breakthrough action on America's toughest challenges such as economic mobility, healthcare, and education, among many others. Our evidence-based dialogue-to-action methodology works because we bring the full range of perspectives on an issue to the table, provide world-class facilitation, and build collaborative relationships – that is why we need you.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or would like to discuss the Dialogue in more detail. We look forward to your participation in the process and cannot wait to get started!

Warm regards,

Monika Glowacki (she/her)

Director

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)
monika@convergencepolicy.org | [LinkedIn](#)

Confirmed participants:

Industry

1. Roy Austin | Meta
2. Chris Roberts | ByteDance/TikTok
3. Katie Harbath | Anchor Change

Pending internal approvals:

4. Sanjay Kairam | Reddit
5. Perri Grace Thompson | Twitter
6. Malika Mehrotra | Google

Academia

7. Alex Abdo | Columbia University, Knight First Amendment Institute
8. Dan Ariely | Duke University
9. Kathleen Carley | Carnegie Mellon University
10. Renée DiResta | Stanford University
11. Heidi Legg | Harvard University
12. Barbara Fister | Gustavus Adolphus University, Project Information Literacy
13. Amanda Quraishi (Q) | University of Southern California

Policy

14. Ari Cohn | TechFreedom
15. Robert Sinners | Georgia Secretary of State

Health

16. Richard Baron | American Board of Internal Medicine
17. Céline Gounder | Kaiser Family Foundation

Community-based/bridge-building/personally impacted

18. Diane Bencoter | Antidote
 19. Michelle Ferrier | TrollBusters
 20. Anthony Magnabosco | Street Epistemology International
 21. Manu Meel | BridgeUSA
 22. Ana Sofia Palaez | The Miami Freedom Project
 23. Jason Van Driesche | Front Porch Forum
- Pending internal approvals:
24. Steve Waldman | Report for America



From: [Emma Leyland](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Cc: [Dylan Fabris](#); [Monika Glowacki](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:56:51 AM

Chad,

Thank you so much for sending this over and for your response about the in-person meeting in December. I've updated the participant bio doc with your information. We're very curious about your new organization, Opearent – congratulations on this exciting next step!

Looking forward to seeing you at our Dialogue meeting in a few hours.

Best,
Emma



Emma Leyland
Associate, Operations and Projects
[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)
emma@convergencepolicy.org
[Sign up for our newsletter](#)
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From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Date: Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 22:03
To: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>
Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

175 words:

Chad Houck is the founder of Opearent, a nonprofit created to provide states with the tools to better administer elections. As the former Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State and with a former consulting focus on operational and process improvements in IT and commerce, Chad was responsible for all aspects (Fiscal, Elections, IT, and Corporate divisions) of the Secretary of State office, including both the state appropriated budget and IDSOS Federal Grants programs. Mr. Houck served on the 2017 and 2022 Idaho Governor's Cybersecurity Task Forces and has assisted in execution of both virtual and in-person elections cybersecurity exercises in partnership with DHS, BSU, Harvard, and the state of Idaho. As a founder and Adjunct Faculty of the INSURE Elections Cybersecurity Center at Boise State University, Mr. Houck has provided testimony and presented at various security conferences and legislative hearings around the nation for CISA, the National Association of Secretary of State, Idaho Legislature, the Great State of Louisiana, and the Naval Postgraduate School, where Houck received his Master's in Homeland Security Studies in 2021.

Email will be chad@chadhouck.com. I've worded the bio a month or so into the future, as I'm still at IDSOS, but won't be come the new year...

And no, I will not be able to attend DC in December.

CH



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Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>
Date: Friday, October 21, 2022 at 9:15 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Apologies for the string of emails but wanted to follow up on:

Short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to add to our bios document (Feel free to include your email and/or social media links to share with other participants)

Whether you'll be able to **attend the in-person Dialogue meeting in D.C. on December 6 and 7** (more details in Monika's email below)

Thanks so much in advance and looking forward to your participation next Wednesday!

Best,
Emma



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

emma@convergencepolicy.org

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From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 16:01
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

A quick follow up:

The calendar invites for Meeting 2 in October and Meeting 3 in November are in your inbox

Sharing again the [stakeholder bios](#) and [report-out from Meeting 1](#) for you to review ahead of Meeting 2

Please send us a short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to add to our bios document. Feel free to include your email and/or social media links to share with other participants

Details on Meeting 4 in-person in Washington, DC in December below – please let us know as soon as possible if you think you would be able to make it!

We are thrilled for your continued engagement in this important work!

Warm regards,
Monika

In-person Dialogue meeting in December in Washington, DC

We are thrilled by the near unanimous appetite for an in-person meeting that stakeholders expressed in the feedback survey for Meeting 1. Thus, we are planning a **one-and-a-half day meeting to be held in-person in Washington, DC on Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7**. It will roughly consist of:

Tuesday, December 6: gather in the afternoon for a Dialogue session, followed by a group dinner

Wednesday, December 7: gather mid-morning until early afternoon for a Dialogue session, with a break for a group lunch

As we mentioned during Meeting 1, Convergence's history of success with running multistakeholder dialogues demonstrates the power of in-person meeting time – it provides a sense of connection and empathy that is difficult to replicate via video, and allows for fuller and more complex engagement and collaboration, especially around tough topics such as ours.

We ask that everyone be vaccinated against COVID-19 and test the morning of the meeting for the safety of our Dialogue stakeholders and Convergence staff in attendance. We will provide tests at the door for anyone who needs them.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you can participate. If not, please let us know why.

From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 2:02 PM

To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>, Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Thanks so much for accepting our invitation – we are very much looking forward to having you participate as a key stakeholder in our Dialogue on *Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities!*

Monika will send you a calendar invite for the next Dialogue meeting which will be on Wednesday, Oct 26 from 10am-12pm PT/11am-1pm MT. We will share an agenda and pre-read closer to the date. We will then follow-up with placeholder invites for Dialogue meetings for the remainder of 2022 along with more information about our in-person meeting in Washington, D.C. in December.

Please send us a short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to include in the participant information document. Feel free to include your email and/or social media links in your bio to share with other participants.

We will keep you updated and thank you again for your commitment to staying involved with this project in the coming year. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Best,
Emma

P.S. Great catch on Diane's website! We'll be sure to pass that along to her. Very glad to hear you were interested enough

in the group bios to have caught that!



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

emma@convergencepolicy.org

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From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 8:08 AM

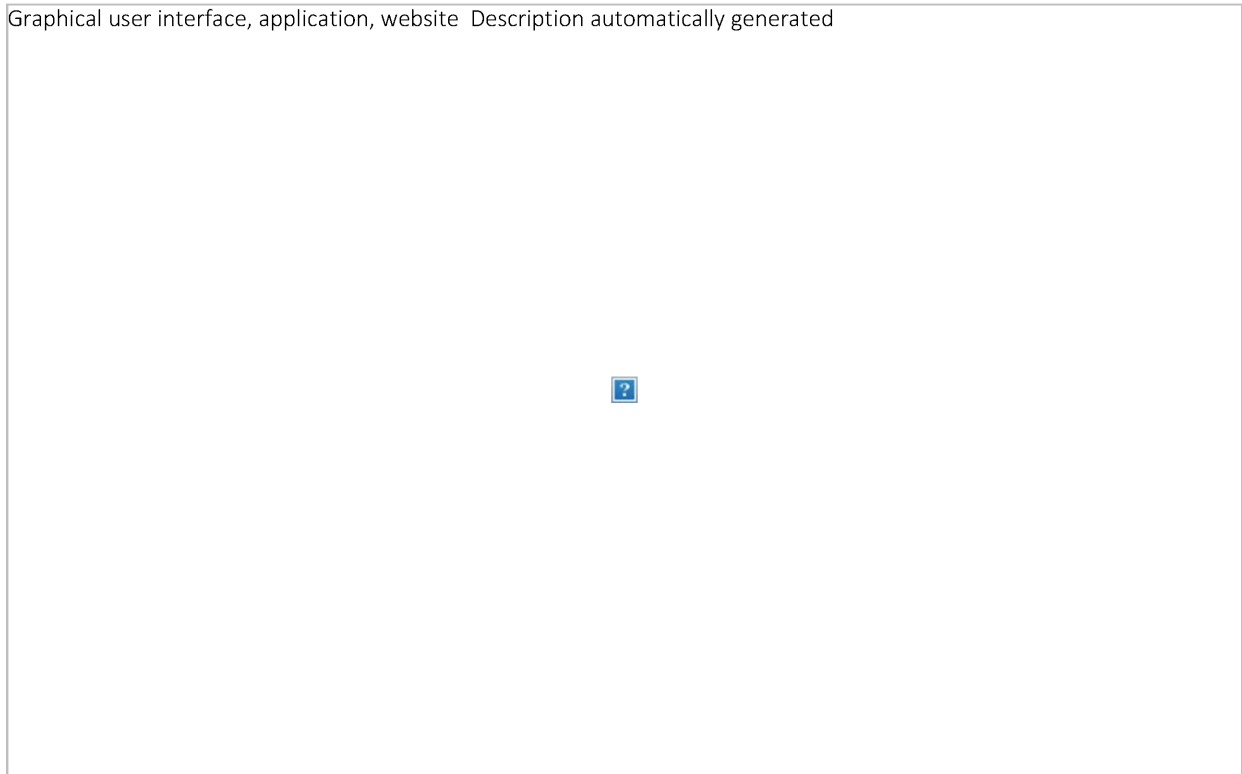
To: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Monika,

Thank you for the invite. I'll see if I can make the next discussion if you'll please send me a calendar invite. Also, great group you've put together. I looked at a few of the people, and happened to notice this on Diane Benscoter's Antidote About Us page, if you'd pass it along. Appears that the last two paragraphs are repeated unintentionally. (on the plus side, the story was engaging enough that I read to the bottom!) <https://antidote.ngo/our-story/>

Graphical user interface, application, website Description automatically generated



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862

Mobile: (208) 585-7370

Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov



From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 11:27 PM

To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Following up once more to see if you would be interested in joining our ***Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities*** as a key stakeholder. We really appreciated your time and insights during the interview and would love to continue your engagement in this important work.

The community has already convened once on September 14 and our **next meeting is taking place on October 26 from 10am-12pm PT/11am-1pm MT**. Kindly find attached a confidential list of participants in the Dialogue, in case helpful in making up your mind.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the opportunity.

Warm regards,

Monika

Monika Glowacki (she/her)

Director

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

monika@convergencepolicy.org | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 at 11:39 AM

To: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Following up on our invite below to participate as a key stakeholder in our Dialogue on *Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities*.

The multistakeholder Dialogue group convenes once every 1-2 months for ~2 hours, beginning with our **first meeting this Wednesday, September 14th from 1-3pm ET** and lasting 12-15 months.

We are happy to answer any further questions you may have about this opportunity. Please let us know whether you can attend by replying to this email as soon as possible.

Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to your response!

Best,

Emma



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

emma@convergencepolicy.org

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From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 16:54

To: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

We invite you to participate as a stakeholder in our Dialogue on *Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities*. We deeply appreciated the insights you shared with us during the assessment interview in May, especially about how disinformation impacts Idaho voters, as well as the important work your office and others are doing to push back against false and damaging narratives about elections. We are excited about the interest you and others have expressed in starting a better conversation on this topic and working together to address shared concerns with consensus solutions.

To prepare for the Dialogue launch, we conducted over 200 interviews and hosted [3 drilldown workshops](#) with individuals with diverse expertise, influence and lived experience. Through this process we realized that though there is [great work being done in the space](#), there is tremendous potential for dialogue between stakeholders that can help break down barriers to communication and collaboration across sectors, identities, and ideologies. We also heard your feedback and have evolved the Dialogue title, originally *Digital Disinformation*, to reflect what we learned.

The multistakeholder Dialogue table will consist of ~25 stakeholders and will: (1) increase participants' understanding of key tensions, sub-issues and barriers to scale, (2) grow relationships to bolster collaboration across differences within and outside the group, (3) identify and fill gaps and needs in participants' work, (4) build consensus on solutions that address shared concerns at the informational, technological, political, social and psychological levels, and (5) jointly support, lead and scale actions to advance digital discourse for a thriving democracy and resilient communities.

Meeting details are as follows:

Dialogue meetings once every 1-2 months for ~2 hours, beginning in September 2022 and lasting 12-15 months, with some flexibility depending on the needs of the group. All meetings will be virtual, and some will offer an in-person option if there is enough interest and conditions allow.

All meetings will be guided by a professional facilitator and follow [Chatham House Rule](#) to build trust and allow for candor and creativity.

There will be elective opportunities to engage with other stakeholders outside of formal Dialogue meetings.

Our first Dialogue meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 14 from 1pm-3pm ET. If you are interested in joining, please let us know as soon as possible by replying to this email.

We are (confidentially) providing a list of confirmed participants so far below, in case helpful in making up your mind. Of particular interest to you might be the platforms joining (Meta, TikTok) as well as another Secretary of State office (Georgia). Note that because we have considered diversity in perspectives and expertise in selecting participants, this is

an “invitation only” dialogue. If you are unable to participate, we would be happy to explore others in your network who could represent your interests but would rather discuss this with you before the invitation is extended elsewhere.

For over a decade, Convergence has consistently convened leaders and doers to build trust, create consensus solutions, and drive unlikely alliances for impact. Through our process, we have seen arch enemies turn into allies and spur breakthrough action on America’s toughest challenges such as economic mobility, healthcare, and education, among many others. Our evidence-based dialogue-to-action methodology works because we bring the full range of perspectives on an issue to the table, provide world-class facilitation, and build collaborative relationships – that is why we need you.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or would like to discuss the Dialogue in more detail. We look forward to your participation in the process and cannot wait to get started!

Warm regards,

Monika Glowacki (she/her)

Director

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)
monika@convergencepolicy.org | [LinkedIn](#)

Confirmed participants:

Industry

1. Roy Austin | Meta
2. Chris Roberts | ByteDance/TikTok
3. Katie Harbath | Anchor Change

Pending internal approvals:

4. Sanjay Kairam | Reddit
5. Perri Grace Thompson | Twitter
6. Malika Mehrotra | Google

Academia

7. Alex Abdo | Columbia University, Knight First Amendment Institute
8. Dan Ariely | Duke University
9. Kathleen Carley | Carnegie Mellon University
10. Renée DiResta | Stanford University
11. Heidi Legg | Harvard University
12. Barbara Fister | Gustavus Adolphus University, Project Information Literacy
13. Amanda Quraishi (Q) | University of Southern California

Policy

14. Ari Cohn | TechFreedom
15. Robert Sinners | Georgia Secretary of State

Health

16. Richard Baron | American Board of Internal Medicine
17. Céline Gounder | Kaiser Family Foundation

Community-based/bridge-building/personally impacted

18. Diane Bencoter | Antidote
19. Michelle Ferrier | TrollBusters
20. Anthony Magnabosco | Street Epistemology International
21. Manu Meel | BridgeUSA
22. Ana Sofia Palaez | The Miami Freedom Project
23. Jason Van Driesche | Front Porch Forum

Pending internal approvals:

24. Steve Waldman | Report for America



Small, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or metadata section.

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Bcc: [David.Brewer@sos.alabama.gov](#); [josh.applebee@alaska.gov](#); [abones@azsos.gov](#); [kenneth.burleson@sos.arkansas.gov](#); [lmartin@sos.ca.gov](#); [chris.beall@colorado.sos.gov](#); [scott.bates@ct.gov](#); [kristopher.knight@delaware.gov](#); [alma.kandelaria@dc.gov](#); [jennifer.kennedy@dos.myflorida.com](#); [ifuchs@sos.ga.gov](#); [hhaupt@ilsos.net](#); [Bclifton@sos.in.gov](#); [michael.ross@sos.iowa.gov](#); [catherine.gunsalus@ks.gov](#); [jscutchfield@ky.gov](#); [joe.salter@sos.la.gov](#); [Dorothy.Canelli@maine.gov](#); [luis.borunda@maryland.gov](#); [nancy.driscoll@sec.state.ma.us](#); [Smileym1@michigan.gov](#); [jake.spano@state.mn.us](#); [Carla.Thornhill@sos.ms.gov](#); [trish.vincent@sos.mo.gov](#); [austin.james@mt.gov](#); [colleen.byelick@nebraska.gov](#); [scotta@sos.nv.gov](#); [jay.boone@sos.nj.gov](#); [Sharon.Pino@state.nm.us](#); [rmaddox@sos.nc.gov](#); [jsilrum@nd.gov](#); [kburns@ohiosos.gov](#); [samantha.davidson@sos.ok.gov](#); [cheryl.l.myers@oregon.gov](#); [sarstevens@pa.gov](#); [flizasuain@estado.pr.gov](#); [imartiesian@sos.ri.gov](#); [mdunlap@sos.sc.gov](#); [Jason.Lutz@state.sd.us](#); [jesparza@sos.texas.gov](#); [jenrobison@utah.gov](#); [chris.winters@vermont.gov](#); [mark.nearv@sos.wa.gov](#); [cflannery@wvsos.com](#); [karen.wheeler@wyvo.gov](#)
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:51:22 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

With the last month of 2022 upon us, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what has now approached 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to create an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've solved numerous challenges not unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho. We built better processes for corporate filings, grew revenues without growing overhead, and innovated in cybersecurity, all while navigating what will certainly go down as a "difficult" election era. We built an office that I believe Idaho can be proud of, and now have the honor of passing that office on to its next Secretary.

It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began, but with a desire to serve more broadly, I am moving on to a new "next". One of our greatest achievements I believe during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an Idaho State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center. The work we have underway at INSURE will be important not only for Idaho, but for our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper voter registration list maintenance.

INSURE is not yet, however, fully funded, so as a non-paid adjunct faculty member, I will be working on finding funding for the center. I am also creating a separate non-partisan nonprofit with multiple state partners across the country, the eventual beneficiaries of the various projects currently underway at INSURE (and those yet to be defined.) This non-profit will operationalize the INSURE projects for its state-partner members, starting with the inter-state voter list comparison and election-day incident management tools. The nonprofit is named "Opearent", a mash-up of the words OPEN and transpARENT, two key principles upon which it is founded.

With these ventures in mind, I seek your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/Boise State research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 non-profit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity of our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below.

Finally, knowing that funding projects of this level isn't an overnight process, I'll also be available as a freelance consultant. If you or someone you know has a project short on a motivated self-starter to drive it, or a specific shorter-term need that you think I could assist with, I'd love to discuss your vision and how I could bring my unique experiences and skillset to bear. As a bonus, I'm available effective immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck

Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...

(208) 585-7370 cell

chad@chadhuck.com

LinkedIn: [@chadhuck](#)

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:51:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

With the last month of 2022 upon us, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what has now approached 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to create an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've solved numerous challenges not unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho. We built better processes for corporate filings, grew revenues without growing overhead, and innovated in cybersecurity, all while navigating what will certainly go down as a "difficult" election era. We built an office that I believe Idaho can be proud of, and now have the honor of passing that office on to its next Secretary.

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know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck

Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...

(208) 585-7370 cell

chad@chadhouch.com

LinkedIn: [@chadhouch](https://www.linkedin.com/in/@chadhouch)

From: [Google Forms](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Subject: [External] Colloquium Speaker Information
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 10:51:15 AM



Thanks for filling out [Colloquium Speaker Information](#).

Here's what was received.

Colloquium Speaker Information

Please complete all the fields below in order for us to create a flyer for your seminar.
Thank you!

Email *

chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

What date will you be giving your talk? *

MM DD YYYY

12 / 01 / 2022

Will you be presenting in person, or via Zoom? *



In Person - Please refer to Boise State's Public Health website for current COVID guidance <https://www.boisestate.edu/coronavirus-response/health-guidelines/>



Via Zoom

What is your name? *

Chad Houck

What is your position title? (How you'd like it to appear on the announcement.) *

Chief Deputy Secretary of State, BSU Adjunct Faculty

What company, school or organization are you affiliated with? *

INSURE Center, Idaho Sec of State

Please give a brief bio about yourself describing your accomplishments and current projects. Please keep this to about 200 words. *

Chad Houck is the founder of Opearent, a nonprofit created to provide states with the tools to better administer elections. Finishing his final month as Idaho's Chief Deputy Secretary of State and with a former consulting focus on operational and process improvements in IT and commerce, Chad was responsible for all aspects (Fiscal, Elections, IT, and Corporate divisions) of the Secretary of State office, including both the state appropriated budget and IDSOS Federal Grants programs. Mr. Houck served on the 2017 and 2022 Idaho Governor's Cybersecurity Task Forces and has assisted in execution of both virtual and in-person elections cybersecurity exercises in partnership with DHS, BSU, Harvard, and the state of Idaho. As a co-founder and Adjunct Faculty of the INSURE Elections Cybersecurity Center at Boise State University, Mr. Houck has provided testimony and presented at various security conferences and legislative hearings around the nation for CISA, the National Association of Secretary of State, Idaho Legislature, the Great State of Louisiana, and the Naval Postgraduate School, where Houck received his Master's in Homeland Security Studies in 2021.

Please provide a title for your talk. *

Criticality of System and Process Definition in Countering Distrust

Please provide an abstract for your seminar. Please keep this to about 200 words. *

Using the elections administration processes as a backdrop, we will examine the necessity for thorough definition of a problem prior to proposing solutions. The American public has spent over 4 years now heavily discussing the concept of "election integrity", yet little has been done to actually put a clearly defined backdrop on the conversation. Elections are complex systems, decentralized and diversified at multiple jurisdictional levels, and yet society seems to have a one size solves all approach to a multi-faceted problem set. Only in knowing which specific vulnerability, threat vector, or weakness one is addressing can we realistically propose proper mitigations that fill or shrink the defensive void.

Please upload a professional headshot or photo related to your talk. This will be included with the announcement for your talk. *

Submitted files

chad-headshot1 - Chad Houck.jpg

Is it ok if we announce your talk on our social media channels? *

Yes

No

If you're on Twitter please provide your username so we can tag you!

May the program stream and/or record your presentation and post it to our YouTube Channel? *



- Yes
- No
- Maybe - I have some questions. (please email computingphd@boisestate.edu with your questions)

Recording Consent

You indicated that the program may stream and/or record your presentation and post it to our YouTube Channel.

Please accept the consent statement below:

I hereby grant permission to Boise State University and the Computing program to record my colloquium presentation. I understand that the videos and/or stills that include my image are the property of Boise State and may be used for the advancement and promotion of the university, or Computing program. I also grant permission to the Computing program to post the video recording of my colloquium talk to its YouTube Channel. *

Accept

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[Report Abuse](#)

From: [Hoda Mehrpouyan](#)
To: computingphdstudents-group@u.boisestate.edu; [ComputingPhDProgram-faculty](#); [PhD in Computing](#); csmastersstudents-group@u.boisestate.edu; csstudents-group@u.boisestate.edu; [Mathematics Department Faculty and Staff](#); mathgrads@boisestate.edu; geo-faculty@boisestate.edu; geo-grads@u.boisestate.edu; ece-group@boisestate.edu; ece-phd-group@boisestate.edu; ece-masters-group@boisestate.edu; [Jaclyn Kettler](#)
Cc: [Chad Houck](#)
Subject: [External] Computing Colloquium: Thursday 12/1 - 10:30 AM - Chad Houck- "Criticality of System and Process Definition in Countering Distrust"
Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 5:14:23 PM
Attachments: [Computing Ph.D. Colloquium 12.1.2022.pdf](#)

Dear Computing Community :

Please join us this Thursday (10:30 AM, 12/1) to hear Chad Houck (Chief Deputy Secretary of State, BSU Adjunct Faculty) talk to us about election integrity.

Speaker: Chad Houck (Chief Deputy Secretary of State, BSU Adjunct Faculty)
Title: "Criticality of System and Process Definition in Countering Distrust"
Date : Thursday, December 1st
Time : 10:30 MT
Place: CCP 259 (Computer Science Building, downtown)
~Light refreshments will be served~

We will also be hosting the session over Zoom, so you can join us remotely. Please register for the meeting here: <https://boisestate.zoom.us/j/99174252803pwd=bEFzbC9UQllackljQ1Bib24yUmc2Zz09>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Bio:

Chad Houck is the founder of Opearent, a nonprofit created to provide states with the tools to better administer elections. Finishing his final month as Idaho's Chief Deputy Secretary of State and with a former consulting focus on operational and process improvements in IT and commerce, Chad was responsible for all aspects (Fiscal, Elections, IT, and Corporate divisions) of the Secretary of State office, including both the state appropriated budget and IDSOS Federal Grants programs. Mr. Houck served on the 2017 and 2022 Idaho Governor's Cybersecurity Task Forces and has assisted in execution of both virtual and in-person elections cybersecurity exercises in partnership with DHS, BSU, Harvard, and the state of Idaho. As a co-founder and Adjunct Faculty of the INSURE Elections Cybersecurity Center at Boise State University, Mr. Houck has provided testimony and presented at various security conferences and legislative hearings around the nation for CISA, the National Association of Secretary of State, Idaho Legislature, the Great State of Louisiana, and the Naval Postgraduate School, where Houck received his Master's in Homeland Security Studies in 2021.

Abstract:

Using the elections administration processes as a backdrop, we will examine the necessity for a thorough definition of a problem prior to proposing solutions. The American public has spent over 4 years now heavily discussing the concept of "election integrity", yet little has been done to actually put a clearly defined backdrop on the conversation. Elections are complex systems, decentralized and diversified at multiple jurisdictional levels, and yet society seems to have a one size fits all approach to a multi-faceted problem set. Only by knowing which specific vulnerability, threat vector, or weakness one is addressing can we realistically propose proper mitigations that fill or shrink the defensive void.

Please join us on Thursday,

Take Care,

Hoda

Computing Colloquium Committee:

Hoda Mehrpouyan (Computer Science)

Donna Calhoun (Mathematics)

Nasir Eisty (Computer Science)

Shannon Budnick (Administrator, Computing)

Best,

--

Dr. Hoda Mehrpouyan (she/her)

Associate Professor

Department of Computer Science

College of Engineering

Boise State University, Boise, Idaho 83725

Office: CCP 252

Phone: 208-426-2497

Email: hodamehrpouyan@boisestate.edu

Website: hodamehrpouyan.com

From: [Amit Jain](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Cc: chadhouck@boisestate.edu
Subject: [External] Re: Federal Grant - UOCAVA
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:16:51 AM

Interesting. Let's talk about it today if you are available. I have a couple of meetings but then I am free at 1:15 or so onward.

Sincerely,
--Amit

Amit Jain
Chair and Professor, Department of Computer Science
College of Engineering, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho 83725

Office: CCP 355, 777 W. Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone: 208-426-3821 *Mail Stop:* 2055 *Dept. office:* 208-426-5766

On Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 12:54 PM Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov> wrote:

Amit,

This grant is also now open, and we would need a state partner... ie one of the Opearent member states, doesn't even necessarily have to be Idaho...

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=345475>

Ceiling of 20 grants funded, \$20M total, so about \$1M each it looks like. I bet they fund every app they get cuz they won't get 20 completed in 45 days.

CH

From: postmaster@state.mn.us
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Subject: [External] Undeliverable: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:51:39 AM
Attachments: [Undeliverable Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck.msg](#)

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From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Lawrence Denney](#)
Subject: feedback
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 12:33:07 PM
Attachments: [Preparing for What.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: [Google Forms](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Subject: [External] Colloquium Speaker Information
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 10:51:15 AM



Thanks for filling out [Colloquium Speaker Information](#).

Here's what was received.

Colloquium Speaker Information

Please complete all the fields below in order for us to create a flyer for your seminar.
Thank you!

Email *

chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

What date will you be giving your talk? *

MM DD YYYY

12 / 01 / 2022

Will you be presenting in person, or via Zoom? *



In Person - Please refer to Boise State's Public Health website for current COVID guidance <https://www.boisestate.edu/coronavirus-response/health-guidelines/>



Via Zoom

What is your name? *

Chad Houck

What is your position title? (How you'd like it to appear on the announcement.) *

Chief Deputy Secretary of State, BSU Adjunct Faculty

What company, school or organization are you affiliated with? *

INSURE Center, Idaho Sec of State

Please give a brief bio about yourself describing your accomplishments and current projects. Please keep this to about 200 words. *

Chad Houck is the founder of Opearent, a nonprofit created to provide states with the tools to better administer elections. Finishing his final month as Idaho's Chief Deputy Secretary of State and with a former consulting focus on operational and process improvements in IT and commerce, Chad was responsible for all aspects (Fiscal, Elections, IT, and Corporate divisions) of the Secretary of State office, including both the state appropriated budget and IDSOS Federal Grants programs. Mr. Houck served on the 2017 and 2022 Idaho Governor's Cybersecurity Task Forces and has assisted in execution of both virtual and in-person elections cybersecurity exercises in partnership with DHS, BSU, Harvard, and the state of Idaho. As a co-founder and Adjunct Faculty of the INSURE Elections Cybersecurity Center at Boise State University, Mr. Houck has provided testimony and presented at various security conferences and legislative hearings around the nation for CISA, the National Association of Secretary of State, Idaho Legislature, the Great State of Louisiana, and the Naval Postgraduate School, where Houck received his Master's in Homeland Security Studies in 2021.

Please provide a title for your talk. *

Criticality of System and Process Definition in Countering Distrust

Please provide an abstract for your seminar. Please keep this to about 200 words. *

Using the elections administration processes as a backdrop, we will examine the necessity for thorough definition of a problem prior to proposing solutions. The American public has spent over 4 years now heavily discussing the concept of "election integrity", yet little has been done to actually put a clearly defined backdrop on the conversation. Elections are complex systems, decentralized and diversified at multiple jurisdictional levels, and yet society seems to have a one size solves all approach to a multi-faceted problem set. Only in knowing which specific vulnerability, threat vector, or weakness one is addressing can we realistically propose proper mitigations that fill or shrink the defensive void.

Please upload a professional headshot or photo related to your talk. This will be included with the announcement for your talk. *

Submitted files

chad-headshot1 - Chad Houck.jpg

Is it ok if we announce your talk on our social media channels? *

Yes

No

If you're on Twitter please provide your username so we can tag you!

May the program stream and/or record your presentation and post it to our YouTube Channel? *



- Yes
- No
- Maybe - I have some questions. (please email computingphd@boisestate.edu with your questions)

Recording Consent

You indicated that the program may stream and/or record your presentation and post it to our YouTube Channel.

Please accept the consent statement below:

I hereby grant permission to Boise State University and the Computing program to record my colloquium presentation. I understand that the videos and/or stills that include my image are the property of Boise State and may be used for the advancement and promotion of the university, or Computing program. I also grant permission to the Computing program to post the video recording of my colloquium talk to its YouTube Channel. *

Accept

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From: [Hoda Mehrpouyan](#)
To: computingphdstudents-group@u.boisestate.edu; [ComputingPhDProgram-faculty](#); [PhD in Computing](#); csmastersstudents-group@u.boisestate.edu; csstudents-group@u.boisestate.edu; [Mathematics Department Faculty and Staff](#); mathgrads@boisestate.edu; geo-faculty@boisestate.edu; geo-grads@u.boisestate.edu; ece-group@boisestate.edu; ece-phd-group@boisestate.edu; ece-masters-group@boisestate.edu; [Jaclyn Kettler](#)
Cc: [Chad Houck](#)
Subject: [External] Computing Colloquium: Thursday 12/1 - 10:30 AM - Chad Houck- "Criticality of System and Process Definition in Countering Distrust"
Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 5:14:23 PM
Attachments: [Computing PhD Program 12-1-2022.pdf](#)

Dear Computing Community :

Please join us this Thursday (10:30 AM, 12/1) to hear Chad Houck (Chief Deputy Secretary of State, BSU Adjunct Faculty) talk to us about election integrity.

Speaker: Chad Houck (Chief Deputy Secretary of State, BSU Adjunct Faculty)
Title: "Criticality of System and Process Definition in Countering Distrust"
Date : Thursday, December 1st
Time : 10:30 MT
Place: CCP 259 (Computer Science Building, downtown)
~Light refreshments will be served~

We will also be hosting the session over Zoom, so you can join us remotely. Please register for the meeting here: <https://boisestate.zoom.us/j/99174252803pwd=bEFzbc9UQllackljQ1Bib24yUmc2Zz09>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Bio:

Chad Houck is the founder of Opearent, a nonprofit created to provide states with the tools to better administer elections. Finishing his final month as Idaho's Chief Deputy Secretary of State and with a former consulting focus on operational and process improvements in IT and commerce, Chad was responsible for all aspects (Fiscal, Elections, IT, and Corporate divisions) of the Secretary of State office, including both the state appropriated budget and IDSOS Federal Grants programs. Mr. Houck served on the 2017 and 2022 Idaho Governor's Cybersecurity Task Forces and has assisted in execution of both virtual and in-person elections cybersecurity exercises in partnership with DHS, BSU, Harvard, and the state of Idaho. As a co-founder and Adjunct Faculty of the INSURE Elections Cybersecurity Center at Boise State University, Mr. Houck has provided testimony and presented at various security conferences and legislative hearings around the nation for CISA, the National Association of Secretary of State, Idaho Legislature, the Great State of Louisiana, and the Naval Postgraduate School, where Houck received his Master's in Homeland Security Studies in 2021.

Abstract:

Using the elections administration processes as a backdrop, we will examine the necessity for a thorough definition of a problem prior to proposing solutions. The American public has spent over 4 years now heavily discussing the concept of "election integrity", yet little has been done to actually put a clearly defined backdrop on the conversation. Elections are complex systems, decentralized and diversified at multiple jurisdictional levels, and yet society seems to have a one size fits all approach to a multi-faceted problem set. Only by knowing which specific vulnerability, threat vector, or weakness one is addressing can we realistically propose proper mitigations that fill or shrink the defensive void.

Please join us on Thursday,

Take Care,

Hoda

Computing Colloquium Committee:

Hoda Mehrpouyan (Computer Science)

Donna Calhoun (Mathematics)

Nasir Eisty (Computer Science)

Shannon Budnick (Administrator, Computing)

Best,

--

Dr. Hoda Mehrpouyan (she/her)

Associate Professor

Department of Computer Science

College of Engineering

Boise State University, Boise, Idaho 83725

Office: CCP 252

Phone: 208-426-2497

Email: hodamehrpouyan@boisestate.edu

Website: hodamehrpouyan.com

Computing Ph.D. Colloquium Series

Criticality of System and
Process Definition in
Countering Distrust

**DECEMBER 1,
2022**

10:30 am | CCP 259

Scan to
learn more:



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

COMPUTING PH.D. PROGRAM



Featuring

Chad Houck

Chief Deputy Secretary of State
& BSU Adjunct Faculty
INSURE Center,
Idaho Secretary of State

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From: postmaster@state.mn.us <postmaster@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2022 1:51 PM EST
To: jake.spano@state.mn.us <jake.spano@state.mn.us>
Subject: Undeliverable: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Attachment(s): "Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck.msg"

Delivery has failed to these recipients or groups:

jake.spano@state.mn.us

The email address you entered couldn't be found. Please check the recipient's email address and try to resend the message. If the problem continues, please contact your email admin.

Diagnostic information for administrators:

Generating server: G46PAWEXCH07.ead.state.mn.us

jake.spano@state.mn.us

Remote Server returned '550 5.1.10 RESOLVER.ADR.RecipientNotFound; Recipient not found by SMTP address lookup'

Original message headers:

Received: from G46PPWEADEXCH04.ead.state.mn.us (10.216.27.105) by G46PAWEXCH07.ead.state.mn.us (10.216.27.92) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384) id 15.2.1118.20; Fri, 2 Dec 2022 12:51:16 -0600Received: from GCC02-BL0-obe.outbound.protection.outlook.com (104.47.64.103) by G46PPWEADEXCH04.ead.state.mn.us (10.216.27.105) with Microsoft SMTP Server (TLS) id 15.0.1497.42 via Frontend Transport; Fri, 2 Dec 2022 12:51:16 -0600ARC-Seal: i=3; a=rsa-sha256; s=arcselector9901; d=microsoft.com; cv=pass; b=SDfKw9E3c04fMDH+GkI45UFqyAKN72pCsnVTOO2gtoC5m16A/nQ0iW9yKwNs20Mpx/ejCOWMM2wwMGNqGr/8K4JV0ZSEgfrILmk97mgUkmu+oj+ewdbKe/IJOZ+G+tyfpAhQgDXceD6haADLqcXrdV0AW/U3G1ntjZNVfCgHRZMhd10J+/qNoJWRDrUJs91WgCISnHWD/qiyt4MpdB7zm21dfycLXHSCToobemDRMvbyDARRXPEZ5+C0h/zeKizBRmQc6++i5LJ26DU6Lhvzh1N9XbIdp35Pd62ZQUWpw2k45KorEN40vuvVmvIvSuenJ3K6Zb57bdvw894UyZQ==ARC-Message-Signature: i=3; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=microsoft.com; s=arcselector9901; h=From:Date:Subject:Message-ID:Content-Type:MIME-Version:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-ChunkCount:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-0:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-1; 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a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=microsoft.com; s=arcselector9901; h=From:Date:Subject:Message-ID:Content-Type:MIME-Version:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-ChunkCount:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-0:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-1; bh=zm+UaFNBTehGicD9Ty038eTaq8sAWSb268ZUZGfGw=; b=KCRbx9cg6GmCRqRA01MjmJb3oXLGy/R5COq4p7iCEWI0s6tC8lemoxlQN/KNCmWJilLoFQV8LSCfnpgv8SLV4wLTLjxdixvACSHqHWLytKbTusBV+PpBda8oREDWzIx4Qp0S9bmd0CoXxvz8fyHWhdhpWEf43UNJqMdcq/Y2ztxt12fvnFKND4iv0PUSpWXR8i8T+puh7FbL4proHFxGB6YdVcFotU2VopQ3vCtDPHM06+YRGXhQ/rx5HGm0IhIQmY6yAqmFxyKzEq2MjAdH/CPREsfbqS8np2WTgKvncJrMjUbpF/dz2pRLisa5gbheEd8Q4N4ga77CJo9g==ARC-Authentication-Results: i=2; mx.microsoft.com 1; spf=pass (sender ip is 40.107.89.71) smtp.rcpttodomain=state.mn.us smtp.mailfrom=sos.idaho.gov; dmarc=pass (p=quarantine sp=quarantine pct=100) action=none header.from=sos.idaho.gov; dkim=pass (signature was verified) header.d=sos.idaho.gov; arc=pass (0 oda=1 ltdi=1 spf=[1,1,smtp.mailfrom=sos.idaho.gov] dkim=[1,1,header.d=sos.idaho.gov] dmarc=[1,1,header.from=sos.idaho.gov])Received: from BN6PR09CA0016.namprd09.prod.outlook.com (2603.10b6:405:26) by DM6PR09MB6184.namprd09.prod.outlook.com (2603.10b6:5:2f0:9) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.5880.10; Fri, 2 Dec 2022 18:51:26 +0000Received: from BLOGCC02FT020.eop-gcc02.prod.protection.outlook.com (2a01:111:f400:7d05::203) by BN6PR09CA0016.outlook.office365.com (2603.10b6:405:26) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.5880.8 via Frontend Transport; Fri, 2 Dec 2022 18:51:26 +0000Authentication-Results: spf=pass (sender IP is 40.107.89.71) smtp.mailfrom=sos.idaho.gov; dkim=pass (signature was verified) header.d=sos.idaho.gov; dmarc=pass action=none header.from=sos.idaho.gov; compauth=pass reason=100Received-SPF: Pass (protection.outlook.com: domain of sos.idaho.gov designates 40.107.89.71 as permitted sender) receiver=protection.outlook.com; client-ip=40.107.89.71; helo=GCC02-BL0-obe.outbound.protection.outlook.com; pr=CReceived: from GCC02-BL0-obe.outbound.protection.outlook.com (40.107.89.71) by BLOGCC02FT020.mail.protection.outlook.com (10.97.10.97) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.5880.10 via Frontend Transport; Fri, 2 Dec 2022 18:51:26 +0000ARC-Seal: i=1; a=rsa-sha256; s=arcselector9901; d=microsoft.com; cv=none; b=1wBbuEgJMAfYRjXCYuPLXicDQlYqfDoeTzBk6rm/b6aCzScgenwoiXWuv5+H1sVYhCvdwvs3hVsgp13fM4k0L6rorHXEScklgFURwli3i35tK9HNr18Nbhj9oJp01BKlhmFRfaD0q/bUaI5ta2R3Xy5AB9qdU6o7FbF+c088IivPejgwfheeutq/fBnxplkZJqPg8NrERjeBhmxbUx+fxbnJ6Jna2PDvDw3J44xrI86GmPGTIPfMreGtoMwJliS4qMFU0JFJ0+gYF0s+/+tawPoJbgr2C6pX1ky5Au6LpUktbJ5M93tvQL+GXPTZgRlM7dgtW1LDCyt9F4CDYA==ARC-Message-Signature: i=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=microsoft.com; s=arcselector9901; h=From:Date:Subject:Message-ID:Content-Type:MIME-Version:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-ChunkCount:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-0:X-MS-Exchange-AntiSpam-MessageData-1; bh=zm+UaFNBTehGicD9Ty038eTaq8sAWSb268ZUZGfGw=; b=Mo84d2x2yx4TFz2D3h45tfeJmHk2LX5j/2mQLAmwL2T6w1fncBnnYqblD8gnRctfB2YQ38W0FELUy8LqHoaIbrPm/rWpMcePntN7cWx9v8nCCCAMVnVnsmQnx2U8DKZBNWceY7FvFgJf mL+ZlsztYUCnKj62veRjUX050j/j3HfoevUe6qDj5lrgYndmX5jttAe9zEOUNSIXCP4WTSKroufGQCf9jbpV1uBPPcWRBfTat6JlqmmZ/RdjeUUVvc+IkVamg+CH2CiiRWfWQragN/gZunbkVKr8WpdmObe+gnHf7rKhlivxlkHZI2N6NJulwbn06soHWAYLA==ARC-Authentication-Results: i=1; mx.microsoft.com 1; spf=pass smtp.mailfrom=sos.idaho.gov; dmarc=pass action=none header.from=sos.idaho.gov; dkim=pass header.d=sos.idaho.gov; arc=noneDKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=sos.idaho.gov; s=selector1; h=From:Date:Subject:Message-ID:Content-Type:MIME-Version:X-MS-Exchange-SenderAdCheck; bh=zm+UaFNBTehGicD9Ty038eTaq8sAWSb268ZUZGfGw=; b=JRpUofV6Xbtju60nzmodNUYjF3Wk0oseqLQwMtpm/Snd33FIQIdp/3v1IE91Wdn6o4CTizyRCw8SctCSwoXah4q72iwGeyUKDKEqCj+9PzBSFeZBxvy5rSQ6JQp/BbLkezTWC/u02ZT1BmHx1ky5Au6LpUktbJ5M93tvQL+GXPTZgRlM7dgtW1LDCyt9F4CDYA==ARC-Message-Signature: i=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=microsoft.com; s=arcselector9901; h=From:Date:Subject:Message-ID:Content-Type:MIME-Version:X-MS-Exchange-SenderAdCheck; bh=zm+UaFNBTehGicD9Ty038eTaq8sAWSb268ZUZGfGw=; b=JRpUofV6Xbtju60nzmodNUYjF3Wk0oseqLQwMtpm/Snd33FIQIdp/3v1IE91Wdn6o4CTizyRCw8SctCSwoXah4q72iwGeyUKDKEqCj+9PzBSFeZBxvy5rSQ6JQp/BbLkezTWC/u02ZT1BmHx1ky5Au6LpUktbJ5M93tvQL+GXPTZgRlM7dgtW1LDCyt9F4CDYA==ARC-Message-Signature: i=1; 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From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2022 1:51 PM EST
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck

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To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

With the last month of 2022 upon us, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what has now approached 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to create an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've solved numerous challenges not unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho. We built better processes for corporate filings, grew revenues without growing overhead, and innovated in cybersecurity, all while navigating what will certainly go down as a "difficult" election era. We built an office that I believe Idaho can be proud of, and now have the honor of passing that office on to its next Secretary.

It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began, but with a desire to serve more broadly, I am moving on to a new "next". One of our greatest achievements I believe during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an Idaho State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center. The work we have underway at INSURE will be important not only for Idaho, but for our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper voter registration list maintenance.

INSURE is not yet, however, fully funded, so as a non-paid adjunct faculty member, I will be working on finding funding for the center. I am also creating a separate non-partisan nonprofit with multiple state partners across the country, the eventual beneficiaries of the various projects currently underway at INSURE (and those yet to be defined.) This non-profit will operationalize the INSURE projects for its state-partner members, starting with the inter-state voter list comparison and election-day incident management tools. The nonprofit is named "Opearent", a mash-up of the words OPEn and transPARENT, two key principles upon which it is founded.

With these ventures in mind, I seek your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/Boise State research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 non-profit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity of our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below.

Finally, knowing that funding projects of this level isn't an overnight process, I'll also be available as a freelance consultant. If you or someone you know has a project short on a motivated self-starter to drive it, or a specific shorter-term need that you think I could assist with, I'd love to discuss your vision and how I could bring my unique experiences and skillset to bear. As a bonus, I'm available effective immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck
Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...
(208) 585-7370 cell
chad@chadhouck.com
LinkedIn: [@chadhouck](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chadhouck)

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Amit Jain](#); chadhouck@boisestate.edu
Subject: Federal Grant - UOCAVA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:54:01 PM

Amit,

This grant is also now open, and we would need a state partner... ie one of the Opearent member states, doesn't even necessarily have to be Idaho...

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=345475>

Ceiling of 20 grants funded, \$20M total, so about \$1M each it looks like. I bet they fund every app they get cuz they won't get 20 completed in 45 days.

CH

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Lawrence Denney](#)
Subject: feedback
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 12:33:07 PM
Attachments: [Preparing for What.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

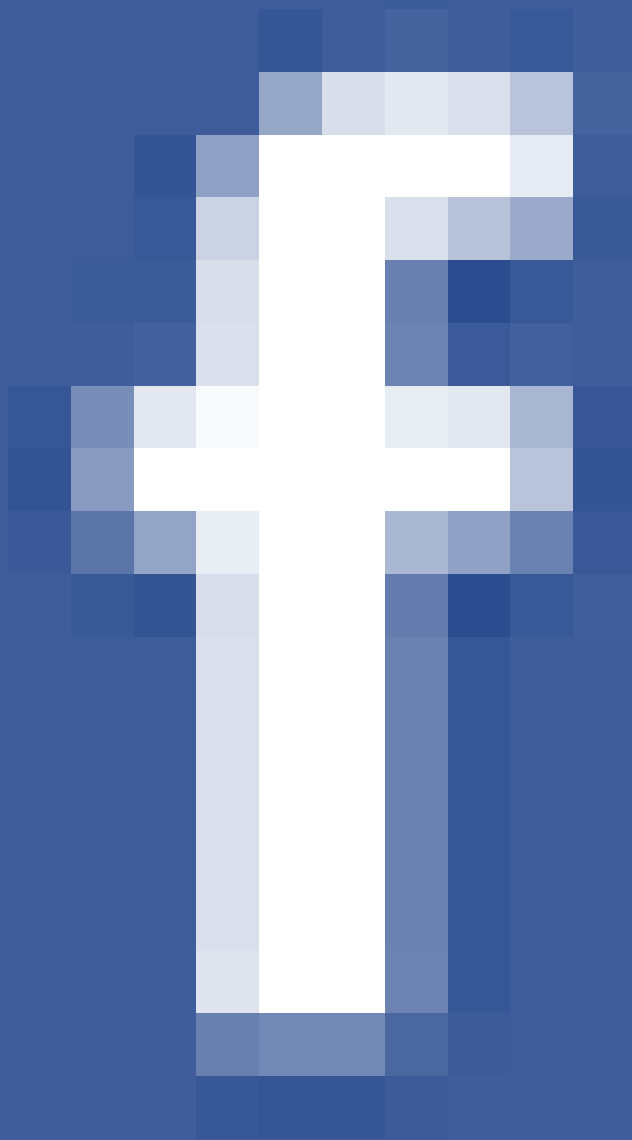
Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

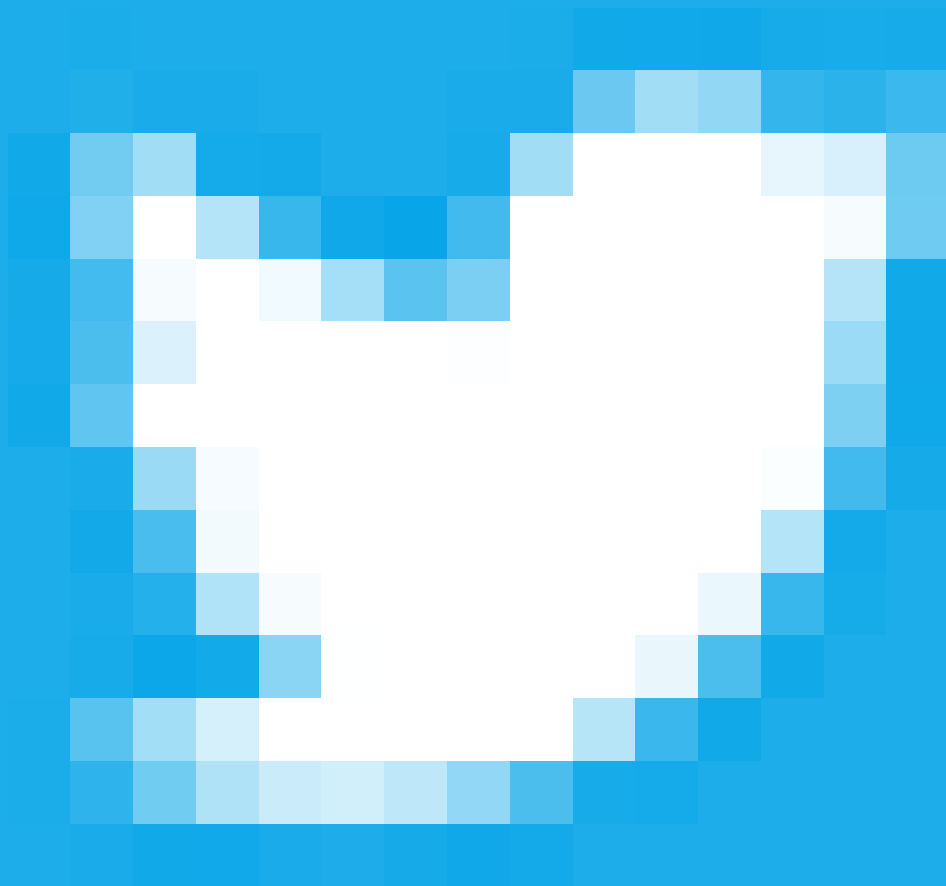
Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709









Dec. 1, 2022

Preparing for What's Next...

To my friends and colleagues, and to our esteemed Secretaries of State,

As we've reached the last month of 2022, I find myself once again at a crossroad – the transition between the now familiar and the approaching “next” – but before delving into that, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what is now approaching 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to bring together an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've gotten to solve numerous challenges not entirely unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho.

We've doubled revenue and the volume of corporate filings without increasing the office's overhead or workforce, by implementing technology where it made sense, and raising the wages of those willing to learn the new skills needed to run the new tools with greater efficiency than ever seen before. As a result, while the office used to run at a deficit to the state, we turn over an office whose annual revenue exceeds expenses by over \$3.5 Million.

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While not yet perfect, we've built an office that I believe the state can be proud of, with faster responses, exemplary customer service, and transparency in our programs and communications. We now have the honor of passing a different office on to the next Secretary come January than the one my boss and mentor entered 8 years ago. It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began.

I will, however, be moving on, with a desire to serve not only Idaho, but the nation. One of the great accomplishments we achieved specifically during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an officially recognized BSU entity known as INSURE. The work we have underway at INSURE is important to not only Idaho, but to our sister states across the

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Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure,



Chad Houck
Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State
(208) 585-7370 cell
chad@chadhouck.com
LinkedIn: @chadhouck

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Phil McGrane](#)
Subject: For your feedback please.
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 9:56:27 AM
Attachments: [Preparing for What.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

See attached.



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

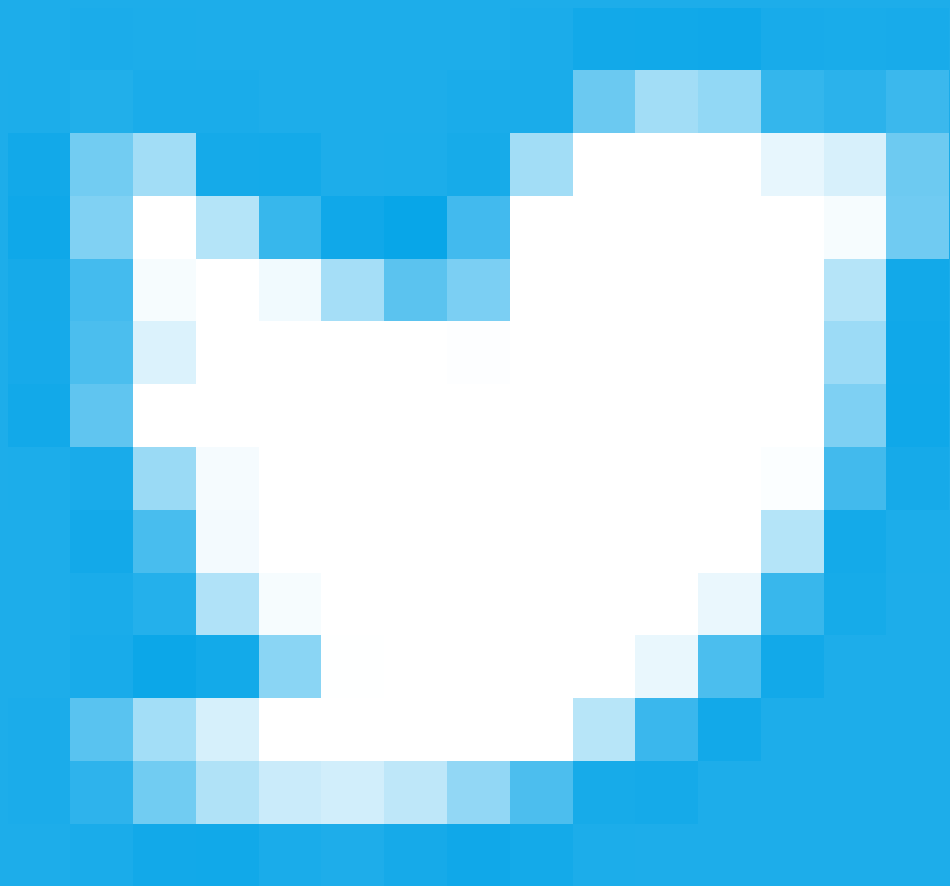
Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709









Dec. 1, 2022

Preparing for What's Next...

To my friends and colleagues, and to our esteemed Secretaries of State,

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Looking forward to the next adventure,



Chad Houck
Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State
(208) 585-7370 cell
chad@chadhouck.com
LinkedIn: @chadhouck

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: chad@opearent.org
Subject: FW: [External] 2023 ISAC Annual Meeting Presentation Request
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 9:31:51 AM
Attachments: [CIS Conference 2023 Flier.pdf](#)

From: Mark King <Mark.King@cisecurity.org>
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:59 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: James Globe <James.Globe@cisecurity.org>
Subject: [External] 2023 ISAC Annual Meeting Presentation Request

Greetings Chad Houck,

You were kind enough to be a presenter at the 2022 ISAC Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. Your presentation was very well received and was considered one of the higher rated content by the CIS Agenda team for the event. The CIS Agenda Team would be pleased if you would consider being a presenter again for the 2023 MS-ISAC Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT (8/6/23 – 8/9/23).

The topic you presented was: *If You Build It (Right), They Will Comply: How Innovation & Incentivization Can Turn Federal Money Into Meaningful Local Impact*

For this year we would like you to present: On the same or similar topic. Grant Funding is a need in the SLTT community.

Of note, as we did last year, we will pay for travel and accommodation expenses for our speakers.

Myself and James Globe (CC'd on this email) are leading the Agenda Team for the 2023 agenda, so simply respond to this email if you are interested.

Thank you!

Mark King, PMP
Program Manager, Stakeholder Insight
Center for Internet Security, Inc
31 Tech Valley Drive, Suite 2
East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-516-3115

This message and attachments may contain confidential information. If it appears that this message was sent to you by mistake, any retention, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message and attachments is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the message and any attachments.

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16th ANNUAL

ISAC Meeting

AUGUST 6-9, 2023

Salt Lake City, Utah



MS-ISAC®



EI-ISAC®

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: chad@opearent.org
Subject: FW: [External] You're Invited! NGA Webinar: State Support of Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:39:11 AM

From: Dolen, Casey <CDolen@NGA.ORG>
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 11:16 AM
To: NGA Cybersecurity <cyber@NGA.ORG>
Subject: [External] You're Invited! NGA Webinar: State Support of Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity

Dear State and Territorial Leaders,

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices is pleased to invite you to a webinar on **Thursday, February 16th from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. EST** to discuss critical infrastructure cyber response efforts and how state models are shaping out. More details and a registration link are included below. Please feel free to forward this invite to others in your network who may be interested in this topic, or let us know if you have a colleague you think should be added to this distribution list.

WEBINAR: STATE SUPPORT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CYBERSECURITY

Thursday, February 16th from 3:00-4:00 P.M. EST

In the wake of cyber attacks across the state, Wyoming created its Cyber Assistance Response Effort (CARE) team in 2019, quickly morphing into a response team in late-2020 that has been assisting critical infrastructure entities in cyber response ever since. Neighboring Utah's Statewide Information & Analysis Center (SIAC) has played a key role in the creation of the Governor's Cybersecurity Commission, which is mandated to gather information and share cybersecurity best practices with the state legislature. Please join the National Governors Association as we host officials from Wyoming and Utah to discuss each state's unique approach to improving cybersecurity response and resilience among the critical infrastructure sectors.

Speakers:

- **Mikki Munson**, Cybersecurity & Critical Infrastructure Protection Program Manager, Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Officer (PCII), Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
- **Katherine Chipman**, Supervisory Intelligence Analyst, Utah SIAC, Utah Department of Public Safety
- **Mallorie Nielsen**, Cyber Threat Intelligence Analyst, Utah SIAC, Utah Department of Public Safety

Please [register here](#) to receive access to the webinar link.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Casey Dolen, *Senior Policy Analyst, Cybersecurity*, at cdolen@nga.org.

We look forward to your attendance!

Casey Dolen

Senior Policy Analyst

444 North Capitol St NW, Ste 267

Washington, D.C. 20001

o: 202.624.5344 | m: 224.456.8740

CDolen@nga.org



From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: jennifer.cook3@ks.gov
Subject: FW: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:54:48 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

I am forwarding the email below originally sent to the previous office holder, and congratulations on your new role!



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 at 11:51 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck

To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

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It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began, but with a desire to serve more broadly, I am moving on to a new "next". One of our greatest achievements I believe during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an Idaho State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center.

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Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck

Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...

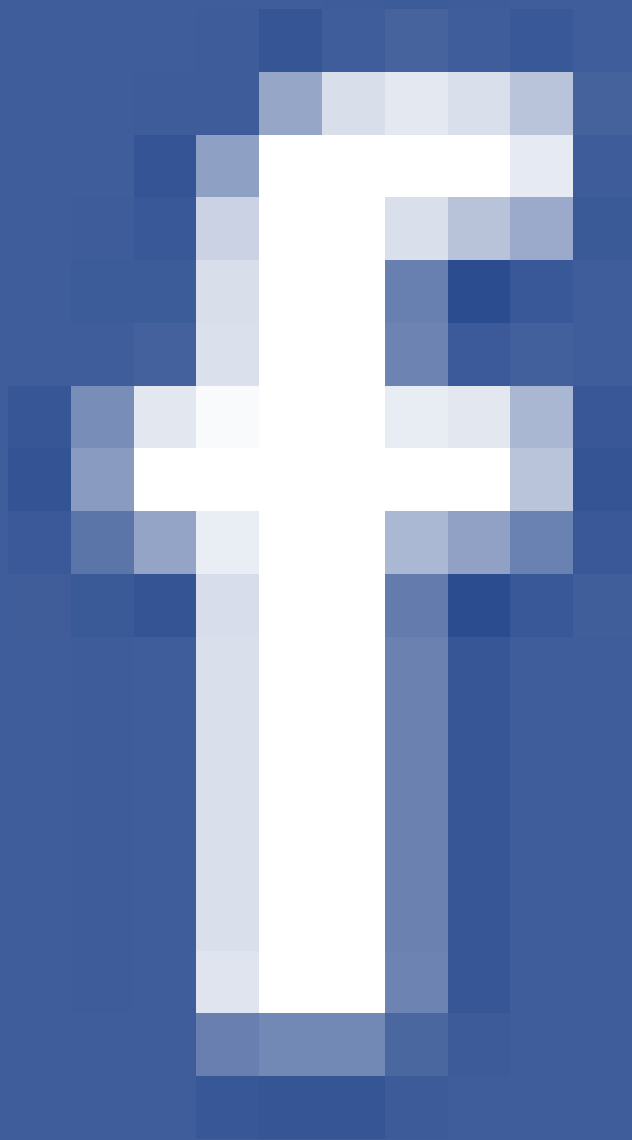
(208) 585-7370 cell

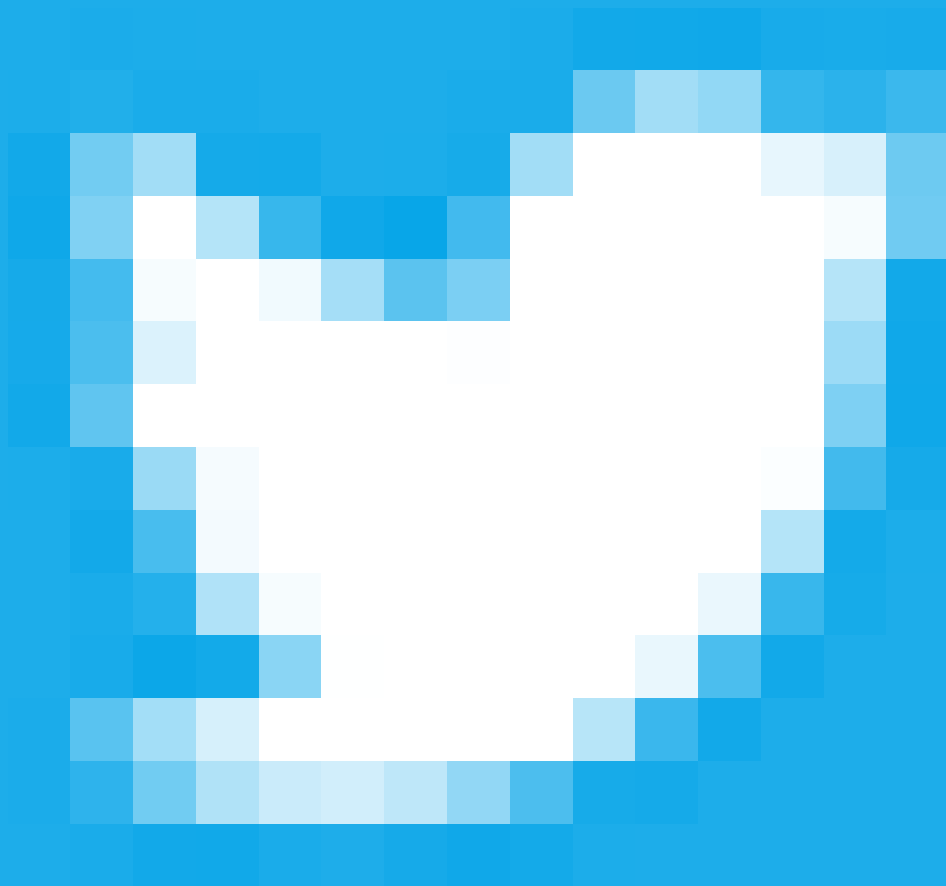
chad@chadhuck.com

LinkedIn: [@chadhuck](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chadhuck)

Handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. J. [unclear]".







From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: Michelle.waddell@sos.ok.gov
Subject: FW: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:56:54 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Passing on the email below originally sent to Samantha. Thank you.

Chad



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 at 11:51 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
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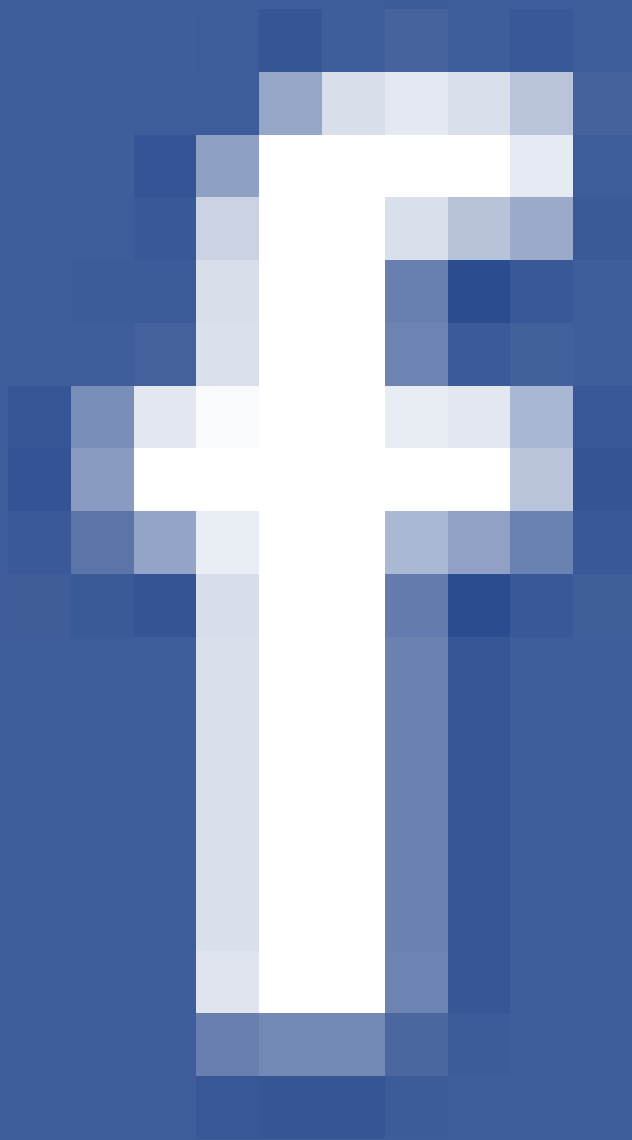
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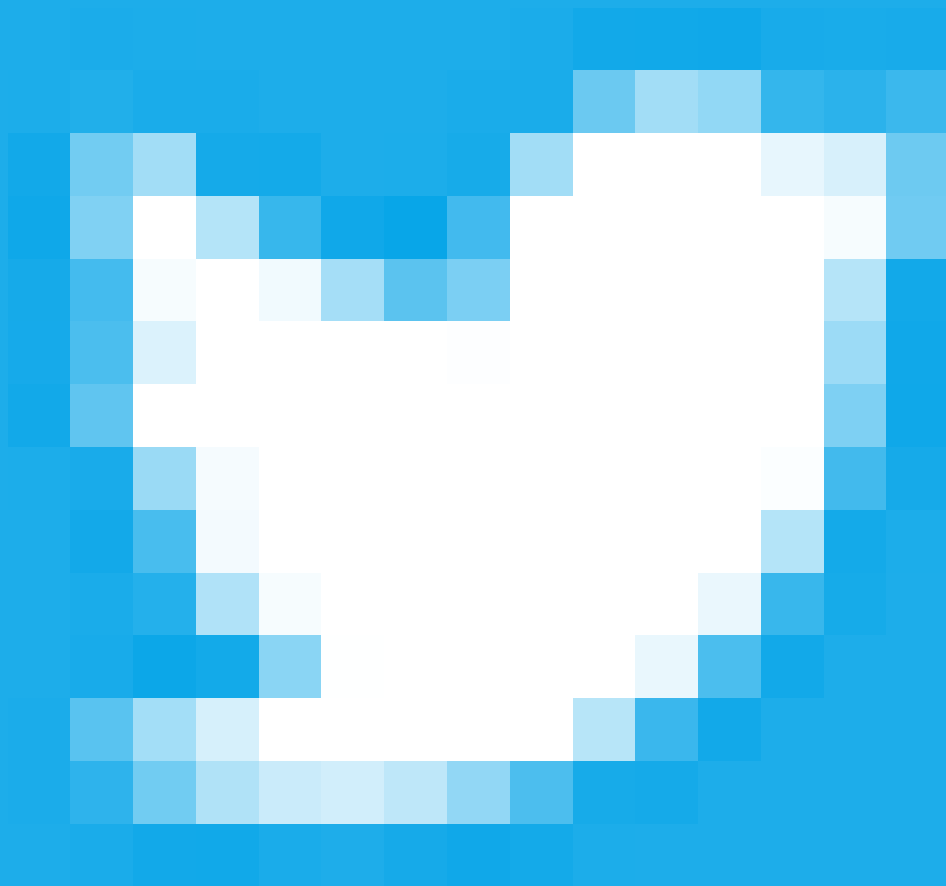
chad@chadhoulck.com

LinkedIn: [@chadhoulck](#)

[Handwritten signature]







From: Chad Houck
To: chad@opearent.org
Subject: Fwd: [External] NASS Elections Committee: NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder 1/26 at 2:30PM ET, FVAP Grant Forecast, EAC FY2023 Election Security Grants
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:56:13 PM
Attachments: [NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder 1/26 at 2:30PM ET, FVAP Grant Forecast, EAC FY2023 Election Security Grants](#)

From: Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 12:48:53 PM
To: Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>
Cc: Dodd, Stacy <sdodd@sso.org>; Milhofer, John <jmilhofer@sso.org>; Maria Benson <mbenson@sso.org>; Lindsey Forson <lforson@sso.org>; Brittany Hamilton <bhamilton@sso.org>
Subject: [External] NASS Elections Committee: NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder 1/26 at 2:30PM ET, FVAP Grant Forecast, EAC FY2023 Election Security Grants

Dear NASS Elections Committee, Communications Directors and IT Directors,

NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder – This Thursday, Jan 26 at 2:30PM ET – Calendar Info Attached

Don't forget our Elections Committee call this Thursday at 2:30PM ET. There is calendar info attached. DOD's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will be on to discuss the 2022 election and upcoming grant opportunities. See the information below that FVAP asked me to share:

"This is to inform you all of an upcoming grant opportunity. Please note, this announcement is a FORECAST only regarding an opportunity forthcoming. We anticipate the Effective Absentee Systems for Elections 3.0 grant to be officially posted in early February and will also send out another email at that time. To review the grant opportunity forecast please click here:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=345475>" Additionally, all questions and/or requests for clarification regarding the forecast should be addressed to the Grants Office: Ms. Heather Hay at heather.j.hay.civ@mail.mil

EAC's Election Security Grant Program for FY2023 – Notice of Distribution Amounts and Application

I went on the [EAC website](#) today to see if there was any info on the FY2023 Election Security Grants passed in the Omnibus Appropriations bill last month. I found this info below. The materials included in the grant award packet are not dated, so I don't know if you've received your packet yet or not. If not, please check out the information below. I know many of you and your teams are new, and a call would be very beneficial.

From the EAC website "The HAVA Election Security Funds were appropriated in 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023. The HAVA Election Security Fund appropriations, authorized under Title I Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, marked the first new appropriations for HAVA grants since FY 2010. This funding provides states with additional resources to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance technology and make certain election security improvements."

Requesting Funds - Eligible Applicants are States as defined by HAVA and the Appropriations

Act(s)

- [2023 Election Security Award Packet](#)
 - [State by State Allocation FY 2023](#)
 - [State Request Template](#)
 - [Program Narrative Guidelines](#)
 - [Budget Worksheet Guidelines](#)
 - [2023 Budget Worksheet Excel File](#)
 - [Certification of Terms and Conditions](#)
 - [GrantSolutions Amendment Instructions](#)

I reached out to the EAC Grants office this morning to see if they can participate on our call this week or if they are planning their own webinars to assist you with applying for these funds. I'll keep you posted.

Thanks,
Leslie

Leslie Reynolds
Executive Director
National Association of Secretaries of State
444 N. Capitol Street, NW Suite 401
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-3526
reynolds@sso.org

From: Dodd, Stacy <sdodd@sso.org>

Sent: Friday, January 06, 2023 9:34 AM EST

To: Dodd, Stacy <sdodd@sso.org>; Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>; Milhofer, John <jmilhofer@sso.org>; Maria Benson <mbenson@sso.org>; Lindsey Forson <lforson@sso.org>; Brittany Hamilton <bhamilton@sso.org>

CC: susan.beals@elections.virginia.gov <susan.beals@elections.virginia.gov>; ryancowley@utah.gov <ryancowley@utah.gov>; jesse.naiman1@wyo.gov <jesse.naiman1@wyo.gov>; brett.paradise@maryland.gov <brett.paradise@maryland.gov>; jennifer.mclaughlin@maryland.gov <jennifer.mclaughlin@maryland.gov>; curtis.sims@sos.la.gov <curtis.sims@sos.la.gov>; andrea.gaines@elections.virginia.gov <andrea.gaines@elections.virginia.gov>; nmeyers@sos.la.gov <nmeyers@sos.la.gov>; linda.lamone@maryland.gov <linda.lamone@maryland.gov>; shellyjackson@utah.gov <shellyjackson@utah.gov>

Subject: NASS Elections Committee WebEx Bi-Weekly Call - 1/26/23

-- Do not delete or change any of the following text. --

When it's time, join your Webex meeting here.

Join meeting

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<https://nass.webex.com/nass/j.php?MTID=m3451ecbe3bb7611163cc4143ffeba602>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2631 689 6993

Meeting password: UWqNWg33Pc5 (89769433 from video systems)

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

[+1-415-655-0001](tel:+1-415-655-0001)..26316896993## US Toll

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

[Global call-in numbers](#)

Join from a video system or application

Dial [26316896993](tel:26316896993)@nass.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

If you are a host, [click here](#) and login site to view host information.

Need help? Go to <https://help.webex.com>

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: benaloh@microsoft.com
Subject: IEEE Panel
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:17:37 AM

Josh,

Great job on the panel. I'd love to touch base on some of the things we are going to be working on at Opearent in the near future, if you have some free time in the new year. Let me know if you'd be up to a call.

Thanks,

Chad

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [John Tobler](#)
Subject: Preparing for a new season... Your assistance requested
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 3:16:14 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

John –

This is the letter I plan to send tomorrow or Thursday, as well as a similar version that will be posted on my linkedIn. Any suggestions you have are appreciated. – CH

To my friends, colleagues, and to our esteemed Secretaries of State,

As we've reached the last month of 2022, I find myself once again at a crossroad – the transition between the now familiar and the approaching “next” – but before delving into that, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what is now approaching 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to bring together an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've gotten to solve numerous challenges not entirely unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho.

We've doubled revenue and the volume of corporate filings without increasing the office's overhead or workforce, by implementing technology where it made sense, and raising the wages of those willing to learn the new skills needed to run the new tools with greater efficiency than ever seen before. As a result, while the office used to run at a deficit to the state, we turn over an office whose annual revenue exceeds expenses by over \$3.5 Million.

With the assistance of Idaho's 44 county clerks and their incredible teams, we've seen Idaho through an era of tumultuous election scrutiny, distrust, and international pressures with barely the evidence of a blemish on her reputation, implementing first-of-kind cyber security practices, training, research, and systems monitoring. While perfection is always the goal, our audits show less than 0.06% error in elections, and even the smallest anomalies are run to ground by our county partners in those audits. We also went from well behind the curve in cyber preparedness, to a leading position as one of only 4 existing states to deploy a vulnerability disclosure policy, or VDP program, at the SOS level. We are similarly one of the few states to complete both physical and cybersecurity evaluations from CISA, and to execute a live remote relocation exercise of our Continuity Of Operations Plan (COOP), including all our divisions and our National Guard partners.

While not yet perfect, we've built an office that I believe the state can be proud of, with faster

responses, exemplary customer service, and transparency in our programs and communications. We now have the honor of passing a different office on to the next Secretary come January than the one my boss and mentor entered 8 years ago. It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began.

I will, however, be moving on, with a desire to serve not only Idaho, but the nation. One of the great accomplishments we achieved specifically during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an officially recognized BSU entity known as INSURE. The work we have underway at INSURE is important to not only Idaho, but to our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper registration list maintenance.

INSURE is not, however, fully funded at this time, so I will not be moving there on a full-time basis as was originally planned - yet. As a non-paid adjunct faculty member, I will be working on raising funding for the center. I am also creating a separate non-partisan nonprofit with multiple state partners across the country, the eventual beneficiaries of the various projects currently underway at INSURE (and those yet to be defined...) This non-profit will operationalize the results of the INSURE projects for its state-partner members, starting with the inter-state voter list comparison and election-day incident management tools. The nonprofit will be called "Opearent", a mash-up of the words OPEn and transpARENT, two principles upon which it is founded.

It is with these ventures in mind that I ask for your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/BSU research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 non-profit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity that currently exists in our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them in that regard. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below. I appreciate the introductions and inquiries.

Knowing that funding projects of this level isn't an overnight process, I'll be doing some initial freelance consulting work as well. If you or someone you know has a project short on someone to drive it, or a specific shorter-term need that you think I could assist you with, I'd love to discuss your vision and how I could bring my unique experiences and skillset to bear. As a bonus, I'm available relatively immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance on that path,



Chad Houck

Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State

(208) 585-7370 cell

chad@chadhouck.com

LinkedIn: [@chadhouck](#)



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



[Handwritten signature]

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Mark King](#)
Cc: [James Globe](#)
Subject: Re: [External] 2023 ISAC Annual Meeting Presentation Request
Date: Friday, January 20, 2023 9:07:08 AM

I'd be honored. I have a new contact address - chad@opearent.org if u could please move this conversation there. Also could we discuss an alternate topic perhaps? Or two?

From: Mark King <Mark.King@cisecurity.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 7:58:28 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: James Globe <James.Globe@cisecurity.org>
Subject: [External] 2023 ISAC Annual Meeting Presentation Request

Greetings Chad Houck,

You were kind enough to be a presenter at the 2022 ISAC Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. Your presentation was very well received and was considered one of the higher rated content by the CIS Agenda team for the event. The CIS Agenda Team would be pleased if you would consider being a presenter again for the 2023 MS-ISAC Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT (8/6/23 – 8/9/23).

The topic you presented was: *If You Build It (Right), They Will Comply: How Innovation & Incentivization Can Turn Federal Money Into Meaningful Local Impact*

For this year we would like you to present: On the same or similar topic. Grant Funding is a need in the SLTT community.

Of note, as we did last year, we will pay for travel and accommodation expenses for our speakers.

Myself and James Globe (CC'd on this email) are leading the Agenda Team for the 2023 agenda, so simply respond to this email if you are interested.

Thank you!

Mark King, PMP
Program Manager, Stakeholder Insight
Center for Internet Security, Inc
31 Tech Valley Drive, Suite 2
East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-516-3115

This message and attachments may contain confidential information. If it appears that this message was sent to you by mistake, any retention, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message and attachments is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the message and any attachments.

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From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Trevor Timmons](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Hey man, what does this mean for you?
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:46:23 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

Trevor – my longer answer... (you were just a day or two early!)

To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

With the last month of 2022 upon us, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what has now approached 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to create an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've solved numerous challenges not unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho. We built better processes for corporate filings, grew revenues without growing overhead, and innovated in cybersecurity, all while navigating what will certainly go down as a "difficult" election era. We built an office that I believe Idaho can be proud of, and now have the honor of passing that office on to its next Secretary.

It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began, but with a desire to serve more broadly, I am moving on to a new "next". One of our greatest achievements I believe during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an Idaho State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center. The work we have underway at INSURE will be important not only for Idaho, but for our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper voter registration list maintenance.

INSURE is not yet, however, fully funded, so as a non-paid adjunct faculty member, I will be working on finding funding for the center. I am also creating a separate non-partisan nonprofit with multiple state partners across the country, the eventual beneficiaries of the various projects currently underway at INSURE (and those yet to be defined.) This non-profit will operationalize the INSURE projects for its state-partner members, starting with the inter-state voter list comparison and election-day incident management tools. The nonprofit is named "Opearent", a mash-up of the words OPEn and transPARENT, two key principles upon which it is founded.

With these ventures in mind, I seek your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/Boise State research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 non-profit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity of our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below.

Finally, knowing that funding projects of this level isn't an overnight process, I'll also be available as a freelance consultant. If you or someone you know has a project short on a motivated self-starter to drive it, or a specific shorter-term need that you think I could assist with, I'd love to discuss your vision and how I could bring my unique experiences and skillset to bear. As a bonus, I'm available effective immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck
Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...
(208) 585-7370 cell
chad@chadhouck.com
LinkedIn: [@chadhouck](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chadhouck)



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Trevor Timmons <Trevor.Timmons@coloradosos.gov>

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 9:20 AM

To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Subject: [External] Hey man, what does this mean for you?

<https://idahocapitalsun.com/briefs/incoming-idaho-secretary-of-state-announces-four-top-hires-for-new-office/>

- Trevor



Trevor Timmons

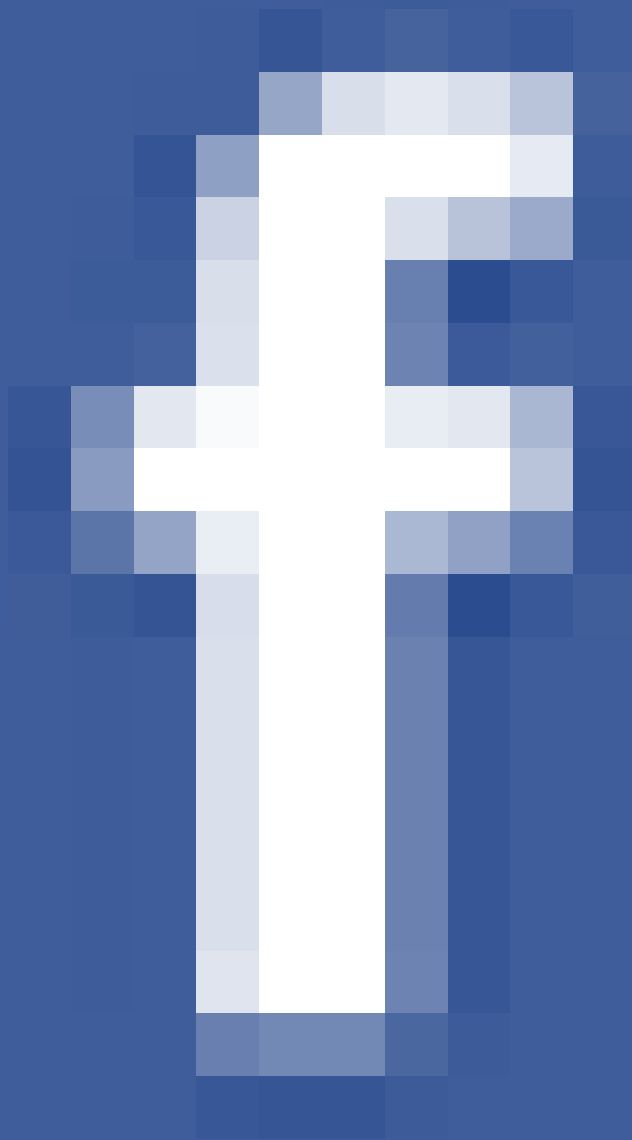
Chief Information Officer | Department of State
303-860-6946 (direct)
303-917-5880 (mobile)
303-894-2200 (office)
trevor.timmons@coloradosos.gov
1700 Broadway, Suite 550
Denver, CO 80290
Visit us at ColoradoSOS.gov

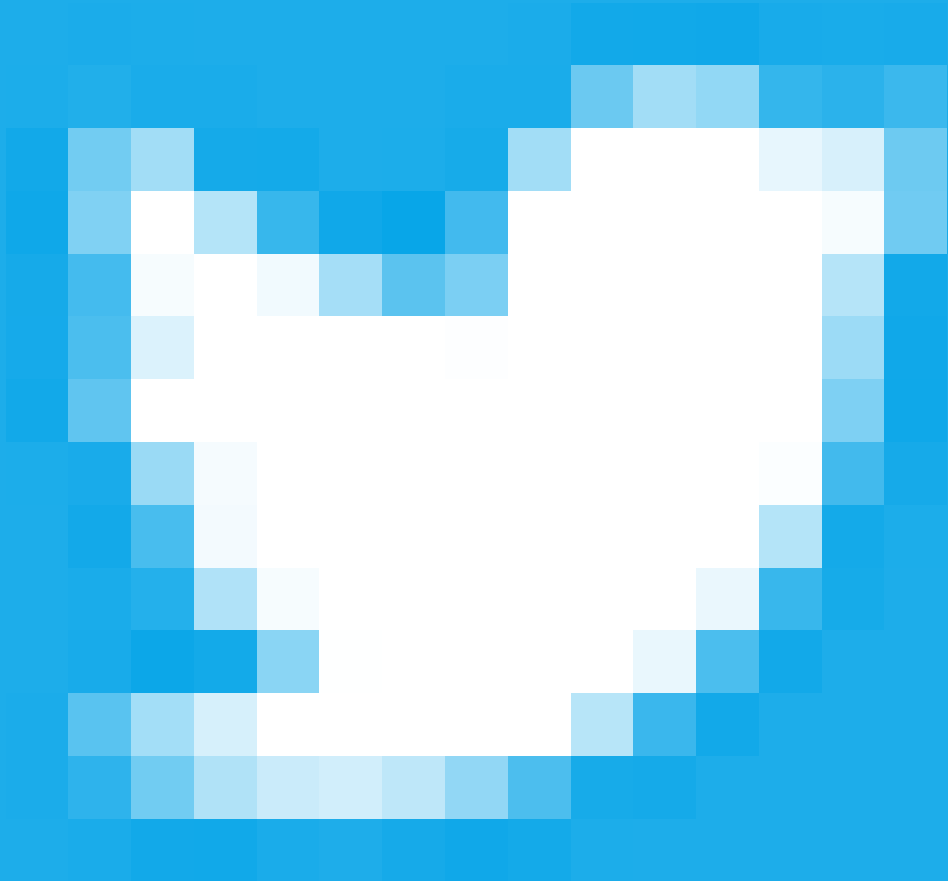


Colorado Secretary of State

Handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. J. [unclear]".







From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Trevor Timmons](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Hey man, what does this mean for you?
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2023 1:14:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Trevor –

Give me a call next week. New email is chad@opearent.org, and cell is still 208-585-7370. Want to talk with you about possibly joining an advisory board or getting CO SOS in on the actual board. Will you be at NASS DC?

Chad

From: Trevor Timmons <Trevor.Timmons@coloradosos.gov>
Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 9:20 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: [External] Hey man, what does this mean for you?

<https://idahocapitalsun.com/briefs/incoming-idaho-secretary-of-state-announces-four-top-hires-for-new-office/>

- Trevor



Trevor Timmons

Chief Information Officer | Department of State
303-860-6946 (direct)
303-917-5880 (mobile)
303-894-2200 (office)
trevor.timmons@coloradosos.gov
1700 Broadway, Suite 550
Denver, CO 80290
Visit us at ColoradoSOS.gov



Colorado Secretary of State

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Massimiliano Albanese](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Invitation to panel on election security
Date: Friday, November 18, 2022 9:11:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Chad Houck 175 word bio.docx](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Here you are.
CH



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Massimiliano Albanese <malbanes@gmu.edu>
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 6:25 PM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Invitation to panel on election security

Good evening,

Could you please send me a brief bio at your earliest convenience? Also, if we need to move the panel to the afternoon of December 14, would that work for you?

Thanks,
Max

Massimiliano Albanese, PhD

Associate Professor & Associate Chair for Research, Dept. of Information Sciences and Technology
Associate Director, Center for Secure Information Systems
Research Hall, Suite 417
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030, USA
Phone: (703) 993-1629
Email: malbanes@gmu.edu
Web: <http://csis.gmu.edu/albanese/>
LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/massimilianoalbanese>

From: Massimiliano Albanese <malbanes@gmu.edu>
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 10:34 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Invitation to panel on election security

Thanks for the quick reply!

The panel will include guests from industry, academia, and government to bring different perspectives to the table and discuss election security broadly. The plan is for each panelist to give opening remarks (no more than 10 minutes each) with their own perspective on election security, followed by a Q/A session. The common denominator, given the nature of the conference, is how technology can help address election security.

Thanks,
Max

Massimiliano Albanese, PhD

Associate Professor & Associate Chair for Research, Dept. of Information Sciences and Technology
Associate Director, Center for Secure Information Systems
Research Hall, Suite 417
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030, USA
Phone: (703) 993-1629
Email: malbanes@gmu.edu
Web: <http://csis.gmu.edu/albanese/>
LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/massimilianoalbanese>

From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 4:15 PM
To: Massimiliano Albanese <malbanes@gmu.edu>
Subject: Re: [External] Invitation to panel on election security

I'd be honored. Send me additional details please.

CH



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
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Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Massimiliano Albanese <malbanes@gmu.edu>
Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 12:54 PM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: [External] Invitation to panel on election security

Dear Mr. Houck,

Thanks again for your participation in the 1st Workshop on Election Infrastructure Security.

I have been asked to organize a panel on Election Security at the 4th IEEE International Conference on Trust, Privacy and Security in Intelligent Systems, and Applications, which will be held virtually from Dec 14-16, 2022 (<http://www.sis.pitt.edu/lersais/conference/tps/2022/>).

It is my pleasure to invite you to serve as one of the panelists. The panel will be held in the afternoon of December 15, 2022, at 1pm EST (the exact time can be adjusted based on the availability of panelists).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
Max

Massimiliano Albanese, PhD

Associate Professor & Associate Chair for Research, Dept. of Information Sciences and Technology
Associate Director, Center for Secure Information Systems

Research Hall, Suite 417

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA 22030, USA

Phone: (703) 993-1629

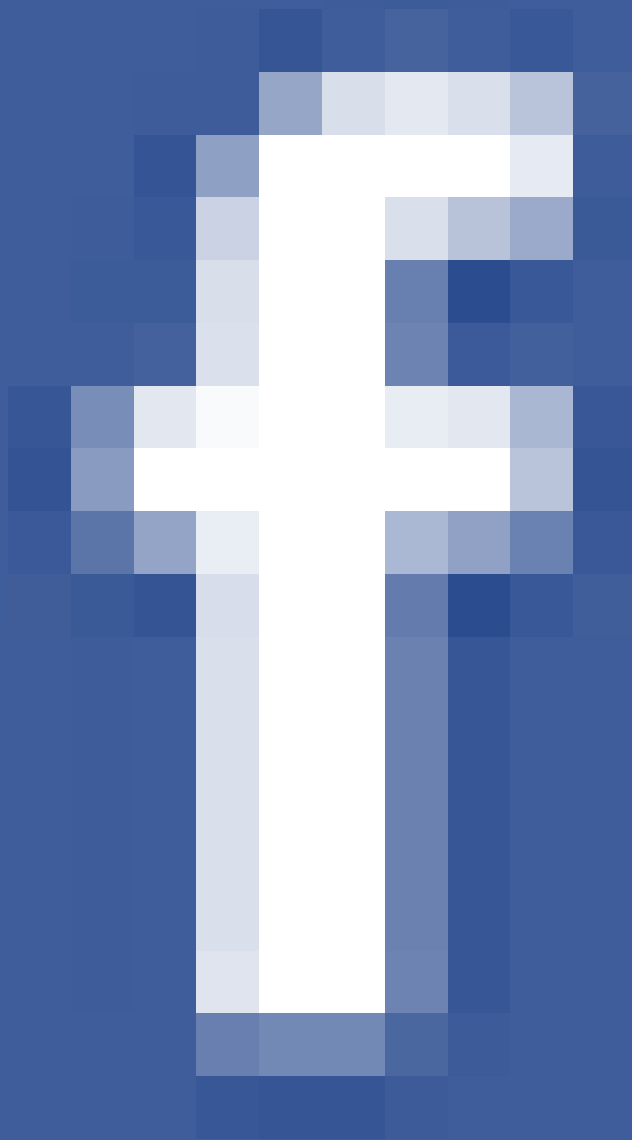
Email: malbanes@gmu.edu

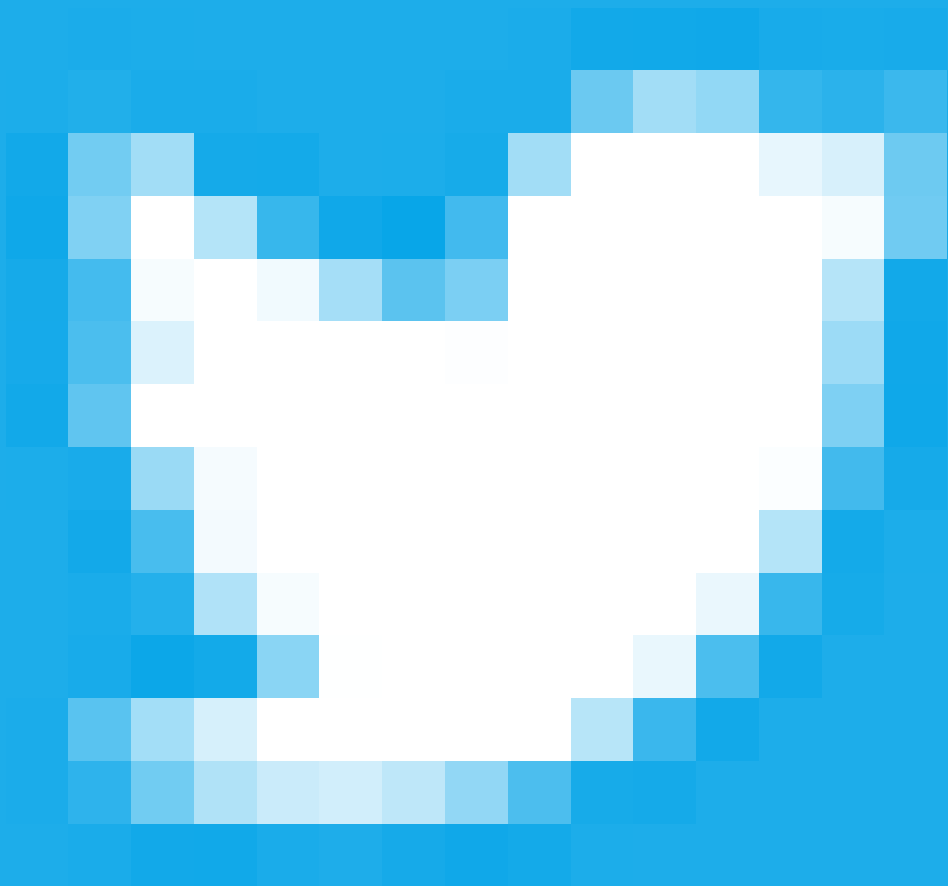
Web: <http://csis.gmu.edu/albanese/>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/massimilianoalbanese>

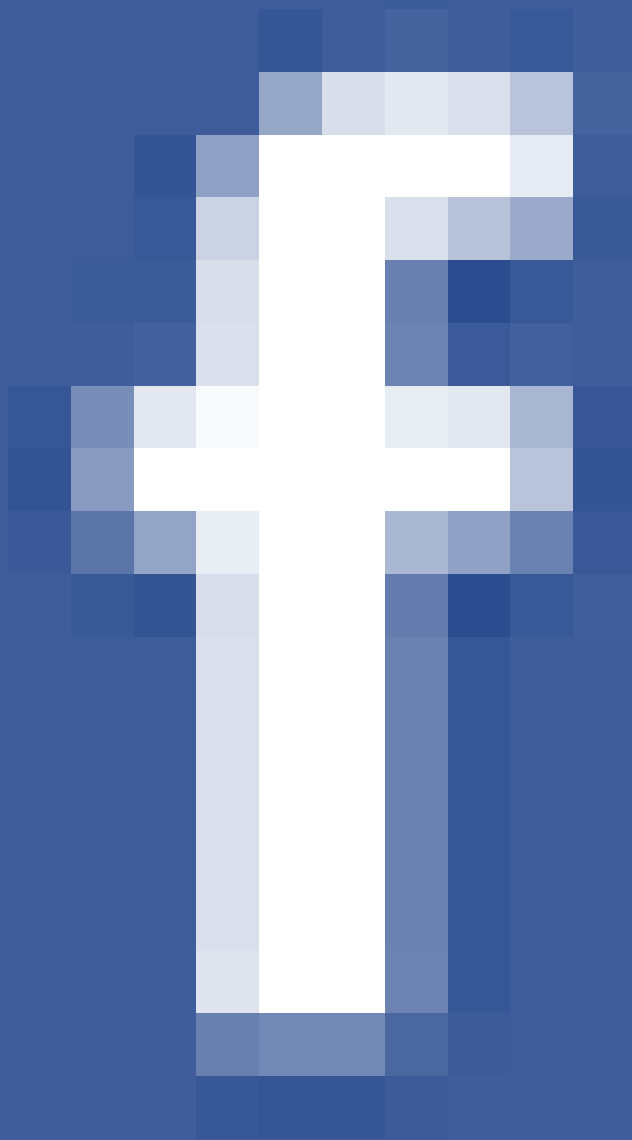
Chad Houck is the founder of Opearent, a nonprofit created to provide states with the tools to better administer elections. Finishing his final month as Idaho's Chief Deputy Secretary of State and with a former consulting focus on operational and process improvements in IT and commerce, Chad was responsible for all aspects (Fiscal, Elections, IT, and Corporate divisions) of the Secretary of State office, including both the state appropriated budget and IDSOS Federal Grants programs. Mr. Houck served on the 2017 and 2022 Idaho Governor's Cybersecurity Task Forces and has assisted in execution of both virtual and in-person elections cybersecurity exercises in partnership with DHS, BSU, Harvard, and the state of Idaho. As a founder and Adjunct Faculty of the INSURE Elections Cybersecurity Center at Boise State University, Mr. Houck has provided testimony and presented at various security conferences and legislative hearings around the nation for CISA, the National Association of Secretary of State, Idaho Legislature, the Great State of Louisiana, and the Naval Postgraduate School, where Houck received his Master's in Homeland Security Studies in 2021.

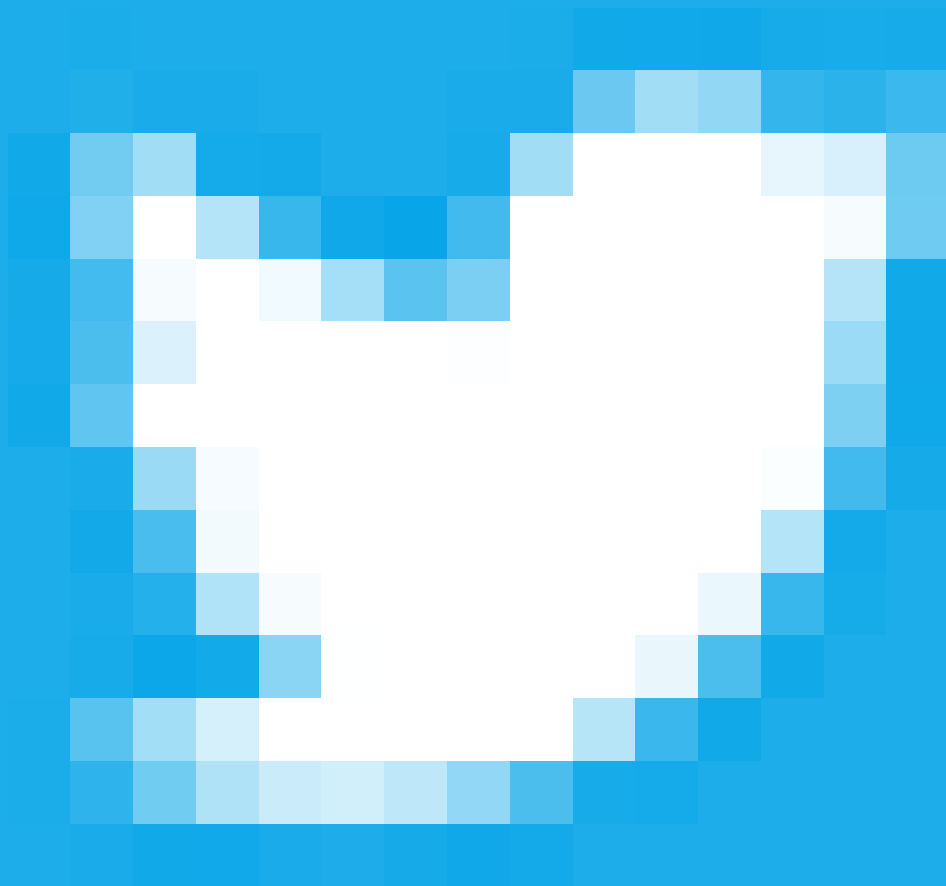












From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Amit Jain](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Federal Grant - UOCAVA
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:34:47 AM

See you then.
CH

From: Amit Jain <ajain@boisestate.edu>
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 at 10:16 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: chadhouck@boisestate.edu <chadhouck@boisestate.edu>
Subject: [External] Re: Federal Grant - UOCAVA

Interesting. Let's talk about it today if you are available. I have a couple of meetings but then I am free at 1:15 or so onward.

Sincerely,
--Amit

Amit Jain
Chair and Professor, Department of Computer Science
College of Engineering, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho 83725

Office: CCP 355, 777 W. Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone: 208-426-3821 *Mail Stop:* 2055 *Dept. office:* 208-426-5766

On Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 12:54 PM Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov> wrote:

Amit,

This grant is also now open, and we would need a state partner... ie one of the Oparent member states, doesn't even necessarily have to be Idaho...

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=345475>

Ceiling of 20 grants funded, \$20M total, so about \$1M each it looks like. I bet they fund every app they get cuz they won't get 20 completed in 45 days.

CH

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Emma Leyland](#)
Cc: [Dylan Fabris](#); [Monika Glowacki](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck
Date: Sunday, October 23, 2022 8:03:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

175 words:

Chad Houck is the founder of Opearent, a nonprofit created to provide states with the tools to better administer elections. As the former Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State and with a former consulting focus on operational and process improvements in IT and commerce, Chad was responsible for all aspects (Fiscal, Elections, IT, and Corporate divisions) of the Secretary of State office, including both the state appropriated budget and IDSOS Federal Grants programs. Mr. Houck served on the 2017 and 2022 Idaho Governor’s Cybersecurity Task Forces and has assisted in execution of both virtual and in-person elections cybersecurity exercises in partnership with DHS, BSU, Harvard, and the state of Idaho. As a founder and Adjunct Faculty of the INSURE Elections Cybersecurity Center at Boise State University, Mr. Houck has provided testimony and presented at various security conferences and legislative hearings around the nation for CISA, the National Association of Secretary of State, Idaho Legislature, the Great State of Louisiana, and the Naval Postgraduate School, where Houck received his Master’s in Homeland Security Studies in 2021.

Email will be chad@chadhouck.com. I’ve worded the bio a month or so into the future, as I’m still at IDSOS, but won’t be come the new year...

And no, I will not be able to attend DC in December.

CH



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>
Date: Friday, October 21, 2022 at 9:15 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Apologies for the string of emails but wanted to follow up on:

- **Short bio (max 175 words) and headshot** to add to our bios document (Feel free to include your email and/or social media links to share with other participants)
- Whether you’ll be able to **attend the in-person Dialogue meeting in D.C. on December 6 and 7** (more details in Monika’s email below)

Thanks so much in advance and looking forward to your participation next Wednesday!

Best,

Emma



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

emma@convergencepolicy.org

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Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 16:01

To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

A quick follow up:

The calendar invites for Meeting 2 in October and Meeting 3 in November are in your inbox

Sharing again the [stakeholder bios](#) and [report-out from Meeting 1](#) for you to review ahead of Meeting 2

Please send us a short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to add to our bios document. Feel free to include your email and/or social media links to share with other participants

Details on Meeting 4 in-person in Washington, DC in December below – please let us know as soon as possible if you think you would be able to make it!

We are thrilled for your continued engagement in this important work!

Warm regards,

Monika

In-person Dialogue meeting in December in Washington, DC

We are thrilled by the near unanimous appetite for an in-person meeting that stakeholders expressed in the feedback survey for Meeting 1. Thus, we are planning a **one-and-a-half day meeting to be held in-person in Washington, DC on Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7**. It will roughly consist of:

Tuesday, December 6: gather in the afternoon for a Dialogue session, followed by a group dinner

Wednesday, December 7: gather mid-morning until early afternoon for a Dialogue session, with a break for a group lunch

As we mentioned during Meeting 1, Convergence's history of success with running multistakeholder dialogues demonstrates the power of in-person meeting time – it provides a sense of connection and empathy that is difficult to replicate via video, and allows for fuller and more complex engagement and collaboration, especially around tough topics such as ours.

We ask that everyone be vaccinated against COVID-19 and test the morning of the meeting for the safety of our Dialogue stakeholders and Convergence staff in attendance. We will provide tests at the door for anyone who needs them.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you can participate. If not, please let us know why.

From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 2:02 PM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>, Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Thanks so much for accepting our invitation – we are very much looking forward to having you participate as a key stakeholder in our Dialogue on *Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities!*

Monika will send you a calendar invite for the next Dialogue meeting which will be on Wednesday, Oct 26 from 10am-12pm PT/11am-1pm MT. We will share an agenda and pre-read closer to the date. We will then follow-up with placeholder invites for Dialogue meetings for the remainder of 2022 along with more information about our in-person meeting in Washington, D.C. in December.

Please send us a short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to include in the participant information document. Feel free to include your email and/or social media links in your bio to share with other participants.

We will keep you updated and thank you again for your commitment to staying involved with this project in the coming year. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Best,
Emma

P.S. Great catch on Diane’s website! We’ll be sure to pass that along to her. Very glad to hear you were interested enough in the group bios to have caught that!



Emma Leyland
Associate, Operations and Projects
[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)
emma@convergencepolicy.org
[Sign up for our newsletter](#)
Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 8:08 AM
To: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Monika,

Thank you for the invite. I’ll see if I can make the next discussion if you’ll please send me a calendar invite. Also, great group you’ve put together. I looked at a few of the people, and happened to notice this on Diane Benscoter’s Antidote About Us page, if you’d pass it along. Appears that the last two paragraphs are repeated unintentionally. (on the plus side, the story was engaging enough that I read to the bottom!) <https://antidote.ngo/our-story/>

Graphical user interface, application, website Description automatically generated



CHAD HOUCK

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Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 11:27 PM

To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Following up once more to see if you would be interested in joining our **Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities** as a key stakeholder. We really appreciated your time and insights during the interview and would love to continue your engagement in this important work.

The community has already convened once on September 14 and our **next meeting is taking place on October 26 from 10am-12pm PT/11am-1pm MT**. Kindly find attached a confidential list of participants in the Dialogue, in case helpful in making up your mind.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the opportunity.

Warm regards,

Monika

Monika Glowacki (she/her)

Director

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

monika@convergencepolicy.org | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 at 11:39 AM

To: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Following up on our invite below to participate as a key stakeholder in our Dialogue on *Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities*.

The multistakeholder Dialogue group convenes once every 1-2 months for ~2 hours, beginning with our **first meeting this Wednesday, September 14th from 1-3pm ET** and lasting 12-15 months.

We are happy to answer any further questions you may have about this opportunity. Please let us know whether you can attend by replying to this email as soon as possible.

Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to your response!

Best,

Emma



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

emma@convergencepolicy.org

[Sign up for our newsletter](#)

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 16:54

To: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

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Meeting details are as follows:

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All meetings will be guided by a professional facilitator and follow [Chatham House Rule](#) to build trust and allow for candor and creativity.

There will be elective opportunities to engage with other stakeholders outside of formal Dialogue meetings.

Our first Dialogue meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 14 from 1pm-3pm ET. If you are interested in joining, please let us know as soon as possible by replying to this email.

We are (confidentially) providing a list of confirmed participants so far below, in case helpful in making up your mind. Of particular interest to you might be the platforms joining (Meta, TikTok) as well as another Secretary of State office (Georgia). Note that because we have considered diversity in perspectives and expertise in selecting participants, this is an "invitation only" dialogue. If you are unable to participate, we would be happy to explore others in your network who could represent your interests but would rather discuss this with you before the invitation is extended elsewhere.

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Do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or would like to discuss the Dialogue in more detail. We look forward to your participation in the process and cannot wait to get started!

Warm regards,

Monika Glowacki (she/her)

Director

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)
monika@convergencepolicy.org | [LinkedIn](#)

Confirmed participants:

Industry

1. Roy Austin | Meta
2. Chris Roberts | ByteDance/TikTok
3. Katie Harbath | Anchor Change

Pending internal approvals:

4. Sanjay Kairam | Reddit
5. Perri Grace Thompson | Twitter
6. Malika Mehrotra | Google

Academia

7. Alex Abdo | Columbia University, Knight First Amendment Institute
8. Dan Ariely | Duke University
9. Kathleen Carley | Carnegie Mellon University
10. Renée DiResta | Stanford University
11. Heidi Legg | Harvard University
12. Barbara Fister | Gustavus Adolphus University, Project Information Literacy
13. Amanda Quraishi (Q) | University of Southern California

Policy

14. Ari Cohn | TechFreedom
15. Robert Sinners | Georgia Secretary of State

Health

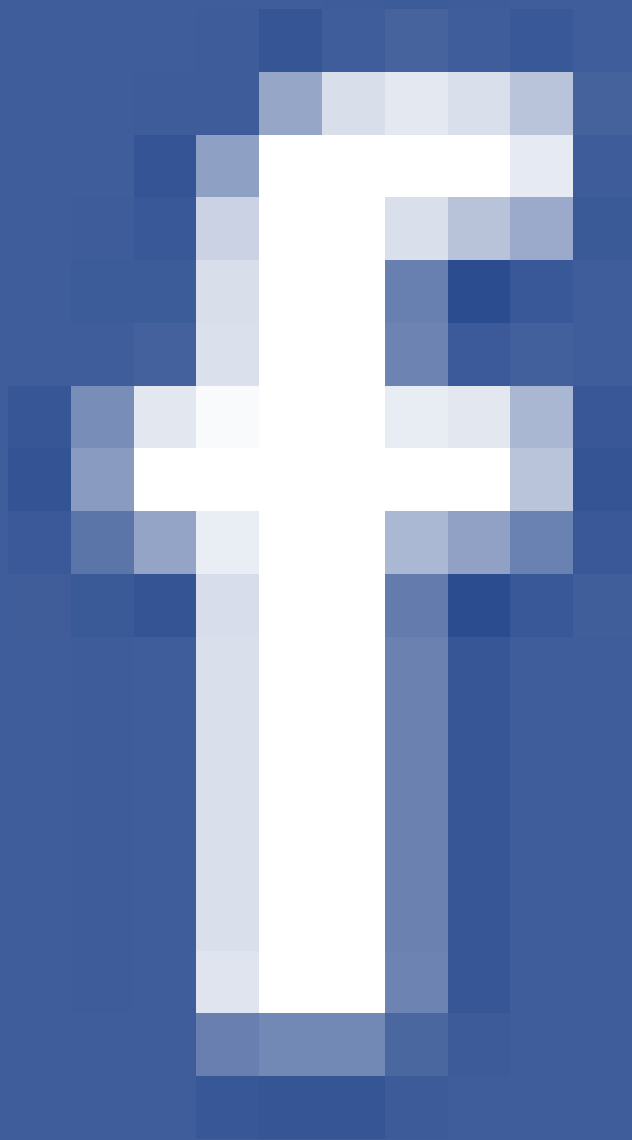
16. Richard Baron | American Board of Internal Medicine
17. Céline Gounder | Kaiser Family Foundation

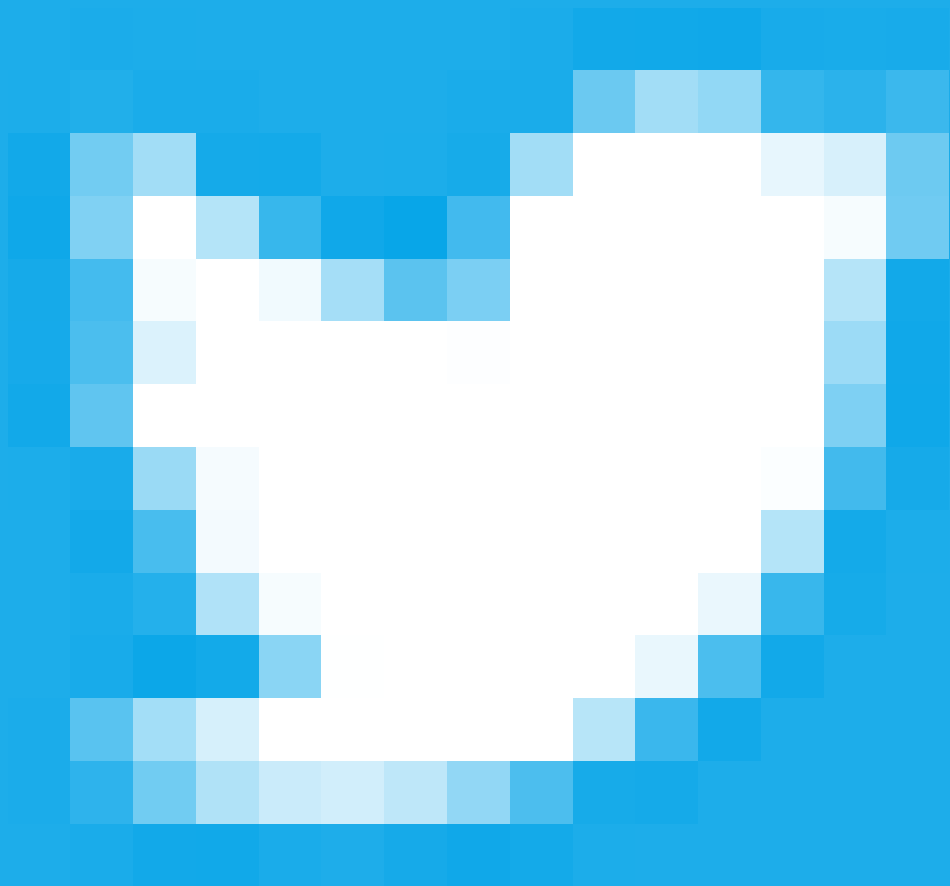
Community-based/bridge-building/personally impacted

18. Diane Benscoter | Antidote
 19. Michelle Ferrier | TrollBusters
 20. Anthony Magnabosco | Street Epistemology International
 21. Manu Meel | BridgeUSA
 22. Ana Sofia Palaez | The Miami Freedom Project
 23. Jason Van Driesche | Front Porch Forum
- Pending internal approvals:
24. Steve Waldman | Report for America









From: [Emma Leyland](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Cc: [Dylan Fabris](#); [Monika Glowacki](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:56:51 AM

Chad,

Thank you so much for sending this over and for your response about the in-person meeting in December. I've updated the participant bio doc with your information. We're very curious about your new organization, Opearent – congratulations on this exciting next step!

Looking forward to seeing you at our Dialogue meeting in a few hours.

Best,
Emma



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

emma@convergencepolicy.org

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From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Date: Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 22:03

To: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

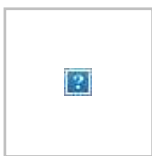
175 words:

Chad Houck is the founder of Opearent, a nonprofit created to provide states with the tools to better administer elections. As the former Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State and with a former consulting focus on operational and process improvements in IT and commerce, Chad was responsible for all aspects (Fiscal, Elections, IT, and Corporate divisions) of the Secretary of State office, including both the state appropriated budget and IDSOS Federal Grants programs. Mr. Houck served on the 2017 and 2022 Idaho Governor's Cybersecurity Task Forces and has assisted in execution of both virtual and in-person elections cybersecurity exercises in partnership with DHS, BSU, Harvard, and the state of Idaho. As a founder and Adjunct Faculty of the INSURE Elections Cybersecurity Center at Boise State University, Mr. Houck has provided testimony and presented at various security conferences and legislative hearings around the nation for CISA, the National Association of Secretary of State, Idaho Legislature, the Great State of Louisiana, and the Naval Postgraduate School, where Houck received his Master's in Homeland Security Studies in 2021.

Email will be chad@chadhouck.com. I've worded the bio a month or so into the future, as I'm still at IDSOS, but won't be come the new year...

And no, I will not be able to attend DC in December.

CH



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

Office: (208) 332-2862
Mobile: (208) 585-7370
Email: chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov

Idaho Secretary of State

700 West Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83709



From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>
Date: Friday, October 21, 2022 at 9:15 AM
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Apologies for the string of emails but wanted to follow up on:

Short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to add to our bios document (Feel free to include your email and/or social media links to share with other participants)

Whether you'll be able to **attend the in-person Dialogue meeting in D.C. on December 6 and 7** (more details in Monika's email below)

Thanks so much in advance and looking forward to your participation next Wednesday!

Best,
Emma



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

emma@convergencepolicy.org

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From: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 16:01
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Cc: Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>, Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

A quick follow up:

The calendar invites for Meeting 2 in October and Meeting 3 in November are in your inbox

Sharing again the [stakeholder bios](#) and [report-out from Meeting 1](#) for you to review ahead of Meeting 2

Please send us a short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to add to our bios document. Feel free to include your email and/or social media links to share with other participants

Details on Meeting 4 in-person in Washington, DC in December below – please let us know as soon as possible if you think you would be able to make it!

We are thrilled for your continued engagement in this important work!

Warm regards,
Monika

In-person Dialogue meeting in December in Washington, DC

We are thrilled by the near unanimous appetite for an in-person meeting that stakeholders expressed in the feedback survey for Meeting 1. Thus, we are planning a **one-and-a-half day meeting to be held in-person in Washington, DC on Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7**. It will roughly consist of:

Tuesday, December 6: gather in the afternoon for a Dialogue session, followed by a group dinner

Wednesday, December 7: gather mid-morning until early afternoon for a Dialogue session, with a break for a group lunch

As we mentioned during Meeting 1, Convergence's history of success with running multistakeholder dialogues demonstrates the power of in-person meeting time – it provides a sense of connection and empathy that is difficult to replicate via video, and allows for fuller and more complex engagement and collaboration, especially around tough topics such as ours.

We ask that everyone be vaccinated against COVID-19 and test the morning of the meeting for the safety of our Dialogue stakeholders and Convergence staff in attendance. We will provide tests at the door for anyone who needs them.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you can participate. If not, please let us know why.

From: Emma Leyland <Emma@convergencepolicy.org>

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 2:02 PM

To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Cc: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>, Dylan Fabris <dylan@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Hi Chad,

Thanks so much for accepting our invitation – we are very much looking forward to having you participate as a key stakeholder in our Dialogue on *Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities!*

Monika will send you a calendar invite for the next Dialogue meeting which will be on Wednesday, Oct 26 from 10am-12pm PT/11am-1pm MT. We will share an agenda and pre-read closer to the date. We will then follow-up with placeholder invites for Dialogue meetings for the remainder of 2022 along with more information about our in-person meeting in Washington, D.C. in December.

Please send us a short bio (max 175 words) and headshot to include in the participant information document. Feel free to include your email and/or social media links in your bio to share with other participants.

We will keep you updated and thank you again for your commitment to staying involved with this project in the coming year. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Best,
Emma

P.S. Great catch on Diane's website! We'll be sure to pass that along to her. Very glad to hear you were interested enough

in the group bios to have caught that!



Emma Leyland

Associate, Operations and Projects

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

emma@convergencepolicy.org

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From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 8:08 AM

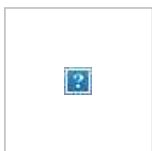
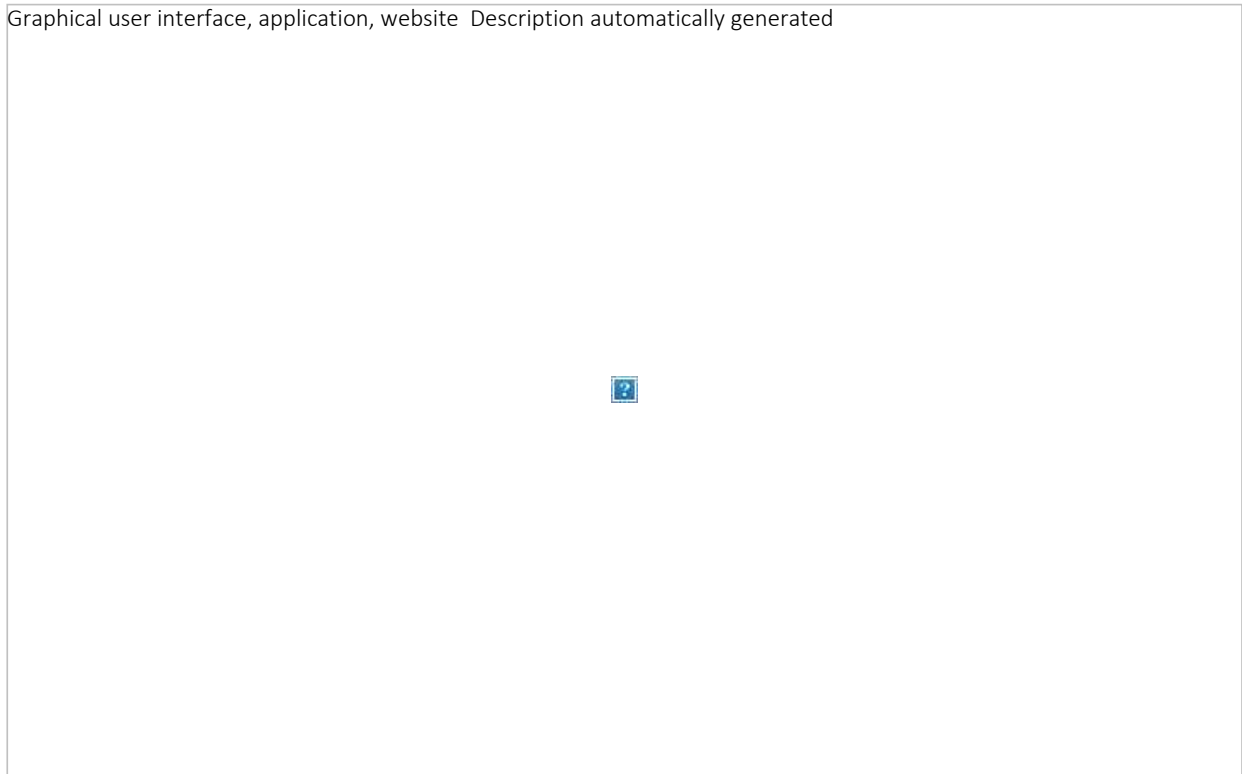
To: Monika Glowacki <Monika@convergencepolicy.org>

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Invitation to Participate in Convergence Dialogue on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities – Chad Houck

Monika,

Thank you for the invite. I'll see if I can make the next discussion if you'll please send me a calendar invite. Also, great group you've put together. I looked at a few of the people, and happened to notice this on Diane Bencoter's Antidote About Us page, if you'd pass it along. Appears that the last two paragraphs are repeated unintentionally. (on the plus side, the story was engaging enough that I read to the bottom!) <https://antidote.ngo/our-story/>

Graphical user interface, application, website Description automatically generated



CHAD HOUCK

Chief Deputy Secretary of State

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Monika Glowacki (she/her)

Director

[Convergence Center for Policy Resolution](#)

monika@convergencepolicy.org | [LinkedIn](#)

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Pending internal approvals:

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6. Malika Mehrotra | Google

Academia

7. Alex Abdo | Columbia University, Knight First Amendment Institute
8. Dan Arieli | Duke University
9. Kathleen Carley | Carnegie Mellon University
10. Renée DiResta | Stanford University
11. Heidi Legg | Harvard University
12. Barbara Fister | Gustavus Adolphus University, Project Information Literacy
13. Amanda Quraishi (Q) | University of Southern California

Policy

14. Ari Cohn | TechFreedom
15. Robert Sinners | Georgia Secretary of State

Health

16. Richard Baron | American Board of Internal Medicine
17. Céline Gounder | Kaiser Family Foundation

Community-based/bridge-building/personally impacted

18. Diane Benscoter | Antidote
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20. Anthony Magnabosco | Street Epistemology International
21. Manu Meel | BridgeUSA
22. Ana Sofia Palaez | The Miami Freedom Project
23. Jason Van Driesche | Front Porch Forum

Pending internal approvals:

24. Steve Waldman | Report for America



From: [Josh Benaloh](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Subject: RE: IEEE Panel
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:37:51 AM

Thanks, Chad. I think that we had a very good panel in which people from a variety of backgrounds synced very well. Thanks to you for your part in making this happen.

I'm certainly happy to have a call – preferably after Jan. 1. My calendar is so far pretty flexible at that time, so feel free to suggest a time or two (or I can provide some available times if you prefer).

Josh

From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:18
To: Josh Benaloh <benaloh@microsoft.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] IEEE Panel

Josh,

Great job on the panel. I'd love to touch base on some of the things we are going to be working on at Oparent in the near future, if you have some free time in the new year. Let me know if you'd be up to a call.

Thanks,

Chad

From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2022 1:51 PM EST
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

With the last month of 2022 upon us, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what has now approached 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to create an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've solved numerous challenges not unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho. We built better processes for corporate filings, grew revenues without growing overhead, and innovated in cybersecurity, all while navigating what will certainly go down as a "difficult" election era. We built an office that I believe Idaho can be proud of, and now have the honor of passing that office on to its next Secretary.

It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began, but with a desire to serve more broadly, I am moving on to a new "next". One of our greatest achievements I believe during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an Idaho State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center. The work we have underway at INSURE will be important not only for Idaho, but for our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper voter registration list maintenance.

INSURE is not yet, however, fully funded, so as a non-paid adjunct faculty member, I will be working on finding funding for the center. I am also creating a separate non-partisan nonprofit with multiple state partners across the country, the eventual beneficiaries of the various projects currently underway at INSURE (and those yet to be defined.) This non-profit will operationalize the INSURE projects for its state-partner members, starting with the inter-state voter list comparison and election-day incident management tools. The nonprofit is named "Opearent", a mash-up of the words OPEn and transPARENT, two key principles upon which it is founded.

With these ventures in mind, I seek your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/Boise State research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 non-profit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity of our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below.

Finally, knowing that funding projects of this level isn't an overnight process, I'll also be available as a freelance consultant. If you or someone you know has a project short on a motivated self-starter to drive it, or a specific shorter-term need that you think I could assist with, I'd love to discuss your vision and how I could bring my unique experiences and skillset to bear. As a bonus, I'm available effective immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck
Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...
(208) 585-7370 cell
chad@chadhouck.com
LinkedIn: [@chadhouck](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chadhouck)

Small, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or metadata section.

From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2022 1:51 PM EST
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck

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To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

With the last month of 2022 upon us, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what has now approached 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to create an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've solved numerous challenges not unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho. We built better processes for corporate filings, grew revenues without growing overhead, and innovated in cybersecurity, all while navigating what will certainly go down as a "difficult" election era. We built an office that I believe Idaho can be proud of, and now have the honor of passing that office on to its next Secretary.

It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began, but with a desire to serve more broadly, I am moving on to a new "next". One of our greatest achievements I believe during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an Idaho State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center. The work we have underway at INSURE will be important not only for Idaho, but for our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper voter registration list maintenance.

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With these ventures in mind, I seek your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/Boise State research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 non-profit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity of our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below.

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Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...
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chad@chadhuck.com
LinkedIn: [@chadhuck](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chadhuck)

From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2022 1:51 PM EST
To: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck

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From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Bcc: [David.Brewer@sos.alabama.gov](#); [josh.applebee@alaska.gov](#); [abones@azsos.gov](#); [kenneth.burleson@sos.arkansas.gov](#); [lmartin@sos.ca.gov](#); [chris.beall@colorado.sos.gov](#); [scott.bates@ct.gov](#); [kristopher.knight@delaware.gov](#); [alma.kandelaria@dc.gov](#); [jennifer.kennedy@dos.myflorida.com](#); [jfuchs@sos.ga.gov](#); [hhaupt@ilsos.net](#); [Bclifton@sos.in.gov](#); [michael.ross@sos.iowa.gov](#); [catherine.gunsalus@ks.gov](#); [jscutchfield@ky.gov](#); [joe.salter@sos.la.gov](#); [Dorothy.Canelli@maine.gov](#); [luis.borunda@maryland.gov](#); [nancy.driscoll@sec.state.ma.us](#); [Smileym1@michigan.gov](#); [jake.spano@state.mn.us](#); [Carla.Thornhill@sos.ms.gov](#); [trish.vincent@sos.mo.gov](#); [austin.james@mt.gov](#); [colleen.byelick@nebraska.gov](#); [scotta@sos.nv.gov](#); [jay.boone@sos.nj.gov](#); [Sharon.Pino@state.nm.us](#); [rmaddox@sosnc.gov](#); [jsilrum@nd.gov](#); [kburns@ohiosos.gov](#); [samantha.davidson@sos.ok.gov](#); [cheryl.l.myers@oregon.gov](#); [sarstevens@pa.gov](#); [flizasuaain@estado.pr.gov](#); [jmartiesian@sos.ri.gov](#); [mdunlap@sos.sc.gov](#); [Jason.Lutz@state.sd.us](#); [jesparza@sos.texas.gov](#); [jenrobison@utah.gov](#); [chris.winters@vermont.gov](#); [mark.neary@sos.wa.gov](#); [cflannery@wvsos.com](#); [karen.wheeler@wyo.gov](#)
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:51:22 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

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[Handwritten signature]

From: [Chad Houck](#)
To: [Chad Houck](#)
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck
Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 11:51:26 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

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[Handwritten signature]