

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RELEASE: Auditor Foster participates in election security-focused preparedness exercise

Osage, IA –Mitchell County Auditor Foster and local election security partners will participate in early preparedness exercises to ensure elections continue to be safe and secure. The exercises, which are conducted by the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), allow election officials and partners to validate incident response plans and capabilities, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and support emergency response preparedness.

“We want to ensure we have a good plan if something were to happen,” said Foster. “We are lucky to have the Secretary of State leading the way for us.”

County auditors are asked to bring their entire incident response plan team to participate, which typically includes critical team members in IT, local law enforcement, emergency management, and election staff from the county auditor’s office.

Through discussion-based tabletop exercises, the Mitchell County team will discuss their prospective roles during an emergency in response to hypothetical, simulated election related scenarios, including inclement weather, cyber or physical security, disinformation, equipment malfunction, and more.

“Every Iowan should feel confident that we are conducting the safest, cleanest, and most secure elections possible,” said Secretary of State Paul Pate. “We prepare for the worst, but hope for the best, and this exercise will help every election official in Iowa be prepared.”

Tabletop exercises conducted by the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office and CISA occur annually and reach hundreds of election officials and local security partners each year.