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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

Activating your EOC on Election Day

The previous and current election cycles have put additional stresses on the public safety and municipal election systems. Emergency Operations Center's are routinely open for large events and storms but in 2021 the Town of Sandwich (MA) decided to activate their EOC for state and town primaries and elections. This practice enabled EOC personnel to become more comfortable in their roles and provided a state of readiness in case any election related incidents occurred including ballot security and access and as well voting logistics issues. Elections are on a schedule cycle and allows for pre-planning and staffing of the EOC as well as inclusion of Town Clerks and the Secretary of State and encouraged Regional State EOC's to be in an increased state of readiness. The activation allowed for true integration of Public Safety, Election Staff as well as newly added Diversity, Belonging, Equity and Inclusion practices.

Presentation Theme: The poster addresses the turning tide in Emergency Management as voting and elections have become significant events that require even more coordination amongst election and public safety entities. Election security, access for all to have the ability to vote as well as logistics and communications at voting precincts have become critical elements to a

successful election and proper preparation reflects well on your jurisdiction's planning process.

Having the EOC activated allows for centralized information sharing and coordination in the event an incident occurs within a voting precinct or potential severe weather that would impact voting. The EOC acts as a support backbone for municipal election officials as well as candidates to ensure a safe and fair election.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this

research: Sandwich (MA) Town Clerk

Massachusetts Secretary of State

Sandwich Office of Emergency Management

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency