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Details about editing/fact-checking sample

More U.S. locations experimenting with alternative voting systems

This blog post was one of the most complicated I have worked on and involved checking voting-system data for hundreds of cities. I was the lead fact-checker on this (supervising two new hires) and made such substantial edits and additions that the author advocated to put our bylines on the post as well. Some notable changes I made during the fact-checking process:

- Part of the reason our team wanted to research and write the post was because New York City was using ranked-choice voting in a primary for the first time, but that was not actually mentioned in the drafted post, so I added a line about that.
- Suggested changing the headline from "More U.S. **cities, states** experimenting…" to "More U.S. **locations**…" because some of the places in question were county governments. Also, I simplified some of the writer's language by changing several instances of "localities" to "locations."
- The writer referred to 2013 and 2017 New York primary data but did not provide a link or other source for the 2017 data, so I cut that reference and reworded it accordingly. The 2017 data was not worth tracking down in the time we had because it was not as important as a data comparison point (the primary was not competitive that year).
- In checking the data the writer used, I caught several instances of double-counting locations, or locations that should have counted twice (city and county) but weren't, so this changed the overall number of locations used. There was also an error in the original outside data; it seemed to refer to a system in a town that we could not find, and we could not figure out what other place it could have referred to, so we removed it from the data.
- The post originally used one election system term in a way that did not pass fact-check and did not include enough details, and I had to write a few paragraphs explaining what the term did mean and where it applied (including places the writer did not identify in the original draft).
- I changed one use of "his or her" to "their," consistent with the Center's style.
- While checking the glossary box the writer provided, I suggested to our designer that this would make a good graphic as well, and she created (and I checked) a table explaining the various systems.