

Vote By Mail Feasibility Study



Resource Data

VBM vs. Poll-Based

The four main challenges with current elections are:

1. Low voter turnout at borough elections.

Vote By Mail:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • OR 2017 general election = 80% | OR 2018 midterm = 61.5% |
| • WA 2017 general election = 79% | WA 2018 midterm = 58.9% |
| • CO 2017 general election = 74% | CO 2018 midterm = 63% |

Other:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| • KPB 2017 mayoral = 39.3% | KPB 2019 regular = 21.1% |
| • Alaska 2016 general election = 61%. | Alaska 2018 midterm election = 49.8% |
| • MOA 2018 mayoral = 36.3% | MOA 2020 = 30.8% (nonmayoral) |
| • MOA 2015 mayoral = 26.2% | MOA 2017 = 23.2 % (nonmayoral) |
| • Strange MOA Data – 2017 (212,782) vs. 2020 (232,009) but population has dropped 3 years in a row (approx. -6,000). PFD auto-registration effect. | |

2018 Mid-term Election Turnout

Bold solid outlines are VAH states

Rankings & Comments

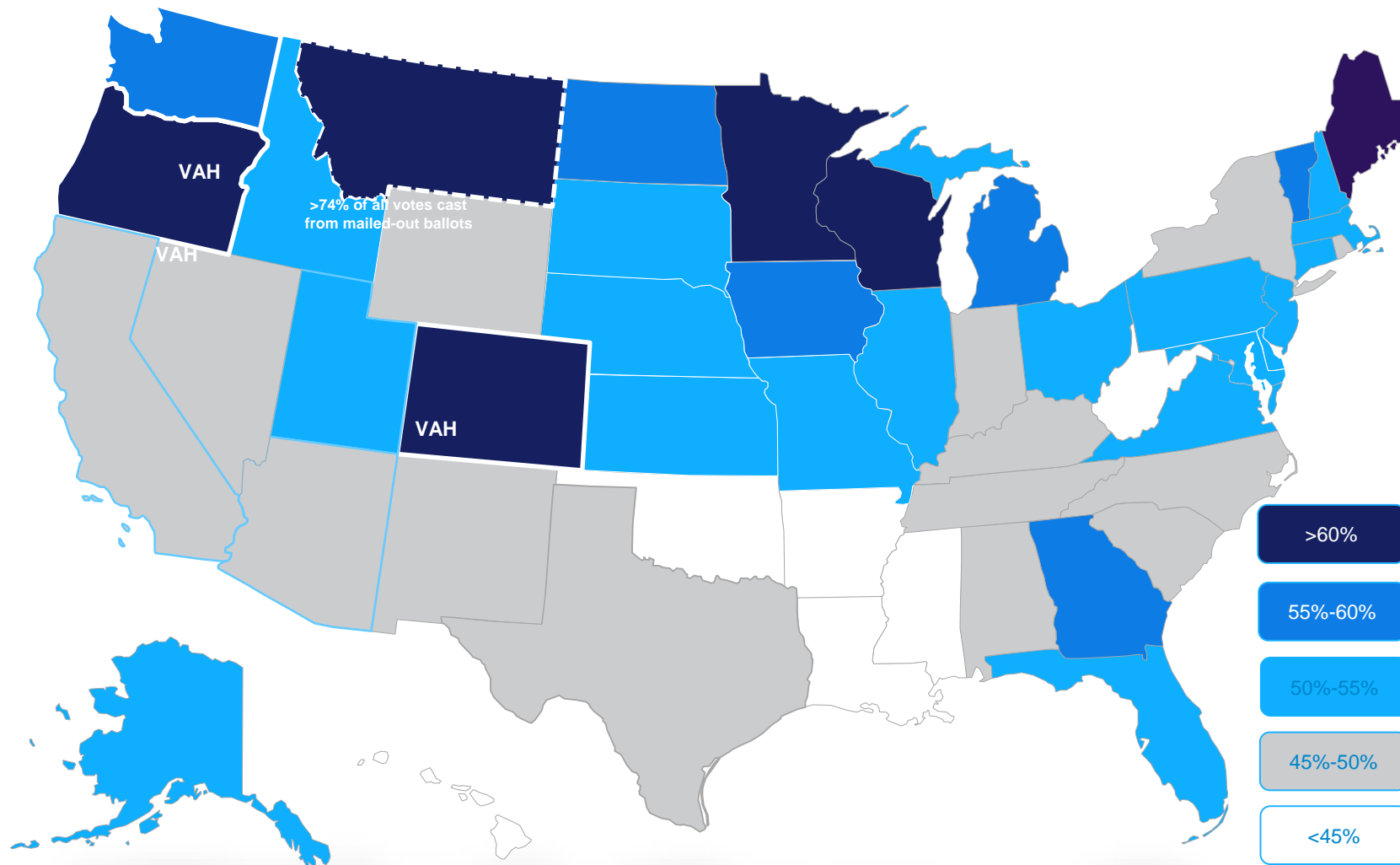
- #1: MN – 64.2%
- #2: CO – 63.0% (VAH)
- #3: MT – 62.0%
- #4: WI – 61.7%
- #5: OR – 61.5% (VAH)
- #6: ME – 60.2%
- #7: WA – 58.9% (VAH)

For consistency, all data uses voting eligible population (VEP) as basis for % calculation

Data as of 1/1/2019

Sources: The US Election Project,
State web sites, NVAHI estimates

Courtesy of voteathome.org



2. Precinct-based elections are an inefficient use of community resources. It is an enormous task to set up precincts, issue and track supplies, machines, and ballots going to and from the precincts. We currently run a two-tier system of elections that combines traditional precinct-based voting with absentee by mail and in person voting; this is complicated and redundant. We use outdated machines from the State and the failure rate of these machines is getting higher.

3. Every year, we face challenges in hiring, training, and retaining election officials and poll workers.

4. Settlement requiring ADA machines.

5. AND NOW, COVID-19.....

CDC GUIDANCE

Actions for elections officials in advance of election day

- Encourage voters to use voting methods that minimize direct contact with other people and reduce crowd size at polling stations.
- **Encourage mail-in methods of voting if allowed in the jurisdiction.**
- **Encourage early voting, where voter crowds may be smaller throughout the day. This minimizes the number of individuals a voter may come in contact with.**
- Encourage drive-up voting for eligible voters if allowed in the jurisdiction.
- Encourage voters planning to vote in-person on election day to arrive at off-peak times. For example, if voter crowds are lighter mid-morning, advertise that in advance to the community.
- **Encourage relocating polling places** from nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and senior living residences, to minimize COVID-19 exposure among older individuals and those with chronic medical conditions.
- Consider additional social distancing and other measures to protect these individuals during voting.

CDC GUIDANCE, CONT'D.

Preventive actions polling workers can take

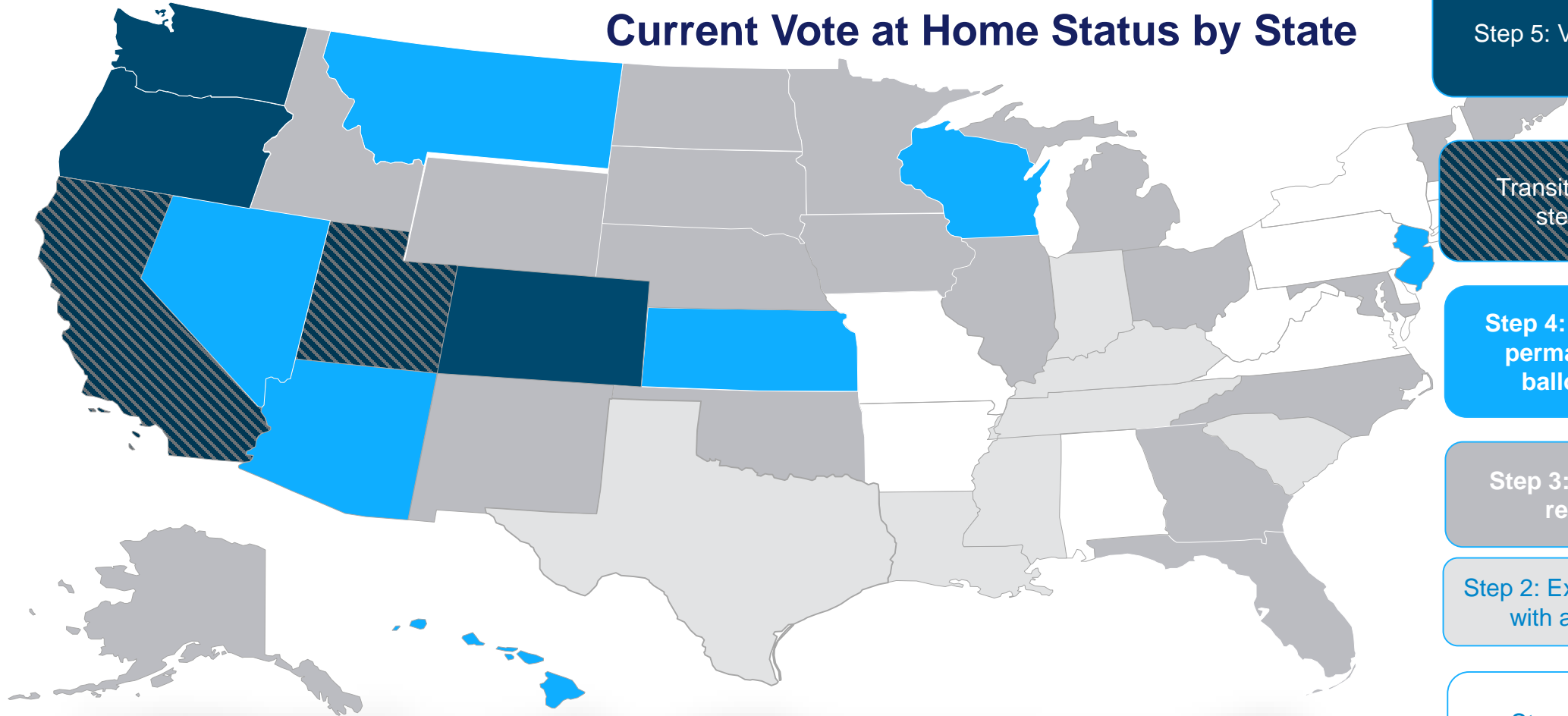
- **Stay at home if you have fever, respiratory symptoms, or believe you are sick.**
- Practice hand hygiene frequently.
- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched **surfaces:** including tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.
- Disinfect surfaces that may be contaminated with germs after cleaning.
- Clean and disinfect voting-associated equipment (e.g., voting machines, laptops, tablets, keyboards) routinely.

CDC GUIDANCE, CONT'D.

Recommendations for processing mail-in ballots

- Workers handling mail in ballots should practice hand hygiene frequently
- No additional precautions are recommended for storage of ballots

Current Vote at Home Status by State



Step 5: Vote at Home

Transitioning from
step 4 to 5

Step 4: No Excuse,
permanent mail
ballot option

Step 3: No excuse
required

Step 2: Excuse required
with age waiver

Step 1: Excuse
required

Courtesy of voteathome.org

Additional Benefits

- Very similar to voting absentee by mail. In fact, many states allow voters to register once as permanent absentee vote by mail. True vote by mail is even better than voting absentee by mail because you don't have to fill out an application form every year.
- Maximizes voter confidence in their choices.

Example:

- A 2014 Study in Washington State found that not only did voter participation increase, especially in non-presidential election years, but that **voters were also more prone to completely fill out their ballot.**
- Introduces greater efficiencies in the process; relies on fewer, but more highly trained, election workers.
- Popular among voters who were already voting absentee by mail.
- Secure – ballots are dropped off at secure locations or put in the mail and transferred to a secure, central location.
- Accountable – vote by mail systems provide tracking and auditing features not available with the current system.
- **No change between old and new systems on one very important issue:**

Who and what you voted for remains confidential!!

How To Vote

- Ballots are mailed approx. 2-3 weeks prior to election day
- Fill out ballot
- Insert in Return Envelope
- Sign the Return Envelope
- Mail or drop at Accessible Vote Centers or into a Ballot Drop Box

2020 Return Envelope_1-21_Draft.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro DC

File Edit View Plug-Ins Window Help

Home Tools Document 1 / 1 73.3% Sign In

Return Address

USPS EXCLUSION ZONE
23mm X 116mm

AFFIX POSTAGE HERE

MAILED BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY ELECTION DAY **OFFICIAL BALLOT ENCLOSED**

Precinct ElectionDateShort Envelope BC

VOTER SIGNATURE (Required.)
FullName

Voter phone number (optional) Voter email (optional)

If you are unable to write your signature, make a mark in the signature area above and have your mark witnessed and signed as required below.

WITNESS

Witness Printed Legal Name Witness Signature

Witness Declaration
By signing above, I affirm that I am a citizen of the United States; I am a resident of Alaska and at least 18 years of age on the date of the election; or I am a notary public or other person authorized to administer oaths. I further affirm that the person named on the envelope and marking the envelope is known to me, was unable to sign, and has signed a mark. I understand that it is illegal to falsely sign, forge a signature, or cast another person's ballot. Falsely signing this declaration is an election offense and will be prosecuted. AMC 8.30.170 - Unsworn falsification in the second degree. AS 11.56.220, AS11.56.235, AS 11.56.240.

ANCH0120R001 - PostReq E

ELECTION MAIL LOGO CLEAR ZONE

OFFICIAL ELECTION MAIL
Authorized by the U.S. Postal Service

Must Be Postmarked or Returned by ElectionDateLong

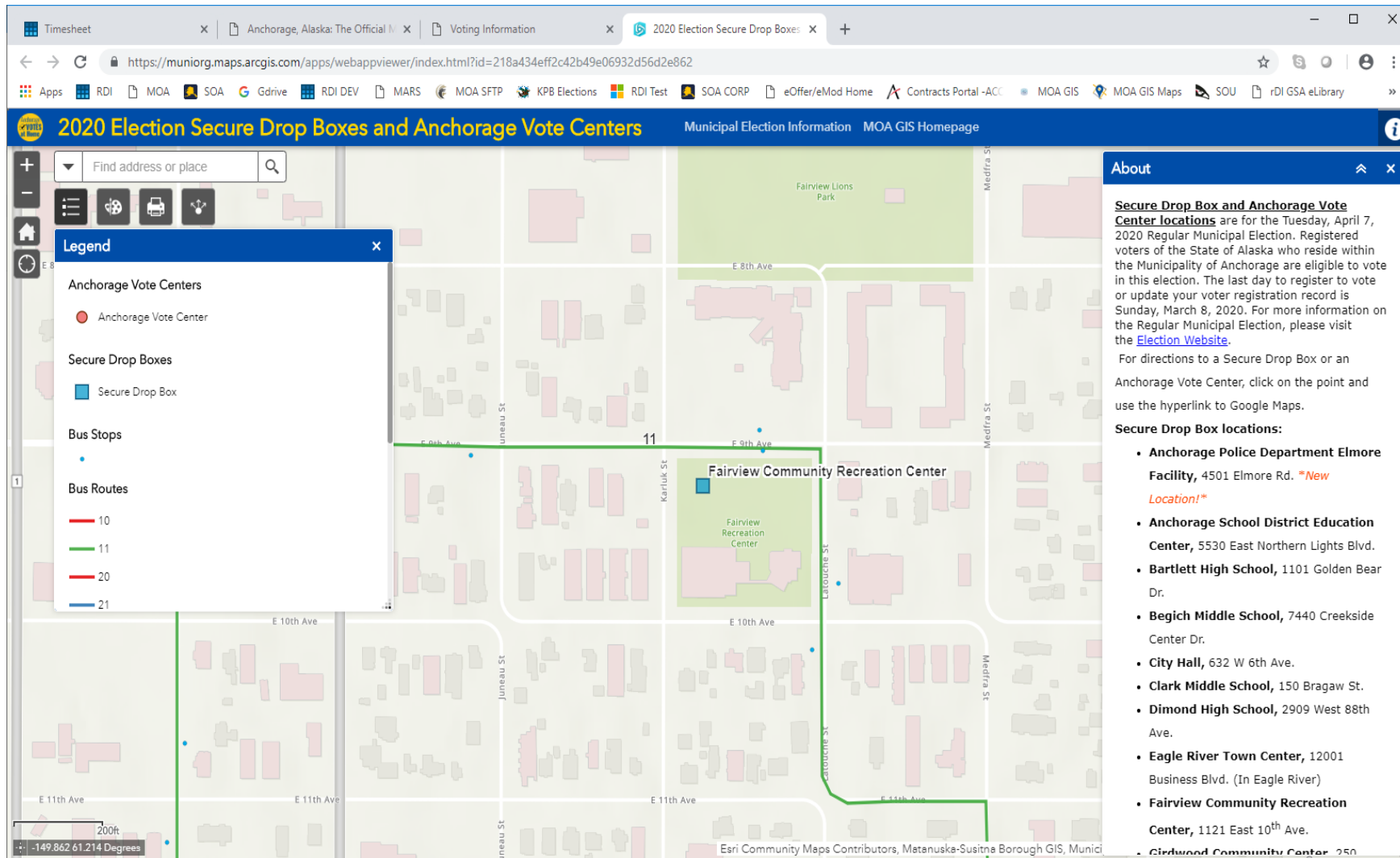
MOA Elections
Municipality of Anchorage
PO Box 196659
Anchorage AK 99519-6659

Break Sequence

FIRST BAR IN BLUE BOX BARCODE CLEAR ZONE

259585_02 ANCH0120C001 - PostReq E.indd 5 1/21/2020 9:04:29 AM





Help!



Race

☒ Doe, John

☒ Smith, Mary

Proposition

☒ Yes

☐ No

Valid vote for Mary Smith.

Valid vote "yes" on Prop X

Signature Verification

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive script and reads "John Hancock". It features a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the bottom that extends across the width of the text.

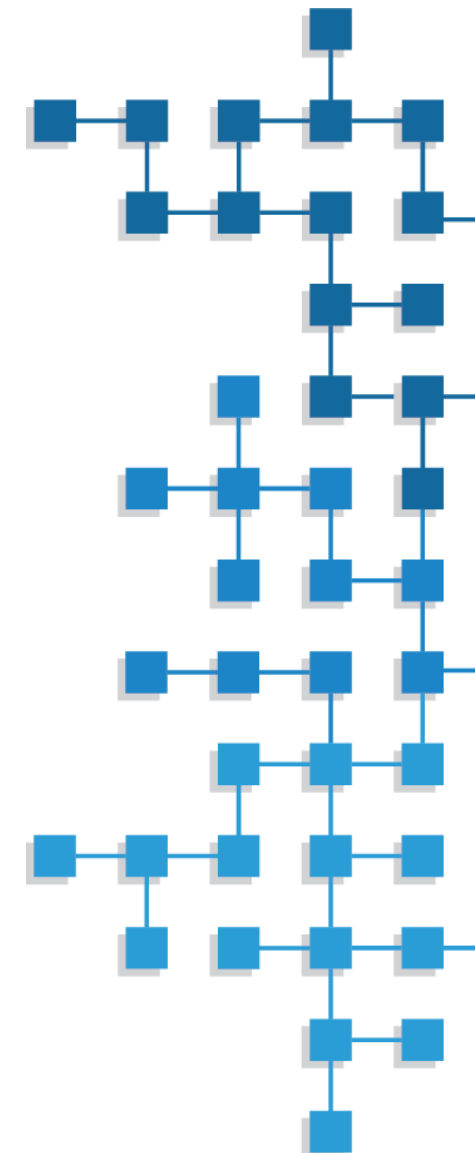
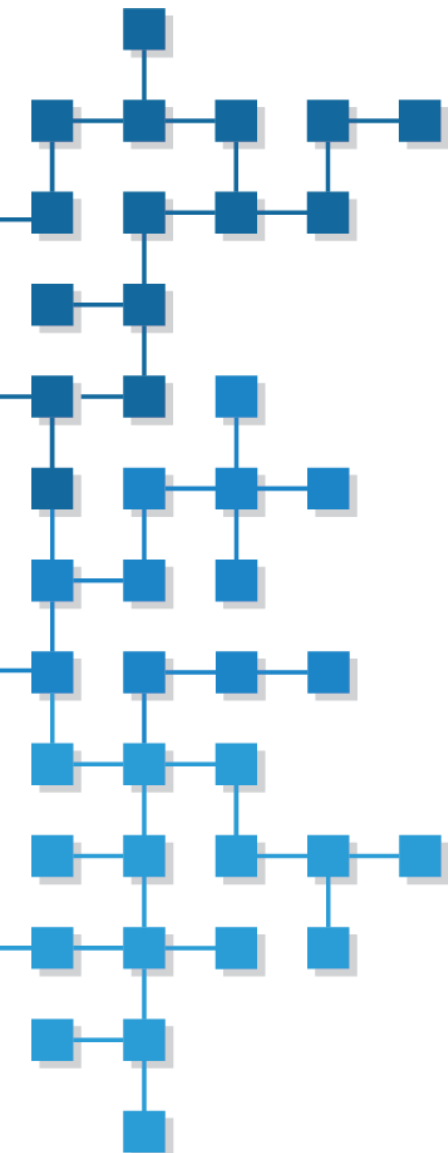
SORTING & SCANNING











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