



# U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



## HELP AMERICA VOTE COLLEGE PROGRAM

### PRESS & SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

March 1, 2024

## Introduction

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission Office of Grants management created this toolkit to provide Help America Vote College Program grantees with quality resources and information to promote their poll worker recruitment and training programs.

The **Help America Vote College Program** encourages college students to assist state and local governments in the administration of elections by serving as nonpartisan poll workers and elevates civic participation on college campuses. By encouraging college students to become poll workers in their communities, HAVCP is addressing the critical shortage of poll workers and helping to ensure election offices have the staff they need to administer elections.

## Promoting Your HAVCP Program

There are numerous public relations tactics that you can use to promote your program.

- **Press releases** announce important developments to the public including the launch of program activities and important upcoming events. For a sample HAVCP Press Release see page 4 of this toolkit.
- **Public statements** are used to officially comment on external events while or after they occur.
- **Media advisories** can be used to invite reporters and journalists to different public events, such as press conferences, town halls, and forums.

When crafting content, consider the following best practices:

- Plain language and direct wording and phrasing allow you to clearly communicate your message without confusion. Avoid technical jargon and overwriting.
- Content should be crafted with a specific objective or audience in mind to ensure your message has a strong impact.
- Messaging should be consistent and on-brand for your organization.

## Social Media

Producing a steady stream of content can help promote your program and establish your organization as a trusted community resource for students interested in becoming poll workers.

- If you do use social media, you are encouraged to tag the EAC and use the hashtags **#HelpAmericaVote** and **#HelpAmericaVote2024**.
- The EAC provides several poll worker recruitment graphics in English and in Spanish that you can download and use in your social media posts: <https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/poll-worker-resources-election-officials>
- National Poll Worker Recruitment Day on August 1, 2024 is a national day of action established by the EAC to encourage people to help America vote by signing up to be a poll worker. Highlight program activities for the day using the [EAC's National Poll Worker Recruitment Day toolkit](#).

## Using the EAC Logo



For the usage of the EAC logo in the promotion of your HAVCP activities, the following style guide information applies

EAC Primary Logo Alt Text:

- Short: U.S. Election Assistance Commission circular logo.
- Long: U.S. Election Assistance Commission circular logo featuring the agency name, a small waving American flag along the top of the seal, and a ballot box with diodes that spell “vote” in Braille at the bottom of the seal.

To maintain the legibility and definition of the logo, the suggested minimum size 0.75 inches wide (the above sample logo is 2 inches wide).

The logo should have a minimum of 0.25 inches clearance on all sides. To maintain visual integrity, no other graphics and/or text should enter that area.

## SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE

**To announce your HAVCP award and program** (Grantees may use or delete the sample text as needed, except for changes to the joint statement by the EAC Commissioners.)

### For Immediate Release

[Insert Date]

(Insert Office/College/Organization) Receives \$XX,000 in  
Help America Vote College Program Grants

The grants, distributed by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, are intended to encourage college students to serve as nonpartisan poll workers

[Insert Location] – Today, (insert office/college/organization) announced they were selected as a recipient of a Help America Vote College Program (HAVCP) grant for \$xx,000. The (insert office/college/organization) is one of 21 recipients who were named as grantees by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

In the FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress dedicated \$1 million in funding for grants to encourage college students to serve as nonpartisan poll workers for the first time since 2010. (insert office/college/organization) intends to use the funds for (insert details about the use of grant funding).

Information on the grantees and details about the HAVCP grants can be found on the EAC's website.

Organizations selected for HAVCP awards include accredited colleges and universities, state and local election offices, and nonprofits across 19 states. HAVCP programming will engage more than 7,000 college students through targeted recruitment and training initiatives, civic education courses, and established partnerships with local stakeholders.

The EAC received more than 40 applications for a total request of over \$3.3 million in funding from a broad range of educational institutions, local governments, and organizations. The EAC

awarded the full \$1 million in available HAVCP funding, including 14 Poll Worker Grants totaling \$937,050 and seven Service Day Mini-Grants totaling \$62,950.

(Insert quote from head of office/college/organization)

EAC Chairman Ben Hovland , Vice Chair Donald Palmer, Commissioner Thomas Hicks, and Commissioner Christy McCormick, issued the following joint statement:

“The relaunch of the Help America Vote College Program has come at a pivotal time for election offices across the country. The EAC looks forward to seeing how the recipients use these funds to engage young people as poll workers and in the election process. The agency appreciates Congress’ recognition of the need to develop the next generation of poll workers and election workers. We hope the efforts of grantees will benefit their communities, and we will provide updates as their programming moves forward.”

According to the EAC’s Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS), about one million poll workers are needed for a presidential general election. In the face of recent poll worker shortages, the issues of poll worker recruitment, training, and retention became increasingly important. The EAVS reported that roughly just 14% of poll workers deployed during the 2022 general election were between the ages of 18 and 40, indicating a continued need to recruit the next generation of poll workers. The hope is that by encouraging college students to sign up to become poll workers they will continue to assist in this election cycle and beyond.

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The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). It is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with ensuring secure, accurate, and accessible elections by developing guidance to meet HAVA requirements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, and serving as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration. The EAC also accredits testing laboratories and certifies voting systems, as well as administers the use of HAVA funds. For more information, visit [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov).

EAC Contact: Kristen Muthig  
Phone: 202-897-9285  
Email: [kmuthig@eac.gov](mailto:kmuthig@eac.gov)