



**U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**  
**1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 300**  
**Washington, DC 20005**

Statement of Gracia M. Hillman  
On the Occasion of Her Resignation as  
Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

On December 1, I submitted my resignation to the President, to be effective December 10, 2010. It has been an honor to have served as EAC Commissioner since December 2003, when the EAC was first established under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). My term-limited appointment under HAVA ended in December 2009. I am and, for some time into the foreseeable future, will be the only EAC Commissioner to have served the full two terms for which commissioners are eligible under the law.

It should be noted that the EAC has operated with three of four commissioners since February 2009. Earlier this year, it became apparent that appointments to fill the vacancy or to confirm my successor would not happen before the November 2010 federal elections. With this as a backdrop, I opted to remain an EAC Commissioner in holdover status throughout this past year out of a sense of duty to my country, a commitment to fair and transparent elections and to provide some semblance of political balance and diversity on the commission. The federal government had a responsibility to ensure that HAVA would be fully and fairly implemented during the 2010 primary and general elections. I am proud of my decision to remain on the EAC and glad that I was able to continue my service during the past 12 months.

I am extremely grateful to Speaker Pelosi for having selected me in 2003, as her candidate to the EAC and deeply appreciate her recognition and support of my commitment to public service. I remain privileged to have been appointed to service by President George W. Bush as one of the original four EAC commissioners. The 2000 Presidential Election produced a crisis of voter confidence in how U.S. elections were administered. HAVA was enacted to improve the voting process and to help rebuild voter trust while also protecting the rights of all eligible American voters but especially those who have been historically disenfranchised. My passion is to help improve and increase opportunities for those who have been historically discriminated against and whose circumstances cause them to live at life's margins. It is with great pride that I acknowledge Speaker Pelosi's confidence in my ability to ensure that HAVA was appropriately and effectively implemented with balance, fairness and equality.

America has made great improvements in the administration of federal elections under HAVA. The EAC is a young commission but in its few short years, it has established itself as a valuable federal resource and an effective steward of its HAVA responsibilities. Do not let detractors suggest otherwise. State and local governments have benefited from the federal dollars that have been allocated under HAVA. Election

officials have benefited from the wealth of guidance, guidelines and suggested best practices that have been produced and distributed by the EAC. Voters have benefited from improvements in election administration and transparency of practices.

The EAC has worked in close partnership with state and local election officials, other federal agencies, voter advocates, civil rights and disability organizations, academics, computer scientists and engineers, and other stakeholders, including individual voters. During my tenure on the EAC, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many talented and honorable public servants and others who are dedicated to making certain that every voter is fairly registered and can vote with the confidence that their votes have been accurately and timely counted. Together, we have helped America restore trust in our system of election administration. The intricacies of election administration are more transparent now than ever before. Voters have access to a broad range of information that allows them to be active partners in our quest to improve election practices.

The pathway to increased voter confidence in the administration of elections remains strewn with mighty challenges. It is necessary that all vestiges of disenfranchisement are removed and that voters are able to cast their ballots on federally certified voting systems. The voters of America need and deserve the continued protections of HAVA and the resources of the EAC.

I am proud of the EAC's work and our contributions to help improve election administration practices. It has been my privilege and my life is richer to have served America in this magnificent way.

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