



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Michael Pence
Vice President of the United States
and President of the Senate
U.S. Senate
S-212 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-0012

Dear Mr. Vice President:

Pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452), as amended, we enclose for your review the U. S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), Office of Inspector General (OIG) Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. This is the first semiannual report of the EAC's Inspector General since the passage of the IG Empowerment Act of 2016.

Please note that in addition to the increased reporting requirements captured by the IG in this report – specifically, the areas of reporting of findings and recommendations from current and previous audits, inspections and evaluations – this document also includes the EAC's response to the IG's findings.

For this reporting period, the IG reviewed the EAC's 2016 Financial Statements and conducted an assessment of EAC's compliance with FISMA, the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014. The IG also conducted six audits of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds recipients and is in the process of conducting a performance audit of the EAC's controls over our decision making process.

The EAC is committed to ensuring the accuracy, accessibility and security of U.S. elections. This philosophy shapes our work and guides our strategic planning. Since our last report, for example, the Department of Homeland Security designated election systems as part of the nation's critical infrastructure. Since then, the commission has served as the primary intermediary between DHS, election administrators, and other election stakeholders seeking clarification about what the decision entails and how it will be implemented. DHS officials have repeatedly thanked the EAC for the important role it has played thus far and has publicly stated that the commission will serve a key role as the designation's implementation mechanisms take shape.

In addition to this important work, the EAC is working to finalize the latest version of its Voluntary Voting System Guidelines, the most stringent and trusted measure by which voting systems are evaluated. We anticipate that these guidelines will be completed next year. The EAC has also continued to grow its vast array of resources for election administrators, voters, and other election stakeholders. We've produced engaging fact sheets, best practice-based checklists, webinars, reports, pocket cards, and other critical information related to some of the most pressing election topics of our time. As the nation's voting systems continue to age, we've also developed programs to help state and local election leaders maintain the systems they have and procure new equipment to better serve the needs of voters. These resources are now housed on a dynamic new website that better serves the commission's key audiences.

We look forward to continuing the critical work of advancing the U.S. democratic process, serving the U.S. election community, and ultimately, improving voter confidence and trust in the election process.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Patricia Layfield, EAC's Inspector General, at (301) 734-3104.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew V. Masterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matthew V. Masterson
Chairman