

**Recommendations to EAC Board of Advisors
With respect to specific EAC research and study topics**

**Submitted by Special Committee on EAC Research and Studies
June 6, 2008**

Topic: Social Security Administration (HAVA Sec. 244(b))

The committee considers this a priority action item for EAC.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission(EAC) that a working group be formed and priority be given to completion of the study that is to be conducted in consultation with the Social Security Administration “on the advisability and feasibility of using Social Security identification numbers...to establish...eligibility or identification requirements,...”

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Topic: Incorporating Communication and Internet Technologies in the Electoral Process (HAVA Sec. 245)

The committee considers this a priority action item for EAC.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it produce soon an interim status report on its collective efforts and a plan to complete its study of the issues and challenges presented by incorporating communications and Internet technologies in the electoral process.

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Topic: Definitions of Voting (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(3) and 303)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it provide guidelines to the States by defining the following terms:

- Early Voting
- Absentee Voting
 - No Excuse
 - Excused
 - Early Absentee

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Topic: Provisional Voting Report (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(4) and 303)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it review the Provisional Ballot Study to determine the facts that contributed to the need for the use of provisional ballots (such as how and when voter registration applications were received).

The board further recommends that the EAC study data be accompanied by descriptions of HAVA's goal for provisional voting and how each state meets that goal.

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Topic: Disability Access (Accessibility) (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(5) and 301)

The committee suggests that EAC examine all elements of Election Day with respect to accessibility, including voting equipment, official government information websites and telephone hotlines.

Further, HAVA Sec. 301(a)(3)(C) states that "The voting system shall, if purchased with funds made available under Title II on or after January 1, 2007, meet the voting system standards for disability access (as outlined in this paragraph)." (301(a)(3)). The committee suggests that when EAC begins its work to develop standards and guidelines on accessible voting equipment, that it considers voting systems in their broadest definition and uses a working group of stakeholders to examine the issues and help develop the definition.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it examine what research has been done, if any, on all elements of Election Day as they relate to accessibility, including official government information websites and telephone hotlines. Further, consideration should be given to the formation of a working group to advise the EAC on this effort and on the development of standards and guidelines for accessible voting equipment. Included in the guidelines should be a definition of Disabled Voter.

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Topic: Voting Fraud and Voter Intimidation Report (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(6) and (7))

It is recognized that EAC must gather facts when it further studies voting fraud and voter intimidation. The committee believes that efforts should be made to look for ways to capture data that has not necessarily been reported to election officials or law enforcement agencies. It was suggested that resources used to collect information include a broad group of individuals and organizations, not only law enforcement agencies.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that when it proceeds to conduct further study on voting fraud and voter intimidation, that it include a broad group of

individuals and organizations in addition to law enforcement agencies when it collects data and information.

The board further recommends that EAC revisit the definitions in its 2006 Election Crimes Report and its classification of what constitute election crimes.

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Topic: Website Design for Public Information Portals (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(9))

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it conduct follow up study to help determine trending.

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Topic: Reduced Postage for the Return of Absentee Ballots (HAVA Sec. 246)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that its further study of this issue include consideration of reducing the postage for the return of Absentee Ballots to one First Class Stamp.

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