



U.S. Election Assistance Commission Election Data Summit

How Good Data Can Help Elections Run Better

**American University, Washington, DC
August 12 & 13, 2015**

Background

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) —the only Federal entity charged with collecting a census of certain election data—is well-positioned to convene a national meeting on ways to improve the election data that are collected and to demonstrate how these data can help improve the conduct of U.S. elections.

During this one and one-half day meeting EAC will convene a broad spectrum of election researchers, state and local government election officials, and representatives from leading non-profit election organizations to discuss the critical components to collecting and using election data. The first day will focus on the big picture of who collects and uses election data. The second day will feature a round table discussion focused on the EAC's Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) and specific ways for improving how these data are collected and the findings are disseminated and used.

DAY 1 - Election Data Summit Wednesday, August 12, 2015

Welcome and Introductions- Christy McCormick, Chairwoman, Election Assistance Commission (9:00 am-9:15 am)

Opening Plenary Session –

Good Election Data Can Matter and Can Have an Impact (9:15 am-10:30 am)

To kick-off the data summit, this session sets the context by considering 1) how “big data” like those collected through the EAVS are best utilized by election researchers and practitioners alike; 2) what additional election data might be collected to augment research on elections and to improve the conduct of elections; and 3) the role governments can play to improve the public’s understanding of the election data which it collects.

Session moderator: Vice Chairman Thomas Hicks

Speakers:

- Eric Fischer, Congressional Research Service **(confirmed)**
- Paul Gronke, Reed College **(confirmed)**
- Neal Kelley, Orange County, CA **(confirmed)**
- Dean Logan, Los Angeles County, CA **(confirmed)**
- Katy Owens-Hubler, National Conference of State Legislatures **(confirmed)**
- Charles Stewart, Massachusetts Institute of Technology **(confirmed)**
- Chris Thomas, State of MI **(confirmed)**

Ted Talk Session – (10:30 am-11:15 am)

- Matt Boehmer, Federal Voting Assistance Program **(confirmed)**
- Amber McReynolds, Denver, CO **(confirmed)**

Plenary - Creating Bridges between Data and Practice: How Are Election Data Being Collected and Used to Administer Elections? (11:30 am-1:00 pm)

This session will focus on current practices for collecting and using election data. Participants will discuss specific data collection methods, the lack of data standardization that exists across elections, the challenges local election officials face in collecting the data, and the role technology can play in improving data collection.

Session Moderator: Commissioner Matthew Masterson

Speakers:

- Dana Chisnell, Center for Civic Design **(confirmed)**
- Kathleen Hale, Auburn University **(confirmed)**
- Thad Hall, Co-author Evaluating Elections: A Handbook of Methods and Standards **(confirmed)**
- Mark Martin, Arkansas Secretary of State
- Amber McReynolds, Denver, CO **(confirmed)**
- Jennifer Morrell, Arapahoe County, CO **(confirmed)**
- John Wack, NIST Data Standardization project **(confirmed)**

Lunch – (1:00 pm-2:00 pm) No Formal Agenda

Ted Talk Session – (2:00 pm-2:45 pm)

- Michael Vu, San Diego County, CA **(confirmed)**
- Michael Winn, Travis County, TX **(confirmed)**

Plenary - Connecting the Dots: Who Collects Election Data and How Are They Doing It? (3:00 pm – 4:30 pm)

In addition to academics, the EAC and certain election officials, are there others who are interested in collecting and using good election administration data? How can election officials be assisted with the data collection process so their data can be improved?

Session Moderator: EAC Chairwoman Christy McCormick

Speakers:

- Lonna Atkeson, University of New Mexico **(confirmed)**
- David Becker, Pew Charitable Trusts **(confirmed)**
- Sarah Brannon, Project Vote **(confirmed)**
- Julie Flynn, State of ME **(confirmed)**
- Elaine Manlove, State of DE **(confirmed)**
- Michael McDonald, University of Florida **(confirmed)**
- Michael Vu, San Diego County, CA **(confirmed)**

DAY 2 - Election Data Summit, Thursday, August 13, 2015

Ted Talk Session – (8:30 am-9:00am)

- Doug Chapin, Hubert Humphrey School, University of MN **(confirmed)**

Plenary-Strategic Planning for Administering the 2016 and 2018 EAVS (9:00 am -12:30 pm)

The second day of the Summit will be devoted to a discussing the practical aspects of administering the EAVS survey. Using the information gathered from the first day, a moderated round table discussion will 1) focus on specific issues related to collecting EAVS data; 2) examine the various lessons learned over the past decade of collecting EAC election data and; and 3) consider how the election data collected can be better presented and disseminated for broader use by election officials.

A geographically diverse, representative sample of states and jurisdictions will be asked to discuss the specific methods they use to collect EAVS data and, to discuss the challenges they encounter with collecting and reporting these data.

Session Moderator:

Merle King **(confirmed)**

Session 1- Challenges to collecting EAVS data (9:00 am-10:30 am)

Speakers:

- Shirley Black-Oliver, Clarendon County, SC **(confirmed)**
- Veronica Degraffenreid, State of NC **(confirmed)**
- Keith Ingram, State of TX **(confirmed)**
- Kevin Kennedy, State of WI **(confirmed)**
- Baretta Mosley, Lafayette County, MS **(confirmed)**
- Ron Szoc, EAVS Project Manager (2010, 2012, 2014) **(confirmed)**
- Abby Moore, FVAP/DMDC **(confirmed)**

10:30-10:45 am Break

Session 2- Strategies for collecting and using good EAVS data

Speakers:

- Kim Brace, (2004/2006 EAC Election Day Survey) **(confirmed)**
- Nikki Charlson, State of MD **(confirmed)**
- Edgardo Cortes, State of VA **(confirmed)**
- Sean Greene, Pew Charitable Trusts **(confirmed)**
- Rob Hammons, State of AR **(confirmed)**
- Neal Kelley, Orange County, CA **(confirmed)**
- Karen Lynn-Dyson, EAC **(confirmed)**
- Jennifer Morrell, Arapahoe County, CO **(confirmed)**
- Gary Poser, State of MN **(confirmed)**
- Michael Winn, Travis County, TX **(confirmed)**