

## **Accessible Voting Technology Initiative: U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

- In 2009 and 2010, Congress appropriated a total of \$8,000,000 to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to create a three-year research and development (R&D) competitive grant program to improve voting accessibility for all citizens, specifically voters with disabilities.
- The EAC developed the Accessible Voting Technology Initiative (AVTI), a competitive grant program focused on achieving results for voters with access needs.
- The AVTI grants were awarded to Clemson University and the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF). Clemson received \$4,500,000 and ITIF received \$2,500,000.
- In a separate grant competition, ITIF was awarded \$500,000 under the Military Heroes Initiative grant program to assist veterans with disabilities in the voting process. Additionally, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) received \$500,000 to help grantees with technical assistance and technology transition.
- To date, the AVTI has produced over 45 technological and administrative-based election solutions to help foster a private and independent vote for people with disabilities.
- The Initiative achieved significant results, such as enhancing election systems coming to market through technology transfer and conducting innovative pilots for voters with disabilities across the U.S. Furthermore, several additional AVTI results are currently moving through the election's pipeline and will produce positive outcomes later this year and beyond.
- The AVTI research and development efforts are available on the EAC website. We encourage you to visit the site and help us harness this information for use in upcoming elections.