

## **U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request;**

#### **Election Assistance Commission's Voting System Testing and Certification Program**

#### **Manual, Version 1.0**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

**ACTION:** Notice; comment request.

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**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on EAC's request to renew an existing information collection, EAC's Voting System Testing and Certification Program Manual, Version 1.0. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for approval of this information collection by the Office of Management and Budget; they also will become a matter of public record. This notice requests comments solely on the four criteria above. Note: This notice solicits comments on the currently-used Manual, Version 1.0 *only*. Due to lack of a quorum, EAC will postpone making changes to Version 1.0 of the Manual until such a time as a quorum is re-established. See Supplementary Information, below.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before 11:59 PM EDT on

**[INSERT DATE: 60 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION DATE]**

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection must be submitted in writing through either: 1) electronically to

[votingsystemguidelines@eac.gov](mailto:votingsystemguidelines@eac.gov); via mail to Mr. Brian Hancock, Director of Voting

System Testing and Certification, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005; or via fax to (202) 566-1392. An

electronic copy of the manual, version 1.0, may be found on EAC's website at

[www.eac.gov/open/comment.aspx](http://www.eac.gov/open/comment.aspx).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection, please contact Mr. Brian Hancock, Director, Voting System Testing and Certification, Washington, D.C., (202)566-3100, Fax: (202)566-1392.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

In this notice, EAC seeks comments on the paperwork burdens contained in the current version of the Voting System Testing and Certification Program Manual, Version 1.0 OMB Control Number 3265-0004 only. Version 1.0 is the original version of the Manual without changes or updates. EAC is requesting an emergency extension for Version 1.0 and will abandon its Paperwork Reduction Act request for version 2.0 of the Manual at this time.

When EAC drafted Version 1.0 of the Manual in 2006, the agency sought input from experts and stakeholders. Specifically, EAC conducted meetings with representatives from the voting system test laboratory and voting system manufacturing community. The Commission also held a public hearing in which it received testimony from State election

officials, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, academics, electronic voting system experts, public interest groups, and the public at large.

In a notice dated November 30, 2010, EAC previously requested comments on a proposed new version of the Manual, Version 2.0. After EAC published its request for comments on Version 2.0, the agency lost its quorum. As a result, EAC has chosen to postpone implementing Version 2.0 of the Manual until such time as the Commission has a quorum again. At that point, EAC will start the Paperwork Reduction Act process from the beginning on Version 2.0 of the Manual. Soliciting comments through an emergency extension will permit EAC to continue to use the Control Number assigned to Version 1.0.

#### **Current Information Collection Request, Version 1.0**

*Title:* Voting System Testing and Certification Program, Version 1.0.

*OMB Number:* 3265-0004.

*Type of Review:* Emergency Extension.

*Needs and Uses:* Section 231(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), 42 U.S.C. § 15371(a), requires EAC to “provide for the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software by accredited laboratories.” To fulfill this mandate, EAC has developed and implemented the Voting System Testing and Certification Program Manual, Version 1.0. This version is currently in use under OMB Control Number 3265-0004. EAC had hoped to finalize a revised Manual prior to the expiration of the current manual’s control number. However, due to lack of a quorum, EAC will continue using the existing manual, version 1.0, necessitating this action. Although participation in the program is voluntary, adherence to the program’s procedural requirements is mandatory for participants.

*Affected Public:* Voting system manufacturers

*Estimated Number of Respondents: 8*

*Total Annual Responses: 8*

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 200 hours*

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thomas R. Wilkey**, Executive Director,

U.S. Election Assistance Commission

**[Billing Code 6820-KF]**

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