



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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WRITTEN REMARKS OF COMMISSIONER GRACIA HILLMAN
SUBMITTED FOR THE ORAL AND WRITTEN RECORDS OF
THE U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION'S (EAC)
APRIL 18, 2007 PUBLIC MEETING
HELD IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

It is with great regret that I am unable to be present at today's meeting of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. On the one hand, I am pleased to represent the commission at today's Congressional hearing on issues relating to accuracy and fairness in elections involving electronic voting systems.

On the other hand, this is the first time, since the commission was appointed in December 2003, that I will not be present at a meeting and not voting, and I regret that deeply.

It is ironic that the conflict that prevents me from being present at EAC's meeting in Kansas City is an invitation from Missouri's own congressman, Mr. William Lacy Clay, who chairs the subcommittee that is holding today's hearings.

Nonetheless, I am there in commitment and spirit. If I were there, I would reiterate my appreciation to Rosemary Rodriguez and Caroline Hunter for their willingness to serve on the commission and offer them a warm public welcome.

I would have enthusiastically insisted that I be able to place Commissioner Rodriguez's name in nomination to serve as EAC vice chair for 2007. And, of course, I would have voted a resounding "yes" on the motion to elect.

I would also express my profound thanks to Edgardo Cortes, Laiza Otero, the members of EAC's Spanish Language Working Group and all EAC staff who helped produce the 2007 Glossary of Key Election Terminology in Spanish, with appropriate English to Spanish and Spanish to English translations. Their commitment to accuracy and detail has produced a very fine product. Assuming that no unexpected developments on this glossary were to occur at today's meeting, I would have voted to adopt the glossary as a key reference for election officials throughout the country.

Additionally, I would express continued appreciation to Connie Schmidt, Brit Williams and the EAC staff for their tireless work to produce the first ever

comprehensive Management Guidelines to bring the people side of election administration in line with the proper and accurate functioning of voting systems.

And in closing, I would offer my views on the criticism that EAC is currently receiving for its handling of research data that has been developed by consultants. Congress, the public and the EAC commissioners have a right to know the facts. Therefore, I support the request for EAC's Inspector General to investigate the issues of this matter and the processes used by EAC to procure, review and report contracted research.

I ask the Inspector General to please report his findings at the earliest possible date. I also urge EAC to help end the criticisms of us by releasing all of the information we received from consultants on our election crimes research project. My further thoughts and views on this matter are contained in statements that I issued this week and in December 2006, and are posted on my webpage at www.eac.gov.

To all of my colleagues attending the Election Center's meeting, I extend profound appreciation and respect for the work you continue to do, day in and day out. I also appreciate the invitation to appear at your meeting and regret that I am not able to be there.

My very best wishes to all,

Commissioner Gracia Hillman