

## StreamBox

### US EAC STANDARDS BOARD 2026 Annual Meeting Rough Transcript

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's New technologies. Let me give you an example of why we must always be responsive to the technological landscape. The bottom line, we have to be transparent but we have to be able to show the systems are secure. Maybe that does call being responsive to states. And the public that are concerned with different features of the voting systems. That may be the bar or QR codes, maybe wireless connectivity, an issue we have dealt with for years. They have been many calls to remove wireless connectivity. And the issue remains one of continuous and security concerns with calls that sign up the requirements. Sometimes we can lead and be reactive at EAC from another states that have moved in different areas. These big issues. But this body is responsible because they were do we want to be in five years? Do want to be responsible to the public on these big issues. That is one of the primary reasons relate this week to have these discussions. As an inverse report to the EAC recalling and your expertise to help us make these decisions down the road. The EAC to make those decisions and that will infect some ways tomorrow. Help us make history today with your best in bold advice. We are also going to talk a little bit about an issue I find very important going back all the way to Carter Baker. Data security and voter registration systems. Individuals move on an average of 11 times in a lifetime. Obviously, that is a lot to keep track of. And so, we will talk a little bit about voter registration, how technology can improve voter registration accuracy, how interoperability and a commodative format between states can help potentially come in the future make this process much more accurate process. And again, a respondent improve voter perception of the voting process. More importantly, to say thank you. Thank you for going on this historic journey with us. I've been a part of the EAC seven years and we are really trying to improve the systems. Make tomorrow's elections better and stronger than today's. America sing-along 250 years for this is 250 years I will talk little bit about that. We started voting with color boxes, black and white stones, yelling out results to the polling place. Chance, I know I had to go there and today, we are tableting results in minutes on high speed tabulator's and time bars. So we are now in the era of HAVA and continuing to write that story. You are consenting to write that story. Let's continue to write that chapter and as we proceed along the nation's voting history but I will turn it over to them chair of EAC, Tom Hicks.

>> Thank you, Commissioner Palmer. Those are great remarks and I'm looking at the crowd and all of the stunned faces. I wanted to say, thank you. Thank you for coming to Chicago.

And thank you for joining us. I also want to thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. To no one's surprise in this room, there has been a lot of uncertainty for the election community. And for that EAC itself. Federal government's engagement over the past year and elections, we know it has been tough planning and navigating the potential impacts. Every year is challenging. This year is no different. But the EAC will continue to do our best to bridge the connecting dots for you. And your fellow state and local officials through meetings like this one. With our boards and clearinghouse community as well as our other federal partners like the FBI, Postal Service, Justice Department, and DHS. If you have suggestions or ideas, for trainings and briefings for the EAC, or with our other agencies, please let us know. Just last month, we worked with the FBI in Boston. Organize a briefing covering bomb threats. For elections stations and polling places for over 1000 participants. This has been a top concern and request for election officials like yourselves. We want to be responsive and we want to provide federal support where we can for the 2026 election cycle. So over the next two days, you will be hearing from EAC staff. In some of your fellow board members. I hope you find the discussions and panels informative and engaging. If you don't, do not talk to me. We know many of you are in the midst of preparing for upcoming primaries and we do really appreciate you all taking the time to be here today. With that, I will turn this over to vice chair, Christy McCormick.

>> Thank you, Chairman Hicks. Good morning to everybody, you awake? Good morning. Thank you again for joining us here today as you continue to serve as the heart of our electoral process. A heart that ensures the lifeblood of our democracy continues to function each and every election cycle. Talked in the past about how every election has its story. And at this point in his ear, we do not know what that story is going to be. But in preparation for the story, I know you are putting in long hours by sleepless nights, and thinking a lot about how to handle possible disruptions. "The only headline to be read as there was another successful election. Elections are about people and their stories. voters, candidates, proximal parties, all called to this job to serve others. But do not forget to serve and build confidence in each other. So please, take advantage of the time here. To have good conversations with each other and support each other and encourage each other. We brought you here to have real interactions with people who are experiencing the same issues that you are. And also, to learn from you. So ask that question, share that story, because someone else here is wondering or feeling the same way you are. And do not stop engaging with each other when we leave Chicago, as we are stronger as we walk this path together. Whatever this election season may hold, I know we will successfully handle it together and our representative democracy persevere another 250 years because of you. Thank you for keeping our story going. Without them I will turn it over to Mr. Haviland.

>> Thank you, vice chair McCormick. Good morning everybody. I don't know if it is the acoustic singer but I thought I caught a soldier boy referenced earlier. Which really ruined my bingo card. And it has kind of thrown me off a little bit. It is great to see you all. Thank you for coming out. For those of you who are able to join us yesterday, I hope you found that to be valuable. For the few of you that are doing double duty on LLC thank you for

continuing your week with us and please show us the courtesy to laugh at the jokes the second time you hear them. I know they get old and Tom's are leasehold. But anyway. Sorry. Off-topic. See, you did not get the about the first time, but, no. We are excited to be able to share with the standards Board and not of the work that EAC has been up to over the last year and the work we are looking to continue to do. Again, we have an amazing team who has been really doing work that we are all proud of the last couple days with the LLC has been very validated into here about how that work has been making a difference to the locals. Obviously, one of the great things about the standards Board is it is the board will become together as state and locals from across the country to talk about the issues that are impacting our community. And so, we are looking forward to the next day and and a half to do that. One of the things I wanted to mention, again, we are proud of those successes. It is important to acknowledge the agency did take 15 percent funding cut last year. Which again, makes for feedback that much more valuable. It makes us to prioritize the things we do, again, a lot what we've been talking about with the LLC has been new program and we have been able to do, expansion of Testament certification, things like the election supporting technology, program, their learning the outcome of the clearinghouse network etc. All of these things remain possible by the expansion of funding we've seen over the last couple of years. We do not have any intention to backslide . We want to continue to make progress. But that is going to require strategic thinking. It is going to require making good decisions. And your feedback is an integral part of that. And so, again, want to emphasize we appreciate you taking the time to be here. We value the feedback and it really does matter to us as we go forward and continue to push the agency forward. In some of the programs you will hear about. And so with that, I will turn it back to Commissioner Palmer. Again, thank you for being here and taking the time.

>> Thank you Commissioner, I know the commissioners, since Chicago is only right to kick off the meeting with the Illinois chief election. Please join me in welcoming Ornette Matthews, executive director of the Illinois state board of elections.

>> Good morning American. It is nice to look out and see so many of you. I recognize so many people so it is nice to see you again in person. It is also nice to be here this morning. Yesterday morning I was down in Springfield for the budget hearings. Completely different atmosphere. Different venue and it is nice to be amongst friends this morning. As stated, I am Bernadette Matthews, I serve as the executive director of the Illinois state board of directions, as of April 1, I've been at that agency 17 years. I do joke that I started on April Fools' Day so, over the years is elections have changed the jokes kind of write itself. But I did previously served as Illinois standard board representative until appointing my colleague, Erica Christo, I am going to say her name, she is present today. Several years ago to serve in this capacity. It is a pleasure to be here in Chicago. It is my current hometown and I do live here. I think it is interesting of all the music is coming out of Chicago we are referencing soldier boy this morning. So it is really nice, as I said, to be here with colleagues and partners from across the country. It is an honor to welcome you all here. I do want to begin and stay on the theme of thinking everyone. I would like to thank the commissioners for having me here today to open the meeting but also providing this way for him for us to

get together from across the country. So talk about very important topics for current election administration. I would also like to thank each of you, the state and local election officials, federal partners, technical experts, vendors, election administrators, all of the stakeholders that are in attendance today, for the work you do everyday and the tremendous dedication you bring to this work. I think this meeting represents some of the best parts of the partnership and what it looks like in our modern democracy. The EAC was created to support state and local election officials so the form provided today is essential to our continued communication and collaboration. Together we form a network of election stakeholders. Who are dedicated to innovate, troubleshoot, and safeguard one of our nation's most fundamental rights, the right to vote. Over the next two days, you will explore two areas that sit at the heart of voter confidence. Voter list maintenance, and the voting system testing and standards. Accurate and up-to-date voter registration lists are the foundation of election integrity and accessibility. As administrators, we are balancing two critical priorities, protecting eligible voters access to the ballot while also maintaining accurate records that prevent errors. And ensure the integrity and protection of elections. Maintaining the list is a complex and ongoing process, no single entity can do it on its own. So when our organizations work together and communicate data effectively and efficiently we reduce inaccuracies, improve efficiency, and enhance voter confidence. Another cornerstone of voter trust is the testing certification and continuous improvement of voting systems. Through the VVSG standards and guidelines EAC works with us to set and refine testing standards that reflect modern technology, meet enhanced accessibility requirements, and address ever evolving threats. Our work really is never done in this space which is why it is critical we do meet at least once a year to go over this. The updates we continuously draft, debate, and adopt help ensure election systems are both reliable and resilient. They are able to deliver accurate results while maintaining modern accessibility for every voter including those with disabilities. System testing certification and auditing are not simply technical tasks that we conduct. They are necessary acts of transparency build voter trust and confidence with every ballot that is returned. At every level, federal, state, and local number shared goal remains clear, to conduct elections that are accurate, accessible, secure, and transparent. These four principles not only guide good administration but establish trust and democracy. The partnerships represented in this room make this possible. When we collaborate, share our best practices, discuss her current challenges, and stay dedicated to continuously improving we demonstrate a shared commitment to voter access and election integrity. As we begin the meeting, let's remember we are present today in service to the voters. Our attendance helps ensure that every eligible voter can participate, that every vote is counted accurately, and voters have confidence in our administration and every elections results. So again, thank you for your attendance, your expertise, your dedication to the work. I look forward to the discussions and the continued communication and collaboration that makes this country's democratic system not only possible but as strong as everybody who is here today. So, thank you and I hope you will have an excellent next two days.

>> Thank you Miss Matthews. And now, we will accept report from the proxy committee.

>> Madam chair, it was my understanding that you were going to make the proxy committee report but I can do that for you as a member of the committee if you would like.

>> Thank you Mr. Dan.

>> Dan Robinson Morgan, proxy committee met and verified the proxies and they are all valid.

>> Thank you. Without , the committee has reviewed and verified the proxies eligibility. With out objection, are there any objections? Without objections this proxy is accepted as a reminder, proxy voting is allowed to all business members. Thank you now, let's welcome the Secretary of the standards Board, Brad King for roll call.

>> Thank you, and German. EAC commissioners and members of the standards Board. Before I begin the vocal, I will ask your indulgence in that I will do my best to pronounce your names. I suspect many of us have been called worse names. You may have some built-in immunity. Again, I call upon your good graces as I proceed. And please indicate your presence. Either as individual or if you are the designated proxy for another member. I will be calling alphabetically by state. So we will start with Alabama. Rachel told. Wes Allen. Alaska. Michaela Thompson. Carol Beecher. American Samoa. Margaret believed -- I heard present. [Name] Arizona. -- Tonya a tunnel. Arkansas. Alexandria meaning you in. Coal adjuster. California. Dean Logan. Nikki shall Robinson. Colorado. Renée Warner. Dwight Shulman the third.

>> Proxy for Mr. Shulman.

>> Shown as present. Connecticut. Marianne Byrne. Gabe Rosenberg. Delaware. Ralph. And then he opens.

District of Columbia. Monica H Evans. Gary Thompson.

Florida. Paul lucks. Maria Matthews.

Georgia. Nancy Boren. Bradford Ratzenberger. Long.

Christiana Jay Ramirez. Maria. [Name]

Hawaii. Rex could -- Kristin. Idaho. Patty leaks. Daniel B.

Illinois. Erica Cristal. Indiana. Nicole Brown.

>> Present.

>> Bradley King is present. Iowa. Amanda Harlan. Eric R Coogan.

Kansas. Jamison shoe. Brian Caskey. Shown as present. Kentucky. Jeff Hancock. Gregory McNeil. Mike Spence. Louisiana, sorry, Mike Spence. Elizabeth daily.

Main, Wendy Borowsky. [Name?]

Maryland, Di McLean. Catherine Berry. Massachusetts, Daniel Sicard. Deborah O'Malley.

Michigan. Justin Roebuck. Jocelyn Benson. Minnesota. Michael Stolberg. Paul L'Engle.

Shown as present. Mississippi. Robert Coleman. Missouri. Sarah's work. Chrissy peters.

Montana. Lexis doctor. Austin James. Nebraska. Todd Wilkin. Andrew Boler. Nevada.

Tammy Ray sparrow. Francisco - [Name?] New Hampshire, Robert. Shown as present.

Patricia Pike. New Jersey, Beth Thompson. Donna Barber. New Mexico. Annie Hoagland.

Mandy vigil. New York. Courtney L Spitler. Thomas Connolly. North Carolina. Tim usually.

Thomas Parker hallway. North Dakota. Erica Johnsbury. Erica White. Ohio. Brian sleeve.

Chris Burnett. Oklahoma. Blair Gonzales. Carol J Morris. Oregon. Darren Robinson. Tobias

read. Pennsylvania. Tonya Fernandez. [Name?]

Puerto Rico. He rallies Fernandez Rivera. Norma Figueroa Mireles. Rhode Island. Nick Lima.

>> Here.

>> Kathy Kaczynski.

>> Present.

>> South Carolina. John Duncan. South Dakota. Carry our chrome. Tom Dedrick.

Tennessee. Page Bergen Dennis. Mark Goins, present by proxy. Texas. Laura Rogers.

Christina Adkins. Utah. Lanny Chapman. Shelley Jackson. Vermont. Sandra Pinot sold.

Sarah Copeland home says. Virgin Islands. Cover me Douglas. Caroline Alex. Virginia. Mark Coakley. Steve Koski. Washington, Lori Larson. Stuart Holmes.

>> Present.

>> West Virginia. Brian would.

>> Present.

>> Brittany Westfall. Wisconsin. Flores Toffler. On of the road. Wyoming. Kayla white. Chuck Gray. Is there any member whose name has not been called? I see a hand. Thank you.

>> Mr. Secretary. I would like clarification on the attendance of Tom Connolly.

>> I'm sorry quite.

>> I thought I heard Tom Connolly was present. Was not by proxy?

>> Yes, I showed Tom Connolly as present.

>> Tom Connolly is not here.

>> Does anyone have his proxy? No? All right.

>> Thank you, Commissioner. Madam chair, with that correction the rollcall shows 58 members present. Either in person or by proxy. And it appears a quorum is granted.

>> I will not administer the oath of office to the standards board members. Please stand.

Just raise your right hand, I do solemnly swear or affirm I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Against all enemies foreign and domestic. That will be true faith and allegiance are the same. That I take this obligation freely. Without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. That I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of which I am about to enter. So help me God. Back to you.

>> Now I will call for motions to adopt the 2026 meeting agenda and minutes from previous standards board annual meeting. After I call for a motion it will need to be moved and seconded by the members. After the motion is moved and seconded members will have an opportunity to object or add some extent of edits if they wish. As a reminder, members were sent today's agenda and the previous annual meeting minutes ahead of today's meeting. I will now entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

>> Tonio from Arizona, so moved.

>> Is there a second?

>> Second, Carrie Crum, South Dakota.

>> Any objection.

No objection. It is moved and seconded that this body adopts the agenda before you. I will now take the voice vote to adopt the agenda. All in favor say aye. all opposed say nay. the habit and the agenda is adopted. I will now entertain a motion to adopt the previous

meeting minutes as presented.

>> Madam chair, as Secretary I move the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as submitted.

>> Is there a second?

>> Madam chair, I second.

>> Any objection. It is moved and seconded. This body adopts the minutes before you. I will now take the voice vote to adopt the minute. All in favor say aye. all opposed say nay. the aye's private and minutes are adopted. Let's welcome Susan Parson, EAC associate counsel, who will give a FACA overview.

>> Good morning. My name is Theissen Parsons, one of the attorneys of the election assistance commission and I will provide an overview of the EAC's advisory boards as well as the requirements of membership under the Federal advisory committee act. I will warn you, this is very dry material. But it is important so bear with me here. Because there are some new members here today, we want to begin with an overview of our advisory boards before we outline the roles and response abilities of committee membership. So these are the four boards that advise the EAC. We have the technical guidelines and development committee, TG DC for short. The standards board, the board of advisors, and the local leadership Council. I will provide an overview of each of these boards before we dive into the requirements of committee membership. The technical guidelines and development committee is chaired by the national Institute of standards and technology. Specifically, this port has a role in the development of the voluntary voting system guidelines. Members of the TG DC, include individuals from the standards board and our board of advisors. As well as external entities like the access board and technical experts. The force of advises is fully represented apartment board and membership selected members of Congress. External organizations and other advisory boards. The board of advisors provides recommendations to the EAC. Its review of the voluntary voting system guidelines. As well as on best practices and other documents the EAC presents to the board. Next up with the local leadership Council. The LLC is the EAC's only discretionary advisory board. All that means is it is not required by the help America vote act. Based on professional feedback mother EAC created the local leadership Council in 2021 so we can receive more direct advice, specifically from local elected officials. The local leadership Council is comprised of two local election officials with experience serving and leadership in local election official professional associations. The local leadership Council provides guidance and advice to the EAC on a variety of topics related to the administration of elections for federal office. And of course, we have a standards board. The standards board consist of 110 members. 55 state election officials selected by your respected chief state election official. And 55 local officials selected through a process, supervised by each state chief election official. The standards board provides general advice on the EAC operations and assist the EAC with carrying out its mandate under the help America vote act. That is an overview of our boards. These are the applicable laws that regulate board activities. Involvement and participation in the EAC's advisory boards are primarily governed by the several advisory committee act and the government in a sunshine act. Records produced in

the course of advisory committee business are also subject to the Freedom of information on and the privacy act. And just as a reminder, this is a public meeting with members of the public and members of the press in attendance. So I will turn now to your responsibilities as an advisory board member. Generally, board members main responsibility is to participate in meetings and submit nonbinding advice and recommendations to the EAC. The board must follow the EAC's approved charter. As well as comport yourself with integrity. And not trade upon your position as a member of the advisory board for your own personal benefit. You must not use your role as presented on the board to promote yourself or any products, services, or private parties. The law requires any permissible direct indications of Congress in your official capacity as a board member be made only through the official channels of the EAC. These restrictions do not prohibit you from lobbying members of Congress in your own capacity and bone your own time. If you lobby Congress for your state legislature in your personal capacity, the issues related to EAC advisory board business, make clear you are not representing the EAC advisory board and not acting in your official capacity as an advisory board member. This slide is the most important part of my whole presentation. If you have any questions about the lobbying restrictions that apply to your membership on our advisory boards, do not hesitate to reach out to the EAC's office of General Counsel and provide any clarifying information you might need. Another thing is an overview of subcommittees. Examples include working groups, subgroups, and taskforces established for specific purposes. The most different thing about subcommittees is a clear reporting structure is essential. Subcommittees provide their findings and recommendations to the advisory board in this case, standards board which then advises the EAC. That means were produced by subcommittees flows through the advisory board itself. The subcommittee does not provide recommendations directly to the EAC. The federal advisory committee act assumes that the committee giving advice directly to the agency will be chartered and offered under the rules. The subcommittees report to the charter committee not to the agency itself. Some most rules do not apply to subcommittees. Some committees that report directly to a designated federal officer or the agency itself would need to be chartered. There is no requirement for subcommittee meetings to be announced in the Federal Register. And there is also no requirement to allow public access and subcommittee meetings. Designated federal officers and alternate designated federal officers may attend committee meetings. And subcommittee meetings must be made public if advice is given directly to that EAC. That is all I have for today. I want to thank you for your time. And especially for your participation as a member of the standards board. If you have any questions regarding the requirements of membership on the board do not hesitate to reach out to the EAC's office of General Counsel. At OGC at EAC.gov. That inbox is monitored by Camden Keller, General Counsel at the EAC as well as, Andrew Sassoon, Deputy General Counsel, and me. With that, I will turn it over to Executive Director of the EAC for agency update, Brianna Schletz. Thank you.

>> Good morning. I am Brianna Schletz, the EAC's Executive Director. And I am joined today by Camden.

>> I think I know everybody by now. I am Camden, EAC General Counsel.

>> First, I want to echo the commissioner said and thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here and advise the EAC. Our mission outlined in HAVA, election administration and we cannot do that without your advice and counsel. We appreciate you being here and contributing to our products and events result in improvements that help assist in the critical job that you do up helping Americans both. I want to encourage you to participate, you heard that a lot liberty. But while you are here, participate in the conversation but also know you can find me or any of the EAC staff. Love to hear if you have comments, suggestions for us, or any questions we can help into. When the boys met last year there was a lot of uncertainty. And today I am thrilled to have the opportunity to report on the exceptional work of the agency. We have a very talented team. They are very dedicated and he will get the opportunity to hear from many of them today. Last year we spent a lot of time working internally responding to data call requests , defending our spending commensurate policies were updated with the guidance coming out almost daily. Also, implementing AI into our operations, streamlining our processes to be more effective in all of this ultimately, so we can do more with less. Today I'm excited to share the outward facing accomplishments that impact each of you. There we go. Alright so, when our main focuses has been on improving election to analogy. Last year was a historic one for the EAC. We certify the first systems to VVSG 2.0 and also currently have five other systems under test. This is continuing the progress toward seeing the next generation of voting systems and polling locations in the near future. Our team is also completed transitioning VVSG 1.0 to 2.0 and completed the by lineal lab accreditation. We also been expanding our research under the election supporting technology evaluation program, ESTEP we now have two Alana Tronic poll books to the voluntary standards and we recently completed a pilot for electronic ballot delivery systems. The results of that effort should be coming out soon. Related to voter registration systems, we developed a draft voluntary standards, currently in the early stages of conducting a pilot. This pilot will test commercial estate voter registration systems for conformance with security standards. Lengths, production and reporting systems, we have two efforts underway. One is be contracted for research on a security testing framework using an election reporting system as kind of a proof of concept. Our hope is this research will provide information on systems that are connected to the Internet. And also, offer valuable risk mitigation strategies that can be applied to other web placed technology such as motor voter registration systems and we expect the results of that before the end of the calendar year for the second project eventually up tonight reporting, internal research. We are currently revisiting our draft and our standards and hope to do a pilot later this year as well for them. The field services team is responsible for quality monitoring, testing and certification program. You will hear a little bit more about that later but I will give you the brief overview now. In 2025 hour staff provided support for 48 cash verifications. Our team is available to assist either states or jurisdictions and work directly with you. We work with you to determine the scope of the project. And those results are written into a report, you can choose to do report or not. But if you choose to do report you have the opportunity to comment on it before publication

and will also issue a one page summary, shown on the slide here. We found this has been a great communication tool. Several of the completed projects, there has been positive local media reporting following review. I think we offer this as another tool that helps with voter confidence. Also, helping the public understand what goes into securing elections. This is something you might be interested in learning more about, the contact information is there on the slide. Field services and EAC.gov we also have some stuff that you can talk to if you would to learn more. We have also been busy with the VVSG 2.1 as Commissioner Palmer spoke about in his opening remarks. We worked with missed in order to drop VVSG 2.1 draft standards we also have with the T GDC four times in order to collect feedback and refine the standards. That has been a heavy undertaking. In addition to that, January 2026 EAC published a notice of verification establishing an end-of-life certification review and precision policy. What this effort is going to do, ensure EAC's list of certified voting systems reflects only those still in use and supported by manufacturers. Manufacturers provide investment list of the systems that are no longer in use but we wanted to double check with election officials and make sure that is actually true. Last week EAC posted a proposed list of end-of-life systems in the Federal Register for feedback. We ask you take some time to review that list and make sure there are no jurisdictions within your estate that are using any of the equipment on that list. Before moving on to our training program, really want to highlight compress of this volume of work is pretty powerful technology team for testing and certification, ESTEP and field services consist of 10 people. And a year ago we were getting a question a lot, what is going to happen all the manufacturers bring their 2.0 systems and how will you do without demand? I am very happy to report we spent the last year crosstraining this team. So with every campaign has is a lead from our testing and certification program. And other staff from our technology team assigned as backup to support. This model has allowed us to keep up with the demand. We are fortunate to be able to hire for two additional testing and certification team members to back. We understand the importance of the testing and certification program. We are trying to tell you processes where possible and we are really trying to strive to continue to improve. Moving on to training. We have continued to expand our in person and our learning lab training. We have now reached nearly every state and territory. And there are some statistics on this line there, I will read a few. We trained more than 3400 election officials across 23 events in 2025. I'm returning Bob now has 32 training courses and seven different categories. Those categories and trainings are based on feedback from these board meetings and also from speaking to election officials on what they need is. And in addition to this, in 2026 we already conducted live training in Montana and New Jersey. With 3 to 5 election officials and those events For those of you that got to see the training program in tin yesterday, it is pretty impressive what they can , and do. And they can tailor, we have a menu of different options but the team can also tailor something to what you need. Some are flexible with that as well. I like to remind everyone that our training both online and in person is free. Completely free of cost. Please take advantage of it. Our clearinghouse community is the EAC's network for bringing election officials across the country together to ask questions, share resources, in 2025 we added 685 new users. That

was a 90 percent growth rate and just counted the local election officials our members serve hundred and 2 million voters which is 58 percent of all registered voters in the United States. Pretty impressive how much the community has grown in a short amount of time. The goal of the network was to connect election officials so you can get quick answers to important questions for one another. A few quotes on the slides in a little bit small to read. But we do want you to share if there is something useful. If you are using the network and why you like it or something more we can be doing with it. As Commissioner mentioned, unfortunately with our budget cut this year, I will talk a little bit more about it later, we are constantly assessing what we can keep, what we must cut, and knowing if something is useful is incredibly valuable to as making those decisions. I really do encourage you to share feedback, find me or our staff, we want to hear the feedback you have good or bad. Our team continues to produce new resources for election officials. There is a QR code there with some of the different categories of resources that we have put out. We added more than 20 materials this year. Again, largely due to what the requests were from our last years board meetings or is having conversations with election officials. We have also distributed 3500 election scenario test sticks, TTX decks, we introduced expansion packs for natural disasters and coworkers, which was at your request. If you do not have the TTX card deck please stop by and get one, we had some of the registration table. But if you prefer to not carry them with you when we can send them to your office. Feel free to reach out to any of us and we will make sure you get those. Next HAVA grants in 2025 we distribute 15 million in HAVA election security grants. 45 million dollars appropriated in fiscal year 2026. Which we have made available. The team has also offered training on how to request those funds. In addition to that, provided 50 training sessions just on grant management more generally. We conducted eight on-site visits next year. Our team is available to support you. We have our grants director here so if you do have grants questions please feel free to contact her. That our team is more than happy to connect with you and help navigate our grant process. Alright so, the 2024 eaves I would like to thank you and your staff are filling out the eaves. This report is the most conference update on election administration but it is not possible without the data you and your team something. In 2025 and published the 11th serving have hundred percent response rate. We also seen the eaves cited in 70 different publications. We have state one pages which I think there is examples of almost like there. The convergence of data by state. We also have the eaves via interactive tool which if you have not played around with is pretty cool. Encourage you to check it out. There is a blog post and also the video on how you can use that very different ways of how you can compare data in other jurisdictions that are the same or similar size. We do understand the eaves is not easy to fill out. We have been listening and will share a little bit more later on some of the weight EAC is working to improve the survey. The EAC publishing research and a couple different areas. I am showing three on the slide there related to election workers, security grants , and the history of eaves. This slide here is a map that highlights the outreach lead focused on Austin. In 2025 we dedicate a lot of time and resource outreach with congressional staff, OMB , and election officials across the nation. The slide is pretty impressive, between our

four commissioners there were 100 visits and a shovel to 40 states and three territories to better understand how the EAC can best serve the needs of election officials. The commissioners met with officials and 11 foreign countries to highlight election administration best practices from the United States and further learn how elections are conducted. EAC also hosted 22 events in nine states including Guam and the District of Columbia personal those events within regional meetings many of you attended and we got a really positive reaction, others have been very successful. We also continued to build on how we are sharing information. This slide has statistics on our newsletter and media outreach. We are now beyond 30,000 newsletter subscribers. We also have an additional newsletter dedicated just to election officials that has over 4000 subscribers. Pretty impressive. So looking forward, we were able to achieve a lot during very challenging circumstances last year. Our work is continuing and we have made a lot of progress so far in 2026. But I do want to be transparent, we are facing a significant budget cut and kind of talk about what that means. Our budget for fiscal year 26 is 23 million, \$23.8 million of which 1.5 goes directly to this pray for comparison, in 2025 it was 27.72 million dollars. We were looking at about 15 percent decrease as Commissioner mentioned. With a budget as small as ours relative to other federal agencies, that reduction has a really large impact. First off we had to reduce our headcount by over 10 percent. And we are having to make some difficult decisions to ensure we can still meet our mandates but the resources to you that have the greatest impact. I want to just talk a little bit about areas where you might see reductions. One of the main areas is contracting for special research and projects. We're going to try to move as many of these in house as we can. But there just might be less capacity to do some of those. Travel, this is something we are watching closely. We like to say yes to all of the training requests we get and request for field services. As we get closer to the end of the fiscal year that may be something we have to cut back on. And then also, regional meetings will likely all be virtual this year rather than in person. We are always looking to be good stewards of taxpayer funds and we will continue every effort we can to make silly of resources and the formats you need. But we do want your input on where we should be directing our resources. What has the most value to you? What is the biggest impact for you and your offices? This helps us when making those critical decisions. Like I mentioned, we've been able to backfill a couple of positions but we are under resourced and some program areas. Having to have a closer look at that. On two of the more positive note. The ideas lab. Some of you participated last year in the board meetings rarely facilitated a session between the standards Board and the LLC meeting. In particular 81 federal advisory board members to develop ideas and processes for solutions of challenges and election administration. You and the other participants generated 230 different challenges that faced election administration. We narrow these down to 53 high-priority areas. And those 53 are represented in the chart on the slide. They fit into nine categories which are listed there as well. Forms were then created to come up with 16 big ideas for improving election administration. I think we heard great feedback that this was a very useful exercise and I want to talk a little bit about what EAC, from our side and what we did with this information from several we took the decree high-priority areas and put

them into a tractor. We then had figured out what are we doing or how are we currently meeting that issue and what we have is opportunities in the future. I chose one example. The issues were created in the form of, wouldn't it be great if, so one of the feedback from one of the areas was, wouldn't it be great if election officials leverage AI effectively by sharing proximal use cases with each other. What does EAC do in order to address this? We have toolkits and resources online but we also enlarged this year issued a report called AI in action which includes exactly what you're asking for. Case studies from you on how people are using AI effectively in your offices and some practical considerations for that. We also had on Monday evening from eight regional meeting. We were able to have one other subject matter experts present on AI. He provided information on how to get started, what it means to have a corporate account versus a free account and why you do not want your staff using a free account. Different areas for implementing AI responsibly in your office. In the future we are hoping to expand our AI efforts. This is an area we able love to hear feedback about what would be useful for you in your offices. We have piloted AI answers in Everclear house communities, something knocked into if you are interested. We also are hoping to deploy AI agent under the EAC website before the end of the fiscal year which will help finding things under the EAC website easier. Some of the things we are doing. We do this with everything that one of the 53 different categories. Let me go back really quickly. If I go back to the slide, you will see that the largest category, priority commercial adjustment opportunities was in communications. We have our communications director here who will be joining some of our panels, Kristen Muthig, joining panels to help communicators specifically around elections technology since we have heard that has been a challenge. The other second-largest category is workforce and staffing. We will get a chance to hear from one of our subject matter experts today as well on what we have done or what we are doing right now and workforce development. Also get feedback on whatever approach should be moving forward. Many of the things I've been talking better in our 2025 annual report. I would encourage you to check out if you have not. But one of the things we started doing in 2024's annual report, providing recommendations for Congress. This year we included eight augmentations for improvement. I bring these up because a lot of them directly address the issues that were brought up in ideas lab. Some some of those are just things that are bigger than what we can fix on our own. So we have used this annual report is an area to highlight these things for Congress. We know that holistically in our current funding level there are just challenges that are too big for us. So this allows us to have this conversation with stakeholders. I am not going to read all of them but I do want to highlight a few of them could recommendation to is to find the EAC to develop ways to improve voter registration system, accuracy and interoperability. This was one of the issues directly identified by multiple groups. In the ideas session. We recognize this is a really large challenge. I do want to highlight two things we are currently doing in this area. One, we have two research projects ongoing. One is to understand the cost of odorless maintenance that states and jurisdictions bear. Consider identifying efficiencies and operations and ways for easily exchanging information across states. The second research project we have is a design

study. Looking at ways to improve response rates of voter notifications. Hopefully, to get some insight into that. Thank you to those who are helping us to participating in his research projects. If anybody wants more information, Kammi Foote in the back of the room and happy to help answer any questions where you linked up with our team if it is something you want to be a part of. Similarly, recommendation three is on our training program. We have gotten really, really good feedback. And we are finishing some of the content you paid for with last year's funds. But our current appropriation levels, we're funding the platform this year and any new training content. So any of the new training content would have to come in handsomeness. Again, if we had dedicated funding for that we would absolutely be able to add courses faster to the platform. Here are the other recommendations. Going to highlight a couple. Number four, amend HAVA to include, we included this in 2020. Number five, and six areas that were directly identified in as funding issues and ideas lab. So number five, understand the cost, structure and rising costs during elections and number six, we have just completed research on what VVSG 2.0? It will cost. The draft report was distributed to all of you for comment. But it lines up with our recommendation to appropriate HAVA modernization phones for states and territories to procure VVSG 2.0 systems. Going to go over quickly a couple of the changes that we are looking for eaves. Again, Kammi Foote is available if you have any specific questions or want further information. I will do a high-level overview but she has more information if you like it. Again, I want to say thank you to those of you that contributed by serving on one of our working groups. We incorporated alike the feedback we heard from including listening to what would not be helpful, which we got a lot of that feedback as well. We are really trying to reduce the burden and streamline the survey to make it easier for folks to fill out. We held six working groups with 30 participants from 18 different states. And through these working groups election officials indicated that adding or reorganizing questions in 2026 would be very challenging. We also heard there was a need for more lead time to implement really large changes. We tried to do some other things in the meantime here there were some common themes that are listed on the slide that we were hearing from those working groups. So what we have done is refine our existing questions to clarify the intent and consolidate some of the questions that we are producing for quality data. Deemed by the working groups is not being useful. Some of the other main difference is that you will see, the instructions are rewritten plain language to improve the clarity and consistency. Our team did multiple reviews of the instructions to find out how we can make them easier for someone to fill out. Wait updated definitions and instructions. And specifically for those that conduct by mail elections and clarify how officials could report mail voting and in person voting data can we removed and consolidated hybrid and low value questions. New categories were also added for reporting the use of valid on-demand systems and the national mail voter education. Every section in the survey begins with a checklist so that you know what you need before you are filling out that section. Hopefully that will help with some of the bargain. And the survey just has more streamlined instructions for balancing numbers and how to report missing or incomplete data. We have also headed out for public comment 60 days and

received over 50 common stock which is more than we ever received on the survey. Which means people are paying attention to this. We do welcome you to provide feedback. Mabel go out another 30 days for public comment which will be beginning soon. If you have any feedback on the survey, please do take advantage of that public comment period. Again, if you would like more information, Kammi Foote is here and happy to answer questions on that. I am going only. I hope this presentation demonstrates our work really is guided by what we hear from these meetings. Our meetings last year, from the regional meeting readouts, one region was saying they wanted to do and in person meeting. And they wanted to collaborate on an idea for a video that really demonstrates who election officials are and the work election officials do. I would like to close with a huge thank you for what you do every day. We know that it is not easy. We hope the work that we do is able to help make it a little bit easier help you and some aspects of your job. But this video was a result of that request. Last year.

>> What is great about elections is it is a completely public process. Every decision we make, every procedure, every thing we are doing is really based on keeping the integrity of the election.

>> I think the most important thing people need to understand about integrity of the election process is there are so many checks and balances. For instance, in mind when we do anything that involves valid, we Democrats and Republicans with mailing ballots.

>> Public integrity election officials have, particularly on the local level. How hard we work behind the scenes is not seen. They see onus on election day corrective depression about this job you cannot to show up for work every day and treated by the casual 95 office job because it is a.

>> The people that run elections across the country are all the same, they have one job to make sure elections are run correctly, securely, and with integrity.

>> It has been the owner of my life to be an elections commissioner. To be able to safeguard democracy for my friends, neighbors. And to be able to work with the election's commission.

>> We are happy to answer any questions you might have.

>> I came up here for moral support for the LLC provided to administer defense. I was of no commissioner Palmer's notes, seems like crank that is the extent of the Josie will come up with so I cannot come up with that. First, to make a quick note will you are a captive audience globally established the bylaws. You as the order established regional subcommittees. We've seen a lot of success with this with the LLC. We have our first original subcommittee led presentation we would love to hear more from you all at these meetings. That is really the purpose of this regional subcommittees, the way they are governed. The big thing for you all, when we have the original subcommittee breakouts we need a chair from each region. Really ends up being somebody who herds sheep intends to keep it moving. It is up to you how you decide who that is? You are a bunch of electing officials because formal or informal as you want, do not have to do it specifically. The second thing is I will help my friend Karen Myers. Moving chairs, [Inaudible]

>> Who did that plea so, please hang out for a picture for a minute. We went up to grab

that. If you are opting not to be in the picture that is totally fine for we will hang here and go over a couple of minutes because part of this was meant to be Q and A. Briand and I will both be available. But before I give up the microphone we did not do this for the LLC, I do want to say thank you to Rihanna. This is not just self-serving but I think she has been a wonderful commissioners are great and I think from before. I think it is important to say thank you to Rihanna here. It was not an easy year for the EAC but we have gone through pretty well and that is a lot of credit to her. With that, if you have questions be nice to her, I like her, I am here to support her. Otherwise, we are happy to talk about whatever you guys want to talk about. That is great, just shot somebody out. With that, if you do not mind, jumping into the picture and we will head to breathe. We will head to break.

>> These come to your seat. We are about to start the next panel. I would like to welcome everyone back from the break. Our first panel featured our federal partners. I am joined by Alexa Rossi with the Federal Bureau of investigation. Tracy Long, the national headquarters crime coordinator. United States Postal Service uninspection service: schedule E. Adrian Marshall, Executive Director for election of government mail service as come United States Postal Service. On your program, we did have scheduled Heather Honey with the Department of Homeland Security. She was not able to attend. And so, she will not leave her today. Thanks for being with us. We will hear from each of you on your programs. Hopefully, about five minutes.

>> Commissioner Palmer for.

>> Yes, Tonya, before they get speaking to a point of order please?

>> I guess so, yes.

>> Commissioner Palmer, on the break I learned that one of our most senior election officials that has done literally, decades of wonderful service, to our country, is choosing to retire and this is his last meeting. I wonder if I could move that this body command and thank Brad King for his years of service and wish him the very best as he goes into retirement.

>> I think that is a great motion. I will save that is not hearing him. -- Brad is not here right now. He is here.

>> Should I repeat that now that he is entered the room?

>> It is true Brad is retiring Canales what I have heard. I think, I think this would be a great thing to do. I don't know if everybody knows this. And I know people are probably unprepared and want to be more prepared. But I will say, we will do something here right now. I will take a little privilege here. Sorry to cut into the presentation. Brad has not only been a long time member. I think he ran election director into different states. He was one of the first gentlemen who prevented me when I was a first time director. I really think him for his kindness. I will give other people opportunity. I also want to say, he is really an expert in conventional and a wealth of experience. Most importantly, he has been a member of the standards Board for decades. He has been a stalwart leader of the standards Board, committed to its continuing in continuity providing advice and leading the community in providing the best advice possible to the EAC and the standards Board in general. Brad obviously, thank you for your service, decades of service. We will have plenty

of time to talk about. If there's anybody else, give a few other people to talk about Brad. But I will bring this up later because once we have more time as a community and as the board. If there is anybody else wants to make a statement really brief before we move on to programming. But we will find time to do this. Anybody else that wants to be recognized and talk about Brad King? Right now. Commissioner McCormick.

>> Thank you, Brad for your years of service. You have given me so much guidance and wisdom when I have been DFO of this body. And as Don said, your wisdom is much appreciated. Your depth of knowledge, your knowledge of history, not just in the elections area but all kinds of areas. We just appreciate you so much and we are going to miss you being a part of this body. Thank you.

>> Brad. Behind you. The other way. Other people have to turn their Mike off. Brad, I wanted to say, thank you for your years of service and the fact that I believe you may have been the first chair of the standards Board. I cannot take credit for that. That was Steve. So for your 43 years of service, not only to this nation, but to our board, I want to say thank you. It is very hard for folks in this day and age, for us to be able to come together and think about the ultimate goal. And that is for us to have voters cast their votes and counted accurately. I think you have done an excellent job of ensuring that this board has run in a manner that is above partisanship. And so, I want to thank you for that. A little annoyed I'm finding out you are retiring this way. But the fact that I have come to Indiana several times and have come out and welcomed me with open arms. And so, I hope that he remain active in this community. But also, that you will be missed. Thank you, Tonya for bringing this to our attention. Also, want to have a huge round of applause for you. For the years of service you have had. Thank you.

>> I want to thank all of you. My heart is to fill Drano for any words beyond those. But again, thank you.

>> Thank you, Brad. Okay, why don't we start with Ms. Rossi. Thank you for being here today. I want to get the full and to you.

>> Thank you so much and thank you all for having me. Good morning my name is Alexa Rossi. I am a program manager at the public corruption unit of the FBI headquarters. I am recently new to this position. And so in addition to some of the work that I do for the public corruption program, one of my main focuses is election integrity and the process by which the FBI assists with elections. The mission of the FBI is to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution. In helping to protect security of those US elections, continues to be in and portend aspect of that mission. Just as with all previous election cycles. The FBI has a long-standing partnership with state and local election officials. This year will be no different. We coordinate across many election stakeholders, our law enforcement and intelligence partners to stay ahead of the threat and share information. One of the ways we do that is through our election crimes click in your program. This is a long-standing and established method of information sharing and cooperation with all election stakeholders. This program falls under our criminal division and their front Republic corruption program. Each of our 56 field offices all heavily referred to as EEC election crimes coordinator, they serve as FBI subject matter experts and federal election crimes. And US election cycle

preparation. The ECC is at the forefront of the FBI's IT security efforts. And they are a resource for secretaries of State's local partners in the state and even all of you should you need to reach out for them. I can answer questions mostly related to that program today and I looking forward to hearing what is him to say.

>> Thank you, Ms. Rossi.

>> Adrian.

>> Hey, thank you, Donald. Thank you for the invitation to speak at the first of our standards Board's meeting. Thank you so much. It is good to be here. I would like to start with our role, the United States Postal Service role in the election process. We are committed to fulfilling our role in the electoral process and we provide a secure, efficient and effective way for citizens to participate when policymakers decide to use mail as a private elections. One when voters choose to use our services to participate in an election. The Postal Service has a robust and tested process for proper handling, and timely delivery of election mail. Every federal election cycle we make efforts across the nation to inform local and state election officials about mailing procedures, our operational standards, and our recommended best practices for utilizing the mail. As a part of those efforts, we do a lot of external outreach. Two election officials and with our elected officials. Each federal election cycle we posted we also distribute kit 600. Which is the official election mail guide. Published online in February of this year. It is also in print and on his way to home election offices. It is distributed throughout the state and local jurisdiction administrators. It includes an updated pub 631 which is the official election mail graphics outlined in pub 632, which is the state and local election mail users guide. That kit is a soup to nuts version of everything we recommend two election officials. With how to prepare the mail and how to do so based on our recommendations and nailing standards. As a part of our outreach efforts, we have 15 management of customer relations who serve as primary points of contact for election officials. In each of those 50 managers of customer relations perform outreach, they are required to perform outreach twice a year during federal election year. Months before the primary for the particular state, those states and then once before the general election. So they serve as the primary points of contact for election officials. They share consistent uniform as you can for all states and jurisdictions. We like to have that ongoing dialogue to gather information about the jurisdictions plans. Tell make sure we are aligned in operationally ready. We will continue to educate and form the Postal Service has been recommendations to avoid some of those common pitfalls with problems with design and so forth that sometimes causes risk for balance to arrive timely. As most of you know, we have had some ongoing strategic network transformation and modernization efforts. And as a part of those efforts, we felt a need to define our language for post marking. So August 12 of last year we filed a proposed rule in the Federal Register. We opened her, and found out election officials to comment and it is that common. The end of 9/11 of last year. We published the final rule, November 2025. And the Federal Register. And basically, we added a section in our domestic Mail manual, some people refer to as a DMM, we use a lot of acronyms in the Postal Service commands you know. We added an additional section 608 11. It is titled postmarks and postal position. This section identify the types of Postal

Service markings that qualify as postmarks and describes the circumstances under which those markings are applied. It also advises customers of how to obtain evidence of the date on which the Postal Service accepts position their mailings. This new language in the DMM does not change any existing postal operations or post marking practices. But instead, it is intended to improve the public's understanding of postmarks and their relationships to the date of mailing. Once again, no changes to or post marking process. Weight did change our operation schedules. And we changed our transportation schedules. A key message alone post marking is, again, they are generally applied our originating processing facilities. And will continue to be applied at those facilities in the same manner and extent as before. Because prayer that modernization we have introduced our regional transportation optimization sites, and sometimes most times in those offices, those offices are outside of that 50 mile radius of our PDC, regional processes and distribution centers. Those facilities are also part of that marginalization and transformation -- modernization and transformation strategies going on. Sound separately, our message to voters, and the public, if you want to ensure your mail piece receives a postmark. And the date of the postmark aligns with the date of mailing, the customer can take the mail piece to November Postal Service retail locations and request a manual local postmark at the retail counter. This is a free service. We will apply it free of charge. Moving into a new transition that we had an election mail issue reporting process. And we used a.org site for election officials to report issues, so we could react within 24 to 48 hours to resolve those issues timely. We are transition from election mail.org site to the USPS.com /election mail. But on this site, you can report a problem and I'm election official can also find their local manager of customer relations, those 50 managers of customer relations who serve as primary points of contact. They can also find that on the landing page. They can also find a mail piece design analyst who can assist with envelope design and meal preparation. So that is very new this year. And I will end there. Thank you.

>> Good morning alone. My name is Traci long with United States postal inspection service component of the acting assistant inspection in charge of the criminal investigations group it also agencies national action plan for Nader. For those who have never heard of the postal inspection service, one of the oldest federal law enforcement agencies. And we actually have 74 election crime creditors, as Alexa mentioned with the FBI, we have a similar protocol as well. They are located nationwide. We have that list updated and active. If you do not know your local ECC is please reach out to us and we can get you in contact with them. One thing we really stress year-round with elections, is for the local communities to have that POC readily available. We offer a lot of suggestions and tips on how you can ingest election mail or political mail and how to make it safe for you and your employees. We also create publications on how to identify and prevent potential suspicious and dangerous mailings. Typically when people hear that terminology date think of letters with unknown powders or liquids in substances. Where we have inspectors who are dangerous mail investigative trained. And we can respond on scene and test whatever unknown substance could be in those mail pieces. We also partner with Adrian's group as well, and share -- we just changed often, Postal Service loves acronyms, observation mail

conditions. Sorry, that used to be the old acronym, the new acronym is election mail, inspections. Where we partner with postal to identify specific targeted areas where we are getting an influx of potential ballots or voter registration information. To ensure it is handled properly and efficiently from induction to delivery point. We also create significant prevention messaging. Both internally and externally for the Postal Service employees and the consumers as well. We recently just updated all of our election mail guidance documents which are going to be disseminated within the next month, I believe. And that teaches employees how to also be safe when moving mail if they encounter any potential hazardous material with election mail, such as water registration or balance. We also election security coordinators who work with the Postal Service to identify if there is a breach. When ballots are recovered. We tried to determine if it is an internal or external entity. We do partner with the postal office of Inspector General for those matters. They investigate any types of potential crimes with an internal component and we investigate crimes with an external component. You may hear our agency more during peak election cycles. For example, if you have a volume of recovered ballots needing both inspection servers and postal would get those notifications. We would work those investigations jointly until we can determine if it was either internal or external entity. Weight to adhere to the Department of Justice as noninterference policy. Which stipulates federal law enforcement officers are not allowed to respond to active polling locations. If you do encounter any type of potential substance that could be unknown, dangerous, or hazardous we do partner, is an engine with DOJ to determine if we are able to physically respond. State and local law enforcement in the same parameters we do. Our recommendation is you call 911 first grade will respond and obviously, please contact our agency and we will assist with the investigation. And that is in a very high level overview our participation in the election arena. We do investigate crimes of voter fraud, ballot harvesting, campaign-finance fraud. We do have active cases and we are still updating all of our manuals and policies as well to adhere to the new regulations to ensure the community a safe antitrust within using the mail for any type of election service.

>> I want to thank you all. At this point, we can open it up for questions from the membership. Of the federal partners. If you have a question just raise your hand. Maria.

>> For the post office, when you consider sending out outreach coordinators to our little islands? Besides our isolation. Weight also problems with the time difference. We, we tried to contact it is a weird time, thank you.

>> Yes, absolute. I can give you my direct email if you would like to send me an email and I can connect you with the appropriate point of contact. And I can give it to you now if you are ready to lay it down. Quite long though. It is Adrienne.e.Marshallat USPS.gov. Thank you. I am happy to send that to you.

>> Any other questions for the membership? I have a question. This is for agent. Adrian. One of the last things in the last cycle 2024, there was communication to the public just generally come into voters on how and when they should place their ballot in the mail. To give them some assurance that would be on time, for example. You know, we are approaching 2026. I found that fairly effective because election officials communicate. But

obviously, the voter is your biggest client. So is that something you would consider for 2026?

>> Thank you, Donald question. Actually amplified, communication. Our message and recommendation to voters is to mail it at least one week prior to that states deadline. As you know, 50 states, 50 different rules. But we had amplified our communication through the media. We have posted additional banners with that same message. With that quite a few states who have adopted that message and they have posted it on their website. Any assistance we can hope with states adopting that message, that would certainly increase the public's communication with that message.

>> We were talking about this at the EAC. But sort of like, there is a runway of preparation that is necessary. And so, you are fairly confident that sort of the message, the post office will continue. We are aligned with that message. We say a week and then committed comes six days.

>> Show.

>> Okay, good. I have a question for you, Miss Rossi. First of all, let me open it up, any other questions? Yes, Stuart.

>> Mr. Commissioner, have a question for each component would.

>> That is fine.

>> Thank you, sir. This question is for the Postal Service. On March 31, the president is issuing an executive order related some additional requirements for the postmaster general. I did not hear you mention that at all in your remarks. I would be interested to hear your thoughts on how the post office is preparing to implement the particular requirements within that executive order.

>> Sure. We are aware of the order and we did receive the order. And we are reviewing the order. To get an understanding . I know we are obligated or required to file a proposed rule by the end of May. And so, we are reviewing it.

>> Thank you for my appreciate that. That is helpful. The question for the FBI. As you saw in the presentation earlier, the standards Board's number six requirement is voter registration list maintenance. Recently over the course of the past year, the department justice has requested the voter role from every state for many states in the country. I will be interested to know what the Department of Justice is learned as they have analyzed those lists if they could share with the board and our top priorities.

>> Unfortunately, as I stated I'm very new to the position. I am not aware of the analysis being done on those lists. I work primarily with the election crimes coordinated program and we have not reviewed voter lists. I am not certain what those lists were used for.

>> Maybe a good sign, Alexa there is no election crimes being pursued as it relates to those. My next question for the postal inspection service, you mentioned investigate crime related to voter fraud and ballot harvesting. I would be interested to know in what rules or laws you are investigating ballot harvesting as it relates to let you know.

>> Criminal investigations varies depending on the location and geography. There is not a specific election crime we are seeing a trend in nationwide. It really is specific driven. Typically the way our investigation stem, we partner with FBI and a bunch of other federal

agencies and local US Attorney's office. And all members of the election community. Whenever we identify a deficiency or, deficiency reported to us, we start investigating it. Verily. Once we identify what the actual trend may be regarding the election space would work closely with our counterparts. But I can see over the past few years there has not been a specific election crime trend we have seen more of. It is pretty diverse and really does vary depending on the county.

>> In the back there. You could ask the question.

>> Tricia from New Hampshire. This is for Adrienne. The US PCS will do extraordinary measures prior to general election. And whether or not it will occur, what kind of procedures you are putting in place and what is the timeframe?

>> Thank you for the question. Yes, we do have plans to employ extraordinary measures. It will be a shorter timeframe this year. In 24 we did extend that beyond the seven days to 21 days. And it was basically around the RTO and fermentation. This year we will have it for one week leading up to the election. October 27 election through election day. Part of those measures, I think you mentioned, the second creditor question was, what does that entail? If so, all your long we advance election mail. If, despite the paid class of mail. If it is marketing mail we will advance it in front of the marketing mail mine without having it do a first in/1st out. We do all clues. Our process and facilities and retail units perform all clear certifications daily. Basically saying we have no delete balance or election mail in the system. We also log election mail and balance as they enter into our system through the bulk mail unit. That is what we do all year in terms of extraordinary measures. For that. I believe that I mentioned, we will do sort, plan, hold on our processing facilities. Will do pitching catches for ballots that we feel like our risk for being delivered on time. We will do a hub and spoke, deviate from our normal processing and bypass operations in return those ballots around locally. And so, the downside of that is that we lose the transparency and the measurement. Now go to see the visibility. Lose the visibility on those pieces and restricted it down to those 70s. Thanks for asking.

>> Pollux.

Paul from Florida wanted to mention Adrian's frustration at my stop is encountered working with the mill design analyst. We were on an incredibly tight deadline for something we had to mail out. And we literally cookie-cutter another counties pieces that had been through the mill design process that got the thumbs up and resubmitted the exact same thing and we were told it was completely wrong and to be redone. To the point we pretty much gave up into the other county did it to stop arguing about it. But that is a source of frustration of the local level and we do go through that. Especially if we know another County has been approved through that process. And we get a rejection for what we submit. Things that one would assume were still okay. The other thing, it probably wasn't to you but I mentioned to other postal people at forums like this, as it relates to the extraordinary measures, I always beg that they include some part of the thought process to it. What was happening to us was they saw a settlement announcement this looks like a ballot enclosed into it in a bin and brought it to my office for the poor voter in my county was trying to get the ballot outside of my counties to another County to be delivered on

time shows up in my office because it is not valid and they say bring all the ballots to the election office. And so, they were looking . They were not looking at where it was supposed to go. They were just saying, ballot delivery to elections office. And we were coming to stop our postman and say, hold on. These do not go here, these voters are trying to get it out of our county back to different counties. And so, two things I wanted to make sure I mentioned to you and I appreciate your time.

>> Thank you, Paul. I remember specifically the issue with the mail piece design. My field specialist for the seven area, Danny, was involved with trying to get that approval really quickly. I spoke with the mail piece design manager. Because of the two separate, one was approved, the other one was not. We have 40 mail piece design analyst throughout the organization. You submitted your design which was approved and then presented the second copy for the final approval and the mail piece design analyst gives, East and West thing. On the other side of the organization said no and I think it was the font. I was so disappointed in frustrated as you were and I apologize going through that. I did request from Mike Conley, that he would designate one or two of his best, to help design analyst to be devoted to election mail. Of course we have not reached that agreement yet but I apologize for that frustration. I am glad you have adopted the example of the other county into apologize for that. In terms of the situation that you described with the ballot going to the wrong jurisdiction, part of the reason that we do not like deviating from abnormal procedure. Because our process will get the ballot to the right destination. When we introduce those human elements into that process then we have those mistakes. So again, I apologize for that and we will do a better job of looking at those ballots and getting them to the right office. Thank you, Paul for sharing.

>> Alexa, Director, New Mexico.

>> Hi, good one. I am the director in New Mexico. Adrienne, my question is also for you. Thank you for being here. I think it is obvious that as election officials we have a lot of questions related to Postal Service. You all are such a critical part of the process. But I did want to follow up on Stewart's question a bit more. You sounds like you are all are evaluating next steps related to the president's executive order. Do you have an idea when you might be sharing out the results of that determination? And will there be any opportunity for election officials to be able to share concerns and feedback related to some of those decisions that are going to be made?

>> Yes. So, as I stated, we are reviewing it. And the rule does require us to file a proposed rule with the Federal Register by the end of May. When and if we move forward with that, we will have a comment period. Of 30 days, very similar to what we do with postmarketing. And that will allow election officials to weigh in on that language.

>> Okay, thank you. And then secondly, if I may, just hearing that you were going to reduce the number of days for the extraordinary measures. I'm not sure if my colleagues have heard something prior to this. But it is the first time I am hearing it. And so, I would just be interested in understanding how are you going to be messaging that not everyone beyond this? And a follow-up to that, it is a significant difference. I think we shared feedback in the past and we would like to see it even a longer period of time. Hearing it is being reduced as

concerning so knowing that, I also question for the EAC. Will you will be doing anything to support election administrators? It is going to put a burden, we do not have any other resources to try and mitigate kind of the impact of the reduced services from the Postal Service is. A couple of questions for a couple of different panelists.

>> Adrienne, you go first.

>> That was a lot, let me go back United , let me think of you asked about extending the extraordinary measures.

>> I think I was reacting to the new so, my apologies. The question was, what you going to do to message out to other election administrators ? It is the first and we are hearing it.

>> Sure, have you had outreach performed in your estate yet? With her manager customer relations.

>> Not recently. We have a very good relationship with our local customer service representative and our local, kind of come office. But beyond that, nothing new.

>> It is a part of their outreach presentation. We do have a slidable extra mentoring measures. Motion is being held between the managing customer relations. From a local level that is the primary point of contact and that is how we disseminate that information. Is not public knowledge, it is not something we talk about with the public. Because we do not want to lead it for bad behavior in terms of, I know they will get home if I wait. Within the next, within those seven days. It is not something we advertise publicly but we do share with election officials, sorry you have not heard that. But yes, October 27 through election day.

>> Okay, our primary is in June. So voting starts in May and I think all of us, there are some ballots going out on Saturday for our military and overseas. We are already underway.

>> The extreme measures., We are just doing the advancing the mail, all players command the login up until October 27 period. His normal processing. The remainder of the year.

>> Understood.

>> Thank you.

>> Mandy, could you repeat the question for EAC? I may be able to answer that he may have tricked deferred.

>> Again: during the production and extraordinary measures, feels like it is going to create a downstream effect, burden. Beyond that, a need for voters to understand some of the limitations that have not been in place in the past. I am wondering if you will be evaluating and deciding what resources you can provide.

>> Well the best of my abilities answer, I will defer to staff at the appropriate time. I know there has been conversations about how we propagate the message to voters and assist on that. That was really, the one reason I asked the question was, what message can we get behind? And can you get behind to tell your voters? Because together , if all the voices are saying you need to get it in a week before, that is at least a unified message that is heightened. We discussed how we can assist in that area. And obviously, we have some other means of at least trying to get the word out to through our messaging, through our online form. As well as emails and that sort of thing to help local election officials and other boards that we have. Those are the areas that I think, communication problems, primarily.

We are always willing to work with election officials and COB can help. Brianna did you have any?

>> I was going to add we trained to do memos of the Postal Service changes and be curious but some are in the election newsletters critical we can use for getting community Cajuns out to the right people. We did hear a lot of the LLC toolkits be helpful. I think a toolkit around this and customize it so it has the template, the might be a positive thing to help. But if you have other ideas we are all yours.

>> Another question we remember from Michigan.

>> Justin Roebuck from Michigan. My question is for Traci, You mentioned your division handles investigation of large influx of ballots in certain communities. I was curious as to any information you could share on how that is going. Or what your procedure of process is for determining what a large influx means. If you have any publicly shareable information on how you approach that. Or proceed with that. Again, I guess what is the definition of a large influx of ballots?

>> Just to clarify, we do not solely investigate allegations with those large influx is. Typically, those are the ones you would hear the most commonly nationwide because it typically tends to get more media attention. We treat all allegations with the same level of integrity. So if that means one customer did not receive their ballot and they are a victim of mail theft and throughout the course of our mail theft investigation we identify their ballot was stolen as well as their financial documents, we would still treat that with the same level we would treat her covering 3000 ballots, if that were the case. One thing I oversee is our mail theft program. We do get a lot of media attention specifically for mail that could pretty predominate nationwide. One thing we've been doing is trying to increase our mail theft reporting mechanism. Unfortunately, during primaries or election seasons we will get ballots that are stolen. When our main focus is, when conducting criminal investigations we are trying to determine, was the mail specifically targeted or was the ballot specifically targeted? Different federal statutes we pursue when we present to the US attorney's office. We enforce over 200 federal statutes. We also have task force officers nationwide who assist with local and state charges. There is a lot of luminary information we have to get before we can make certain decisions on how we will proceed with the case. Circling back to the reporting mechanism, if you are a victim of mail theft depending on the type of receptacle you have, say you have a curbside mailbox where you can walk to the end of your property. And it is nonblocking and the mail delivery carrier just places all the mail there. We would have to see were you the only one who experienced mail theft on your street? Was more than one victim? When they were doomed to increase the -- as we crated an mail theft questionnaire live and available to the general public. You can find that on our website. It is not only capture mail theft metrics. Instruct on requirements for election mail, where the customer is able to input whatever information they have. Typically, we do not see too often ballots that are specifically targeted. Typically, the suspect are looking more for the financial documents. But it does depend on where you're at geographically.

>> That makes sense. I was little bit silly with the mail theft piece. I was just curious on the influx piece. Maybe I misheard that piece of your initial remark. But the difference between

ballots being stolen and theoretical, influx. I am just curious as to how and influx of ballots is determined. How do we determine they come from.

>> Right, to clarify again, the influx let I was referring to was the national media attention that we get where we would work with postal IOD. For example, if you hear 3000 ballots covered behind the local Walmart, we do not know if it was an internal problem or an external problem. We are not going to know that until both agencies start diving into the investigation and working with postal to figure out at what point those ballots were potentially taken out of the mail stream. Or even if they enter the mail stream. A lot of preliminary information with the follow up with. But that is specifically what I was referring to with an influx of ballots that were recovered. You will see not only my agency but postal IOD working to figure out where the issue of compromise occurred.

>> Sorry.

>> Go ahead.

>> Good morning, thanks for being here, Erica White, election director in North Dakota. My question is for Adrienne. North Dakota has been seen a lot of changes related to distribution to facilities closing within our states. And we are very liberal state. Mail has to travel a long ways in order for them to be delivered. I mean, we have mail coming from three hours away to Bismarck and hitting the distribution facility and then heading three hours back to their delivery points. One item that we have had success in the past, is having local postmaster contact information for our local election officials. I think there is a disconnect in the messaging that is happening through our regional representation down to those local levels, especially in very rural communities. It provides a really great opportunity for our local style of relationship with her postmasters. Talk to some of the issues and delivery issues they are seeing. The Secretary of State's office in North Dakota has requested this information. Over and over and over again. Our federal delegation has requested local postmaster contact information. With no luck. And am wondering if there is an opportunity for to share that information with our locals to open that door communication for better service in their communities when it comes to valid delivery.

>> Think you Comerica. I am not aware of the requests. But I will be happy to share with you? Or local postmaster's. Those are relationships that I consistently recommend everyone having a local, you know, relationship with your local postmaster. It is especially important during the extraordinary measures.. Because you did a chance and opportunity to know the plans are in terms of the pitching content hug and spoke. I'll be happy to chat with you Comerica.

>> Can I make that request to you?

>> Sure, you have my email address, right?

>> Yes.

>> A couple of more hands in his own words, Paul. I do have a question for Ms. Rossi. Many individuals in this room will know the election crimes to Demeter 's. I know there was a recent training in DC and we were able to work a little bit explaining elections as well as coming from your team. Could you just described, is that the primary point of contact for issue they may have involving an election crime or discriminatory action? And get in touch

with a person and get to know them.

>> That will be there point of contact. So like I stated, all 56 field offices have ECC.

Depending on what state you are coming from I would reach out directly to the ECC of that field office. If you are unaware of who your ECC is you can always contact me or you can even call the office directly and they will put you in touch with who the ECC is. But yes, they are the ones to intake information. And they have a process of vetting allegations or vetting threats and working with different partners depending on the right it is. They will work directly with you all or whatever might be providing information. Or allegations. And so, those partnerships. [Inaudible] Yes. So the ECC's are pretty regularly reaching out to local election officials. I have personally recommended a retail to their secretaries of State, local election boards. It is possible you are ECC's affect contact with workers within your area. But absolutely, it you would like to reach out to whoever your ECC's and set up an appointment, I am certain they would be happy to do that.

>> Ms. Rossi. Mr. Lutz. That's okay.

>> Andrew, Nebraska. For Adrienne, you mentioned the ordinary measures being the one week prior to general elections. Can we request extraordinary measures on a state-by-state basis for our primary elections as well? Or for an extended period of time. Our concern, especially stems from and some portions of the Western part of Nebraska, sometimes our ballots are routed through Denver. Before they are then returned back to Nebraska. Keeping the local control is important to us. It might not be to another state. They may not want extraordinary measures. Can we do it on a state-by-state basis and can we get it in our primaries?

>> I have been asked that before. From another state. It is early hard to ordinate, especially with the different different primary dates throughout the US. The amount of coordination that goes with that, is huge. Again, we do not like to deviate from normal process. Because we have the states were not completely vote by mail, you want to see the visibility. When you start introducing that human risk, it just creates additional risks. Unfortunately, we have not directed our field offices to perform those strawberry measures. However, if you have a relationship with your local postmaster, it is something that you can talk about but thanks for asking. But I cannot coordinate it a headquarters level.

>> Thank you.

>> Thanks for asking.

>> From Arizona. While we are negotiating with you, instead of one week before the general, I know many of us in the West start our early voting much earlier than that. Is there any way for you to start those extraordinary measures two weeks before the general so we are making sure things are getting to the voter in a timely manner? As well as getting back to the office.

>> I can certainly consider it. But I do not want to again, it is that it is that deviation that really causes a problem. So do not want to commit to that. But we have had some discussion about it.

>> Appreciate your consideration.

>> Thank you.

>> Okay. So next, I want to thank the panelists, give them around again. Thank you for joining us. Next, lunch will be served in the French room. Please note this is for standard board members only. See you back in this agreement 1:00 PM. We are adjourned until then. - -

>> Please find your seats. We are going to get started. Please find your seats. For our afternoon sessions. Before we get started, I want to present to each of you a challenge coin. Recognizing the 2/50 anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This will be an EAC college coin with the 2/50 anniversary on the back Meridian recognition and thank you for your service to this board. The commissioners, they will be handing this out to and again, we want to say thank you for your service. After they finished the 250th anniversary coin civilly passing out chocolate chip cookies. With milk. [laughing] You can choose one or the other. Just joking. Commissioner McCormick is ahead about three links. Commissioner on the side, doing something. I do not know. Okay, we are wrapping that up. Welcome back from lunch. We are now going to have a voter registration discussion. Jay Phelps, director of supporting technology evaluation program, ESTEP. Jay, Mona. -- Come on up. Welcome, J. The show is yours.

>> All right. All right. Thank you Commissioner Palmer. I hope everybody had a wonderful lunch. And great discussion as a part of these conferences, as you know, not only the content but the fellowship and learning best practices and what is going on in everyone's office. We have not had the opportunity to meet them on my name is Jay Phelps the director of the election supporting technology valuation program or ESTEP at the United States election assistance commission. Bigger over three years which is hard to believe. Prior to that, I did survive the state and local level in Indiana. And I thought it was very kind and well-deserved that Chairman Hicks in the commissioners offered Brad King. Someone who's been in my life about 15 years now. Being in the elections field. Just busy again, Brad, I am not sure if he is in the room. I want to thank him for all he has done for the state of Indiana. He is a walking election codebook. He has written a lot of us, section 3 of our barcode. I want to give them a shout and say thank you. Though work both he and Angie do for the state of Indiana is invaluable. Today, I wanted to talk to just about first, understand there may be some new members. I want to explain what is ESTEP? Sorry, not fencing. There we go. On the right track. ESTEP was formally made a program in 2024. By unanimous decision of the commissioners. Kind of started out as an idea around electronic poll books. And having some type of evaluation or certification program. Around standards, technical standards. That was the first technology when I was hired we looked out and worked with stakeholders to develop guidelines. And the rest is kind of history and has worked out really well. And we do have a certification program in place. Our primary responsibility is to a value of the functionality, security, accessibility of election supporting technology. Such as, electronic poll books, time bound delivery systems have -- voter registration systems and election night reporting systems, to name a few. We will expand our scope as the commissioners have a set policy for the and as we evaluate different priorities from that we hear from you all. Your feedback has been crucial with this program along with many others and I want to thank you for that. But as you know, lifted technology

is the evolving. States he consistent, trusted evaluation standards. That are critical care centers, security accessibility, functionality, interoperability. ESTEP provides a structured framework for piloting evaluated technology that states and local jurisdictions may use. You may not have the resources. We hope to create common ground among different jurisdictions who use the same technologies that may have different state codes in place. We want to be able to apply that to how their technologies are used. The effort to support the development of reliable, secure technologies, helping election officials make informed decisions. And increasing public confidence and election administration, one that our main goals. And today I would like to focus on our current election supporting technology that we are piloting with voter registration systems. As you are probably all aware, because you are living every day, the help America vote act mandates each state, chief election official establishes and oversees a single statewide voter registration database that is uniform, centralized, interactive, and maintains voter data at the state level containing records for all legally registered voters. Also must be integrated with under state agencies DMV, Department of Health, and Social Security Administration: skews me. And to support coordination and data consistency. States are required to keep our registration records accurate and recently updated. While putting protections in place to prevent eligible voters from mistakenly being removed from the official voter rolls. What makes voter registrations unique, there is over 6000 jurisdictions that utilize, 49 states and in fact, we had a really good conversation with our breakout sessions yesterday with North Dakota kind of explaining how the process works. Because they do not have a defined voter registration system. And so we had a great discussion along those lines. But voter registration systems are foundational to election administration. And it is a full-time process. Voters do not realize we are constantly updating voter registration records. Throughout the summer, not just election years, not just during election season. And so, that is extremely important, invaluable to make sure these systems are secure and reliable. For our election administrators in this room. I want to kind of take a deep dive and I want to practice with, we have a set of guidelines that I will go through and a little step further. These are pilot guidelines I would consider them draft guidelines. However, these guidelines are what are accredited voting systems, laboratories are utilizing to test pilot participants with. And so, I would like thank to the national Institute of standards and technology for their assistance with developing these guidelines, national Association of election records, national Association of secretaries of State, and all four of our FACA boards for you providing valuable feedback. Some of the general highlights we are going to go over, accommodated formidable voter list maintenance, EAVS data, and then come accessibility database security, as well as just the general flow at the end can explain what is next. We kind of see the testing window. I have starting next week. But we are working with the pilot participants in the labs to documentation, answer any questions about the program itself and the expectations. And again, this is the third system, the third technology we have piloted under ESTEP apart from electronic poll books and electronic ballot delivery systems. Our three program participants, ENSS, 10 X software solutions, no links, we have a couple of states who may be interested in piloting so we will meet with

them next week to see, go over the program and see if it is something they can commit to. We certainly understand it is midterm election year. And so, we will keep you posted on any updates but of course, having an in-house developed system I think is crucial and really important for our electronic ballot delivery pilot. We have the state of Maryland, thank you Maryland. And for our electronic full book, pilot program we have Maricopa County, Arizona in the state of North Carolina who ended up adopting our standards into their state law. Thank you, North Carolina. Kind of a full process as far as here's what is required, what is expected from documentation, any follow-up needed on clarification on the guidelines, we certainly are in contact with both the labs and the manufacturers. And then, we have biweekly check ins if not, weekly check ins to make sure the process is off to a solid start. All expectations are met. We look at these numbers like oh my goodness, 217 phone County Islands, 62 security and accessibility, those functionality guidelines, those are even so categories as well. When you get a chance, if you have not seen the guidelines we are going to have everything broken down into simplest terms. As far as first or last name, date of birth. All of the different types of data from DMV, Social Security, Department of Health. Then, can your system process absent the applications and your state requires as well as ballot, what about signature processing, petitions, coworkers. A lot of different data points we are learning about with the systems to see where the baseline standard is among them. And then be able to produce some helpful guidance to you all. Towards the end of this and I will get into a little bit more of that in a moment. Functionality, is centered around system operations, data processing, reporting, configuration, interoperability, and security, we have access, controlled minimum a database protection, archetypal steamer, system integrity and portal protection come accessibility act 2.18 compliance. On all of the different accessibility guidelines to be sure with text and contrast and colors and screenreader adaptability. I will continue to cover and hone in a little bit of these moving forward. So again, kind of the security foundation, we work, industry standards we have built into these guidelines for the pilot process. Amongst the folks I've already said thank you, do you want thank, we had simply pilot meetings not commissioners that you should meet with the state or someone is interested in sharing some information about their voter registration system. To help develop guidelines for Nevada, Colorado, and coming from Minnesota and Wisconsin, thank you so much for these pre-pilot meetings that took place last year and for your time. We certainly appreciate it. As far as actual feedback on the guidelines specifically, quite a bit of feedback from Rhode Island, Virginia, Connecticut and the US Virgin Islands. Thank you so much for taking the time to go through the document and leave feedback. We could not have guidelines we got it without you. And really understand the processes without your input. Owing in again, on the database. The security specifics. Of the database security. That includes both cloud and locally hosted systems. We have portal and web-based application protection, multi factor authentication for which I know all of you utilize to access your systems. Stop to align controls, framework for managing and protecting voter registration data. Especially with cloud-based services. And again, we are aiming for consistent high competence security when we develop these standards. Interoperability, want to highlight

that kind of mentioned our report and symbols we have as an agency. Interoperability is certainly one of those, just understanding from a basic level where the election community is at. You all utilize interoperability every day when your system is talking with the DMV and Department of Health. And then come if you are top-down, bottom-up, depending on speaking with other systems, counties, excuse me, and through your state. And back here County and vice versa. Interoperability, just the ability for systems to be able to talk to each other and understand information being exchanged. It matters because voter data is not always confined in one place. People move as we know. And sometimes they do register in different states. And forget to cancel the states they moved from. Interoperability keeps voter records up to date. It prevents duplicate registrations. Improves accuracy of voter rolls, supports secure data sharing between jurisdictions and between states and local jurisdictions. Kind of going on here. We really want to get a little bit more granular with our interoperability. The guidelines to see exactly where the systems are at. And so, with phones and a little understand voter lists, I will talk about wireless maintenance activities here in a moment. But also, electronic poll books are growing in use, becoming very popular. Interoperability is extremely critical for the systems to talk to one another, Social Security and the private way to where electronic vendor can accidentally start updating voter records. And then as I mentioned, Sharon voter data across jurisdictions. Again, interoperability is not framework that supports coordination, and it does improve voter was accuracy and reinforces the need that have been requested by election administrators. Just on the topic. One thing that I know we have often talked about is the interstate crosscheck program, generally . If you're not aware, the national Association, National conference of State legislatures can excuse me, has an excellent document breaking down the code that gives states the authority to how they can talk to one another, how their data can be utilized, voter registration can be utilized. I would highly recommend you looking at that to see where states are good everybody is a little bit different. The authority on who can kind of get that information out. And how it is delegated component that is different among states. But that is the end of the floor into the data voter registration data sharing process probably certainly understand many states utilize different systems, I believe over 25 states utilized Eric from Alabama, over nine states , Alexa and Ohio has about 11, some of these are little bit newer so they may not be operational. Just wanted to talk about it in context of interoperability. Maybe to begin that process. And then, the safe DHS for insufficient checks. There is about 25, about half the states utilize that process. As I mentioned earlier, voter list maintenance in regards to interoperability, I understand it is extremely crucial. Through the national registration act. I believe, 1993. I know that is a heavy look for a lot of you very time consuming and it can be very expensive. And so, I certainly relate to that process. And in fact, just looking at where, on the county level, just the undertaking that was paid to consistently update those records as some of the numbers came back tracking the active status versus inactive. How to respond to some of those correspondences was key. Robust and modernized voter registration system like we are talking about. Just a kind of go down the line that some of those vocalizations guidelines we have, such as, voter registration system accurately process deceased voter,

noncitizen, but with address change, voter who has not responded to the notice. Has not voted into the two general elections, who has a federal conviction, the system can flag that. Mismatch signature, misspelling and typographical errors. Invalid on axis or precinct and of course, duplicate records. These are all things that NVR he talks about and some of you who do the process, a lot of that captures and updates as records which is critical to keeping my registrations updated and accurate. There were some requirements we know not all jurisdictions in systems utilized greatly made them in applicable meeting the participants in our pilot, if they could meet if they contest to it. They can decide that before testing begins. That is things like petitions. Can your system, encompass a petition, Kenneth with the actual voter to say they signed this petition and link the voter to the petition. And poll workers and poll worker tracking, and other previous system on utilized was really helpful in being able to put the location, poll workers, titles, contact information, print that out and send it to the poll workers if there's ever an emergency they can talk to one another. Those are just some of the examples of some is applicable requirements to see where those baseline standards are. In our apartments. Again, continue on with interoperability. Telecommunications, porous, as we have talked about is vital. Which your system and the different state agencies, state and federal agencies that talk to one another as well as if you have electronic poll books. And so, that is where these and having security and telecommunication strong documentation requirements are vital. The recommended number guidelines that surface framework that is often customizing manufacturers and transferring data in and out of their system, that allows tracking to know where exactly 11 folks in the need to do the process. Kind of talk to them, however, they do not want it to get to where they can change any records. Just more for the data sharing and updated records, generally. This typically happens on a private network that has access specific areas and assistant. An example I used earlier, was the electronic poll books. Linking up with a voter registration system. Again, the voter registration system must have the ability to securely: a efficiently transferred data electronically create and communicate with electronic poll books through this type of framework. So again, we are excited to see where those test results are that create some standard space upon that in the future. To support you all. And of course mother Web servers framework also encourages common data format. Moving onto common data format. We did really hone in on CDF. When I prepare you for presentation, 10 minutes till light, this would have been a great slide to have. So this is one, this would've been a great slide to have. One of the ways to think about interoperability versus CDF, interoperability allows systems to exchange data and talk to one another. Common data format allows to states to have the same data to be able to exchange it effectively and properly. And so, that is kind of a good baseline distinction. Of kind of the difference. And CDF again, the main pathway that all type of election technology can use to share different types of data because it pulls it all in one or fewer formats that can be easily digested. We recommend Jakes on our XML, kind of the standard. That is what I will also be testing to with these pilot participants and their participants. On top of this, our guidelines require that CDS used by voter registration systems are formatted and carry a lot of the common data points that are in the national voter registration act, federal

form. Which I think like date of birth, Social Security for my dress. Some of the standard data points that are used collectively across all 50 states. And then, we also work with Transvaal, some guidelines for voter registration. Common data format: 51 different datatypes that you will see going through our guidelines and again, we do not expect all of these to be met but where are the commonality between, can they list everything from your typical data points to absentee request, the logging errors, to when folks transfer in and out about system with different statuses going from active to inactive and things that that nature. That is going to be really key to having a good baseline where we are at. And then, just in conclusion, kind of the next steps in the process. Once testing has been completed here from other next six weeks, 6 to 8 weeks, we are going to take all of this data. I just want to reiterate, located at the beginning, the information will not be made public, it will be made aggregated. For one requirement, it will have one score based upon the participants total. And so we will go through and synthesize, analyze, all of the results for performance, consistency. Areas of, areas could be for improvement. And we are going to conduct structured exit interviews with all participants. In regards to the evaluation of the pilot process. The testing methodologies and the effectiveness and reliability of conformance testing. And then, from there develop a comprehensive pilot report. That will detail all of these findings. And kind of system usage. With kind of where we are at with these pilot participants. And then, get recommendations to our commissioners and the commissioners from their will, based upon feedback and their findings into the report, make a determination on what is next. As it make sense to have a certification program? Does it offer more best practice in looking up possibly updating the registration system or going with a different vendor, for example. Just some things that we are looking at. The other thing that could be additional testing and we want to get other folks in for testing in the future. If they cannot make it. So again, kind of up to the commissioners discretion on a path forward. But we are really excited. Your feedback is critical and valuable and I want to thank you all again. We would not be heard today without your input saying, we need common standards with these election technologies. And it is really hard to believe that we are all kind of this point and we have a lot of work to do. We are excited and want to be helpful to each and every one of you. So , thanks so much for your time. I want to just make sure that you have my contact information, my direct contact information. And I apologize, my direct email is the letter JPhelps at EAC or you can email ESTEP@ EAC.gov and go on our website to look at the different work we have done throughout the election technology space including voter registration systems. We will have fence post on the website next week. I know you're a DFL will also send those out when she sends out the different program materials from this conference. I really think her follow-up for support. And with that, I would be happy to answer any questions that you have. Thank you.

>> I have a question. Okay. I guess from a state perspective, doing this pilot. What are some of the standards. And key areas like securities, interoperability, accommodative formats. You know, what is going on in my head is , will it be a process where estate can look at the standards and evaluation of it? And some of these things I was not aware of before you started to work. And the manufacturers have certain technologies that are

available if you just have asked for it. It is their processor if estate is going off they can look at some of the options? To make sure you ask for. So their manufacturer, the vendors, is not going to be something available to the state?

>> Yes, I mean, that is something we certainly could put together. And I apologize my am not sure to what extent the community has an RFP process. I do not know, we are own sphere of technologies. But that is something we will be willing to from a general standpoint, answer some of the questions to the best we can. On where we are in the research and where it is pointing to. I would say, your manufacturer/vendors are there for a reason so please ask them. What all the offer and make sure that you are well educated across the board if you meant your system is up for a modernization effort. To be sure that you know exactly what so resources they have to ensure you have the best system possible. If you have time, I will be here till 5:00. I would love to hear if you want to talk about system generally. I think for my past experience committed was really beneficial to have a system that had confidence matching and confidence factors based on all the data point and say, John Smith is moving from this county or this state. And here is where he is going to live, is it the same match based upon these data points? Really gave us a lot of confidence and we were to the election division. So work through those processes. But I think the estates do not have that, I think it is something that is critical to see and that is where everything we're talking about today helps build upon those frameworks. To just increase the commonality of the systems and data sharing and the way they talk to one another.

>> Any questions? Membership. Steward.

>> Thank you, Commissioner. Steward from Washington state. You mentioned during your presentation, you wish you would have thought of something before. You could have introduced is in your slide deck. I am starting to now some pieces together. I wanted to ask you if you were present at the local leadership Council yesterday, when they presented their framework for voter registration system network. And what, if any, direct and has the EAC or what is the EAC's position on the proposal?

>> Thank you, Stu. I would be happy to say I sat in on some of the conversations and saw the presentation. Just around the general framework that I think freight EAC position, we are looking kind about the standards, generally. In the frameworks. Commissioner Palmer, I do not want to speak out of line, I did not know as far as, I think there was about that it was brought to the floor. I think, the local leadership decided they are not ready to move that forward at this time. The recommendation of developing our own framework. For I think a variety of reasons. It was tabled until the meeting and 20/20 seven and again, is not want to speak out of turn here so if anyone has additional contents.

>> I would say that, that was a very comprehensive and much more involved in detail that I anticipated. It is good that local election officials are thinking about this. I mean, good source of the info. I think the technology development and the evaluation is important. 10 years ago, my opinion, we struggled with accommodative formats, we did not really have a lot with this. There has been a lot of progress in that area that would allow states to better communicate with each other where there is differences in the systems. And obviously, I

look back at Carter Baker and they envisioned the states, they would be able to communicate with each other and be much more seamless. And how could that be facilitated with technology? What obviously, you further presentation yesterday. I would say we just evaluating the technology and when I asked the question, I think there is a lot out there. The membership may not be aware of. Really help us progress along technology to help the states.

>> If I could have one follow-up question on another thing I heard early this morning from Brianna . Part of a funding request for funding pocket something related to voter registration commented I get that correct? Is all related to what we just said?

>> I think there was an annual recommendation. The annual report of recommendation, I asked folks to look at it. Obviously, I am so proud of the ESTEP team and the evaluation going on. But it is limited by the amount of monies that are appropriated. For example, the Congress made a significant addition to HAVA in the National Defense authorization act. So authorize different testing and we are doing some pilot on that. With, what that framework will look like from a vulnerability testing environment. But again, there was not resources attached to that authorization. And so, you are limited in what you can do in steps versus jogging. [laughing]. So the recommendation is in the end report.

>> Commissioner Palmer, if I could put you on the spot for a question. Just because, [laughing] Just because of a selection as per you mentioned Carter Baker and I will be very honest, I had not read that report. Do you mind giving a little bit of detail that is?

>> The Carter Baker commission was after HAVA. It was a bipartisan recommendations with former President Carter and James Baker. It is a follow on to unbelief, former President Ford. But he passed away. There was a number of recommendations and it was released slightly after HAVA was passed. And one of those, when you read it in depth, is it talks about most vision statement of the ability to communicate with each other. But sort of an accommodated format. Interoperability. The fact is, in my opinion the technology was not quite there. Obviously funding wasn't there to propel it past the finish line. But today, due to some great work of folks, technology folks there has been a proliferation of accommodative formats. Not just voting systems but voter registrations. I might, just those are some pretty good recommendations and technology is more available today than others. That states can utilize.

>> Thank you. Questions? Thank you so much for your time, I really appreciate it. Thanks.

>> Thinking.

>> Thank you, Jay. Now we will have a discussion on voluntary voting systems guidelines or VVSG. We are now joined by Jon Panek, chief election technology officer. EAC. Kristen Muthig, director of communications, EAC. And of Brooke Watters, testing and certification director, EAC.

>> Hello everyone, thank you, again. For joining us today. And for my colleagues for joining on this panel. Just want to startle briefly with a video. And I know there are some new members. But also, to give you an idea of some of the work the EAC is doing to talk about election technology, testing and certification program, VVSG and talking about the in different ways for different audiences. From a communication standpoint, we will start off

with communications at the beginning. And then, I will be the bookend at the end after they, my colleagues died in Rome VWSG.

>> We deploy a rigorous testing and certification process and accredited labs. Thought culminates with fictional EAC seal of approval. With hundreds of millions of votes being cast you can imagine there are many different voting systems and equipment used across the country. From ballot marking devices to tabulator's is critical that a thorough process is in place to test each manufacturer's voting systems and machines. Here is how the EAC makes all of that work, we accredit independent test laboratories, facilities where equipment can be analyzed and stress testing. We have different manufacturers voting system software and equipment sent to our labs for testing. We testing their software against hundreds of scenarios. When the software is ready it is installed on a system for dry runs of elections. Then we run tests to make sure the hardware and software up to speed, performing securely and as intended. And we work to anticipate any vulnerabilities and the unexpected. By checking against physical interference, technological tampering, and even extreme hot and cold weather and only after the software and system past this thorough testing process, successfully meeting all the mandated requirements do they receive a EAC certification.

>> Wonderful. Thank you, hello everyone. Just again my name is Brooke Watters, the testing and certification director at the EAC. I will be talking about updates to the voluntary voting system guidelines as well better know and less of a mouthful, VWSG. On screen here, we have the VWSG version 5 and throughout the life of the program. Starting with VWSG 1.0 this has been the primary operation of the program until November of 2023 what was moved to a legacy status. We are no longer accepting submissions outside of a limited maintenance modifications that are outlined in our lifecycle policy to VWSG 1.0. This helps us move forward in updating our standards and technology. VWSG 1.1 was never fully utilize, no system certified to VWSG 1.1 and VWSG 2.0 is what we are currently testing to today commending assistance coming in and seeking certification are being evaluated against sub standards. Really what I want to talk about his continuing this iterative process of keeping up with technology and updating the VWSG. And so we are going to talk about VWSG 2.1. To help frame that conversation though, I have a little bit of a background not exactly how we got here but some differences between the major revisions we have seen so far. VWSG 1.0 focused a lot on, more on device level requirements. It was relatively prescriptive and assumed components are integrated end-to-end voting system. It defined scope of what voting system is. And the elements of the voting system such as, what is an accessible device. A lot of the requirements were reading as a accessible device must, a precinct scanner must: ballot marking device muscle. In contrast with this, VWSG 2.0 was a complete rewrite of the guidelines, introduced 15 core principles and outcome based requirements. If you have read it almost of the requirements are the voting system must. Across these 15 principles are 53 guidelines in nearly 8000 requirements to say there is a lot of material in this document. And so committed is an awful to talk about not just the name. In addition to the, A test maintained separately to help the labs with their evaluation process. A little bit more into it, the 15 principles are here on screen, not in any particular

order. Some of them are highlighted as forefront discussion topics. Often that we are trying to balance. Things like reliability, system integrity against software independence or accessibility, these are not necessarily against each other but I am a person of analogies and open doors at the accessible but not very secure. Whereas a safe vault is highly secure but not necessarily accessible. Voting systems have a similar conversation and trying to find the bones. A question we have gone quite a bit in the past, what is different? What is a 2.0 system versus 1.0 system? Not that simple to provide a set of change notes of this requirement ties to this one between the two standards. Instead, because VVSG 2.0 was a complete rewrite and not an incremental update, the differences are best understood when looking at the structure of the documents. The design philosophy around device level requirements versus system-level requirements and the security model given the timeframe which these have come out. Quick side note, wanted to give an update about 2.0 systems and where we are at. Last year in 2025 we certified our first two systems type VVSG 2.0. Very Vanguard's, 1.0 and smart medics the SR one 2.1. In addition to that, this year we have currently, we are still more or less in the beginning of the year, five systems that are under test. For VVSG 2.0. Kind of getting back and I apologize, there is less context to cover here before we dive into what is 2.1. I want to note that in a part of this effort, the help America vote act itself in subtitle B section 391 asked for congenial update that the commission shall review the guidelines no less frequently, once every four years. We actually just passed five year mark since VVSG 2.0 was adopted in February 2021. Not saying we have not been looking but we do not necessarily have the next version out yet. Those of you who are part of the process for developing 2.0, you know it was a lengthy process and takes time to develop and update the standards. And now, that was a big rewrite of it. But the VVSG process, I am sorry, back in 2019 the technical guidelines developed in the committee, unanimously passed two resolutions of recommending the EAC adopt a yearly VVSG review. And called for the EAC and NIST stock to make minor technical changes to improve efficiency. These resolutions were actually implanted as a part of our VVSG lifecycle policy adopted in 2022. And since then, 2023 and beyond we have been conducting these annual reviews. And proposing any recommendations or ready for a new draft to our executive director and the TG DC. This is meant to be a more agile and iterative process and instead of a full rewrite that take an extended period of time. It is a part of this, I want to let everyone know the testing certification team is taking in feedback and proposed changes at any time. We do not need to wait for a public comment or a meeting like this or a set of changes to be put in front of you. We are happy to take in your feedback and what is and is not working and I will be talking a little bit about that feedback in our quality monitoring program and field services in the next patient. A visual of what I'm talking about here is the green squares or rectangles we have on screen is this new annual review process. We are constantly taking in feedback and putting it into a report and presenting it to our executive director as well as the TG DC. For just high-level consideration on this is what we have received so far and what we think of it. This loop repeats over and over until the rectangle here, we have felt as though we have an reason or cause in the executive director makes a decision to initiate the HAVA process for

updating the VVSG card which is in the remainder of these glue rectangles. As you can see, we are still today on this first one, we are with TG DC for their review and recommendation. Talking about it with you here today and providing you a copy is to simply get visibility. We are not looking on to the second step as you may be familiar. But after TG DC is done who moved to our other standards , Board of advisors for their review and recommendation. You all. As well as posting in the Federal Register, 90 day public comment period. A public hearing as well although for the commissioners have an opportunity to vote on the final version for adoption. As I mentioned, we have shared a copy with all of you. Not just a copy of the redlines of the VVSG 2.1. But also, change notes document. As I mentioned at the top of my 300+ page document, a lot to get through. The idea here was to simply follow the specific parts that were changing with another context that it was a lot simpler to read. About eight 30 page document in comparison. If you have any questions on that absolutely what I am here for. Just one last thing, when getting this feedback and recommendations from everyone, the team really has to consider where this feedback and recommendation plays a role in terms of a minor revision or a major revision. Some of the recommendations we are receiving are asking for new hardware, architecture updates, that breaks compatibility with the current major versions. Any new significant features. Whereas minor, an opportunity to maintain backwards compatibility. And how these requirements live side-by-side. Thank you for sticking with me as I get to all of the contacts. Now for the part that I like to talk about because it gets into the details. As our annual report of 24 was presented in January 2025 to the TG DC we included things to the VVSG 2.0 can incorporate requests for interpretations adding clarifying language directly into the document. Add in a new accommodate formats that were published after VVSG 2.0 was adopted. There was consideration for prohibiting barcodes from obtaining voter selections. Since that time and presentation, working the technical guidance department committee we have expand the conversation include things such as accessibility, voter verifiable paper records and physical removal of wireless hardware. So I'm going to go to little bit more of those to help frame the conversation. I think there is often some confusion about what is a request for interpretation? These are tools that we use when an ambiguity is identified in the requirements. Something is either, it is contracting a subcommittee does not care what it is we are asking for in the requirements. Labs and manufacturers can reach out to us with their question and we will work with technical experts to provide guidance and remove that ambiguity. We publish these on our website and I believe we have ultimately be 13, for VVSG 2.0. These are in fact already out there and guidance has been provided. We are simply trying to take an incident until about 13 or 14 different documents, to get the clarifying language in the RFI back into the garments directly. Nothing is changing other than the language should be more clear and ambiguity should be removed. For common data formats, but these are the standardized file structure designed for easy data exchange across different systems. We have a whole principal physical interoperability. These are the building blocks relevant election information results shared across different systems for easier election reporting. There is already a handful of CDS in the VVSG 2.0 and were simply looking to incorporate the once you're on screen for logical election definition.

And the optional micro CDF serialization as these were published after VVSG 2.0 was adopted. We do not know anymore that NIST is working on at this time. But there could be situations of course more CDS to be developed at which point we would take into consideration commodities right to be incorporated into our guidelines so these are all ready straightforward. These are the simple changes in addition to the typos and neurotic mixes that we had initially put forward. But the conversations continue to expand and these are still conversations. These are not set in stone . We want everyone's feedback as much as we candidly think about this. In regards to bar to the QR codes, the concerning is machine-readable codes do not allow voters to verify the inputted information for this could potentially create conflicting duplicative voting records. VVSG 2.0 does have some mitigating requirements in it already. Talking about using open source as well as publicly available protocols for individuals who can scan the barcode typically get the data, it is not obscure, not encrypted. However, this still causes some problems when it contains voter selections and people are not able to verify that. Things such as time works, oval selections and OCR are still human readable in addition to being machine-readable and are not as much of a concern on the table. Just to note, this conversation is really about storing those voter selections in the barcodes, not a full band, barcodes and QR codes are not being completely prohibited with this conversation. They still may be used mostly to store election information or valid information. Just know selections. There has been a lot of conversation around accessibility. And one of the RFI's actually is up for a lot of conversation. In terms of what is and is not accessible and what we did right and wrong. This was some of the context is provided for in terms of what we are not in the VVSG 1.0 while developing and accessible device. The voting system as a whole must be accessible. As we are talking about this there are some changes that are very helpful that we are looking into and discussing more around identification and verification mechanisms at each stage. Labeling of devices. There is also talk of adding in requirements to require manufacturers to provide system specific accessibility documentation. Including device level functionality. It was brought into light to us and we have done a deeper review on some of the comments to the access board. Understanding the difference between what, 508, and Americans With Disabilities Act and how they're being referenced in the VVSG want to get those right. One of the conversations is paper records and going to paper-based architecture solely within the VVSG. This, the recommendations really landed around regarding and drug voter associations and removing those and replacing them all with a single requirement, restricting the use of indirect voter associations which were largely only be used by cryptographic, verifiable systems. This is still a conversation, though it has been progressing to the side this is a major change consideration given it is an architecture change. And therefore, may not necessarily be considered included in this minor revision. That is actually just a good quick pause, just because it is not in the current conversation means it is off the table completely. We have a large document. Containing all the feedback we received. Just because we have delineated it out does not mean the conversation is done, over, or sidelined. It is simply we are putting a pause while we focus on what is in front of us. And we are happy to pick it back up or even start the conversation now, though

there may not be often taken on in the near future. In the last topic number four handed over to Jon Panek to talk more about these changes mean for your assistance. The topic of wireless related updates. And the big one here and the reason it is centered on the screen, and clarifies no wireless capable hardware may be physically present and voting systems. As with all of these, not that simple. We actually have a handful of other requirements that have to be considered when talking about these types of things. Because when we are talking about networking we have to specify we are talking about wired local area network. As we have clients and servers around central scanners. And whatnot. This is still another conversation under consideration, does this require, versus can it be included into something like this for handing into Jon.

>> Take a break pause there. We are going through this material pretty quick so we are a little ahead of schedule. So stick with me, we have a little bit more we are going to talk about. And after that we're going to take a break. And will come back and talk about field services and learning about training program. I have to apologize, that we saved all the technology stuff for the afternoon. After lunch. Stick with me. We will get through this. I want to talk a little bit about what I think is the biggest question that most people to these discussions. When we present on VVSG and what are the changes. What does this mean for me? What does it mean for my systems? And so, I want to state very clearly, a new VVSG revision does not directly impact any existing certified systems. There is a handful of topics related to this. First and foremost, there is no decertification. System certified under an earlier VVSG version remains certified and can continue to be used. The new VVSG version only applies to systems that are submitted for certification after the new version is adopted. It does not retroactively impose new requirements on systems already utilized in the field. Manufacturers are not required to upgrade existing certified systems solely because a new VVSG version is released. These are not retroactive. This is a common question that comes up that a misunderstanding that when there is a newer vision of VVSG, all systems need to be updated and made compliant. Just not how it works there. Separate, exclusive things that exist side-by-side but are directly related. As you all know, our program is fundamentally voluntary. And so, there is discretion for you all and your jurisdiction. The state and locals may decide when and how to adopt VVSG versions. And the transition happens over time, I think, it was particularly informative on the slide Brooke had. That had the clip from HAVA. That said, calls for quadrennial review and update. And we are just and beyond five years right now since we adopted VVSG 2.0. There are a lot of reasons why it takes a long time after major revision of the VVSG, often times new competencies added to the things that need to be tested. In still, therefore the organization needs to be updated. In order for the to happen, the vlab guidelines have to be updated to work with NIST to do that and that takes time. The laptop to be credited to that for the new competencies and meanwhile the manufacturers have developed their new systems and be submitted. And all of those different things happen as series events. One after the other. And it took a number of years to get to where we are right now. What we want to do is try and avoid that scenario in the future, major revision of VVSG, necessitates all those things. We know we will have to go through that again in the future. Now that we have

been through it we understand all of the steps it takes. Want to try and make it as efficient as possible. However, to get to that stage we strongly believe there needs to be gradual, iterative updates to the VVSG over time. So, what we are saying here is where trying to support gradual modernization. While maintaining continuity for elections or service systems. And it is a very intentional design to keep these things separate so we can continue to talk about what is coming in the future, yet, what is certified and being used as a stable and will remain that way. Okay so, what we have here is a little diagram that hopefully, illustrates an earlier slide Brooke was talking about. Major versus minor revisions. And this is important to the conversation because what we have already been through is the sunset, the major revision and transition to legacy. So previously, we had VVSG 1.0. And then, later revision to 1.1 that is a family of VVSG, call it the major number stays the same, one point something. When 2.0 was adopted we needed to transition to the new. And make the old legacy. So, we did not want to call it obsolete, we do not want people to think what we are talking about with the requirements and guidelines of what we are talking about with the systems. While the term obsolete makes sense for VVSG not being used anymore it sounds really bad because as it is directly applied to the systems that are certified today. We carefully chose the term legacy. And the diagram here is essentially showing where we moved from the 1.0 family to a 2.0 family and the over on the diagram is your transition period. As defined in the lifecycle policy, 12 months where once a lab is accredited in contest to the new guidelines, there is a one year period of time where it will be sunset. Made legacy at that point to previous VVSG versions. What we are talking about today, on the other side without a nested family of guidelines. This is the content in the modeling framework that we want to use going forward. To try and make things gradual iterative updates to VVSG. We got 2.0. What we're talking about right now is 2.1 and someone and so forth for 2.X. We do not know how many revisions will be within a family, whatever makes sense based on discussions and things that come out over time. So that is left is a variable, we do not know, there could be 2.2, 2.3, or 2.1 Michael writes a 3.0. We do not know. A lot of that is triggered by utilizing the feedback we get. And the annual VVSG review process. So in short, there is no major changes. This is gradual and will happen over time. And VVSG 2.0 will remain available and for use until there is a 3.0. I shiver a little bit thinking about it right now as we talk about 2.1. But anyway, that was my token slide. I will pass it back to Kristin to go over some communication onsets.

>> For communications, I want to sort of touch on some things about the EAC is approaching, and only how we communicate about VVSG and testing and certification program. But also, venison resources to consider available to you, including the EAC staff as a resource for you all. In terms of audience, as you can tell the presentation that Brooke and Jon gave a specific for you as board members. Folks like Brad been around a long time. You have been hearing about VVSG for your entire time. Presenting things and coming into different depths on VVSG and what this means for voting systems, really takes into consideration what your audience is. The same thing goes for how the EAC can help you with resources and you are talking about the security of your voting systems. The certification of your voting systems when you are talking to voters, legislators we know

this . You will have wonderful networks in all of your states through state associations like , with your staff. That is talking about certification and this program in a different way. What we try to do things like a video, we're talking a very high level. Because we know with elections, it is different in every jurisdiction. The EAC is talking about these things at a very high level hopefully, give you the tools you need to customize for your audience that you are talking to. As well as the questions you are getting from those audiences. It gives you some high-level talking points to give people confidence in those voting systems. That is really where we want to empower you there. It also gets to some of the messaging points and I made a note with the slide Jon Panek had become a good example of what I knew VVSG means great on field that is one slide that gives you some of those very high level bullet points. But get your point across. And when you are talking about VVSG. I think he also mentioned the term, legacy. That is something we got feedback on it even if it was feedback with, this term will be very sensitive. One word can make a huge difference. Getting feedback on messaging bike that , that the EAC uses either in the technical documents or in how we are talking about VVSG and testing and certification committed is incredibly important. As much as you are getting the message across, as a general communications will, something the EAC has been doing, we have things like social media that reaches some people. But we have the newsletter, the website, FAQs on the website. The commissioners are always talking and traveling around the country talking about this program to help keep election officials, help keep you as board members informed about that. And it is really that mix that hopefully, reaches more and more people. The more that we are talking about that. So I included some points here about keeping it simple. But you have to be specific when needed. But also, letting us know what are the messages that would resonate with your community? What are messages that you need or is helpful for the EAC to be sharing? So we can continue to incorporate that in how we are talking about these things. That help as you do your job so we can better assist as our middle name: as our middle names as. And I think from the very beginning of today, one of the biggest themes of our meetings here, how can the EAC help, what feedback can we get from all of you in terms of like, improving how we are talking about these things. Improving the resources that are available. Wanted to have a couple of things the wrath LLC meeting I mentioned this, we hope and secure elections toolkit. This is not VVSG specific but it does talk about the security of voting systems available on our website. It has single FAQs, simple talking points, sample materials for website or newsletter. It may help you get started and then making it more specific for your community, what questions are you getting? How are you securing voting systems? How are EAC certified systems used in your community? Those toolkit resources can really get you started and make sure you are communicating as specific as possible while using some of the overall, EAC can provide. I have some copies and we have some copies on the registration table. But we are also trying to provide resources in different ways. We have a parent at about the EAC testing and certification program and some of the different aspects of what that is. Trying to use plain language there in terms of the role of the federal government in this area. And Brooke was talking very technically about 1.0 and 2.0. But this is an area where we,

feedback from Mandy, I think she's over here. VVSG 1.0 versus 2.0. And trying to use plain language in terms of what those two differences are. One thing I really like, and I can share this again: the registration table, a demonstration from certification to the police. That is something we heard, you have VVSG 2.0. When are we going to see voting systems in voting locations that are certified to this? And that is a lot of steps that seen those voting systems actually being used by voters. If seeing that in a different way rather than just telling people it takes time we want to make sure that is there to help you. The EAC's website is also one of those things that can be very helpful for the tough questions over directing people to us. I mentioned this at the LLC meeting. But when we as EAC staff get questions from members of the public about how to register in your states or your communities are options to cast a ballot, we are driving people to your websites coming to your information and getting as specific as possible. Because you are the best messengers for that information. The same thing goes when you get questions and you can always direct them to us and we can help answer those as best as possible. Especially when we get consistent questions it means we can update our website. So you have something to vest before people too. Having that feedback and understanding what your community is asking you folks must improve even our website. Just a very valuable. And again, I am always impressed when I hear any of our testing and certification team talk about these things. This is not my area of specialty but you can just tell when they eat, live and breathe this material. If you do have questions they phenomenal resources to answer them. To isolate those questions, commissioners also fantastic. When you get questions, if it is for me reporter also, and you're not sure how to ask, media and EAC.gov comes to me and I would be happy to direct that for the staff and commission can best answer. Just like I would report sent voters to your states for questions, please know that we are here to help you instant those tough questions as best we can. And I think we are to Q&A. Thank you.

>> Thank you, Kristin and. You vest my level with you, we need Kristin as much as anybody. Can you imagine living, eating and breathing this stuff? That is what we go through. I want to open it up to any questions. We got time.

Christina.

>> A quick question. Who are our current standards boards representatives on TG PC? I know there was some problems before with getting some folks are proved in the nomination process. Did that ever get resolved?

>> Unfortunately, no. It has not been resolved. If you want to go in and chime in Commissioner. The appointment process is to partner we have our part first and NIST has a part second. That is where we find we do not have the ability to be able to change what that is in any way. It is what it is. I am acutely aware everybody has frustrations around. And we would like that to be better as well. And that actually goes back to a slight Brianna about this morning, one of the liquidations in the Congressional report was updates to HAVA. Help facilitate the appointment process. Commission committed.

>> The commissioners are looking at options. About the appointment process and the board representation on the TG DC pursuant to HAVA. I would just say: continue to look at options to streamline that. Of course, we make the recommendation to Congress that will

be very definitive that was clarified. Some of them are pending. I will be briefing the executive committee tomorrow. This afternoon after and perhaps, more information we could provide. I will leave it at that. We'll have some more information tomorrow, perhaps.

>> Thank you, commission. Thank you, Christina. Yes, Mandy.

>> Thank you. I think before, have something to Christina's question was, but before I go there, I wanted to take an opportunity to say thank you. I know that I often ask, how can you support us in getting resources out? And I know that I have had an opportunity to work with you and your team, Kristen Muthig in particular of how we can communicate in certain states, little different meaning than others. We are not all the same. I do appreciate you all this supported in working to help get some resources out. I think the skills that may be the appropriate time commitment I just want to share, I think, I sit on the standards Board, VWSG subcommittee. And I was appointed by all of you to be our second representative on the TG DC, standards Board gets two, you all continue to hear the story of the frustration of the input and approval process. I have a little bit of an update. Because it feels like folks are feeling like it is affecting me personally, I want to share. I think you will write to understand and be represented. So I just want to share some updates I received, very recent. But ultimately, understanding is that all of the pending appointees, not just from standards Board but any other representative, organization that we recently learned NIST has actually rejected all of the appointments. Although you voted for us were nominated and appointed me, unfortunately, very recently they have determined with no explanation, no understanding, that they have rejected that appointment. Obviously, I have had an experience that I think is worth sharing with the executive committee. So I will be doing that this evening to make sure you all are informed on next steps. I think it is important all understand how much value you have and how much value we bring to the process. And that it really is a trigger for moving things forward and it affects all of us in the state so that is what we're here for, to be the representation that the Excel because we are the experts in the field. There are other experts in different fields that all Plato will in these guidelines and making them successful. I am pretty disappointed. It has been really frustrating and beyond that it is just not transparent. I do not feel this is a personal issue may feel like this is a process issue that everyone should be invested in and understanding and at minimum, you deserve representation. It has been years that you have not had a representative. Fully represented. And beyond that, I appreciate EAC has encouraged participation side thinking voice. The push comes to shove I could not take a vote. You deserve that. And it would be one thing if me stepping aside acquitted to you getting immediate representation, I do not think that is the case. I think this is a bigger, deeper issue and I appreciate the EAC's willingness to consider a change going forward. I think that is really critical. Being a functioning system. I do not want to take all the time. I think the executive committee probably will come back, hopefully with some thoughts on how to move forward. I think you all should definitely be informed. I am happy to have conversations. It is something I feel passionate about and I can share my experience so nobody else has the same going forward.

>> Thank you, Mandy. Appreciate the comments. Any other questions? For the team here.

Paul Knox.

>> Not with a question. But tacking on select Mandy said. Given the process I mean, I find it still incomprehensible that we think the TG DC is operable with quite effectively, in most of the categories, the membership of the TG DC, having 50 percent of the members absent. Only one of two standards boards members, only one of two board advices number. He published a notice back on 9 March for two vacancies for the technical people. That is half of the technical people know. But I mean yes, there is 60 percent including the chair. Which technically gives an operational majority. But you are missing almost 50 percent of the people who are representing their various interests. I think I know we are still struggling trying to, Kristen for trying to get that many schedules together for a meeting. But whereas before, the proposed members who were waiting in the wings were allowed to participate and be a part of the discussion, although not part of a vote. Now they will not even be there to do that. We are actually talking about vacancies again, not just pending memberships. I don't know how we move forward with that much vacancy. But I'll be interested to hear from the executive committee.

>> We will come back.

>> I have a slightly different question or comment. This kind of changing gears a little bit. I also got a shiver when you mentioned a 3.0 VVSG thinking about a comprehensive change like that. I spent a lot of times thinking about lamentable jurisdictions in Texas are going to do. To be able to plan and prepare for the cost of an investment in new voting systems. We have a lot of local jurisdictions come in Texas we were lucky that we had some HAVA funding we could make available to our local folks. To help them with purchasing and acquiring more updated, secure systems. I think we want to be able to continue doing that and it takes, because of the expense associated, and investment on the part of lots of levels of government to make sure our local folks can do what they need to do to make sure systems are secure. In thinking about the idea, I think I like the approach we were talking about, going to do this annual review process. Perhaps some different versions of 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, to the extent you can and it makes sense for the systems. There will come a point in time where it does not make sense to do that anymore. And we have to think about a broader and bigger rewrite taken. And I know it is hard to predict when that will happen because we do not always know technologies lifecycles. But it may be worthwhile to think about having some benchmarks. After Xnumber of years. We begin the process of the full rewrite. And have those published timelines out there. So the community knows when we can expect at least the process to start for a full rewrite. Because I think we have jurisdictions that will try to make the systems last 10, 15, 20 years and in some cases that is the goal. They do not have the funding to do more than that. But I think having some kind of predictability and when people consider bigger rewrite like that, that can help them prepare local jurisdictions from budget perspective, help states prepare states are fortunate enough to allocate funding. And I mean, it could impact HAVA funding long-term. That is just something I would urge them to think about, well I think the short-term approach is absolutely the right approach, thinking long-term, some kind of schedule or predictable cycle for doing this update, even if it is a 10 year cycle, something vague like

that. I think will help on the planning come on planning for procuring new equipment.

>> Thank you for that, Christina. I think that is a great idea. One of the things I want to highlight and what I predict will come out of this process, as we are talking about 2.1 will have some changes on the table. Advisors will say these are appropriate for 2.1 and these are not. Then they'll move into a 3.0 bucket because breaking backward compatibility type thing. And that bucket will start to grow and you will see what 3.0 looks like. Sort of overtime a little bit. Right now I have no idea, except nothing in my mind. But some pieces of that maybe emerging already. And so, trying to balance that with giving you a schedule that we cannot really honestly keep to because it is at the whim of things progress over time. I think as visibility on 3.0 starts to emerge, we may be able to get better guidance or indication. All of this is meant to be predictable and that is a big unknown factor so we want to give that understanding and feel like it we say something like 10 years that is kind of arbitrary. Maybe it is helpful, HAVA says four years. No specification on what that actually means, big or small change. Meeting somewhere in the middle on that would be helpful. Thank you for the insight.

>> Before we go to the next question, in my opening comments, the reality is, the look that you do in building, building a 2.0, years in the making. Years to actually pass it, used and implemented. Almost like 5 to 7 evolution to decide you are going to do something. My comments to: encourage you to think about the future because even if today you decided to do this, you are talking about seven years down the road. And what the testing standard will be. And so committed you wait too long for 3.0 four discussion, then by the time you get to the finish on your already behind. Just a long process. And then, the being said, Congress is giving us this process you develop the standards, you implement them. And that is only the first step. Then localities, states have to catch up to actually purchase it. Some I don't think that is keeping up with the development process. It is difficult. We hear you on benchmarks and we do have a lifecycle policy. That maybe we can continue to look at what that means Donovan.

>> I just , I suspect we are not going to be able to go as long, not going to be able to put 20 years but some jurisdictions have gone before they make updates. They can invest now the technology is just going to change. As I said we need to think long term care. There is going to be an expectation that we are going to fully revamp things removed the next best thing when it comes to securing our technology, we need to understand it is hard for local jurisdictions to keep up with that. And so, I do not know the answer is that maybe that is something we can continue to engage in discussions on. It is how do we make sure we are providing ample time for local jurisdictions to prepare for changes in election technology? And/or provide, get funding for it so they can make these updates when we need them to to mention safe and secure systems and elections. I think it is in our conversation we need to have. I worry so hard about my local jurisdictions. That barely have the funding to do what they need to do now. And then, with the expectation of a concept. Here soon. And plan for the next upgrade. We need to think about how to space that out. Or at least think about a way to make this predictable. For them. So they are not having to struggle for funds. They can do something Gnostic to try and plan and prepare for it.

>> One of the things that might be helpful is my goal is to never have a major rewrite ever again. That 3.0 will understand what it looks like as we move toward it and it will never be like completely different. It is going to be in adoration but it will be a little bigger than the minors and have some things that break the compatibility. 2.Xrevisions should booklet software updates and 3.0 is what is going to necessitate a machine change of some kind, the delineation returned to divine in the lifecycle policy .

>> Okay, next question.

>> Andrew with Nebraska. I have two questions. Just a comment. You were talking about 2.012.1. Is it going to be the case, you said they are overlapping in the sense, somebody might be certified to 2.0 and 2.1 comes out and somebody has tested against 2.1. 2.0 certification, can they still make more than changes wants to buy one is out? Can commit like an à la carte? Can people say new system I want to test against 2.0 even though 2.1 is out? How does that work? The 2.1 changes you said were sent out I don't know if I got them in the most recent email. Is this the same changes from back in September? That is still in flotation. And then finally, just in light of what Mandy was saying. If we can get some clarification on what that appointment process looks like. And how that gets pushed through NIST for tomorrow I think will be helpful information so we can proceed forward to make sure we get representation.

>> I can definitely help with questions one and two starting with number two. Yes, what was last presented in talked about with tactical guidelines development committee in September. The conversations continue to evolve the redlines you received for the same ones from back in September. So just note they are not necessarily perfectly up-to-date. As we are still taking in that feedback. In regards to your other question, yes, 2.0 and 2.1 live side-by-side. It would be up to the manufacturer what they are ready to submit for. Our goal with being small changes is not to move the goalpost. They could be developing income and first 2.0 but if they think they met the basic needs for 2.1 in this instance, the original proposal of incorporating the new accommodative format, really the only change the original proposal we had them back in January 2025. If they did not have the new accommodative format and they could submit to 2.0 and if they did they could submit to 2.1. Otherwise effectively, in terms of router and RFI's every things identifiable between the two, very lightweight distinction. As we talked about more topics that will be an additional change.

>> Further to that point, a specific case we will see is 2.0 certified systems that want to move to 2.1. I do not want to call it to minimus because it makes it sound like it is not significantly difficult and engineering change order. Or a modified system that has an abbreviated timeline. It would not be a new system. And so, that is the other practical side of what we are trying to do, have those iterations serve the community through more simple means like software updates.

>> We are out time in less there is another urgent question. If not, -- we will take a break until 2:45 PM and we will be back. We will be back to her about election workforce framework discussion. Excuse me, training --.

>> Sorry, Paul. Welcome back from the break. We are not going to have a presentation on

EAC training and election technology services. Join me in welcoming, chief election technology officer. Brooke Watters, testing and certification director and Kim Smith, Senior election subject matter expert.

>> Thanks, Maria prayed for anyone who does not know me, I am Kim Smith. As Maria said, Senior election subject matter expert at the EAC. I am here to provide a brief update on EAC efforts to provide training to election officials at no cost. If you recall that last year's annual meeting, my colleague, Ed who you will hear from after this panel last year at the meeting, he outlined the EAC's learning lab training program which offers both on-demand training and live training. I am going to start with an update on the on-demand side of things. Since we were last together in 2025, we have added 12 new trainings to our on-demand learning platform. We are up to a total of 37 trainings as of today that are available there. We also have more on the way. Over the course of the next year will be consistently adding additional content to the platform. Additionally, last year at this time we really just started efforts to promote the learning lab. We had a 270 users following a soft launch in the fall 2024. We really began in earnest promoting the learning lab in person at a series of in-person training engagements last summers. So happy to report sitting at over 1400 users and we have users from every state and territory using the platform now. Which is exciting. Additionally, as you all are aware, and as Lauren shared with you, via email, we did a sort of pilot of the learning lab professional training recognition program. With both the standards Board and local leadership Council members. We have heard a lot of really great feedback from people who participated. And also received a lot of good questions. I will provide a little bit of an update on that. Coming up on the on-demand side of things, we are really going to continue to promote this, including in-person encasements but also doing a lot of dedicated outreach, including putting updates in our EAC newsletter and doing direct outreach to current users, providing notice when we do upload those new trainings, encouraging users to complete courses. And then also come encouraging people to sign up. We also encourage any existing users to share the platform of any other election officials they think might benefit from it. We also want to make sure we are sharing the use cases or the utility that users who found in the platform. We have been collecting feedback from current users and we have heard a lot of interesting ideas for leveraging the training platform. In one example, a leader election official in the county explained to us how she would take the training and assign it to staff members and dedicate time to meet with them after they completed it. To talk about any ideas that sparked for anything they could implement in their office. We have also heard of this can be a really useful tool anytime there are new election staff members. Using this as a resource to give them instant training and a baseline knowledge of elections. But we have also, throughout the gathering feedback we have heard from a lot of seasoned election officials as well. They found the content really helpful by, reinforced the importance of a lot of the topics and even given them some new ideas on how to implement some best practices. The biggest effort we have going on right now on the on-demand side of things, rolling out that recognition programs all users. We plan to do that later on this year and as a part of that dedicating communications to it. But we are also

going to be doing some platform updates, doing things like making it really easy for users to see which courses are core versus elective. How many courses they have taken towards training, how many credits the trainings are right, that kind of thing. Also note another piece of the feedback, it is really easy to implement because we do these trainings in such a short format. The average length is 13 minutes long. A lot of the feedback, it is really easy to work this into my day-to-day work my doctor set aside several hours or anything like that. Kind of makes the content more accessible in a busy elections office. That brings me to my first analysis check, fill in the blank question. The average length of the EAC learning lab on-demand training is. Yes. Great. I almost forgot to tell you what it was so that would have been kind of a doctor. Shifting gears to look at the live training component of the learning lab program. As Briand I mentioned earlier, able to train over 3400 election officials in person during the last fiscal year. At that time we were offering six different training topics and ended up delivering our chain of custody training the most. Anyone of our in-person engagements it is important for us to keep gathering feedback. So at the end of each one of our training engagements we ask users to provide us with their feedback on the training. That way we can keep things fresh. Keep improving the content as we go. As we described plaster the annual meeting, we really want to make sure all of our sin content is rooted in the on-demand content, we are doing everything we can to take advantage of being in person during these trainings. Stop we really try to build in interactivity, peer-to-peer sharing, that kind of thinker into you engage with the content and also make connections across the state. Talk to other local officials that would not necessarily have a conversation with before. And in that we have learned that is component of our participants most frequently cited positives coming out of our in-person trainings. Over the course of this year one of the things we're working on is building out that menu of options. You all should have received a one pager in your folders. That kind of briefly describes each of the trainings we are now offering. In person. I want to highlight the three new ones for this year. First up, state election scenario training exercises. I am sure probably all of you at some point in your career participated in a tabletop exercise. I was might be a little bit different than you experienced in the past. When we are arranging to do these we really try and hone in on a scenario that is of particular interest to the state we are going to be in. And then we use that scenarios really facilitate a deeper more robust discussion of participants response to it. How would their continuity plans apply to that scenario, who might they need to turn to come any resources we can help them identify where gaps in their plans they had not thought about before. Our second new training, we debuted a hand counts one-on-one training in Montana earlier this year. That will covers how to prepare for hand counts. That can be in hand counts audit every election, recount, or generate election results. And then commit also explore some best practices for two common counting methods. If you were with us yesterday we debuted over 30 new training which is our ballot shift pre-election testing training. That was our first time conducting that new training. As with all of our in-person trainings, they are rooted in learning lab content. The building is interactive pieces and I want to shadow Andrew: you know if you remember, two years ago. Together in Kansas City we were asking for training

topics people might want and Andrew had mentioned logic and accuracy testing. We did build out an on-demand module on that. That is what the ballot training is really rooted in. So far this year we have been in New Jersey and Montana. We have a number of engagements coming up this summer. And we really work with either states or associations to kind of give them, deliver training that suits their conference. Sometimes we are doing really large, 300 people trainings. Sometimes we are doing a 50 person breakout. Like yesterday we are doing 45 minutes of training and in other states we have gone and done a whole day of training focused on several of the topics we offer. If you have any topic ideas, any feedback, or you are interested in potentially come engaging us for in-person training we are happy to hear that. You can reach out to staff, particularly myself or Ed who you will hear from next. Or you can email us at learning lab at EAC.gov. That brings us to knowledge check number two. Fill in the blank again. It costs dollars to sign up for the learning lab platform about the EAC conducted in-person training conference. Good job. The last knowledge check for me, select all that apply. You can request more information on EAC learning Bob live training by emailing learning lab at EAC. Goff, young yes, talking with EAC staff or spelling out as I was on a short link Michigan Chicago style hot dogs. What was directly one and three, okay. You are correct. Thank you for indulging and I am going to pass it over to Brooke. Thanks thank you, Kim.

>> Hello everyone, I promise this will not be as technical although I have a small piece at all software validation so just stick with me. If anything, this is more of a marketing that we want to get into the field and see you all some more. I will talk about our field services program you may be familiar with some team members, Roger, Frank, Sean, and Tom. They are wonderful. You might already have a relationship with them. And they are fantastic and know their stuff. I will mark it on them here today. Before the field services program existed as a staff team, the EAC already had a field services Authority and expectation invited into the testing and certification program. Therefore, I'm overseeing field services of the testing and certification director. This is actually a chapter in our program manual, the quality monitoring program. The purpose of the quality monitoring program is to ensure systems used in jurisdictions identical to those tested and certified. Monitor completeness and adequacy of testing by observing performance in the field and monitor the effectiveness of the VVSG. Selfishly, this is a feedback loop for us to constantly improve our guidelines. But not so selfishly, this really is here to help you in checking your systems and how things are going out in the field. In 2023 was the changing point where the field services program was formalized. This long-standing quality monitoring program concept into dedicated resources of a deployable team. The goal remains the same here, everyone benefits with ensuring the field of systems remain consistent to what was tested and certified. I am going to play a short video here that helps describe what field services is possibly better than I can. This is also a great resource asked Kristin what he say, you can quickly show individuals that are like multiskilled services and what can we get out of it we.

>> Authorized by the help America vote act of 2002 to test and certify voting systems, US election assistance commission created the field services program to support ongoing post certification needs of state and local election offices across every region of the country. The

EAC's field services programs comprised of experts that provide hands-on support so that you jurisdictions of all sizes nationwide. One of the key quality control functions of the program is conducting field and system reviews. Including ensuring the security of systems and software programs through verification. A process that confirms integrity of voting systems by verifying with a certified soccer remains unchanged reproductive measure reinforce a security interest in elections and has been successfully implanted across multiple states. Among his other key objectives field services conducts audits to election system manufacturers. As well as providing advisory notices related to system issues. Facilitates anomaly reporting gathering information from vendors and election officials to assess and address potential concerns before the impact options. The field services program was beyond technical evaluations. Through it the EAC remains committed to enhancing outreach, prioritizing manufacturer audits, and increasing transparency and election administration. The EAC field services program plays a vital role in ensuring the state and local election officials of the resources they need to conduct safe, secure: Rick, and excessive elections.

>> So again, the video does a good job of working whatever field services team can do. To give a little bit more detail, what you can see on here as well, really you stethoscope. If you have an interest in having the field services team come to an engagement with the, it is really driven by your needs and your wants. The jurisdiction works with the EAC to design what they want observed, when the work occurs, and how broad or narrow the scope is. I do want to note we work as a top-down approach in the state must be involved for any on-site engagements. We do not work with counties beyond information sharing or providing cash value manifests at your request without state approval. The project plans we develop with you are meant to be collaborative and adjustable based off of your needs, timing constraints, and they typically involve, as the video notes, field system reviews and cash verification of your software. When we say we are practical support we mean planning, coordination, observation. We are not a hands-on operation. The team does not conduct testing or operate voting living on the half of jurisdictions or manufacturers. Instead we are here to help think through the scope, logistics and document patient had engagement and how we can help improve any processes you are working on. The wide range of election procedures are not just limited to system reviews, but we can also observe procedures to things that physical and system security and any pre-and postelection testing. Logic and accuracy, risk and audits. Ultimately, this on-site is not meant to be punitive or enforcement based. There is an optional report, if desired and meant to highlight what you are doing well and provide recommendations of improvement. I believe in Rihanna earlier, presentation earlier, there was a slide showing one another one pagers which can be used as a communication school that the EAC has come on-site in the tech assistant for following best practices. Getting organized. Ultimately, I mean, we're going to go a little bit more into what verification is here in another slide. Fielded system reviews, the team is using publicly available documentation. Our website holds things like the scope of certification or scope of performance: excuse me. As well as the configuration that is listed in and checking your system for what it is. These hash values are also available to

jurisdictions at request Prego, not necessarily publicly posted on our website. Ultimately, the big thing I want to do here, transparency is the key. The goal of this work. These activities support public confidence by showing certified systems remain secure after deployment. And documenting observations in our published reports. That the program helps demonstrate how the systems are secure. And we really want to just be here to help you where we can. So one of the things we have more recently discussed and being available to be a part of, and the attendant support state system certification and acceptance testing. Upon request from a state or territory, field services may be present and state levels of application. Though there are some stipulations around this participation is observational and advisory in nature only. The EAC cannot act on behalf of the state, county or manufacturer about staff is available to respond to questions related to the voluntary voting system guidelines and explain any part of the federal certification process. The team is actually actively working on a lot of the testing and certification projects that we have right now. Quite familiar with these systems but again, what they cannot answer about the specific system, they understand this process pretty fairly and in depth. You have technical support on site. In addition to be able to do these fielded system reviews, EAC representative at your location: Yolo County. In field services conjure resource and informational return of a limited set of elective procedures. Provide practical field-based trainings upon request and work as a liaison to connect you with the support of innovations within our agency. And as that liaison. Everything came show that we can give you a small taste of that in person and that level of what you need. We did a survey with the LLC and got some feedback around what is software verification. What is hashing? The next couple of signs are going into that a bit to give a little bit of an example. Of what we can provide in terms of value of these on-site trainings. But this is being put into practice in the field services team is on-site and is doing a software verification on your system. A simple way to say, hash verification use cryptography, cryptographic function algorithm to taken data and produce a new fixed length of letters and numbers known as a hash value. You may be familiar with some algorithms and defined workshop 256. The unique string of characters is nice hash value Jackson's digital fingerprint and can be compared to previously computer hash values. This is the technical part that I apologize because I am not going to the best of explaining it in a way that makes sense. But we have a nice little video, the QR code it you would like to rewatch it at a later time. But it might just be a little bit bicycling that for you instead. It is quite fun as well.

>> Welcome to the election assistance commission learning lab video on hash verification. Please stay tuned. In this training we will define hash verification, discuss how it can be applied to election technology, and describe how election officials might use it. Hash verification as a security tool we can use to see if software has been altered. The process involves comparing and trusted version of software code to the version being used in the field to see whether the notch. It would take you a long time to look at every line of code included in the software to make sure it has not been changed. So how can we compare this to more efficiently? We can use something called a hash code. The process of hashing takes digital data and turns it into a string of letters and numbers called a hash code. This

is done using a special formula called a hashing algorithm. If you change a simple piece of the digital file hash code will also change. That means you can tell something is different no matter if the change is large or small. Think of it like creating a unique fingerprint for your data. The same data will always produce the same fingerprint. And different data sets are expected to have different fingerprints. Hashing is quick to do and gives us a way to validate a large amount of data without having to look at every piece individually. For example, here is the Mona Lisa, seemingly intact. Just as Leonardo da Vinci painted. But how do we know it is the original Mona Lisa? What if someone altered this masterpiece, how would we know? If we had a and a mustache the change is obvious but in the world alterations can be subtle and hard to detect. This is where hashing comes in. Imagine the Mona Lisa is a digital file. We can generate a unique hash code for the authentic Mona Lisa using a hash algorithm. When the mustache gets added we can use the same algorithm to hash the file again and compare the hash of the mustache version to the original. And as you can see, the mustache changes the hash. Comparing the two hash codes as a tool we can use to help detect alterations were made. What if we do this again but only changed a single tiny pixel in the digital image? The hash code would still change. Any change, no matter how small changes the hash code. Now that we know what hashing is less look at how it can be applied to election technology. Election officials implement a variety of measures to ensure the security of voting equipment, voter registration databases, electronic poll books, and more. Making sure the systems are using the correct software is another important layer of protection. Hash codes can help us do that. For example, hash codes are generated for all EAC certified voting systems as a part of the certification process. These hash codes identify the authentic unaltered versions of the certified voting systems. The certified hash codes are then stored by the EAC and are used to identify the trusted bill or general version of each system. Election officials was EAC certified systems can check the hash codes from their own systems against those held by the EAC. For newly acquired voting systems it is a good idea to check the hash codes during acceptance testing. Incorporating hash verification into your existing testing process is one way to help make sure the equipment you receive from the manufacturer is using the correct certified software. Hash verification can also be performed when any equipment receives maintenance or upgrades, like when a vendor provides a software update. Finally, election officials can incorporate hash verification into pre-election testing and postelection audit procedures. This provides evidence the correct version of the software was present while the equipment was in use. We hope this introduction gave you some ideas about how you might use hash verification in your office. For more information we invited to contact the EAC field services program. Field services can provide certified hash codes for all EAC certified voting systems and help you develop a hash verification plan for your own equipment. As always, thank you for your work in elections. And thank you for watching.

>> Welcome hopefully that makes software validation and hash verification a little less intimidating. But we still have a team that would be happy to help with making it even easier when figuring out how to incorporate it into your normal activities around elections. I just wanted to know before I handed over to Jon for any additional comments on the

importance of this work, on our website at EAC.gov we have a variety of other resources available to it anytime, if you are having difficulty locating something please reach out to the team. We are happy to help. You can find things such as the certification documents for voting systems, minor change orders, part of the advisory notices, and field services reports . In addition, we do have everything you have heard from Jay Phelps, director of elections according technology evaluation program, they have a place on the website as well with detailed information about. Jon.

>> Thank you very much. What did you think of the video? Pretty funny, stash changes the hash treatment to be memorable and funny. Just want to add one piece to describe the video , touched on a little bit. How does this happen, where did the hash codes come from? A fundamental piece of all that we do in testing and certification. When the system is submitted to us the manufacturer is required to give the labs raw source code. This is programmers typing without bits that get compiled into what actually runs on the voting system. The labs will take that code and review it against the VVSG for the source code requirements or guidelines then. And then, the labs themselves will actually build the system, the manufacturer does not do that. The labs will generate executables and they themselves install on the voting system. That is what gets tested at the lab. This is the source of the chain of custody that great care has been taken into ensuring that nothing can get injected into that process that is not intended to be there. The manufacturers are giving something that cannot be used in voting system for the labs and they make, test it, and when they are done that is the version that gets hashed, those codes are recorded in the manufacturer separately or in parallel at their facilities, have created a system as well. They know what the hash codes are supposed to be and confirm and say we agree, that is good. The lab will give us those codes then. From raw source code to what you use to confirm the system in the field is all under our roof. That is a critical part of the chain of custody. And without having that piece in place, you cannot necessarily have 100 percent confidence that what we test last year in the lab and certify is what gets delivered to your jurisdiction. This is the piece that ensures that is technically sound. With that, just want to recap both of these programs have been created over the last couple of years. This is an amazing and huge amount of work that would go into this. The incredible all about things that have been done with their learning lab and reception we have seen in a very short amount of time. This feels like a great product and platform for everybody. As well as the field services team. They are new about this quality monitoring program, which sounds much less interesting, has been around for a long time. Simply have not utilized it to the full potential. The team is really working very hard to try and deliver on the things you are asking for and to maximize from the services we provide to you. With that, any questions?

>> I just want to note, it may not be a part of a knowledge check it does not cost anything to have field services staff on site other than your time in those resources during the hash verification be observed. Will be sending out the team every cost team.

>> Paul. Jon I wanted.

>> Am I to understand it.

-- If they install other pieces of software part of the system, if someone were to install

antivirus program on that machine that is not supposed to be there, all of those things will affect the hash as well. Not necessarily their code but all the system and software installed.

>> This is a very specific technical question, thank you for that. It depends on architecture of the device and I do not multiply with a point too much. If we're talking my laptop and installing something that is not supposed to be, once the software is extracted off it is supposed to be inside there. That will come up as a mismatch can be blaring bread on the screen. And so, we go through those tests the lab and we are doing them in the field. With you folks. And instances. For the devices themselves, it is a little bit different. They should be grabbing the memory space and checking the software inside of it. And so, guess that should also.

>> I wanted to point out from the perspective, for the people acknowledged in public hash works. I mean, not only the closed-loop systems where the software is finite and making sure the vendor or an upgrade or a system maintenance did not change something that did not need to be changed. But also, a way of protecting yourself internally. To make sure someone has not install software on your systems or any kind of sniffers or key drivers or whatever. So that you know nobody has installed anything crazy on your system that does not belong there.

>> Thank you, Paul.

>> Jon, question for a friend. Is there one golden key that can open up all the source code? Basically all of the manufacturers use the same source code. Is there a magic key?

>> Yeah. Understood. Number --no, Not even a little bit. The source code is highly unique from one manufacturer to the next. We are in possession of all of those things. All of the artifacts from all the systems that have ever been certified. We help those things, they are objective and we can see them. That is not commonality across manufacturers which I think is what you are asking.

>> My question was very specific, Jon. Is there a golden key in Bulgaria?

>> No, there is not. One thing about hash that is important, I think to dispel, whether or not there is security concerns. We do not fight the hash concerns. We do not necessarily publish them on our website. However, you cannot re-create the data that was used to generate the hash code. That was a common question we got: I have the hash can you figure out if people voted, not even a little bit. Nor can you create the system from them. They are related but they command you cannot go backwards in other words, a one-way process. Did that answer? Just checking to make sure.

>> I am good.

>> Outstanding. Questions on , yes commander.

>> Andrew, Nebraska. I know this, I just want to do a couple of cheerleading things for both of these. We have had field services come out to Nebraska. It was a fantastic experience. If anybody is curious about it. Couldn't recommend it more. They were great. The learning lab I really enjoy it. To me, the learning bond as a concept seemed a little bit daunting. Open world type of thing. But especially with this core set of classes and the certification program you just established, I think that is a really remarkable thing to say that federal up to broker training and federal training somebody can complete. It is a series of steps that is

a concrete list and can be shared with states. I am really excited for what you guys are doing and I think these are both directions the EAC really needs to go and you are doing it and it is awesome. So thank you.

>> Thank you so much, Andrew. Appreciate that. Any other questions.

>> The next discussion -- sorry about that. The next topic is election workforce framework. Eddie G.

>> Thanks, Commissioner. Thank you all, Ed Golembiewski, Senior election subject matter expert at EAC. Really excited to be able to close out presentations for the afternoon with one on workforce. And this is an area that is near and dear to my heart performer election official. From the state of Michigan. Experienced plenty of workforce challenges in my time among, and really again, profoundly excited and privileged to be with you all discussing EAC efforts. So build resilience and fortify the election workforce. So before diving into a discussion of one effort, which is the election workforce framework, I wanted to talk about some recent efforts of the agency that have led to this point. Sound this presentation reflects roughly two years of research and collaboration with election officials. Researchers, human resources and election administration subject matter experts. To address workforce challenges. Began with a study that we contracted the University of Maryland to assist the falcon 2024. During which they dispatched observers to election offices across the country. During the 2024 presidential election to observe workforce challenges and collect data and information that has gone in and informed the work we are now bringing to you. In addition to that effort, we held a workshop with the University of Maryland that included a lot of those observers. It involved sharing feedback that was gained and observations gained over the course of the presidential election cycle 24. The key findings from that indicated a strong demand on behalf of election offices for workforce resources. And the consensus on the need for a unified framework for election administration. A vision for as a platform, coordinate and scale all of the various efforts that are come investments occurring around the country right now. Related to workforce and professional development across election administration. In addition, the 2020 phone ideas lab that Brianna and others have been discussing, as a key source of information that has informed EAC efforts. A number of the judges that were discussed during the ideas lab were related to workforce. Specifically, highlighting election officer recruitment. Retention and professional development challenges as clear needs, clear challenges and providing a role or demonstrating a role for the election systems commission. To lead and assist with in the future. Let's talk about some of the challenges. You all are probably acutely aware of these challenges already. But the EAC is pending strengthening the election workforce report. Which has been shared with you recently by Lauren. For feedback. outlines a number of the current challenges facing the election workforce. These include the growing complexity of election administration and expanding responsibilities for the hard-working folks like you all that are carrying out this critical work. Competencies now include knowing how to deploy, operate, interact with new technologies. Being able to continuously evolve processes and procedures in response to evolving laws. And being able to operationalize, enhance security precautions, and both physical and cyber. Turnover has been an

increasing problem for the field. The BPC has done some work in this area and demonstrated that since 2004, turnover across the field has increased from 28 percent to over 40 percent in 2024. We know a lot of folks are leaving the field and there is obviously a need to be able to recruit, retain, and develop talent. And professional skills across the election workforce. Election administration truly requires an increased need for advanced multidisciplinary skills. So while training and professional development efforts are really strong across the country right now, including training for example, the EAC provides. That you just heard about the previous panel. There remains opportunity to align efforts across country. The challenges really lead to a number of things and you can see this evidence across election offices. Election officials, including yourselves, perform dozens of executive level functions without proper classification. In local election offices, as an election official you might be classified alongside clerical employees. Or frontline staff. Might be titled something like it. Just when someone in the Treasurer's office, for example, but do very different work. Specialized work, work that requires technical skill set and executive level decision-making in a lot of cases that sets it apart from other public service professions. In addition, there are gaps that hinder recruitment and retention and certainly compress compensation for election officials and staff across the country. The EAC, through its workforce efforts over the past couple of years has identified the development of a workforce framework as a critical element of fortifying the workforce across the country. Again, while there are strong training programs, those at the state level international training programs, and efforts on the part of NGOs and other supporting stakeholders to try and build resilience and enhance the workforce. There is not necessarily alignment around all of those efforts. A workforce framework can really provide structure and shared language about the work itself that can connect all of the various efforts underway across the country. Number one, a workforce framework can improve job classification and compensation by clarifying the work that actually happens behind all the various titles that exist in election offices. Titles of very and work directly with titles is the same from what might be a voter registration specialist for a clerical employee or some designation, by and large the work of elections, whether a large office, small office, urban, rural, roughly the same. They can also strengthen recruitment and help establish election administration truly is a recognized profession. Distinct, not separate from other public service. It can define core functions, roles, the skills and abilities that go into the work and provide a common reference. That human resources, stakeholders and partners can look at, policymakers at the local or state level can look to. To really truly understand what the work administration really is. Support planning and workforce and health . In gaps by identifying what those gaps truly are but what competencies you have currently, what do you need to develop? What types of skill sets you need to be recruiting for? All job titles differ, the work across the country is largely the same. Voter frustration to mail ballots to processing campus and certification procedures across the country that work, roughly the same, titles may be different and classification ascension, does not keep up or does not reflect these realities. Workforce framework, as also described in report in front of you currently. One part of addressing needs and another in complement, to the training

program that in was just describing. -- I do high level, framework like the one we are talking about can provide a structure around the election workforce while training really provides the delivery. The framework and really describing create shared language for election officials do and skills required. Let's take a step back. Kind of look at what we mean truly write a framework. Workforce framework is really sort of a hierarchy, a structured model. That defines the work of a profession. Including the functions performed, the is responsible, the knowledge and skills, abilities required. Here is a basic concept. At the time of the seal function. Envelope, work roles and TKTS follow us. There is a number of workforce frameworks, hundreds if not thousands of workforce framework in existence. Across all of the different sectors where folks are working. There is a really helpful example in the nice framework. The national initiative for cybersecurity education, this framework was developed by NIST and it stands out because it really demonstrates some comparable both needs outside to his development and similarities between professions in the given complexity of the work involved. Nice, Was truly effective developed over four years and continues to go through ongoing updates and revisions with consistent stakeholders , engagement and buy-in. But it was really successful upon launch. Because it focused upon work roles not necessarily job titles which vary across the cybersecurity industry. In a way similar to election and ministration. It provided a flexible and scalable structure. That provides definable categories of detailed tasks, knowledge and skills, really provides a lot of detail about the work itself. Not necessarily the specific job descriptions. Or titles that go into it. It is hoped that field stingrays hiring and training. Enabled the cybersecurity workforce to have mobility across different employers. Combined education with workforce needs, helped to have the engagement of training partners and academia and other supporting stakeholders that all play a role to be able to understand the work itself, what they should be trained to enter toward and provide that common language. All of these challenges are borne out and what we see across the field with election administration as well. Moving toward an election workforce framework. Mike cybersecurity, election administration responsibilities are complex. But consistent across jurisdictions across the country. While offices might share core functions, election administration, election offices by and large consistently be one, two, three, the applicable general office is very small. Small number of employees, small number of officials and staff that do this work. Those folks, regardless of whether in a small or large office, they are doing a number of goals simultaneously. That require a lot of competencies in. So we can look to some fireworks agency has done to start describing some of those competencies for the competency you are all probably familiar with and have seen. In -- developed by the agency some years ago. Really provides a solid foundation that outline some of the key functions election offices perform and the competencies that go into the work. We can see from the competency will there is an opportunity to operationalize it. Expand and provide more detail. And begin to create a workforce framework from it. Where the wheel is an excellent communication device that can really and a small amount of time with quick glance give folks an idea book goes into this work. The framework and take a come operationalize it? I'd also describe what this means in practice. It provides an opportunity

to demonstrate where the intersections of all of these different spokes on the wheel are. For example, security is not just a standalone competency area or function. It intersects with technology and intersects with voting registration, military, and a number of ways. That we can look to the wheel as a beginning foundation. But then, build detail, build from there it's a really define the intersections. I really simple and high-level area, this is what election workforce framework really looks at a high level. We start at the top, classification area or function, election office. We then define work roles beneath that task, knowledge and skills greatly expect across election administration there is probably anywhere between 10 to 20 different classification areas, generally. With dozens if not hundreds of work roles and related tasks and knowledge and skills of the levels of the hierarchy. Embarking upon the work of developing intellectual workforce framework. We see this as an iterative process. Like nice which took its approach in phases. Election workforce framework and do the same. We can look to this as being first, phase I approach. Where I can take the competency wheel and define some of those intersections. Add levels without really fully define all the competencies that go into the work. And in phase 2, kind of flesh of those competencies out and demonstrate all the work roles in detail along with the tasks and knowledge and skills. Just to be clear, going about this process and talking about workflows and tasks we are not talking about specific people, we are talking about work itself. The things that need to happen, things performed in every election office across the country. Just to provide a little bit more detail on what we mean, this is an example, super high level. Very basic of what we are talking about in phase 1. The competency framework which begins with a pacification area and on the slide you can see election planning and implementation is an example of a classification. Really Broadbent is a whole lot of things. You can see that we begin to try to comfort the broad range of different roles but as a statement. The description of some of the core capabilities that go into it. We then move forward and start describing those capabilities in a little bit more detail. And by the competency wheel we can map them to the election cycle itself, when do these capabilities occur, are they ongoing Carmarthen cyclical, do they happen pre- or after elections? During this phase which we kind of expect to be able to begin very soon, what we are hoping this is, a path to some really immediately actionable work products. Election officials to help them begin having conversations with policymakers, with HR decision-makers, etc. To start moving toward better alignment classification compensation. In the next six months we would begin developing this framework and hope to be able to then release quickly a framework guide that really puts some framing commit information around what we are talking about. But the framework means and what it can be used for the help election officials have those conversations with folks that are in positions to make decisions that affect classification and compensation. Might include one pages that could be used the hand across the table. When discussing the immediate needs of an election office and an assessment tool to help identify some of those needs. Where are the gaps in competencies, what you need to invest in for professional development to give an election office the tools and people that needs to be most successful. But also, involves learning about model. Talking about over the past few days about the impact of learning lab and

learning lab model may be focused on how to leverage the resources that we are created through the process of developing this workforce framework. Stakeholder engagement will be really critical here. In order to get this right, and order to really closely and appropriately define the competencies, that go into election work we need your feedback, we need the feedback election officials to make sure we get it correct. We'll be looking to facilitate a working group including members of the standards Board and the LLC. To be able to have those discussions and get reactants to make sure you're moving in the right direction. Phase 2, adding detail to the framework by moving it from a classification and competency-based framework. So what is more in alignment and similar to nice. A role-based framework. Here you can see a super simple example. We are now breaking from the initial high-level election operations and implementation classification area to describe one of the work roles of probably, again, dozens, if not, hundreds were more across the entire group of classification areas. Just one of those roles to give you an idea of what we're talking about here. This work will is a voter registration specialist, kind of capability. With various responsibilities. And levels. Entry-level or support level. What that means, specials might be doing and what this area might be doing as well. During this phase which we hope will really build on the competencies that were identified in the first phase, defined by walls, we hope this might be something , six-month development effort. Involving engagement as much as we can during a busy election cycle, to make sure you're getting it right. This role framework combined with a classification of companies framework you might consider a 1.0 version of an option for experiment. Some of the, in addition to the awful framework sort of Celtic music and talk about it with stakeholders and folks you might need , what might look like a workable library. Mark a catalog of all those various roles with real-world job descriptions attached to them. Giving election officials some idea of how they might better define job descriptions or improve in their office. So fully capture and outline classification. In a stakeholder, in order to make this translatable not only to election offices and folks working in administration of elections, but also to HR and policymaking stakeholders, it really needs to involve folks that speak those languages. Bringing in folks from the HR discipline, working with Nikko who has shown a lot of interest in his efforts. As folks available at that level and county level working in human resources to help inform this to make sure we're getting it right. Again, it is speaking lingers for election offices as well as HR stakeholders that will be important. Actually operationalized in election offices. With that, I will pause here and open it up for any discussion. Questions, etc. you might have. I have a couple of prompts to offer you if there is nothing that jumps out at you right away but I want to just pause here. And start getting a little bit of feedback on the election workforce framework. Alright so, from a local or a state perspective, fomite in election workforce framework that we described, impact conversations you all have related to classification in your offices are related so retention improvement. Paul.

>> One of the challenges we had in our office is just that. We had gone years and years without updating job descriptions as the technology changes and people's rules change that does not get updated quickly in most environments. Certainly, the HR people who help us with that are interested in spending a lot of time with it. And so much so we got so far

behind that we ended up reclassifying everybody's job when we found out that County had not been suspending pay raises and everything for everybody else, they were reclassifying entire positions and paying more money. Like, wait a minute. And so, we had to go through that very painful, here is a piece of paper from a list of everything you do and reclassify your job. Having more of a framework for that will be incredibly beneficial for anyone who finds themselves in a similar situation of that.

>> Please.

>> I am Todd, local commission from Nebraska. In recent months I've been having similar discussions with our county human resources department. Because most recently, it involved being compared to the parks department. Or the superintendent who utilize temporary employees. The systems they have built into place are designed for those functions. Which I'm hoping to do a lot of educating. And sometimes it feels like I am talking to a brick wall. I don't know if you could talk about ways in which we could do a better job as election officials talking to our human resources department trying to help educate them. Because they keep wanting to educate us.

>> I think that is a really critical point. One of the primary drivers of this kind of efforts. Given you products like a one pager that shows a high level what we are talking about when we meet in election administrator or staff member in your office. In a way that clearly sets it apart from other public service professions or other roles. That thing out any county or local office. Something you're able to then use for talking points to be able to describe to those HR decision-makers, that give you something untenable for them to see it. And give you essentially, a tool to have conversations is the point of this framework.

>> To follow up, we have an administrative officer in our office. And as recently as earlier this week or late last week, I mean, it had to do with the onboarding process. Going through all these hoops. And essentially requiring the temp employees to go through them. Especially for my field. Or our field. A wad of this people do not have to do those things. They are retired they do not want to spend and a half hour going through paperwork if they are just going to work a few hours in the election.

>> Yeah. Fully understand. Other feedback there. Yes, please.

>> I just wanted to share, I think it is going to be a really valuable tool. You know, I can see it having you system some of my peers have shared we had a project set aside for a few years now. We quickly discover trying to fit into the framework of just our general state HR requirements, it is not working. We are not getting the right folks in the right position or they are not necessarily seeking out a position based on the information we are able to share. It is too broad. The election style is more specialized, very specific. And so, they presented us with an opportunity to create something you are describing. Of course, set on the back burner while trying to accomplish all of the other required work of the office. So I am really excited to see this come. I think it will be helpful because it is kind of countering things in a way that we are not having to do as much work on our side. But two, to have a more uniform way of looking at it nationally then just ask him to represent that in our one single state. That is super helpful and beyond that it will help us have a tool you are speaking to the legislature. To really be able to support and fund which is huge. This is

really exciting.

>> And G. Any other feedback there? Another prompt, what do we need to make sure as an agency that this framework includes what is going to help and be the most actionable for you? Please, Nick.

>> ,Nick Lima from city of Cranston, Rhode Island. A lot of growing pains as we added stop or change staff. A staff member who her job title was data entry and maintenance specialist. But she functionally was a person not only processed registrations everyday but also recruited training and hiring old coworkers, able to change her job title to election operations coordinator. Then, have a corresponding update to her job description. Staff member, same thing. Canvassing aid , the deputy registrar is this person only and all mail ballot applications but mail ballots plus election day supplies and also, new voter registrations. My own job title, registrar director of elections, I found out after I got the job 10 years ago there was no job description for it on file. I did the history and it turns out it was created arbitrarily 25 years ago by the city Council. Trying to change all of these things required a lot of heavy lifting and took us about , personnel department of the city of administration and counsel had to approve it. And part of the struggle with that, in Rhode Island everyone else was in the same boat. We could not get peers because there job descriptions were on the step two. Some of them did not even have job titles or job descriptions on file. I would say the biggest, this is a huge help. It took us a lot of phone calls around the country to try to get some data support S to the administration. As long as that information is in a way that very fast thinking and higher people about possible lessons for a few seconds or a couple minutes at best will be able to digest, read and understand, that is most helpful for us. That way we put in front of us, this is the standard, best practice on how it is done virtually combining Schilling's evidence. Let us apply it here. Thank you.

>> Patty leaks from Idaho. This is good stuff. I look at how many people are in this room and the jurisdictions we cover. And we have struggled with they go to the HR compensation companies. And value these positions. And if we can crack into the HR world and educate them and spread this, that would be very valuable. Thank you.

>> As far as a working group, what do you think that should look, what should be looking for, what kind of feedback should we be gathering through the process of working group? And also, are you willing to participate in a busy election year and a working group that might be looking at the workforce framework over the next six months to a year.

>> Rated key to make sure jurisdictions have varying sizes of workforce during elections they review represented in a worker. For instance, my lectures team currently includes two individuals plus myself. And as I look at that wheel of responsibilities: sure you are calling it. But I have to do that one and found, personally myself. Luckily , I am okay is November do not ask me about social media. But in some ways we do not have any of that covered. But we have is myself elected, I could be here next year or I could not. And then, I have a 25 year plus employee who has always done everything. It does not necessarily mean she has received the professional development necessary to meet the demands of what she is having to do now. And so, this framework I think is huge and I am very excited about it. Yes,

I will participate in a work group. To the point, varying sizes of workforces. I do not have the luxury of having one person who is voter registration person. That is that same person I was telling you. Also preparing our public notices for the newspaper and also answering questions from skeptical voters in our jurisdiction. So that would be my feedback and recommendation.

>> Thank you. Any other feedback therapy -- any other feedback? Last question to prompt y'all. As far as work products, in addition to this framework itself, we talked about learning lab module. Talked about the local self-assessment tool can anything else? Or do those strike you as being helpful? What else should we be looking onto help operationalize the framework itself?

>> I don't know if this fits or not. But when I post job descriptions will want to recruit I have a hard time, what education background is related to all of these skills. There are so many different degrees that can apply. But the same time if you put a accounting on their first campaign specialist you will have people almost asking our finance director for a job at the interview. I guess kind of think about what education, who should we be recruiting as far as education when it comes to these skills? Can we somehow connect that to get better idea of who will excel in these categories?

>> Thank you. Paul.

>> I would like to reinforce what Lori talked about. Which is, I always use my good friend, and, County Florida as my example. Here is a guy? He entitled the same job title. And yet, in my office staff of 14 people to take care of all the job functions into his office he has one and a half people to help him take care of all the job functions. When the phone rings there is a 50 percent chance he is the one answering and taking whatever your problem is were taking your request by mail ballot or whatever. So I think when you have people who because of their situation or the size of their jurisdiction, find themselves being the proverbial Swiss Army knife. The have to be able to pull the right tool and do whatever needs to be done, trying to classify that is going to be really, really difficult. I don't know if there is a way inside of the framework to create some sort of capital. When you are talking about somebody who is essentially doing the work of about a dozen different people. Who in bigger jurisdictions, I mean, certainly juxtapose my office of 15 people including myself with Miami, their vote by mail team is actually a team. I can call my team for vote by mail into my office and fill up one chair. I mean, definitely drastically different for even supervisory roles for those people who my people are all hands-on and their people actually people they watch. So makes it really, really tough. But probably, one of the things it would be interesting to see how the working group would work with that.

>> Thank you. Please.

>> Britney said something that reminded me of what we were going through when we were recently hiring a lot of folks. We noticed a lot of our job descriptions at the state default to requiring a degree of some sort. And even certain categories or certain types of background. And we know this when we really look at those job descriptions to figure out if that was necessary for the position, in many cases can be eliminated the requirement are provided for experience equivalent experience in lieu of a degree, our applicant pool

increased drastically. We started getting applicants at the state that have local level election experience. And I think it is really easy to get caught up in the trap of default into certain job descriptions because that is the way they have always been buried and really when we were trying to bring in the most qualified individuals we had to look at real-world experience. We have sickly opportunities for growth and salary growth. Some of those traditional standards that I think government uses to determine pay scales, that is part of what needs to be evaluated because education is not always going, having a degree is not always going to be the best indicator of who is the best person for the position. Fax thank you.

>> I very much appreciate all of the feedback. This is my contact information. Anything you think of or want to talk about further, workforce framework for strengthening the election workforce report, please feel free to get in touch with me. Thank you, again. For all of the input that we are eager to act on it. I will turn it back over to Commissioner Palmer.

>> Thank you so much for that presentation. And I am very proud of the work you and your team has done on this. Look forward to the next year. I want to say thank you the numbers for the participation for this first day, the end of the content. A few announcements, I want to remind members the preface will be from 7:30 AM to 9 AM again tomorrow in the French room. Make sure you bring your folder, your table tent and nametags tomorrow. I will ask executive board members to go to Boulton South for the executive board meeting, someone immediately after this. I will turn it back to Maria.

>> I will now entertain a motion to recess the meeting is scheduled until 9:00 AM tomorrow, April 17.

Is there a second?

>> Second.

>> Any objections. It is moved and seconded that this body recess as scheduled until tomorrow at 9:00 AM. All in favor say Nick Lima seven. All opposed say Nick Lima eight. The Aye, private and meeting is recessed until 9:00 AM tomorrow. Thank you.

## StreamBox

[Captioner standing by]

>> Good morning. I'm Maria Pangelinan and I'm calling this meeting out of recess.

Standard board members will convene by region to engage in discussions after we do roll call.

We will do roll call this morning and then there will be discussion on a -- there will be discussion on a matter at hand.

Commissioner Don Palmer would like to say a few words first.

>> DONALD PALMER: I want to thank Maria for her service as chair and frankly as a member of the Standards Board, a member of the Executive Board for six years, she's made history. He's the first member of the territories to be on the Executive Board and the Chair.

So it takes a lot of work, a lot of effort. And it really is more difficult when you're in the territories. And we really appreciate your service to the Standards Board. Let's give her a round of applause.

With that, I will turn it over to Brad.

>> Thank you. Mr. Palmer, Madame Chair, having had practices yesterday, I hope I will do at least as well in pronouncing your name correctly. Pardon me if I error.

We will conduct the roll call in the same manner as yesterday, by state.

Alabama, Laurie Schoultz-Hall.

Alaska, McKay LA Thompson.

Carol Pitcher.

American Samoa.

Arizona, Eslir Musta. Tonia Tunnell.

Arkansas, Alexandria Manning-Ewing. Cole Jester.

California, Dean Logan.

NaKeshia Robinson.

Colorado, Rene Warner. Dwight Shellman.

>> Stuart Holmes is proxy.

>> Noted as present.

Connecticut, marry Ann Byrne.

Gabe Rosenberg. Gabe Rosenberg.

Delaware, Ralph.

Anthony.

District of Columbia. Monica Evans. Gary Thompson.

Florida, Paul Lux.

Georgia. Nancy Boren. Bradford.

Guam, Christiana Ramirez. Maria.

Hawaii, Rex Quidilla. Kristen.

Idaho, Patty Weeks. Daniel Lee.

Illinois, Erica Christell.  
Indiana, Nicole Brown.  
>> Present.  
>> Jay Bradley King is present.  
Iowa, Amanda Harlan. Eric Gookin.  
Kansas, Jameson Shew.  
>> Present.  
>> Bryan Caskey.  
Jamie Shew is proxy for Caskey.  
Noted as present.  
Kentucky, Jeff Hancock. Gregory McNeal.  
Louisiana, Mike Spence. Elisabeth Daigle.  
Maine, Wendy. Shenna Bellows.  
Shenna Bellows shown as present.  
Maryland, Guy Mickley. Katherine Berry.  
Massachusetts, Danielle Sicard Debra O'Malley.  
Michigan, Justin Roebuck. Jocelyn Benson.  
Minnesota, Michael Stalberger. Paula Nell. Noted as present.  
Mississippi, Robert Coleman.  
Montana, Lexus Doctor. Austin James.  
Nebraska, Todd Wiltgen. Andrew Buller  
Nevada, Tammy ray Sparrow. Francisco.  
New Hampshire, Robert.  
>> Patricia, proxy for Robert.  
>> Shown as present.  
Patricia Piecuch.  
>> Present.  
>> New Jersey, Beth Thompson. Donna Barber.  
New Mexico. Annie Hogland.  
New York, Cortney Spittler. Cortney Spittler.  
Thomas Connely.  
North Carolina, Tim Tsujii. Thomas Parker Holland.  
North Dakota. Erica Johnsrud. Erica Johnsrud. Erika White. Erika White.  
Ohio, Beth sleeve. Chris Burnette.  
Oklahoma, Blair Gonzales. Carol Morris.  
Oregon, Darren Robinson. Tobias Read.  
Pennsylvania, Tonia Fernandez. Sindhu Ramachandran.  
Puerto Rico, Yarelys Melendez. Norma Figueroas Morales.  
Rhode Island, Nick Lima.  
>> Here.  
>> Kathy.  
>> Present.

>> South Carolina, Jon Malcolm.

South Dakota, Carrie Crum. Tom Dedrick.

Tennessee, Paige Burcham Dennis. Mark Goins, present by proxy.

Texas, Laura Rogers. Christina Adkins.

Utah, Lannie Chapman. Shelly Jackson.

Vermont, Sandra. Sarah Copeland.

Virgin Islands. Keevermay Douglas. Caroline Fawkes.

Virginia, Mark Coakley. Steve Coskey.

Washington, Laurie Larsen. Stuart Holmes.

>> Present.

>> West Virginia, Brian Wood. Brittany Westfall.

Wisconsin, Lori Stottler. Ahna Barreau.

Wyoming, Kayla White. Chuck Gray.

Madame Chair, the roll call indicates that 56 members of the 110 members Standards Board are present. Aquorum appears to be present.

>> Good morning. My name is Jameson Shew from Douglas County, Kansas, I'm a part of the executive board. We wanted to report back on what happened at the Board last night. First of all, would the Executive Board members stand up. I want to make sure that you know who to talk to.

So Lannie, Dag, Kathy, Maria, Brad, myself. So thank you very much.

We -- a couple of things.

First of all, looking ahead to next year, in the bylaws, you can only serve six years on Executive Board. There's a number of us that are going to term limit out next year. So start thinking about running for Executive Board. We need really good people to be part of the board. So think about that.

We also held elections last year. Your board members for next year, Kathy is going to be the secretary. Dwight Shellman from Colorado will be the vice chair. And I will be the Chair. You have in front of you a proposed resolution. We had a very lengthy discussion about the topic of TGDC and that is something that we have been working on for quite a few years. Any one of the EAC commissioners will tell you every time a board member saw them, we were talking to them and the TGDC. We feel that this is time for us to get more active that discussion. And this is the first start. I want to be clear about a few things. This is not the one and on resolution or activity that we will have in this discussion. This is just a good start.

And we also really felt -- we're giving you this the last day in the morning. There were some discussions of Andrew Buller had an amazing, very detailed resolution that we felt that that really wasn't fair for us to give you something really prescriptive and say hey, let's vote on this in a couple of hours. So this is our first statement.

The plan is to introduce this resolution and as you go into your region meetings, hopefully you will take time to discuss it and then come back out and we could have a potential vote on this.

What this does is it, first of all, says we acknowledge that there is an issue with that

nomination process and the appointment process. And we support the EAC has made it -- it was talked about, it's in their annual report that this is an issue that they are working on and they have ideas on how to move forward. This is our statement of support, which is saying this needs to be fixed. And not only does it need to be fixed, but those appointments need to be made if we're going to move forward on VBSG and other things. So that's what this is for.

Feel free to talk to anyone on the Executive Board over the next few hours for us to explain where this came from. I know that there is -- we had a very healthy discussion. I know there is strong opinions of the ways that we should be going and I want to be clear, this is not the only time we're doing this. But I will also say it's good for us to have this discussion. I talked about it at the LLC. We shouldn't just be coming here and getting updates from the EAC and going home. It is good for us to have a healthy discussion and maybe disagree and so forth because I think that moves us forward as a board. And one of the things for the executive board, and I will finish up, we strongly feel like this board needs to be seen as a board that matters. And not just kind of a social gathering. So that is us doing that with this resolution. It is saying we're part of this discussion. So that is kind of the resolution that you see in front of us from the Executive Board regarding the TGDC.

>> Thank you, Jamie.

Now Standard Board members will convene by region to engage in discussions. As a reminder, each region will need to select a new chair and vice chair. Your new chair will then be invited to join us on stage for a read out of what you discuss.

To find which region you are in and discussion topics, check out the items in your folder. You can also view the map on the screen to see which region you are in.

Now that you know which region you are in, this slide show shows which room you are meeting in. You will also have staff in the back of the room holding signs. Please find your region, and you may follow them.

Thank you.

## **StreamBox**

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>> We are going to get started soon so that everybody can make their flights.

Do we have -- who's the -- let's come to our seats. We've got flights to make so let's get back to business. If anyone knows where Dag is please send them this way.

>> Good morning. To use a phrase, one last time. As secretary in the absence of the chair and vice chair, I am calling the meeting back from recess so that we can proceed. Now we'd like to turn to our regional chair panel and their discussions. Can we have all the new regional chairs join us onstage?

[Inaudible.]

>> I want to note we're doing a little bit of improvisation. I think we can begin by asking the individuals who now have an additional hat to add to their wardrobe to use a microphone. I don't think they need to come up on stage. No, no, I didn't say leave. There is a

microphone directly in front here unless staff has anything more portable. Speak and it appears. Thank you. Let's start at the beginning and work our way back. Please introduce yourself, identify your region. We don't need to get into any more detail than that at the moment so please proceed, sir.

>> Hello, everyone. My name is Robert Coleman. I'm regional chair for Region 3.

>> Shelly Jackson, chair, region 1.

>> Dustin Roebuck, I'm the chair of region 4.

>> Carri Crum, I'm the chair of Region 2.

>> Cathy Placenti, region 5.

>> Great. Thanks to each of you from all of us for your additional service. Now that you've made yourself known please return to your seats and we'll be efficient in moving forward with our business as best we can. Each of the groups were provided with a copy of a draft resolution P at this point we are in session and so under Robert's rules

Is there a motion from the floor?

>> Jamie Shu from Kansas. I move the adoption of the proposed resolution.-thank you. Is there a second to that motion.-Keefer May Douglas US Virgin Islands.

>> Thank you very much. We will begin consideration.

>> We have a friendly amendment to propose.

>> Before we get to the amendment stage, thank you, I want to talk a little bit about the process and that is we will have an opportunity for discussion on the motion as made, and that can discussion can include amendments. It is preferable that amendments be in writing but they can also be made by voice. We do have a copy of the resolution available on screen. I am going to read the resolution into the record for the transcript. And we have staff available from the EAC who can capture any amendment the that are made by voice so that again there is proper documentation.

So let me proceed acting, if you will, as clerk to read what has been introduced.

Standards board US elections assistance commission. Draft resolution by the EAC standards board. Whereas the bipartisan US election systems commission has unanimously made the following recommendation titled recommendation 7 to congress in its 2025 annual report, quote: The statutorily mandated technical guidelines development committee, TGDC, is charged with helping the executive director of the commission develop the voluntary voting system guidelines.

Currently the TGDC is chaired by the director of the NIST. All other members are appointed jointly as the voluntary systems guidelines are the core responsibility of the EAC and only a secondary consideration for the director of NIST there have been long delays in getting members of the committee appointed.

Currently, bracket, as of January 31, 2026], there are five pending nominations for the 14 member committee limiting the feedback and ability to reach a quorum to conduct business. As such the EAC recommends removing the joint appointment language. This would create efficiencies in allowing the vacancies to be filled faster ensuring full membership when the TGDC is required to meet.

Whereas Section 221 of the Help America Vote Act have not filed at 52 USC Section 20961 guarantees standards board representation on the technical guidelines development committee.

And whereas issues identified by the EAC in its 2025 a.m. report have prevented full standard board representations on the technical guidelines development committee for several years, it is therefore resolved by the standards board that the membership strongly supports the commissioners of the bipartisan election assistance commission correct the issues identified in recommendation 16 of its 2025 annual report. Closed quote.

The resolution has now received its first reading and is open for amendments. Let me take a moment to explain a little bit about the amendment process. I began earlier by saying written amendments are preferred but we have the ability through the wonders of technology and Election Assistance Commission staff to capture any amendments made by voice on screen so you may view and read them as they have offered.

A motion to amend must be made and seconded. If you do so please state your name as you make that motion or second. The activities of this board as we have been informed earlier this conference are governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, FACA, as it's familiarly if not fondly known, so amendments may be ruled in or out of order so that we remain in compliance with the overarching federal statute that governs all of our activities. I will consult if my capacity as the acting chair at this point with legal counsel in helping make that determination and rule on any amendment if a question is raised regarding its being in proper order.

I will pause to ask if there are any questions from the floor regarding the amendment process I've just described.

Hearing and seeing none, we will proceed. Are there amendments to be offered to the amendments by the members of this body? I recognize the individual. Please proceed.

>> Shelly Jackson, region 1. We have a friendly amendment to offer.

>> Is there a second to the /PHAEPLT?

>> Second second degree.

>> Please provide your name.

>> Lannie Chapman, region 1.

>> Thank you. Would you please read the amendment?

>> So it would be at the end -- do you want me to read the whole last paragraph? It would be the end of the last paragraph.

>> It's important to read what's important for the staff to accurately capture it. Why don't you proceed and after you're done I'll check with staff to make sure we're all in accord with the content of your amendment.

>> So at the very end we would add we would takeaway the period, add a comma, and then add and/or implement other mechanisms for streamlining the prompt appointment process for members, comma, excluding other members specified by Section 221 C1E.

>> Can you read it again?

>> And/or implement other mechanisms for streamlining the prompt appointment process for members, comma, excluding other members specified by Section 221 C1E.

>I will ask the mover of the amendment if the language that is displayed accurately captures your proposed amendment.

>> Yes.

>> Thank you. I whether now turn to competent staff who I will ask to identify himself to advise the body regarding whether the proposed amendment would be in order.

>> Kelliher, general counsel. I see no reason why this amendment would take it out of order.

>> Thank you. The floor is now open for discussion of the amendment. Please again identify yourself when you begin to speak.

>> Please -- this is Jamie Shu from Kansas. Some of us understand what that does but could you explain exactly what that does to someone maybe who is not familiar with that section?

>> Yes. Chair, may I?

>> Please proceed.

>> Our intent was just to say that we're narrowly including our election board selections and not messing with the TGBC -- sorry, the NIST members was our intention.

>> Thank you. Are there further individuals who wish recognition to discuss the proposed amendment? The chair sees none. I'm sorry. Is there an individual?

>> Yes, chair, Mandy Hill with region 1. I want to add for a little bit of clarity as to the discussion we had was really ensuring that we weren't excluding NIST from the process entirely. So we think this is narrowing it but not explicitly excluding it NIST.

>> Thank you. Does any other member wish to speak on the proposed amendment? Mr. Lux?

>> Paul Lux from Florida, Region 3. I would absolutely just want to say I support this amendment because I think it's important it that we not put NIST out of the process by removing just the language that says joint or jointly so that they still obviously have a role because they are the people who deal with the technical side of all of it. So I think I'm thumbs up on the friendly amendment.

>> Thank you. Yes, sir.

>> Mr. Chairman, thank you.

>> Please state your name.

>> Justin () from Michigan. I definitely agree with Mr. Lux in terms of the support. I think it adds a little bit of clarity. Region 4 had a discussion about just kind of clarity around that final paragraph and what exactly we were essentially supporting or asking the EAC to do directly. So I think it helps to say implementing other mechanisms for stream lining the process for members. I think I was a little little confused what the commission had the power to correct, if this was ultimately a request to congress to fix the statute we know that's not within the direct power.

We had another minor suggestion in the language as it relates to the sentence just before that which I'm happy to either offer up now to be voted on at the same time or later as another amendment. It's essentially just inserting after correct the issues, we would say regarding the TDGC appointment process.

>> I appreciate the member's comment and as much as I enjoy --

>> That was just for discussion.

>> As much as I enjoy the Labyrinth of parliamentary procedure I am going to suggest you might wish to offer that as an additional separate amendment once the current amendment is acted upon.

>> At least it gives people something to think about while they're voting for the first amendment.

>> Indeed. We hope people think about things before they vote. Are there further comments on the pending amendment? Yes, sir.

>> Andrew Buller Nebraska. I want to clarify for people who don't want to bother to look it up, but it's 52US C20961 and then the C1E, that's specifically other individuals with technical and scientific expertise relating to voting systems and voting equipment.

>> Thank you. Are there -- yes.

>> Thank you, chair. Nick Rima from Rhode Island. For the interest of expediency and a friendly amendment I would ask that this be adopted as an amendment by unanimous consent of the body.

>> I hear the expression but I don't -- I will continue to offer the opportunity for any additional comment on the pending amendment from the membership.

>> I move to call the question.

>> Please indicate by saying /A\*EU:

>> The question is called shall the amendment as presented be adopted. All opposed say /A\*EU. Opposed no. The /A\*EUs have it.

The issue is open for further members. I believe one was deferred. Please proceed, state your name.

>> My name is Justice at this Roebuck. I reside in Michigan. I would like to offer another amendment which some people may have heard earlier briefly. That is essentially to insert after the word issues, regarding the TDGC appointment process just for a little bit more clarification.

>> Did you want it to say TGDC or do you want me to spell it out?

>> Is it referred to as TDGC -- I feel like it's already identified so --

>> Just double-checking.

>> I'll allow a moment for staff to capture the draft language.

>> I think I do need a second for that though.

>> We're going to capture the language first.

>> Yes, sir. Thank you.

>> Is there a second to the proposed amendment?

>> Second, Nicole Brown, Indiana.

Thank you, Ms. Brown. We proceed to consideration of this amendment. Is there discussion by members of the body? Yes, please proceed.

>> Christina from Texas. I recommend that we spell it out because in the actual text of the resolution we're not using the abbreviation, the abbreviation is in the part where it's quoting the statute above. Minor thing but that would be my recommendation.

>> All right. Thank you. I will ask the author of the amendment if he has any objections to the proposed secondary amendment?

>> I do object and I believe this needs to be another amendment. I'm just kidding.

>> I couldn't quite hear what you said. Perhaps you could clarify that.

>> I do not object to this friendly amendment.

>> You're a bit ornery today.

>> Can we take that modification by unanimous consent? All in favor say an aye. Opposed no. So adopted. Mr. Lux.

>> I would perhaps ask the author of this amendment to perhaps instead of spelling it out here amend his amendment to abbreviate the TGBC earlier so he could use that instead of spelling it out everywhere.

>> Mr. Lux, with respect, the chair will rule that the amendment has proceeded at this stage and you might again let the amendment stand on its own and offer your own separate amendment if you are so moved. Is there further discussion on the pending amendment? Hearing none, say aye. Opposed no. The second amount is adopted. Are there further amendments from members of the body?

Hearing none, is the body ready to consider a vote on the adoption of the amendment?

Hearing no objection, under our bylaws we will take a vote by ac/KHREUPLGS. All those in favor of adopting the resolution as amended please signify by saying aye. Those opposed say nay. The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

>> Mr. Chair?

>> Yes

>> Can I make a statement?

>> Please identify yourself for the record.

>> Jamie Shu from Kansas. I want to say I felt this was -- this is a really good starting point and I really enjoyed the discussion that is happened in the regions and this was a good thing for this body and I think moving forward, hopefully we have more of these kind of discussions and also I know you're retiring but you should be our permanent parliamentarian.

>> Thank you. Is that in the form of a motion? Then I appreciate the sentiment. I think we are ready to practice what one preaches is often a proverb quoted.

At this point we want to give those of you who have agreed to provide additional service to the individuals that we serve an opportunity to come forward and report with regard to ideas brought forward in your regional meetings. For those of us used to the alphabet, we will have mathematical tyranny and begin with region number 1.

Thank you. Shelly Jackson, region 1. We voted, Shelly Jackson share, Toni Atono, vice chair, we will meet biweekly. We worked on our resolution -- sorry, bimonthly, not biweekly. We established four goals. We're going to fix the TGDC. This is kind of our long range. We're going to work on that. We're going to work to establish a strategy for communication and developing relationships with the USPS. One way we hope to achieve this is create a standardized set of questions and each of the members will go to their local USPS representative and come back and compare the answers to see if we got similar answers.

Our third goal is to work on native population engagement. We all share some different populations of native peoples.

And four, create a vote by mail survey circulated around to our own members and compare and contrast how we run vote by mail in our region 1.

>> Thank you very much. I want to offer an opportunity as time permits for immediate feedback or discussion for a couple of minutes if any member has questions they would like to pose with regard to region 1's information. Seeing none, I call upon Region 2.

>> Hi. I'm Carri Crum, chair of Region 2. Our first order of business was to select a chair and vice chair. I was selected as the chair. The vice chair is Andrew Buller from Nebraska. We spent a lot of our time discussing the resolution that was just passed. As far as goals for future meetings we'd like to have a joint meeting with LLC. We feel that would be very beneficial. Continuing the trend with region 1 we would also like to start some proactive discussions about the postal service.

>> Thank you. Again an opportunity for other members to address the comments and ideas brought forward by Region 2.

Seeing none. Will Region 3 please provide its report.

>> Hello again. My name is Robert Coleman. I am the regional chair for Region 3. Vice-president is Tim Tajici. It's our pleasure to serve in this capacity. We discussed validation and we want to try to meet in Texas to just actually, you know, look at the process and see how the process goes. A number of us will be able to attend that meeting as well. So we had long discussion on a resolution and I think it was very informational meeting that we had in regards to that.

Also we will have quarterly meetings. Of course, Zoom as well. And just continue to try to get ideas and any resolution that we need to come up with in order to try to move things forward And that's my report.

>> Thank you, sir. Are there any members who wish to provide responses to the information presented by Region 3? Mr. Lux?

>> I would like to add to the point of the discussion we had in Region 3 of the hash what we found the most intriguing and the reason we'd like to go to Texas is because they have built the HASH comparison into their logic testing before every election and we think that's something worth looking at and exploring.

>> Thank you. Comments from further members?

Hearing none requesting a report from region 4.

>> Thank you, Mr. Chair. Justin Roebuck from Michigan. I was selected as the region 4 chair and Anna Barow from Wisconsin is our vice chair. We also discussed the resolution and our support for the resolution that was just adopted. We had a great discussion with EAC staff about additional resources and support and ways we feel we could collaborate with add benefit from the agency, particularly around the topic of training. We had a lot of discussion about training actually in terms of whether it was mental health or trauma informed care, training for election officials, something that I think has come up certainly post 2020 for so many of us in different ways and we recognize it across the country. There are just different resources available. We have a lot of offices around the country with

challenges in resources. That was one of the things that came out.

But also talking a lot about the professionalization you've election administration in general and we're grateful for this upcoming workforce framework project as well as the learning lab certification piece. I think it's really helpful for us to continue growing and developing our workforce in a professional way. So very grateful for those things.

We also talked about leadership training and what leadership training in the election administration space could look like. I think perhaps some possibly low hanging fruit opportunities to utilize within the constraint of the current EAC's budget but looking at ways we could utilize those online option that is have already been used really successfully. The other thing we discussed was looking at potentially the poll worker recruitment day /KPHAOUPBSs from EAC which are helpful tools that the agency provides but for a number of us poll worker recruitment day is later than what we need it to be in terms of onboard and training election workers so we had that kind of conservation as well.

We also had a brief conservation about putting Brad King's face on an election challenge coin. Nothing was adopted but we'll be working toward that goal.

>> Thank you. Is there a comment from any member regarding the information from region 4.

>> I second the motion on the challenge coin.

>> Appreciate that but they're not in motion at this point.

Region 5. Cathy Placentia for region 5. I was voted to be the chair along with Patricia P, I'm not going to butcher her last name because mine is butchered enough, from New Hampshire as the vice chair. We spoke about having regional meetings in perso and see how we can add Puerto Rico to our region so we can have our first in person meeting in Puerto Rico. We also spoke about connecting the LLC with this board as well and meeting quarterly we think is important and those would be via Zoom just to talk about what's happening in our states and maybe brief each other, run ideas by each other. I think that's it. Right?

We did talk about our primary dates and when those are held and, you know, some held in June. I know in New Hampshire in 2028 those will be held in June. And when each state has their primary election, in Massachusetts it's a mess, just kidding, but that's -- that was with it Anyone else wants to add anything?

>> Thank you. Again, an opportunity for any other member to comment regarding the suggestions brought forward by region 5?

Hearing none, last but by no means least, Region 6.

>> Good morning, chair. I request to use the balance of the time from the previous regions to stick within my five minutes. I'm Caroline fox, the chairperson, five territories, one flag, endless sunshine. These are all symbols of our organizations. We held our election. The chairperson is myself. The vice chair is Kayla from the Nauta marina island. Secretary, black -- () all territories present and accounted for here today. Plus us with our commissioner and Election Day. We have Margaret and Kiva May receiving the certificate first new members. We voted unanimously to have act to include commonwealth of Mariana islands to the EAC region 5 standards board. Presently they are invited member and with this change they will

have two Region 6 standards, both committee members. We will meet to assess the way forward which includes our goals and objectives, virtually and in person. We had our first in person meeting last year in Guam, training opportunities and best practices for the territories. Territory elections administering elections, transportation between islands either by ferry or helicopter to set up the election and then transport the results, fast geographical distances to the election jurisdiction requiring higher unit costs of elections. Five territories, a thousand miles of vibes. This is America's Samoa. Right now they're () one of the points to distribute election results and then introduced prayer to the election and after the election. You see a little ferry boat.

Here is Guam. They're the only one that's one eye land. This is () deliver and pick up election results 18 hours by ferry boat to get to these islands back and forth the. Then you have Puerto Rico, two islands. The furthest point is hour and a half by ferry, helicopter they use if it's day for helicopter to get their Calibre Virgin island from St. John to St. Thomas, after election night, you can see it's rugged, national park, hour, hour and a half to get to the dock, then a ferry to St. Thomas to take it to the elections office. We have two districts.

Our proposed laws and initiatives, we talked about delegate being a voted member, you all can help us there. US citizen voted for the president. Self-determination, you hear Puerto Rico talking a lot about statehood. Territories write their own cons station. That's on our ballot in July next year. Go to EAC to get more money because we're getting the same amount for all these years because of the small territory but things has gone up. Again, election laws update, younger voters for education and engagement, building and maintaining voter confidence.

Cybersecurity, a pandemic during a second election cycle, campaign donations continue to be the challenges and election workers as diverse as our community.

Coming to the end, how EAC can better assist us. The increased funding as I mentioned before. Sharing our stories, inlausist, holding a standards board meeting in the US Virgin Islands three to five years from now.

Visiting our islands not only during an audit. These are our islands. Can you guess which one is which? This is all our territory so you wouldn't know which one is which. We're having fun hear in Chicago and that's it. Not state but we're still Iconic and we get the big cruise ship () forward is our team. Thank you.

>> Thank you very much. In addition to the applause, is there any comment from other members with regard to the Region 6 report? Mr. Lux?

>> I would lake to commend region Lux forhaving the smallest land mass and the largest time zone spread a 14 hour difference between Puerto Rico and Guam.

>> Thank you.

>> Would I like to say why wait three to five years for the next meeting to be held?

>> Please add your name.

>> Cathy Placentia, Rhode Island.

>> Any other comments? As a point of personal privilege the chair would like to add a personal comment, and that is I am a great fan of the geography now podcast, but I have

found the presentation regarding these beautiful pieces of our world's geography the most entertaining I've ever seen and I thank the members of Region 6 for their efforts.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you. At this point I will turn the microphone over to commissioner Palmer.

>> Donald Palmer: Thank you, Brad. These are the closing comments. I want to thank you for your participation on the conservations and the feedback over the course of the last couple days. It's amazing. I hope you found this valuable as we enter the 2026 election. It is taking some time out but I appreciate that you did.

As a standards board it's been -- I've been a member of the standards board or associated with them for a long time. I think it's a special body when you look at the representation of state and local leaders from across the country, the states, the territories, it's quite amazing frankly to have that diversity in a body.

I hope that you found -- I think the regional breakouts really nailed this -- is we're hoping the standards board can continue to be a resource for you. You know where EAC is. We want to make sure you know where each other is. Some of the conservations were great. You're getting to know each other and know each other as a resource within your region and then you have a greater body as well.

So I want to thank the EAC staff that really put this together. Our subject matter folks or travel folks who God bless them, communications, our general counsel who had a number of years the last couple days, the IT teams and the leadership. Let's give them a round of a hand for just organizing this.

In particular we had -- you saw how organization -- how organized the EAC is. Again it's our staff. Particularly Lauren Heinz who served as your alternate officer of the standards board. Let's give her a round of applause.

I've thanked Maria. She had to live. It is quite amazing she has been the chair as a member of a territory in Guam and she's just done an amazing job.

Before I turn it back over to our friend, I want to -- isn't it ironic that you served for decades starting off as the first chair of the standards board? As the parliamentarian and the chair. Isn't it ironic how God works this. He ends on the board as the parliamentarian as we wrap the standards board up for you. Thank you, Brad. I'll turn it back over to you.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Palmer. I want to thank everyone -- oh.

Thank you, commissioner Palmer and thanks to everyone who is serving as a member of the standards board and to the staff of the EAC who deserve all the applause that they've had today and much more. It's a great moment of personal pleasure for me to reflect back on the many chapters that I've lived through as a member of the standards board. It is my fervent hope and prayer as we mark our 250 anniversary of our independence that in perhaps another 100 there may be a standards board meeting to continue to deal with the issues of an era we cannot imagine with solutions only the Brightest minds can begin to /KPREPBS now.

With that I'll ask if there's any further business to come before the 2026 annual meeting of the standards board. Hearing none, is there a motion to adjourn the 2026 annual meeting of the standards board

>> Tonya Chow. So moved.

>> I did not hear a name or the motion.

>> Tonya Tinell, I move we adjourn.

>> Is there a second to that motion?

>> Robert Coleman, I second that motion.

>> Motion has been made and second. Motions to adjourn are not debatable. I'll call the question. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The motion is adopted. The meeting is adjourned.