

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION 1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300 Silver Spring, MD 20910

For Immediate Release August 1, 2016

Contact: Bryan Whitener (301) 563-3961

## **EAC Launches Tech Time Election Video Series**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) today released the first set of a <u>new video series</u> designed to provide election officials with technology tools for managing the administration of elections.

EAC is producing nine Tech Time video episodes that highlight high and low-tech election tools so that officials can collect, analyze and leverage maximum quality data to run better elections.

"Election officials and others in the field of election administration use a variety of technology to manage and analyze the election process," said EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks. "From data visualizations to polling place management tools to creating apps to leveraging social media, officials are finding creative ways, both high-tech and low-tech, to integrate these tools into their day-to-day work. We are pleased to make this series part of our <u>BeReady16 initiative</u>," he said.

The two videos released today focus on data visualization, which can help election officials and voters better understand how elections work. They are: (1) Why Visualize Data; and (2) How to Visualize Data. Later in the summer a third related video, How to use Data Visualization to Persuade, will be released. The episodes will be available on EAC's website, YouTube, and Twitter.

In these videos, Monica Crane Childers of Democracy Works and Tiana Epps-Johnson, Whitney May, and Kurt Sampsel from the Center for Technology and Civic Life discuss in detail why visualizing data is useful, share practical tips and best practices on how to visualize data, provide a variety of examples of election officials visualizing their data, and how visuals can be used in policy and budget discussions.

EAC will release additional Tech Time Episodes throughout the summer. Participants include election officials, academics, election administration advocacy organizations, and others. Upcoming Tech Time Episodes will include: Social Media in Smaller election jurisdictions; Data Analytics in the Elections Office; Polling Place Optimization and Line Management; Voting Information Project (VIP); Election Day Command Center; and Election Office Website Accessibility.

Today's announcement is part of EAC Be Ready 2016 effort. To access a broad range of resources and best practices to help election officials and voters in 2016, visit EAC's website at <u>BeReady16</u>.

The EAC is an independent bipartisan commission created by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. HAVA was passed by the U.S. Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process, address improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election, and to provide federal funding to states for new voting equipment. HAVA mandates that the EAC test and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form, conduct research, and administer a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. More information is available at <u>EAC.gov</u>.