



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

May 25, 2016

Contact: Bryan Whitener
(301) 563-3961

EAC Examines Solutions to Reduce Lines and Wait Times on Election Day

Launches Election Worker Guidebook and Best Practices Competition

SILVER SPRING, MD – The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) brought together 9 election officials and academic experts today to discuss how jurisdictions can best reduce wait times for voters, deploy limited resources and recruit more people to work at the polls on Election Day.

The EAC also released an Election Worker Guidebook that identifies and categorizes more than 90 successful practices for recruiting, training and managing election workers. The guidebook updates the EAC’s 2007 poll worker manual and presents information gathered from election administrators around the country in an easy-to-read format.

“The EAC designed this new guide to be a living document. With its release today, we will begin an online exchange of best practices materials among election officials through our website and social media,” EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks said.

Additionally, the EAC updated its compendium of state poll worker requirements so people can review the legal requirements for serving as an election worker in each state. Both the compendium and Election Worker Guidebook are available with other election administration resources at EAC.gov.

Finally, Chairman Hicks announced the EAC is launching a competition for the top election worker best practices from around the country. Winners of the competition will be announced at the agency’s Sept. 8 public meeting. For more information about the competition, visit the [BeReady16 page for Election Worker Best Practices](#).

As part of the initiative, the EAC released a 45-minute video featuring officials with firsthand experience recruiting, training and managing volunteers. The [webisode](#) highlights helpful suggestions to remember as election officials move into an intensive period of recruiting and training their election workers for the 2016 election.

Presenters at today's meeting included:

PANEL #1: Recruiting, Training and Retaining Election Workers

- Ben Uminksy, Los Angeles County Board of Elections, California
- Kelly Buckland, National Council on Independent Living, Washington, DC
- Sherry Poland, Hamilton County Board of Elections, Ohio
- Daniel A. Baxter, Detroit Department of Elections, Michigan
- Doug Chapin, Hubert Humphrey School, University of Minnesota

PANEL #2: Resource Allocation on Election Day

- Doug Chapin, Hubert Humphrey School, University of Minnesota
- Eric Fey, St. Louis County Board of Elections, Missouri
- Charles Stewart, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Michael Ertel, Seminole County Board of Elections, Florida
- John Fortier, Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, DC

For more information and to access the meeting agenda and webcast, visit EAC.gov.

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 EAC.gov.