



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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EAC Hosts Forum on 2016 Election Preparations in Battleground States

ARLINGTON, VA – The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) hosted a panel discussion today to explore how state and local officials from jurisdictions with experience in close election results are preparing for the 2016 elections. The event was webcast live and may be viewed on demand at EAC.gov. Viewers provided input by sending tweets, comments and questions during the roundtable.

“2016 is already shaping up as an historical year in presidential elections both for the candidates and election administrators across the country,” said EAC Chairwoman Christy McCormick. “The jurisdictions we heard from today will be under intense scrutiny on Election Day and perhaps beyond. As we heard, elections officials have already been preparing and are ready for the challenge that lies ahead,” McCormick said.

The discussion provides value for all jurisdictions, even where close elections may not be expected. The roundtable also featured proactive points to consider as preparation in case a jurisdiction is suddenly thrust into a highly visible contest.

Election administrators from nine states in several regions identified concerns, risks, mitigation strategies, and shared best practices for dealing with the special challenges of conducting primary and general elections during a presidential cycle.

The talks focused on how to prepare for and execute an election while also monitoring reports and speculations, managing media relations, and maintaining contingency plans, all while in the potential spotlight of a close election. Panelists also assessed the preparedness of aging voting systems in states whose election outcomes could determine control of the presidency and Congress.

Participants shared approaches for how best to inform voters, advocates and the media about state election laws and procedures, voting technology, and other factors unique to each jurisdiction. They also discussed how social media can disseminate credible, reliable and timely information about sudden or unexpected Election Day developments.

Moderating today’s discussion was Merle King of Kennesaw State University. Participants included: Brian Corley, MPA, Supervisor of Elections, Pasco County, Florida; Honorable Pedro A. Cortés, Pennsylvania Secretary of State; Luanne Cutler, Registrar of Voters, Washoe County, Nevada; Matt Damschroder,

Assistant Secretary of State, Ohio; Robert Dezmelyk, Moderator, Town of Newton, New Hampshire; Sandra Juno, Clerk, Brown County, Wisconsin; Honorable Paul Pate, Iowa Secretary of State; J. Kirk Showalter, General Registrar, City of Richmond, Virginia; Honorable Wayne Williams, Colorado Secretary of State.

For more information and to access the discussion questions 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.

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