

Standards Board Newsletter

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Executive Board of the Standards Board

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Brad King, IN State, Secretary

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Letter from the Secretary

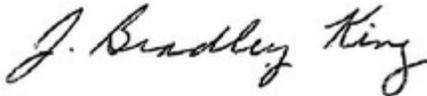
Looking ahead to 2017 and beyond!

We are all understandably and properly focusing on preparing for the November 8, 2016 General Election. A presidential election brings its own special challenges as an overlay to the work involved in conducting any election. On that note, you will find some very helpful information in this newsletter that you can use **today** in working with the U.S. Postal Service to help solve “postal problems” that many election administrators encounter.

However, your Standards Board representatives and committees have been “time traveling” into the future to lay the groundwork for tasks that will be completed long after the last vote has been counted next month. The Executive Board has set the date and location for the next meeting of the full membership of the Standards Board: **April 27-28, 2017 in San Antonio, Texas.** More information on this meeting will be provided in future newsletters when the EAC completes its work in identifying the potential sites for this event.

Your representatives to the TGDC participated in a recent meeting of that Committee which focused on the scope and content of the next iteration of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines, and discussed the cybersecurity issues that have drawn national attention to our voting systems and statewide voter registration systems. Work continues on refining future versions of the EAVS to reduce ambiguity and confusion in submitting responses to this survey. A long-term discussion of the role of the EAC Clearinghouse has begun.

Thanks to the chairs and members of your Standards Board committees for their dedication to these important long-term projects while the excitement (and sometimes chaos) of the 2016 general election swirls around us. I hope to see you all in San Antonio after the dust has settled!



Brad King, Secretary

USPS Committee Update

Sally Williams reported that the new Standards Board USPS Committee was officially formed at the Board’s meeting in Carlsbad, California in April. The group has held three meetings thus far to discuss and begin documenting a variety of relevant issues and topics that will form a master plan for the group. Given the important link between election administration and the postal service, the work of this committee is expected to be both busy and ongoing. Also given the makeup of the Standards Board membership with representation from every US state and territory at both the state and local level, the USPS committee hopes to work as a communication gateway and information repository to assist election officials nationally on election mail issues.

For the 2016 presidential election cycle, the group is focused on providing information to membership on the tools and communication channels available via the US Postal Service, the EAC and others to become more informed and to report and resolve election mail issues.

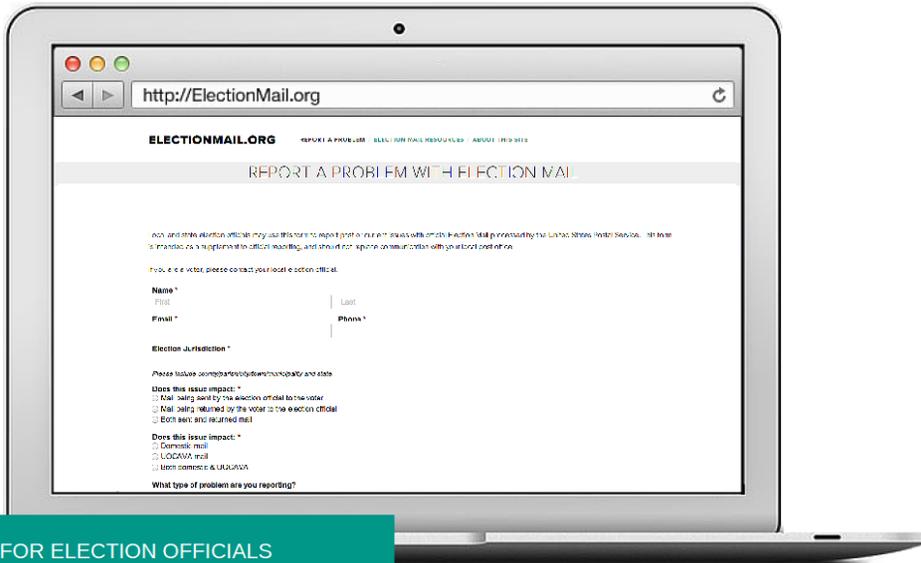
Resources to Assist with Election Mail are Available Now!

- **Electionmail.org:** One of the most helpful tools available to election administrators is electionmail.org. Democracy Works and the Bipartisan Policy Center have teamed up to collect, report and fix election mail problems by working directly with USPS administration at both the national and local level. Electionmail.org also independently monitors the response by USPS to reported issues and tracks trends that may be helpful in identifying and resolving issues on a wider scale. The USPS has been very responsive to reports submitted by election administrators.

Now is the time to make sure common problems, such as delivery delay, lost mail, postmark issues and misdirected mail are reported. The collection of this data assists the USPS in fixing issues before November and identifying service needs for future elections. **Share this information with the election administrators in your state and encourage them to use this website (<http://electionmail.org>) to report any problems, providing as much detail as possible!** Election administrators in several states have been using electionmail.org throughout 2016 and are thrilled with the timely response and follow-up from the USPS. Many thanks to Tammy Patrick of the Bipartisan Policy Center for her continued work with the USPS to assist and pursue these improvements. See the flyer on the following page, which can also be used to more widely communicate this valuable tool.

- **Election/Political Mail Coordinators:** The USPS also offers an interactive site to map and locate the Election Mail Specialists available to each state: <http://about.usps.com/gov-services/election-mail/political-mail-map.htm> . This is a simple tool that you can use to locate and directly contact USPS specialists in your area - another resource that can be valuable to election administrators nationwide.
- **EAC Website:** The EAC website's *BeReady16* campaign includes a dedicated web page for mail-related issues (<http://votebymail.gov>). This site contains a variety of relevant links, tools, resources and best practices – check it out (as well as the entire *BeReady16* website at <http://eac.gov>)!

Best of luck to the Standards Board members as we enter the home stretch of the 2016 election cycle - you can expect to hear more from the USPS committee! Many thanks to our USPS committee members: Sally Williams, Chair; Josie Bahnke; Edgardo Cortes; Barbara K.D. Goeckner; Jackie Gonzales; Brad King; Charlotte Mills; Carol Olson; Derrin (Dag) Robinson; Dennis Shively; and Justus Wendland.



A NEW TOOL FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS

ELECTIONMAIL.ORG

WHAT IS ELECTIONMAIL.ORG?

ElectionMail.org is designed to provide election administrators with:

- the information you need to recognize common election mail problems, and
- an easy way to share data about problems you encounter.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

If you encounter a problem with election mail, contact your local post office and submit a report on ElectionMail.org as soon as possible. Document as much as you can, but don't worry if you don't know exactly what's going on! We'll follow up if we have questions.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

You can email us at:
 tpatrick@bipartisanpolicy.org
 monica@democracy.works



REPORTING
 One simple form to help you document election mail problems



RESOURCES
 Links to official USPS election mail resources as well as best practices



Technical Guidelines Development Committee Update

The TGDC met on September 15-16, 2016 at Gaithersburg, Maryland, where the offices of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are located. The meeting was described as “the next step in moving forward with the development of the next generation of voluntary voting system guidelines.”

Bob Giles, one of the Standards Board representatives to TGDC, was at NIST, and took time during a meeting break to update the Executive Board regarding the presentations and discussions underway at the meeting. He indicated that discussions concerning security were a large part of the meeting, and that discussion was focusing on the entire *election process*, such as voter registration systems. He said that this could result in the development of best practices in addition to the Guidelines.

Bob reported that TGDC members were discussing whether electronic pollbooks which activate or “touch” a voting system should be covered by the VVSG, and whether testing was desirable to determine compliance with both internal and external requirements for electronic pollbooks. He noted that the TGDC Cybersecurity working group will discuss whether there is a security issue that arises in these situations, and whether this should be addressed in the next version of VVSG. Bob noted that the question of whether to test or not test electronic pollbooks raised the question of the scope of VVSG.

Bob indicated that the larger issue is whether the current definition of “voting system” in HAVA is adequate or needs to be expanded.

Cybersecurity Discussions Continue; Standards Board Reaches Out to Homeland Security

During its September teleconference call, the Executive Board received information from EAC Executive Director Newby regarding the ongoing discussions in several forums regarding election security. He said that Commissioner Matt Masterson was expected to speak before a U.S. House of Representatives committee on this topic, and would emphasize the need for input from representatives from voting system laboratories, Secretaries of State, and other state and local election officials. He indicated that the EAC had emphasized to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and to the FBI that they should be speaking with state and local election officials on this topic, since each state conducts its own elections (rather than participating in a national election).

The Executive Board approved a letter to be sent by Chair Mark Goins to DHS explaining the role of the Standards Board in the election process, and offering to work with DHS.

EAC Clearinghouse Committee Work Underway

Genevieve Whitaker reported that the Committee had its first meeting on September 7, and had been joined by EAC staffers Bryan Whitener and Mark Abbott. She said that the Committee began its work by seeking to gain a basic understanding of the Clearinghouse and knowledge of its history, and indicated that she had sent Committee members a copy of the most recent Strategic Plan for the Clearinghouse. She said that the Committee would review the Plan to determine which objectives have been fulfilled, and which objectives need further work, and to develop a strategy for implementation. She noted that the Committee would work to develop bullet points on the purpose

of the Clearinghouse, and was discussing developing a link for a compendium of state election laws (on subjects such as poll workers), and the status of HAVA itself.

During the September Executive Board teleconference call, EAC Executive Director Newby noted that a full-time EAC employee will be working on the new website for EAC, and that the EAC planned to move to its new website shortly after the November 2016 election.

Election Administration and Voting Survey Committee “Section B Workgroup” Meets

Edgardo Cortes reported that the EAVS Section B workgroup had met in mid-September with the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to discuss updating survey instructions to help clarify the information being requested by EAVS. He said that the EAVS contractor, Fors Marsh, would take questions in an upcoming webinar to help identify issues to address for the next round of the survey and to collect the information needed and communicate in an effective way. He indicated that there would be time before the April 2017 Standards Board meeting to develop proposed survey changes, and that the EAVS Committee planned to meet shortly after the November election and after Fors Marsh received feedback from the webinar.

He advised that the EAVS Committee would work with Fors Marsh to implement a pilot project with a couple of states in which states will take the survey information and provide results in a flat file extract so that data entry won't be necessary. He indicated that Fors Marsh would provide a report concerning this pilot project to EAC and FVAP.

Preparatory Work Begins for 2017 San Antonio Meeting; Bylaws Amendments; Board Elections

Chair Mark Goins reported to the Executive Board that he had been working with EAC Commissioners McCormick and Masterson to be certain that there would be time before the April 2017 meeting to have proposals concerning the Guidelines ready for the Board to review, and had been assured that this would be the case.

The Chair noted that the meeting schedule tentatively provided for April 25 as a travel day; April 26 for a tour of a mail processing facility and a military base; April 27 for a full day meeting; and April 28 for a half day meeting.

Concerning other meeting preparatory work, Brad King reported that no resolutions or proposed amendments to the Standards Board Bylaws had yet been filed. He noted that under the Bylaws, any proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to EAC Commissioner Christy McCormick, who serves as the Designated Federal Officer for the Standards Board no later than February 16, 2017, 70 days before the date of the San Antonio meeting.

The Executive Board noted that the two-year terms of three Executive Board members will expire in April 2017, and that under the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee must send Standards Board members a solicitation of nominations no later than December 1, 2016.

SAVE THE DATES: SAN ANTONIO, APRIL 27-28, 2017!