



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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EAC Participates on Election Security Call

SILVER SPRING, MD – Today, the Election Assistance Commission participated in a call with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Association Secretaries of State (NASS), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to discuss the security of the election process.

EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks discussed that election administrators have been planning for all possible contingencies for this year's election. He explained that the EAC has developed, and continues to develop, numerous resources on contingency planning, voter registration database security, chain of custody procedure, post-election auditing and assistance with voting system technology and security, in conjunction with a series of events related to the [#BeReady16 initiative](#).

Chairman Hicks stressed that with the Presidential Election Day less than 85 days away, voters in some states will begin casting advance ballots in less than six weeks. The deadline for military and overseas ballots to be delivered is Sept. 24.

While attention has focused on election security, and should continue, the EAC stressed to the executive agencies and other stakeholders on the call that any declarations made now regarding election security could hurt the process more than it helps.

The EAC has worked to communicate, and will continue to help communicate, any credible and specific threats, mitigations, recommendations, and effective practices to state and local officials. If the DHS, FBI or other Executive Branch agency has any such information, the EAC stands at the ready to share it and see that the states and election administrators are aware and prepared, according to Hicks.

Chairman Hicks added that the Secretaries of State and state and local election officials are doing everything in their power to be prepared for possible security threats and that they take that responsibility extremely seriously. He added that, any decision by executive agencies regarding election infrastructure should not be considered without the full participation and support of the secretaries and local officials who administer elections.

Chairman Hicks stressed that all on the call shared the same goal—a fair and honest election with the greatest possible level of voter confidence in the process. EAC encourages voters to get involved with their state and local election officials, and ask questions about their election process. The vast majority of election offices offer numerous opportunities for voters to engage in the process, including witnessing pre-election testing of the voting systems. Election officials welcome voters' questions and participation because they want voters to have confidence and to participate in the process.

EAC encourages voters to work at the polls as election workers. The election process benefits from full engagement from all, and election administrators across the country are seeking election workers now for November. There is no better way to see the election process than from inside as an active participant, Chairman Hicks concluded.

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