



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1335 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY, SUITE 4300
SILVER SPRING, MD 20910

The Honorable Michael Pence
Vice President of the United States
and President of the United States Senate
S-212 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-0012

November 30, 2017

Dear Mr. Vice President,

Pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452), as amended, we enclose for your review the U. S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), Office of Inspector General (OIG) Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017.

Please note that in addition to the increased reporting requirements captured by the IG in this report – specifically, the areas of reporting of findings and recommendations from current and previous audits, inspections and evaluations – this document also includes the EAC’s response to the IG’s findings.

For this reporting period, the IG reviewed the EAC’s 2016 Financial Statements and conducted an assessment of EAC’s compliance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA). The IG also conducted six audits of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds recipients (Maryland, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, and Vermont) and completed a performance audit of the EAC’s controls over our decision making process.

As you will see in the attached report, the EAC has made significant progress in addressing key recommendations from previous audits. We have established a set of robust policy documents to guide the commission’s research and communications-related decision making procedures, as well as a communications strategic plan that maximizes the commission’s ability to reach key audiences. These accomplishments led the IG to close earlier recommendations to take these steps. The commission is also steps away from addressing the remaining issues identified in this most recent audit.

The EAC is committed to ensuring the accuracy, accessibility, and security of U.S. elections. This mission shapes our work and guides our strategic planning. For example, since our last report, the EAC has played an instrumental role in ensuring that state and local election officials had a voice at the table as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) worked to establish election systems as part of the nation’s critical infrastructure. The EAC and DHS have worked hand in hand to develop the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) associated to the Election Infrastructure Subsector of Critical Infrastructure, a step we finalized last month in Atlanta. The EAC’s role has consistently been to ensure the DHS designation has a tangible, meaningful impact on security at the state and local levels where elections are run.

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In addition to this important work, we are currently preparing a series of new resources, trainings, and events to rollout early next year ahead of the 2018 Federal Election cycle. These will complement the vast array of resources we already provide for election administrators, voters, and other election stakeholders. The commission has produced engaging fact sheets, best practice-based checklists, webinars, reports, pocket cards, and other critical information related to some of the most pressing election topics of our time. We are also working to finalize and adopt the next generation of voting system testing guidelines, standards that will spark innovation and enhanced election security. The new standards, which will be the most stringent and trusted measure by which voting systems are evaluated, are expected to be completed next year.

We look forward to continuing the critical work of advancing the U.S. democratic process, serving the U.S. election community, and ultimately, improving voter confidence and trust in the election process.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Patricia Layfield, EAC's Inspector General, at (301) 734-3104.

Sincerely yours,



Matthew V. Masterson
Chairman