



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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EAC's Data Summit...

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) hosted a national summit Aug. 12-13 to discuss how quality data can be collected and leveraged to run better elections. The two-day event was webcast live and may be viewed on demand at Eac.gov.

The EAC commissioners moderated discussions among a broad spectrum of election researchers, state and local election officials, and representatives from non-profit election organizations. Participants discussed the critical components to collecting, interpreting and disseminating election data, as well as the EAC's Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS). Highlights of the discussions included:

- how researchers and practitioners best utilize election data;
- additional information that can be collected to improve the conduct of elections;
- the lack of data standardization that exists across elections;
- the challenges local election officials face in collecting the data;
- the role technology can play in improving data collection;
- how the EAC can help election officials with the data collection process; and
- how election officials can improve the public's perception and use of election data.

Participants also considered the practical aspects of administering the EAVS survey and specific issues related to collecting EAVS data. They examined the various lessons learned during the past decade and considered how the EAC's election data can be better presented and disseminated for broader use by election officials.

National Data on Voting in the United States

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 charges the EAC with collecting a census of election data on the administration of federal elections. Since 2004, the EAC has refined the EAVS report survey elements so the information can be used to improve the conduct of U.S. elections. The 2014 EAVS report presents the EAC's sixth collection of election data. The all-inclusive report provides comprehensive data on the ability of civilian, military and overseas American citizens to register to vote and successfully cast a ballot. The EAVS report is the most comprehensive set of data regarding election administration across the United States. See the full report, complete data sets and graphics at Eac.gov.

For more information and to access the Election Data Summit 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.