



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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EAC Commissioners Select New Officers & Accredite Voting System Test Lab

SILVER SPRING, MD - Members of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) met Tuesday. This meeting marked the first time the Commission was able to meet with a quorum of Commissioners in four years. The Commission addressed a variety of pressing issues at the meeting. These issues included the accreditation of a new voting system test laboratory; consideration of possible updates to the standards used to test voting systems; and updates to the EAC's voting system testing program manuals. Additionally, Commissioner Christy McCormick was selected to chair the Commission and Commissioner Thomas Hicks was selected as vice-chair.

"After four years without Commissioners, the EAC has a great deal of work to do," said Chair McCormick. "Today we took important steps in helping support state and local election officials as they continue to cope with aging voting equipment and limited funds."

"All three Commissioners recognize that we must operate with a sense of urgency," Vice-Chair Hicks added. "The Commission does not have the luxury of time; we have already heard from our stakeholders that they expect us to act quickly to address many of the outstanding issues from over the last four years."

Christy McCormick, Thomas Hicks and Matthew Masterson were sworn in as EAC's newest members on January 13, 2015 following their nomination by the President and unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate on December 16, 2014. There is one vacancy on the commission and any action by the body requires the approval at least three of its members.

Commissioners voted 3-0 to accredit Pro V&V as a third voting system test laboratory under the commission's lab accreditation program. The new lab facility is now accredited to begin testing whether new voting equipment is able to meet the guidelines set forth in the voluntary voting system guidelines (VVSG). The move follows a recommendation by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and after an independent EAC review to address non-technical issues such as conflict-of-interest policies, organizational structure, and recordkeeping protocols. In addition to Pro V&V, SLI Global Solutions and NTS Huntsville have also been accredited by EAC. All three labs will test against the VVSG. [Click here](#) for more information about Pro V&V and other EAC accredited labs.

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 mandates that EAC assume federal responsibility for accrediting voting system test laboratories and for certifying voting equipment. The accreditation program follows the procedures mandated by HAVA. This includes review of the labs by NIST, through its National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP). NIST then provides recommendations to the EAC regarding laboratory accreditation. For more information about the NIST/NVLAP accreditation process and to view related documents, visit www.nist.gov/itl/vote.

EAC's Voting System Certification and Laboratory Accreditation Program represents the first time the federal government has accredited test laboratories and certified voting equipment. In the past, these functions were performed on a volunteer basis by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), which did not receive any federal funds. Participation in EAC's program is voluntary. For a list of registered manufacturers, accredited labs, voting systems applying for certification and other information, please [click here](#).

About EAC's New Commissioners

Commissioner Christy McCormick. Prior to her appointment with EAC, Commissioner McCormick served as a Senior Trial Attorney in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice, a position she held from 2006 until this year. In this role Ms. McCormick was responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of federal voting statutes, including the Voting Rights Act, the National Voter Registration Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE). Additionally, Ms. McCormick worked with election officials to monitor compliance with UOCAVA, the MOVE Act, the Voting Rights Act minority language requirements, and administration of elections. She has observed numerous elections, mentored and worked with election officials in polling places all across America. Ms. McCormick was detailed by the Deputy Attorney General to be Senior Attorney Advisor and Acting Deputy Rule of Law Coordinator in the Office of the Rule of Law Coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq from 2009 to 2010, where she worked on the Iraq national elections and on rule of law matters. Ms. McCormick received her B.A. from the University of Buffalo and a J.D. with honors from the George Mason University School of Law, and also attended the William & Mary School of Law. For more information, visit the website under [EAC Commissioners](#).

Commissioner Thomas Hicks. Prior to his appointment with EAC, Commissioner Hicks served as a Senior Elections Counsel and Minority Elections Counsel on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, a position he held from 2003 to 2014. In this role Mr. Hicks was responsible for issues relating to campaign finance, election reform, contested elections and oversight of both the Election Assistance Commission and Federal Election Commission. His primary responsibility was advising and providing guidance to the committee members and caucus on election issues. Mr. Hicks has talked with Americans in every state about their voting experiences. In addition, he has worked with state and local election officials across America to address critical election concerns. Mr. Hicks received his J.D. from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law and his B.A. in Government from Clark University (Worcester, MA). He also studied at the University of London (London, England) and law at the University of Adelaide (Adelaide, Australia). For more information, visit the website under [EAC Commissioners](#).

Commissioner Matthew Masterson. Prior to his appointment with EAC, Commissioner Masterson served as Interim Chief of Staff for the Ohio Secretary of State, a position he held since November 2014, he previously served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Information Officer from 2013 to 2014, as well as Deputy Director of Elections from 2011 to 2013. In these roles Mr. Masterson was responsible for voting system certification efforts by the Secretary of State's office including being the liaison to the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners. Additionally, Mr. Masterson was in charge of Ohio's effort to develop an online voter registration database and online ballot delivery for military and overseas voters. Prior to joining the Ohio Secretary of State's Office, Mr. Masterson held multiple roles at the Election Assistance Commission from 2006 to 2011 and served as Deputy Director for the EAC's Voting System Testing and Certification Program. Mr. Masterson graduated from The University of Dayton School of Law in May 2006. At the University of Dayton Mr. Masterson served as the Chief Justice of the Moot Court program and Student Bar Association Vice President. Prior to law school Mr. Masterson received B.S. and B.A. degrees from Miami University in Oxford, OH. For more information, visit the website under [EAC Commissioners](#).

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 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. HAVA specifies that EAC's four commissioners are nominated by the President on recommendations from the majority and minority leadership in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. No more than two commissioners may belong to the same political party. Once confirmed by the full Senate, commissioners may serve two consecutive terms. Any action by the commissioners requires the approval at least three of its members. Currently, there is one vacancy on the commission. More information is available at EAC.gov.

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