



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
BOARD OF ADVISORS

**RESOLUTION 2008-1**

Whereas, The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is an agency of the United States federal government created by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA); and

Whereas, EAC is mandated to conduct studies on election administration topics under sections 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 271, 703, and 705 of HAVA; and

Whereas, EAC also has undertaken the study of other important election administration topics such as election management guidelines and foreign language glossaries; and

Whereas, the products of EAC's research and studies provide useful information on important election administration topics and the timely distribution of these research and study products determines how and when election officials and stakeholders can use the information; and

Whereas, the Board of Advisors recognizes the need to maximize the distribution of EAC research and study reports to local election officials and other stakeholders and is concerned that EAC materials are not reaching the intended users; and

Whereas, EAC research and study projects benefit from working groups and peer review; and

Whereas, election cycles impact the ability of election officials to timely respond to various research and study questionnaires and data collection requests; and

Whereas, the Board of Advisors convened a Special Committee on EAC Research and Studies in May of 2008, to discuss EAC research and studies; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Board of Advisors makes the recommendations presented in Attachment A regarding EAC's research and study practices.

**A True Record Attest:**

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**Christopher M. Thomas**  
**Chair of the Board of Advisors**

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Submitted by Special Committee on EAC Research and Studies on June 6, 2008

Approved as to Form by Resolutions Committee on June 17, 2008

Passed by majority voice vote of those present: June 18, 2008

Attachment A

Recommendations to EAC Board of Advisors  
With respect to EAC research and study practices

Submitted by Special Committee on EAC Research and Studies

June 6, 2008

**Topic:** Distribution of Materials Produced by EAC

**The Committee considers this a priority action item for EAC.** The committee and EAC staff recognized the need to maximize the distribution of EAC guidelines and reports to local election officials and other stakeholders. They share the concern that all such materials are not reaching the intended users. The committee suggested that a solution could be the development by EAC of a *State Distribution Plan*. The committee agreed that it would be useful for EAC to establish a working group, consisting of State Election Directors, representatives of the EAC Board of Advisors, Standards Board and political parties, and other relevant stakeholders to explore innovative ways to distribute materials and develop a draft distribution plan for EAC consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that a working group consisting of relevant stakeholders be appointed to jointly work with the State Election Directors in the development a *State Distribution Plan* for materials produced by EAC.

Passed June 18, 2008

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**Topic:** Working Groups, Peer Review and Timelines

**GENERAL RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that all research and study projects include a working group of relevant stakeholders.

It is further recommended that for each study, EAC should determine at the outset whether or not it will conduct Peer Review of the study report and accompanying data sets.

It is further recommended that EAC consider election cycles when it develops its timelines for data collection from election officials and release of its various research and study reports.

Passed June 18, 2008



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
BOARD OF ADVISORS

**RESOLUTION 2008-2**

Whereas, The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is an agency of the United States federal government created by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA); and

Whereas, the EAC is mandated to conduct studies on election administration topics under sections 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 271, 703, and 705 of HAVA; and

Whereas, the products of EAC's research and study projects provide useful information on important election administration topics; and

Whereas, the Board of Advisors has a statutorily-prescribed advisory role concerning EAC research and study; and

Whereas, the Board of Advisors can assist EAC in identifying priority information needs of election officials and other stakeholders; and

Whereas, the Board of Advisors has a duty to provide continuing feedback on EAC research and study; and

Whereas, the Board of Advisors convened a Special Committee on EAC Research and Studies in May of 2008, to discuss EAC research and studies; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Board of Advisors makes the recommendations presented in Attachment B with respect to several research and study topics mandated in HAVA.

**A True Record Attest:**

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**Christopher M. Thomas**  
**Chair of the Board of Advisors**

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Submitted by Special Committee on EAC Research and Studies on June 6, 2008  
Approved as to Form by Resolutions Committee on June 17, 2008  
Passed by majority voice vote of those present: June 18, 2008

Attachment B

Recommendations to EAC Board of Advisors  
With respect to specific EAC research and study topics

Submitted by Special Committee on EAC Research and Studies

June 6, 2008

**Topic:** Social Security Administration (HAVA Sec. 244(b))

**The committee considers this a priority action item for EAC.**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that a working group be formed and priority be given to completion of the study that is to be conducted in consultation with the Social Security Administration “on the advisability and feasibility of using Social Security identification numbers...to establish...eligibility or identification requirements...”

Passed June 18, 2008

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**Topic:** Incorporating Communication and Internet Technologies in the Electoral Process (HAVA Sec. 245)

**The committee considers this a priority action item for EAC.**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it produce soon an interim status report on its collective efforts and a plan to complete its study of the issues and challenges presented by incorporating communications and Internet technologies in the electoral process.

Passed June 18, 2008

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**Topic:** Definitions of Voting (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(1) and 301)

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it provide a glossary of election terms by defining the following:

- Early Voting
- Absentee Voting
  - Disabled or Hospitalized Absentee Voting
  - No Excuse
  - Excused
  - Early Absentee

Passed June 18, 2008

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**Topic:** Provisional Voting Report (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(4) and 303)

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it review the Provisional Ballot Study to determine the facts that contributed to the need for the use of provisional ballots (such as how and when voter registration applications were received).

The board further recommends that the EAC collect information about how states use provisional balloting and that study data be accompanied by descriptions of HAVA's goal for provisional voting and how each state meets that goal.

Passed: June 18, 2008

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**Topic:** Disability Access (Accessibility) (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(5) and 301)

The committee suggests that EAC examine all elements of Election Day with respect to accessibility, including voting equipment, official government information websites and telephone hotlines.

Further, HAVA Sec. 301(a)(3)(C) states that "The voting system shall, if purchased with funds made available under Title II on or after January 1, 2007, meet the voting system standards for disability access (as outlined in this paragraph)." (301(a)(3)). The committee suggests that when EAC begins its work to develop standards and guidelines on accessible voting equipment, that it considers voting systems in their broadest definition and uses a working group of stakeholders to examine the issues and help develop the definition.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it examine what research has been done, if any, on all elements of Election Day as they relate to accessibility, including official government information websites and telephone hotlines. Further, consideration should be given to the formation of a working group to advise the EAC on this effort and on the development of standards and guidelines for accessible voting equipment. Included in the guidelines should be a definition of Disabled Voter.

Passed: June 18, 2008

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**Topic:** Voting Fraud and Voter Intimidation Report (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(6) and (7))

It is recognized that EAC must gather facts when it further studies voting fraud and voter intimidation. The committee believes that efforts should be made to look for ways to capture data that has not necessarily been reported to election officials or law enforcement agencies. It was suggested that resources used to collect information include a broad group of individuals and organizations, not only law enforcement agencies.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it create a clearinghouse of state and federal statutes relating to election crimes and enforcement actions.

Passed: June 18, 2008

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U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Board of Advisors  
Resolution 2008-2

**Topic:** Website Design for Public Information Portals (HAVA Sec. 241(b)(9))

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it conduct follow up study to help determine trends for Website design for voter information portals; and that in designing such study, it consult with state and local election officials to ensure that it takes into account state laws; and that such study includes information from the state and at least one local election jurisdiction in each state.

Passed: June 18, 2008

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**Topic:** Reduced Postage for the Return of Absentee Ballots (HAVA Sec. 246)

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Advisors recommends to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that it further study of this issue include consideration of reducing the postage for the return of Absentee Ballots to one First Class Stamp.

Passed: June 18, 2008

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U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
BOARD OF ADVISORS

**RESOLUTION 2008-3**

Whereas, The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is an agency of the United States federal government created by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA); and

Whereas, the Help America Vote Act requires the EAC to test, certify, and decertify voting equipment hardware and software; and

Whereas, the EAC certification program replaced a volunteer program operated by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED); and

Whereas, the EAC decided that it would not recognize any of the certification testing performed by NASED; and

Whereas, that decision combined with very slow development of the EAC's certification program has caused a backlog of systems waiting to be certified; and

Whereas, that backlog has led to states conducting 2008 primary elections with voting equipment hardware and software in need of improvement; and

Whereas, the common practice since the introduction of electronic voting systems has been to make hardware and software upgrades based on issues found in the most recent election in sufficient time to improve the voting systems for the next general election; and

Whereas, the current EAC certification system is causing states to consider moving away from federal certification requirements, which will lead to varying standards in each of the 50 states; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Board of Advisors strongly encourages the EAC to continue working to resolve the impasse created by developing certification systems and remove certification barriers and roadblocks in order to ensure certification of needed system improvements in time for use in the 2008 general election.

**A True Record Attest:**

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**Christopher M. Thomas**  
**Chair of the Board of Advisors**

Submitted by Chris Nelson on June 17, 2008

Approved as to form by Resolutions Committee on June 17, 2008

Passed on June 18, 2008 by a majority voice vote of those present.



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
BOARD OF ADVISORS

**RESOLUTION 2008-04**

Whereas, The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is an agency of the United States federal government created by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA); and

Whereas, in 2000, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted a national polling place accessibility survey which reported only 20% of the nation's polling places were accessible; and

Whereas, due to the hard work of election officials and the disability community, there have been major improvements in polling place accessibility; and

Whereas, the GAO will be conducting a second polling place accessibility survey on November 4 2008; and

Whereas, some local and state election officials were reluctant to permit GAO survey-takers into their polling places; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Board of Advisors recommends to the EAC that it contact local and state election officials and urge their cooperation with this year's survey.

**A True Record Attest:**

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**Christopher M. Thomas**  
**Chair of the Board of Advisors**

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Submitted by Jim Dickson on June 18, 2008  
Approved as to form by Resolutions Committee on June 18, 2008  
Passed on June 18, 2008 by a majority voice vote of those present.





U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
BOARD OF ADVISORS

**RESOLUTION 2008-5**

Whereas, The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is an agency of the United States federal government created by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA); and

Whereas, the EAC has issued Election Management Guidelines that improve the recommended procedures used for tabulation and reporting of votes on election night; and

Whereas, the majority of election jurisdictions have implemented voting systems that contain multiple components (optical scan, DRE, central count); and

Whereas, the tabulation and reporting of results for multiple voting system components in compliance with EAC management guidelines increase the complexity and time required to accurately produce results; and

Whereas, the media, candidates, and the public have consistently pressured election officials to emphasize speed over accuracy; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Board of Advisors requests the EAC to lead an effort to educate the media, campaigns, and the public that the accurate tabulation of results will be compromised by the ongoing emphasis of speed over accuracy.

**A True Record Attest:**

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**Christopher M. Thomas**  
**Chair of the Board of Advisors**

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Submitted by Wendy Noren on June 18, 2008  
Approved as to form by Resolutions Committee on June 18, 2008  
Passed on June 18, 2008 by a majority voice vote of those present.



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
BOARD OF ADVISORS

**RESOLUTION 2008-6**

Whereas, The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is an agency of the United States federal government created by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA); and

Whereas, technical assistance on election administration has traditionally been insufficient with regard to attention on accessibility and disability issues; and

Whereas, disability issues exist that are not addressed in the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines or the Americans with Disabilities Act (e.g., training poll workers on voting system accessibility, effectively recruiting people with disabilities to serve as poll workers, and other issues);

Whereas, the EAC publishes multiple Quick Start Guides to assist state and local election officials effectively manage and administer elections (e.g., Polling Places and Vote Centers; Poll Workers; Ballot Preparation; and other Guides); now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Board of Advisors recommends that the EAC develop a *Quick Start Guide on Accessibility and Disability Issues* -- and that in the process of developing the Guide, it invite participation by known Board of Advisor members with accessibility expertise.

**A True Record Attest:**

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**Christopher M. Thomas**  
**Chair of the Board of Advisors**

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Submitted by Neil Melick and Ron Gardner on June 18, 2008  
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