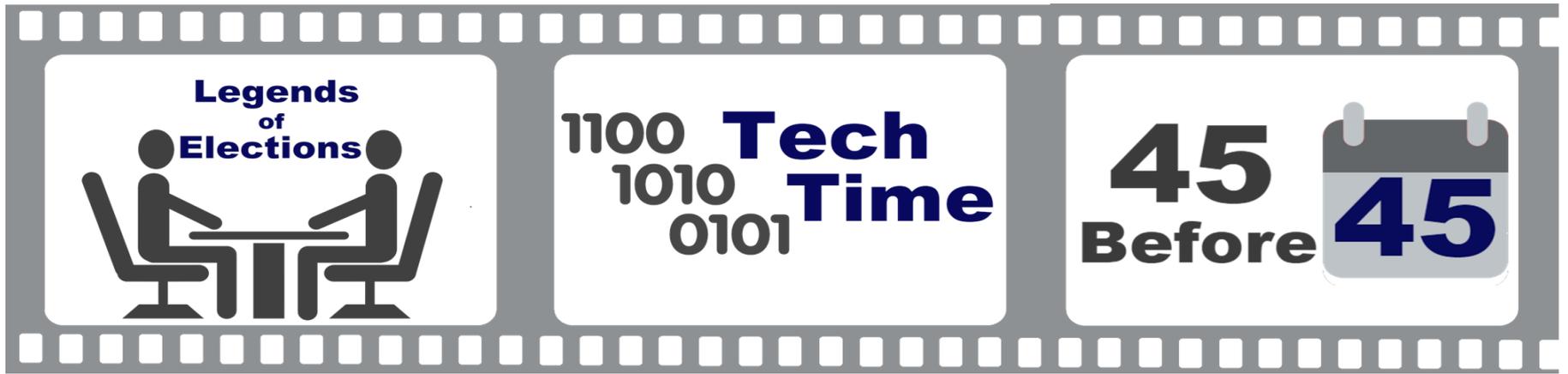


CLEARINGHOUSE UPDATE: CONNECTING THE FIELD



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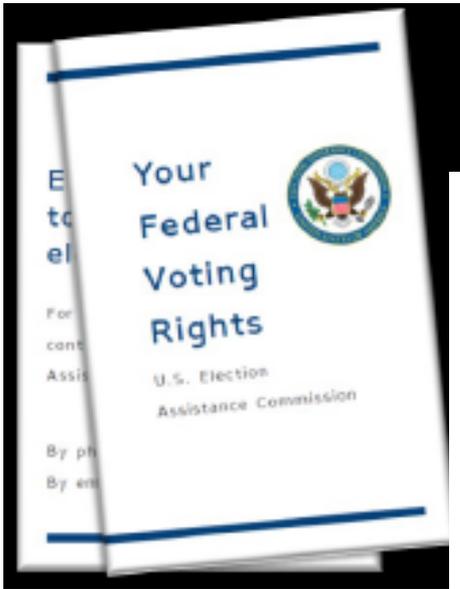


Clearinghouse

The EAC's clearinghouse connects members of the election administration field to one another to share knowledge and experience and creates new products in-house using input from experts in the field and EAC research.



Clearinghouse – Accessibility



EAC FACT SHEET:

How the U.S. Election Assistance Commission empowers Voters with disabilities and the election officials who serve them

More than 35 million Americans with disabilities, roughly one-sixth of the total electorate, are eligible to vote in the United States. This accounts for a broad range of disabilities, including mobility, communicative, physical, and cognitive impairments. This ever-growing population of voters also faces educational, cultural and political barriers that can make participating in elections even more difficult. The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) has a strong commitment to working with both election officials and voters with disabilities to ensure that the election process, polling places and voting services are accessible.

Why the EAC?

In 2002, the U.S. Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to reform the voting process throughout the U.S. Through HAVA, the EAC was created to assist states in improving voting systems and voter access for all Americans. HAVA also established a clear mandate to ensure that Americans with disabilities be given the same opportunity to vote freely and independently as other voters. The bill contained landmark provisions requiring the secure, private, and independent casting of ballots for voters with disabilities and entrusted the EAC with leadership in this area.

How does the EAC ensure access for voters with disabilities?

PROMOTING AWARENESS: Since it was created, the EAC has worked closely with election officials to promote HAVA's access requirements and to foster a climate of understanding in providing assistance for voters with disabilities. In support of this effort, the EAC also engages voters with disabilities, who provide vital information that informs election system and administration improvements. For example, leading up to the 2016 election, the EAC held a widely attended field hearing in Boston, Mass., where voters with disabilities provided testimony to help the EAC improve the election process. During its #BeReady16 campaign, the EAC also distributed more than 10,000 federal voting rights cards in Braille, large print, and plain language. The EAC recognizes the importance of these efforts and that much work remains to be done to reach the full promise of HAVA.

ELECTION SYSTEM CERTIFICATION: The EAC's Testing and Certification program, the most successful and most implemented voting machine testing and certification program in the nation, works directly with expert stakeholders to ensure voters with disabilities have access to election systems that meet stringent national standards. The guidelines significantly increase overall requirements for voting systems and expand access, including opportunities to vote privately and independently, for individuals with disabilities. The next iteration of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VMSG) contains expanded requirements covering security, reliability, quality, usability, accessibility, and testing. In order to listen to the voice of concerned citizens, EAC recently established a [VMSG public working](#) group focused on human factors and accessibility. This group will help in providing universal design for all future voting systems.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT: Through the Accessible Voting Technology Initiative (AVTI), a recently completed \$8 million EAC [grant program](#) to assist both election officials and voters with disabilities, the EAC and its grantees produced approximately 45 R&D technological and administrative solutions designed to ensure all citizens can vote privately and independently.

What other laws impact voting rights for people with disabilities?

In addition to HAVA, the following is a list of landmark laws passed to protect voting rights for people with disabilities:



Clearinghouse – Language Access

2016

Summit on Language Access in Elections



Clearinghouse – BeReady16



Clearinghouse – Clearies

EAC ANNOUNCES ITS

National Competition for Best Practices

for Recruiting, Training and Retaining
Election Workers

Deadline for submission is September 1, 2016

- Brevard County, Florida: Practice Makes Perfect Lab
- Franklin County, Ohio: Champions of Democracy
- Hamilton County, Ohio: Youth at the Booth & Partners in Democracy
- Montgomery County Maryland: The Precinct Performance Report
- New Hanover County, North Carolina: Election Official Resource Portal



Clearinghouse – Election Day



Clearinghouse – Fact Sheets

FACT SHEET: Election Administration and Voting Survey

Mar 15, 2017

[FACT SHEET PDF](#)

Elections generate a tremendous amount of data that can be collected and analyzed to improve voter experience and guide how officials administer elections. All of this data is collected regularly by the thousands of jurisdictions that oversee elections across the country. Since 2004 the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) has captured and analyzed much of this data for all states and territories via our Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS). Every two years, the commission takes a deep dive into this wealth of data that includes information such as voter registration numbers, the number of votes cast for every race on a ballot, as well as where and when people cast their ballots - by mail, at an early voting location, from an overseas military base or at the polls. The end goal is to use this information to improve the way America votes.

What is the Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS)?

The EAVS contains the most comprehensive nationwide data about election administration in the United States. The EAC administers the survey to meet its Help America Vote Act of 2002 obligation to serve as a national clearinghouse and resource for the compilation of information with respect to the administration of federal elections. Additionally, the EAVS fulfills EAC data collection requirements contained in both the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

The data is collected at the local level by the county or county-equivalent. It includes information related to:

- Voter registration
- Military and overseas voters
- Early and absentee voting
- Provisional voting
- Voter participation
- Voting equipment usage
- Poll workers, polling places, and precincts

Who completes the survey and when is it conducted?

Every two years after a November mid-term or Presidential election, the EAC administers the survey to 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The survey includes data for the November general election and the two-year period leading up to it. The final report is sent to Congress and released to the public by June 30 of the year following the mid-term or Presidential election.



Clearinghouse – GamePlan17 Voter List Maintenance



Clearinghouse – GamePlan17

Voter List Maintenance

Maintenance Monday: Michelle Tassinari, Massachusetts

Mar 27, 2017

We continue our “Monday Maintenance” blog series this week with Michelle Tassinari, Director and Legal Counsel for the Elections Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the blog below, she provides an excellent state official prospective on the state’s unique list maintenance process, including the state’s ongoing voter roll efforts.

As Michelle notes, in Massachusetts, elections are administered on a municipal level by local election officials in the state’s 351 cities and towns. The state has done an excellent job at partnering with each of the jurisdictions to carry out the list maintenance process. Below are Michelle’s answers to our “Maintenance Monday” questions.

EAC: Why is voter list maintenance important and what do you think is crucial for voters and policymakers to know about the process?

Michelle Tassinari: There is a lot of confusion as to how voter lists are maintained and the way in which the process works among the states. Overall, it’s important for voters and policymakers to know that election officials take their responsibilities for keeping an accurate voting list seriously. Just as there is a process to be added to the voter list, there is a process for updating voter information and deleting voters. Each process has requirements set forth in state and federal law and is designed to maintain the integrity of election administration. As noted by [Neal Kelley in a previous blog](#), voters incorrectly assume that their voter information automatically updates. While there are many ways in which voters can easily update their voter registration information, local election officials strive to make sure all qualified voters remain on the lists.

EAC: Describe how you conduct voter list maintenance. How do your state and county officials work together?

Michelle Tassinari: The primary process used in Massachusetts is quite different than those used in other states and begins with the annual street listing, which some call the annual census. Each year, local election officials in the cities and towns in Massachusetts send a street listing form to each residential household on which the residents verify and/or update information including residents at the address, date of birth and voter status. If a voter fails to respond to the street listing or is stricken from a street listing form, the voter is sent a confirmation notice and placed on the inactive voter list. If a voter does not respond to their confirmation notice and does not take any steps to activate their voter status, such as signing a nomination paper, re-registering to vote or voting, for two federal elections, that voter will be removed from the list.

While the street listing process is done locally, the Secretary’s office provides legal and technical support to the local election officials. This includes providing additional potential duplicate records from our internal auditing process and death records from our Department of Public Health.



Clearinghouse – GamePlan17

What's Coming

- Procurement and Implementation
- Language Access
- EAVS
- Data Summit
- Accessibility



We want to hear from you!

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