

Testimony on EAC Management Guidelines Project
EAC Public Meeting
Kansas City, MO April 18, 2007
Brian J. Hancock

With the adoption and publication of the Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines (VVSG) in 2005, the EAC considered and approved the development of a set of election management guidelines to complement the VVSG technical standards for voting equipment. Prior to this effort, election officials had to depend on materials developed and shared almost exclusively at the State and local levels. The need for national guidelines had long been recognized by election officials throughout the country, but it is only now that a Federal agency is able to devote the time and resources needed for the development and distribution of such a document.

The creation of the Election Management Guidelines (EMG) is a priority activity under the EAC's national clearinghouse role to promote the effective administration of elections. The long-term goal of the EMG is to provide a compendium of election management guidelines, consolidated into one document, to assist State and local election officials effectively manage and administer elections. The EAC expects the full set of guidelines to be completed by the end of 2008. Because of the urgency for resources to assist election officials, the EMG has been divided into subject matter modules so that chapters on particular topics can be completed on a priority basis and be distributed to the election community as soon as they are completed. In addition, the project team has developed what have come to be known as Quick Start Guides for each of the major chapters of this document. These Guides are pamphlets that distill the crucial information and concepts from the full document into an easy to care and easy to use format.

Over the last 18 months the EAC has had the privilege of working with our project co-leaders Connie Schmidt and Brit Williams to make this document a reality. The real authors of this document however, are the election officials who have educated and assisted us by providing information about innovative and successful election management practices. This group includes at least 11 State level election officials, over 35 local election

officials from 19 different States, and representatives from NASS, NASED, IACREOT, The Elections Center, and the EAC Standards Board and Board of Advisors. Without the contributions of these individuals, the Management Guidelines could not have been produced.