

**Discussion and Presentation
Public Hearing June 15, 2006
Elections Assistance Commission
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With the January 2006 deadline behind us, HAVA is (more or less) implemented from the perspective of purchasing equipment that is ADA compliant. But, have we fulfilled the goal of truly helping Americans vote? With equipment in the field, now we must concentrate on helping jurisdictions properly deploy and use the new technology. Across the U.S., there are thousands of elections administrators in counties, cities, schools, and other entities who will be asked to manage in the new HAVA environment. An election is an activity with a thousand moving parts, most of them human beings. How can we best support these good people?

Management Guidelines

- Selecting and Accepting a New System
- Basic Risk Assessment and Mitigation
- Security—Rules of Evidence and Chain of Custody
- Trouble Shooting
- Programming and Testing
- Parallel Monitoring and Hash Code Testing
- Training
- Recounts and Contests
- Public Relations

Future Policy Questions

- Private vs. Public
- Definition of a vote
- Standardization vs. local determination
- Internet

Those of us who have gained a few years of experience operating electronic voting systems know about the need to train voters and develop voter confidence, to document activities and segregate processes, and to face questions from the public without defensiveness and with honesty. The level of competence and poise now required of elections administrators exceeds the norms of the past. HAVA's initial focus was on types of voting equipment and addressing the needs of people with disabilities. Our cadre of experienced election professionals must not be allowed to leave the field because of the new challenges. We must develop the management skills and knowledge base of all elections administrators, and we must do it soon. Those of us who have managed

electronic elections feel an urgency to reach out to those new to the electronic voting environment.

Hence, the EAC and its working groups, especially Connie Schmidt, have begun the complex task of developing the first set of Management Guidelines. The EAC also developed a clearinghouse of papers, manuals, and procedures representing “best practices” in the conduct of electronic voting systems throughout the U.S. With the press of the upcoming November 2006 elections, the Quick Start Management Guide for New Voting Systems tries to foster a more analytical and technical approach to the conduct of elections in the hope of assisting elections administrators in their duties. More knowledgeable management of the voting process can also help HAVA fulfill its charge to truly help Americans vote.

Respectfully submitted,
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