

EAC Public Meeting- July 19, 2007
EAC Commission Acceptance of the IFES/The Pollworker Institute final report and
“Guidebook on Successful Practices for Poll Worker Recruitment, Training and
Retention” and Cleveland State University’s final report, State Compendium of Poll
Worker Requirements and “Guidebook for Recruiting College Poll Workers”

Karen Lynn-Dyson, EAC Research Director
Testimony

Commissioners, Mr. Wilkey and General Counsel Hodgkins, I am pleased to come before the Commission today with the recommendation that it accept the final report and Guidebook that have been submitted by IFES/The Pollworker Institute and to accept the final report, State Compendium of Pollworker Requirements and Guidebook for Recruiting College Poll Workers that have been submitted by Cleveland State University.

The materials that have been developed by both of these contractors and their subcontractors are important tools and will be valuable for elections officials as they seek to recruit, train and retain poll workers from the general public as well as from colleges and universities. The consultants involved with these projects worked tirelessly for over a year to develop these guidebooks and, in the process of developing them, sought the input of literally hundreds of experts and practitioners working within and outside of the elections community.

The applied research methods employed by The Pollworker Institute and Cleveland State University to seek input into the development of these guidebooks and in the development of a State Compendium of Pollworker Requirements, were in my estimation, appropriate. Furthermore, the processes these contractors used to identify current practices and to define and validate good and best practice in the recruitment, training and retention of good poll workers, were also appropriate.

I would like to take this opportunity to also publically thank, on behalf of EAC, the practitioners and experts who helped contribute their ideas, experiences and materials to this effort. Allow me also to thank the state and local election officials, along with the college and university staff who served as participants in each of the pilot projects conducted by the contractors, during the 2006 election. EAC recognizes that their participation in these pilot studies added a burden to what for all election officials recognize is an extremely hectic time. Their participation was invaluable to creating guidebooks that are realistic and practical.

These how-to guidebooks which are, to my knowledge, the first that have been created by a Federal agency have been anxiously awaited by those seeking to recruit poll workers. In its clearinghouse role EAC is now able to provide these communities with a valuable resource and tool. As EAC Research Director, I am pleased to be able to provide our key stakeholders with guidebooks that are a reflection of sound research that has been taken into a practical realm.

Thank you.

