



EAC Decision on Transmission of Results 2012-02 (Official and Unofficial Results)

Date:

May 30, 2012

Question:

What is the distinction between official and unofficial results?

Section of Guidelines:

2005 VVSG Volume 1 Sections 2, 6, and 7

2005 VVSG Volume 2 Sections 1, 2, 6, and Appendix A

Discussion:

The 2005 VVSG requirements for voting systems using telecommunications technologies to broadcast results can be divided into two categories; official and unofficial results. The 2005 VVSG does not supply a definition for either term. Historically, voting system manufacturers declared if their system transmitted official and/or unofficial results, and their systems were tested to the applicable requirements. When voting systems are fielded, the election jurisdictions using the voting system ultimately decide how results are treated on election night. Therefore, the distinction between official and unofficial results is procedural, not technical.

Conclusion:

The EAC cannot enforce the distinction between official and unofficial results. Each election jurisdiction using a voting system with telecommunications capabilities follows state and local election administration practices the EAC cannot anticipate during testing. Voting systems using telecommunications technologies **shall** be tested to all telecommunications requirements for the technology (i.e., wired or wireless), without distinction between official and unofficial results. This decision ensures EAC certified voting systems adhere to the 2005 VVSG in any manner election officials choose to use the voting system.

Effective Date:

Effective immediately for all systems without an approved Test Report.