

# Critical Infrastructure

**Mark Listes**

# Critical Infrastructure – Where did it come from?

## Critical Infrastructure:

- Modern definition created by the Patriot Act in 2001
- A designation made by DHS that affects how resources are allocated to certain fields

## Elections As Critical Infrastructure:

- DHS designated Elections to be part of the Nation's Critical Infrastructure on January 6, 2017
  - Secretary Jeh Johnson signed the order

# Jan. 6



Press Office  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

## Press Release

January 6, 2017

### STATEMENT BY SECRETARY JEH JOHNSON ON THE DESIGNATION OF ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE AS A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUBSECTOR

I have determined that election infrastructure in this country should be designated as a subsector of the existing Government Facilities critical infrastructure sector. Given the vital role elections play in this country, it is clear that certain systems and assets of election infrastructure meet the definition of critical infrastructure, in fact and in law.

I have reached this determination so that election infrastructure will, on a more formal and enduring basis, be a priority for cybersecurity assistance and protections that the Department of Homeland Security provides to a range of private and public sector entities. By "election infrastructure," we mean storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulations locations used to support the election process, and information and communications technology to include voter registration databases, voting machines, and other systems to manage the election process and report and display results on behalf of state and local governments.



# Critical Infrastructure – What is it?

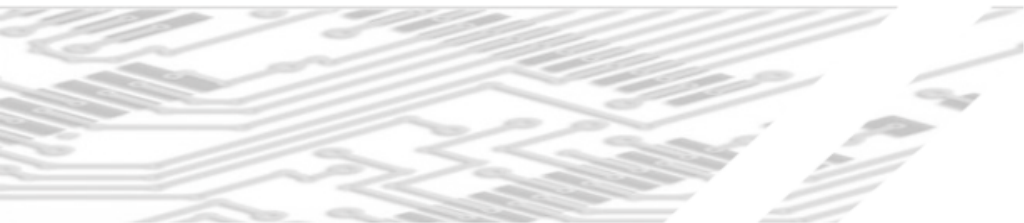
- **Designation made by Department of Homeland Security**
  - Shapes how the Federal Government views and interacts with a sector
  - Establishes priority for certain entities to get security resources

**Definition:** “Sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof.” - Presidential Policy Direct 21 (PPD-21)



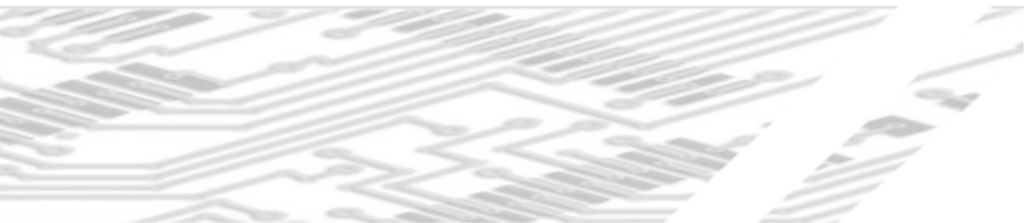
# Critical Infrastructure – Key Terms

- **Sector:** a distinctive group of entities that are cohesive in purpose
  - Here: **Elections**
- **Sector Specific Plan:** the document that establishes and governs the sector and the information sharing protocols within it
- **Sector Specific Agency:** the federally agency charged with crafting and administering the sector specific plan.
  - Typically DHS. When a subsector is created often DHS and another agency
- **Coordinating Council:** a group of people and entities, both private and public sector, that help communicate stakeholder perspectives, information, and interests to the SSA.

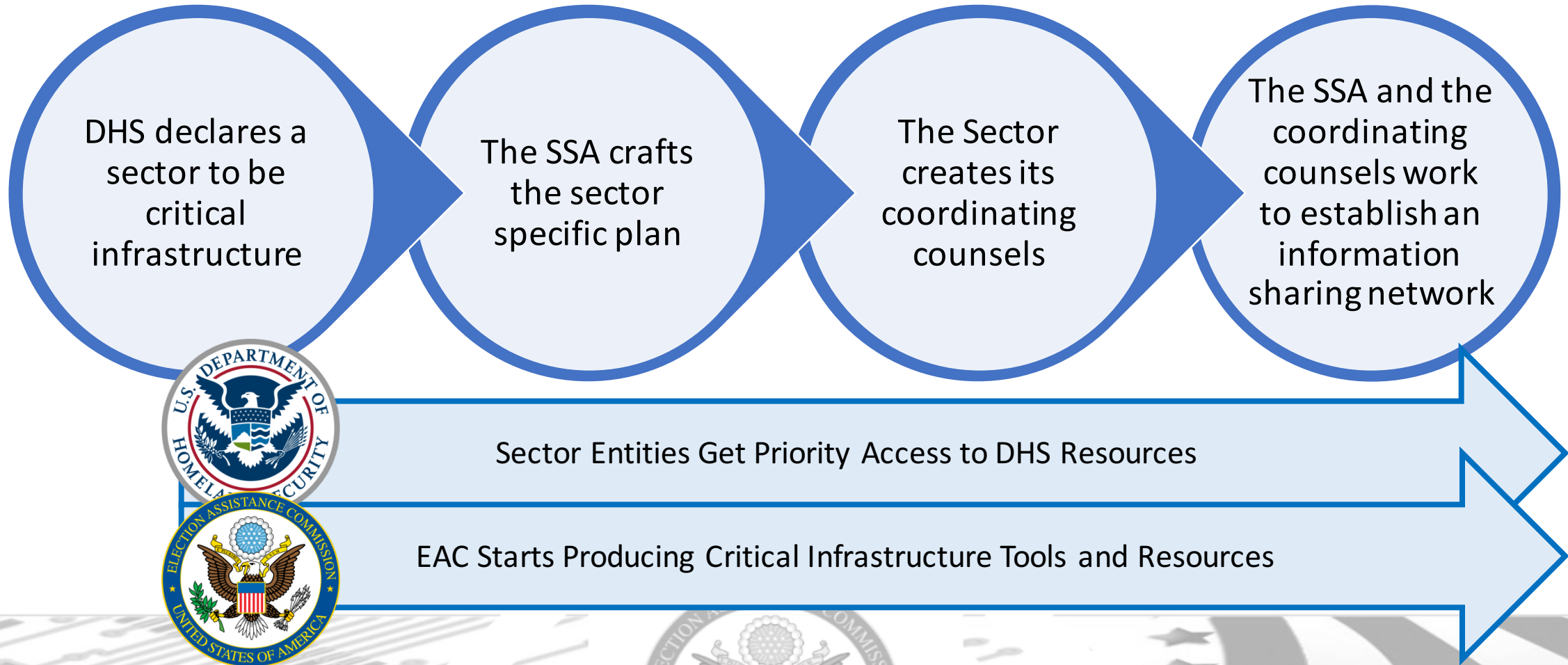


# Government Facilities Sector

- **This is the sector to which Elections have been assigned**
- **Includes:**
  - General-use office buildings
  - Special-use military installations
  - Embassies,
  - Courthouses
  - National laboratories
- **Currently contains two subsectors:**
  - Education Facilities and Monuments and Icons.



# The Process





# Key Entities and Roles Within a CI Sector

- **Department of Homeland Security** – Leading the national effort by providing strategic guidance, promoting a national unity of effort, and coordinating the overall Federal effort.
- **Sector-Specific Agencies (SSAs)** – Coordinate and collaborate with DHS and other relevant Federal departments and agencies, with critical infrastructure owners and operators.
- **Sector Coordinating Councils (SCCs)** – SCCs serve as principal collaboration points between the government and private sector owners and operators. Consisting of representatives from the private sector.
- **Government Coordinating Councils (GCCs)** – Consisting of representatives from across various levels of government (including Federal and SLTT), as appropriate to the operating landscape of each individual sector.
- **State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC)** – SLTTGCC promotes the engagement of SLTT partners in national critical infrastructure.



# The EAC and DHS

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- **Started working together before the election**
  - To help DHS understand elections
  - To communicate security information to election officials and administrators
  - To help DHS understand election administrators' feedback and represent them
- **Has continued working together to represent election administrators in the critical infrastructure process**
  - Acted as the federal agency helping DHS understand what will and will not help election administrators
  - Acting as a microphone for election officials and administrators to ask questions and get answers about critical infrastructure

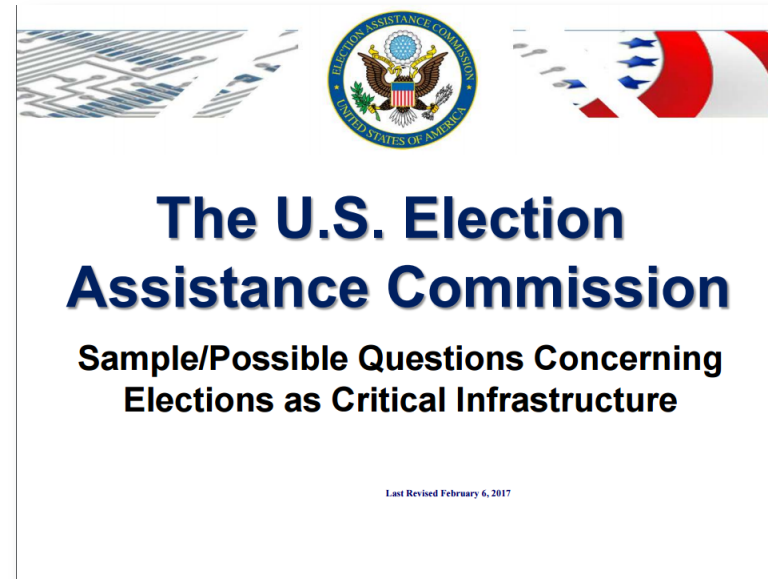




# Current EAC Efforts

## The EAC is:

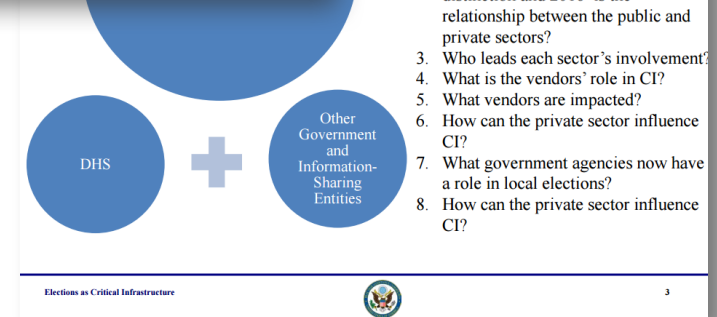
- Currently working with DHS to help election administrators understand the impacts of the designation
- Dedicating staff to best be able to help you
- Facilitating the conversation between election officials and DHS
- Starting to produce toolkits and other products to help you navigate critical infrastructure
- Publishing information about critical infrastructure and elections as critical infrastructure



**Structural:** What is the framework that defines Elections as Critical Infrastructure, and how does it work in practicality?

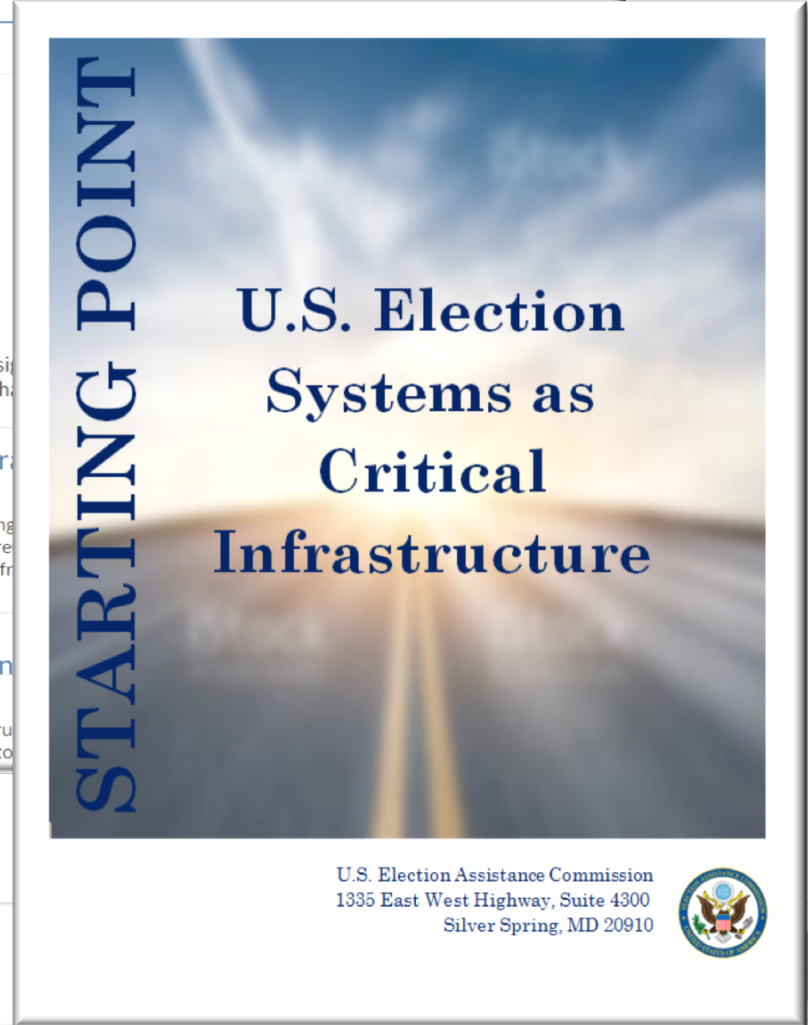
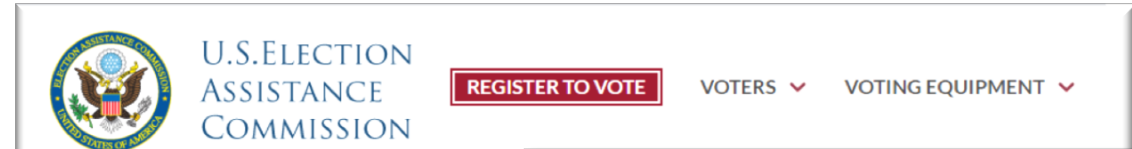
**General Questions:**

1. Why is CI needed?
2. What is different by the formal distinction and 2016 is the relationship between the public and private sectors?
3. Who leads each sector's involvement?
4. What is the vendors' role in CI?
5. What vendors are impacted?
6. How can the private sector influence CI?
7. What government agencies now have a role in local elections?
8. How can the private sector influence CI?



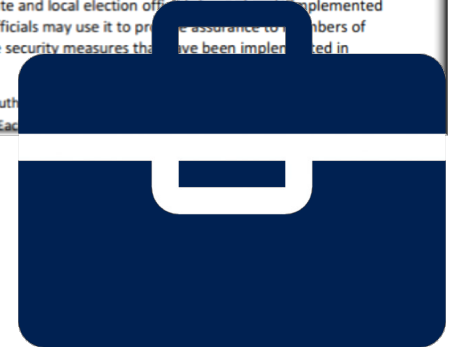
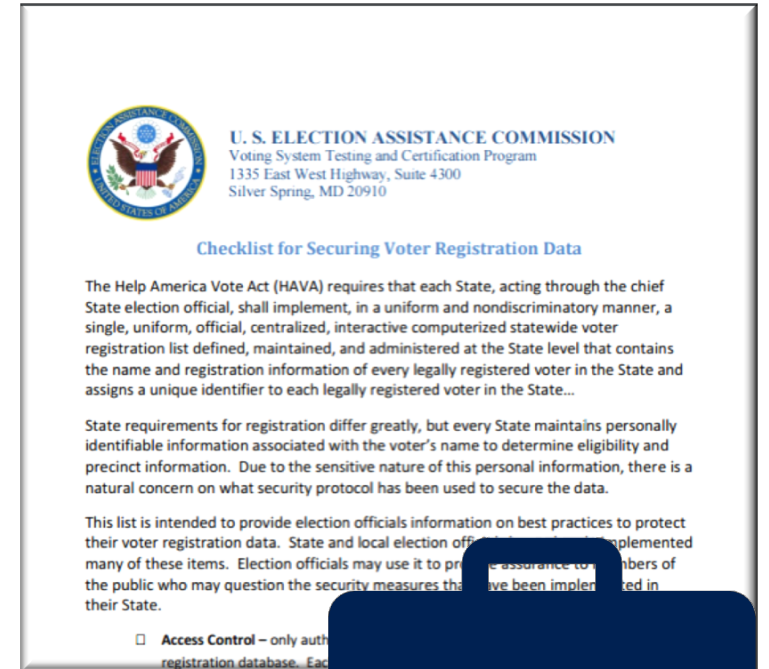
# Getting the CI Scoop

- **CI Scoop – Blog**
  - A new blog every few days
  - Covering all topics CI and elections as CI
  - Updates on the EAC and CI
- **Starting Point Document**
  - 6 page in-depth overview of Critical Infrastructure and Elections as Critical Infrastructure



# Security Resources Already Available

- **Security Checklists**
  - Securing Voter Registration Data
  - Securing Election Night Reporting Systems
- **Guidance Documents**
  - Security Planning
  - Contingency Planning
  - Selecting voting systems
  - Managing aging voting systems
- **Machine Testing and Auditing Information**
  - Clearinghouse of state practices and information
  - Guidance Documents

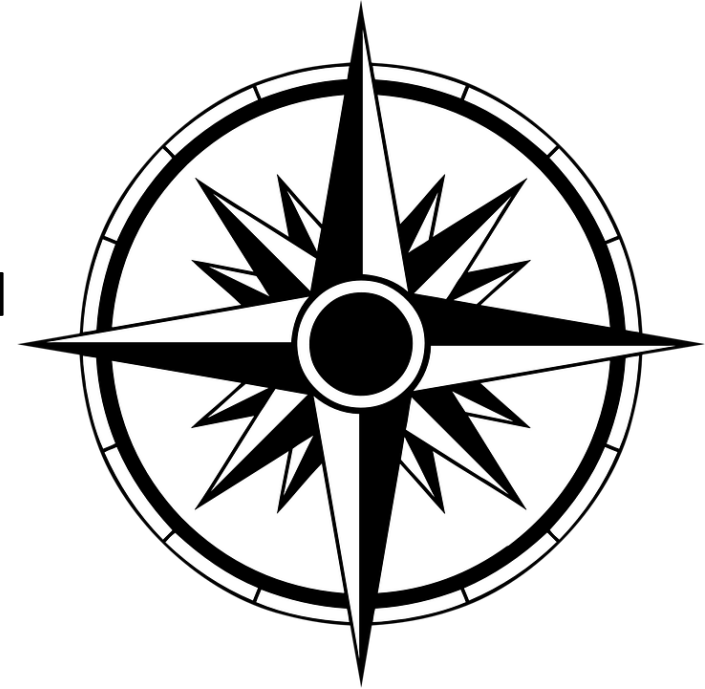


# Moving Forward

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## The EAC's perspective moving forward:

- The EAC is pursuing a formal role in the sector establishment process
- The EAC will start producing Critical Infrastructure products for election officials and administrators and will start to send them out soon
  - Tool kits
  - Guidance Documents
  - Presentations
  - Regular Updates
- The EAC hopes that you will continue to see us as your go-to resource on this issue



# Learn More

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- **Reach out to us with any questions that you have concerning Critical Infrastructure**
- **Tune-in to CI Scoop**
- **Send an email to:**
  - Mark Listes at [mlistes@eac.gov](mailto:mlistes@eac.gov)
  - Bob Sweeney at [rsweeney@eac.gov](mailto:rsweeney@eac.gov)
- **We have more information and resources about Critical Infrastructure on our website:**
  - Public Hearing between EAC, election officials, and DHS
  - Educational Presentations
  - Presentations by others
  - Running list of questions from election officials that we continually communicate to DHS





# Social Media

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@EACgov



Facebook.com/eacgov1



listen@eac.gov



YouTube Channel:  
Election Assistance Commission

**[www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov)**



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