

**EAC Public Meeting- Austin, Texas
December 11, 2007
EAC Commission Adoption of The 2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey
Report**

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Testimony**

Commissioners, Mr. Wilkey and Deputy General Counsel Gilmour, I come before the Commission today with the recommendation that it adopt The 2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey report that contains data gathered from the 55 States and territories, along with an analysis of these data that was performed by the contractor, Election Data Services and its subcontractors, Clark Benson of Polidata, Inc and Paul Gronke of Reed College.

This report represents the culmination of work the EAC began, in June 2005, to create a useful survey that would be administered to all 55 states and territories for the 2006 mid-term General Election. The 2006 survey is the EAC's second attempt to collect, from each of the States and territories, election data that HAVA requires to be reported, along with additional types of election administration data that is of particular interest to individuals and organizations that track election data.

The process used to develop and vet the 2006 survey instrument was extensive and included a number of workshops and sessions held with election officials, academics and voter information groups. This review also included an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the survey instrument once a draft of the survey had been posted in the Federal Register. A draft of the survey was made available to State election officials in May, 2006; OMB granted final approval of the survey in November, 2006, and States were asked to submit their 2006 election day survey data by March, 2007.

The process used to enter and verify the election data states had collected for the 2006 survey was also extensive. EAC staff, the contractor responsible for operating the web-based survey data collection process, Humanitas, and the contractor responsible for analyzing and verifying the State's data, Election Data Services, worked intensively with the States from March to September, 2007 to try to ensure the data gathered was complete and accurate. This was EAC's attempt to collect, for the first time, county-level election data from each of the States, a task that was for EAC, its contractors and, especially for the States, a monumental effort.

The election data which are presented in this report should be viewed by the public as a beginning effort, on the part EAC, to collect detailed elections information from every state in order to provide a comprehensive, national picture of key election statistics. The process EAC is using to try and collect these data for each General and Federal election is an iterative one. Efforts are already underway to improve the approach EAC will use to collect data for the 2008 Election Administration and Voting Survey. For 2008 I look forward to working closely with *all* of the States and their staffs to help ensure that the

information EAC is required to collect and, that states are mandated to report, is accomplished in a reasonable and responsible fashion.

In closing, allow me to publically acknowledge my appreciation and thanks to all of the States, and their staffs, for their enormous efforts to complete and respond to the 2006 Election Day Survey. I recognize the financial and staff limitations under which election offices must operate and that the effort that was required to complete this survey was extraordinary.

Thank you.