Election Security 201

Or...Elections 101

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What We’re Going to Cover Today

Quick Overview of the EAC

• What is the EAC?
• Election Administration & Voting Survey (EAVS)
• Testing & Certification
• Improving Accessibility

2018 HAVA Funds

Elections Operations Related to Security

EAC Resources
What is the EAC?

• Established by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002
• Law included formation of Independent, bipartisan Commission
• Currently only two of four sitting Commissioners, awaiting additional appointees
Election Administration &
Voting Survey

- Most comprehensive nationwide data about election administration in the United States
- Provides data which can be used to improve future elections and voter experience
- Allows us to see the impact of policies and changing voter behavior over time
- Use this data to create resources for state and local election officials and the voters they serve
- Working to make this data more interactive, relevant and impactful
Making the EAVS More Impactful

- EAVS Data Deep Dives
- Election data fact sheets for all 50 states
- EAVS Data Interactive
- Election Data Summit
- Laying the groundwork to implement the 2018 EAVS
Clearinghouse/ Best Practices
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Testing & Certification

• EAC’s Testing & Certification program has served as a critical first step in maintaining the reliability and security of voting systems.

• HAVA also created the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) to assist the EAC with developing voluntary voting system guidelines.
Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)

Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0

Principles and Guidelines

Principle 1: HIGH QUALITY DESIGN
The voting system is designed to accurately, completely, and robustly carry out election processes.

1.1 - The voting system is designed using commonly-accepted election process specifications.
1.2 - The voting system is designed to function correctly under real-world operating conditions.
1.3 - Voting system design supports evaluation methods enabling testers to clearly distinguish systems that correctly implement specified properties from those that do not.

• A set of specifications and requirements voting systems are tested against to determine if the systems meet required standards.
• Focus equally is on security and accessibility.
• New version, 2.0, is in the review and approval stage.
Improving Accessibility

• Strengthen election officials’ ability to serve voters with disabilities, Americans with Limited English Proficiency, and voters serving in the U.S. military or living overseas.

• Directly engage these voters, share feedback and suggestions with election officials.

• Highlight best practices

• Work to improve services to these voters
Election officials must find ways to extend the life of voting systems while holding these systems to the highest standards possible.

Election administrators with limited funds need to build preventative measures that can withstand and recover from attacks.

Voting Equipment
The majority of voting equipment was purchased more than 10 years ago and as long as 14 years ago.
Funding for States

- HAVA provided funds to improve the administration of federal elections and ensure that every state had the necessary resources to become compliant with new requirements outlined in the legislation.

14 states have expended 100% of their HAVA funds and interest.

29 additional states have less than 10% of HAVA funds remaining.
2018

HAVA Funds
2018 HAVA Funds

$380,000,000 in Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2018

- Congressional Bill Signed by President Trump - March 22, 2018
- Titled: ELECTION REFORM PROGRAM
- Under HAVA SECTION 101
- Funds must be expended by March 22, 2023
FY2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Notwithstanding section 104(c)(2)(B) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20904(c)(2)(B)), $380,000,000 is provided to the Election Assistance Commission for necessary expenses to make payments to States for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements, as authorized by sections 101, 103, and 104 of such Act:

Provided, that each reference to the "Administrator of General Services" or the "Administrator" in sections 101 and 103 shall be deemed to refer to the "Election Assistance Commission": Provided further, That each reference to "$5,000,000" in section 103 shall be deemed to refer to "$3,000,000" and each reference to "$1,000,000" in section 103 shall be deemed to refer to "$600,000": Provided further, that not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission shall make the payments to states under this heading: Provided further, that not later than two years after receiving a payment under this heading, a state shall make available funds for such activities in an amount equal to 5 percent of the total amount of the payment made to the State under this heading.
FY2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

ELECTION REFORM PROGRAM

The bill provides $380,000,000 to the Election Assistance Commission to make payments to states for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements, as authorized under sections 101, 103, and 104 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 (P.L. 107-252). Consistent with the requirements of HAVA, states may use this funding to: replace voting equipment that only records a voter's intent electronically with equipment that utilizes a voter-verified paper record; implement a post-election audit system that provides a high-level of confidence in the accuracy of the final vote tally; upgrade election-related computer systems to address cyber vulnerabilities identified through DHS or similar scans or assessments of existing election systems; facilitate cybersecurity training for the state chief election official's office and local election officials; implement established cybersecurity best practices for election systems; and fund other activities that will improve the security of elections for federal office.
• States received grant award notification letters in early April, which allowed them to incur costs, with prior EAC approval, against the forthcoming grant awards.

• Funds were then available for states to draw down and deposit in their election accounts once they returned signed grant documents.

• On August 21, the EAC published program narratives and budgets from 48 of the 55 states and territories eligible to receive the newly appropriated HAVA funds.

• 98 percent of the funds had been disbursed to the states.
HOW STATES PLAN TO USE 2018 HAVA FUNDS

- **Cybersecurity**: 36.3% ($134,542,480)
- **Voting Equipment**: 27.8% ($103,366,294)
- **Reserve**: 14.6% ($54,301,840)
- **Voter Registration**: 13.7% ($52,499,594)
- **Election Audits**: 5.6% ($20,573,476)
- **Communication**: 2% ($7,332,722)
Election Official Must Be Experts In

- The typical county election official likely is responsible for technology investment than any other department directly serving the public.

- Election Management Systems
- Voter Registration Systems
- EPBs
- Servers
- Workstations/Clients
- Networks – Open & Closed
- Tablets
- Smartphones
- Printers

- Copiers
- Fax machines
- VoIP
- GIS interfaces
- Websites
- Software versions
- Vendors
- Contracts
Election Official Must Be Experts In

- ADA
- Candidates + Campaign Finance
- Human Resources
- Provisional Ballots
- Voter Registration
- Security
- Military & Overseas Voting
- Public Relations
- Election Law
- Finance
- Scheduling + Logistics
- Mail
- Advance Voting
- List Maintenance
- Signature Verification
- Polling Places + Real Estate
- Auditing + Recounts
- Technology
- Street File Maintenance
Zero Defects!
HALL OF FAME

Consistent Perfect Elections!!

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Security is Important but…

Legislative Planning Takes a Long View

- DHS is here to help with threats today.
- Consider “Public Enemy Number Three”
- Act now to reduce the chance for long lines 2020:
  - Anticipate higher turnout than in 2016
  - Be mindful that much of the increased turnout will vote on election day
  - Recognize the “short voting season” of 2020
  - Help ensure polling place accessibility for your election administrators.
- Understand impact of 2020 Census
EAC Resources
Available
Other Resources Available

Security Checklists
- Securing Voter Registration Data
- Securing Election Night Reporting Systems
- Incident Response Planning

Machine Testing and Auditing Information
- State practices for pre-election testing, auditing & planning
Questions?
Contact us

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