



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

April 2, 2015

Mr. Ben Ginsberg
Co-Chair
Presidential Commission on Election Administration
c/o Bipartisan Policy Center
1225 Eye St., NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Mr. Robert Bauer
Co-Chair
Presidential Commission on Election Administration
c/o Bipartisan Policy Center
1225 Eye St., NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Co-Chairs Ginsberg and Bauer,

On Dec. 19, 2014, you sent a letter to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) encouraging the commissioners to immediately get to work reforming the standards setting and testing process. As part of your reasoning for the urgency, you stated, "...an effective certification process is fundamental to ensure the accuracy and functionality of equipment, compliance with legal requirements, and other basic standards and guidelines." Specifically you requested that we quickly take action on three items:

1. EAC should adopt the pending Draft Voluntary Voting System Guidelines Version 1.1, which would update the existing standards before a full rewrite. There should be a reasonable transition period for the implementation of new standards.
2. EAC should adopt the Voting System Testing and Certification Program Manual Version 2.0, which provides more detail about the testing and certification program than the earlier version and tracks to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines Version 1.1.
3. EAC should adopt the Voting System Test Laboratory Program Manual Version 2.0, which provides more detail about the voting system test laboratory program than the earlier version and tracks to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines Version 1.1.

We share your sense of urgency regarding the critical nature of the standards setting and certification process, and are pleased to report we addressed all three items in your letter on March 31—less than three months after being sworn in. These improvements to the

standards and certification process will allow for greater innovation, more efficient certification, and cost savings for both state and local election officials.

Now, we must turn our attention to the work of writing a new set of standards. That work starts with the first meeting of the EAC's Standards Board and Board of Advisors at the end of April. With the boards reconstituted after three years of inactivity, we can now begin the process of writing the next set of voting system guidelines by rebuilding the Technical Guidelines Development Committee and looking at more efficient ways to develop the standards and administer the certification process.

As we move forward with this work, we hope we can continue to rely on the BPC, NASED and PCEA members for advice and guidance. We thank you again for your letter and recognition of the important work that needs to be done.

Sincerely,



Thomas Hicks
Vice-Chair, EAC



Matthew Masterson
Commissioner, EAC



Christy McCormick
Chairwoman, EAC