



UNITED STATES
ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

The EAC and Voting Accessibility

NCCNHR 34th Annual Meeting & Conference
October 24, 2009



The EAC

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established by the **Help America Vote Act of 2002** (HAVA). EAC is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with developing guidance to meet HAVA requirements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, and serving as a national clearinghouse of information about election administration. EAC also accredits testing laboratories and certifies voting systems, as well as audits the use of HAVA funds.



UNITED STATES

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

HAVA Provides Federal Funds

- Election administration improvements, including the accessibility and quantity of polling places, providing physical access for individuals with disabilities, and non-visual access for individuals with visual impairments. (Sec 101)
- Making polling places accessible, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation as for other voters. (Sec 261)



HAVA Provides Federal Funds

- Replacement of punch card voting machines.
(Sec 102)
- Providing information for individuals with disabilities about the accessibility of polling places, and training for election officials, poll workers, and volunteers on how best to promote access and participation in Federal elections.
(Sec 261)



Election Management Guidelines

The program was created to assist State and local election officials with effectively managing and administering elections.

For more information about these guides or to request copies, contact EAC at 866-747-1471.

NOTE: *These materials are available at no cost.*



Quick Start Guides for Election Officials

- Absentee Voting and Vote by Mail
- Acceptance Testing
- Ballot Preparation/Printing and Pre-Election Testing
- Canvassing and Certifying an Election
- Central Count Optical Scan Ballots
- Conducting a Recount
- Contingency and Disaster Planning
- Developing an Audit Trail
- Managing Change in an Election Office
- Media and Public Relations
- New Voting Systems
- Polling Places and Vote Centers
- Poll Workers
- Provisional Ballots
- **Serving Voters in Long Term Care Facilities**
- Uniformed and Overseas Voters
- Voting System Certification
- Voting System Security



Serving Voters in Long Term Care Facilities (suggested approaches)

- Reach out to the local election official
- Provide assistance with voter registration drives
- Participate in a local election advisory board
- Serve as a polling place
- Help train elections office staff



Accessibility Chapter Election Management Guidelines

- On September 24, 2009, the EAC conducted the first step in creating a new Election Management Guidelines chapter and Quick Start Guide about **Accessibility in Election Administration.**
- This was just the first step, and the chapter will include a section about Mobile Polling Places.



UNITED STATES
ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Questions?

Matthew Weil

MWeil@EAC.gov

202-566-3100