



## Congressman José E. Serrano

Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

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### **Serrano Reacts to EAC Inspector General Report**

Washington, DC – March 12, 2008 – Today Chairman José E. Serrano reacted to the Elections Assistance Commission Inspector General’s report on the ‘Preparation of the Vote Fraud and Voter Intimidation Report,’” which concluded that partisanship did not play a role in the editing of the report.

“I welcome the Inspector General’s report, but am not totally satisfied with its conclusions,” said Serrano, whose Appropriations Subcommittee oversees the EAC’s budget. “I was hoping for a document that would go beyond laying out the missteps surrounding the Voter Fraud and Voter Intimidation Report, and give serious recommendations for ensuring that this type of issue does not arise again. Knowing what happened is important, but we are at the point where we need the EAC to develop procedures to ensure bipartisanship in their work.

The first step should be to make their policy development process as open and as transparent as possible in order to avoid the appearance of undue influence or partisanship. One way to begin would be to implement the management improvement recommendations in the Inspector General’s February 25 report at the earliest possible time. Whether its this or another course of action, I urge them to take action swiftly and with the utmost transparency.

“It’s worth repeating the language we put into the House Appropriations Bill report last year:

*The EAC is a small agency with a very limited staff and budget. As such, the EAC needs to refocus its attention and resources toward meeting certain core responsibilities under the Help America Vote Act, including serving as a national clearinghouse on best practices, further improving and implementing voluntary voting system guidelines, and directing a national voting system certification program. More attention must be given to ensuring the usability, accessibility, and security of voting systems, as well as the fair, safe, and nonpartisan administration of elections.*

“I am troubled by the references in the most recent report to Hans Von Spakovsky’s attempted political pressure on the EAC. His alleged involvement is a good example of

why the EAC must work to develop strict procedures and guidelines to ensure non-partisanship and transparency.”

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*Congressman José E. Serrano has represented the Bronx in Congress since 1990. He is the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, which oversees the budget of the EAC, among other agencies.*