

The Honorable Rosemary Rodriguez
Election Assistance Commission
1225 New York Avenue NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC

November 12, 2008

Dear Chair Rodriguez,

We are writing to you to respectfully encourage the Election Assistance Commission to collect and disseminate information on the experiences of state and local governments with regard to the performance of voting systems in the November 2008 election.

The administration of elections is an extremely demanding job, as you know firsthand. Since the passage of the Help America Vote Act election officials have been called upon to meet added obligations and requirements. Additionally, the transition to new voting equipment has introduced a host of fresh challenges to our common goal of accurate, fair, accessible, and transparent elections.

As we all know too well, no voting system is perfect. However, greater knowledge and understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the voting systems in use around the country by our colleagues would be extremely valuable to our work.

The EAC's 2004 Election Day Survey included questions on voting system performance and the researcher contracted to compile the results recommended the EAC expand its research of reported voting equipment problems.¹ However, the 2006 and 2008 Election Day Surveys excluded *any* questions on voting system performance.

Earlier this year, during the public comment period for the 2008 Election Day Survey, comments were submitted recommending the Commission include questions on voting system performance to the 2008 Election Day Survey.

We understand that time is short. However, this information could prove to be very useful therefore, we respectfully urge the Commission to accept these recommendations and include questions on voting system performance to the 2008 Election Day Survey.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Trey Grayson
Secretary of State
Kentucky

Doug Kellner
Co-chair State Board of Elections
New York

The Honorable Ross Miller
Secretary of State
Nevada

Gregory Peterson
State Elections Commissioner
New York

Nick Hardy
State Elections Director
Washington

Evelyn Aquila
State Elections Commissioner
New York

Lesley Mara
Deputy Secretary of State
Connecticut

Ion Sancho
Supervisor of Elections
Leon County Florida

William Biamonte
Election Commissioner
Nassau County, New York

¹ Recommendations from Election Data Services on the 2004 Survey can be found here:
http://www.eac.gov/program-areas/research-resources-and-reports/copy_of_docs/eds2004/eds-2004-part-3/attachment_download/file