



Getting Ready for November *EAC Roundtable Discussion*

June 19, 2012

EAC Offices
Suite 150
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Washington, DC

Participate

Live webcast at www.eac.gov

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Agenda

9:00 – 10:45 a.m. -Session 1

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. -Morning Break

11:00 – 12:30 p.m. -Session 2

Participants

Moderator: Merle King, Executive Director, Georgia's Center for Election Systems, Kennesaw State University.

- Brad King, Co-Director, Indiana Election Division
- Susan M. Edman, Executive Director, City of Milwaukee Election Commission
- Lance Gough, Executive Director, Chicago Board of Elections
- Sonia Campos, Program Analyst, Election Official Assistance Division, FVAP
- Katie Blinn, Co-Director of Elections, Washington Secretary of State's Office
- Clifford D. Tatum, Executive Director, District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics
- Judy Schwartau, Election Specialist, City of Minneapolis Elections

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These are questions (divided by discussion segment) the moderator is likely to pose to the entire panel. Depending on the direction of the discussion and time limitations, all questions may not be asked. These questions are provided to give the panelists the opportunity to further prepare for the discussion and to inform the public, including election officials, about likely topics.

A. Provisional Ballots

Questions:

- 1) Has the practice of issuing provisional ballots to voters improved or worsened in your jurisdiction? What could be done to minimize the number of provisional ballots issued in your elections?
- 2) Redistricting requires additional effort in voter education. What has your jurisdiction done to communicate these changes to voters, parties, and advocacy groups?
- 3) Does your jurisdiction have any best practices regarding improving the integrity of the VR lists?
- 4) Has the adoption of electronic poll books ameliorated provisional balloting issues in your jurisdiction?

B. Managing Voter Turnout

Questions:

- 1) Managing polling place resources to match voter turnout is part art and part science. How do you manage this process?
- 2) Each election, pallets of unused ballots are destroyed. Some jurisdictions consider this waste as a cost of preparedness. How can jurisdictions improve the accuracy of their ballot orders?
- 3) Conversely, what preparations does your jurisdiction make for voting system failures at the polling place? Do you have backup voting systems or do you use paper ballots?
- 4) Does your jurisdiction use voter turnout forecasts in planning? If so, what is the origin of the forecast?

C. Voter Education

Questions:

- 1) Voter education is one of the most important controls in ensuring a successful election. What are the components of a voter education strategy?
- 2) How does your jurisdiction spend its education budget? What types of materials do you make available to the public and how are they made available?
- 3) Are you shifting more effort to social media?
- 4) What innovations in voter education could you share with your colleagues?
- 5) How do we measure the effectiveness of our voter education initiatives?

D. Audits and Recounts

Questions:

- 1) In the past 5 years, many jurisdictions have enacted legislation requiring audits. Have these audits produced the desired improvements in election administration?
- 2) What's on your recount checklist? How can jurisdictions better prepare for recounts?

E. Polling Places

Questions:

- 1) How do you inform the public of polling place locations and whether their polling place may have accessibility problems?
- 2) What is the most significant problem you face in finding locations for polling places?
- 3) What is the most serious problem in making a polling place accessible?
- 4) What can jurisdictions do to be better prepared for polling place disruptions on election day?

F. Voting System Preparation

Questions:

- 1) Logic and Accuracy test scripts should be reflective of the content of the election, changes and upgrades to the voting system, and changes in jurisdiction law, rules and procedures. What can jurisdictions do to ensure that their L&A processes are current, relevant and effective?
- 2) Vendors have specific roles in each election. The management of vendors has become an important role for election officials. What advice would you give election officials regarding the review and enforcement of contracts for election services?
- 3) Call centers can be as simple as one person answering the phone or as complicated as a tiered, response-and-escalation model. Staffing, training and preparing staff to take calls from the public, the media, and from election workers is an important preparation step. What should election officials be considering as they prepare their call centers?
- 4) Has there been a substantive change in warehouse and transport personnel, procedures or logistics since the last election? Identify key factors for success in managing these critical processes.

G. Media Management

Questions:

- 1) What are the key issues that your local and regional media need to be briefed on before the election? Have there been changes in voting technologies? Voter ID requirements? Polling places? How can election officials prepare materials in advance to answer anticipated questions from the media?
- 2) How current is your disaster response plan? Discuss the tenets of the overall plan with special attention to managing media interaction and leveraging the media to assist with voter education.
- 3) How will election officials use social media in the upcoming election? How will voter advocacy and citizen oversight groups use social media?
- 4) Identifying and correcting misinformation can be frustrating and time consuming. What can election officials do to develop a strategy for combating misinformation?