Election Assistance Commission Clearinghouse
EAC Roundtable Discussion

March 20, 2012

EAC Offices
Suite 150
1225 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC

Participate
Live webcast at www.eac.gov
Twitter: @EACgov #BReady2012
Submit questions & comments via Twitter and webcast

Premise

The HAVA charter for the EAC, directed that "The Commission shall serve as a national clearinghouse and resource for the compilation of information and review of procedures with respect to the administration of Federal elections by carrying out the duties described in part 3 (relating to the adoption of voluntary voting system guidelines), including the maintenance of a clearinghouse of information on the experiences of State and local governments in implementing the guidelines and in operating voting systems in general."

From its inception, the EAC has been engaged in the collection, aggregation and dissemination of information for the purpose of improving election administration in all jurisdictions in the United States.

Agenda

9:00 – 10:45 a.m. **-Introduction**
> *Mark Robbins, Merle King, Thomas Wilkey, Karen Lynn-Dyson*

-Transforming Clearinghouse Content into Election Best Practices
> *Doug Chapin, Tammy Patrick, Jackie Harris, Barbara Dunmore, Steve Moreno,*
> *Joe Losco, Ernie McClellan, Thomas Wilkey*

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. **-Morning Break**

11:00 – 12:30 p.m. **-Transforming Clearinghouse Content into Election Best Practices (Cont.)**

-Future Directions for the Clearinghouse
> *Karen Lynn-Dyson, Brian Hancock*

Participants

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

- Doug Chapin, Director, Program for Excellence in Election Administration, University of Minnesota
- Tammy Patrick, Federal Compliance Officer, Maricopa County Elections, Arizona
- Jackie C. Harris, Policy Director, West Virginia Secretary of State
- Barbara Dunmore, Assistant Registrar of Voters, County of Eldorado, California
- Steve Moreno, Weld County Clerk and Recorder, Colorado
- Professor Jospeh Losco, Chair, Dept. of Political Science, Ball State University
- Ernie L. McClellan, Jr., Training Manager, Kansas City Election Board
- Thomas R. Wilkey, former Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

EAC will receive questions and comments from the public via Twitter and webcast.

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.

Transforming Clearinghouse Content into Election Best Practices

Each speaker will introduce themselves and their involvement with EAC Clearinghouse materials. Each speaker will describe that portion of the Clearinghouse inventory they have utilized and the value that it has added to their efforts as an election official or researcher. Anecdotal evidence will illustrate the integration of Clearinghouse content into the policies, procedures and work product of the speaker and their organizations. (10 minutes per speaker)

    A.   Doug Chapin
    B.   Tammy Patrick
    C.   Jackie Harris
    D.   Barbara Dunmore
    E.   Steve Moreno
    F.   Prof. Joseph Losco
    G.   Ernie McClellan

Questions:

1. Without the existing Clearinghouse function of the EAC, what alternatives would you and your organization have for collecting comparable information? Can you estimate the costs that might be associated with that collection?

2. Are there impediments to utilizing EAC Clearinghouse information? Are these impediments structural (related to the data itself), technological (data formats and accessibility issues) or otherwise?

3. Applications that are designed to accommodate expert as well as novice users, rarely succeed in satisfying both user groups. How would you assess the EAC Clearinghouse functionality for the expert user? For the novice?

4. What aspects of the Clearinghouse function do you routinely use? To what purpose do you use this information?

Future Directions for the Clearinghouse

The EAC Clearinghouse function has evolved to meet the needs of the election community it serves. Election administration and the technologies it depends upon, continues to change in response to state law, emerging technologies, procedural innovations, and voter expectations. What are the future challenges and opportunities for the Clearinghouse?

Speakers (5-7 minutes each)
　　　Karen Lynn-Dyson, Director, Research, Policy and Programs
　　　Brian Hancock, Director, Voting System Testing & Certification

Questions:

1. The efforts required to initiate a project are usually very different from those required to maintain the project. The leadership skills, priorities, skill sets, etc., that were needed to launch the EAC Clearinghouse efforts may be very different from those needed to maintain its quality. Discuss the EAC's strategy to address this emerging custodial role of the Clearinghouse

2. Information has many dimensions: currency, depth, and breadth, to name a few. How should the EAC determine the priorities within its information silos of the Clearinghouse? Which areas should be broadened?   Deepened? Any that should be eliminated or capped?

3. What are the emerging needs of the jurisdictions regarding Clearinghouse information? Are there new subject areas that should be planned for?

4. Having access to the information in a format that is ill-suited for follow-on use can be as frustrating as not having the information at all. Are there ways in which the EAC could better provide existing information?

5. Are there ways the EAC can better integrate its information with other complimentary sources, minimizing the efforts of researchers and practitioners to collect and integrate relevant information? Are there portal models that would be of instructive for the EAC to consider?