



OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 1100
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

March 24, 2008

Dear Mr. Friedman:

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) cordially invites you or a member of your organization to participate in a public discussion with other voter advocates regarding the August 2007 Technical Guidelines Development Committee's (TGDC) Recommendations for the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG). The meeting will be held in Washington, DC on Thursday, April 24th, 2008 from 9:00am – 2:00pm EST.

One of EAC's most important mandates under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is the development and adoption of the VVSG in conjunction with the TGDC and with the assistance of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The VVSG provides a set of specifications and requirements against which voting systems can be tested to determine if they provide all the basic functionality, accessibility and security capabilities required of voting systems. According to HAVA, adoption of the VVSG at the state level is voluntary. However, states may formally adopt the VVSG, making these guidelines mandatory in their jurisdictions.

The TGDC recommended VVSG is a complete re-write of the 2005 guidelines, containing new and expanded material in the areas of reliability and quality, usability and accessibility, security, and testing. The TGDC recommended VVSG prohibit RF wireless, address software independence and include improved requirements for the overall reliability of voter verifiable paper audit trail voting systems. The TGDC recommended VVSG serve as an initial recommendation to the EAC. The EAC is responsible for seeking public input, considering advice from its advisory boards and performing an internal review of the TGDC draft. EAC is in the midst of what will be a lengthy public review and development process to consider the TGDC recommended VVSG, create its own draft VVSG and eventually adopt the next iteration of the VVSG. The process is likely to last two years and began on November 5th, 2007 with the opening of a 160-day opportunity for the public to comment on the TGDC's recommendations.

The roundtable discussion on April 24th will allow voter advocates the opportunity to discuss important issues that will impact the way Americans vote in the future. This discussion will help inform the EAC, election officials, and the public.

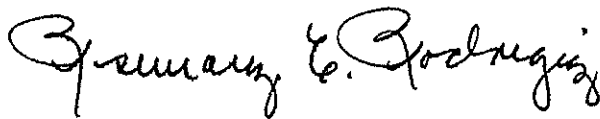
The discussion on April 24th will focus on specific EAC provided questions that are designed to help answer the question, what do the EAC Commissioners need to know to make informed decisions regarding the next version of the VVSG. Because of the

technical nature of the questions please select a member of your organization who has the technical knowledge necessary to answer the questions in a specific and detailed manner. General responses full of general information will be of little value to the EAC as it works with the document. The EAC requests that you please submit written testimony in addition to the oral testimony that you will be providing on the day of the meeting. The written testimony should be submitted by April 21st, 2008.

You will receive more information regarding hotel and travel accommodations in the near future. The EAC will cover the hotel, flight, and per diem costs for one representative from your organization to attend the roundtable discussion. Please respond with interest to Matt Masterson (mmasterson@eac.gov or 202-566-2365) by Tuesday April 1st, 2008.

Attached please find an electronic copy of the TGDC recommended VVSG, the Innovation class paper, an Innovation class resolution adopted by TGDC, and relevant portions of HAVA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rosemary E. Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary Rodriguez
Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission