Overview

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The American Election Administration System

• **Decentralized**
  - States run elections. So there are more than 50 election administration systems

• **Non-uniform**
  - Election administration systems vary from jurisdiction-to-jurisdiction and from state-to-state

• **Thousands of jurisdictions**
  - Over 8,000 jurisdictions
Federal Election Agencies

U.S. Election Assistance commission – a central resource

• Provide a clearinghouse for best election administration practices
• Survey and report election administration practices and behavior from all 50 states
• Act as an intermediary between other federal actors and the states
• Create voting machine standards and test machines against them

Federal Election Commission – regulator of election activity

• Regulate Campaign behavior:
  • Candidate behavior
  • Campaign Finance
Established by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

- Signed into law by President George W. Bush, Oct. 29, 2002
- EAC opened its doors on April 5, 2004

Independent, Bipartisan Commission

Consists of Four commissioners

- Two commissioners from each political party
- Presidential appointees that are approved by the senate
- First four commissioners sworn into office on Dec. 13, 2003
- Three Commissioners Currently on Commission
HAVA enacted by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process.

HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the contested 2000 presidential election.

HAVA creates new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration.

HAVA Provides Funding to Help States
- Meet The New Standards
- Replace Voting Systems
- Improve Election Administration
Military & Overseas Voters – The Law

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)

• Act provides the legal framework which ensures that military and overseas voters can vote.
• U.S. citizens covered by UOCAVA are
  • Active members of the Uniformed Services
  • The Merchant Marine
  • The commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
• The above’s eligible family members and
• U.S. citizens residing outside the United States
Military & Overseas Voters – The Law

The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE)

• This amended UOCAVA and other statutes by providing greater protections for:
  • Service Members,
  • Eligible family members of service members
  • and other overseas citizens

• Two Important Provisions:
  • MOVE Act requires States to send absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters at least 45 days before federal elections.
  • Allows UOCAVA voters to submit their ballots electronically
How the States Can Use the EAC

Central Resource – National Clearing House
• Most Comprehensive Election Administration Survey Conducted - EAVS
• Best Practices

Voting Equipment Quality Assurance
• 47 of 50 States use EAC’s testing program in some way
• Helps states ensure a high quality of machines

Intermediary
• EAC regularly works with other federal entities on behalf of the election community
  • FBI, DHS, NIST
#BeReady16

- Full Suite of Election Readiness Products
  - Contingency Planning
  - Vote-by-mail & USPS Issues
  - Accessibility
  - Poll Worker Recruitment & Training
  - Voting Systems
    - Procuring new election tech
    - Maintaining old election tech
    - Integrating systems
Summits on Contemporary Issues

2016

Summit on Language Access in Elections

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