

REPORTS

REGIONAL AND ASSOCIATION NEWS

THE ELECTION CENTER

ELECTION CENTER

The Election Center is a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that since 1985 has represented election officials at the city, township, county and state levels. It is America's largest elections organization and the only one that specializes exclusively in voter registration and election administration, offering training and resources to improve the professional competence of election professionals. The Election Center partners with Auburn University (Alabama) to provide an academic program leading to the nation's highest certification for the elections profession, the Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA).

Additionally, the Election Center manages the Voting Systems Qualification program of the National Association of State Election Directors (NASD), which tests voting hardware and software to ensure they meet Federal Voting Systems Standards. The Election Center has long been a resource for the U.S. Congress and federal and state agencies and legislative bodies. It is widely quoted by the news media and was the leading resource for Congress on the Help America Vote Act. In addition, the Center has been a consultant to international governments, has trained international elections administrators, and has served as a resource for national labor organizations for election planning and security. The Election Center can be reached through R. Doug Lewis, Executive Director, at 12543 Westella, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77077, by phone at 281.293.0101, by fax at 281.293.0453, by email at electioncent@pdq.net or online at www.electioncenter.org.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS, RECORDERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS AND TREASURERS (IACREOT)

IACREOT celebrated its 32nd anniversary at its Annual Conference in Denver, CO, from July 29 to August 2, 2003. Delegates, guests, visitors and vendors were treated to a week of stimulating seminars, a sold-out trade show and evenings of social mixing and entertainment. President Maryanne Rickenbach, Recorder of Deeds, Norristown, PA, presided over a conference of more than 575 delegates and guests and an election technology trade show with 111 booths.

The Election Officials division offered a four-hour seminar on the latest developments in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).



At another session, users of four types of electronic voting equipment explained their experiences in purchasing, implementing and using new equipment. The trade show included exhibits from the Netherlands and Spain, and election officials attended from Great Britain, Indonesia, Kenya and South Africa. The final day of the conference, as is IACREOT's custom, featured an international seminar on the election process in Indonesia, presented by Dr. Chusnul Mar'yah, and in South Africa, presented by Professor Mandla Mchunu.

At the annual banquet, IACREOT's new president, Robert Parten, Election Administrator, Tarrant County, TX, was sworn in. A frequent traveler to Bosnia on behalf of IFES, he took over the reins of the organization on September 1, 2003. IACREOT's 33rd Annual Conference will be held July 15-23, 2004, in San Antonio, TX. For information, contact Tony Sirvello III, IACREOT Executive Director, at 800.890.7368 or 713.789.1887, by fax at 713.789.1897 or by email at tjstthree@msn.com, or visit us online at www.iacreot.com.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY RECORDERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS AND CLERKS (NACRC) & NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo)

NACRC, an affiliate of NACo, sponsored a joint discussion on the general level of readiness for the implementation of the Help America Vote Act in 2004 during its national conference in July in Milwaukee, WI. The spirited discussions spurred Doug Chapin, a featured panelist from electionline.org, to comment on "the pent-up frustration local election officials are feeling about state efforts to expand their control over elections post-HAVA." Other sessions featured panelists from disabled advocacy groups and the Department of Justice speaking on new voting system standards and overall accessibility as well as a roundtable on provisional voting and voter-verifiable audit trails.

NACRC will hold its annual legislative conference in conjunction with NACo in Washington, DC, from Feb. 27 to March 2, 2004. The conference will provide a good opportunity for local election officials to advocate full funding of HAVA with their congressional representatives and to observe the activities of the fledgling Election Assistance Commission. Current discussions about HAVA focus on the changing role of state and local jurisdictions, yet many election officials are beginning to consider the dynamics of an EAC with rule-making authority, indicating that 2004 may generate just as much interest in the field of election administration.

The NACRC 2004 Annual Conference will be held on July 16-20, 2004, in Phoenix, Ariz. For more information, visit www.nacrc.org or contact the NACRC offices at P.O. Box 3159, Durham, NC 27715-3159, phone 919.384.8446, fax 919.383.0035.

HAVA ELECTION REFORM BILL DOMINATES NASS MEETING AGENDA

With less than four months to go until the presidential caucuses in Iowa and New Hampshire, the clock is ticking for election administrators in the United States. Election reform dominated the 2003 summer meeting of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), held on July 25-28 in Portland, ME. The association took positions on two key election issues, both of which are related to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA):



- A resolution calling on Congress to provide for full funding of HAVA; and
- A resolution supporting the designation of the General Services Administration (GSA) as the interim agency for disbursing Title 2 funding for HAVA, until the new Election Administration Commission (EAC) is established.

In conjunction with the members of the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), the secretaries of state devoted an entire day to sessions focused on HAVA implementation in the states, funding grants and guidelines, pre-clearance issues, equipment purchasing arrangements, and more. Notably, the membership did not take formal positions on a number of issues, including a federal bill that would make Election Day a national holiday, re-enfranchisement of ex-felons, identification requirements for first-time voters and security of electronic voting systems. NASS is working with NASED and other voting technology experts to respond to concerns about electronic voting security.

Additionally, the NASS New Millennium Best Practices Report, a joint research venture between the association and Youth Vote, a coalition representing the nation's top youth outreach groups, is now available online at www.nass.org. The report outlines various state civic and political engagement programs for young people and lists top new program ideas from around the country.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (FEC)



Campaign Finance: The FEC promulgated new rules on the public financing of presidential candidates and national presidential nominating conventions during the 2004 election cycle (see www.fec.gov/pdf/nprm/public_financing/fr68n153p47385.pdf) and certified the two major political parties to receive over \$14 million for their 2004 nominating conventions. The FEC also sought comment on its enforcement procedures to determine whether internal directives or practices should be adjusted (www.fec.gov/press/20030501hearing/fr68n084p23311.pdf).

Voter Registration: The Commission reported to the U.S. Congress on the impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 during the 2001-2002 election cycle (www.fec.gov/pages/nvrareport2002/nvrareport2002.pdf). Almost 148 million individuals were registered to vote in the 45 states covered by the Act. Voter registration applications received through motor vehicle offices accounted for most applications (42.77%), followed by applications by mail (27.64%) and other methods.

Provisional Voting: The FEC completed a study on provisional voting, a process by which individuals whose eligibility to vote cannot be determined at the polls may cast a ballot, which is set aside and not counted until after eligibility has been confirmed. Under terms of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), states and local jurisdictions must offer provisional voting in elections for federal office held as of January 1, 2004.

Electoral Reform: The Election Assistance Commission was not established for months after the February 2003 deadline. In the interim, the FEC Office of Election Administration (OEA), which is to transfer to the new agency, continued to provide information to states, local jurisdictions and election equipment vendors interested in complying with HAVA requirements. This effort included updates to an FEC HAVA web page, www.fec.gov/hava/hava.htm.

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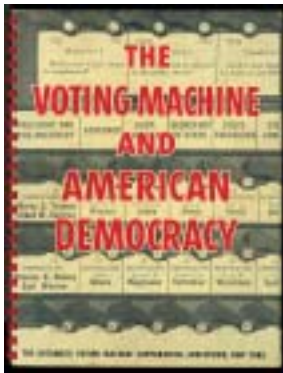
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VOTE! THE MACHINERY OF DEMOCRACY

Election Equipment Exhibit

The National Museum of American History, Behring Center



With butterfly ballots, hanging chads and a presidential election hanging in the balance, the 2000 election caused millions of Americans to question the voting process. In response to increasing public curiosity about the process, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History is scheduled to host an exhibition titled *Vote! The Machinery of Democracy* from spring 2004 through the

November 2004 election. The exhibition will highlight the evolution and progression of voting techniques and examine how Americans have historically adopted upgrades in voting technologies to ensure the fairness of the voting process. The exhibition's key message is one that every school-boy and school-girl has been taught—every vote counts. The exhibition will show how at different times Americans have tried to solve this simple, but very basic issue confronting their democracy.

The Machinery of Democracy will draw upon the museum's vast political history collection and will include new acquisitions from the 2000 election. Among the objects to be featured are a prototype 1962 Votomatic vote recorder from the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley and the infamous butterfly ballot that was used in Palm Beach



County, FL. The exhibition will also display examples of 19th century ballot boxes, voting curtains and a gear-and-lever voting machine. In addition, it will explore how the expansion, and at times contraction, of voting rights affects how Americans have voted.

The museum is located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W., and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Dec. 25. For more information, visit the museum's website at americanhistory.si.edu or call (202) 357-2700, 357-1729 (TTY), or 633-9126 (Spanish).

Text and illustrations courtesy of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

