

The Election Center

an international service association of election and voter registration officials

12543 Westella, Suite 100 Houston, TX 77077 281-293-0101 FAX: 281-293-0453 or 293-8739

Please call us at the main number if you encounter difficulty with either line or E-Mail: electioncent@pdq.net

WEBSITE: www.electioncenter.org

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Election 2004 National Task Force on Election Reform Report

Continuing the Executive Summary of the National Task Force Report on Election Reform, today we present the third installment. Please find below this message the section titled, "Election Technology Recommendations."

Tomorrow look for the third section of the Executive Summary "Redesigning Elections Recommendations." We will also include a full list of all the members of the Task Force. The full report will be available online at www.electioncenter.org.

Executive Summary

National Task Force on Election Reform

Election Technology Recommendations

Issue: Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

21. That guidelines be developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), through the EAC, for a scientifically sound, independently verifiable audit trail for direct record electronic (DRE) voting systems and that such guidelines not be restricted to contemporaneous paper replica but also include guidelines for electronic, audio, video or other media to provide verification of the integrity of recording and tabulating votes.
22. That, for DRE voting systems, guidelines be developed by NIST, through the EAC, for the contemporaneous recording of each ballot record, on a secure medium, to provide a redundant record of votes.
23. That states develop procedures to safeguard and retain any paper record receipt in the polling place to preserve secrecy of the voted ballot.

Issue: Logic and Accuracy Testing

24. That state and local election administrators develop and make available to the public written documentation describing their logic and accuracy testing procedures. These procedures should be standardized throughout the state for each voting system.
25. That the date and location of logic and accuracy testing be publicized through media releases and public web pages.
26. That all logic and accuracy testing be open to the public and further that election administrators publicize and invite all interested observers to view the public test.
27. That NIST provide testing standards and procedures by equipment type for use by local and state election administrators in conducting logic and accuracy testing.
28. That local election administrators develop internal staffing procedures to control, manage and document the logic and accuracy testing of their jurisdiction's voting equipment. (See Appendix C)

Issue: Procurement of Equipment

29. That states adopt the voluntary voting system standards issued by the Federal Election Commission and the voluntary voting system guidelines issued by the U. S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).
30. That the EAC develop and maintain a library of Requests for Proposals (RFPs), contracts, and customer complaints as a resource for purchasing jurisdictions.
31. That states are encouraged to assist in procuring voting equipment for local jurisdictions.
32. That purchasing jurisdictions carefully and thoroughly document each step of the procurement process.
33. That the acquisition process require acceptance testing, independent of the vendor, of all equipment and system components (hardware and software) as part of the procurement and contract requirements.
34. That election officials develop clear, uniform, and nondiscriminatory policies for determining the number of voting devices per polling site.

Issue: Electronic Poll Books

35. That states and local jurisdictions be encouraged to incorporate the use of electronic poll books in early voting sites and polling places.

Issue: Statewide Voter Registration Databases

36. That states work diligently toward implementation of the statewide voter registration database required in HAVA.
37. That states work to develop connectivity between statewide systems to track duplicate registrations throughout the country.