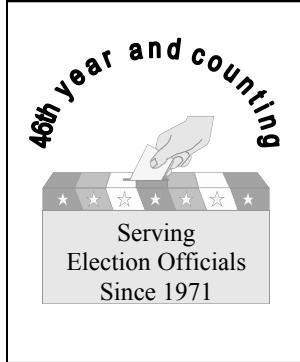


ELECTION ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

• The Newsletter of Record for Election Officials

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Washington Focus: The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) will hold a standards board meeting on April 27-28, 2017, in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting will run from 8:30 am until 5:00 pm on April 27, with an executive board session at 7:30 pm, and from 8:00 am until 11:00 am on April 28. The event will be held at the Westin Riverwalk, 420 West Market Street. The 110-member standards board assists the EAC in carrying out its mandates required by the Help America Vote Act. The board consists of fifty-five election officials selected by the chief election official in each state and fifty-five local election officials. More information is available at www.eac.gov.

ELECTION OFFICIALS TESTIFY, EAC COMMISSIONERS QUESTION DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ABOUT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGNATION

On April 4, 2017, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) held a public hearing on the designation of elections as critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Numerous state and local election officials, as well as representatives of the Department of Homeland Security, testified at the hearing, which was designed to allow those most impacted by the DHS critical designation to offer ideas and ask questions.

Connecticut Secretary of State and National Association of Secretaries (NASS) of State President Denise Merrill testified during the first panel. She said that secretaries of state strongly oppose the designation and adopted a resolution to voice their opposition. She asked what the designation means for election officials and wondered how this order will actually work. The order comes without technical support, funding, and additional help for states that do not wish for additional help. The challenge for secretaries of state is to make sure the DHS action does not create more problems than it solves. Merrill shared findings from the 2016 election compiled by NASS about the security of elections. See *Election Administration Reports*, March 27, Vol. 47, No. 5).

Secretary Merrill described the NASS resolution opposing the infrastructure designation and how secretaries of state have asked the president to rescind the designation. There is bipartisan

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