

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

• The Newsletter of Record for Election Officials

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Washington Focus: The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) held a meeting of the Standards Board April 26-28, 2017, in San Antonio, Texas. The agenda included reports and updates about EAC communications, agency operations, clearinghouse, and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC). Panels focused on cybersecurity and on the United States Postal Service. Committee meetings were also held and committee reports shared before the discussion and vote on the TGDC recommendations. More information about the meeting is available at www.eac.gov.

STATES TAKE VARIED APPROACHES TO HANDLING INACTIVE VOTERS, MAINTAINING VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS

State election officials have taken different approaches to handling inactive voters and maintaining voters registration lists in response to issues raised during the 2016 presidential election cycle. Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson is extending the time voters can remain on the inactive list while secretaries of state in Indiana and West Virginia have recently completed efforts to clean-up voter lists by large purges of inactive voters or outdated voter records.

At a press conference on April 11, 2017, Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson announced an initiative to expand voter access to thousands of Oregon residents. Through his executive action, the voting rights of more than 60,000 residents who were classified as “inactive” and would not have received a ballot are being secured.

In Oregon, voters who do not vote or update their registration information for a five-year period are considered inactive. A press release about the Secretary Richardson’s action highlights the reasons voters may not vote for this period of time including military deployment, college, and dissatisfaction with the choice of candidates. Through a cross checking process with the Department of Motor Vehicles and elections division records, the secretary of state’s office estimates that 30,000 residents that were moved to the inactive status will be reinstated.

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