The U.S. Election Assistance Commission
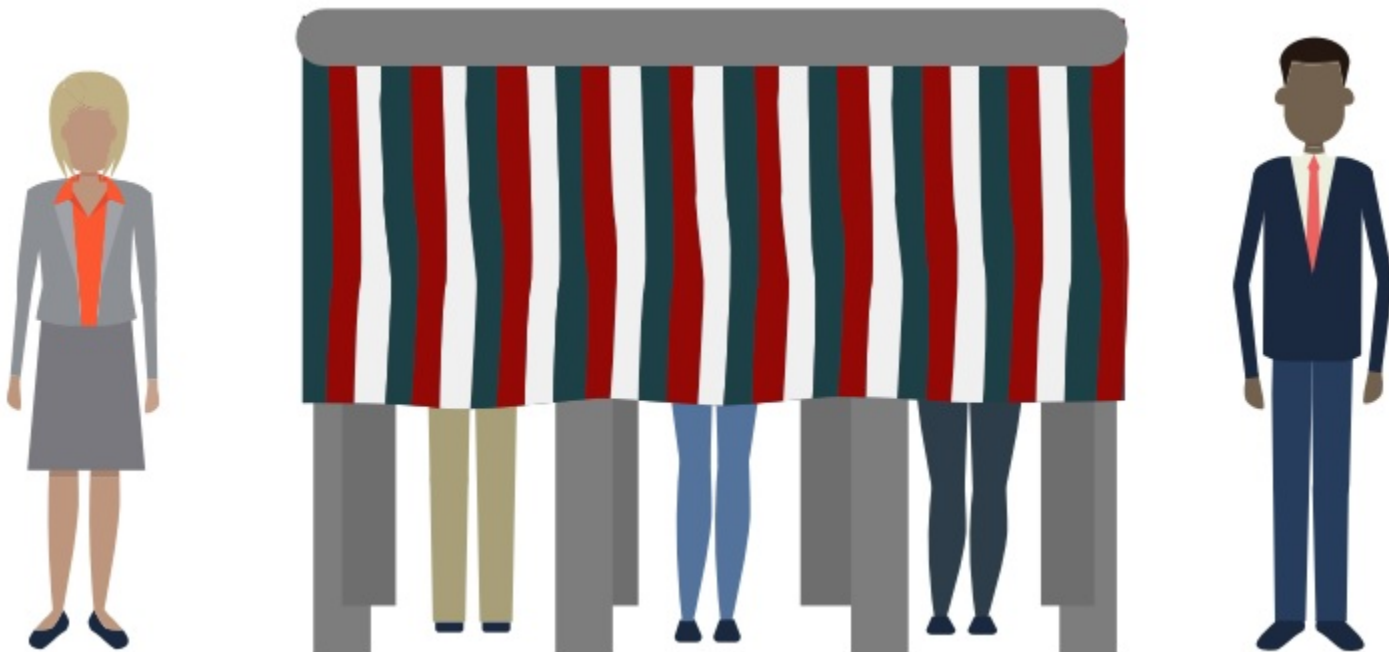
Thomas Hicks, Commissioner

Association of European Election Officials
September 10, 2020

Our Mission

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission helps election officials improve the administration of elections and helps Americans participate in the voting process.
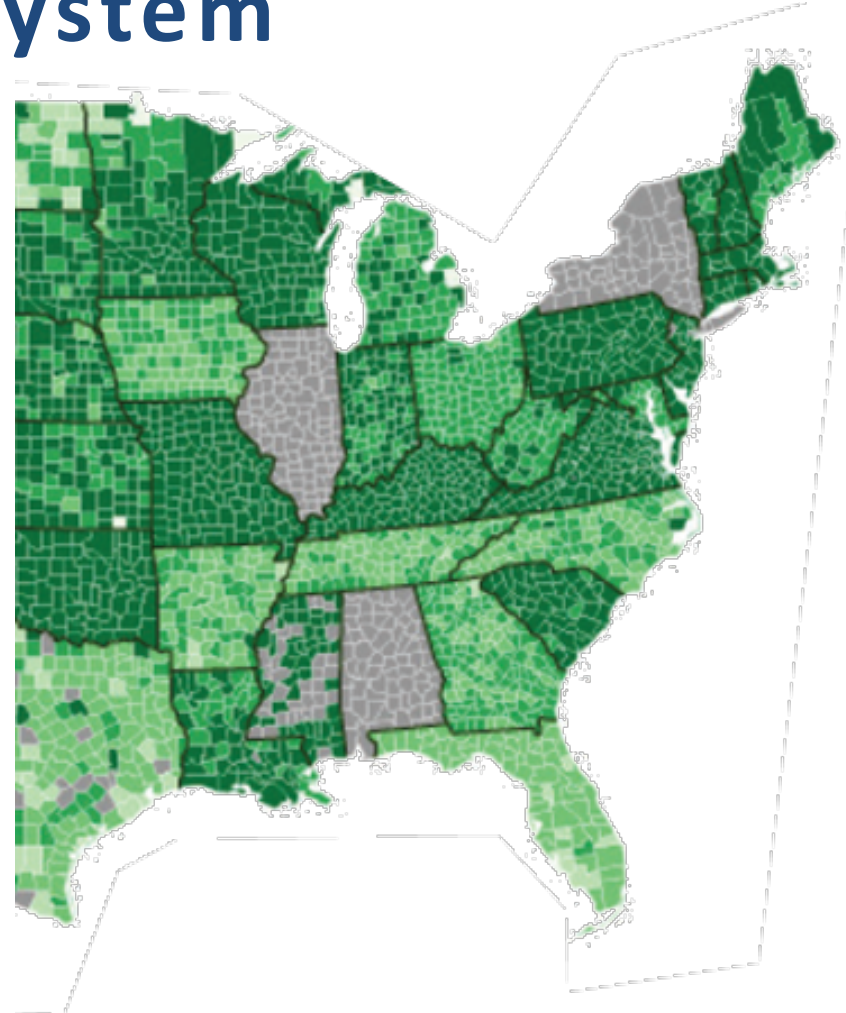
About the EAC

- Distributes, administers and audits the use of HAVA funds – Security, COVID

- Adopts voluntary voting system guidelines, certify voting systems and accredit testing laboratories

- Develop guidance to meet HAVA requirements

- Serve as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration

- Maintains the National Mail Voter Registration Form

The American Election Administration System

- Decentralized
  - States and local jurisdictions run elections - 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 – resource for election officials

- Bipartisan Commission established by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)
- Independent federal agency

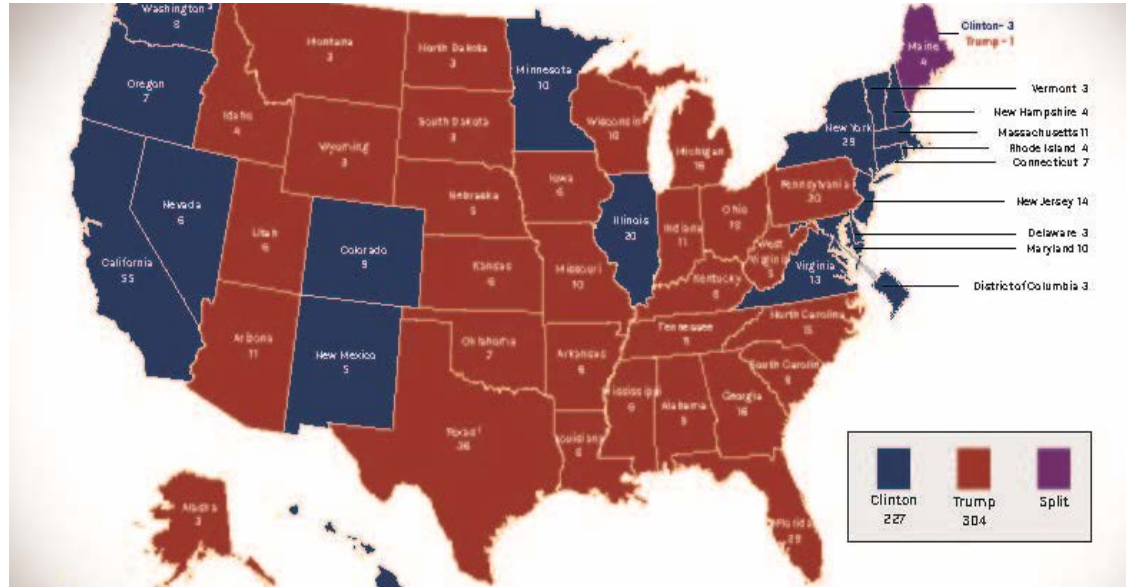**Federal Election Commission – regulator of election activity**

- Candidate behavior
- Campaign finance

As well as other agencies like:
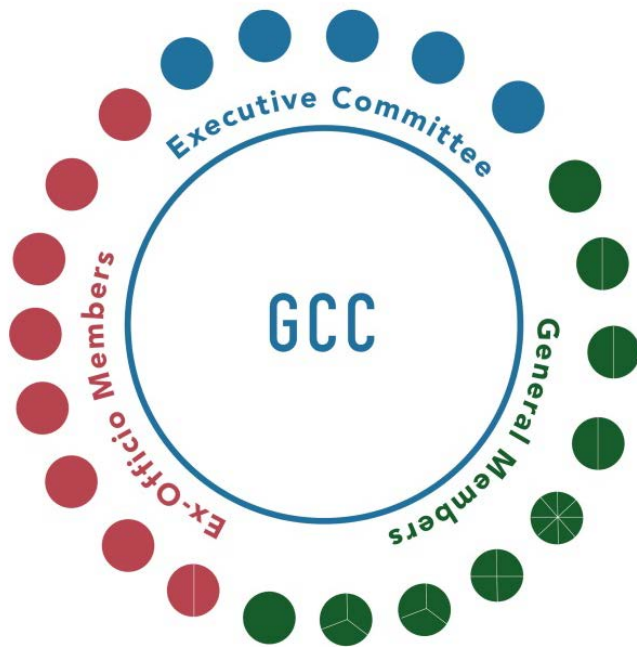**DHS CISA, FVAP, DOJ, Census Bureau, Postal Service**
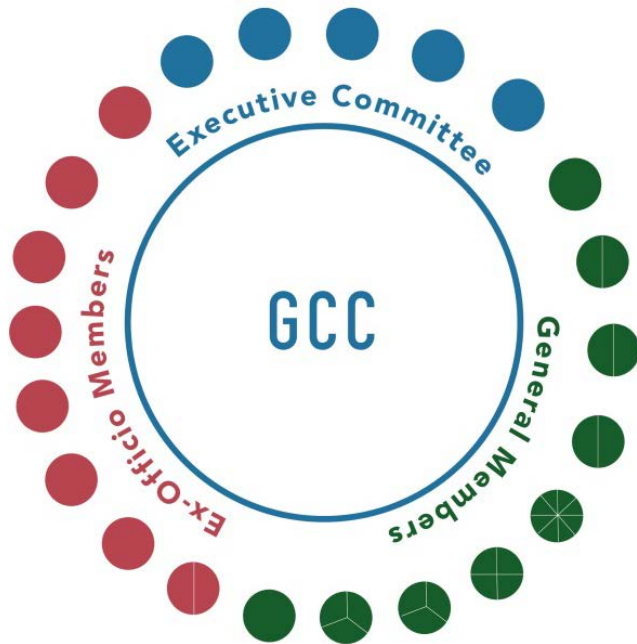
2016 Election Overview

	Popular vote	Electoral Votes (270)
Clinton	48.1%	227
Trump	46.09 %	304

Critical Infrastructure

- January 2017, DHS designated U.S. election systems as part of the nation's critical infrastructure

- Designation given to "systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters"

GCC and SCC

- Government Coordinating Council (GCC)
  - enables interagency and intergovernmental coordination
  - comprises representatives across various levels of government (Federal and State, local, tribal and territorial)
  - EAC plays a leading role

- Sector Coordinating Council (SCC)
  - private sector manufacturer counterpart to the GCC

Elections Infrastructure

GCC/SCC Joint COVID Working Group

- Documents provide guidance for state, local, tribal, and territorial election officials on how to administer and secure election infrastructure in light of the COVID-19 epidemic

- All products were developed in coordination with election officials, non-profits, and the private sector, and were approved by the executive committees of the GCC and SCC.

COVID-19 Working Group Resources

Documents include:

Absentee and Vote by Mail
- Vote By Mail/Absentee Voting Timeline
- The Importance of Accurate Voter Data When Expanding Absentee or Mail Ballot Voting
- Helping Voters to Request a Mail-in Ballot
- Managing an Increase in Outbound Ballots
- The Inbound Ballot Process
- Election Education and Outreach for Increased Absentee or Mail Voting
- Electronic Ballot Delivery and Marking
- Ballot Drop Boxes
- Signature Verification and Cure Process

In-Person Voting
- Finding Voting Locations and Poll Workers
- Considerations for Modifying the Scale of In-Person Voting
- Health and Safety at the Polling Place
- Safeguarding Staff and Work Environment from COVID-19

Contact Us

Commissioner

Thomas Hicks

(301) 960-1310

thicks@eac.gov

@RedBlue2024