The U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Looking Ahead in 2006

March 2006

Overview

- 2005 was a busy year
- Voluntary Voting System Guidelines approved Dec. 13, 2005
- Effective in 2007
- More work ahead in 2006 for TGDC, NIST and EAC
  - Work on future iterations already underway
  - Certification program top priority

Overview

- We've all come a long way in a short amount of time

- As a former TGDC member and Secretary of State, I know firsthand how hard you've worked

- Thank you Dr. Hratch Semerjian and Dr. William Jeffrey for your leadership

Overview

- VVSG address increasingly complex voting system technology and how it impacts
  - Security
  - Usability
  - Accessibility
- Work on future iterations of VVSG is ongoing
  - Must keep pace with technology
  - Must address security issues

VVSG -- Moving Forward

- Future iterations
  - Security – software & wireless
  - VVPAT
  - Test suites
  - More forms of independent verification

VVSG -- Moving Forward

- Modular updates not practical
    - Multiple iterations may create confusion
    - Based on feedback from stakeholders
    - Practical & fiscal considerations-publishing costs, board review & approval
- Larger updates, less frequent
- Technical amendments
- Certification program

TGDC's Role

- Increased involvement

- Integrate efforts of Standards Board and Board of Advisors

- EAC staff will participate in subgroup teleconferences

- Looking to TGDC for information about systems that have no standards

- Congress wants to know: How do we better serve military and overseas voters?

EAC Certification

- Getting certification program up and running a top priority

- Process must be transparent – no stumbles out of the starting gate

- EAC will attend pre-assessments for voting system test labs

Beyond the VVSG

- VVSG only half of the equation

- Voting is a human exercise

- Training and support must accompany VVSG

  - Election Management Guidelines

- Tom will discuss other EAC research currently underway

Conclusion

- We've already proven that working together, we can accomplish anything
- 2006 will be a pivotal year for all of us
- The focus will shift to the government's first voting system certification program
- Election reform will always be an ongoing process
- Important to keep pace with voting system technology