



From: Public Records <publicrecords@sos.wa.gov>
Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 at 2:56 PM
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: RE: Public Records Request (WA-SOS-20-2118)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello,

Another set of records is attached for your request.

Regards,

Brenda Galarza

Records/Public Disclosure Officer
PO Box 40224 | Olympia, WA 98504-0224
360-704-5220 Phone | 360-704-7830 Fax
brenda.galarza@sos.wa.gov
publicrecords@sos.wa.gov



From: Neary, Mark <mark.neary@sos.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:26 PM EDT
To: Neary, Mark <mark.neary@sos.wa.gov>
Subject: @11:30 AM- NASS Weekly Elections Committee Call - 9/17/2020
Attachment(s): "NASS Weekly Elections Committee Call - 9/17/2020 "

NASS Weekly Elections Committee Call - 9/17/2020
Thu, Sep 17, 2020 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (EDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/730686149>

This meeting is locked with a password: USPS2020

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311)

Access Code: 730-686-149

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Dear NASS Elections Committee, IT Directors and Communications Directors:

NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder at 2:30 PM ET– with US Postmaster General DeJoy.

Don't forget our call tomorrow at 2:30PM ET. Calendar invite is attached. It will be best if you login in to GoToMeeting as opposed to calling in, so we can see who is participating and you can be acknowledged utilizing the chat feature. NASED will be joining us for this call to ensure that all chief state election officials are included.

Subject: NASS Weekly Elections Committee Call - 9/17/2020

Location: GoToMeeting

Start: Thursday, September 17, 2020 2:30 PM EDT

End: Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:30 PM EDT

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: None

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Dodd, Stacy <sdodd@sso.org>

NASS Weekly Elections Committee Call - 9/17/2020

Thu, Sep 17, 2020 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (EDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

From: Zabel, Kylee <kylee.zabel@sos.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 4:26 PM EDT
To: Wyman, Kim (Office) <Kim@sos.wa.gov>; Neary, Mark <mark.neary@sos.wa.gov>; Augino, Lori <lori.augino@sos.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: NASS Statement on Virtual Elections Committee Meeting with Postmaster

FYI

Kylee Zabel

Communications Director

416 Sid Snyder Ave. SE

Legislative Building - Olympia, WA.

Office: (360) 902-4140 | Cell: (360) 742-4321



Secretary of State

Tim Wyman



From: Maria Benson [mailto:mbenson@sso.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Maria Benson
Subject: NASS Statement on Virtual Elections Committee Meeting with Postmaster



NASS

National Association
of Secretaries of State

**NASS Statement on Virtual Elections Committee Meeting
with USPS Postmaster General**

For Immediate Release

Sept. 17, 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As a follow-up to the [August 27 call](#), the United States Postal Service (USPS) Postmaster General Louis DeJoy joined this afternoon's weekly National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) [Elections Committee](#) virtual meeting. The members of the National Association of State Election Directors ([NASED](#)) were also invited to participate in the meeting, to ensure all chief state election officials were included.

During the one hour meeting, states discussed numerous items with Postmaster DeJoy including: USPS operational readiness and staffing levels, election mail postmarking and delivery priority, natural disaster impacts, as well as emphasizing the importance of gathering state feedback on future USPS elections information due to varying election laws and procedures throughout the nation.

"Chief Election Officials across the country are diligently working to ensure a smooth general election by educating voters on their respective voting by mail procedures and deadlines. Being able to meet as a group with Postmaster DeJoy allows us to impress upon him the finer details and importance of this," said Maggie Toulouse Oliver, NASS President and New Mexico Secretary of State. "Elections are a team effort, and as we approach November I hope for continued productive conversations with USPS around elections."

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Media Contact:

Maria Benson, Director of Communications

mbenson@sso.org | 202-624-3528 | www.nass.org

About NASS:

Founded in 1904, NASS is the oldest, nonpartisan professional organization of public officials in the U.S. Membership is open to the 50 states and all U.S. territories. NASS serves as a medium for the exchange of information between states and fosters cooperation in the development of public

policy.



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From: Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 5:09 PM EDT
To: Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>
CC: Dodd, Stacy <sdodd@sso.org>; Maria Benson <mbenson@sso.org>; Lindsey Forson <lforson@sso.org>; Milhofer, John <jmilhofer@sso.org>
Subject: NASS Elections Committee: Election Call Invite for 9/24, Notes from 9/17 Call, USPS Follow Up, CISA Call Invitation 9/25, NASS November 2020 Election FAQs, Election Security Legislation Passes House, NASS Cybersecurity Co-Chairs OP-ED
Attachment(s): "NASS Weekly Elections Committee Call - 9/24/2020", "notes-elections-091720.docx", "CISA/EIS Election Partner Update Call", "FAQs-election-2020-draft.docx", "summary-hr4990-sept20.docx"

Dear NASS Elections Committee, Comms Directors and IT Directors:

NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder for 9/24 at 2:30PM ET – Calendar Invite Attached

Attached you will find the call reminder for next Thursday. We do not have any invited guests/participants, so this will be an opportunity to return to questions and info sharing between colleagues!

Call Notes from Elections Committee Call Yesterday (9/17) with US PMG

Attached you will find the notes from the call yesterday with the PMG.

Follow Up on USPS and Some Radio Ads

We learned this morning that there may be some USPS radio ads about election mail out there. We reached out to our USPS contacts on the call yesterday to find out what was happening. USPS halted all election mail media on Monday, Sept 14 so as to address questions and concerns from state election officials. However a couple of radio stations in OR and MA didn't get the memo, so USPS Brand Marketing is reaching out directly to those stations to stop running the ads. If you hear any radio ads in your area, please let us know so we can forward that info to USPS. It won't go on long, because the stations aren't getting paid for those ads ☺

Reminder of CISA Election Partner Update Call (Unclassified Threat Assessment) on Friday, September 25 at 2:30PM ET– Calendar Invite Attached

Attached is a calendar invite/reminder for the CISA update call for next Friday. This is the second in a series of calls hosted by CISA to provide the most recent threat info (unclassified) and briefings from other federal agencies (FBI, EAC, CDC, etc.)

NASS Draft FAQs on the November 2020 Election – PLEASE REVIEW

NASS staff has developed a FAQ document for the most common questions we see/hear around the November 2020 General Election. We hope it is broad enough to cover every state, and we link to canivote.org for specific state info on the topic, along with any of our relevant [state-by-state research](#), or [NCSL state election law research](#). We realize that on some issues (like ballot return deadlines) the landscape is ever-changing, but we are tracking to keep up. We don't want to repeat mistakes made by other organizations by providing misinformation, so we are asking you to do a review (it's quick!) and provide me any feedback. We are also hoping that a release of this document will help enforce our #TrustedInfo2020 campaign by directing voters to you at trusted sources of election information. **Please review and comment COB on Friday, September 25.**

House Passes HR 4990 The Election Technology Research Act of 2020

Earlier this week, the House passed, under a suspension of the rules by unanimous consent, [HR 4990](#) The Election Technology Research Act of 2020. This bipartisan bill was first introduced in November 2019 and because of its bipartisan nature we shared a summary with you at the time. Attached you will find an updated summary, with a few changes between the version that was introduced and the version that passed this week.

As we noted last year when the bill was introduced, this legislation changes the definition of a voting system to include "any other paper or electronic technologies or processes for collecting, storing, or transmitting personal information of voters for use in the administration of elections for Federal office including, electronic poll books; voter registration databases and systems, including online interfaces; systems for carrying out post-election auditing; and chain-of-custody procedures." It is also not clear to me what the distinction will be between the Centers for Excellence in Election Systems and the Elections Systems Research Centers.

We have not seen any Senate companion legislation for this bill.

NASS Cybersecurity Co-Chairs Pen Op-Ed for StateScoop on Election Cybersecurity

NASS Cybersecurity Committee Co-Chairs, Hon. Maggie Toulouse Oliver (NM) and Hon. Paul Pate (IA) wrote a great op-ed for StateScoop on [Election Cybersecurity](#).

Have a nice weekend.

Leslie D. Reynolds
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Subject: CISA/EIS Election Partner Update Call
Location: 800-926-5230

Start: Friday, September 25, 2020 2:30 PM EDT
End: Friday, September 25, 2020 3:30 PM EDT
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: None

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: micjax@amazon.com <micjax@amazon.com>; leozh@amazon.com <leozh@amazon.com>; kagansky@amazon.com <kagansky@amazon.com>; awsmikek@amazon.com <awsmikek@amazon.com>; judneer@amazon.com <judneer@amazon.com>; siegeljo@amazon.com <siegeljo@amazon.com>; mlsouth@amazon.com <mlsouth@amazon.com>; awstonya@amazon.com <awstonya@amazon.com>; vbborras@amazon.com <vbborras@amazon.com>; mhouse@ap.org <mhouse@ap.org>; drehill@ap.org <drehill@ap.org>; venkat@arikkan.com <venkat@arikkan.com>; solsen@ballottrax.com <solsen@ballottrax.com>; rick.becerra@bluecrestinc.com <rick.becerra@bluecrestinc.com>; carl.amacker@bluecrestinc.com <carl.amacker@bluecrestinc.com>; george@bpro.com <george@bpro.com>; brandon@bpro.com <brandon@bpro.com>; kevin@bpro.com <kevin@bpro.com>; joe@bpro.com <joe@bpro.com>; jvarner@cantongroup.com <jvarner@cantongroup.com>; apernasilice@cantongroup.com <apernasilice@cantongroup.com>; julie@chavesconsulting.com <julie@chavesconsulting.com>; richard@chavesconsulting.com <richard@chavesconsulting.com>; 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Durkin, John <john.durkin@hq.dhs.gov>; Ryan, William J <William.J.Ryan@HQ.DHS.GOV>; Robinson, Donald <Donald.Robinson@cisa.dhs.gov>; Joves, Alexander <alexander.joves@HQ.DHS.GOV>; Nicholas, Steven <steven.nicholas@cisa.dhs.gov>; Kirk, Phil <Phil.Kirk@cisa.dhs.gov>; Graff, Shawn <shawn.graff@hq.dhs.gov>; Calvillo, Frank <frank.calvillo@HQ.DHS.GOV>; Massey, Patrick <Patrick.Massey@cisa.dhs.gov>; noah@praetzconsulting.com <noah@praetzconsulting.com>; rmacias@lafayettegroup.com <rmacias@lafayettegroup.com>; mcrane@lafayettegroup.com <mcrane@lafayettegroup.com>; jennifer@electionsgroup.com <jennifer@electionsgroup.com>; Brown, Keisha <keisha.brown@cisa.dhs.gov>; Cable, Jack <jack.cable@cisa.dhs.gov>; DaRosa, Antonio <Antonio.Darosa@cisa.dhs.gov>; Dragseth, John <John.Dragseth@cisa.dhs.gov>; GARCIA-CAMARGO, ISABELLA <isabella.garcia-camargo@cisa.dhs.gov>; GRIFFIN, KYLE (CTR) <kyle.griffin@associates.cisa.dhs.gov>; Horbal, Erin C <erin.horbal@cisa.dhs.gov>; Josiah, Chad <Chad.Josiah@cisa.dhs.gov>; LOWARY, PIERCE <pierce.lowary@cisa.dhs.gov>; McKinnis, Seth <seth.mckinnis@cisa.dhs.gov>; MOSLEY, LINDSEY <lindsey.mosley@cisa.dhs.gov>; Quinn, Cameron <cameron.quinn@hq.dhs.gov>; RAMASWAMI, ASHWIN <ashwin.ramaswami@cisa.dhs.gov>; Schaul, Robert <Robert.Schaul@cisa.dhs.gov>; Scully, Brian <brian.scully1@cisa.dhs.gov>; Sendek, Sara <Sara.Sendek@cisa.dhs.gov>; Stafford, John <John.Stafford@cisa.dhs.gov>; Wetzel, Scott <Scott.Wetzel@cisa.dhs.gov>; Zaheer, Alex <alex.zaheer@cisa.dhs.gov>; kateri.gill@cisecurity.org <kateri.gill@cisecurity.org>; ben.spear@cisecurity.org <ben.spear@cisecurity.org>; Wales, Alexis <Alexis.Wales@cisa.dhs.gov>; Roebuck, Jermaine <Jermaine.Roebuck@cisa.dhs.gov>; Rabinovitz, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Rabinovitz@cisa.dhs.gov>; shelbylb@dni.gov <shelbylb@dni.gov>; cwkaizer@fbi.gov <cwkaizer@fbi.gov>; Parks, Kyle <Kyle.Parks@cisa.dhs.gov>; Wright, Christopher <christopher.wright@hq.dhs.gov>; Wright, Michelle I <Michelle.I.Wright@hq.dhs.gov>; mspolidoro@uspsoig.gov <mspolidoro@uspsoig.gov>; rparker@uspsoig.gov <rparker@uspsoig.gov>; mwu@uspsoig.gov <mwu@uspsoig.gov>; arcohen@fbi.gov <arcohen@fbi.gov>; jlhwitt@fbi.gov <jlhwitt@fbi.gov>; cjsanders@fbi.gov <cjsanders@fbi.gov>; sharon.pino@state.nm.us <sharon.pino@state.nm.us>; Rucker, Jillian <Jillian.Rucker@cisa.dhs.gov>

Optional Attendees: Brandon Balthrop <bbalthrop@lafayettegroup.com>; Tom Ferguson <tferguson@gocivix.com>; Keith Ingram <KIngram@sos.texas.gov>; Condos, Jim <Jim.Condos@vermont.gov>; Cavazos, Noe <Noe.Cavazos@cisa.dhs.gov>; Richeson, Jonathan <Jonathan.Richeson@cisa.dhs.gov>; Adams-Simmons, Barrett <Amanda.Adams-Simmons@cisa.dhs.gov>; Tim Macking <tim.macking@scytll.com>; jesse.zoldak@clearballot.com <jesse.zoldak@clearballot.com>; solsen@i3logix.com <solsen@i3logix.com>; Bernie Hirsch <bdh@hirschinc.com>; Edwin Smith <edwin.smith@smartmatic.us>; David Tackett <dtackett@wvsos.com>; davis.schirmer@clearballot.com <davis.schirmer@clearballot.com>; Watters, Ronald <Ronald.Watters@cisa.dhs.gov>; Jones, Chass <Chass.Jones@cisa.dhs.gov>; Katy Williams <katy.williams@scytll.com>; Winn, Michael (CCO) <Michael.Winn@cco.hctx.net>; Mecum, Seth <Seth.Mecum@cisa.dhs.gov>; Teska, David <David.Teska@cisa.dhs.gov>;

WA-SOS-20-2118-B-000008

Judge, Christopher <Christopher.Judge@cisa.dhs.gov>; Hollingsead, Greg <Greg.Hollingsead@cisa.dhs.gov>;
jsheiw@douglascountyks.org <jsheiw@douglascountyks.org>

Attachment(s): "image001.png"

Election Partners,

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Election Security Initiative will host recurring Election Infrastructure Security (EIS) Election Partner Update calls leading up to the November General Election to provide updates and to maintain open lines of communication with our election partners. The details are as follows:

SUBJECT: CISA/EIS Election Partner Update Calls

PURPOSE: To provide updates and maintain lines of communication with our election partners.

DATE: Friday 9/25

TIME: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EDT (Extent of collective updates and questions will dictate duration of call up to 1 hour.)

DIAL-IN: 800-926-5230

AGENDA: Standing updates on each call from CISA/ESI, EAC, ODNI, FBI, I&A Intel, EI-ISAC, and others as requested. Agenda will be attached prior to the meeting.

NOTES: All lines will be placed on mute. Press 66 to UNMUTE and press 63 to MUTE.

Please feel free to share this invitation among your election related networks and colleagues. If you have any questions, please contact us at EISSA@cisa.dhs.gov.

Respectfully,

EI SSA

EI SSA/ESI, National Risk Management Center
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Email: EISSA@CISA.DHS.GOV





1. How do I register to vote or find out if I'm currently registered?

In all states except North Dakota, you need to be registered to vote in order to participate in an upcoming election. Eligibility requirements vary by state, but generally you must be a U.S. citizen who will be at least 18 years old by Election Day and must meet state residency requirements. You can register to vote in person, by mail, and in many states online. If you are not already registered or you need to update your registration, make sure to do so by your state's [deadline](#). [Several states](#) also allow voters to register on Election Day.

If you are already registered to vote, please check to make sure your voter registration information is current and accurate, especially if you have recently moved or changed your name.

For information on the voter registration process in each state, and to find out if you are already registered visit canivote.org.

2. What impact will COVID-19 have on in-person voting?

State and local election officials are working hard to ensure the health and safety of voters and poll workers during in-person voting. While specific measures vary by jurisdiction, common precautions include providing poll workers with face coverings and gloves; regularly wiping down surfaces with disinfectant; offering hand sanitizer to voters; providing single use styluses or pens; and putting up signs and/or marking the floor to indicate proper social distancing.

Voting locations may change or may be combined into larger facilities in an effort to accommodate social distancing, and reduce lines. In a number of states, professional sports arenas and stadiums, convention centers and other large facilities have volunteered to serve as voting locations for the general election. Of course, there may still be lines during early voting and on Election Day, because of new social distancing and safety precautions. We urge voters to be patient and confident that if you are in line at the close of polls on Election Day, you will still be able to cast a ballot. Verify your polling location by visiting canivote.org before you go vote in case your site has changed.

3. What is early voting and how do I vote early?

Many states allow people to vote in-person, prior to Election Day without having to provide a reason or excuse. In some states early voting may involve casting a ballot at the local election office, while in others you may be voting at a library, community center, or other location in a manner similar to voting at the polling place on Election Day.

For information on how to vote early in each state, visit canivote.org.

For an overview of early voting timeframes/deadlines in each state, see the NASS [early and absentee voting dates page](#).

For an overview of state laws on early voting, see the National Conference of State Legislatures' [early voting page](#).

4. What is the difference between absentee voting and mail voting?

Absentee voting provides an alternative to voting at the polling place on Election Day. Generally, there are two forms of absentee voting: absentee voting by mail and absentee voting in-person.

Some states require voters to designate a specific reason for voting absentee. Examples include a planned absence from the county on Election Day, an illness or disability, caregiver responsibilities, etc. Several states that require an excuse to vote absentee have announced concerns about COVID-19 will be considered a valid reason to vote absentee by mail in the upcoming general election.

Other states allow people to vote absentee (either by-mail or in-person) without having to provide an excuse.

In most states, a voter must submit a request in order to receive a ballot by mail. However, some states are sending mail ballot request forms to all voters for the 2020 general election due to COVID-19.

There are several states that automatically mail a ballot to all registered voters, including some that are doing so for the 2020 general election due to COVID-19.

For an overview of state absentee/mail voting dates and deadlines, see the NASS [early and absentee voting dates page](#).

For an overview of state laws on absentee/mail voting, see the [National Conference of State Legislatures voting outside the polling place page](#).

5. How do I vote by mail?

As noted in FAQ #4, most states require voters to request a mail ballot, while several states automatically send a ballot to all registered voters. Specific instructions will be included with the mail ballot. Each state has specific procedures for voting and returning mail ballots, along with verification methods before processing these ballots. Most states require mail ballots to be returned by the close of polls on Election Day, either by mail or in-person at a ballot drop-box, local election office or other designated location. However, some states allow additional time for mail absentee ballots to arrive, provided the ballot is postmarked by Election Day.

Voters should request and return their mail ballot **as soon as possible** in order to ensure it arrives in time to be counted.

It is very important to follow the instructions for how to fill out the ballot and include any signature or identification requirements. If you make a mistake and need to request a new ballot, you will need to contact your local election office immediately to ensure you are able to receive and return the ballot in time for the ballot to be counted.

Voters in many states and localities can track the status of their mail ballot through an online tracking system. If your jurisdiction does not have a ballot tracking system, you should contact your local election official to find out if your ballot was received and what to do if it was not.

For information on how to vote by mail in each state visit canivote.org.

For information on U.S. Postal Service handling of mail ballots see the [USPS election mail page](#).

6. How do states process mail ballots?

Mail ballot processing methods and timelines vary by state, according to state laws. Some states allow election officials to begin some form of processing mail ballots prior to Election Day. This may include signature verification procedures, opening the envelopes to prepare the ballots for counting, or scanning the ballots, etc. One thing that is constant across the states is the results of mail ballot counting will not be released until after the polls close on Election Day.

For an overview of state laws on mail ballot processing see the National Conference of State Legislatures' [voting outside the polling place page](#).

For information on when states begin processing absentee ballots, see the National Conference of State Legislatures' [page on when absentee/mail ballot processing and counting can begin](#).

7. How are election results compiled and when will they be available for the November 3, 2020 election?

Generally, local jurisdictions in each state report unofficial/preliminary election results to state election officials after the polls close on Election Day. Many states make these early unofficial results available through an Election Night Reporting (ENR) website. However, while those results can be a reliable indicator of the winner in a particular race, it is important to remember those results are unofficial and often incomplete.

While most states will have unofficial reporting on election night for voters who cast a ballot in-person on Election Day, it is also important to remember states have different mail ballot deadlines; some require all ballots to be received by Election Day, others require they be postmarked by Election Day and arrive within a specified timeframe after the election. With the expected increase in mail voting for the November 3, 2020 election coupled with the number of states that cannot begin processing mail ballots until Election Day, it will likely take election officials longer than usual to process and count those ballots. This is a normal process and not indicative of malicious activity.

Election results are not official until they are canvassed (reviewed by state and local election officials) and certified by the relevant election officials. Generally, each local jurisdiction canvasses and certifies results from that jurisdiction on or by a certain date following the election. For statewide and federal races, the certified results from all of the local jurisdictions are then canvassed and certified by state officials (often a State Canvassing Board) on or by a certain date. This process is standard and occurs for every election.

For more information on the canvassing and certification process, see the NASS resource on [state election canvassing timeframes](#).

8. How do I find voting information I can trust?

Voters often receive election information through a variety of non-official, third-party sources, including websites, social media, emails, text messages, automated calls and mailings. Whether intentional or unintentional, sometimes information may be incorrect, incomplete or misleading. Voters should instead rely on their local and state election officials as their trusted sources for election information. You can easily go to canivote.org, which links directly to the official websites for state election officials and includes a roster of local election officials across the country. Also, follow the verified social media pages of your state and local election officials.

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered some [changes to election processes](#) in certain states and jurisdictions. The unpredictable nature of the pandemic environment makes it all the more critical to go straight to the official source for your election information. Your state and local election officials are the most reliable source for timely and accurate election information.

9. What is #TrustedInfo2020?

In November 2019, NASS launched #TrustedInfo2020—an education effort to promote election officials as the trusted sources of election information. By driving voters directly to election officials' websites and social media pages, we ensure voters are getting accurate and up-to-date election information and cut down on the misinformation and disinformation that can surround elections. #TrustedInfo2020 aims to highlight state and local election officials as the credible, verified sources for election information.

The nation's Secretaries of State, 40 of whom serve as their state's chief election official, along with other state and local election officials are continuously working to inform Americans about the elections process, including voter registration, state election laws, voting and much more.

10. How are election officials protecting the integrity of the election and how can I help?

State and local election officials take seriously their role as guardians of democracy. Although election laws and practices vary greatly by state, one constant across the U.S. is that every voter has the right to cast their vote in each election for which they are eligible. Individuals are prohibited by law from casting more than one ballot in any election, no matter what method of voting the voter utilizes.

States and localities have also implemented a variety of measures to protect elections from cyber and physical security threats as well as other threats to their integrity. Examples include implementing cybersecurity measures such as multi-factor authentication, upgrading election equipment and software, establishing chain of custody protocols for ballot security, implementing signature verification, and instituting physical security measures such as surveillance of storage locations and ballot drop boxes.

Election officials regularly share information about the measures they are implementing to protect elections. Further, election officials provide transparency through practices such as allowing the public to observe pre-election testing of election technology and the canvass of election results. Visit the websites of your state and local election officials to learn more about security protocols specific to your location and its election processes and about opportunities for public observation.

Individual voters can help protect the integrity of elections by getting their election information from state and local election officials and carefully following instructions for registering to vote and voting. The most important thing voters can do is participate in the election. If you'd like to do more, [apply to serve as a poll worker](#) or temporary election worker – our elections rely on this temporary work force to run smoothly.

11. What does a poll worker do and how do I volunteer?

Poll workers help carry out the election by performing a variety of duties at the polling place. This may include setting up the polling place, welcoming and checking in voters, issuing ballots, monitoring voting equipment, closing the polling place and processing initial results to be sent to the local elections office.

In states where mail balloting is prevalent, temporary election workers are often hired to help to process mail ballots.

Poll and election workers are generally hired at the local level. Eligibility requirements, compensation, training requirements, and specific duties vary among jurisdictions.

For information on becoming a poll worker in your state visit canivote.org.

Subject: NASS Weekly Elections Committee Call - 9/24/2020

Location: GoToMeeting

Start: Thursday, September 24, 2020 2:30 PM EDT

End: Thursday, September 24, 2020 3:30 PM EDT

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: None

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Reynolds, Leslie <reynolds@sso.org>; Milhofer, John <jmilhofer@sso.org>; Maria Benson <mbenson@sso.org>; Lindsey Forson <lforson@sso.org>

NASS Weekly Elections Committee Call - 9/24/2020

Thu, Sep 24, 2020 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (EDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

NASS Elections Committee Conference Call

September 17, 2020

Call began at 2:30PM ET

NASS Executive Director Leslie Reynolds announced the call was not for the press and if any press members were on the call they must log off. Sec. LaRose welcomed members of the NASS Elections Committee and NASED and Sec. Toulouse Oliver welcomed the US Postmaster General (PMG). She provided background on the call she, Sec. Benson, Sec. LaRose and Sec. Ashcroft had with the PMG on August 27th and introduced the PMG to speak. The PMG also announced colleagues joining him: David Williams, Chief Logistics & Processing Operations Officer; Tom Marshall, General Counsel; and Justin Glass, Director of Election Mail Operations.

Postmaster Dejoy noted the following in his remarks:

- Election mail is USPS' number one priority and they has the capacity to handle whatever volume of election mail they receive.
- The purpose of the recent postcard mailing was to educate and inform voters on voting by mail without getting into state specific rules and regulations. USPS originally intended to give election officials an opportunity to review the mailing before it went out, but ultimately it was sent out the same day it was sent to NASS for review. USPS realizes that it was not enough of a heads up and will do better in the future.
- As a result of the mailing almost 750,000 people have visited USPS.com for voting information, with 250,000 visitors also going to usa.gov, which connects them to election offices.

Mr. Glass noted the following in his remarks:

- USPS operational readiness is focused on ensuring election mail is handled in compliance with establishes processes.
- Operational efforts for election mail include emphasizing communication with USPS employees to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and tools for processing and delivering election mail. USPS is partnering with union leaders on these efforts and have expanded the election mail task force to include union leaders and management associations. Local task force teams have "ballot ambassadors" that share feedback from employees on any issues related to ballots.
- Standard tools to track election mail include election mail logs, clean sweep searches, checklists, daily all clear processes, and intelligent barcodes. Additional efforts include weekly service reviews to identify mail flow issues, weekly election mail webinars with USPS leaders, and compliance observation by the postal inspection service.
- USPS recognizes that many states require a postmark for ballots. Traditionally a postmark or cancellation is for the purpose of rendering the postage unusable in the future. The process is not designed to cancel every mail piece, and certain types of business mail and permit mailings can bypass the postmark process. However, USPS' policy has been to postmark or cancel all ballots, regardless of origin, destination, or method of post payment. USPS will continue to train employees to monitor the flow of ballots and ensure they receive a postmark.

- USPS convened a postmark team to analyze data and feedback from election officials and developed action plans to update standards, work processes, and communications around the postmark process. This includes training field managers and creating new ballot monitor positions whose sole focus is ensuring ballots are postmarked or cancelled correctly. Feedback from ballot monitors is used to help improve the postmark process and educate employees. Ballot monitors will be in place through Election Day.
- Starting October 1st USPS will make additional resources available for processing and delivery teams to expedite election mail. This includes expanded run time on processing machines; approval of additional overtime as necessary to cover the expanded delivery window; and if needed, extra trips to deliver election mail and additional collections.
- The expanded window is similar to peak holiday season processing. In comparing election mail to peak season processing in terms of capacity, if all of the approximately 160 million registered voters in the U.S. were to vote by mail, and each received and returned both an application and a ballot, that would be 4 mail pieces for each voter, totaling 640 million pieces for all voters combined, which would amount to around 25% of what is handled during peak week.
- USPS will continue to provide methods to expedite ballots close to Election Day, including priority mail express, delivery on Sunday, special delivery, and other means. However, USPS can't guarantee that all voters who receive a ballot late in the process will be able to have the ballot returned in time. It's important to help encourage people to request and return the ballot early.

Secretary Padilla asked if USPS would pledge to provide election officials with an advance copy of future communications to voters so they can review and provide input to help minimize any misinformation. Mr. Marshall indicated that USPS could commit to that.

Secretary Padilla noted that mail processing facilities are dealing with a high volume of parcels during the pandemic, and asked if those facilities will be prepared for the high volume of election mail in coming weeks, including ballots, voter information guides, political mail, etc. Mr. Williams noted that while the package volume has increased, USPS is very focused on processing letter and flat mail, including ensuring that staffing operations meet the requirements of mail in the system.

Secretary Griswold asked Postmaster DeJoy how he planned to address misinformation from the Administration about vote by mail, and increase confidence in USPS's ability to deliver mail ballots. Postmaster DeJoy noted that he has disagreed publicly with the President on those issues, and added that he supports the mail voting process.

Secretary Hobbs noted that Arizona does not have a postmark deadline since ballots are due on Election Day, and asked if USPS efforts to ensure ballots are postmarked will impact the processing of those that don't require it. Mr. Glass noted that postmarking of all ballots is a national policy but said those efforts won't have any impact the processing speed or delivery of ballots

Secretary Merrill (Alabama) thanked Postmaster DeJoy for USPS' efforts to educate the public about voting by mail through the recent postcard mailing.

Secretary Ardoin noted that a recent audit report found that some USPS policies on election mail were not being followed, and asked how that was being addressed. Mr. Glass indicated

that the issues identified in the report involved employees not using the proper standardized tools. He noted that USPS reissued tools and instructions and provided training and other measures to address the issue and added that the OIG has since closed out those areas of the report based on the measures taken.

Secretary Ardoyn noted that during Louisiana's primary election, there was a situation where numerous ballot requests were held by postal officials due to improper postage, and were released only a few days before the election. He asked if USPS will continue to hold mail in those situations. USPS responded that the policy has been and continues to be that election mail is delivered regardless of a lack of postage, and the USPS follows up with the appropriate election officials after the fact for the postage due. He added that if there appears to be a situation where election mail is being held, officials should notify USPS and it will be corrected immediately.

Secretary Hargett expressed concern about the timing and wording of the recent postcard mailing. He also commended the efforts of postal officials in Tennessee.

Secretary Wyman asked how political mail impacts the anticipated volume of election mail, and whether the fluorescent barcode on the bottom of return mail can be used similar to a postmark for jurisdictions that have the necessary reader. She also asked how USPS is working to deliver mail to people displaced by the recent fires and hurricanes.

Mr. Glass noted that even when factoring in political mail to the hypothetical scenario he provided earlier, the average processing window would still be much less than during peak. He noted that USPS is focused on getting mail through the initial cancellation process to maximize the number of pieces that get the fluorescent ID tag. He added that USPS provides updated information on its website for individuals impacted by the recent natural disaster.

Secretary Oliver asked if it was possible for USPS to provide members with copies of guidance or procedures pertaining to the topics discussed on the call. She added that this would help members better understand the process and follow up with any questions. Postmaster DeJoy indicated that they are currently working to finalize a document to distribute that includes that type of information, and should be able to do so in about a week.

Secretary Gorbea noted that her office has a good relationship with postal officials in Rhode Island, and asked if there was someone at USPS headquarters who state election offices could contact directly to discuss any relevant issues. Mr. Williams indicated that state election officials can reach out to their local election coordinators, and those coordinators will relay any issues or concerns to headquarters.

Secretary Griswold asked Postmaster DeJoy about recent comments by the Attorney General regarding the potential for postal workers to be bribed. Postmaster DeJoy indicated that he has full confidence that postal employees will fulfill their obligations during the elections process.

Secretary Way noted that during New Jersey's primary election there was a situation where numerous postmarked ballots arrived at county offices a day after the primary. She asked for clarification on the roles of election ambassadors and election monitors, and whether USPS could provide copies of any standards that they rely on in carrying out those roles. Mr. Glass noted that there is not a full standard to measure against, but there is a general standard that no

ballot should get through the processing facility without a postmark, and the ballot monitors search for ballots to ensure they receive a postmark.

Secretary Ardoin asked for input on how to address concerns from citizens regarding the political leanings of postal union employees. Postmaster DeJoy indicated that he has full faith in postal workers, and is confident in the intentions of workers and management to make sure all ballots get processed. Mr. Marshall noted that USPS' employees take pride in their role as part of the election process, and added that the USPS expanded its task force to include union leadership and management associations.

The call ended at 3:30 PM ET.

NASS Summary: HR 4990, the Election Technology Research Act of ~~2019~~ 2020

- Passed the House on 9/16/20

Most notable in this legislation for STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS: This legislation expands the definition of voting system (found in HAVA) to now include “any other paper or electronic technologies or processes for collecting, storing, or transmitting personal information of voters for use in the administration of elections for Federal office including, electronic poll books; voter registration databases and systems, including online interfaces; systems for carrying out post-election auditing; and chain-of-custody procedures.

Section 2: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) – Research, Center for Excellence in Election Systems

The Director of NIST, in collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF) must carry out voting systems research that includes: cybersecurity of components, end-to-end verifiability, internet-enable voting, accessibility and usability, voter privacy and data protection, election audits, interoperability of systems, mail-ballot tracking, reliability of voter authentication, and other areas deemed appropriate by Director.

NIST Director must make an award to a college/university or non-profit(s) to establish a Center for Excellence in Election Systems (must ensure that collaboration includes private sector and state and local officials.) The Center will conduct measurement research and statistical analysis to inform development of standards for technologies and processes for elections, test and evaluate security/usability and accessibility of voting systems including the accessibility of poll book data by voters, research testing methods for certification of voting systems, educate students in fields of science, tech, engineering and math fields to conduct measurement science and standards relevant to these systems, foster collaboration between stakeholders. Applicants must apply to Director of NIST. Each selected Center is effective for 5 years and is renewable per discretion of Director. \$12 million dollars authorized for this program from ~~2020-2024~~ 2021-2025.

Section 3: National Science Foundation (NSF) – Research Grants and Elections Systems Research Center

The Director of the NSF, in collaboration with NIST and others, must award basic research grants to increase understanding of cyber and other threats to voting systems and to inform development of technologies, processes and policies for elections including: cybersecurity of components, end-to-end verifiability, internet-enable voting, accessibility and usability, voter privacy and data protection, election audits, interoperability of systems, mail-ballot tracking, reliability of voter authentication, and other areas deemed appropriate by Director.

NSF Director, in consultation with NIST and DHS, must award grants to colleges/universities or non-profit(s) to establish at least ONE multi-disciplinary center for elections systems research and education. Entity(s) receiving an award MAY include colleges/universities, non-profits, private sector and state and locals. The Center(s) must conduct basic research on cyber and

other threats to elections, research on development of technologies/processes and policies for elections, work with students to conduct research on election systems, design criteria to address organizational management and info tech needs of elections community and foster collaboration among stakeholders. Applicants must apply to Director of NSF. Each selected Center will be authorized for 5 years, renewable at the discretion of the Director. \$10 million is authorized for this program from ~~2020—2024~~, 2021-2025.

Section 4: NIST Work on Common Data Format, Election Systems Certifications, Assistance on Implementing VVSG

NIST must develop and make public common data format specs for auditing, voter registration and other elements of voting systems and provide these specs to TGDC.

NIST must also work in collaboration with the EAC to update voting system certification process so states and locals can carry out updates and modernize.

NIST must provide state and locals with technical assistance on implementing cybersecurity and privacy standards, risk assessments, risk-limiting audits and technologies which are included in the VVSG.

NIST in collaboration with DHS and EAC must also conduct outreach to state and locals re best practices for implementing VVSG.

Section 5: GAO

Within 18 months of enactment, GAO must submit a report to Congress on whether NIST actions re VVSG have resulted in market-ready standardized voting equipment and software, their efforts to monitor and review the performance of test labs accredited by EAC, and whether the annual list of suggestions required by NIST to be submitted to EAC for research issues for grants and pilot programs per HAVA has improved voting technology.

From: Maria Benson <mbenson@sso.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 4:20 PM EDT
To: Maria Benson <mbenson@sso.org>
Subject: NASS Statement on Virtual Elections Committee Meeting with Postmaster



NASS Statement on Virtual Elections Committee Meeting with USPS Postmaster General

For Immediate Release

Sept. 17, 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As a follow-up to the [August 27 call](#), the United States Postal Service (USPS) Postmaster General Louis DeJoy joined this afternoon's weekly National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) [Elections Committee](#) virtual meeting. The members of the National Association of State Election Directors ([NASED](#)) were also invited to participate in the meeting, to ensure all chief state election officials were included.

During the one hour meeting, states discussed numerous items with Postmaster DeJoy including: USPS operational readiness and staffing levels, election mail postmarking and delivery priority, natural disaster impacts, as well as emphasizing the importance of gathering state feedback on future USPS elections information due to varying election laws and procedures throughout the nation.

"Chief Election Officials across the country are diligently working to ensure a smooth general election by educating voters on their respective voting by mail procedures and deadlines. Being able to meet as a group with Postmaster DeJoy allows us to impress upon him the finer details and importance of this," said Maggie Toulouse Oliver, NASS President and New Mexico Secretary of State. "Elections are a team effort, and as we approach November I hope for continued productive conversations with USPS around elections."

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About NASS:

Founded in 1904, NASS is the oldest, nonpartisan professional organization of public officials in the U.S. Membership is open to the 50 states and all U.S. territories. NASS serves as a medium for the exchange of information between states and fosters cooperation in the development of public policy.



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