



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MAY 06 2005

Ms. Carol Paquette
Interim Executive Director
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1225 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Paquette:

Public Law 107-252, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), requires the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) to provide an initial set of recommendations for voluntary voting system guidelines to the Executive Director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) no later than nine months after all members of the TGDC have been appointed. The membership of the TGDC was completed on August 9, 2004.

As adopted by the TGDC at its April 2005 plenary session, the enclosed document, "Voluntary Voting System Guidelines Version 1: Initial Report" (VVSG Version 1), serves as the initial set of recommendations mandated by HAVA in Section 221.

I am most gratified to deliver this document to you within the time frame stipulated in HAVA. As chairman of the Committee, I note that the recommendations were adopted unanimously and represent many hours of volunteered expertise by the members of the TGDC with technical assistance from NIST scientists.

I look forward to the review of VVSG Version 1 by the EAC, the Standards and Advisory Boards, and the American public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Hratch G. Semerjian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Hratch G. Semerjian
Chairman
Technical Guidelines Development Committee

Enclosure

NIST