



ROY BLUNT *of* MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN

**Chairman Roy Blunt Opening Statement
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
Hearing Titled “Oversight of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission”
May 15, 2019**

From promulgating the voluntary voting systems guidelines to certifying election systems to assisting state and local election officials with information they need to run America’s elections, the EAC plays an important role in assisting state and local election officials’ efforts to provide an accessible and secure election process.

Last Congress, we heard from the EAC about the distribution of \$380 million in HAVA grant money that was included in the FY 2018 spending bill and about the agency’s other efforts to assist state and local election officials, especially those related to ensuring that those officials received timely and accurate cybersecurity threat information. Last Congress, this Committee also approved and the Senate confirmed two new EAC Commissioners, giving the EAC a full slate of commissioners for the first time in nearly 10 years and a quorum after nine months without one.

Today, with four EAC Commissioners in place, we will hear about the progress of updating the voluntary voting systems guidelines, the agency’s work to ensure that election officials around the country have the information they need to ensure the security of our nation’s elections and the EAC’s preparedness for the 2020 elections.

As I have mentioned before, I believe the EAC has an important role to play, given the changing landscape of elections in this country and the increase in cyber threats to elections. I look forward to hearing from the Commissioners today about how the EAC will meet these challenges.