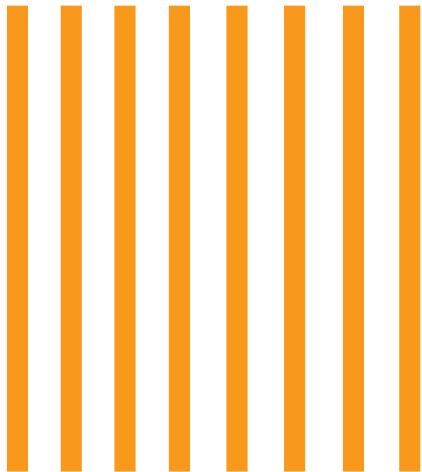




Serving Counties Since 1886

Improve Election Administration

COUNTY GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



Fact Sheet 2007

Counties are responsible for the most essential service in a democratic society – the conduct of elections. In 2006, the election system faced its most severe test in decades, with the dual pressures of full implementation of a new statewide electronic voter registration system, and implementation of new voting systems to become compliant with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). County election offices performed almost flawlessly, but unfounded fears of accountability of electronic voting systems continue to be perpetuated. For 2007, counties will have to respond to efforts at the state and federal level to legislate Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPAT), a measure most election professionals deem unnecessary and potentially in violation of security and privacy requirements.

Most of these fears, and most of the nominal problems at the polls in 2006, can be addressed by additional voter and poll worker training. If Congress or the General Assembly nonetheless do pursue VVPAT, they also must provide mechanisms to make certain compliant election equipment is available, and they must fund the full cost of implementation of the mandate, including equipment, training, programming and maintenance costs. Congress already owes county governments nationwide more than \$800 million that was promised, but not released, for implementation of the current HAVA requirements.

The 2007 legislative agenda, in the run-up to the 2008 Presidential election, is likely to include deliberations on changing the date of the primary, for which a balanced debate must acknowledge the negative ramifications for voters, candidates and election administration.

These major initiatives are coupled with ongoing legislative initiatives that change registration, identification, absentee and other matters relating to voter responsibility and election administration. CCAP will be working with state and federal officials, counties, election directors and others to assure that all of these issues are addressed in a manner that ensures the smooth and efficient conduct of the 2007 elections, and that maintains voter confidence in the system.

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