



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
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## **New EAC Advisory Board Officers Elected**

**WASHINGTON** – The Board of Advisors of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) recently elected new officers at a meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Harris County (Texas) Clerk Beverly Kaufman was elected chair; Michigan Director of Elections Christopher Thomas was elected vice-chair; and the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT) Executive Director Tony Sirvello III of Texas was elected secretary.

“Congratulations to these new officers,” said EAC Chair Gracia Hillman. “We appreciate their willingness to serve our country in this capacity, and we look forward to their leadership as we work together to make sure that every vote cast is counted accurately and fairly.

“And I thank former Chair Doug Lewis for his service and commitment to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. His contributions were invaluable, and all of us will continue to rely on his expertise.”

Kaufman, who was appointed to serve on the Board of Advisors by the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks (NACRC), will serve a one year term guiding the Board of Advisors in their work as required by the Help America Vote Act of 2002. She is also the secretary for the NACRC, and co-chairs its Election Committee.

“In a post 2004 election environment, EAC is increasingly becoming the national voice for election administration,” said Kaufman. “I look forward to chairing the Board of Advisors as it develops comments and recommendations for voluntary voting system guidelines. The increased attention to electronic voting systems underscores the need for national guidance on voting system integrity and steps that can be taken locally to increase integrity without limiting voter access.

“This is important work and one that benefits not only Harris County and the State of Texas, but also the entire elections community.”

Sirvello served as administrator of elections for Harris County, Texas from 1973 to 2002. He also served as president of IACREOT from 1998-1999 and was a member of the Advisory Panel for the Federal Election Commission’s National Clearinghouse on Election Administration from 1993-2002. He has testified before U. S. Congress on Election Legislation in the 1990s and was the elections advisor for the Federal Voting Assistance Program 1992 and the 1996 "Get Out The Vote" Campaign with the National Ad Council.

Thomas has been Michigan’s director of elections for 23 years, currently serving under Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land. He began his election administration career in 1974 in

Washington, D.C. with the U.S. House of Representatives and the Federal Election Commission, and now administers the Michigan election law, Campaign Finance Act and lobbyist disclosure law. Thomas is a founding member of the National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED) and was elected NASSED's president in 1997. He currently serves as NASSED's legislative coordinator.

EAC Board of Advisors offers counsel to the EAC regarding the implementation of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). It is comprised of 37 members from national organizations representing elected officials and government agencies, as well as science and technology-related professionals and members representing voter interests. Members serve two-year terms.

EAC is an independent bipartisan commission created by HAVA. It is charged with administering payments to states to meet HAVA requirements, implementing election administration improvements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines and serving as a national clearinghouse and resource of information regarding election administration.

EAC commissioners are Gracia Hillman, chair; Paul DeGregorio, vice chair; and Ray Martinez III. To learn more about EAC, visit [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov).

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