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For Immediate Release

**Harris County Clerk Elected as Chairman of Board of Advisors for
the United States Election Assistance Commission**

Houston, TX- During a recent meeting held by the United States Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) Board of Advisors last week in Boston, MA, Beverly Kaufman, Harris County Clerk, was elected as Chairman of Board of Advisors for the United States Election Assistance Commission. 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.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002, the federal election reform bill stemming from the 2000 General Election, established the United States Election Assistance Commission to provide support to local election officials by establishing voluntary voting system guidelines at the federal level and overseeing the distribution of federal funds to the states for the replacement of punch card and lever voting machines. The EAC is also charged with conducting research on election administration in the fields of voter registration, provisional balloting, and providing overall best practices to local election officials.

Kaufman had this to say regarding her new role, "In a post 2004 election environment, the EAC is increasingly becoming the national voice for election administration. 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

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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."

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 specifically created the Board of Advisors which is charged under the federal statute to provide guidance and comment on proposed voting system standards as drafted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology prior to their adoption by the EAC. Jurisdictions around the country are confronting the federal compliance deadline of January 1, 2006 for the implementation of voting systems that provide full accessibility for voters with disabilities at a minimum of one electronic voting unit per polling place used in a federal election. In addition, each state is currently being challenged to meet the 2006 deadline for the implementation of a uniform central statewide voter registration database year which will be used as the official list of registered voters.

The Board of Advisors is a 37 member board representing various election official organizations, voter advocacy groups, governmental entities, and disabled access advocacy groups. The Board of Advisors is comprised of the following appointments under federal law:

- a. Two members appointed by the National Governors Association;
- b. Two members appointed by the National Conference of State Legislatures;
- c. Two members appointed by the National Association of Secretaries of State;
- d. Two members appointed by the National Association of State Election Directors;
- e. Two members appointed by the National Association of Counties;
- f. Two members appointed by the National Association of County Recorders, Election Administrators, and Clerks;
- g. Two members appointed by the United States Conference of Mayors;
- h. Two members appointed by the Election Center;
- i. Two members appointed by the International Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Treasurers;
- j. Two members appointed by the United States Commission on Civil Rights;
- k. Two members appointed by the Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board under section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792);
- l. The Chief of the Office of Public Integrity of the Department of Justice, or the chief's designee;
- m. The Chief of the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice or the chief's designee;
- n. The Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the Department of Defense;
- o. Four members representing professionals in the field of science and technology, of whom
 - i. One (1) each shall be appointed by the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and
 - ii. One (1) each shall be appointed by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate.
- p. Eight members representing voter interests, of whom-
 - i. Four (4) members shall be appointed by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives
 - ii. Four (4) members shall be appointed by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

Other officers elected at the Board of Advisors meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts include Chris Thomas, Director of Elections for the State of Michigan, as Vice-Chair and Tony Sirvello, Executive Director of the International Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT) as Secretary.

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