

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate the Election Assistance Commission

April 6, 2011

Program or Item Targeted: Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

One-Year Cost of Program or Item: \$14 million

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: The Election Assistance Commission was established in 2002 by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The EAC developed guidance to meet HAVA requirements and set voluntary voting system guidelines for states. It also distributed funds to states to update voting equipment.

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: Nearly a decade after its creation, and years since it accomplished its primary objectives, the Commission continues to operate with little benefit to election administration. Last year the National Association of Secretaries of State renewed a 2005 resolution calling on Congress not to reauthorize or fund the EAC, stating it has “served its purpose.” The Election Assistance Commission is a prime example of an unnecessary government organization developed with good intentions that has outlived its usefulness. By eliminating the EAC, we are furthering our commitment to eradicate wasteful spending and inefficiencies in government operations.

Legislative Steps Taken So Far: Rep. Gregg Harper (R-MS) has introduced H.R. 672, which would terminate the Election Assistance Commission. This legislation is currently cosponsored by Reps. Gingrey, Gohmert, Lungren, Jeff Miller, Posey, Rokita, and Sullivan. If adopted, the legislation will transfer the Commission’s remaining responsibilities and its authority to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) while the EAC’s Office of Voting System Testing and Certification program will be transferred to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: RSC Members are encouraged to cosponsor H.R. 672 by contacting Scot Malvaney at Scot.Malvaney@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus please e-mail Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it, working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”