



EIS Communiqué

Sharing Election Infrastructure News and Resources

Welcome to the first issue of the DHS Election Infrastructure Subsector (EIS) Communiqué, provided by the Election Infrastructure Sector Specific Agency (EISSA). The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated election infrastructure as critical infrastructure on January 6, 2017. The designation created the Election Infrastructure Subsector (EIS) under the Government Facilities sector, with DHS as its Sector Specific Agency (SSA). The designation set several actions in motion, including the formation of coordinating councils and coordinated federal support.

Purpose

The EIS Communiqué series will periodically inform subscribers of the myriad of DHS services available to the EI community. DHS provides services on a no-cost, voluntary basis to state and local election officials.

Future EIS Communiqués will highlight various services and tools, such as assessments, threat information-sharing programs, network protection, best practices, incident response, and developments at the federal level.

Please share this Communiqué as widely as you wish. We look forward to receiving questions and feedback at EISSA@hq.dhs.gov.

Thank you,

Election Infrastructure SSA

January 18, 2018

Volume 1, Issue 1

Foundation Laid for Election Infrastructure Subsector Support

DHS recently created the **Election Task Force (ETF)** to convene relevant federal partners to unify U.S. Government efforts for ensuring the security and resiliency of election infrastructure. The designation of Election Infrastructure (EI) as a critical infrastructure subsector underscores how vitally important the U.S. Government views this infrastructure and the elections it facilitates to be. The ETF not only works in coordination across the interagency, but engages directly with state and local election officials. The ETF's work is guided by three primary goals:

- Understand threat and characterize risk to EI to inform planning, resourcing, and prioritization of EI efforts.



- Provide services to EI stakeholders to help reduce both cyber and physical risk to state infrastructures; ensure access to actionable threat information; and maintain situational awareness of trends across the subsector.
- Mature the organization of EIS to ensure a representative and effective security-informed partnership.

The ETF is also developing a series of analytical products to improve understanding of systems, processes, and implementation of election infrastructure to inform risk analysis efforts. Products will be informed, coordinated, and validated by key ETF partners such as the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), and local election officials, as appropriate.

Following the [National Infrastructure Protection Plan](#) partnership model, the EIS will have two forums for collaboration and information sharing: the **EIS Government Coordinating Council (GCC)**, representing the public-sector election community, and the **EIS Sector Coordinating Council (SCC)**, representing the private-sector election community.

Coordinating Councils

The **EIS GCC**, a 27-member body of 24 state and local government representatives and 3 federal government representatives, held its first meeting Oct. 14, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia. Since then, the EIS GCC Executive Committee has met regularly to shape its strategic direction, and formed a Communications Working Group to establish information-sharing procedures and protocols, which are focal points for the EIS GCC. The EIS GCC will next meet in person February 15, in conjunction with the NASS and NASED winter conferences.

DHS is working with the EAC to support development of the **EIS SCC**, and has held several formation meetings. The EIS SCC will be self-governing, enabling private-sector critical infrastructure owners and operators and industry representatives to work jointly on sector-specific strategies, policies, and activities.

The EIS SCC will collaborate with the EIS GCC and DHS as its SSA to address critical infrastructure security and resilience policies and efforts for election infrastructure.

For more information on any topic in this Brief, please contact the EISSA at EISSA@hq.dhs.gov.

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