

Dear Reader:

We have the honor of fulfilling a vital government mandate to work with election officials throughout the country to improve the administration of Federal elections. An important part of our mission is providing resources and guidance to policy makers and election officials throughout the country to make improvements. Another priority is to educate the public about election reform, so citizens know how the system works and have confidence in it.

This report is part of the Commission's work in serving as a resource for information. The *2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey* is the largest and most comprehensive survey on election administration conducted by a U.S. governmental organization.

This is the second time in the Commission's history that it has collected statistics from the States regarding election practices and voting. We expanded upon our first efforts in our study of the 2004 elections and this year sought greater participation at the local levels of government through the use of a Web-based survey. The information we collected will help the American public better understand what is happening throughout the country and identifying key issues that deserve further exploration and consideration.

We wish to thank the nation's Secretaries of State, State and local election officials, and others who assisted with this project. They are on the front lines of serving our nation's voters, and they have served the cause of democracy through the considerable effort they put into responding to the survey. Without their input and assistance, the survey would not have been possible. The Commission is grateful for their work, and the American people will benefit from their participation.

The survey results tell us a great deal about voting and elections practices across the country. Yet, there is still much that deserves closer examination, including how we collect information. We ask that you consider this survey and the results as a starting point for a greater understanding and discussion about voting in America.

Sincerely,

Donetta L. Davidson, Chair

Rosemary E. Rodriguez, Vice Chair

Gracia M. Hillman, Commissioner

Caroline C. Hunter, Commissioner