



Bipartisan Policy Center **Action**

June 25, 2025

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General
Government
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Joyce
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General
Government
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General
Government
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 2051

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General
Government
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Hagerty and Joyce and Ranking Members Reed and Hoyer:

On behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center and its (c)(4) affiliate, Bipartisan Policy Center Action, **we are writing to express our strong support for maintaining level operational funding for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) in the fiscal year 2026 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill.**

Rapidly rising debt and interest payments are slowing growth and making it more expensive for Americans to buy cars and homes, attend college, or pay off credit card debt. To achieve fiscal sustainability, BPC Action recommends a continuation of the 2023 discretionary caps, enactment of program integrity reforms, and outside the appropriations process, legislation to reduce the growth of mandatory program spending and increase federal revenue.

At the same time, BPC believes balancing prudent investment in agencies and programs that expand opportunities for American families and businesses and strengthen our democracy is achievable. With these principles in mind, BPC Action respectfully recommends prioritizing funding for the EAC.

The EAC provides vital services to election officials across the nation as the only federal agency solely dedicated to supporting the complex mechanisms of election administration. Through its work providing grants, developing voluntary voting system guidelines, improving

election practices, and serving as a federal clearinghouse for election-related issues, the EAC plays an irreplaceable role in ensuring that elections are secure, accessible, and trustworthy.

Continued funding for the EAC's operations is more than just another budgetary decision: it is an investment in the underlying structures that uphold the very fabric of American democracy. At a time of rapid change in election administration, the EAC's ability to operate without interruption is essential.

- **The EAC maintains guidelines for the security, accessibility, and functionality of voting systems, a critical role as foreign malign interference efforts rise and 2026 approaches.** The Help America Vote Act of 2002 tasks the EAC with developing guidelines for voting systems. The EAC is currently in the early stages of certifying new equipment to their most recent standard, VVSG 2.0. Maintaining these standards and testing and certifying new systems take time and resources; a reduction in the EAC's operational funding would undermine their ability to help states secure their voting systems as we near a general election.
- **The EAC serves as a national clearinghouse of election administration information and best practices.** In addition to its work testing and certifying voting systems, the EAC distributes grants to states and territories, tracks and reports on state compliance with federal law, and collects data from every election jurisdiction in the country. The EAC provides essential information on election audits, emergency response planning, accessibility, and more—information that state and local election officials rely on each day to administer secure, trustworthy elections.

BPC has [long recommended](#) that Congress support the EAC, as ensuring security and trust in our election system is a bipartisan priority. The EAC has been the focal point for federal efforts to support resilient and trustworthy elections for more than two decades. As technology evolves over time, election offices must be able to replace outdated systems and respond to new vulnerabilities on an ongoing, iterative basis, and the EAC is critical to this effort. We urge you to maintain the Election Assistance Commission's operational funding in FY2026 to preserve election security for the 2026 elections and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration, and if you have any questions, please reach out to Anna Przebinda, Manager for BPC Action, at aprzebinda@bpccaction.org.

Sincerely,



Michele Stockwell
President, Bipartisan Policy Center Action

