

Preface

This report describes the legal background of election administration and reform. Although in some respects a primer on election law, it does not consider important issues, like campaign finance regulation, outside the purview of the National Commission on Federal Election Reform. It also focuses on those areas where discussion of the governing law would likely most help the Commission's deliberations. It should be read in conjunction with the Commission's report and the reports of its other two task forces.

The task force's work rests on the unstinting efforts of its participants: Robert F. Bauer, Kenneth A. Gross, Pamela S. Karlan, Stephen M. Nickelsburg, and Trevor Potter. In addition, Marianne Holt, Kirk L. Jowers, Jeremy C. Kamens, and Jason C. Rylander offered critical help on several sections. Eric Braverman, Thad Hall, Leonard M. Shambon, and Tova Wang all read the report with a critical eye and strengthened it immeasurably. The research assistance of Melissa Cline, Kurt A. Hohenstein, Aaron Longo, Michael A. Mugmon, and David F. Olsky proved invaluable as well.

The task force, of course, owes much to the Commission itself. Several members of the Commission served as powerful soundboards for many of its ideas and Philip Zelikow, its Executive Director, provided critical guidance. The two other task forces led by John Mark Hansen of the University of Chicago and David King of Harvard University aided our work and their questions focused much of our inquiry. The Commission's hard-working professional staff also made the task force's work much easier. Ryan Coonerty helped furnish necessary day-to-day direction and Lisa-Joy Zgorski handled the administrative details that made progress possible.

The Miller Center and The Century Foundation also provided great aid to the task force. In addition to providing necessary logistical support, they gladly shared their experiences with other projects of this kind and helped keep the task force both on track and on schedule.

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