

BALANCING ACCESS AND INTEGRITY

The 2004 presidential election was the first big test of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). Enacted in the wake of the deeply flawed 2000 election, the law was passed in an effort both to improve the voting process and to increase voter access. While there were improvements in the voting process in a number of jurisdictions, the ways in which many states carried out the law's mandates produced a number of unintended consequences, resulting in allegations of fraud and voter disenfranchisement. The Century Foundation assembled the Post-2004 Election Working Group to find ways for states to implement future elections in a way that balances ballot integrity with voting rights and accessibility.

The Century Foundation has been at the forefront of efforts to reform the voting system since the issue achieved national prominence following the 2000 presidential contest. In 2001, the foundation cosponsored the National Commission on Federal Election Reform, cochaired by former presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. The final report of that commission served as the model for important measures in the Help America Vote Act. Since that time The Century Foundation has published numerous reports and sponsored several events on issues related to the U.S. election system. Information on election reform topics is available at www.tcf.org.

The Working Group would like to express its great appreciation for the work of a few individuals who contributed enormously to the deliberations of the group and the production of this report: Thomas Wilkey, executive director, United States Election Assistance Commission, and former executive director, New York State Board of Elections; Alex Baker of The Century Foundation; and Doug Chapin, Dan Seligson, and Sean Greene of Electionline.org.

BALANCING ACCESS AND INTEGRITY

THE REPORT OF
THE CENTURY FOUNDATION WORKING GROUP
ON STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTION REFORM

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