



ALVIN A. JAEGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

HOME PAGE www.nd.gov/sos

PHONE (701) 328-2900
FAX (701) 328-2992

E-MAIL sos@nd.gov

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

July 26, 2019

Christy McCormick, Chairwoman
Benjamin W. Hovland, Vice Chair
Donald L Palmer, Commissioner
Thomas Hicks, Commissioner
US Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
1335 East West Highway Suite 4300
Silver Spring MD 20910-3225

Dear Commissioners,

I am pleased the EAC has a full Commission for the first time in many years. Although the agency's funding has been significantly decreased since 2010, EAC staff members have worked diligently to fulfill its mission as prescribed in the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Considering the reduction in staff, I marvel at what the current employees have achieved under the circumstances.

I personally believe a major factor in the effectiveness of the EAC employees is due to the leadership of Executive Director Brian Newby and General Counsel Cliff Tatum. Their leadership over these past four years (with only three Commissioners for all but the months leading up to and after the 2018 midterm election when there were only two) has without a doubt, allowed the EAC to maintain its mission according to HAVA.

It is now time for you to consider the reappointment this November of these two individuals to their current positions. I urge you to give them your unanimous support in reappointing them. They have done their jobs well. Yes, I am fully aware of the outside partisan pressures on you and that Brian and Cliff are being maligned and taken to task in some "news" articles and hearings. However, you must consider what is best for the voters and election officials throughout this country. This is no time to make a change. The 2020 election cycle is now! Elections will be held in only a few months. Therefore, it is essential to maintain consistency in the EAC. It is not a time to have a vacancy in these positions or to hire inexperienced individuals to replace them. This is especially true because Brian and Cliff have done the job they were hired to do and have done it well.

Under HAVA, the EAC is to be a bipartisan federal agency created to assist state and local election officials in the administration of federal elections. Please do not let partisan influences tempt you to change from that mission. Therefore, I encourage you to work together as Commissioners with the common goal and to provide for the much-needed continued consistency that has been achieved under the leadership of Brian and Cliff. Please remember that you, along with election officials nationwide, have taken an Oath of Office to administer elections according to the law and without partiality. Now, more than ever, we must not lose sight of that. The citizens are relying on us. As part of that, please reappoint these two individuals to their respective positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alvin A. Jaeger".

Alvin A Jaeger
Secretary of State