

Committee on Rules and Administration
Statement by Mr. Matthew Masterson, Nominee for Commissioner
Election Assistance Commission
Wednesday September 10, 2014

Good morning Chairman Schumer, Ranking Member Roberts and members of the committee. Thank you for holding this hearing on my nomination to serve on the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC). I also want to thank Speaker John Boehner for submitting my name to President Obama for consideration, and to thank the President for nominating me. It is truly an honor.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to testify on my qualifications and interest in becoming an EAC Commissioner. My career in elections started, appropriately, at the U.S. Election Assistance Commission after I graduated from law school in 2006. Since that time, I have worked with both state and local election officials to serve voters primarily through the use of technology. While at the EAC, I worked with election officials, voter advocates, computer scientists and manufacturers to help create the EAC's Voting System Testing and Certification program. This program was the first of its kind—designed to allow states to voluntarily utilize federally accredited test laboratories to have their systems tested and certified to a robust set of standards.

In 2011, I left the EAC to return home to Ohio and work for the Ohio Secretary of State, where I currently serve as Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Information Officer. The opportunity to work in the most important swing state in the country during a presidential election cycle was a dream come true. In my time in Ohio, I have continued leveraging technology to improve services to election officials and voters. I have helped implement several programs that have modernized elections in Ohio and truly made it a national leader, including an online change of address system, a data sharing program with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles and more user-friendly voter information tools. All of these have helped to make the voting process more accessible and usable for voters.

For the past three years, I have also served on the executive board of the National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED) and as a member of the EAC's Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC). I also testified in front of the President's Commission on Election Administration (PCEA) regarding the aging voting equipment states are currently using and the future of voting technology.

State and local election officials across the country are in an incredibly tough position; most of their systems are a decade or more old, which is ancient by information technology standards, and will need to be replaced in the very near future. Recognizing that voters will lose confidence in a voting process that uses 1980s technology instead of modern technology, election officials are craving innovation in election systems. I am fully invested in trying to bring about these kinds of innovations, and if confirmed, I believe I can continue that work at the EAC.

Finally, I want to thank some of the people who have helped me along the way. First, I want to thank all of the election officials across the country whom I have worked with and learned from. You all do a tremendous service to this country that too often goes unappreciated. I especially want to thank those election officials who have patiently mentored me along the way, teaching me that every detail matters

in elections. Thanks to the team at the Ohio Secretary of State's office, especially Secretary Husted, for welcoming me home and giving me an opportunity to help run elections in Ohio. To my family—especially my parents, Vince and Pam, my brother Brian and my brother Justin, who is here with me today—thanks for helping me get to a place where I'm doing something I love. Finally, to my wife Joanna, who is also here today, thank you for all of your support.

Members of the committee, I thank you for your consideration of my nomination, and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Matthew Vincent Masterson

Matthew V. Masterson is Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Information Officer for the Ohio Secretary of State, positions he has held since 2013. He previously served as Deputy Director of Elections from 2011 to 2013. Prior to joining the Ohio Secretary of State's office, Mr. Masterson held multiple roles at the Election Assistance Commission from 2006 to 2011, including Deputy Director for the Testing and Certification Division, Attorney and Advisor, and Special Assistant and Counsel to Chair Paul DeGregorio. Mr. Masterson received a B.S. and a B.A. from Miami University and a J.D. from the University of Dayton School of Law.