

**Prepared Statement of Raymundo Martinez III  
Nominee, Federal Election Assistance Commission  
October 28, 2003**

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, it is an honor for me to come before you today to discuss my possible service on the Federal Election Assistance Commission. I want to thank President Bush for the support and confidence that this nomination reflects. Likewise, I am equally honored by the support and friendship of Senator Daschle, who recommended me to President Bush. Let me also convey my appreciation to Senator Dodd and Senator McConnell and your House colleagues for your leadership in passing the "Help America Vote Act."

It is a very humbling experience to be called upon to fill such an important position of public trust and to come before you today. Let me say from the onset that I take the responsibility for which I am being considered most seriously, and I commit to you today to discharge my duties as an Election Assistance Commissioner – should I be confirmed – with the utmost integrity, diligence and humility.

I was born and raised in Alice, Texas, a small South Texas town where my parents – now married for the past 56 years – still reside. My father, Raymundo Martinez, Jr., now 83 years old, retired after working as an auto mechanic and oil field worker throughout most of his adult life. I have, of course, many memories of growing up with my father. Most important: His meticulous work ethic – leaving for work at 6 A.M. every morning, returning to the house 10 to 12 hours later after a full day of hard labor, and hardly ever missing a day of work. However, I remember not so much his work ethic, but rather the commitment to his community. Even after a long day of work, he led a Boy Scout troop; coached Little League; and participated in the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph's Church. Community service was important to him and an immense pride still emanates from him when he talks about his service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

My mother, Hortencia Martinez, too, contributed to their community. She worked as a stay-at-home mom throughout most of her life, raising all of her children with the same set of values – faith, fairness and family – that were passed on to her. But she found time to raise funds for our local church; to organize fundraisers for college scholarships for high school graduates; and to help senior citizens live a full and dignified life.

I relate these life experiences because they define who I am today. I, too, believe in public service and I believe I can help implement the Help America Vote Act and successfully complete this Commission's work.

Passed with overwhelming bi-partisan support and signed into law by President Bush on October 29, 2002, the Help America Vote Act seeks to improve the administration of elections by transforming the Federal role into one of an active partner with state and local election officials.

I emphasize the word 'partner.' In my view, the long-term success and effectiveness of the Commission will be directly related to our efforts to build a genuine and lasting partnership with state and local election officials to implement effective election reform.

The majority of my professional work has been done in cooperation, consultation and in partnership with state and local government officials. This was true when I served as Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Dallas, when I later served as Deputy Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and it is true to this day. I currently have an active legislative and administrative law practice in Austin, Texas, representing county governments and organizations such as the Texas Conference of Urban Counties.

Throughout my career, I have worked closely with local and state entities responsible for the day-to-day administration of public policy. I commit to you today to continue my record of working in a positive manner with our state and local partners and with other vested organizations, such as the various civil rights and voting rights organizations that assisted in the development of this legislation.

By forging legitimate and lasting relationships with our partners, the Commission can effectively use its resources to fulfill its most fundamental responsibility: To ensure that every qualified voter has an opportunity to participate fully and wholly in the electoral process.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for your consideration of my nomination.