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For immediate release
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Press Release

Sec'y Jim Condos Attends Conference on Future of the US Elections Assistance Commission

Montpelier, VT – Secretary of State Jim Condos just returned from a symposium in Cambridge Massachusetts at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government that was sponsored by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS).

The conference brought together Secretaries of State, US House majority and minority staff members, Directors of Elections, Professors of Government, Voting Rights Professionals and other governmental and non-governmental experts on voting issues to discuss the future of the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the 2012 Election Cycle. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) created the US Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) to improve the administration of federal elections post Florida 2000.

"2012 is a major election year, with presidential preference primaries/caucuses, state primaries and the November general election—as well as thousands of local and special district elections happening all across the country. One of the purposes for this conference was to come together to determine the future of the EAC and examine its potential impacts heading into the November 6th presidential election," stated Condos.

Other sessions of the conference included the important question of whether the EAC is worth keeping—and if not, what would be the potential alternatives to it. Major concerns were raised about who would best complete the testing and certification of voting equipment. Most states using voting equipment are facing equipment nearing the end of its useful life.

Condos further stated, "I really appreciated the opportunity to discuss with my colleagues where resources are needed in US Elections, and where those resources will come from in a post-HAVA world."

The federal government had previously provided \$3.2 billion for election improvements; and many states are worried about where the money needed in the future would come from in light of our current economic recession.

"The integrity of our elections is at the very core of our democracy!" Secretary Condos stated.

Jim Condos is Vermont's Secretary of State.

