

NGOs + Undue Influence

Improper Practices in State Election Procedures
Not Expressly Authorized by State Legislatures

National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)

Founded in 1904

Non-Partisan U.S. non-governmental organization that serves as a medium for the exchange of information between secretaries of state, alleging to foster cooperation in the development of public policy. This organization is made up of Secretaries of State and Auditors from many states across the Nation. The truth seems to be that this organization exists to push their own agenda items into our state election procedures, with or without the approval of the legislatures thereof. A complete list of NASS Members can be found [here](#).

Resolutions from NASS:

[USPS Voter Registration](#)

This resolution makes multiple misleading statements related to a voter's ability to vote in elections in the area they relocate into IMMEDIATELY upon relocation, when most states have regulations requiring a new registration to be in the system for a minimum of 30 days prior to an election cycle.

This resolution highlights the need to expedite registration maintenance procedures using the USPS Change of Address database, among other available tools for address verification. This resolution overstates the initiative of Secretaries of State to maintain clean voter files, while neglecting to outline the need and procedure of removing registrations from states a voter has relocated FROM. The focus of this effort seems to be merely to expand the registered voter files without regard to a tool for removing outdated registrations.

[Earlier Party Nominating Convention Dates](#)

This resolution asked Secretaries of State to push the initiative with their respective State Party Leaders to set different dates for their Party's nominating conventions to accommodate deadlines set by state laws. The main item to note in this resolution is the utilization of SOS influence to affect the practices of independent parties. This may be less nefarious than other measures, but the vast and wide reaching influence this organization has is depicted here with clarity.

[Avoidance of EAC Suggestions](#)

This resolution highlights this organization's demands that Secretaries of State are the middle-men between counties and their application for federal funds to assist in updating their voting systems according to HAVA guidelines. The NASS demands that the SOS is not interfered with by the EAC for any reason in the disbursement of funds for counties who have applied for them. The NASS does not want their member Secretaries of State subject to any EAC guidelines, but insists that the SOS have total purview over the use of funds to upgrade voting systems so as to enact the NASS agenda. The EAC issues VVSG (Volunteer Voting System Guidelines) which outline the standards required to meet HAVA mandates. This is what the NASS and its SOS members have demanded to be exempt from. This appears to be a smoke screen designed to read as state's rights, but which seems to, in actuality, prevent the SOS from being held liable for implementing NASS agenda items into state election procedures which may not meet HAVA and EAC standards for best practices.

[A Game of Semantics: Covering The Demand to Prevent EAC Audits of the Use of Federal Funds](#)

This Resolution appears to be the push to clarify the two similarly used terms of "Grant" and "Payment" as used in records kept by the EAC for approval of HAVA funds. The issue seems to be a cover designed simply to establish one another concept outlined in this resolution, which if presented on its own would be subject to scrutiny, potentially triggering a national debate:

"WHEREAS, in conducting audits of grants and payments, the EAC has no rule-making authority, and therefore, in performing its functions must act in accordance with the express statutory provisions of HAVA (See HAVA Section 209);"

Despite HAVA mandating that the EAC develop the [VVSG](#) to determine whether Voting Systems adopted by states and counties meet required standards, the NASS does not believe that the EAC has any rule-making authority in an audit of a state's HAVA expenditures.

[Impartiality of Election Administration](#)

This resolution reviews the claims that the NASS member Secretaries of State strive to avoid partisan efforts, campaign roles, and to maintain impartiality in their roles as the Chief Election Officer in their respective states. Katie Hobbs seems to have disregarded this particular resolution to campaign for her desired role as the Governor

of Arizona while still holding the title of Secretary of State of Arizona. Katie Hobbs is a sitting member of the NASS. [\[Link\]](#)

[Expanding Rights to Overseas Citizens to Vote in Party Primaries](#)

This resolution seeks to allow Military and Overseas Citizens to participate in Party Primary elections as well as the usual general elections. In this resolution, Military voters are lumped in with overseas citizens. Military voters are serving our country with their lives, while overseas citizens who have no intention of moving back to America are still allowed to vote in Federal elections. Federal Law allows for overseas citizens to still vote in the general election, even if they have zero desire, plans or timeline for returning to the US. This could be a way to further manipulate primaries and affect the nomination process.

[Push to Expand a Uniform Agenda of NASS Design to Every NGO and Every State](#)

This resolution seems to establish the desire for NASS concepts to be made uniform throughout the US, subject to change by the NASS as pushed through the EAC where possible, resulting in VVSG guidelines that will likely only be adhered to if they match the whims of NASS. It also outlines the organizations who NASS is already willing to work with to achieve their ends of funding election programs and procedures which they claim should not be subject to audit by the EAC, nor to adherence with VVSG. This resolution appears to expect congress or the EAC to mold their VVSGs to the will of the NASS, and to federally require NASS VVSGs nationwide. It appears that only once NASS has successfully redesigned the EAC's VVSG guidelines will the compliance with VVSG be fully endorsed by NASS.

[Push to Expand UOCAVA Procedures to Cover Emergency Responders](#)

This resolution wishes to automatically add "Emergency Responders" to the description of "Uniformed/ Overseas Citizens" to allow them to absentee vote without question. This seems to be part of the agenda to push to widen the scope for lawful use of absentee voting.

The move away from proper practices as adopted by the legislatures of each state seems to be born out of the internal deliberations of a select few NGOs made up of those state election officials who would otherwise have the most influence over administration of modern elections. This may require federal legislation to close loopholes and clarify the constitutionality of items brought forth by these organizations, and these organizations themselves.

There is a case heard by the Supreme Court of the United States in 2022, Moore V Harper, which originated in North Carolina, and which has come down to one of the most critical points of Constitutional Law related to American Elections. This case came as close to the issues we have identified in Taking Back Texas, with the help of some experts, as a Non-Delegation issue. Read more about the Non-Delegation Doctrine [here](#), and please stay tuned for our next reports exploring this concept and any potentially applicable case law.

Article 1, Section 4 of the National Constitution outlines the entity responsible for creating and amending election laws in each state as being the legislature thereof. Deferral of Legislative Branch authority to the Executive branch is more than a Non-Delegation issue, it is in direct opposition to Article 1 of the National Constitution.

Article 6, Section 2(c) of the Texas Constitution outlines the need for the legislature to create laws securing elections under due penalties from all undue influence and improper practice. Subversion of the State Legislature's Constitutional duty, thereby obfuscating the process of adopting election procedures potentially rife with undue influence and improper practice. To remove accountability and recourse for what may be constitutional violations is a betrayal of the oath of office taken upon entering public office and sworn upon the very document each legislator swears to uphold.

Aubree

Taking Back Texas

takingbacktexas.org