



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

October 24, 2016

Mr. Todd Valentine
President, National Association of State Election Directors
40 North Pearl Street, Suite 5
Albany, New York 12207

Dear President Valentine,

In these final days of preparation for Election Day November 8, we wanted to register again our deep appreciation for your work in jurisdictions around the country administering the voting process. In our work as co-chairs of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, we could not fail to be impressed by the careful and conscientious approach our election administrators bring to their responsibilities—and all too often with limited resources. We have also been grateful for your ongoing assistance in implementing the commission's recommendations for addressing long lines and more generally improving the voter experience.

This year, perhaps more than ever before, it will be important to have the voting public well informed about how the electoral process works and confident in the steps you take each cycle to assure that it serves the voters well. In recent years, through the efforts of National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED) and the secretaries of state, numerous advances have been made in the organization and administration of this process and in the achievement of these goals. With the support of our commission and the many dedicated citizens organizations that participated in our hearings, these efforts are ongoing. We hope that NASSED will help use all available information resources to help tell that story.

In the end, as we made clear in our report, the electoral process functions best as a partnership of campaigns, parties, voters, volunteer poll-workers officials, all cooperating toward the same goal of smoothly functioning and transparent polling locations that operate efficiently to allow all eligible voters to cast their ballots and to have confidence that their votes will be accurately tallied. Of course, as we noted in our report, "there has never been a perfectly run election in the United States or elsewhere, and perhaps there never will." But thousands of officials each election cycle do their best with remarkable success, and with steady attention to improved administration where it is needed, and with support from both all participants in the process, they will be able to succeed again this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Benjamin S. Ginsberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Ben Ginsberg
Co-Chair, PCEA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Bauer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bob Bauer
Co-Chair, PCEA