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Media Contacts:

Meredith Battle Imwalle
703-786-1823

Kay Stimson
202-624-3525

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Joint Report Provides Recommendations for Improving Digital Archiving

WASHINGTON, DC – A joint report released today by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) and the National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Council (eC3) provides state archivists and records custodians with proven strategies for improving states' digital archiving efforts and generating the support and funding necessary to develop new archiving programs and maintain existing ones.

The research paper, "Digital Archiving: From Fragmentation to Collaboration," was developed during an eC3 digital archiving symposium sponsored by NASS June 26-27, 2006. Secretaries of State, state archivists, state librarians and private sector IT organization representatives participated in the symposium and shared their perspectives on state government digital archiving strategies.

"The strategies outlined in the paper focus on how best to communicate to key stakeholders the public value of digital archiving and how to make a compelling business case for funding digital archiving projects," said North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, a key supporter of the symposium.

The paper's findings are based on case studies of four states: Kansas, Georgia, New Jersey and Washington. Symposium presentations made by representatives of these states examined policy, political and management practices that affect the states' ability to develop successful digital archiving initiatives.

The purpose of the paper is to help states map their way to a successful digital archiving program. "The strategies presented in the paper are recommended practices that have been successfully implemented by a number of states and could likely be adopted by other states interested in pursuing digital archiving initiatives," said Minnesota Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, a proponent for advancing technology and programs in state government.

The paper's findings will be presented at the eC3 Annual Conference in Sacramento, CA on Monday, December 4, 2006. The Center for Technology in Government's Brian Burke, the report's author, will present an overview of the paper, and a panel of Secretaries of State will discuss the policy and political factors involved with implementing a digital archiving program.

To learn more about eC3 and the topics to be covered at their Annual Conference, visit <http://www.ec3.org>.

For more information about the roles and responsibilities of the Secretaries of State, visit http://www.nass.org/sos/duties_survey/index.html.

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