



NEWS RELEASE

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NASS Statement on the 2008 Presidential Election

Washington, DC—NASS President and Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro A. Cortés and NASS President-Elect and Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson issued the following statement today:

There is no doubt that democracy is the winner of the 2008 presidential election. According to the Associated Press and other major media outlets, more than 130 million Americans turned out to vote this year. This figure is the highest ever to vote in a presidential election.

As secretaries of state and chief state election officials, and on behalf of our association colleagues, we would like to thank and recognize the countless men and women across the country, including state staff, local election administrators and poll workers, who worked exceedingly hard on Election Day—and the many months leading up to it—to deliver a process that was fair, accurate, accessible and secure. As a September 2008 NASS report on state election efforts so clearly pointed out, preparation was the key to this achievement.

There are many reasons to celebrate the hard work and dedication of state and local election administrators this year, but highlights include:

- The promotion, collection, processing and verification of a record number of new voter registrations, with at least 20 states setting records in the overall number of registered voters – for a total of roughly 185 million registered voters across the U.S. These numbers also served as the basis for unprecedented state and local voter education and outreach efforts.
- The recruitment and training of an estimated two million poll workers, including a whole new generation of qualified, committed volunteers in areas of the U.S. where shortages have been common in the past.
- The promotion, facilitation and processing of some estimated 29 million early voters in 31 states, with thousands of polling sites whose operations required long hours and extraordinary dedication from the election administrators and volunteers in charge of equipment, ballots, voting lists and more.
- Election Day wait times that were largely kept to a reasonable minimum for most voters, including those in high-turnout, battleground states such as Colorado, Nevada, North Carolina and Ohio.
- Quick state responses to reports of problems on Election Day. Voter hotlines promoted by the major news networks received a low volume of calls relative to the size of the voting population, and the majority of the calls they did receive were related to questions about registration status and polling place issues, which could be addressed in a quick and efficient manner.

Above all, election officials are grateful for the patience, passion and optimism that American voters displayed on Election Day 2008. The energy and enthusiasm of the electorate has reinvigorated the pride that we all feel about our voting process. While no election is perfect, the nation's chief state election officials owe a debt of gratitude to those who helped carry out another memorable presidential election cycle.

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