



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES OF STATE  
RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS TO US ELECTIONS AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOL**

Approved on February 6, 2005

Extended until the 2010 Summer Conference on February 1, 2010

Whereas, the promotion of democracy worldwide has been a fundamental pillar of U.S. Foreign Policy for many years;

Whereas, the United States of America was a founding member of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 1975, now consisting of 55 member nations, and in 1990 signed the OSCE's Copenhagen Agreement which gives the right of member countries to observe each others elections;

Whereas, working through the U.S. Department of State in 2004, approximately 100 election observers were hosted in the US to observe the US Presidential Election;

Whereas, over the past two decades the United States has sent countless international election observer missions to countries all around the globe;

Whereas, it is important that the state and local election officials serve as ambassadors of goodwill for the United States by welcoming international visitors and observers to learn first-hand about the majesty of the election process in the United States in a spirit of openness and transparency.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) welcomes the presence of international visitors and observers to experience and learn about the election process in the United States;

Further, NASS recognizes that it is important that visitors and observers from the OSCE and other officially sanctioned international observer and visitor delegations will be welcomed, and NASS encourages federal, state, and local election officials to cooperate and facilitate the opportunities for international observers and visitors to witness US election systems first-hand.

Further, NASS endorses the idea for an appropriate federal agency or non-profit, working with state and local election officials, to assume the role of providing international visitors and observers with accreditation to observe election in states and localities around the country, with the understanding that these observers will not hinder the election process in any way.

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Further, that the top state election officer for each state shall be the portal state contact for certified international observers seeking to observe election in said state, and shall assist in making appropriate state or local arrangements for such election visitors.

Further, it is recommended that NASS, should develop a protocol for receiving and assisting international visitors and observers and that this could be developed as a pilot program for those states and localities that will have elections in 2005.

APPROVED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2005, by the NASS International Relations Committee and formally adopted by a majority vote of the membership at the Business Meeting of 2005 NASS Winter Conference on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2005.

*Expires at Summer Conference 2010*