

Washington

*Help America Vote Act
(HAVA) Complaint
Process Guide*

Provided by

VOTER
REFERENCE FOUNDATION 

Disclaimer: This is a guide to your state’s laws relating to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and other election related complaints.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in this guide or the information linked to on the state site.

This guide was last updated on 03/01/2026.

Table of Contents:

[What is the Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\)?](#)

[How do I file a HAVA complaint?](#)

[How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?](#)

[Who do I contact regarding election related complaints?](#)

What is the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)?

According to the [Election Assistance Commission](#):

The [Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\) of 2002](#) was passed by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process. HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election. HAVA mandates that EAC test and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form and administer a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections.

HAVA creates new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration. The law provides funding to help states meet these new standards, replace voting systems and improve election administration. HAVA also established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to assist the states regarding HAVA compliance and to distribute HAVA funds to the states. EAC is also charged with creating voting system guidelines and operating the federal government's first voting system certification program. EAC is also responsible for maintaining the National Voter Registration form, conducting research, and administering a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. HAVA requires that the states implement the following new programs and procedures:

- Provisional Voting
- Voting Information
- Updated and Upgraded Voting Equipment
- Statewide Voter Registration Databases
- Voter Identification Procedures
- Administrative Complaint Procedures

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to HAVA Complaint Form](#)

Any person who believes that a violation of Title III of the federal Help America Vote Act has occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur may file a complaint with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Title III of the Help America Vote Act includes:

- Standards and requirements for voting equipment;
- Requirements to offer provisional voting;
- Requirements for posting voting information on election day;
- Requirements for a statewide voter registration system; and
- Requirements for voters who register by mail

If your complaint falls under one of the above categories, you may use this form to file a complaint with the Office of the Secretary of State. A letter containing the same information is also acceptable. All complaints must be notarized and filed with the Office of the Secretary of State no later than 30 days after certification of the election.

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

Concerns about the election process may be directed to [County Election Offices](#) or the [Secretary of State office](#).

If you believe an election crime has been committed, please file a report with law enforcement.

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Secretary of State, Elections Division

Physical Address:

Elections Division
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98501

Mailing Address:

Elections Division
P.O. Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229

Phone Number:

360-902-4180

Email Address:

elections@sos.wa.gov

Website:

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections>

Office of the Attorney General

Physical Address:

Office of the Attorney General
1125 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504

Mailing Address:

Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

Phone Number:

360-753-6200

Email Webform:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/atg/formhandler/ago/ContactForm.aspx>

Online Address:

<https://www.atg.wa.gov/contactus.aspx>