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Statement from the Executive Director of the American Council for Election Technology (ACET) Regarding Member Commitment to Security

WASHINGTON (August 15, 2024) — In response to recent headlines suggesting that election technology providers are unwilling or unable to address technical vulnerabilities in voting systems following the DEF CON Voting Village, the American Council for Election Technology (ACET) feels it is essential to provide a more holistic understanding of the situation.

Election technology providers are steadfast in their commitment to the security and integrity of our nation's voting systems. Multiple layers of security measures are in place to protect voting systems from both physical and cyber intrusions. Federal Voting System Standards dictate strict measures that protect and prevent voting systems used in live elections from being exposed to cyber threats. Our member companies not only meet these rigorous federal and state certification standards but also collaborate closely with federal agencies, including the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), to address any identified issues with the utmost care, transparency, and urgency. Despite the worst intentions of America's adversaries, there has never been any evidence that a certified voting system has been maliciously compromised through a cyber intrusion.

Our members are continuously monitoring and enhancing their products to maintain the highest levels of reliability and integrity. ACET is particularly proud of the proactive measures taken by our members, including their participation in the 2023 Election Security Research Forum. During the forum, election technology providers in conjunction with IT-ISAC and MITRE Corporation, collaborated with security researchers under the principles of coordinated vulnerability disclosure (CVD), offering access to modern election technology. Looking ahead, ACET hopes to host additional forums to further these efforts.

When potential vulnerabilities are identified, providers work closely with state and federal election authorities to determine if there is a material impact on certified voting systems used in

live elections. If so, appropriate mitigations or corrections are collectively identified and applied. It's important to recognize that the certification process for election technology is both thorough and time-consuming, often spanning many months or even years. This process includes multiple rounds of testing and verification at accredited laboratories to meet stringent federal and state standards, with the latest federal requirements mandating robust penetration testing as part of the certification process. Additionally, providers must navigate a complex landscape of state and local election deadlines, which can influence the timing of when updates and fixes can be implemented. These deadlines—beyond the control of providers—require careful planning and coordination to ensure that enhancements are made without disrupting election processes.

While we deeply respect the contributions of DEF CON researchers to election security, the assertion that “basic stuff” is not being addressed is misleading and does not reflect the full scope of ongoing efforts within the industry.

For more information about our ongoing efforts to secure election technologies or to learn more about how election technology providers are actively engaging in this critical work, please visit our website at TechForElections.VOTE or contact Executive Director Sara Cutter directly at S.Cutter@TechForElections.VOTE.

About ACET

The American Council for Election Technology (ACET) is a national, nonpartisan trade association founded in 2022 to advance the use of technology in ensuring secure, accurate, accessible, and transparent elections. As a unified voice for election system providers, ACET influences state and federal policies while enhancing public understanding of voting and other election technologies. ACET member companies support a broad range of electoral processes, including voter registration, ballot printing, and vote counting, serving thousands of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.

For more information about ACET please visit us at TechForElections.VOTE, email us at Info@TechForElections.VOTE, or follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [X/Twitter](#).