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NEWS

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Pew Center on the States to Address Election Administration and Climate Change

Appoints Top Policy Experts Ray Martinez and Doug Foy

WASHINGTON, DC—The Pew Center on the States (PCS) today announced the addition of two new policy advisors to support their work. Ray Martinez, a former vice chair of the federal Election Assistance Commission under President Bush, will reach out to state and local election officials, gaining their insights and analysis to inform the PCS' election administration initiative. Doug Foy, a nationally renowned environmental lawyer and former Massachusetts secretary of commonwealth development under Governor Mitt Romney will examine state strategies to grow economies in environmentally sustainable ways.

Established in 2004, the Pew Center on the States examines critical issues facing states and identifies and promotes effective, nonpartisan policy solutions.

"States today are facing mounting pressure to manage a range of complex and costly issues—including addressing greenhouse gas emissions and an election process facing serious challenges," said Mary Jo Waits, center director of the Pew Center on the States. "We are thrilled that Ray and Doug, leaders in their respective fields, have joined with PCS to add their expertise to our efforts to examine policy innovation in the states."

Election Administration

Over the next three years, the PCS elections initiative, "Make Voting Work," will encourage changes that help states improve access to and accuracy in the voting process.

Prior to joining the Pew Center on the States, Ray Martinez was nominated by President Bush as one of the first Commissioners to serve on the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), the federal commission created under the Help America Vote Act to improve elections in the wake of the 2000 Presidential race. During his tenure he distinguished himself for his bipartisanship, accessibility and knowledge of election reform requirements. Previously, Martinez served as deputy assistant for intergovernmental affairs for President Clinton and ran his own successful law practice in Austin, Texas. He also served as executive director of the Every Texan Foundation, a nonpartisan voter registration and education effort.

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“Research shows that between four million and six million eligible and motivated voters lost their fundamental right to vote in 2000, and despite diligent efforts by election officials and advocates alike, serious problems remained at every stage of the process in 2004—from registering to vote and casting a ballot to recording votes,” said Martinez. “I am pleased to join with the Pew Center on the States’ team and look forward to working with election officials and others to examine how best to improve access and accuracy in the voting process.”

Sustainable Development

Supporting the Trusts’ long-standing commitment to climate change issues, Foy will work with the Pew Center on Global Climate Change to look at examples of successful state-based strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while accelerating state economic growth. Foy will focus on the potential impact of state policies which integrate environmental, transportation, housing and energy goals.

As the secretary of commonwealth development under Governor Mitt Romney, Foy helped the state become a national pioneer in marrying economic development and environmental strategies across multiple agencies and programs. During his tenure, Massachusetts developed a 25-year transportation plan, adopted a comprehensive climate plan, accelerated investment in public transit, passed major zoning and transit oriented development legislation, tripled multi-family housing starts, and reformed the state park agency. In addition, Foy was one of the key officials who helped forge the multi-state regional greenhouse gas initiative (RGGI) creating a cap and trade carbon market in the Northeast. Before serving in the Romney Administration, Foy was the long-time president of the New England based Conservation Law Foundation, a leading regional environmental advocacy organization in the country.

“There is a clear connection between successful economic development and successful environmental protection,” said Foy. “More and more states are recognizing this link, and managing their agencies to achieve both goals. As a policy advisor to the Pew Center on the States, I look forward to sharing the lessons I learned in Massachusetts and working with leaders in other states to grow their economies in environmentally sustainable ways.”

“States are taking on some of the most challenging issues facing the American public,” said Sue Urahn, managing director of State Policy Initiatives at The Pew Charitable Trusts. “Ray and Doug will add tremendous value to the work of the Pew Center on the States by highlighting different policy approaches in play, assessing their impact, and identifying and promoting effective solutions to two of the most pressing issues of our time.”

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The Pew Center on the States (www.pewcenteronthestates.org) is a division of The Pew Charitable Trusts that examines critical issues facing states and identifies and promotes effective, nonpartisan policy solutions. The Center issues regular reports, issue briefs and 50-state assessments and holds convenings of diverse stakeholders to foster consensus.