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For Immediate Release

### **Election Center – National Association of Election Officials Announces Leadership Team Expansion**

The Election Center’s Board of Directors is pleased to announce changes and additions to its leadership structure to support program expansion and ensuring continued capacity for the organization’s member-focused services and initiatives.

Effective today, **Kathleen Hale**, professor emerita, Auburn University has been appointed to serve as **Executive Director**.

Election Center members are most familiar with Dr. Hale as a Political Science professor, author, and director of the Election Administration Initiative and Graduate Program in Election Administration at Auburn University. In that capacity, she served on the Election Center Board of Directors and was instrumental in the development of the Election Center and Auburn University partnership that launched the Institute for Election Administration, Research, and Practice.

As Executive Director, Kathleen will oversee the business operations and management of the Election Center including continued leadership of the professional education and research activities that are hallmarks of the Election Center’s history and service to the election administration community. She was recently inducted as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and brings to the position prior professional experience as a lawyer and non-profit administrator.

*“We are excited to support the continued growth of the Election Center through the expanded leadership and oversight that Dr. Kathleen Hale brings as our Executive Director,”* said Susan Gill, Chair of the Election Center Board of Directors. *“She is recognized by academics and national organizations for her research that blends theory and practice and has a demonstrated commitment to professionalism in the field and support for our members.”*

Kathleen joins **Tammy Patrick**, who as **Chief Programs Officer** continues to lead and cultivate the Election Center's vast and expanding program portfolio focused on development of state associations, member networking, and member-driven committee work on legislation, election operations support, technology, communications, and more.

*"I am thrilled to take on this new role with the Election Center and to partner with Tammy, the Election Center Board of Directors, and our members to ensure continued and expanded capacity to support the community of election administrators who make up our membership,"* said Kathleen Hale, Executive Director. *"There is a wealth of talent and an unsurpassed commitment among the officials at the local and state levels who ensure our electoral process is fair, transparent, and accurate. I am proud to represent and uplift their work."*

The Election Center is also pleased to welcome three new members to its Board of Directors. The recent additions represent the Board's commitment to representation from the elections administration community. New directors include **Derek Bowens**, CERA, Director of Elections in Durham County, North Carolina, **Wesley Wilcox**, CERA, Supervisor of Elections in Marion County, Florida, and **Heider Garcia**, CERA, Dallas County Elections Administrator in Texas.

The Board of Directors, along with Kathleen and Tammy, represents an experienced group that combines expertise in business, government, jurisprudence, and academia. Their collective knowledge directs and informs the commitment, aims, and standards of the election profession's premier organization for training and certification of election and voter registration administrators.

Learn more about the Election Center leadership and Board of Directors [here](#).