

RE Recommendation for DRE machines.

Subject: RE: Recommendation for DRE machines.

Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 10:22 PM
To: Voting Systems
Subject: Recommendation for DRE machines.

Dear SOS Debra Bowen,
Your press release on 3-22-07 states "Every California voter has the right to have their vote counted as it was cast" and "... to ensure that California voters are being asked to cast their ballots on machines that are secure, accurate, accessible and auditable" This can never happen with DRE machines, BAN them.

There is no test or function of a DRE voting machine that can verify to the voter that their vote was counted (recorded) as cast, impossible! When you press the button to cast your vote on a DRE you can not see with the naked eye whether or not your vote was recorded as cast, you can not see inside a computer chip! A VVPAT is in no way a verification that your vote was counted (recorded) as cast, only a print out of what the DRE program tells you what was cast and it is impossible to verify this with the naked eye of the voter who cast the ballot. The only way that a voter can verify that their vote is counted as cast is if there is a paper ballot that is marked by and verified by the voter. The only secure, accurate and auditable way to count a ballot is to record the vote on a paper ballot that is the vote of record and hand counted. I won't even go into the security issues with the DRE as this would take many pages of documented evidence, testimony by computer scientists, poll workers, poll watchers and voting integrity investigative journalists and groups, all of which I have available.

Electronic tabulators are notoriously inaccurate and susceptible to over and under counts, non-counts and brake downs. Tabulators are also programmed and a voter is unable to verify that their vote was tabulated as cast. Again, hand counting is the only accurate way to securely, accurately record the vote. A voter marked paper ballot as the vote of record can be audited at any time.

In the instance of English as a second language voter, paper ballots can be printed in any language marked by the voter and hand counted as would an English voting ballot.

In the instance of handicapped and blind voters there are "NON-DRE" touchscreen voting devices, tactile ballots, vote pad etc. are much more user friendly and accessible than any DRE on the market. In the case of the several electronic paper ballot markers for the handicapped and blind I would agree there needs to be an extensive and thorough examination of performance before certification, I would leave the particulars to those who are in the handicapped and blind communities to offer their suggestions for the certain criteria needed.

Our vote is our most sacred common and should not be compromised in the attempt to expedite a vote count or to make someones job easier. A voter marked paper ballot counted at the precinct level is the most accurate, secure and auditable way to count our vote. It is also a falsehood that manually counting of the ballots takes too long or is excessively labor intensive. To the contrary, manually counting the vote en-powers the people and gives a sense of pride and belonging to the only Democratic Republic to exist!

Please BAN DRE machines immediately! Just the costs of DRE machines and tabulators is enough to demand their ban by the taxpayers of California. Lets keep it simple and cost effective, Voter Marked Paper Ballots counted at the precinct level. KISS, Keep It Simple Secretary.

Sincerely,

RE Recommendation for DRE machines.
Member; SAVElections Monterey County

I support,
Bradblog.com, votersunite.org, blackboxvoting.org, pollworkersfordemocracy.org,
voteraction.org, electiondefencealliance.org and many others, you should too.