

April 6, 2007

Given some of the discussion this week on the (TGDC Sub-committee) teleconferences, particularly the one on e-poll books on Tuesday April 3, the below article from today may be relevant. What was missing Tuesday was an understanding that both Diebold and ES&S machines do allow a special provisional ballot number to be attached to the person's electronic vote record in a DRE if they are voting provisionally. That allows the ballot to be pulled out of the system once the eligibility of the voter is determined after the election. Not all states use that, and as you can see Ohio yesterday said they were not going to, but the functionality is there in at least those two systems. As a result, the ballot activation card does have information written to it that may be more than just the ballot style.

There was some lack of knowledge that was going on in the teleconference on Tuesday that I wanted to help clarify, before movement was made in the wrong direction.

FYI

Kim Brace
Election Data Services, Inc.
1400 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Provisional ballots must be on paper
Secretary of state fears electronic machines put voter secrecy at risk in recount

Associated Press

COLUMBUS - Ohio's new elections chief ordered the state's 88 boards of elections Thursday to record all provisional ballots on paper, beginning with the first elections after the May 8 primary.

Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner said electronic machines assign each provisional voter a number that is printed on a paper record in each machine, putting ballot secrecy at risk if a recount occurs. If the number is visible while votes are being counted, it would be possible to learn the identity of the voter.

A provisional ballot is cast when a voter does not have suitable identification or if the address on the voter's ID differs from the one written in precinct poll books.

Most counties still use paper for provisional ballots, said Matt Damschroder, director of the Franklin County elections board and president of the Ohio Association of Election Officials. Elections officials should have no problem making the switch, he said.

Brunner also ordered boards to adopt statewide standards in voter identification requirements for those seeking absentee ballots.

The changes were in a temporary court order issued by a federal judge in a lawsuit last year over the new requirements. The suit contended that standards were being applied unevenly among Ohio's 88 counties.

The new standards require election workers to accept as valid identification a driver's license or state-issued ID; a photo ID issued by the federal government or a military ID; or an original or copy of a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document.