

"Franklin Lambert" <hotandfrosty@yahoo.com>

12/08/2008 01:01 PM

To

HAVAinfo@eac.gov

cc

"Valerie Lane" <saveelections@gmail.com>

Subject

Electronic Software Dependent Voting Systems

To: Election Assistance Commission

Subject: Comments regarding the approval of all electronic software dependent voting systems.

Dear members of the Commission,

As a member of SAVElections Monterey County, my concern with electronic vote tabulation, and I've seen enough evidence on how the final tally can be altered, is to refrain from using these systems (including optically-scanned paper ballots) and return to "the old-fashioned" method, which is reliable, open, and has worked well from the founding of our nation up until computerization of the voting process began, and that is "hand-counted" paper ballots, counted by the poll workers themselves.

I have a written statement on file which was submitted to the Monterey County Election Office and have testified in person before them about my actual experience as a poll worker while living in Santa Cruz County in the mid-90's. I'll go over it briefly for you.

When the polls closed, the Precinct captain (we were all volunteers) locked the door and each one of us had a tally sheet and recorded the votes from our ballot box. Everything was counted, and the numbers tallied. The precinct captain would give my ballots (minus the tally sheet) to another poll worker to count and I would be given someone else's to count. If the tally sheets had differing numbers, another person would count them, but in essence, made sure the count was accurate and not even off by one vote! It worked fine, we counted one or two stacks twice, if I remember correctly, and when we were all in agreement as to the accuracy of the count, the captain entered the results on the Official Tally Sheet, placing it the box which was sealed and signed by him, and one copy posted on the wall.

This is a "real" paper trail, verifiable if a recount was/is necessary and on file. And provable!

Please consider what I have offered and withdraw from electronic voting systems.

Respectfully,
Franklin O. Lambert
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"Dan Stanton" <soccercrna@yahoo.com>

12/05/2008 03:30 PM

Please respond to

soccercrna@yahoo.com

To

HAVAinfo@eac.gov

cc

Subject

Software dependant vote counting systems- not trustworthy!

Dear EAC:

If you are serious about election reform, the first thing to do is get rid of all voting technology that requires computer software. Vote counting systems that utilize computer software will never be fully transparent and trustworthy. The Netherlands discarded all their computerized voting systems 2 years ago due to security and accuracy concerns. Hand counting of paper ballots is the only trustworthy system of vote counting. Elections officials should never have been permitted to purchase vote counting systems using propriety software from private election system companies. If US elections officials insist on using these machines, complete and thorough audits of voter verified paper ballots should be mandatory election night in each precincts after each and every election to check for accuracy.

Danny Stanton

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"Katherine Forrest" <kforrest@commonwealinstitute.org>

12/05/2008 04:51 PM

Please respond to

"Katherine Forrest" <kforrest@commonwealinstitute.org>

To
HAVAinfo@eac.gov
cc

Subject
To EAC: voting system recommendations

Dear EAC members,

As a citizen working to improve the integrity of our nation's voting system, these are changes I would like to see put into place promptly:

1. Repeal HAVA.
2. Eliminate all direct recording electronic (DRE) voting machines. Voter-verifiable paper trails or ballots produced by DREs are insufficient protection, due to users' demonstrated inability to recognize errors on the paper documents. Paper or similarly durable material should be used for ballots and ballot retention should be required by law.
3. Require random audits of all elections, with statistically appropriate sample sizes to detect errors and with randomization to be done after the close of polls.
4. Require counting and public posting of all votes at each polling place prior to transmission of the totals to the central tabulating facility, as a means of checking the accuracy of the central tabulation process.
5. Extend the time allowed for certification of election results to 60 days following national elections, so that if recounts are needed, election officials will not be unduly pressured to call the results before final results are known.
6. Create a national exit poll to help ensure the integrity of the vote, with all the data and programs in the public domain.
7. Make Election Day a national holiday, and preferably a three-day event.

8. Do not encourage vote-by-mail or Internet voting schemes, as these are potentially vulnerable to fraud.
9. Create simple, uniform, national standards for voter registration and voting. These should include automatic registration at age 18 or at the time that new citizens are sworn in, with an easy mechanism for changing one's address in event of a move, and a verifiable means of eliminating people from the voting rolls in event of their death or deportation; temporary suspension should occur if a person is convicted and imprisoned for felony.
10. Prohibit disenfranchisement of previous felons once they have served their terms and completed parole; a single standard should apply to all states.
11. Create a new office in the Executive branch whose specific task is to create and oversee an efficient, equitable voting system. Make this position subject to bipartisan congressional oversight to avoid its politicization.
12. Make election fraud and voter suppression (including caging, harrassment, threats, deceit about polling place locations and dates, etc.) felonies, with substantial penalties and resources to investigate and prosecute offenders.
13. Make it illegal for a Secretary of State to play any role in any political party or in any individual's campaign for national office. Hopefully, similar laws will be adopted by the states with regard to all election officials' involvement in state and local offices and ballot measure contests.
14. Bring full transparency and citizen oversight to our election process. Private companies should not be allowed to claim proprietary rights to any aspect of our public voting system or its oversight mechanisms.
15. Require open-source software on any electronic devices used in the election process, such as optical scan readers or central tabulation equipment.
16. Permit international observers to witness election processes in the United States and publicize their findings. Our country has a long way to go before it can claim to be a model for democratic elections.

Sincerely yours,

Katherine Forrest, MD

President and Co-Founder

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