

RE Comment on needed changes/Voting Machine Review
Subject: RE: Comment on needed changes/Voting Machine Review

Sent: Friday, March 23, 2007 11:35 PM
To: Voting Systems
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Dear Secretary of State Debra Bowen,

The forcing of electronic voting machines on the voting public was a huge boondoggle. Some people made tons of money. Some people got elected who did not win the election. The machines are hackable, inaccurate, expensive to buy and expensive to maintain, cause frustration for many voters, require more time and expertise on the part of election workers, need experts dashing around town on election day to fix electronic glitches, and proprietary software stands in the way of transparency to mention a few of the problems associated with their use. Paper ballots have worked pretty well for many years and in all kinds of situations. No, they are not fraud proof but they are way cheaper than non fraud proof machines and do not have the problems listed above. Fraud can be and has been caught with paper ballots when there is/was a good and accountable chain of control.

I do not think a 1% audit is sufficient to insure accuracy and catch fraud.

How come exit polls are not more highly regarded as indicators of problems? They seem to have a good track record.

I realize that many handicapped people find electronic machines ideal for them. Seems to me other possibilities besides electronic machines exist. But perhaps one machine per precinct for special needs since we are awash with these machines anyway. But then what happens when some of those machines malfunction?

There are other problems besides inaccurate, hackable electronic voting machines. I feel very pessimistic at times thinking that we will never have a system where I can be sure my vote has been accurately counted.

Look at what happened to the votes for Dona Frye in San Diego. Look at Bilbray in San Diego being certified by Haas before all the votes had been counted. Laws need to plug loopholes and people have to be held accountable for errors and fraud.

Sincerely,