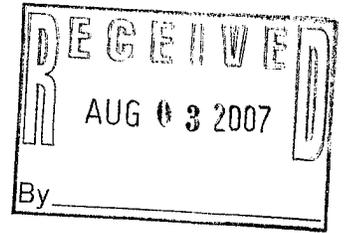




August 1, 2007



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Honorable Deborah Bowen
Secretary of State
State of California
1500 11th Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Bowen:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is supportive of your interest in ensuring that the state's voting systems are secure, accurate, reliable and accessible. While we believe that your "top-to-bottom review" of the voting systems had merit, we are disappointed with the manner in which it was undertaken. Our disappointment has been further exacerbated with the release of the UC researchers' findings of this top-to-bottom review.

Despite multiple requests by CSAC and the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials (CACEO), county election officials were not included in the voting system review process. We believe that the decision to not include election officials in the process was a serious mistake. Their experience with the "real-world" use of voting systems would have lent validity to the review process.

CSAC further agrees with the statements made by the county election officials who have questioned the validity of testing the voting systems in a laboratory setting. CSAC also shares their concerns regarding the lack of published, clear and testable standards for the penetration portion of the testing and any examination or consideration of real-world mitigation.

CSAC urges you to address the questions posed by the president of the CACEO, Steve Weir, at the July 30 public hearing and in his written comments (Attachment 1), prior to making a final decision regarding the voting systems. Regardless of your final decision, it is imperative that county election officials be included in any follow-up actions necessitated by your decision, as soon as possible. We can attest to their readiness and willingness to assist you in providing for secure and proper handling of election materials.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul McIntosh'.

Paul McIntosh
CSAC Executive Director

Attachment