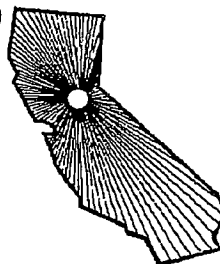


CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

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March 30, 2007

**The Honorable Debra Bowen
Secretary of State
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Voting Systems Review, 6th Floor**

Dear Secretary Bowen,

The California Council of the Blind (CCB) has long advocated for informational technologies that are accessible, useable and private for all persons who are blind and visually impaired.

The right for a private, independent and verifiable method of voting must not be withdrawn in the attempt to resolve outstanding issues with respect to Direct Recording Equipment (DRE) machines.

The criteria listed for certification, although sweeping in scope, fails to consider the existing rights of current voters with disabilities.

Since much expense to the tax payer and time and effort by counties has been expended, we recommend temporary certification status and a phase in model for the implementation of the fine accessibility criteria you so accurately list in the top down report.

Sincerely,

Dan Kysor



[REDACTED]

From: Ardis Bazyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2007 11:28 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Voting Systems
Subject: Re: Secretary Bowen's Draft Criteria for Top to Bottom Voting System Review

Secretary Debra Bowen
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Voting Systems Review, 6th Floor
Dear Secretary Bowen,

After reading your criteria for certification, I have some concerns. I want to make the following comments and ask some questions. While I agree with all the accessibility requirements you list in your criteria, I am concerned with the prospect of decertifying voting systems if they do not meet all the accessibility features cited in the draft criteria. I know of no accessible voting system which has all the features mentioned in your draft proposal for certified systems. Some systems have more features than others, but none have all these standards. Also, many counties have purchased different systems, costing thousands of dollars. How will counties satisfy the HAVA requirements of accessible systems in each polling place if their system is decertified? Have you thought about possibly certifying systems for a limited time so manufacturers have time to improve the systems? Some of the changes shouldn't take much time (screens to protect privacy) and should be able to be accomplished in time for future elections. However, some, like the audio of dre verifiable paper trail or color contrast on other systems (just to mention a couple), may take more time. Decertifying voting systems would keep many voters from having a private and independent bote as required by HAVA.

I agree with the requirement for poll worker training materials. This has been a problem for some time. Of course, counties have to follow through by making sure the information is with the machines on voting locations on election days.

Thank you for the chance to ask questions and make comments on your proposed criteria for voting systems. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me. You can reach me at 818-238-9321 or abazyn@bazyncommunications.com.

Ardis Bazyn, California Council of the Blind representative
Available for speaking, coaching, and research/writing projects. Check out:
[Http://www.bazyncommunications.com](http://www.bazyncommunications.com)