

November 28, 2007

Secretary of State Debra Bowen

Voting system comments for Top to Bottom review of L.A. voting system:

I wish to make comments on the L.A. Inkavote system, particularly the Inkavote Plus. I am a blind person who votes in Burbank, CA. Last year, I was able to vote independently on the Inkavote Plus system, for the first time. Previously, I had voted on the touch screens provided for early voting. When voting previously, I had to travel several miles to vote in another precinct, which can take quite some time with public transportation. Last year, I could walk a few blocks and vote locally. I appreciate the ability to vote privately and independently. The only assistance needed was for someone to show me where to insert the card and where to put the completed ballot. Since the Inkavote system is not a ballot counting device, I see no reason for decertifying this system. I know this system and all other systems need more accessibility features to work for all people with disabilities. However, it does assist many of us now. Thank you for reading my comments. A meeting with a variety of advocates for accessible systems might be advantageous. Please consider meeting with us in the near future—either in person or by teleconference. Thank you.

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