

Trust... Integrity... Accountability...

*Each* is an essential ingredient for a health democracy...

We Citizens must trust our elected officials to represent our best interests, which, in turn, maintains the integrity of our democratic system of government. Accountability to the public is realized when officials are elected or re-elected by their constituents.

In order to maintain the health of our democracy, we must also maintain the trust of *every* voter -- each voter makes our democracy possible. Integrity and accountability in the voting process is *vital* and must meet the *highest* standards available.

Many citizens already suffer from a disturbing sense of cynicism and disenfranchisement about the election process. These symptoms of dis-ease with our democratic processes were further aggravated by the 2000 and 2004 Presidential elections. It is *imperative* that as a democratic society, we cure this dis-ease or our form of self-governance will grow ill, weaken, and perhaps even die, under our watch.

The most accountable, and re-countable, voting system must be utilized. At this juncture in our history, Optical Scan is the superior choice. It provides ease-of-use, efficiency, and an *accountable, re-countable* paper record, which will foster trust among the voting public and entice citizens suffering from "my vote won't matter" and "I don't have time" syndrome to return to the polling place.

Other states -- such as Ohio, Florida and Maryland -- have had *major* problems with the same touch-screen machines we currently use in Centre County. New Mexico, Ohio and Florida have switched to all paper ballots after problems with touch-screen voting.

Within our own Commonwealth, the counties of Lacawanna and Wayne had their touch-screen machines *de-certified* -- in essence, the machines could not be trusted. Both of these Commonwealth Counties switched to Optical Scan quickly and successfully. Lacawanna County began their conversion to Optical Scanners on MARCH 4 and used them successfully during the APRIL 22 primary -- *a less than 50-day turn-around!*

It's not "too late" for Centre County to change to an Optical Scan system for November. Optical Scan will help remedy dis-ease among voters; Optical Scan will help foster trust, integrity, and accountability with long-lasting paper ballots; Optical Scan will help improve efficiency in our voting process; and Optical Scan complies with the Help America Vote Act.

Thank you.