

January 17, 2007

Dear Secretary Cortés,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. In this binder, we have assembled various documentation to provide you with as much detail about our request for a voter verified paper audit trail as possible. We believe that a VVPAT is essential to fair and honest elections in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**I. There are fundamental problems with Pennsylvania's election machines, especially the paperless electronic voting systems.**

- No way to recount the vote in a manner transparent to the general public
- No way for voters to verify that their intent was recorded correctly
- Deliberate or accidental errors in the computer system are almost impossible to detect
- Machine glitches and irregularities results in a loss of voter confidence, leading to lower voter turnout
- These flaws are a property of the fundamental design, not of particular systems

**II. Requirements for Accurate, Secure, and Reliable Voting Systems**

- Transparency in voting and vote counting
- A system independent method for voters to verify that their vote was recorded correctly
- A system that allows for a manual recount that's transparent to the public
- Mandatory Random audits (at least 5%) of the votes cast
- Voting and vote counting remain decentralized at the precinct level

**III. Pennsylvania lags behind other states in the adoption of these practices**

- Twenty-seven states require a voter verified paper audit trail.
- Eight more states use VVPAT, despite not being required by law.
- Of all the 2004 Battleground states, only PA, FL, and IA will allow paperless voting in 2008.
- Six of the ten largest states require a paper trail. (PA, TX, FL, GA do not)

**IV. Suggested Solution - Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails**

- Voters can verify, in a system-independent manner, their choices for each election.
- In the event of serious system problems, the paper trail can be audited for accuracy.
- Allows for mandatory random audits to ensure proper implementation.
- Precinct level systems keep voting decentralized
- In the case of systems such as an optical scanner, elections can continue in the event of a system malfunction.
- **We believe that the best system currently available to the Commonwealth is the optical scan system.**

Sincerely,

Concerned Voters of Centre County