

April 27, 2004

To: Boulder County Commissioners

We want Boulder County elections to be hand-counted until NIST (National Institute for Standards and Technology) comes forward with standards for electronic voting. We also each volunteer at least 4 hours of our time, for free, to help with the hand counting. (Signers, please DO let at least us organizers see your email address so we can contact you about volunteering!)

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

RECEIVED
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
APR 27 2004
REC'D BY _____
TIME _____

We endorse the Hand count the 2004 Election! Petition to Boulder County Commissioners.

Name	Comments	Number of hours volunteered
132. Merry Dawn Kimble		
131. Anne Becher	this is VERY important! Please support this!	
130. Alyne S. Galm		
129. John K. Galm		
128. Susan Tauger	thanks for initiating this. It would be wonderful if this idea could be implemented across Colorado, and, of course, other states.	3
127. Greg Ching	I work in the computer industry. On-line voting is not ready for prime time! Please do the right thing and listen to the people. The interest that will accrue on \$1.7 million between now and when we can choose a better (NIST-certified) option could more than pay for hand-counting elections!	
126. Justin Martin		4
125. Sue Mitrovic	the integrity of our votes must be secured	4
124. Eugene W Heuman		
123. Charles Haseman		4
122. Sandra Gaskill		4
121. Paul Walmsley	The part about NIST is unwise: we don't know what their standards will look like, so their standards may ultimately be a setback. Also, I feel that a statistical sample hand count is a better procedure than a full hand count. Having said that I am willing to volunteer my time for either a stat sample hand count or a full hand count.	
120. Mary J. Brodzik		4
119. Emily Cooper		as many as needed
Norman		
118. Lederman & Paula Hendricks		
117. Michelle Wallar		
116. Kathryn L. Chapman		
115. Cathryn Masciocchi		
114. Robbie Stauffer	electronic voting run by proprietary software is not democracy!	
113. mathew stackpole	Although unthinkable, wouldbecause we know they could, our government get away with voter rigging.....It would make Jeb Bush's Job that much easier this year!!.. It would be disastrous to spend this money and then discover that the machines do not comply with federal guidelines. Don't waste taxpayers' hard-earned money.	
112. Kate Paradis		4
111. Sharon Fay Diehl		
110. Jennie Bennett		5

109.	Thomas R. Moore		4
108.	Scotty Allen		10
107.	Anne Pfeffer		at least 4.
106.	Deborah Evans		4
105.	Rebecca Wallach		10
104.	Michael Strauss		
103.	Wynicia Clute	What about voting by absentee ballot, if machine count is not verifiable?	4
102.	Elizabeth Nitz		
101.	Terry Greenberg		
100.	roger junnila		
99.	Carole Onderdonk		
98.	Paulette Middleton		
97.	Kim L. Cohen	With what I hear about electronic voting we are in for horrors that will make the 2000 voter debacle look like a walk in the park by comparison. We need our votes to be verifiable. Hand counting is a good beginning , but a system that spits out a copy of the voters election choices would be better.	will work where needed
96.	martha adaline jyurovat	let's go back to hand counting/smaller precincts.	
95.	Gretchen B Williams		6
94.	LINDA FEIST		40
93.	Jonathan Smolens		3
92.	Anastasia Lawhead		6
91.	Janet Kuepper	BE IN TOUCH!	4
90.	Jenifer W. Callaway		24
89.	Amy Baker		10
88.	Johnathan Yelenick	hand count all the way!	4
87.	Troyanne Thigpen	I've done this, so I know how hard it is.	40
86.	Stayce Zimbleman	I do not agree having machines without a verifiable paper trail. I will do what it takes to insure our democracy.	
85.	Kell Carey		
84.	Sweigh Emily Spilkin		
83.	Cynthia Hardey	Trust is good -- control is better.	
82.	Matt Peterson		
81.	Robyn Levine		8
80.	David Paranka		8

79. M. Elizabeth Harris	This technology is not yet secure from tampering and bugs. Voters must be assured that their votes are tallied exactly as cast, hence the need for a verifiable paper trail.	
78. Jami Nelson	I live in Lafayette and would be happy to volunteer for this cause!	8
77. Denise Cote		4
76. Larry Kinney	I'm poor but honest and exceedingly disenchanted with the county commissioners' vote	10
75. Hans Rohner		
74. Ronald Forthofer		4
73. Kathryn Otto		
72. Francis Brian Tierney		as needed
71. Mary Forthofer		4
70. Cliff Clusin		8
69. George S Blakey	This is great for true democracy!	
68. Nancy Sullo		4
67. Sylvia Kroeger	I want everyone's vote to count and electronic machines are not the way. We need a paper trail and since the machines won't provide, we need to go back to paper.	8
66. Margit Johansson		
65. Thomas O. Satter		20
64. Nancy Paranka		4
63. Clara Lowry	I will be happy to volunteer as much time as is needed, and I can get at least 10 people to do so as well.	
62. H. S. Bennett		whatever it takes...
61. Mary Cedar Barstow		4
60. Andrew		12
59. Paula Pant	I would greatly prefer hand-counting to machine-counting	as many as it takes!
58. David Thibodeaux		as many as needed
57. Strider Benston	The Colorado law MUST be repealed. Its effect, intentional or not, is precisely to eliminate any possibility of verifiable vote count.	4
56. Clayton Barker		
55. Louis G Puls Jr		12
54. Daniel M. Webb		4
53. Brian Klocke		
52. Alvina Yeh		
51. Don Barshay		2
50. Kathleen Metzger		
49. Bob Spencer		4
48. James R. Kenworthy		
47. Karen Spencer		8 hours
46. Tondra Stiles		

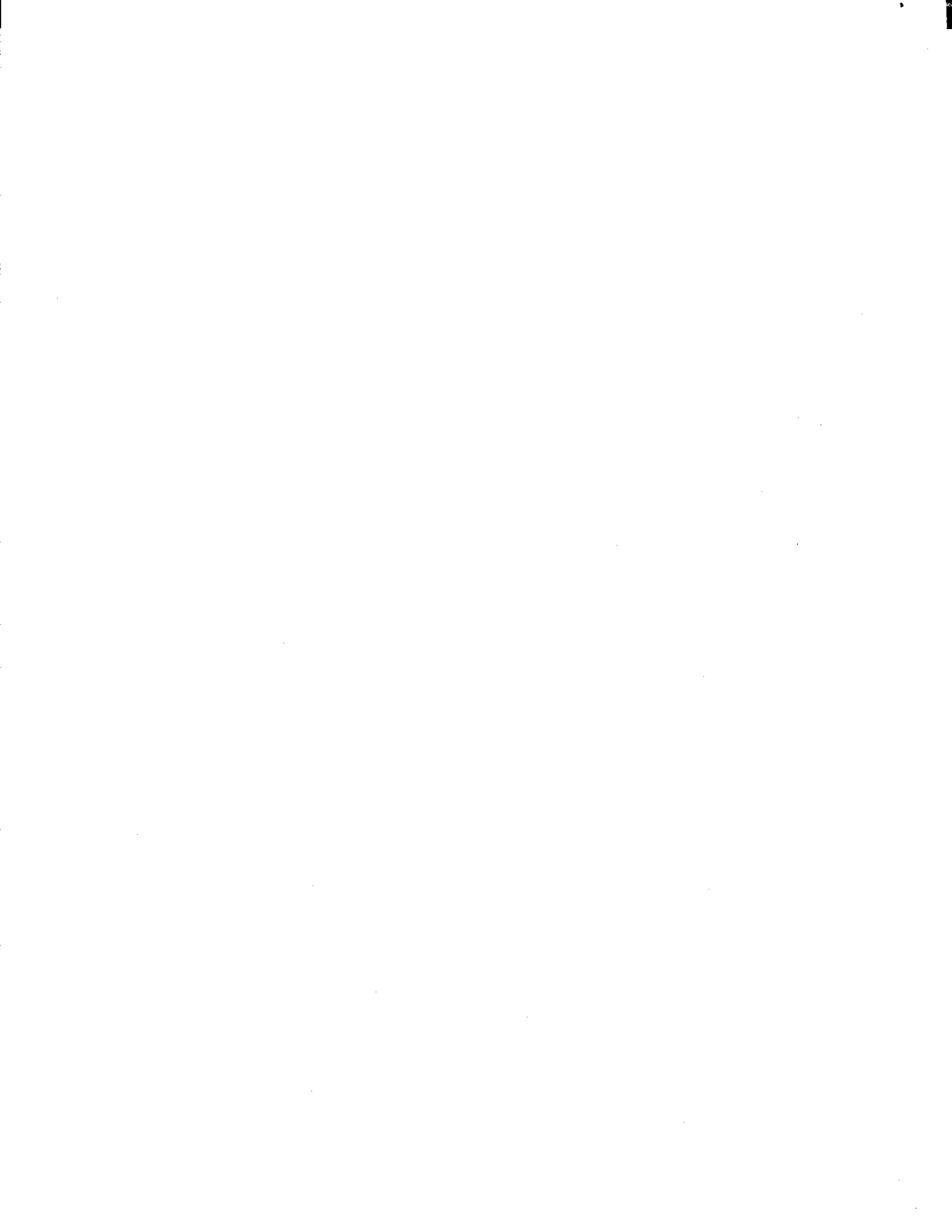
45. Eva Mesmer		
44. judith a mohling	happy to use my hands and mind in this important way. Please wait for NIST!	4 hours
43. Aaron Smith		
42. Adam Tinnel		
41. Marge Theeman	Please be respectful of my email address and do not use for any other purpose!	
40. carrie hoppes		
39. April Peterson		
38. Sheila A.S. Horton	Protect our election integrity!!	
37. TIMOTHY BUTLER		
36. Kevin Probst		6
35. Don Barshay		2
34. Bennett Scharf	Wait for a standard!	
33. Devin Hormann-Rivard	Â	
32. Michael A. Rowe		4
31. steve johnson		8
30. Penny Dumas		4
29. Carol A. Atkinson		6
28. Ruth L. MacGuire		
27. Evan Eisentrager		
26. Kirk Cunningham	The State law is nuts on the re-counting issue!	10
25. Michael Bell		15
24. Kathy Partridge	please ensure HONEST elections!	4
23. John Schaefer	I'd be happy to offer my time if it means we have a better chance of accurately tallying the votes of Boulder County residents. Let's let the hope and dream of democracy become a reality in Boulder County. Whadayasay?	4-6
22. Albert A. Bartlett		8
21. Scott A. Morris		8
20. William R. Eberle		10
19. shari malloy	Voter confidence is HUGELY important. Please pay heed to the concerns...	
18. Arnold Lehmann	Let's keep honesty in voting	4
17. Phil Weinstein		4
16. Ralf Schuetz		
15. Allen Overton		
14. Madelyn Evans	Hand counting has kept democracy alive from it's beginning, don't cave in to coporate pressure.	8 hrs
13. David Leserman		2

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 12. Harlan Smith | essential for democracy! | |
| 11. Hugh Higgins | I am willing to volunteer for real, not sham, democracy. | 4, more if desperately needed |
| 10. Cord MacGuire | | |
| 9. paul howes | | two |
| 8. Lawrence D. Crowley | | |
| 7. William W. Atkinson, Jr. | We must not do this by computer! We must hand count! | 40 |
| 6. Melissa Parrish | | |
| 5. Al Kolwicz | | |
| 4. Mary C. Eberle | If we don't hand-count the first count, we cannot hand-count a recount, per Colorado law. | 12 |
| 3. bruce and liz robinson | | 2 people @ at least 4 hours each |
| 2. Joe Pezzillo | | 8 |
| 1. Evan Ravitz | The Constitution says the people choose, NOT machines! | 6 |
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The Hand count the 2004 Election! Petition to Boulder County Commissioners was created by Citizens for Verifiable Voting and written by Evan Daniel Ravitz. The petition is hosted here at www.PetitionOnline.com as a public service. There is no endorsement of this petition, express or implied, by Artifice, Inc. or our sponsors.

And last but not least, as of 9:00, am 4/27/04:

133. Janis Hoegh I have served several times as an election judge. Precincts are small, and hand-counting is not difficult. It is important to have citizens know that their votes are counted and recounted by dedicated members of their community.



Ryder, Mike

om: Reichert, Marianne
ent: Monday, April 26, 2004 7:31 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Halicki, Tom; Salas, Linda; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: Martin Luther King III on HAVA consequences

-----Original Message-----
From: adaline jyurovat [mailto:adalinej@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 2:59 PM
To: Reichert, Marianne
Subject: Martin Luther King III on HAVA consequences

I hope SomeOne involved in the decisions about voting machines will read this article before April 27th, 2004. The purging of voter rolls is mentioned, also very disturbing.

(This from the Baltimore Times)
> JIM CROW REVIVED IN CYBERSPACE
>
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>
> By Martin Luther King III and Greg Palast</P>
>

BIRMINGHAM. AL - Astonishingly, and sadly, four decades after the Rev.
> Martin Luther King Jr. marched in Birmingham, we must ask again, "Do
> African-Americans have the unimpeded right to vote in the United
> States?" </P>

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>
> In 1963, Dr. King's determined and courageous band faced water hoses and
> police attack dogs to call attention to the thicket of Jim Crow laws --
> including poll taxes and so-called "literacy" tests -- that stood in the
> way of black Americans' right to have their ballots cast and counted.
> </P>

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>
> Today, there is a new and real threat to minority voters, this time from
> cyberspace: computerized purges of voter rolls. </P>

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> The menace first appeared in Florida in the November 2000 presidential
> election. While the media chased butterfly ballots and hanging chads, a
> much more sinister and devastating attack on voting rights went almost
> undetected. </P>

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>
> In the two years before the elections, the Florida secretary of state's
> office quietly ordered the removal of 94,000 voters from the registries.
> Supposedly, these were convicted felons who may not vote in Florida.
> Instead, the overwhelming majority were innocent of any crime, though
> just over half were black or Hispanic. </P>

>
> We are not guessing about the race of the disenfranchised: A voter's
> color is listed next to his or her name in most Southern states.
> (Ironically, this racial ID is required by the Voting Rights Act of
> 1965, a King legacy.) </P>



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>
> How did mass expulsion of legal voters occur? </P>
>

At the heart of the ethnic purge of voting rights was the creation of a
> central voter file for Florida placed in the hands of an elected, and
> therefore partisan, official. Computerization and a 1998 "reform" law
> meant to prevent voter fraud allowed for a politically and racially
> biased purge of thousands of registered voters on the flimsiest of
> grounds. </P>
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>

> Voters whose name, birth date and gender loosely matched that of a felon
> anywhere in America were targeted for removal. And so one Thomas Butler
> (of several in Florida) was tagged because a "Thomas Butler Cooper Jr."
> of Ohio was convicted of a crime. The legacy of slavery -- commonality
> of black names -- aided the racial bias of the "scrub list." </P>
>
>

> Florida was the first state to create, computerize and purge lists of
> allegedly "ineligible" voters. Meant as a reform, in the hands of
> partisan officials it became a weapon of mass voting rights destruction.
> (The fact that Mr. Cooper's conviction date is shown on state files as
> "1/30/2007" underscores other dangers of computerizing our democracy.)
> </P>
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>

> You'd think that Congress and President Bush would run from imitating
> Florida's disastrous system. Astonishingly, Congress adopted the
> absurdly named "Help America Vote Act," which requires every state to
> replicate Florida's system of centralized, computerized voter files
> before the 2004 election. </P>

> The controls on the 50 secretaries of state are few -- and the
> temptation to purge voters of the opposition party enormous. </P>
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>

> African-Americans, whose vote concentrates in one party, are an easy and
> obvious target. </P>
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> The act also lays a minefield of other impediments to black voters: an
> effective rollback of the easy voter registration methods of the Motor
> Voter Act; new identification requirements at polling stations; and
> perilous incentives for fault-prone and fraud-susceptible touch-screen
> voting machines. </P>
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>

> No, we are not rehashing the who-really-won fight from the 2000
> presidential election. But we have no intention of "getting over it." We
> are moving on, but on to a new nationwide call and petition drive to
> restore and protect the rights of all Americans and monitor the
> implementation of frighteningly ill-conceived new state and federal
> voting "reform" laws. </P>
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>

> And so on Sunday in Birmingham we marched again as our fathers and
> mothers did 40 years ago, this time demanding security against the
> dangerous "Floridation" of our nation's voting methods through
> computerization of voter rolls. </P>

> Four decades ago, the opposition to the civil right to vote was easy to
> identify: night riders wearing white sheets and burning crosses. Today,
> the threat comes from partisan politicians wearing pinstripe suits and

> clutching laptops. </P>
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>
> Jim Crow has moved into cyberspace -- harder to detect, craftier in
> operation, shifting shape into the electronic guardian of a new
> electoral segregation. </P>
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>
> Martin Luther King III is president of the Southern Christian
> Leadership Conference. Greg Palast is author of The Best Democracy
> Money Can Buy, and his investigation of computer purges of black
> voters appeared in Harper's Magazine. </P>
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> </P>
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>
> You can also see this article online:
>
> <http://www.gregpalast.com/detail.cfm?artid=222&frm=eml>
>
> =====
> Complete contents of this e-mail are (c)Greg Palast. All Rights Reserved
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Yahoo! Photos: High-quality 4x6 digital prints for 25¢
http://photos.yahoo.com/ph/print_splash

Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 7:11 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'; Halicki, Tom; Salas, Linda
Cc: Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: Citizen Input on Hart InterCivic Voting System Contract

I have forwarded your e-mail to the Commissioners. It will be made a part of the public record for this hearing.

Marianne Reichert
Constituent Services Liaison

-----Original Message-----

From: Lou Puls [mailto:lpuls@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 12:00 AM
To: commissioners@co.boulder.co.us
Cc: cvv-discuss@coloradovoter.net
Subject: Citizen Input on Hart InterCivic Voting System Contract

Citizen Input on Hart InterCivic Voting System Contract

To:
commissioners@co.boulder.co.us

ILLUSION AND REALITY

It is an illusion that Boulder County is PURCHASING a voting system from Hart InterCivic. Only the hardware and services are being purchased - all the software is being LICENSED. The hardware is off-the-shelf equipment that should be leased under competitive bid from sub-contractors, not bought at inflated prices when upgrades are anticipated and inevitable. As is commonly done with proprietary and closed source software, there is no purchase involved, only a licensing for the use of the software - certainly not anything remotely resembling the rights, title and interest of a purchase.

It is also an illusion that the voting system can have any semblance of security with respect to reliability, accuracy and honesty (regardless of its many admirable solutions to ballot ambiguity). The closed source code precludes any level of professional examination as to vulnerability to coding defects, which have become a challenge in recent years for prankster and outright malicious attacks via viruses, trojans, worms, and all the other malware that have wreaked havoc on much of the world's desktop, server and infrastructure computers. The voting software includes "Communication" software (at an exorbitant cost of \$10,000) which is required for Internet upgrading and remote network vote processing, and which will leave the voting system vulnerable to such malware and its destructive effects.

There should be no illusion about the widely known failures of Microsoft Windows software, on which all of the voting application software is based. Only with heroic effort over the last year has Microsoft issued patches for a few dozen of the thousands of severe security defects (in the tens of millions of lines of their code) most of which took six or seven months to be released after becoming known, announced and admitted. Recently 15% of their code was pilfered and widely published on the Internet, making it far more available for hacking but not for officially sanctioned examination. To add to such a worst-case scenario, the pilfered code included all of their encryption module, whose security defects will be particularly vulnerable. There is no rational or conceivable way that Microsoft could provide full patching of these present and imminently discoverable defects in time for voting machine certification, much less in time for the elections.

If accepted, these illusions lead to an overall illusion of trustworthiness in the Hart InterCivic voting system that is totally unwarranted, and can only lead to a further erosion of trust in our elections. Only open software (after thorough, ongoing, disinterested and professional examination) can be considered a candidate for trustworthiness in something as vital as a voting system. This proprietary voting software is closed and insufficiently examined and statistically can have no less than one severe security defect per ten thousand lines of unexamined code; thus, it will remain unpatched even more than by the inferior system that leads to patching Microsoft code. Again, MS Windows operating software is also proprietary and closed (except for pilfering), mostly unexamined, notoriously defect-ridden, and largely unpatched and unpatchable in any reasonable time-frame.

The inevitable result of such a massive lack of digital security is that no voter can be assured of the reliability, accuracy, or ultimately the honesty of our election results. This system cannot be considered a credible candidate for a trustworthy voting system.

Making the leap in logic that we can assume a remedy in the contract is possible to attain a trustworthy system, such a remedy should not include the PURCHASE, but rather the LICENSING/LEASING of all hardware, service, and software components, with the maintenance and renewal of such to be contingent on the following contract compliance and performance:

1. Sine Qua Non - provide open voting software code for critical examination;
2. Require satisfactory Mock Election performance prior to any licensing fee payment;
3. Require satisfactory security performance against specific defect attacks;
4. Require certification to include proof of software upgrades with all known patches;
5. Require recertification upon proof of software patching of all subsequent defects.

If such modifications in the proposed contract terms are not carried out (if feasible), I submit that the alternative (in lieu of hand-counted and recountable paper ballots of record, scanned or otherwise) is going to involve months of protracted legal actions and injunctions in order to protest the possible subversion of our election process.

Lou Puls
2565 Kenwood Drive
Boulder CO 80305

Ryder, Mike

n: Reichert, Marianne
: Monday, April 26, 2004 7:29 AM
to: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Salas, Linda; Halicki, Tom; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: Voting Machines

-----Original Message-----

From: Beryl beauchamp [mailto:berylb1@juno.com]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 2:45 PM
To: Reichert, Marianne
Subject: Voting Machines

Don't throw away our votes by going to a defective, paperless computer system. Did we not learn from the 2000 voting fiasco in Florida? We cannot afford to have our votes manipulated or thrown away so that we will have to suffer through another 4 years of the Bush regime. Too much is at stake. Our democracy and our freedom are on the line here. I am asking that you refuse to approve of a computerized voting system for Boulder county.

Thanks,

Beryl Beauchamp
2227 Canyon Blvd. #409
Boulder, Co. 80302

Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 7:26 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Salas, Linda; Halicki, Tom; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: voting machines contract

-----Original Message-----

From: adaline jyurovat [mailto:adalinej@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:35 PM
To: Reichert, Marianne
Subject: voting machines contract

It is clear, from Commissioners' short comment time, they do not want citizen input. Minds made up in advance are not swayed, are they?

Did you know more votes are thrown out with the mechanical/computerized processes than with HAND counting?

You say handcounting ballots is not acceptable or fast enough? (Computers DO break down, and DID break down last fall in Calif.)

The reason handcounting ballots doesn't work anymore is because the PRECINCT size is now TOO BIG. Hand counting ballots is done all over Canada (and other countries as well) and done efficiently, with fewer problems and more accuracy than with the mechanized/computerized process.

For me, the biggest alert is this: George Bush would NOT mandate a system like HAVA, if his handlers thought it would benefit the opposition party! HAVA is also a great boost to his campaign contributors coffers, like the war in Iraq.

The true cost of computerized voting is still unknown, but it is very, very expensive. (Are the machines recyclable?) From what programs does it take money?

OPEN SOURCE software programs are the only ones that should be allowed, since the commissioners are determined to foist computerized voting on the unsuspecting public.

Surely you know enough about the problems with proprietary programs, to understand how they undermine democracy. It seems obvious that the Boulder County Commissioners (and the county clerks all over this country) do not care, as long as things are neat and tidy and fast.

M. Adaline Jyurovat
550 Marine St.
Boulder, CO 80302

Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Date: Monday, April 26, 2004 8:10 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Salas, Linda; Halicki, Tom; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: petitioners

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Tiger [mailto:tigerp@indra.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2004 7:29 AM
To: Commissioners@Co. Boulder. Co. Us
Cc: Halicki, Tom; Salas, Linda; LPBC Chairman; Wurl, Nancy Jo
Subject: petitioners

Commissioners,

The CVV people are preparing to petition the BOCC to hand count.
My hope is that you will ignore them.

There are quite a few of the people that will sign the petition based on
mistaken or misspoken information provided to them by the proponents of hand
counting.

They probably will be able to gain lots of signatures, and if the BOCC were
forced to verify them it would be costly.

There are members of CVV that might sign the petition even though they don't
believe that hand counts are a good idea. They will do this because they
believe that there is a conspiracy to defraud the public by government and
feel that this is a way to toss blocks at the feet of the elections division
in order to trip it up.

I beg of you to ignore the lunatic fringe.
Clearly there should be a legislative effort to change state laws regarding
re-counts. Last October members of my party and others asked CVV and CVI
members to work with the legislators to forward and author such bills. Not
only did they not help, but they have intentionally hampered the progress of
several bills in our state house.

This is about activism with no purposeful end.

CVV represents a small segment of the citizenry. They claim that those that
counter them are ignorant. They are actually pretty insulting.
Whenever I hear their mantra about 'the people demand' I wonder what
election they won to make them representative of so many.

A petition could be the least of the worries of the BOCC if CVV finds
funding or a pro-bono attorney.

Paul Tiger
tigerp@indra.com
303-774-6383 voice and messages
720-323-0570 cell
www.PaulTiger.com

When people are free to do as they please, they usually imitate each other.

cc: Tom Halicki; Linda Salas; LPBC Chairman; Nancy Jo Wurl

Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 8:33 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Halicki, Tom; Salas, Linda; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: waiver of recount law

-----Original Message-----

From: Margitjo@aol.com [mailto:Margitjo@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 8:19 AM
To: Webmaster
Subject: waiver of recount law

Dear Commissioners,

I read that the Secretary of State might be willing to let us recount with our (voter-verified) paper ballots. If you must go through with that expensive purchase now, why don't you negotiate to get her permission in writing before you sign the contract? That is the least you can do for your constituents, to help see that our votes are counted as cast. Even better, get her to agree to a sample count by hand to see if a recount is necessary.

Thanks for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Margit Johansson
3938 Wonderland Hill Avenue
Boulder, CO 80304
303-442-1668/ margitjo@aol.com

P.S. If you don't already have it, and want to get a little perspective on how "expensive" handcounting is, look at the "Mythbusters" document at www.VotersUnite.org. It came out just this month and details how expensive (and what a pain in the neck) DRE's are, among much other very useful information. It doesn't have as much on optical scans, so they are probably less trouble. (But, as I'm sure you know, they are still subject to rigging, so we need to be able to do recounts with the original ballots.)

Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 8:14 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Halicki, Tom; Salas, Linda; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: VOting Machines

-----Original Message-----

From: g rw [mailto:ibet50@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 3:57 PM
To: commissioners@co.boulder.co.us
Subject: VOting Machines

"In 2000, between 1 and 3 million votes were lost in registration database problems," "It's the top place votes get lost."

BUSH and Hart hand in hand, BUsh and DIEbold hand in hand.

BRING an END to this onslaught of our voting system and the corporate criminals who assure victories before the voters vote!

<http://www.blackboxvoting.org/volusia.html>
<http://www.nogw.com/electionfraud.html>
<http://www.irstruth.com/item8.html#632>

[Stop worrying about overloading your inbox - get MSN Hotmail Extra Storage!](#)

4/26/2004



Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 2:23 PM
To: Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: Comment OPPOSED to Voting System Purchase

I'm not sure if you need to add this to the public record - it seems to be more of a response to the Joe Pezzillo e-mail.

-----Original Message-----

From: delta@deltatech.com [mailto:delta@deltatech.com]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 2:04 PM
To: Joe Pezzillo; Citizens for Verifiable Voting;
commissioners@co.boulder.co.us
Cc: Lacy, Leslie
Subject: Re: Comment OPPOSED to Voting System Purchase

Do you all realize that you are NOT advising anyone about your concerns, nor providing "assistance" anymore?
You are actually trying to *dictate* actions?
You are making DEMANDS.....not suggesting routes of action, like ONCE was the goal.....

and all this *constant* deriding of the "Election Office".....these are people *trying* to do the right thing....they're NOT hidden anarchists and incompetent boobs, for the most part. (tho there may be a couple of hidden boobs in the woodpile, the top administration is well aware of them)

This is why *I* for one have backed off this CVV group.....
I'm tired of hearing everything and everyone who *doesn't* agree 100% with CVV demands, made out to be grossly incompetent or criminally negligent.

This is an issue with valid points on *both* sides.....
What happened to the spirit of cooperation?

Bo Shaffer

----- Original Message -----

From: "Joe Pezzillo" <jpezzillo@qwest.net>
To: "Citizens for Verifiable Voting" <cvv-discuss@coloradovoter.net>;
<commissioners@co.boulder.co.us>
Cc: "Leslie Lacy" <llacy@co.boulder.co.us>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 1:09 PM
Subject: Comment OPPOSED to Voting System Purchase

>
> 4/26/04
>
> To: Boulder County Citizens & Board of Commissioners
>
> Fellow Boulder County Citizens:
>
> Our so-called representatives have ultimately failed us.
>
> We have made it clear that we do not support any purchase of any voting
> system at this time, that we do not support the storage of votes
> electronically under any circumstances, that accuracy is more important
> than speed, and that undisclosed voting software is entirely unwelcome
> in our community.
>
> And what do we get? An over-inflated purchase contract for a system for

> which our own elected representatives and paid staff cannot guarantee
> us that there will be any verification of results and that the "Paper
> Ballots" central to the voting process may not even legally be treated
> as such. Not to mention only a few days to review hundreds of pages of
> contract language (and then only thanks to a dedicated Citizen's
> efforts) to attempt to find additional fault with an already flawed
> process that is being forced upon us at great taxpayer expense at the
> same time we are told we face an ongoing budget crisis.

>
> Based on even a brief reading of the contract, there are clearly new
> problems compounding the already broken process that produced it. For
> example, the term "eSlate" -- the vendor's brand for unverifiable
> computer terminal voting equipment -- appears repeatedly, making it
> suddenly unclear again what system is actually being "purchased" now
> and going forward, that among other unexplained costs there is \$10,000
> apportioned for some type of electronic vote communications system that
> has heretofore not been mentioned. Most importantly though, absolutely
> no provision has been made in the contract to answer Boulder County
> Citizens' specific requirements for Trustworthy Elections for which
> both the Commissioners and the County Clerk's office have been
> repeatedly requested, and thus, no accountability for not meeting our
> requirements, either.

>
> Furthermore, it is clear that the only "purchase" being made is largely
> of hardware destined to be obsolete well within the expected lifespan
> of a voting system, and that any and all of the vendor's software will
> only be "leased" to the County requiring renewed annual payments that
> are not detailed. It is also not clear why, for example, "Three
> Workstations per Scanner" are required, since no such operational or
> technical information to explain these extraneous and inconsistent
> components has been provided to the Citizens despite repeated requests.

>
> The Citizens of Boulder County have made it abundantly clear in
> multiple presentations to the Commissioners and County Clerk that,
> among other concerns, "Accuracy is more important than Speed" in the
> tabulation of results, yet it appears that the Commissioners completely
> ignored this and in direct contradiction to the Citizen's requests,
> instructed the County Clerk's office to "purchase" additional equipment
> with the expressed intent of increasing the Speed, not the Accuracy, of
> counting. Furthermore, despite the Commissioners' voiced concerns about
> the state's unconscionable laws regarding recount methodology, they are
> continuing to support the purchase of a system for which the legal
> status of recounting is at best deliberately vague.

>
> Instead, the Commissioners are essentially rubber-stamping a contract
> by and for an Elections Office that despite months of opportunity, has
> failed to demonstrate that it either cares for or is capable of
> conducting quality elections by: using an uncertified system during the
> last election (for which there has been no known accountability);
> failing to demonstrate proper procedures (leading to a complete recount
> of the same election); and repeatedly dismissing the detailed concerns
> and requirements of local citizens and national experts with much
> greater knowledge of technological systems than they admit to possess.
> Instead of any professional verification and documentation of such
> claims and correction of such issues, "our" Elections Office has
> continuously relied on the verbal assurances of multiple vendors for
> whom there is no doubt substantial profit motive in every transaction,
> and ignored the growing body of public evidence that suggests virtually
> all existing electronic voting equipment is unsuitable for use in
> elections.

>
> While it is already clear that despite repeated warnings from the
> Citizens NOT to purchase any system at this time, the Commissioners and
> County Clerk's office will forge ahead in unison to waste our money,
> continue to work in disregard for their constituents' requirements, and
> remain wholly unrepresentative of the People's interests regarding this
> matter. Indeed Boulder County's Elections Manager is quoted in the

> Boulder Daily Camera as being more concerned about the interests of the
> private investors of the vendor than the requirements of the people he
> was hired to serve.

>
> Please let this comment stand as public record that although large
> numbers of local citizens continue to attempt to provide highly
> valuable assistance in this process to achieve Trustworthy Elections,
> the County has deliberately and collectively ignored them and thus
> failed in their commission as representatives of the public's
> interests, and that these repeated failures on this matter both
> directly and indirectly undermine the central premise of Democracy that
> Citizens hold dear and to which we are entitled, namely trust in the
> system and its processes.

>
> Be it by ignorance or intent makes no difference, may Our Democracy
> survive such blatant and repeated disregard for the most fundamental
> act of legitimizing governance.

>
> Disappointed Boulder County, Colorado Citizen,

>
> Joe Pezzillo
> PO Box J
> Boulder, Colorado USA
> jpezzillo@qwest.net

>
>
>



Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 1:18 PM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Halicki, Tom; Salas, Linda; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: Comment OPPOSED to Voting System Purchase

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Pezzillo [mailto:jpezzillo@qwest.net]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 1:09 PM
To: Citizens for Verifiable Voting; commissioners@co.boulder.co.us
Cc: Lacy, Leslie
Subject: Comment OPPOSED to Voting System Purchase

4/26/04

To: Boulder County Citizens & Board of Commissioners

Fellow Boulder County Citizens:

Our so-called representatives have ultimately failed us.

We have made it clear that we do not support any purchase of any voting system at this time, that we do not support the storage of votes electronically under any circumstances, that accuracy is more important than speed, and that undisclosed voting software is entirely unwelcome in our community.

And what do we get? An over-inflated purchase contract for a system for which our own elected representatives and paid staff cannot guarantee us that there will be any verification of results and that the "Paper Ballots" central to the voting process may not even legally be treated as such. Not to mention only a few days to review hundreds of pages of contract language (and then only thanks to a dedicated Citizen's efforts) to attempt to find additional fault with an already flawed process that is being forced upon us at great taxpayer expense at the same time we are told we face an ongoing budget crisis.

Based on even a brief reading of the contract, there are clearly new problems compounding the already broken process that produced it. For example, the term "eSlate" -- the vendor's brand for unverifiable computer terminal voting equipment -- appears repeatedly, making it suddenly unclear again what system is actually being "purchased" now and going forward, that among other unexplained costs there is \$10,000 apportioned for some type of electronic vote communications system that has heretofore not been mentioned. Most importantly though, absolutely no provision has been made in the contract to answer Boulder County Citizens' specific requirements for Trustworthy Elections for which both the Commissioners and the County Clerk's office have been repeatedly requested, and thus, no accountability for not meeting our requirements, either.

Furthermore, it is clear that the only "purchase" being made is largely of hardware destined to be obsolete well within the expected lifespan of a voting system, and that any and all of the vendor's software will only be "leased" to the County requiring renewed annual payments that are not detailed. It is also not clear why, for example, "Three Workstations per Scanner" are required, since no such operational or technical information to explain these extraneous and inconsistent

components has been provided to the Citizens despite repeated requests.

The Citizens of Boulder County have made it abundantly clear in multiple presentations to the Commissioners and County Clerk that, among other concerns, "Accuracy is more important than Speed" in the tabulation of results, yet it appears that the Commissioners completely ignored this and in direct contradiction to the Citizen's requests, instructed the County Clerk's office to "purchase" additional equipment with the expressed intent of increasing the Speed, not the Accuracy, of counting. Furthermore, despite the Commissioners' voiced concerns about the state's unconscionable laws regarding recount methodology, they are continuing to support the purchase of a system for which the legal status of recounting is at best deliberately vague.

Instead, the Commissioners are essentially rubber-stamping a contract by and for an Elections Office that despite months of opportunity, has failed to demonstrate that it either cares for or is capable of conducting quality elections by: using an uncertified system during the last election (for which there has been no known accountability); failing to demonstrate proper procedures (leading to a complete recount of the same election); and repeatedly dismissing the detailed concerns and requirements of local citizens and national experts with much greater knowledge of technological systems than they admit to possess. Instead of any professional verification and documentation of such claims and correction of such issues, "our" Elections Office has continuously relied on the verbal assurances of multiple vendors for whom there is no doubt substantial profit motive in every transaction, and ignored the growing body of public evidence that suggests virtually all existing electronic voting equipment is unsuitable for use in elections.

While it is already clear that despite repeated warnings from the Citizens NOT to purchase any system at this time, the Commissioners and County Clerk's office will forge ahead in unison to waste our money, continue to work in disregard for their constituents' requirements, and remain wholly unrepresentative of the People's interests regarding this matter. Indeed Boulder County's Elections Manager is quoted in the Boulder Daily Camera as being more concerned about the interests of the private investors of the vendor than the requirements of the people he was hired to serve.

Please let this comment stand as public record that although large numbers of local citizens continue to attempt to provide highly valuable assistance in this process to achieve Trustworthy Elections, the County has deliberately and collectively ignored them and thus failed in their commission as representatives of the public's interests, and that these repeated failures on this matter both directly and indirectly undermine the central premise of Democracy that Citizens hold dear and to which we are entitled, namely trust in the system and its processes.

Be it by ignorance or intent makes no difference, may Our Democracy survive such blatant and repeated disregard for the most fundamental act of legitimizing governance.

Disappointed Boulder County, Colorado Citizen,

Joe Pezzillo
PO Box J
Boulder, Colorado USA
jpezzillo@qwest.net

Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 7:13 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Ryder, Mike; Salas, Linda; Halicki, Tom
Subject: FW: Purchase of electronic voting machines

-----Original Message-----

From: MADELYN EVANS [mailto:MADELYNEVANS@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 4:08 AM
To: commissioners@co.boulder.co.us
Subject: Purchase of electronic voting machines

You say you are listening to citizen input until Tomorrow at 9:00 am. The Camera says this is a done deal. If I can't even trust the government of Boulder County I may have to become a Libertarian! Watch Out!

This deal with Hart InterCivic would be a very expensive and hugely damaging mistake for the County Government to make. Below are listed the technological problems with this system, please read them. We also know NIST has yet to produce the standards which are supposed to be guiding this purchase. Legislation at the state and national levels still pending could greatly impact the choice of what system is chosen. A major initiative is being made here in the county at the citizen to get pledges to hand count the vote. Are you listening? To the citizens or to the corporation? This deal is wrong! Do the right thing and dump it!

Madelyn Evans
1063 Ponderosa Circle
Longmont CO 80501
303-682-2685

ILLUSION AND REALITY

It is an illusion that Boulder County is PURCHASING a voting system from Hart InterCivic. Only the hardware and services are being purchased - all the software is being LICENSED. The hardware is off-the-shelf equipment that should be leased under competitive bid from sub-contractors, not bought at inflated prices when upgrades are anticipated and inevitable. As is commonly done with proprietary and closed source software, there is no purchase involved, only a licensing for the use of the software - certainly not anything remotely resembling the rights, title and interest of a purchase.

It is also an illusion that the voting system can have any semblance of security with respect to reliability, accuracy and honesty (regardless of its many admirable solutions to ballot ambiguity). The closed source code precludes any level of professional examination as to vulnerability to coding defects, which have become a challenge in recent years for prankster and outright malicious attacks via viruses, trojans, worms, and all the other malware that have wreaked havoc on much of the world's desktop, server and infrastructure computers. The voting software includes "Communication" software (at an exorbitant cost of \$10,000)

4/27/2004

which is required for Internet upgrading and remote network vote processing, and which will leave the voting system vulnerable to such malware and its destructive effects.

There should be no illusion about the widely known failures of Microsoft Windows software, on which all of the voting application software is based. Only with heroic effort over the last year has Microsoft issued patches for a few dozen of the thousands of severe security defects (in the tens of millions of lines of their code) most of which took six or seven months to be released after becoming known, announced and admitted. Recently 15% of their code was pilfered and widely published on the Internet, making it far more available for hacking but not for officially sanctioned examination. To add to such a worst-case scenario, the pilfered code included all of their encryption module, whose security defects will be particularly vulnerable. There is no rational or conceivable way that Microsoft could provide full patching of these present and imminently discoverable defects in time for voting machine certification, much less in time for the elections.

If accepted, these illusions lead to an overall illusion of trustworthiness in the Hart InterCivic voting system that is totally unwarranted, and can only lead to a further erosion of trust in our elections. Only open software (after thorough, ongoing, disinterested and professional examination) can be considered a candidate for trustworthiness in something as vital as a voting system. This proprietary voting software is closed and insufficiently examined and statistically can have no less than one severe security defect per ten thousand lines of unexamined code; thus, it will remain unpatched even more than by the inferior system that leads to patching Microsoft code. Again, MS Windows operating software is also proprietary and closed (except for pilfering), mostly unexamined, notoriously defect-ridden, and largely unpatched and unpatchable in any reasonable time-frame.

The inevitable result of such a massive lack of digital security is that no voter can be assured of the reliability, accuracy, or ultimately the honesty of our election results. This system cannot be considered a credible candidate for a trustworthy voting system.

Making the leap in logic that we can assume a remedy in the contract is possible to attain a trustworthy system, such a remedy should not include the PURCHASE, but rather the LICENSING/LEASING of all hardware, service, and software components, with the maintenance and renewal of such to be contingent on the following contract compliance and performance:

1. Sine Qua Non - provide open voting software code for critical examination;
2. Require satisfactory Mock Election performance prior to any licensing fee payment;
3. Require satisfactory security performance against specific defect attacks;
4. Require certification to include proof of software upgrades with all known patches;
5. Require recertification upon proof of software patching of all subsequent defects.

If such modifications in the proposed contract terms are not carried out (if feasible), I submit that the alternative (in lieu of hand-counted and recountable paper ballots of record, scanned or otherwise) is going to involve months of protracted legal actions and injunctions in order to protest the possible subversion of our election process.



Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 7:15 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Halicki, Tom; Salas, Linda; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: Comments on the vote tabulation contract with Hart InterCivic

-----Original Message-----

From: paul@utopia.booyaka.com [mailto:paul@utopia.booyaka.com] On Behalf Of Paul Walmsley
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 1:20 AM
To: commissioners@co.boulder.co.us
Subject: Comments on the vote tabulation contract with Hart InterCivic

Commissioners Danish, Mayer, and Stewart:

There are two aspects of the proposed vote tabulation system contract with Hart InterCivic that deserve your further attention:

1. The public information currently available[1] suggests that it is cumbersome to verify that the Hart counting system is working correctly during an election. This is due to the lack of support in Hart's current product for hand-counting a statistical sample of the "live" ballots. If Hart's software makes this process inconvenient, it is much more difficult for Boulder County to conduct a transparent election. Therefore, in the contract, I encourage the County to require Hart to implement whatever features are necessary for the County to easily conduct statistical-sample hand-counts during a future election, lest Boulder County could end up with a voting system that is difficult to double-check.

2. The contract includes overreaching non-disclosure requirements that are incompatible with true election transparency. Section 21.7 of the proposed Agreement would include documentation and operating manuals for Hart's software as "Confidential Information" that may only be disclosed to selected County employees who in turn "agree to maintain its confidentiality." This would effectively preclude most citizens of Boulder County from ever learning enough about the system to fulfill their civic responsibility for effective public oversight. Designating these materials "confidential" is inappropriate in the special context of an election, which citizens have a constitutional responsibility to monitor and understand. I fully recognize Hart's legitimate rights as the copyright holder; however, Hart's "Confidential" designation limits public involvement considerably beyond the ample protection provided by Federal copyright law. Therefore, I encourage the Commissioners to instruct the County Clerk to negotiate further with Hart to reconcile Section 21.7 of the contract with the public's responsibility to monitor the process of vote counting by reducing the coverage of what is considered Hart "Confidential Information."

Thanks very much for the opportunity to comment on this important document.

Paul Walmsley
1630 30th St. #408
Boulder, CO 80301

<paul.walmsley@acm.org>

1. This is primarily based on the memos between the County Clerk's office and Hart InterCivic, available at
<<http://coloradovoter.net/moin.cgi/StatSampleHandCount>>

Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 7:19 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Ryder, Mike; Salas, Linda; Halicki, Tom
Subject: FW: Electronic voting system

-----Original Message-----

From: Ryan Vigh [mailto:vigh6@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 6:38 AM
To: commissioners@co.boulder.co.us
Subject: Electronic voting system

To whom it may concern,

In no way do I support the proposed electronic voting system. Electronic tabulation of paper ballots without a hand-count, or a cross-check using a hand-count, is too risky an endeavor to the democratic process.

Ryan Vigh
Registered voter
4500 19th #87
Boulder, CO
80304

FREE pop-up blocking with the new MSN Toolbar - get it now!
<http://toolbar.msn.com/go/onm00200415ave/direct/01/>

Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 11:02 AM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Halicki, Tom; Salas, Linda; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: Hart InterCivic

-----Original Message-----

From: awest17@webtv.net [mailto:awest17@webtv.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 10:54 AM
To: commissioners@co.boulder.co.us
Subject: Hart InterCivic

Dear Madam/Sir:

For reasons of fostering transparency, I am writing to you about Hart InterCivic and its relationships with a company called Maximus and with Clear Channel Communications.

For the March 2 primary elections in Orange County, California, the companies Hart InterCivic (Austin, Texas) and Maximus (Reston, Virginia) joined forces to provide the voters with a new voting machine, but then Maximus (which was responsible for training the staff and poll workers) somehow fell short of training them properly because the poll workers accidentally or for some unknown reason gave the wrong cards to voters. It is worth noting in this regard that among its other contracts, Maximus has contracts with the Pentagon, which one might argue, seems to represent a possible conflict of interest.

Another possible conflict of interest exists in the fact that a major investor in Hart InterCivic is Tom Hicks, who is also co-chairman of Clear Channel Communications, a corporation that has a special agenda, something that is common knowledge. As John McCain pointed out at the latest Senate FCC hearings, Clear Channel seeks to employ exclusionary policies on its 12,000 radio channels and 39 television stations, thus violating artists' rights to earn a living as well as their freedom of expression and freedom of speech.

Monopolizing the air waves to present a one-sided view of politics and of musical tastes is simply not the American way, and having such a company as a backer of voting machine technology represents a serious risk to the voters' rights, if not a violation of the conflict of interest laws. Giving Clear Channel (whose expansionist practices since 1996 have become apparent to many) such control over any aspect of the voting system, one can only predict, would ensure that Clear Channel might soon have the opportunity to soon exercise even greater sway over the public's airwaves.

In other words, the Maximus and Clear Channel connections with the elections process represent a serious conflict of interest, one that must be carefully evaluated before any actions such as the one you are contemplating in relation to Hart InterCivic is pursued further. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Ann West

Ryder, Mike

From: Reichert, Marianne
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 1:58 PM
To: Mayer, Tom; Stewart, Ron; 'pauldanish@aol.com'
Cc: Salas, Linda; Halicki, Tom; Ryder, Mike
Subject: FW: Over 102 pledge 700 hours to hand count 2004 election FOR FREE

-----Original Message-----

From: Evan Daniel Ravitz [mailto:evan@vote.org]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 1:30 PM
To: Boulder County Commissioners
Cc: cvv-discuss@coloradovoter.net
Subject: Over 102 pledge 700 hours to hand count 2004 election FOR FREE

Dear Commissioners,

It was unfortuate that your discussion of hand-counting took place AFTER you closed the public hearing. We were unable to respond.

In less than 44 hours since we started, over 102 Boulder County voters have pledged a total of some 700 hours of their time, FREE, to hand count the 2004 election. You can see the results at:

http://www.petitiononline.com/mod_perl/signed.cgi?hand&l

It includes Al Bartlett, Sheila Horton and Ron Forthover.

Given this success, we think it would be VERY easy for the county to find the "hundreds" of extra election workers you estimated would be needed.

That would save at least \$1.4 of the \$1.5 million of our money you intend to spend on a proprietary system which has faint hope of living up to forthcoming NIST standards.

We will be present before 10AM tomorrow to present the results of our work.

Now at 103 volunteers and counting...

Evan Ravitz et al

Evan Ravitz
1130 11th St. #3
Boulder CO 80302
(303)440-6838

Ashcraft, Susan

From: lfeist [lfeist@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2004 11:09 AM
To: Ashcraft, Susan
Subject: Make my vote secure and safe
Importance: High

Please pass this along to the Commissioners:

I want to County to make sure that our election system is above reproach. Wait to adopt an new voting system until the NIST (National Institute for Standards and Technology) approves standards for electronic voting.

Linda Feist - 1419 Red Mountain Dr #8- Longmont,

Below is the latest in the NY Times series on [Making Votes Count](#)

Compromised Voting System (on the California voting fiasco)

The answer to all of these problems is a "voter-verified paper trail," a paper record that the voter can check for accuracy. This paper trail will guard against computer tampering by creating a hard copy of votes that can be compared to the electronic results in a recount. Mr. Shelley has already directed that by 2006, every electronic voting machine in California must produce a paper trail. Now he must decide what to do about this year's election.

A state advisory panel has urged Mr. Shelley to bar the use of one model of Diebold machine whose certification was improper; 15,000 of them are in place in four California counties. Based on the two reports, this is the correct course. Diebold's record does not inspire the sort of confidence voters deserve. Equally important, banning these machines is the only way to make it clear that the certification laws must be followed scrupulously.

The harder question Mr. Shelley faces is whether to ban all electronic voting machines that do not produce a paper trail, as many voting experts, and some state legislators, are urging him to do. His obligation to ensure that voting machines function properly and inspire voter confidence argues for a total ban. To do otherwise is to risk Election Day meltdowns, and another presidential election in which voters lack faith in the outcome.

There is the practical question of whether an alternative system can be perfected in six months. It may be possible, by using a combination of more reliable machines and paper ballots, and perhaps some electronic machines fitted with printers. Given the short time frame, the best course is to proceed on two tracks: to work to put in place a system in which every vote creates a paper record, but to keep the existing electronic machines as a fallback.

Bad decisions by voting machine manufacturers and local election officials have left California with a seriously compromised election system. Mr. Shelley's job now is to make it as reliable as reasonably possible by November