



Boulder County Republicans PO Box 18733 Boulder, CO 80308-1733

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Honorable Paul Danish
Chair, Board of County Commissioners
Boulder County Courthouse
P.O. Box 471
Boulder, CO 80306

Dear Commissioner Danish,

Ask many Americans and I strongly suspect they'll say the right to vote is among the most precious rights we enjoy. From the birth of our Republic when our patriot Founders decried "Taxation without representation", to the 2000 election quagmire in Florida, Americans of every political stripe cherish the ability to choose their leaders and, increasingly, decide important issues of the day.

The integrity, security and accuracy of our electoral process, then, ought to be a vital concern to all citizens, regardless of political affiliation. For this reason, I am lending my endorsement to the Declaration for Election Quality. The authors of this important document call for verifiable voting systems, and specifically oppose the use of digital vote recording machines.

While I certainly agree that the county's present ballot tabulation system is outdated and possibly prone to error, I am nevertheless concerned that the electronic systems that might replace it are, themselves, fundamentally flawed. If these systems are incapable of producing a verifiable paper ballot, what faith can the voting public have in election results?

I respectfully ask that you reject any proposal that Boulder County purchase digital vote recording systems. I further call upon the chairs of each county political party organization, as well as the elected women and men who represent Boulder County at state, county and municipal levels, to carefully consider this matter, and then join me in signing the Declaration for Election Quality. This is an issue behind which all who care about good government must stand and be counted.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

David E. Leeds
Chairman, Boulder County Republican Party