



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Shelley Releases Draft Standards on Paper Audit Trail for E-Voting Machines

Welcomes Public Comments on the Draft Proposal Through April 19, 2004

SACRAMENTO --- California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that he is seeking public comment on draft standards for a verified paper trail feature he has required for electronic voting machines.

In November 2003, Secretary of State Shelley announced that beginning July 1, 2005, no county or city may purchase a touch screen voting system that does not include an accessible voter verified paper audit trail (AVVPAT). As of July 2006, all touch screen voting systems used in California, regardless of when they were purchased, must have an AVVPAT that can be used by all voters, including the visually impaired, to verify that their voting preferences are accurately recorded.

“These standards will be used by voting system manufacturers to develop the next generation of California’s electronic voting machines,” Shelley said. “In order to be certain that the systems developed ensure the integrity of the voting process, I encourage the public to submit their comments, on-line or in writing, for consideration in helping us to adopt final standards.”

The Secretary of State’s staff developed the draft standards with input from a working group of county elections officials, voting machine manufacturers, advocacy groups, and others.

The six-page Draft Standards will be available for public comment for 30 days (through April 19 at the Secretary of State’s website at <http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/touchscreen.htm>. Comments will be reviewed and considered by the Secretary in consultation with the working group of county elections officials.

During this 30-day period the public is encouraged to send written comments by any of the following methods:

Write to: Secretary of State Kevin Shelley
Attn: AVVPAT Draft Standards
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Email: AVVPAT@ss.ca.gov

Fax: (916) 653-3214