Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Issues Re-Certification Order for Touch Screen System in Orange County

Praises County, Vendor for meeting standards

SACRAMENTO, CA – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today issued an order re-certifying the Hart InterCivic electronic voting system for Orange County.

“I am pleased that Orange County Clerk Steve Rodermund and the touchscreen vendor worked so diligently with our office to meet the re-certification conditions,” said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell stated, "With this agreement, Orange County voters can continue to cast their ballots with our easy-to-use eSlate system. These added security measures will give voters more confidence that their vote will be counted as it was cast."

On April 30th Secretary Shelley banned the use of the Diebold TSx system in four counties and decertified touchscreen systems in 10 other counties until security measures are in place to safeguard the November vote. Shelley stated the remaining 10 counties must either install a voter verified paper trail, or implement a set of security measures before those systems will be recertified for the November 2004 election.

Among the security measures that Hart InterCivic and Orange County agreed to meet in order for the system to be re-certified are:

- Voters must have the option of casting a paper ballot;
- The computer source code must be made available for analysis by independent experts;
- No telephone, wireless, or Internet connections are permitted on the machines; and
- The county is required to engage in a comprehensive poll worker training program.