KS04:044

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Issues Re-Certification Order for Touchscreen System in Napa County

SACRAMENTO, CA – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today issued an order recertifying the electronic voting system for Napa County, bringing to a total of six counties statewide that have already met the security conditions for recertification.

"We are pleased that Napa county officials have agreed to comply with the recertification conditions," said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley.

Napa County uses an electronic voting system, made by Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc. Santa Clara, Tehama, and Shasta Counties, which also utilize Sequoia touchscreens, had their systems recertified last month. Merced County, which uses the ES & S iVotronic system, and Orange County, which uses the Hart eSlate system, had their touchscreen systems recertified in June. The two other counties that utilize Sequoia electronic voting systems--Riverside, and San Bernardino—have yet to agree to the security conditions set by the Secretary.

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

Among the security measures that Sequoia Voting Systems, and Tehema and Shasta Counties agreed to meet in order for the system to be recertified are:

- Voters must have the option of casting a paper ballot;
- The system's 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.

-30-