



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Contact: Nghia Nguyen Demovic
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Outlines New Efforts to Ensure Voter Confidence and the Integrity of Every Vote Cast

Secretary McPherson Announces Statewide Electronic Voting System Requirements and New Office of Voting System Technology

Sacramento, CA --- In a speech to the California Black Chamber of Commerce, Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that he has imposed stringent new conditions on voting systems being considered for use in California elections, outlining ten critical requirements for any vendor applying for certification of voting equipment in the Golden State. Additionally, Secretary McPherson announced the creation of the Office of Voting System Technology Assessment in the Secretary of State's Office. This will be a permanent, professional and fully staffed voting system technology and testing unit and will serve as a one-stop-shop for voting system certification.

"We must take these fundamental steps to guarantee public confidence in our voting process and accountability for its results," Secretary McPherson said. "The integrity of the vote is critically important and our state's voters deserve to have the confidence that voting machines are rigorously tested and are being analyzed by the best technical experts."

The new conditions for any vendor applying for certification of voting equipment throughout California provide a step-by-step process that identifies how a voting system will be examined to ensure accuracy, security and usability. For the first time, California will have a strict and clearly articulated list of benchmarks that voting systems and their manufacturers will need to meet to be able to be certified for use in California. These requirements will be codified into state regulation.

In a memo sent to county elections officials and all vendors currently certified by the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC), Secretary McPherson noted that he will not consider voting systems unless the vendors or products have:

1. Been federally certified by the EAC-approved independent testing authorities
2. Provided full documentation and training materials of all related system materials, including promotional materials
3. Provided comprehensive use procedures applicable to California elections
4. Established a county user group for annual system review and to ensure voter accessibility
5. Deposited source code in an approved escrow facility and a copy of the source code and binary executables with his office
6. Agreed to provide the Secretary of State a working version of the system components, upon request, for testing and analysis
7. Been certified to be used together as a comprehensive system if the components have been independently certified

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8. Agreed to be combined only for purposes of aggregating vote totals or laying out their ballot types
9. Provided printing specifications for any ballots to be used with the components
10. Agreed to volume testing to simulate Election Day use.

VOTING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Any new voting system to be considered for certification for use in California elections will be required to have the following features:

1. An application that includes proof of federal certification, (i.e. copies of the United States Election Assistance Commission [EAC] approved Independent Testing Authority [ITA] reports and certification number issued by the EAC).
2. All applications must include full documentation, including technical and operational specifications, operating and maintenance manuals, training materials, and copies of all promotional materials from the vendor.
3. Each system must have comprehensive use procedures applicable for use of the system in California elections in conformance with state law and Secretary of State guidelines for voting system use procedures.
4. Each vendor must establish a California County User Group and hold at least one annual meeting where all California users and Secretary of State staff are invited to attend and review the system and ensure voter accessibility.
5. In addition to depositing the source code in an approved escrow facility, each vendor must deposit a copy of the system source code and binary executables with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State reserves the right to perform a full independent review of the source code.
6. Voting system vendors shall provide to the Secretary of State, on request, a working version of the components, including all hardware, software and firmware, of the voting system that is proposed for use in an election, for the purposes of analysis and testing. These components shall be maintained in working order by the vendor.
7. Multiple independently tested and certified voting systems may be used together to meet federal and state requirements so long as their interface is limited to exchange of aggregated vote totals and/or ballot layout.
8. Components of a certified voting system may not be combined with components of a previously but separately certified system without certification by the Secretary of State as an entirely new system.
9. The vendor for each system that utilizes paper ballots will be required to provide printing specifications for those ballots to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will certify printers to print ballots for each system based upon their demonstrated ability to do so. Vendors may not require exclusivity in ballot printing and must cooperate fully in certification testing of ballots produced by other ballot printers.
10. All systems will be subject to volume testing as defined by established Secretary of State standards prior to certification in California.