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## **VoterGa Presents “*Restoring Trust*” to Voting Commission**

MACON, GA – The Secure Accessible and Fair Elections (SAFE) voting system commission heard a [presentation](#) from a local election integrity organization on Wednesday. VoterGA co-founder Garland Favorito presented the topic “*Restoring Trust in Georgia Voting*” to the 18 member commission at the third meeting since the commission formed in April. The Georgia specific presentation focused on current system improvement opportunities, new system objectives and differences in perspectives between election integrity advocates and state election officials. ([Pt1](#), [Pt2](#))

The presentation provided an overview of different scenarios during the past 16 years where the Georgia voting system accepted invalid votes, lost votes and allowed votes to be altered without an audit trail. The commission was asked to consider establishing new system requirements to prevent similar future scenarios.

The presentation also explained how although voting machines may be physically secure and not connected to the internet during an election, they are prepped from a central source that is **vulnerable to a single point of attack** and can compromise voting machines in **any** county during **any** election. It also explained that expert testimony on both sides of Georgia lawsuits have acknowledged the machines have different Test and Election modes that can be detected by malware which can then make the machine **count differently in test mode and election mode**. Such malware would **not be detectable** by county logic and accuracy testing.

The presentation concluded by recommending that the commission adopt certain objectives for a new system including:

- A standard ballot style and appearance for all types of voting;
- Tabulators that recognize human readable vote marks, not bar coded votes;
- Provable independence between ballots and voter identifiers for anonymity;
- Decentralized election preparation or better security for centralization;
- Audit hand tallies to verify result samples and ensure correct totals;
- Hand tallies for recounts to verify tabulators counted an election correctly;
- Public availability of ballots for inspection after an election is conducted.

VoterGA is expected to release a report of its requirement and legislative recommendations next week.

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