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VoterGa Releases Voting Commission Recommendations

ATLANTA, GA – VoterGA announced today requirements and legislative [recommendations](#) for the 18 member Secure, Accessible and Fair Elections (SAFE) voting system commission. The commission was formed in April to study options for Georgia's next voting system. VoterGA, *Voters Organized for Trusted Election Results in Georgia*, is a non-partisan, non-profit, all volunteer, dues free organization formed in 2006 to restore the election integrity its members believe was lost after an unverifiable voting system was installed statewide in 2002.

The [report](#) outlines requirements and legislative changes needed to implement seven critical objectives VoterGA [presented](#) at the last commission meeting:

- 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 improved security for centralization;
- Audit hand tallies to verify sample election results 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.

The report also concluded with a section of preferences favored by the vast majority of VoterGA members for the new system. These are:

- Hand marked paper ballots for maximum cost effectiveness and verifiability;
- On demand ballot printers to avoid the costs of wasted paper, ease the administrative burden for county election directors and help prevent fraud;
- Verifiable ballot markers that produce the same style and appearance of ballots for disabled voters as for other types of voting;
- Tabulators that tabulate only human readable vote marks and are legally prohibited from counting votes embedded in bar codes;
- Vendors who can restore trust in Georgia elections.

The commission met only three times this year and will likely meet again in early January. It is expected to make certain recommendations for the legislature later that month but the scope of any recommendations is unclear at this time.