

# **VOTERGA**

*Voters Organized for Trusted Election Results in Georgia*

May 7, 2019

Dear Secretary Raffensperger,

I am writing on behalf of our members and voters throughout the state to reconfirm our requirements regarding ballot marking devices (BMD) for Georgia's new voting system. These requirements were repeatedly articulated when hundreds of concerned citizens provided comments during legislative hearings and SAFE Commission meetings. However, they are not clearly delineated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) for voting system evaluation purposes.

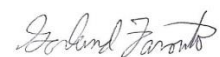
First, **Georgia should reject any ballot marking device system that tabulates votes stored in bar codes.** These systems are unverifiable to the voter, have increased security risks and greatly complicate even the simplest auditing task. The incumbent vendor, ES&S, is now [falsely claiming](#) that bar codes with embedded votes on their Express Vote system are no different than ballot alignment marks. **Bar codes retain data that can corrupt a ballot while alignment marks cannot contain data and cannot corrupt a ballot.** Bar codes may contain votes or nefarious instructions that can be sent to a tabulator without human detection. The vendor's false claim about bar codes constitutes even further grounds for rejection of their system.

Second, **the majority of voters and county elections directors have expressed preference for full face ballots** that contain all candidates and referendum language. These ballots are more useful than summaries that contain only chosen selections on small slips of paper the size of receipts from a grocery store or gas station. Full face ballots are consistent in appearance and style with mail-in and provisional ballots. Summary receipts impair verifiability and auditability.

Third, there is greatly increasing national concern regarding hybrid systems that contain a tabulator integrated within the ballot marking device. **Hybrid systems pose an unnecessary added security risk** because they have the ability to change or retain unverifiable votes. Prof. Andrew Appell explained this clearly in reports on the [ES&S Express Vote](#) and [Dominion ICE systems](#). Vendors may claim they can disable the hybrid function but it can still be enabled via malware. Hybrids also appear to violate the new Georgia law and should be avoided.

I know you realize the danger of bar code voting and you may already be aware of issues with summary receipts and hybrid systems. I appreciate your commitment to "*get it right*" and believe that you can do that if you steer clear of BMDs having the above described inherent problems that could impact Georgia voters. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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