South Carolina Election Commission to Spend
$50 Million for New Unverifiable Voting System

COLUMBIA, SC – The South Carolina State Election Commission (SEC) announced recently that it plans to spend over $50 million for a new voting system that **does not have the capability for voters to verify their votes**. The five member commission chose to use expensive Express Vote ballot marking devices (BMD) from the incumbent vendor Election Systems and Software (ES&S). The BMD system **tabulates hidden votes embedded in bar codes that voters cannot read or verify**. SEC Executive Director Marci Andino previously served on the advisory board of ES&S which has been sued for certification violations or breach of contract in California and Oregon.

The secretive evaluation described by SEC spokesperson Chris Whitmire as an "open process" did **not** accept public comments or advice from nationally recognized election integrity (EI) advocates who have been striving to achieve verifiable voting for decades. Voters and EI advocates made it clear during Georgia's evaluation they unanimously oppose any system that tabulates bar coded voting choices. The SEC contends that election officials audit paper ballots to ensure that the scanner's count of the barcodes matches up with the count of the written word. However, a VoterGA call to Mr. Whitmire confirmed that South Carolina currently has **no such audit procedures**. In fact, the state has **never** audited an electronic election for recording accuracy because their current ES&S Ivotronic system is **not auditable** for recording accuracy.

South Carolina's current ES&S system produced the most heavily ridiculed election results in electronic voting history. In the June 2010 U.S. Senate Democratic primary, unknown Alvin Greene was declared a landslide winner over Vic Rawl, a former state court judge and state Representative. Rawl ran a professional campaign while Greene had no web site, no social media outreach, no yard signs, no campaign workers and was unknown even within the Democrat party. The ES&S unverifiable Ivotronic machines recorded Greene as a 60-40% winner over Rawl, who actually won the verifiable mail-in ballot count by a wide 55-45% margin as shown in a 2010 VoterGA result analysis.

The new Express Vote BMDs also have other problems. They are unable to show all 2020 Presidential Preference primary candidates on one screen thus forcing most primary candidates to be shown separately on second and third screens. The "ballotless" BMDs also print small slips of paper that do not show all candidates in a race or any referendum language. National experts have already documented how such BMD systems are unsecure and cannot be properly audited.