

MEDIA BULLETIN

September 17, 2019

(404) 664-4044

Contact: Garland Favorito

garlandf@msn.com

<http://www.voterga.org>

Colorado to Decertify New Georgia Voting System

ATLANTA, GA –Colorado Secretary of State (SOS) Jena Griswold [announced](#) on Monday **the state will decertify all voting systems that tabulate votes embedded in QR bar codes.** The decertification of all machines that produce ballots **unverifiable to the voter** is effective after next year. Colorado is the first state in the country to ban tabulation of votes hidden in bar codes. The action *“furtheres Colorado's status as the safest state in the nation to cast a ballot”* according to the SOS office.

Colorado will decertify ICX ballot marking devices (BMD) and ICP/ICC scanners identical to those Georgia recently purchased for over \$100 million from Dominion Voting Systems [ICP/ICC 5.5.3-0002, ICX 5.5.10.30]. Earlier this year, the state of Texas [refused to certify](#) the same suite of products on a variety of additional grounds.

The Georgia SOS office did **not** include ballot quality requirements such as verifiability in its [voting system evaluation criteria](#) despite numerous concerns expressed by the public in SAFE commission meetings and legislative hearings.

Colorado has been working with Dominion to certify replacement software that will tabulate votes marked on full ballots containing alignment marks only with no bar codes. Georgia has not negotiated any such an arrangement and **plans to conduct the 2020 Presidential primary using bar coded selection summaries that Colorado will decertify.**

Georgia's direction is under challenge by two groups of plaintiffs who seek to ban the state's use of unverifiable voting equipment prior to the 2020 primary. In the case known as *Curling v. Raffensperger*, the Curling plaintiffs filed an [amended complaint](#) challenging implementation of the new BMDs primarily on the basis of unverifiable bar codes. A second group of plaintiffs organized by the Coalition for Good Governance filed a similar, more comprehensive [supplemental complaint](#) adding causes such as lack of auditability and failure by the SOS to properly certify the new system. Both plaintiffs have already obtained a [landmark ruling](#) banning unverifiable electronic voting machines (DRE) in Georgia as of 2020.

Secretary Griswold explained Colorado's decision regarding the controversial bar codes this way: *"Voters should have the utmost confidence that their vote will count. Removing QR codes from ballots will enable voters to see for themselves that their ballots are correct and helps guard against cyber meddling."*

###