Press Release
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GA Counties to Certify Unverifiable Election Results without Audits

ATLANTA GA – Georgia’s June 9th primary is riddled with local and national reports of system malfunctions, Election Day voters standing in line for hours, mail in applicants never receiving their ballots and voters confused by late precinct location changes. But the most serious problem is how the system produced unverifiable, unadjudicated results that counties will certify without audits.

Officials claimed they would use public audits to compensate for an unverifiable system. However, Georgia counties have confirmed to VoterGA that no such auditing will take place for the June 9th primary election results. A Morgan County adjudication team found the system tabulated mail-in ballots incorrectly. Other counties are experiencing similar scanner/tabulator software problems.

Georgia counties are now set to certify election results without resolving adjudication errors and verifying the system counted all mail-votes correctly. Mail-in votes represent about 40% of the votes cast in the June 9th primary.

In 2019, the Georgia legislature legalized a new wave of expensive, unverifiable voting when it passed HB316, a bill sponsored only by members of House Speaker David Ralston’s leadership team. The office of Secretary of State (SOS) Brad Raffensperger then selected a Dominion Ballot Marking Device (BMD) system that accumulates votes hidden in encrypted QR codes the voter cannot verify. The SOS office picked a product suite rejected by Texas and a BMD banned in Colorado instead of a BMD system that produces full ballots with no bar codes.

No audits are ever required for State Senate, State House, judicial, county-wide, non-partisan or municipal elections. Statewide and federal races will ultimately adopt a Risk Limiting Audit (RLA) procedure that is invalid for auditing BMDs. RLA inventor, Professor Philip Stark, wrote to legislators before passage of the bill to warn them his procedures are meaningless for BMDs because they cannot audit what BMDs showed to voters and detect malfunctions. BMDs require massive, live, parallel audits, not RLAs that are post-election audit procedures.

Legislators and the SOS controlled SAFE Commission did not allow evaluation of Ballot on Demand or Hand Marked Paper Ballot systems that experts say are more secure and could have saved taxpayers $100 million or more over 10 years. Instead, they approved a 20 year bond to pay for BMDs with a 10 year shelf life.