

# EL DORADO COUNTY



September 23, 2005

Honorable John Perez, Chairman  
Voting Modernization Board  
1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Perez,

As the Recorder-Clerk-Registrar of Voters for El Dorado County, I would appreciate your consideration of a vote in favor of extending the deadline date for submission of Project Documentation Plans for counties to at least June 1, 2006. This would give counties and vendors plenty of time to meet the primary election date with new certified equipment.

For instance, my county has been working since last December to purchase a new voting system. At that time, there were no certified voting system vendors available. We just had to proceed assuming certification would be forthcoming. Drafting an RFP, selecting a committee, reviewing the RFP's received, going through the demonstration process for the committee, finally deciding on a vendor. We managed to demonstrate the new equipment at the county fair and the public was very enthusiastic and receptive. Next, the process of getting Board of Supervisor approval and starting the contract negotiation process with the vendor. The vendor, however, must be certified by the Secretary of State office prior to signing a contract. This puts El Dorado and many other counties in a difficult situation, since our selected vendor has not yet received certification of the Touch-screen equipment (**the Optical Scan equipment is certified**) we cannot sign the contract, yet, we have a deadline of January 1, 2006 to meet for qualifying for funding of our new system, and must meet other deadlines such as your own Board meetings and our Board of Supervisors meetings, so, it presents a very stressful timeline for us to try and meet.

Since we cannot submit our Project Documentation Plan until we have a contract and that requires us to have to have a certified vendor, it becomes a 'catch 22' situation. Until just recently there were no certified vendors for the June Primary election process. Please consider extending the deadline for counties to submit their Project Documentation Plan, it will be one of the most appreciated acts you could perform.

Thank you,

William E. Schultz

## RECORDER-CLERK- REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

William E. Schultz

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