



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY CLERK/ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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GAIL L. PELLERIN, COUNTY CLERK

January 19, 2005

John A. Perez, Chair
Voting Modernization Board
c/o Elections Division, Secretary of State's Office
1500 11th St., 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Perez,

I am writing to relay my deep concerns regarding the July 2005 deadline which has been established for all California counties to submit their Project Documentation Package for funding under Proposition 41, and to recommend that it be delayed until at least January 1, 2006 to conform to the federal Help America Vote Act deadline.

As you know, since Santa Cruz County submitted in August 2002 its preliminary paperwork to receive over \$1.6 million in state bond money, the Secretary of State has decertified voting systems designed to meet the federal mandates. Regrettably, as of the writing of this letter, the Secretary of State's Office has yet to certify any voting system that will meet federal mandates, and we have been unable to move forward with a voting modernization project to meet the needs of our voters.

We do not want to propose a project that will limit us from utilizing all of the financing available to our County to modernize our system. We also do not want to be in a position to forfeit funding available through Proposition 41 for the simple reason that there are no certified systems from which to choose. It seems unlikely that a sufficient choice of systems will be certified in a timely manner in order to allow our County to develop a voting modernization project to meet your Board's July 2005 deadline. I oppose having to act in haste and be in a position of recommending the acquisition of a system that is not time-tested and may not meet our voter's needs over the long-term.

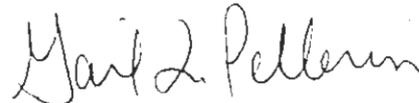
Instead, I propose that your board realign your deadline so as to require counties to submit their preliminary project documentation package outlining plans to comply with HAVA by January 2006, and then allow counties to resubmit in subsequent years a Phase 2 plan to fully modernize voting equipment with certified systems that have been tested adequately.

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Under this proposal, California counties would be able to access their full allocation of funds, and would be able to take sufficient time to test, review and select the best voting system to meet the needs of their voters.

I would appreciate hearing whether you think such a phased approach, with an adjusted first deadline to submit the project documentation package to be consistent with the HAVA deadline is one you may consider. Please contact me at 831-454-2419 or by e-mail at gail.pellerin@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail L. Pellerin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail L. Pellerin
County Clerk