

To: The members of the Voting Modernization Board
From: Judy Alter, Director of Protect California Ballots
RE: Actions for SB 360

Dear Board Members,

Instead of issuing bonds for the LA County project to research and develop new voting machines, software and tabulation equipment, California taxpayers can save that money. If you Board members insist that the new equipment should be independently tested and certified, even for a pilot, even if it uses disclosed software, and even if it is owned by a county, (all parts the bill) LA County could use the HAVA money that is still available to the county. Currently it cannot use those funds because, to be eligible for them, the machines must have an error rate of no more than 1 mark in 500,000 marks/votes. That requires testing to find out the error rate. Your action would require that SB 360 be amended to require that all voting machines, software and tabulation equipment be tested and certified before it can be used in a live election.

I do not believe anyone would really want to use these machines or any machine, such as a toaster, without its being first tested and certified independently. I believe this is a very serious flaw in SB 360 that was signed into law. Your action could correct this serious problem and give voters confidence that they can use these new machines to record and tabulate their votes accurately even in a pilot project.

Thank you for considering my comments and suggestion.

Yours truly,
Judy Alter
www.protectcaliforniaballots.org