

June 17, 2002

Via Facsimile ((916) 653-3214) and U.S. Mail

Hon. John A. Perez
Chairman
Voting Modernization Board
c/o Office of the California Secretary of State
Elections Division
1500 11th Street, Room 590
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Encouraging The Choice Of Voting Equipment That Enables Californians
With Disabilities To Exercise Their Full Voting Rights**

Dear Chairman Perez and Honorable Members of the Voting Modernization Board:

As a person with a disability and a voting citizen, I urge the Voting Modernization Board to ensure that the voting equipment adopted by California's counties over the coming years affords all voters equal access to the voting booth and the right to a secret ballot. The punch card system used in California does not allow independent opportunity to vote. This is true for myself and for many persons with disabilities such as those with visual impairments.

Voting equipment exists today that can afford people with even significant disabilities, such as myself, the opportunity to vote secretly without assistance on the same basis as voters without disabilities. The system is referred to as direct recording electronic ("DRE") or touch-screen voting equipment. During a test project in L.A. County last year, I was able to use this equipment. I found that the equipment gave me the opportunity to independently vote. It is my understanding that this equipment provides independent access to the voting process for many types of persons with disabilities.

I urge you to condition Proposition 41 funding on the adoption of voting equipment that enables voters with disabilities to vote without assistance on the same basis as other voters. The best way to accomplish this goal would be to require all counties to adopt DRE voting systems.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon W. Anthony

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