

Working Together for New Jersey
- Election Integrity –
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WTNJelections.org

March 31, 2022

To: Morris County Board of Elections
Morris County Board of County Commissioners
Morris County Administrator John Bonanni
Morris County Superintendent of Elections, Dale Kramer
Morris County Clerk, Ann Grossi
Morris County Counsel John Napolitano
Morris County Purchasing Director **Beti Bauer, QPA**

Re: Purchase of new voting equipment

Working Together for New Jersey – Election Integrity is a coalition of volunteer citizens working state-wide who share a commitment to making our election system as simple, transparent and accurate as possible.

In many states, the accuracy of voter registration rolls and the accuracy of election results reported from electronic voting machines have been questioned and are under investigation. In New Jersey, many counties now are or have replaced older electronic voting machines with newer electronic voting machine systems. Yet we have been told that the purchasing counties or Boards of Election have signed contracts which block them or legal authorities from forensic audit of these systems and their tabulations.

Morris County's Commissioners have authorized \$5 million in bonds for the purchase of new election machines and equipment. We know this has been under consideration for at least eight months. When we became aware of the process, we addressed our concerns to the County Commissioners, both in person and in writing. We attach our Policy Statement on Election Integrity, which represents our favored recommendations.

We understand the many layers of authority and the many responsibilities of those involved in the conduct of elections in Morris County, and we respect this awesome responsibility. At the same time, as we have investigated the broad process of conducting elections, we have found many areas of concern.

However, given the commitments Morris County has already made, at this time, we are officially urging that the Board of Elections, the Board of County Commissioners, the County Clerk, the County Counsel and the County Purchasing Department immediately act to **include within any contract to purchase** new election machines and equipment:

(continued)

- Clear and strong language preserving the legal right for the County, candidates and authorized official observers to fully access and forensically audit any equipment purchased, overriding any “proprietary” protections claimed by the manufacturer(s) or sales agents to the contrary
- We urge that any voting machines or equipment purchased produce a voter-verified paper ballot which can survive at least 22 months’ storage, the original of which can be compared to the machine tabulation of votes cast in any post-election audit, and that policies be established to secure and protect these originals for the full 22 months, in custody of Morris County.

To enable a trustworthy and verifiable audit, the County and appropriate agencies and public observers must be able to examine the election equipment, the components within the equipment, and must be able to copy for examination the firmware or software operating on the equipment at various points in time. Similar access must exist to examine or audit the election management systems used to “program” such equipment. The intellectual property rights of developers and manufacturers can be protected, but the higher priority is to protect the integrity of our election process so that voters can have trust in equipment, procedures and conduct of our elections.

We urge the Morris County Board of Elections, and every department involved in decisions and actions to purchase new equipment, hardware and software, to **consult with forensic auditors** prior to executing any new contract to determine precisely what would be necessary to examine and audit election equipment in order to render judgment on its operation. Alternatively, as we propose in our Policy Statement, you might consider a return to non-machine paper ballots and manual tabulation immediately after the close of polls at each voting precinct location, under public observation.

Any option for the conduct of elections will have an expense. We must claim and protect our right to examine the equipment and systems we purchase to be sure they produce accurate results that have not been manipulated. Anything less is a breach of public trust, especially if enabled under contract “protection” of the manufacturers and servicing companies.

We appreciate your efforts. Please act immediately to protect your future right to access and audit the equipment you are about to spend \$5 million to purchase.

Respectfully,

William H. Eames
for Working Together for New Jersey – Election Integrity