



**Los Angeles County Voting Systems for All People (VSAP) 2.0 Certification Hearing
Testimony of Kim Alexander, President and Founder
California Voter Foundation**

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The California Voter Foundation applauds California's lawmakers and Secretary of State Alex Padilla for advancing an innovative approach to developing voting technology that has resulted in a publicly-owned voting system. We also appreciate the lengthy and inclusive process Los Angeles County and its registrar has undertaken to develop the VSAP voting system over the past decade.

We eagerly look forward to the time when the software used for this voting system is publicly disclosed, as has been anticipated for the past decade during its development and hope the Secretary of State will work with Los Angeles County to make the software publicly accessible soon.

As I testified at last month's certification hearing, CVF is aware of growing concerns about the potential problems associated with ballot marking devices. One of these problems, which I discussed at the last hearing, is a design in some models where the same printer head that issued the ballot is used again to submit the ballot after the voter has verified it. This design may be seen as beneficial for accessibility needs. But it also opens up voters' ballots to the possibility that something the voter did not verify can be printed onto their ballot without their knowledge.

A more secure BMD system is one where voters are directed to place their voted ballots into a separate, secure container that is not part of the same unit or system that produced it. We understand that an "all in one" design may be desirable to meet accessibility needs and support using it for this purpose but urge the Secretary of State to work with counties to implement a two-step approach to be utilized by most BMD voters. It will also be a good failsafe, if the county is not already planning to do so, to have secure containers that can be used to deposit BMD ballots in case there are paper jams with the units as was discovered during testing.

Another ballot marking device concern has also recently come to light. A new study published this week by two of the nation's leading election security researchers, Professors Alex Halderman and Matthew Bernhard finds that voters are not likely to carefully review the ballots produced from ballot marking devices and were very likely to overlook changed votes in a mock election the researchers conducted. They recommend voting sites need to be designed to support verification and provide voters the space, time and encouragement to review their BMD ballots. They also recommend poll workers provide verbal instructions to voters to review their ballots before casting their votes. Election officials in Colorado, a state that is considered a leader in modernizing the voting process, are already considering ways to implement these recommendations. California should do likewise.