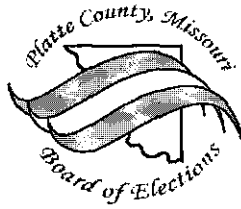


PLATTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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2600 NW Prairie View Road • P.O. Box 560 • Platte City, MO 64079 • 816/858-4400 • Fax 816/858-3387

September 20, 2006

Bev Harris
330 SW 43rd St., Ste. K PMB 547
Renton WA 98055

RE: Public Records Request #090705a

Dear Ms. Harris;

In response to your request, please find the enclosed copy of an e-mail from Diebold Election Systems dated Aug. 19, 2005. Platte County Board of Election Commissioners is not in possession of any other requested records.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Erickson".

Mary Beth Erickson
Director of Elections

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy M. Flanigan".

Wendy Flanigan
Director of Elections

Encl.

Black Box Voting Optical Scan Test - Response

First of all, certain activists recently did some so-called "testing" in Leon County. This testing was inherently flawed because the local election supervisor 1) allowed unauthorized people physical access into the GEMS server room, 2) provided them with unrestricted access to the server using his "secret" passwords, and 3) enabled the activist to use the system with no restrictive supervision. None of these scenarios are realistic, and the blatant disregard by this supervisor for proper physical and electronic security standards makes claims associated with this "testing" unrealistic.

There is NO EXECUTABLE PROGRAM stored on the optical scan memory card. Claims made to the contrary by activists are incorrect. Votes stored on the memory card can not be changed in any way by anything stored on the memory card. Inaccurate statements concerning an executable program allegedly able to manipulate the vote totals are being presented by certain activists in an attempt to falsely downgrade the security of the Diebold optical scan solution. The data in question on the memory card provides a simple print template for the local optical scan printer and nothing more. No vote totals, either those stored locally or those transmitted to election central, can be altered using this printer template.

As any election official is aware, the overall integrity of an election is comprised of *reliable equipment, adequate procedures and people*. The activist claims state that the printout of the optical scan unit can be changed to cause confusion following an election. As previously discussed, there is no executable program on the memory card and the activists, with full access to the system, could not modify the election results on the memory card. Changes to the printer template that would cause incorrect information to be printed would be immediately recognized during pre-election logic & accuracy testing of the unit. As any election official is aware, once logic and accuracy testing is successfully completed on a unit its memory card is secured in the optical scan unit using a tamper-evident security audit tag. Therefore any attempt to remove the memory card in order to modify it in any way would be immediately recognized.

As in many previous accusations, electronic election system activists alter the truth to support their position, and do not take into consideration the layers of security provided by the equipment, procedures and people associated with the election process.