

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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September 23, 2003

Secretary James C. (Chip) DiPaula, Jr.
Department of Budget and Management
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Secretary DiPaula:

On August 5, 2003, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. ordered an independent security analysis to be performed on the Diebold AccuVote Touch Screen Voting System and the election processes surrounding this system. This security analysis identified improvements required in the voting system and procedures, which will ensure the reliability and integrity of the voting process. Based upon the findings of this analysis, which is thought to be unprecedented in its scope, a Voting System Security Action Plan has been prepared. We are pleased to submit this Action Plan to you.

The State Board of Elections (SBE) is proposing this Action Plan for adoption by the State of Maryland. SBE is fully committed to accomplishing the improvements identified in the Action Plan as promptly as possible.

A key recommendation is that SBE create a formal Information System Security Plan that will follow the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) security policy and standards and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidelines. Under this plan, SBE will also adopt a formal security training program and direct local jurisdictions to implement these security standards uniformly.

A conclusion reached in the Action Plan was that an alternative system could not be implemented in time to conduct the March 2004 Presidential Primary election and could jeopardize the November 2004 Presidential General election.

Therefore, the State Board of Elections recommends Phase II of the implementation proceed as scheduled. SBE is confident that the implementation of Diebold's AccuVote-Touch Screen system will help ensure the reliability of elections by utilizing state of the art technology in a secure environment.

Sincerely,

Attachment

Linda H. Lamone
State Administrator

Gilles W. Burger
Chairman