
BOB BARR, President
(Member of Congress, 1995-2003)



WRITTEN STATEMENT
SUBMITTED BY
BOB BARR
TO THE GEORGIA STATE ELECTION BOARD
ON BEHALF OF
GEORGIANS FOR VERIFIED VOTING
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2006
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

I am grateful to be speaking today before the Georgia State Election Board on the issue of electronic voting systems. I am here today on behalf of Georgians for Verified Voting (GAVV). GAVV is a nonprofit, nonpartisan citizens' activist organization that advocates for voting systems and processes in Georgia that meet the requirements for democratic elections: these systems must be accurate, auditable (software independent), reliable, secure, transparent, and accessible. I believe citizens of Georgia who are registered to vote deserve a voting system, whether electronic or otherwise, that is fair, transparent, and accountable. The public must have the assurance that this process is fair before they go to their polling location to cast their vote, in order for the subsequent election results to be assured of enjoying the credibility necessary for our elected officials to govern with the high degree of confidence the public must have if our system is to function fully and properly.

There have been questions raised about the electronic voting machines that were in place during the 2006 primary and general elections. Serious security vulnerabilities in the Diebold Election System were making headlines in studies nationwide. There has been evidence uncovered that key rules and procedures related to system certification were not followed. When there are credible questions raised about touch-screen electronic voting, the state must confirm the source, identify the problem, and put into action a plan to correct the problem or to credibly assure the public the perceived problems were not in fact extant.

The state of Georgia has a profound interest in taking all reasonable steps to investigate such concerns. Whatever electronic voting machines Georgia

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intends to use for future elections, whether it is the Diebold Election System or another system, the machines must be properly and regularly certified. The State Election Board must integrate integrity, transparency, and accountability in any and all electronic voting machines it uses.

GAVV therefore respectfully reiterates its request contained in its complaint of December 13, 2006, to authorize Attorney General Thurbert Baker to conduct an investigation into the certification or lack thereof for the electronic voting machines in the 2006 election cycle.