



**STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA  
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE NC STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
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As the North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) prepares to consider certifying new voting systems for the state, the League of Women Voters of North Carolina urges the state board, county boards of election, and our fellow citizens bear in mind that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. As such, we recommend the board withhold certification until a more thorough voting system evaluation is completed.

Effective suffrage is predicated not only on sound statutes governing voter registration and election processes, but also on voting systems that protect and correctly tally every vote that is cast. This means that any voting system certified must:

- use a voter-verifiable, hand-marked paper ballot that allows the voter to confirm that the record reflects their voting intent;
- provide an equivalent voter-verifiable ballot for citizens with impaired vision;
- allow the voter to verify and correct their votes during the voting process;
- allow vote totals to be verified by a hand-count of the paper ballots if necessary;
- enable officials to conduct routine audits of randomly selected precincts, with the results published by the county boards of elections;
- provide results for all voting methods (mail-in, one-stop, and Election Day) and all elections down to the precinct level; and,
- be fully consistent with the physical security and cybersecurity safeguards developed by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

According to recent news reports, the Chair of the NCSBE, Robert Cordle, stated "If [voting systems] meet the statutory requirements, they're to be certified." Fortunately, North Carolina statutes require that after December 1, 2019, voting systems use a voter-verifiable paper ballot. The NCSBE has built on the framework of the statutes by developing an election system certification program to vet potential voting systems. Unfortunately, their certification program is largely based on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) certification process, which is widely recognized by election experts as antiquated. As an example, the EAC process specifies no cybersecurity protection requirements for a system to be certified. In fact, some of the systems under consideration by the NCSBE have already been found to be insecure, do not meet federal ballot regulations, and are owned by companies relying on significant foreign investments.

There is no need for the NCSBE to make this decision without a full understanding of the consequences. The 29 counties listed as still use direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting machines can switch to hand-marked paper ballot elections—as used by the other counties—without a new voting system being approved. The only pressing need is the impending decertification of the system used by voters with a visual impairment; but there is legislation to postpone the decertification decision and there are alternative systems already approved by NCSBE.

The federal government has identified election systems as being part of the nation’s critical infrastructure. Therefore, The League of Women Voters of North Carolina recommends that the NCSBE withhold further voting system certification decisions until the manufacturers develop systems that meet the criteria listed above and are independently verified to meet security requirements appropriate for a system so vital to our democracy and our fellow citizens’ fundamental rights.

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