

**PICO/LA CIENEGA NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING FOR PEACE &
DEMOCRACY**

Join us! Every **Friday**, at **5 PM** at the corner of **Pico & La Cienega**.

For more info: **jessw@netwood.net**

Other nearby neighborhood peace and justice gatherings: **3rd & Fairfax, Saturdays, 6 PM; Santa Monica & San Vicente, Fridays, 7 - 9 PM** (LGBT & others)

Demand Your Right to Fair and Verifiable Elections!

Touchscreen voting machines can be convenient, efficient and cost saving. However, these machines also dramatically raise the chances of election fraud. If integrity in the voting process is important to you, tell Secretary of State Kevin Shelley that you want a voter-verifiable paper audit trail and open source, publicly reviewed software in all of California's new touchscreen voting machines!

Modern voting technology has emerged as a potential solution to some of the problems exposed by the 2000 presidential election. Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines can increase accessibility for people with disabilities, lower the ever-increasing cost of printing multilingual paper ballots, and make the experience of voting less confusing. However, DRE voting machines raise a new dangerous possibility. Although the 2000 presidential election was a painful lesson in the failings of current voting technology, at least there was a back-up system that allowed a manual recount. Without an audit trail, a compromised DRE system can not provide even the cold comfort of Florida's manual recount.

Luckily, adding this protection to DRE machines is not hard and does not have to add a significant amount to the cost of each unit. San Mateo County has led the way by working with voting machine vendors to create a working paper audit trail. Other counties have purchased products without paper trails, but contracted with their vendors to add this function if the Secretary of State requires it in the future.

One of the best ways to ensure that voting machines are trustworthy is to require them to use open source software. The public should be allowed to review the software that runs these machines in order to confirm that they act in the way that the manufacturer claims. Right now the leading voting machine technologies are not only proprietary, they are covered by trade secret protections, so no one can really see what's going on inside without signing a non-disclosure agreement. We can do better in California. If California requires open source software in DRE machines, this will spark a thriving market in voting software. This kind of competition can only benefit California.

Please write to the California Secretary of State. Use the letter on the back of this flyer or compose one of your own. We can provide envelopes and stamps. Ask us now, or come back next week, and we will be happy to send off your letters.

For more information on this issue, please see: <http://verifiedvoting.org/>

(Letter and flyer text derived from the Electronic Frontier Foundation's page at: <http://action.eff.org/action/index.asp?step=2&item=2718>)

The Honorable Kevin Shelley
California Secretary of State
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Shelley,

I am a California voter who cares deeply about the security of our voting systems. I strongly support California taking the lead in bringing the benefits of digital technology to the election process. But we need to make sure that these new machines meet basic standards of accountability as well as ease of use for our diverse communities.

Specifically, I am concerned that many of the new direct electronic recording (DRE) machines do not provide a voter-verifiable paper audit trail and do not use open source software.

Unless a paper record is generated by publicly reviewed software, verified by the voter, and retained for potential recounts, I feel that this technology is simply too insecure for use in our elections.

I hope that you will support San Mateo and other counties which have taken steps to provide security by requiring paper audit trails for all voting machines certified for use in our elections. I believe that California has been, and should continue to be, a leader in bringing the benefits of technology to the world. As our Secretary of State, you have the power to make this happen. I urge you to require that all new DRE voting machines used in California include a voter-verifiable paper audit trail and use openly reviewed software.

Sincerely,