



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 4, 2005**

Jeffrey B. Garfield, Executive Director and General Counsel of the State Elections Enforcement Commission stated the following today:

"The vulnerabilities and insecurities associated with computerized voting is emerging as the number one democracy issue of our day. Malfunctions in computer voting during elections have shaken the public's confidence in the accuracy of computer vote counts. Computer experts throughout the nation are of the opinion that electronic voting and tallying poses substantial vulnerabilities to the integrity of election outcomes. These same experts have concluded that the best safeguard against such vulnerabilities is to require the electronic voting system to produce a paper record, the accuracy of which each voter can verify against the electronic ballot display, and which can be manually tallied and reconciled against the electronic vote tabulation. This is particularly important where there has been a close vote election too close to call, or a manifest discrepancy is observed.

The State Elections Enforcement Commission, in considering its 2005 legislative package, *unanimously* endorsed the idea of requiring computer voting systems to produce voter verified paper audit trails, "VVPAT" has it has come to be known. The SEEC did not offer its own draft legislation because strong legislation was already brought out by GAE Co-Chairman Senator Donald DeFronzo. The Commission applauds Senator DeFronzo, Rep. Caruso and Rep. O'Brien for their leadership and substantial efforts to secure the unanimous support of the bill, Senate Bill 55, by the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

The Commission also welcomes the strong support for voter verified paper audit trail shown today by Governor Sullivan. VVPAT is an idea whose day has come. The people of Connecticut deserve to have continued confidence that their precious votes will be correctly and accurately counted in every election. In calling the public's attention to this critical democracy issue, the Commission urges every member of the public to make your thoughts known to your elected legislative representatives, urging them to pass Senate Bill 55 into law this year."

For more information, please contact Albert P. Lenge at 566-1776.