



Office of Secretary of the State

State of Connecticut

30 Trinity Street, P.O. Box 150470, Hartford, CT 06115-0470

Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State

Maria M Greenslade
Deputy Secretary of the State

October 5, 2005

Ralph Morelli
TrueVoteCT
Professor
Computer Science Department
Trinity College
300 Summit Street
Hartford, CT 06106-3100

Dear Mr. Morelli:

Thank you for your letter discussing at length the advantages of the Automark ballot marking system, marketed by Election Systems and Software (ES&S). We both share the same goal for open, accessible and transparent elections. We are also mindful of our duty to acquire the best possible system at the best possible price. To this end we recognize the necessity of faithfully complying with the letter and the spirit of Connecticut purchasing laws and policies.

Although you assert that your organization is “a non-profit non-partisan community advocacy group” without “any kind of relationship with voting machine vendors”, the bulk of your letter is devoted to extolling the virtues of a single product by a single manufacturer, the Automark by ES&S. Your arguments are supported by materials prepared by or paid for by ES&S, such as a letter from ES&S executives to the California Secretary of State, and a legal opinion from a law firm employed by ES&S. No other product or manufacturer is ever mentioned in your letter, and no material from any other manufacturer is provided. This pattern is consistent with your organization’s prior communication with this office, including:

- A meeting in my office with members of your organization on February 24, 2005;
- Statements by members of your organization at the League of Women Voters forum on March 28, 2005;
- Testimony by members of your organization before legislative committees;
- Statements by members of your organization at a forum on voting technology sponsored by this office at the Legislative Office Building on June 15, 2005;
- Various letters, emails and telephone calls by your organization’s members to this office;
- Materials posted on your organization’s website.
- Materials distributed by your organization at the Registrars of Voters Conference on September 8, 2005

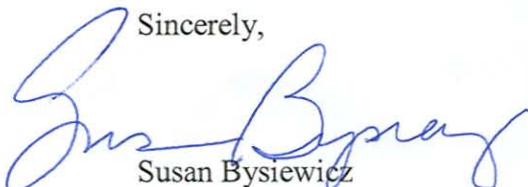
General Information (860) 509-6000

Commercial Recording Division	(860) 509-6001	fax (860) 509-6069	State Capitol Office	(860) 509-6200	fax (860) 509-6200
Legislation and Election Administration Division	(860) 509-6100	fax (860) 509-6127	Deputy Secretary of the State	(860) 509-6212	fax (860) 509-613
State Board of Accountancy	(860) 509-6179	fax (860) 509-6247	Management & Support Services	(860) 509-6190	fax (860) 509-617

As you are aware, we are now in the midst of the purchasing process. The Department of Administrative Services has advised us that it would be inappropriate to meet with advocates for a specific vendor. Therefore, it is not appropriate to meet with your organization while we are engaged in the purchasing process.

Thank you again for providing us with the information. We appreciate your interest in our democracy and our elections

Sincerely,



Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State

cc: Governor M. Jodi Rell
Attorney General Richard Blumenthal
James F. Jones, Jr., President, Trinity College
Mr. Richard Abbate, President, ROVAC
Ms. Linda Yelmini, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services
Ms. Susan Thomas, Contract Officer, Department of Administrative Services
Mr. Jeffrey Garfield, Executive Director, State Elections Enforcement Commission
Sen. Donald DeFronzo, Co-Chair, GAE Committee
Rep. Christopher Caruso, Co-Chair, GAE Committee
Rep. Timothy O'Brien, Vice-Chair, GAE Committee
Rep. Edward Meyer, Vice-Chair, GAE Committee
Rep. Livvy Floren, Ranking Member, GAE Committee
Senator Judith Freedman, Ranking Member, GAE Committee
Ms. Jara N. Burnett, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Connecticut
Ms. Rosemarie Skoglund, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Connecticut
Ms. Christine Horrigan, Director, Government, LWVC