



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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PEDRO A. CORTÉS
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January 22, 2007

Audrey N. Glickman
Secretary/Treasurer
Vote Allegheny
3548 Beechwood Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2767

Dear Ms. Glickman:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding concerns with Allegheny County's logic and accuracy testing prior to the November 2006 General Election. I appreciate you bringing this information to my attention. After extensive conversations with Allegheny County (County) officials, I will respond to your concerns. I appreciate your patience while I took the time to research this matter.

On page three (3) of the report provided, a "side issue" is discussed. This issue relates to concern about computers in the "Unity room." I have spoken with County officials and have received confirmation that the vote tabulation system has never interacted with any other computer network, including connection to the Internet or to any County network. The vote tabulation system was restricted to the tabulation room, which is secure. The County contracted with the firm Vigilant Minds to conduct a review of the network being used to tabulate; they affirmed that the County's system was a stand alone network.

Concerns about the use of wireless cards on laptops have also been discussed with the County. They affirm that the Dell laptops purchased for the election contained a default configuration which included wireless cards. The County states that on or about October 26, 2006, the wireless cards were removed from the laptops and will not be reinstalled.

Another concern raised was the software "PC Anywhere," which was included with the purchase of the laptops. Again, the County states that this program was included with the original purchase of the computers and was removed from all laptops prior to the November 2006 General Election.

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Finally, there were concerns about verification of software for the two Model 650 scanners used by the County. Separate logic and accuracy testing is conducted on any scanning equipment used in Allegheny County. Only one scanner was verified publicly during the testing; however, both were tested and verified before use in the November 2006 General Election. In addition to the tests conducted, every time the Model 650 is powered up, it runs and prints a full diagnostic menu of the system, including the current version of firmware used by the system.

I would like to thank you again for your diligence and correspondence in relation to logic and accuracy testing in Allegheny County. I appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,



Pedro A. Cortés

HAV/jcm