



J. KENNETH BLACKWELL
Ohio Secretary of State

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Directive 2005-16

August 8, 2005

TO: BOARDS OF ELECTION IN ALLEN COUNTY, AUGLAIZE COUNTY, BROWN COUNTY, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, CLERMONT COUNTY, CLINTON COUNTY, DELAWARE COUNTY, FAYETTE COUNTY, FRANKLIN COUNTY, HAMILTON COUNTY, KNOX COUNTY, LAKE COUNTY, LOGAN COUNTY, MADISON COUNTY, MAHONING COUNTY, MEIGS COUNTY, MONROE COUNTY, NOBLE COUNTY, OTTAWA COUNTY, PICKAWAY COUNTY, PREBLE COUNTY, PUTNAM COUNTY, ROSS COUNTY, SANDUSKY COUNTY, SENECA COUNTY, SHELBY COUNTY, SUMMIT COUNTY, UNION COUNTY, WASHINGTON COUNTY, WILLIAMS COUNTY AND WYANDOT COUNTY

As soon as possible, but not later than September 15, 2005, please notify this Office in writing of your county's Provisional Selection of (1) a primary voting system and the vendor of that system, and (2) a secondary voting system and the vendor of that system. We strongly recommend that you select a certified voting system as your secondary choice.

As soon as possible, but not later than November 15, 2005, please notify this Office in writing of your county's Final Selection of a certified voting system and the vendor of that system.

As used herein, "certified voting system" means a voting system that, by not later than November 15, 2005, has been: (i) examined and validated by a federally approved Independent Testing Authority ("ITA") as compliant with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 ("HAVA"), as evidenced by the receipt of either a NASED number issued by the ITA or a letter from the ITA stating that the voting system is compliant with HAVA; (ii) examined and approved by Compuware as compliant with all security requirements specific to the voting system and vendor, as established by the Secretary (note: only a DRE and/or VVPAT are required to undergo Compuware testing); and (iii) examined by the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners ("Board") and obtained a positive recommendation from the Board to this Office.

In the event that the voting system you have finally selected is not, as of November 15, 2005, a "certified voting system," you may include with your notice of Final Selection a request for an extension of the November 15, 2005, certification deadline. The request should contain the following information: (i) a detailed explanation of the certification status of your desired voting system; (ii) a timeline which includes the anticipated completion dates for certification, purchase, manufacture, installation, implementation, IV&V testing, and staff and poll worker training; and (iii) any other information that may assist this Office in determining whether the November 15, 2005, certification deadline should be extended. Upon receipt of the above information, this Office will endeavor to work with you to determine whether it is prudent under the circumstances

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to extend the deadline, taking into consideration our common objective of allowing the counties to obtain the voting system of their choice, while at the same time ensuring that all counties have certified voting systems in place and are prepared to conduct a HAVA-compliant federal election by the first federal election in 2006 (which could be as early as January 2, 2006).

This Directive is intended to supersede the certification and selection deadlines set forth in Directive 2005-07 (issued on April 14, 2005). All other matters addressed in that Directive remain unchanged.

If you have any questions regarding this Directive, please do not hesitate to contact Judy Grady, Director of Elections, at 614-466-2585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Kenneth Blackwell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

J. Kenneth Blackwell