



October 26, 2006

Honorable Board of Supervisors
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: Restricted Access to Ballot Counting Room

Dear Board Members:

On a number of occasions you have heard requests from members of the public to direct the Registrar of Voters to permit observers in the ballot counting room on Election Night—a practice the County Information Security Officer (CISO) strongly opposes. On October 20, 2006, the California Secretary of State issued Use Procedures for Sequoia Voting Systems for the November 7, 2006 General Election. Item 12 of these procedures states:

The WinEDS server and any 400C tabulators shall be kept in a secure facility with physical access restricted to necessary and authorized staff only.

Moreover, the United States Election Assistance Commission recently published a Quick Start Management Guide for Voting System Security that highlights priority items essential to securing a voting system. They state:

Allow only authorized election officials in the tabulation equipment room.

Consistent with prior and ongoing practices, the Registrar of Voters ballot counting room will be restricted to authorized staff only.

If you would like me to provide copies of either of these documents to you, please let me know. As always, please contact me if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Dunmore".

Barbara Dunmore
Registrar of Voters

cc: Larry Parrish, County Executive Officer
Joe Rank, County Counsel
Matt Frymire, County Information Technology Officer
C.J. Wickham, County Information Security Officer
Election Observer Panel Members
Letitia E. Pepper, interested public member