

Passage of **SB 623** would **make Missouri the 19th all paper ballot state**. Direct record electronic voting machines (DREs), which have been decertified or outlawed in other states because of their lack of audit capability and vulnerability to fraud, are still being used extensively in a few counties here in Missouri. **SB 623 will phase-out the use of these machines and will make a hand-marked paper ballot the official ballot in the state – thereby creating much-needed transparency and accountability in Missouri’s elections.**

WHAT THE BILL SPECIFICALLY DOES:

- Prevents the purchase of any new DREs.
- Allows DREs that accommodate disabled voters to continue to be used, but by disabled voters only, and only until those machines wear out.
- Mandates that paper ballot marking devices designed for use by disabled voters replace the DREs serving disabled voters when they wear out.
- Ensures that audits and recounts of election results can be done reliably by mandating that every vote is cast on a solid paper ballot.

WHY WE NEED THIS BILL:

1.) The bill ensures that we have a **reliable paper record of the vote for recounts and audits** —which we don’t have with DREs! Most voters do not bother to verify scrolling and difficult to read audit tape that the DRE produces. St. Louis County’s Election Day Tech Logs show that it frequently jams in the printer for hours with no votes printing on it (and apparently no voters even noticing the problem during that time). And with the only other DRE records of the vote recorded internally, there is no way for election officials to ever know that the DRE results are correct. Using hand-marked paper ballots rather than DREs can easily solve this audit problem; and **there is no hackable software program that stands between a voter’s pen and a paper ballot.**

2.) **Computer security experts advocate paper ballots rather than DREs!** Across the nation, from CalTech to MIT, computer security experts have roundly demonstrated that DREs can easily be hacked to change election results without detection. Because of their research findings, they are in favor of paper ballots over DREs. **“You can change statistically however you want in an untraceable way thousands and thousands and thousands of votes.”** – Giovanni Vigna, Prof. of Computer Science, University of California at San Diego.

- NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) argued in a discussion draft written in 2010, “Simply put, the DRE architecture’s inability to provide for independent audits of its electronic records makes it a **poor choice for an environment in which detecting errors and fraud is important.**”
- **Multiple scientific studies** and computer experts have confirmed that all of the DREs used in Missouri are very vulnerable. For example, the Ohio Secretary of State EVEREST report proved that **a single knowledgeable person** with a magnet and a PDA can access the ES&S iVotronic and insert a virus that can spread to the central tabulator and corrupt the results of the entire election without detection. These are the **same machines used in St Louis Co.**

- The ES&S iVotronic DREs used in St Louis were **decertified by California's Secretary Of State** when she conducted a thorough Top to Bottom review of all their voting systems in 2007. These same ES&S machines were **thrown out in Florida**.
- A **thorough vetting of these machines has never been conducted** by the Secretary of State's office in Missouri or the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Furthermore, the EAC, which is tasked with the certification of new machines and approving the testing laboratories for them, is presently vacant, and has been without a quorum for the last 4 years. The current president and Congress have both neglected to populate this commission. Our highest election authorities have failed in their responsibilities. It is up to us to make sure our elections are accountable and secure.

3.) It will **save taxpayer dollars**, especially in St Louis Co! Many counties have aging voting machines and are looking to buy new equipment. The Secretary of State's unfounded fiscal note is based on a falsity-- that SB 623 requires all DREs to be replaced with new ballot marking devices when the bill passes. SB 623 does not require the purchase of new equipment and it **will lower the operations cost of elections** in the areas of the state that now use the DREs heavily.

- Jackson Co., a paper ballot only county, spent **62% less per voter** to conduct the November 2012 election than St. Louis Co., which uses a combination of paper ballots and DREs.
- St Louis Co. has over 1800 DREs which have to be stored and tested. On election day they hire one tech per 4 polling places to handle any machine-related problems. There are about 500 polling places. With this bill, old machines could replace failed machines in St Louis Co. and only one would be needed per polling place. leaving many extra machines which could be substituted in until the funds had been saved up to purchase one ballot marking device (BMD) for each polling place.

4.) The bill **revives the skeptical voter's confidence in the election process** and gives us "**open elections**" as required in our Missouri Constitution. Having a reliable paper record of the vote will not only make it possible to do the hand-counted audits that are required by Missouri law, it will give voters a sense of security that their votes will indeed be counted properly.

- Today's voter is likely to have seen programmer Clint Curtis on YouTube testifying before the Ohio legislature that he wrote software that could flip the vote 49% to 51% and never be detected, or have seen the documentary "Hacking Democracy", or have watched election fraud play out on the TV show "Scandals". They need assurance that the legislators are serious about election integrity in Missouri. **Missouri is the Show Me state. It should not have Trust Me elections.**

5.) The bill **complies with Federal requirements for serving disabled voters!**

6.) Paper ballots **speed up the waiting time at the polls!** More voters can vote at a time with a pen and a paper ballot than can on the limited number of DREs that can be set up at a polling place.

7.) This is **not an anti-technology bill**. It only phases out the use of DREs. **Paper ballot scanners—which Missouri currently has at every polling place—would still be used** for counting votes.

PLEASE HELP SB 623 GET TO THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE FOR A VOTE!

This important legislation is competing with many other bills right now. Please tell House Leadership that you would like to see it get to the House Floor. It has not been opposed in any hearing, except by our SOS, who has attached a fiscal note that is completely unfounded as noted above. **Virtually ALL Republicans have voted for it at every stage of its advancement,** indicating that it rings true to the Republicans' desire to make sure that each part of the election process is characterized by **integrity and accountability.**

For the integrity of our elections,
Laura Hausladen, Frieda Keough, Phillip Michaels and Cynthia Richards
Co-Directors, Missouri's Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections