

1 results from an actual count of 6 “No” votes and 2 “Yes” votes to a reported, and inaccurate,
2 count of 7 “Yes” votes and 1 “No” vote.

3 94. On or about December 20, 2005, Secretary of State McPherson issued a press
4 release calling for additional testing of the Diebold Voting System. In the press release,
5 McPherson stated that “[d]uring a thorough review of the application for the Diebold system
6 currently pending certification, we have determined that there is sufficient cause for
7 additional federal evaluation.” A true and correct copy of the press release is included in the
8 Appendix as Exhibit 14.

9 95. On information and belief, the Secretary of State’s decision was based, in part, on
10 the flaws revealed by Hursti’s successful manipulation of the Diebold systems in Florida.

11 96. Also, on December 20, 2005, the Chief of the Secretary of State’s Elections
12 Division sent a letter to Diebold requesting that it submit source code contained on the
13 memory cards used with the AV-OS and AV-TSx for further federal testing due to security
14 concerns:

15 Unresolved significant security concerns exist with respect to the memory card
16 used to program and configure the AccuVote-OS and the AccuVote-TSX
17 components of this system because this component was not subject to federal
18 source code review and evaluation by the Independent Testing Authorities (ITA)
19 who examined your system for federal qualification. It is the Secretary of State’s
20 position that the source code for the Accubasic code on these cards, as well as for
21 the Accubasic interpreter that interprets this code, should have been federally
22 reviewed.

23 . . . Therefore we are requesting that you submit the source code relating to the
24 Accubasic code on the memory cards and the Accubasic interpreter to the ITA for
25 immediate evaluation.

26 *We require this additional review before proceeding with further consideration of*
27 *your application for certification in California.* Once we have received a report
28 from the federal ITA adequately analyzing this source code, in addition to the
technical and operational specifications relating to the memory card and
interpreter, we will expeditiously proceed with our comprehensive review of your
application. (emphasis added)

A true and correct copy of the December 20, 2005, letter is included in the Appendix as
Exhibit 15.

1 **C. The Secretary Of State Requests Review Of The Diebold Voting System’s**
2 **Memory Cards By Members Of His Voting Systems Technology Assessment**
3 **Advisory Board And Their Analysis Confirms The Existence Of Known**
4 **Security Flaws And Discovers Others.**

5 97. In or about this same period, the Secretary of State also asked members of the
6 Voting Systems Technology Assessment Advisory Board (“VSTAAB”), an expert panel the
7 Secretary of State’s office created to help assess voting technology, to perform additional
8 security testing of the Diebold Voting System’s memory cards.

9 98. The panel had access to the AV-TSx source code for a period of four weeks.

10 **1. The VSTAAB Security Analysis.**

11 99. On or about February 14, 2006, three computer scientist members of the
12 VSTAAB from the University of California issued a report entitled “Security Analysis of the
13 Diebold AccuBasic Interpreter” (the “VSTAAB Report”). A true and correct copy of the
14 VSTAAB Report is included in the Appendix as Exhibit 16.

15 100. The VSTAAB Report noted that the AV-TSx “had not been subjected to
16 thorough testing and review by” the national ITA which had approved the system in 2005.
17 Ex. 16 at 1.

18 101. The VSTAAB Report confirmed that the AV-TSx’s software architecture, in
19 particular its AccuBasic language and interpreter, contained “interpreted code” in violation
20 of the Federal Election Commission’s 2002 Voluntary Voting System Standards. *Id.* at 35.
21 Compliance with these standards is mandatory under California law. Elec. Code §§19250
22 (a-b), 19251(d).

23 102. The VSTAAB Report also confirmed Harri Hursti’s finding that the AccuBasic
24 script used in the memory cards of the AV-OS (and AV-TSx) can be replaced with
25 malicious script that would allow an attacker to tamper with vote counts and reports and then
26 conceal that the tampering had taken place. Ex. 16 at 18-19. The Report found that the AV-
27 TSx had the same vulnerabilities as the AV-OS. *See id.* at 2 (noting that “[a] majority of the
28 bugs” in the Diebold optical scan system were also present in the AV-TSx system), 19 (“The

1 AV-TSx also appears to be at risk for similar attacks.”). While the Report noted that the
2 AV-TSx contained a “potential” protection against hacking not present in the AV-OS, it also
3 noted that this protection was only “potential,” not actual, because the AV-TSx
4 cryptographic protection contains a “serious flaw.” *Id.* at 2-3.

5 103. The VSTAAB Report also described a number of previously undiscovered and/or
6 unreported “serious vulnerabilities” in the AccuBasic interpreters for both the AV-OS and
7 AV-TSx machines that could be exploited by an attacker with unsupervised access to a
8 memory card to modify vote totals, or otherwise compromise the integrity of an election. *Id.*
9 at 11-18. Critically, these bugs would not be detected by any amount of functionality
10 testing. *Id.* at 2.

11 104. The VSTAAB Report noted that the AccuBasic interpreter appears to have been
12 written with commercial standards of software development, rather than the high-assurance
13 standards that one would expect for an application where security was of utmost importance.
14 *Id.* at 23.

15
16 **2. The VSTAAB’s Recommended “Mitigation” Measures.**

17 105. After outlining the security vulnerabilities they discovered, the authors of the
18 VSTAAB Report recommended some possible mitigation measures. The authors divided
19 their discussion into two categories of mitigation strategy—short-term and long-term.

20 106. As a *short-term* mitigation strategy, the VSTAAB Report recommended
21 implementing procedural and physical safeguards to protect the Diebold machines and
22 memory cards from tampering. The suggested *short-term* safeguards included updating the
23 cryptographic keys on every AV-TSx machine, and certain physical security measures
24 including chain of custody control of memory cards and the use of tamper-evident seals
25 (ideally applied to seal the memory cards into voting system units at a central warehouse in
26 advance of the election and not removed until the units were back in the control of county
27 officials). The VSTAAB Report states that “[w]hile these strategies do not completely
28 eliminate all risk, we expect they would be capable of reducing the risk *to a level that is*

1 *manageable for local elections in the short term.*” Ex. 16 at 36 (emphasis added). The
2 recommended short-term strategies did not include any modification of source code, because
3 of the time it would take time to perform the additional coding and to secure federal
4 qualification and state certification of the code changes.

5 107. By contrast, according to the authors, “[i]n the longer term, or for statewide
6 elections, the risks of not fixing the vulnerabilities in the AccuBasic interpreter become more
7 pronounced. Larger elections, such as a statewide election, provide a greater incentive to
8 hack the election and heighten the stakes For statewide elections, or looking farther
9 into the future, it would be far preferable to fix the vulnerabilities discussed in this report.”
10 *Id.* at 36-37 (emphasis added).

11 108. The VSTAAB Report’s recommended long-term mitigation measures primarily
12 consisted of changing the Diebold machines’ software and or hardware including: (1)
13 revising the source code of the AccuBasic interpreter to fix the bugs identified in the Report
14 and to incorporate defensive programming practices, including the elimination of all “trust”
15 in the memory card (*i.e.* eliminate any implicit assumption that the memory card could not
16 be tampered with); (2) protecting the AccuBasic code from tampering by embedding it in
17 non-removable storage and/or protecting it with cryptography; (3) changing the architecture
18 of the AV-OS and AV-TSx so they do not store code on removable memory cards; and (4)
19 changing the architecture of the AV-OS and AV-TSx to eliminate all interpreted code and
20 bring them into compliance with the federal voluntary standards. *Id.* at 31-36.

21
22 **3. The VSTAAB Report Acknowledges Its Limited Scope And The**
23 **Existence Of Other Security Issues.**

24 109. The VSTAAB Report also made clear that the scope of the review the Board was
25 allowed to perform was very limited. For example, the VSTAAB investigators limited their
26 review to Diebold’s proprietary AccuBasic scripting language which Hursti had
27 demonstrated was problematic. Ex. 16 at 6. In addition, the VSTAAB Report did not
28 examine the source code for the GEMS election management system, even though the

1 investigators noted that “[i]t is widely acknowledged that a malicious person with
2 unsupervised access to GEMS, even without knowing the passwords, can compromise
3 GEMS and the election it controls.” *Id.*

4 110. The VSTAAB Report’s authors “did not have access to a genuine running
5 system.” *Id.* at 8. Their analysis was based only on a “stubbed-out version of the code,” but
6 even with this piece they were able to confirm that “one of the attacks we discovered (the
7 only one that we tried) actually works.” *Id.*

8 111. Finally, the VSTAAB Report assumed that the hypothetical person seeking to
9 alter ballot results did not have any inside confederates, or access to passwords or
10 cryptographic keys. *Id.* at 7. In short, the VSTAAB Report discovered numerous security
11 flaws in the very limited area of the Diebold Voting System software that it examined—the
12 system’s memory cards—but did not exclude the possibility, and in fact acknowledged the
13 likelihood, that significant additional security flaws existed in other parts of the Voting
14 System.

15
16 **D. The Diebold AV-TSx’s Paper Audit Trail System Has Not Been Shown To**
17 **Meet State Requirements.**

18 112. California law requires that DREs produce an “accessible voter verified paper
19 audit trail.” Elec. Code §19250(a-b). The Legislature imposed this requirement to protect
20 against programming error or fraud.

21 113. In an attempt to meet California’s requirement for a voter verified paper audit
22 trail, the current version of the AV-TSx comes with an attached printer, the AccuView
23 Printer Module. The printer module produces a record of the voter’s vote on a continuous
24 roll of thermal paper which fully-sighted voters are supposed to be able to view through a
25 small window and then accept or reject the record as correct. If the voter rejects the record
26 as incorrect, the printer is to make a mark on the paper roll at the bottom of the particular
27 entry, but the record is not removed from the roll. All paper records, including the rejected
28 votes and provisional votes, are spooled into a sealed canister inside the machine.

1 **1. The AV-TSx And Its Attached Printer Destroy Vote Records And**
2 **Experience Frequent Crashes During Testing By California Elections**
3 **Officials In 2005.**

4 114. On July 20, 2005, the Secretary of State's office oversaw a "volume test" of the
5 AV-TSx's attached printers. The volume test was performed at a warehouse supplied by the
6 San Joaquin County Elections Department. November 14, 2005, Staff Review and Analysis
7 at 8. A true and correct copy of the November 14, 2005, report is included in the Appendix
8 as Exhibit 17. Most of the testers were election staff from various counties. *Id.* at 8.

9 115. The July 20, 2005, test revealed critical flaws in the hardware and software of the
10 AV-TSx. The system destroyed or lost paper audit records, a problem which would
11 complicate manual recounts. Ex. 11 at 6. The AV-TSx also experienced ongoing software
12 failures, making it "possible that votes could be lost or corrupted." *Id.* at 7.

13 116. In a July 27, 2005 letter, the Secretary of State rejected Diebold's then-pending
14 application, noting that "[i]n the course of testing your system, my staff has noted problems
15 with paper jamming on the AccuView printer module. Additionally, my staff has noted an
16 additional recurring problem with the AccuVote-TSX that freezes the ballot station and
17 requires it to be rebooted. After extensive testing, these problems remain unresolved." A
18 true and correct copy of the July 27, 2005 letter is included in the Appendix as Exhibit 18.

19 117. An October 11, 2005 report by the VSTAAB describing the test and its results
20 concluded that "any system with failure rates this high is not ready for use in an election."
21 Ex. 11 at 5.

22 118. In the weeks between the Secretary of State's July 2005 rejection of the AV-TSx
23 application and the October 2005 VSTAAB report, Diebold renewed its application for the
24 AV-TSx.

25 119. As a result of this renewed application, another volume test was held on
26 September 28, 2005, in San Diego. Ex. 17 at 9. However, instead of County Elections
27 Officials, this time the test was staffed by "[t]emporary workers contracted by the Secretary
28 of State." *Id.*

 120. This second test was conducted under close supervision of Diebold staff who

1 conducted “[s]upport operations,” including “programming the voter activation cards.” *Id.*
2 There is no indication that any of the VSTAAB experts who witnessed the first test were
3 present at the second test. As such, although the Secretary of State’s November 14, 2005,
4 staff report on the test stated that none of the errors experienced during the second test
5 “resulted in the loss of the record of a vote,” (*id.* at 10) this test lacked scrutiny and
6 verification by any independent experts. The ability of the AV-TSx’s printers to function
7 when operated by County Elections Officials under the pressure of a statewide California
8 election therefore remains unknown.

9
10 **2. The Secretary Of State’s Staff Report Confirms That The Diebold**
11 **TSx’s AccuView Printers Do Not Comply With Federal And State**
Accessibility Requirements.

12 121. The Secretary of State’s November 11, 2005, consultant’s report (“Freeman
13 Report”) on the AV-TSx system discussed the question of the Diebold TSx AccuView
14 Printer modules’ compliance with Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”) and state law
15 requirements for equal access to disabled voters. Ex. 13 at 8. The Freeman Report noted
16 that the system “does not provide a blind voter with the opportunity to verify the vote using
17 the paper audit record.” *Id.* Non-visual confirmation of the paper record is required under
18 state law. Elec. Code §§19250(a-b), 19251(a).

19 122. The Secretary of State’s November 11, 2005, consultant’s report on the AV-TSx
20 system disclosed that the AV-TSx “does not provide support for assistive devices for the
21 physically disabled such as sip and puff or jelly buttons.” Ex. 13 at 12. Such devices are
22 necessary to provide access to low-mobility and low-dexterity voters.

23
24 **3. The Secretary Of State Failed To Examine Whether The AV-TSx**
25 **Thermal Paper Roll Records Can Meet California Mandatory Audit**
And Recount Requirements.

26 123. On information and belief, none of the Secretary of State’s tests of the AV-TSx
27 analyzed, or purported to analyze, whether the thermal paper roll records produced by the
28 AV-TSx’s attached printer were capable of supporting a manual audit. State law requires a

1 manual audit of at least 1% of the precincts in an election. Elec. Code §15360.

2 124. State law also requires that DRE machines produce a “paper record copy” of
3 every vote. Elec. Code §19250(d). Elections Code Section 19251(e) defines “paper record
4 copy” as “an auditable document printed by a voter verified paper audit trail component that
5 corresponds to the voter’s electronic vote and lists the contests on the ballot and the voter’s
6 selections for those contests.”

7 125. This failure to test or certify for capacity to withstand a manual audit is troubling
8 given the Secretary of State’s own admission, in a September 9, 2005, opinion piece for the
9 San Jose Mercury News, that “[u]sing paper receipts as secondary ballots at this point is too
10 risky. They are designed for the voter’s review and are not printed on ballot-quality paper
11 and might not retain their quality during the often-lengthy recount and legal challenge
12 periods.” A true and correct copy of the opinion piece is included in the Appendix as
13 Exhibit 19.

14 126. The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials has also questioned
15 whether paper records generated by DREs are suitable for a manual audit. In a September 1,
16 2005, letter to the governor, the association noted several reasons why DRE paper records
17 would make it “extremely problematic” to conduct precinct-specific 1% manual recounts as
18 required by Elections Code Section 15360. Those reasons include the following:

19 (a) eligible provisional ballots would be “indistinguishable from the ineligible
20 ballots due to the inability to identify which records represent the eligible and/or ineligible
21 images”;

22 (b) because early voters can vote outside their precinct, early voters from
23 multiple precincts may have their votes on a single DRE, making it “onerous and time
24 consuming, if not impossible” to determine which votes are associated with a particular
25 precinct;

26 (c) potential mechanical problems, including printer jams and illegible print;

27 (d) because the paper record is in the voters’ chosen language,
28 “[t]ranslation . . . for the purposes of performing the 1% manual tally will be difficult and