



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Releases Initial Report on Parallel Monitoring Program in Touch Screen Voting Counties

Sacramento – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today released preliminary results of his parallel monitoring program from counties using Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) or touch screen voting systems in the presidential election earlier this month, indicating that the tested equipment recorded the votes accurately.

The parallel monitoring program was one of nearly two-dozen security measures the Secretary of State imposed as conditions for use of the touch screen systems in the general election. Ten counties used the electronic voting machines on election day. In each county, the Secretary of State had teams of testers casting predetermined votes simulating actual election conditions. Results from the tests were returned to Shelley's headquarters for analysis and reconciliation of actual to expected results. All test voting was videotaped with time and date stamps to provide a method of determining tester or equipment error if such occurred.

Shelley's parallel monitoring program was the first election-day, hands-on, touch screen voting machine test program in the nation when he implemented it in the March primary. The November program expanded upon that initial effort.

The ten counties where parallel monitoring testing occurred were Alameda, Merced, Napa, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Shasta, and Tehama. They represented the four DRE/touch screen voting systems that were conditionally certified for use in the November 2nd election. Los Angeles County also used the touch screen equipment for their early voting program, but not for election day precinct voting, so was not included in the monitoring program.

"It is reassuring to see that the equipment that was tested performed as expected," Shelley said. "Voters will be even more confident when these machines provide an accessible, voter-verifiable, paper audit trail, required in 2006, so they may double-check their votes to ensure they were accurately recorded by the machines before actually casting their ballots."

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Shelley put all DRE vendors and counties on notice earlier this year that he would not certify for use after July of 2006 any electronic voting system that does not provide the paper record for voters to verify their ballots. Subsequent legislation codified the requirement, with a January 1, 2006 effective date.

The Secretary allowed San Bernardino County to test the state's first pilot program for a voting system with an accessible, voter-verified, paper audit trail in one of their precincts on election day. The Secretary of State has not yet received results of that study.

The preliminary parallel monitoring report was released to the affected counties today and will be followed by a final report no later than December 2nd.