

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Member, Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fudge:

The Committee on House Administration conducted a hearing on May 8, 2019 entitled "Election Security." While the S.C. State Election Commission (SEC) applauds the efforts of this Committee and others to bring this issue to the forefront nationally, it was recently brought to our attention that inaccurate and misleading statements about South Carolina's voting system were made during this hearing. Specifically, you were quoted as stating:

I'm from Ohio, by the way, a state that thought that our machines were so awful we got rid of them, but South Carolina bought them. This is true. South Carolina bought all the machines we got rid of because they were not effective.¹

At no point has South Carolina purchased machines for its current voting system once used in, but later decertified or otherwise discarded by, the State of Ohio. The machines currently used in South Carolina were newly manufactured when purchased as part of the procurement of a statewide voting system in 2004. Furthermore, we are not aware of any instance in which an individual county has since purchased additional machines previously used in Ohio.

The SEC recognizes the impact misinformation has on voter confidence, as well as the need to replace our current statewide voting system. We continue to take all reasonable measures to protect the security and resilience of this state's election infrastructure and have made it our priority to replace the voting system with one that has a paper record of all votes cast prior to 2020.

COMMISSIONERS

JOHN WELLS
Chairperson

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

HAROLD E. FAUST

AMANDA LOVEDAY

SCOTT MOSELEY

MARCI ANDINO
Executive Director

1122 Lady Street
Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987
Columbia, SC 29250

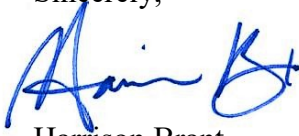
803.734.9060
Fax: 803.734.9366
www.sevotes.org

¹ Video of the hearing and statement (made just after 1:30:00) is available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hyvjagy6akg&feature=youtu.be>.

Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Pg. 2 of 2
May 16, 2019

The SEC appreciates your consideration of the information provided herein. As we all undoubtedly agree, the dissemination of accurate information regarding the systems and processes used in elections plays a vital role in election security and ensuring voter confidence in elections. Again, we commend the Committee's ongoing efforts to obtain information and encourage public discourse on the subject, and we look forward to any findings or conclusions reached by the Committee as a result.

Sincerely,



Harrison Brant
General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chairperson
The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Vice Chairperson
The Honorable Rodney Davis
The Honorable Mark Walker
The Honorable Susan Davis
The Honorable Barry Loudermilk
The Honorable G.K. Butterfield
The Honorable Pete Aguilar