

**County of Riverside****SUPERVISOR JEFF STONE**  
**THIRD DISTRICT**

January 3, 2006

The Honorable Bruce McPherson  
California Secretary of State  
1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Six years ago Riverside County became the first county in the nation to deploy electronic voting technology on a countywide basis. Since that time, we have conducted 38 successful elections using direct record electronic (DRE) voting units.

However, recent hacking claims by computer programmers, professors, and others have spurred election integrity groups to claim that electronic voting systems can be manipulated and can't be trusted. Hacking experiments thus far have been conducted in laboratories with the hacker having unlimited resources and time with the voting unit and software prior to manipulation. Such controlled demonstrations generate distrust in the democratic process and discourage voters from participating in elections.

Recently I challenged a group of election integrity advocates in Riverside County to find a programmer willing to try and hack a Sequoia Edge II voting unit with VeriVote printer under polling place conditions. Specifically, the programmer would randomly select a voting unit from the county's inventory, an activation card would be issued, and 15 minutes would be allotted for voting. The programmer would be prohibited from bringing a tool chest or using tools, dismantling the unit, or reaching around the back of the machine. In every sense, he would be like any voter on Election Day approaching a voting unit at the polls.

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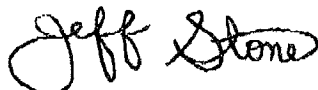
Democracy for America – Temecula Valley (DFA-TV), a local election integrity watch-dog group, has met my challenge by securing the well-known Finnish computer programmer Harri Hursti to try and hack a Sequoia voting unit.

I believe an unsuccessful attempt by Mr. Hursti will prove that electronic voting units are not susceptible to manipulation on Election Day and that trained poll workers, controlled access, and properly prepared equipment work to ensure the integrity of the system.

I respect that the certification of voting systems is vested with the Secretary of State's office and is granted only after successful completion of extensive hardware and software testing and implementation of specific procedures. To my knowledge, a proposed (public) hacking attempt has not occurred in California and that is why I am seeking your support and participation in this demonstration. I must assure my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors that the County will be in compliance with all State and Federal laws and regulations when this exercise is carried out. My goal is to disprove the naysayers, their baseless attacks and unfounded accusations about the voting equipment we use.

The Secretary of State's office and election officials in every California County work hard to keep our democracy strong and our elections trustworthy. This demonstration will only lead to reinforce voters' confidence and build trust in our election system. I eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,



Jeff Stone  
Supervisor

Barbara Dunmore, Registrar of Voters