

October 30, 2014

Caroline F. Fawkes
Supervisor of Elections
Elections System of the Virgin Islands
Sunny Isle Annex Unit 4
P.O. Box 1499
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00851

Greetings Supervisor Fawkes:

I, Dr. Tonjia S. Coverdale, in my capacity as the Election Technology Territorial Coordinator for the Elections System of the Virgin Islands, hereby submit this letter to you to express my dismay, disappointment, and outright disenchantment with the recent events surrounding the implementation of the DS200 voting machines for the upcoming General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. In particular, I am extremely concerned regarding the actions of the Joint Boards of Elections leading to their decision to utilize the DS200 machines in a modified capacity, when they are in fact, fully capable of supporting the General Election in accordance to the Virgin Islands Code and ready to be implemented in their full capability as they were originally intended.

I have witnessed with much disappointment the continued allegations from members of the Joint Boards of Elections that the DS200 machines do not operate or are improperly programmed to support the Elections law as outlined by the Virgin Islands Code. Specifically, my point of reference is **Title 18, Chapter 21, Subchapter 2, Article 584c (2-5) and 584d**. To the contrary, in my examination of said Virgin Islands Code, the logical structures that are being exhibited by the DS200, and the review of supporting information submitted by the software vendor Election Systems and Software (ES&S), I conclude that the DS200 machines are logically operating identical to the voting machines that were previously used, in which there was no violation of the Virgin Islands Code, and remain in accordance to the Virgin Islands Code.

In addition, having been hired as an expert technologist based on my extensive professional experience and academic preparation in the field of Information Systems, I remain extremely disappointed that my numerous attempts to explain the compliance of the DS200 with the Virgin Islands Code to members of the Joint Boards of Elections have been dismissed without allowing me to provide an ample explanation or even outright disputed using uninformed logic. Thus, it appears to me that there is a subjective rationale for their decision to underutilize the DS200 voting machines, which is a great cause of concern for me.

I would also like to add that, according to a statement provided by ES&S, there are 14 other States that utilize this exact technology provided by ES&S that has been approved by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, which is a federal agency that certifies voting systems for the United States of America and its possessions.

Furthermore, I am also concerned of what I perceive to be an attempt by Board members to further discredit the DS200 voting machines by creating exception (error) situations and once the

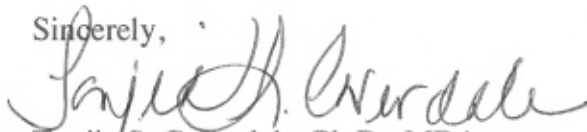
errors are received, which should actually occur in these situation, proceed to raise additional "concerns" regarding the proper operation of the machines when in fact, the errors received are an indication that they are indeed working properly. For example, if a voter selects both "Yes" and "No" on the same ballot, one should expect that the ballot would not be accepted because a voter must select one and will be returned to the voter to be corrected. This is not an error in the operation of the machine and is not to be conveyed as such.

As an independent contractor charged to implement election technology that will support a process that is Fair, Accessible, and Transparent per the guidelines of the Elections Systems of the Virgin Islands, my fiduciary responsibility is actually to the voters whom this technology will support and fully enable their Democratic right to vote. However, in our current situation under the misinformed decisions of the Joint Boards of Elections, I am left unable to perform my technical duties to enable fairness, accessibility, and transparency for the voters and am being asked to succumb to a system that introduces unnecessary biases and the potential for subjectivity, jeopardizing said fairness, accessibility, and transparency. I have spoken extensively to you and St. Thomas / St. John Chairperson Arturo Watlington, Jr. regarding the misinterpretation of the operation of the DS200 machines and the decision to underutilize them (read: use them improperly) still remains.

As you know, I have operated in my capacity as the Election Technology Territorial Coordinator, even under the duress of personal attacks and disrespect from Board members, with the utmost professionalism, impartiality, and integrity. I pride myself as a technologist on my impeccable ethics and values and as such, I cannot allow myself to remain in a situation that may compromise my professional credibility both here in the U.S. Virgin Islands or elsewhere. Fully understanding that the election technology does indeed operate properly, I am unable to continue in my capacity and bear witness to the bastardization of the election technology which serves to potentially disenfranchise many voters, instead of supporting them as intended.

As such, effective after my final attempt to explain the technology to the Board members at the Board meeting today, October 30, 2014, I would like to resign as Election Technology Territorial Coordinator of the Elections System of the Virgin Islands. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to help to implement election technology in the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is an experience that I will forever appreciate. Thank you for placing your trust in me.

Sincerely,



Tonjia S. Coverdale, Ph.D., MBA