

California News Service

A statewide news service for California

Producer: Lori Abbott, 3053 Freeport Blvd #139, Sacramento, CA, 95818 Ph: Fax: 208-247-1830 E-mail:
cans@newsservice.org

MEDIA PRODUCTS ONLINE: www.newsservice.org Your Web Account ID is: CANS-

July 16, 2008

Available files: mp3 wav

CA Electronic Voting Machines and Election Code Put to the Test

In advance of the November election, voting rights advocates are testing California election code 15004 that allows tech inspections of voting equipment. A review of election offices in two California counties found very different results. Comments from Jim March with Black Box Voting and an observer for the Green Party.

Intro: As we get closer to the November election, voting rights advocates say it's vital that county election offices allow for technical inspections of their electronic voting equipment. State law allows accredited observers to review machines and procedures. Jim March, an observer for the Green Party, recently sought inspections in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties with very different results. He says while the Santa Cruz election office was cooperative, Monterey was not. He claims Monterey election workers denied him access to the voting machines and did not abide by the law.

:06 *"Monterey threw down a gauntlet that we have to pick up, or other counties will be equally obstructive in November."*

Tag: Monterey County's Registrar of Voters, Linda Tulett, denies the allegations and says her office does allow public observance of their electronic voting equipment. March says his group may sue Monterey to help ensure that other counties are cooperative. He says the tech oversight law is a good law that will uncover bad voting machines.

Second Cut: March says voting systems are certified to only use a certain tested configuration that's cut off from Internet access in order to eliminate accidental or deliberate vote hacking.

:08 *"A voting system is supposed to be isolated and pure. If it's not, you have a potential or very real problem."*

Tag: March says during his inspections he also makes sure only approved software is used and that basic computer security programs are in place.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: As we get closer to the November election, voting rights advocates say it's vital that county election offices allow for technical inspections of their electronic voting equipment. As Lori Abbott reports, state law allows accredited observers to review machines and procedures.

:34 *Outcue...voting machines.*

Note to Editors: March is at 916-370-0347. More info at www.blackboxvoting.org and www.electiondefensealliance.org.