

**ADVISORY 2008-01**

February 21, 2008

To: All County Board of Elections

Re: Board of Voting Machine Examiner's Decision on Electronic Poll Books

On February 12, 2008, the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners (the "BVME") met to discuss new standards and guidelines for the approval and certification of voting equipment used in Ohio elections. During the meeting, the BVME determined that all electronic poll books must be approved by the BVME and certified by the Secretary of State prior to being used in an Ohio election.<sup>1</sup>

As of this date, the only electronic poll books certified for use in Ohio are:

- Premier Elections Solutions' Express Poll 4000 Electronic Poll Book with Card Writer Function 1.1.5 (certified on February 16, 2006);
- Premier Elections Solutions' Express Poll 2000 Electronic Poll Book with Card Writer Function 1.15 (certified on February 16, 2006); and
- Premier Elections Solutions' Express Poll 5000 Electronic Poll Book with EZ Roster, Version 2029 and Card Writer Function, Version 1.0, which consists of Poll Card Writer, Version 1.1.4.0, and PCMcard.dll (certified on November 21, 2006).

Accordingly, boards of elections are hereby advised that no other electronic poll book shall be used in Ohio elections until the equipment is examined by the BVME, approved for use in Ohio elections by the BVME, and certified by the Secretary of State.

If you have additional questions or concerns about this advisory, please contact your assigned Elections Counsel at (614) 466-2585 or by e-mail.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brunner

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3506.05(B) provides that "[n]o voting machine, marking device, automatic tabulating equipment, or software for the purpose of casting or tabulating votes or for communications among systems involved in the tabulation, storage, or casting of votes shall be purchased, leased, put in use, or continued to be used, . . . unless it, a manual of procedures governing its use, and training materials, service, and other support arrangements have been certified by the secretary of state . . . The secretary of state shall appoint a board of voting machine examiners to examine and approve equipment and its related manuals and support arrangements."

Because electronic poll books include software for communicating among systems involved in the tabulation, storage, or casting of votes, the BVME clarified that the equipment must be examined and approved by the BVME – and certified by the Secretary of State – prior to being used in Ohio elections.