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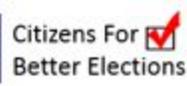
Press
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Following Delay of Decision, Philadelphia Civic Groups Demand Changes to Voting Machine Acquisition Process by City Government

PHILADELPHIA, PA—Philadelphia civic groups - *Neighborhood Networks*, *Citizens for Better Elections*, *MarchOnHarrisburg*, *Indivisible*, *Turn PA Blue* - are deeply concerned by the process currently in use by the Philadelphia City Commissioners to select a new voting system for the voters of Philadelphia. This process has been rushed and fails to promote transparency. It omits vital considerations of security, resilience, and accessibility. It has excluded expert and public input. Most concerning, it has a visible bias towards one vendor's most expensive product. We do not believe the current process will responsibly spend taxpayer money on a voting system that guarantees accurate, secure, accessible, auditable elections for Philadelphia.

As such, we demand the following changes to restore transparency, regain the public trust, and ensure that every citizen's vote is counted. The City of Philadelphia must:

1. Hold a **public voting system expo** in Philadelphia, preferably more than one in different locations given the city's large population. Strongly encourage all ward leaders and judges of election to attend. Provide a web form for the public to submit comments and feedback.
2. **Post all relevant information prominently on philadelphiavotes.com.**
 - a. Post the time line and announce meeting dates where this topic will be discussed. Post a link to proposed requirements of the RFP. Post a link to the Commissioner slideshow. Post information about systems being considered including photos, links to vendor websites, and links to state and federal certification reports.
3. Schedule **public hearings** on procurement. Solicit expert testimony from election integrity experts, computer security experts, auditing experts, and advocates for disability and voting rights. Allow experts who cannot attend to submit written testimony.
4. **Write a new RFP** based on feedback from 1-3.
 - a. It should follow Best Value procurement guidelines to avoid favoritism, provide a fair and equal, yet competitive, proposal process for all potential vendors and promote transparency in the selection process. The RFP should conform to the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Pennsylvania's Election Security. The RFP should include usability, security, resilience, and accessibility in the technical criteria being scored.
5. **Provide the selection advisory committee with a list of criteria to use for voting system evaluation and also provide the committee with access to experts who can answer questions.**
 - a. Example criteria include: anticipated length of lines, ease of ballot verification, features to facilitate post-election audits, support for different ballot sizes and formats, ability to scan absentee ballots, support for multiple languages, universal accessibility, cost of supplies, requirements for proprietary supplies, foreign-manufactured parts, durability, quality and length of track record in other jurisdictions.



6. Remove e-pollbooks from the RFP. There is no mandate or deadline to acquire new poll books. They are important enough that they require a separate evaluation.
7. Refrain from any decision until the Commissioners provide all information requested by Pennsylvania Auditor General DePasquale regarding lobbying and influence around the decision making process.
8. Commit to making all materials and recommendations from the selection committee public after a recommendation is made.

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