The State of Texas

Roger Williams
Secretary of State

TO: Ann McGeehan
            Elections Division Director

FROM: Glenn Glover
            Voting System Examiner

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A voting systems certification examination was held at the Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division on Thursday morning, June 9, 2005. AccuPoll Inc. submitted the AccuPoll DRE Voting System 2.5 product for certification. All components except the Ballot Builder java based software application had been examined earlier this year in the 2.4 version presentation in January.

Most of the significant changes from 2.4 to 2.5 involve the Ballot Builder application which is used to create a new election by generating an election definition file or modify an existing election definition before the election actually begins. Ballot Builder creates an election id, election name, election digital signature, election races, candidate names and other associated election data fields. System 2.5 has enhanced security through the use of an election digital signature which is created with the Ballot Builder application. All subsequent reports based on the election definition created with Ballot Builder will display the unique digital signature which ensures the integrity of the underlying election definition structure when cross referenced by election administrators. By default, election definition data is encrypted at creation unless turned off within the Ballot Builder application.

AccuPoll presented the rest of the System 2.5 components consisting of two subsystems: the polling place components which includes the AccuPoll Voting System (AVS) and Voting Administrative Workstation (VAW) and the central count components which comprises the Central Vote Concentrator (CVC) and the Central Count Server (CCS). Most of the changes since the January 2005 examination of the 2.4 version of these components appear to be minor. Some of the changes include audit log entry time sequencing and message displays, generation of an audit log entry when an abnormal shutdown event occurs (upon re startup of that component) and other minor changes.

I was favorably impressed by the system especially in terms of usability and security. I also was positive of the fact that the underlying operating system, programming languages and database engine is based on linux, java and mysql open source initiatives. However in future certifications I recommend that AccuPoll identify the individual components on Voting System Certification Form 100 provided by the Secretary of State.

In conclusion, I recommend the certification of the AccuPoll DRE Voting System 2.5 and find that it is compliance with the Texas Election Code.