



BRUCE McPHERSON | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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April 17, 2006

The Honorable Jackie Goldberg
State Capitol, Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2097 (Goldberg) Voting System Certification- Oppose

Dear Assemblymember Goldberg:

After reviewing Assembly Bill 2097, which would prohibit the Secretary of State, as of June 30, 2007, from approving a voting system for use in an election until its operation and specifications are publicly disclosed, I must take an oppose position on this measure

Public confidence in the voting process is critical and the Secretary of State supports all efforts to increase the transparency, accuracy and security of voting systems in order to ensure the integrity of the process. While maintaining the integrity of voting systems and processes is a key priority, this bill and its requirements could cause serious disruption to the ability of elections officials in California to conduct elections. The general public's access to information about voting systems are legitimate topics for discussion and need further review before open source in voting systems is mandated.

Allowing unqualified, non-expert access to source code and providing detailed instructions for building voting systems software, could compromise the system security and result in the manipulation of elections. There may be less severe alternatives to open source that may be more appropriate at this time.

Due to the concerns mentioned above, I am unable to support AB 2097.

If you or your staff have any further questions please contact me or my Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative and Constituent Affairs, Theresa Taylor Carroll at (916) 653-6774.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce McPherson".

BRUCE McPHERSON
Secretary of State

cc: Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee