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Response to Voter Complaints about Voting Units Displaying Incorrect Selections
Issued: October 28, 2014

We are committed to ensuring that every voter have the opportunity to vote, and that every vote is counted as intended.

Before each election, all voting units used in the State of Maryland are tested and calibrated to ensure that they record and count votes accurately.

As of today, the State Board of Elections has received reports that about 20 voting units allegedly have displayed a candidate different than what the voter selected. Under State procedures, local election officials were authorized either: (a) to conduct further testing and if the report could not be substantiated, continue using the unit, or (b) to stop using the unit. Election officials in some counties thoroughly tested twelve of these units and were unable to replicate the issue. These units remain in use. For the remaining units, the local election officials followed State procedures for unverified reports and either stopped using the units until they can be thoroughly tested or are closely monitoring these units because the reports do not include sufficient information to conduct further testing.

Election officials receive similar reports in every election, and errors are almost always shown to be caused by inadvertent voter error.

Any voter who believes that a voting machine does not accurately reflect the choice the voter intended to make should alert a voting official before casting their ballot so that the problem can be remedied.

Since 2002, Maryland voters have voted on the current voting system. This system has been proven to record and count votes consistently and accurately. This system is also used by election authorities in Georgia, Texas, and Virginia.

The State Board of Elections offers the following suggestions:

- Press the touchscreen with the tip of your finger
- Carefully **review** the summary screen before pressing the “cast ballot” button
- **Before** casting your ballot, let an election judge know if you have any concerns

We are committed to ensuring that everyone has the chance to vote, and that every vote be counted accurately. Early voting continues through Thursday, October 30, 2014. Early voting centers are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Over 140,000 voters have voted during the five days of early voting. Over 850 voting units are being used in 64 early voting centers across the State of Maryland.

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