



June 16, 2010

Marci Andino
Executive Director
South Carolina State Election Commission
2221 Devine Street, Suite 105
Columbia, S.C. 29205

Dear Ms. Andino:

This is to request that the State Election Commission require the 46 counties in South Carolina to preserve or copy the flash cards (memory chips) inside their touch-screen voting machines used in the June 8, 2010 primary election for United States Senate. Dr. Douglas Jones, who serves on the Federal Election Assistance Commission's Technical Guidelines Development Committee, has been quoted as saying there is no way the touch-screen machines in South Carolina can be audited without all the information on the computer flash card in each machine.

This request is made in response to numerous complaints that have been made about malfunctions in the voting machines during the June 8 election. We take no position on whether there were irregularities sufficient to place the outcome of the election in doubt but believe the voters in South Carolina are entitled to know that their votes were properly counted. That assurance can only be given if the information on the flash cards is preserved and audited.

This request is consistent with the Mission Statement of the State Election Commission, which "is to ensure every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote, participate in fair and impartial elections, and have the assurance that their votes will count."

Your attention to this request will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laughlin McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Laughlin McDonald
Director, ACLU Voting Rights Project

Victoria Middleton
Executive Director, ACLU South Carolina
National Office

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