



N O R T H C A R O L I N A
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 22, 2005

The Honorable Michael F. Easley
Governor of the State of North Carolina
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Easley:

On behalf of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, we formally request your assistance in easing the pressure the counties are experiencing in meeting the mandates of Senate Bill 223 (Public Confidence in Elections). The passage of Senate Bill 223 created additional state mandates regarding the functionality of voting equipment in North Carolina, and established a procurement process that eliminated the use of virtually every existing voting machine in the state. All existing elections equipment was decertified December 1.

Counties are requesting assistance in the following ways:

- **More time is needed to make decisions concerning voting equipment purchases.** Counties with HAVA compliant voting systems should be allowed to use this equipment during the May 2 primary.
- **There should be more than one certified vendor.** We have now been informed that Diebold has decided to withdraw from North Carolina, leaving ES&S as the only certified vendor in the state. Counties are concerned about having only one certified vendor to manufacture and test the thousands of machines that will be needed over the next three months.
- **Counties need additional funding to purchase new equipment.** Early versions of Senate Bill 223 contained \$20 million in state funding to supplement federal money that was made available to North Carolina to implement HAVA. This \$20 million was stripped from the bill before it was passed. Many counties now believe that existing federal funds are insufficient to purchase the necessary equipment.

As the representative of all 100 counties, we greatly appreciate the time your staff gave to us when we met on December 14. We respectfully request that you utilize any and all tools available, up to and including the calling of a Special Session of the General Assembly, for legislative action to delay or eliminate these state requirements. Thank you for your consideration in this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Katherine W. Barnes
NCACC President



David F. Thompson
NCACC Executive Director