REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

ON THE EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION OF A CENTRALIZED ELECTRONIC VOTE TALLYING SYSTEM

In October of 1989 DIS/CES Inc of Benicia, California requested examination and certification of a PC based table top punch card vote tallying system under RCW 29.33.041 and 29.34.090. The hardware and software for this system is marketed under the name DIS Ballot Composition and Count System (BCCS).

The BCCS is a table top card reader attached to an IBM-PC compatible computer. The PC runs the BCCS software. There is also a printer attached to the PC for printing results. The software is menu driven and allows the user to describe all aspects of an election preparation for ballot counting. The user enters all office descriptions, punch positions, precinct combinations, ballot types (prepunch), and any statistical information such as registered voter totals. The BCCS produces a compiled module that is then used to count ballots using the card reader. The compiled module is created by the BCCS and cannot be changed without the BCCS.

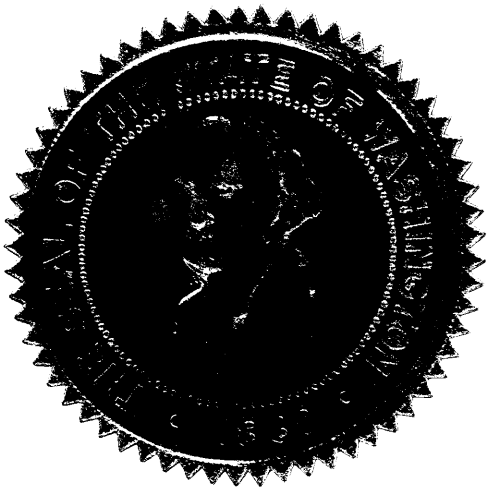
On June 1, 1990 a public hearing was held to demonstrate the DIS/CES BCCS system. Representing the vendor was Chris Baumer, Representing the Office of the Secretary of State was Gary McIntosh, Director of Elections, David Elliott, Assistant Director of Elections, and Erika Aust, Election Assistant. The meeting was also attended by members of the public. The vendor made a presentation of the BCCS and a test election was conducted using test decks prepared by the Office of the Secretary of State. After the test was conducted the vendor answered questions from the Secretary of State staff and the public.

FINDINGS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Upon review of the staff evaluation of the DIS/CES BCCS vote tallying system, the presentation by the vendor, and the results of the tests performed during and following the public hearings on this system, the Secretary of State finds that the system satisfies the requirements of RCW 29.34.090.

This system, in its generic form, has functions that are not applicable to Washington State. These functions must be disabled in the software before the system is used in Washington State. This system is certified only for use with standard rectangular chad punch card readers. All other card reader capabilities are to be disabled.

Therefore, under the provisions of RCW 29.33.041, the DIS/CES BCCS vote tallying system, and its associated software are approved for use in Washington State as a table top electronic punch card ballot vote tallying system. This equipment should be used with a device or devices capable of suppressing current surges, voltage fluctuations, and any other line disturbances.



Certified on this 6th of July 1990

RALPH MUNRO
Secretary of State