



SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
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## **SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY** **SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO ENSURE ELECTION INTEGRITY**

### **Calls for Transparency, Accountability, and Security of Electronic Voting Machines and Commits to Absentee Voting Campaign**

San Jose, CA (January 17, 2006) – Voting and computer experts have grave concerns about the security of the electronic voting equipment being used in much of the country, including in Santa Clara County. Unregulated, unsecured and untested electronic voting equipment endangers the integrity of our democracy. Without confidence in the actual vote count, voters can never be sure that their will is being properly recorded.

**--The Santa Clara County Democratic Party Executive Board has committed to a concerted campaign to increase the number of voters signed up as permanent absentee, and increase the use of paper balloting at the polls, until such time as electronic voting can be sufficiently secured to guarantee every vote is counted accurately. The County Party will work with the Registrar of Voters to prepare them for a likely increased level of paper balloting in order to make sure that absentee ballots are available in a timely manner.**

**--The Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports urgent efforts to force transparency in voting system software, construct national standards for voting machine certification, create non-partisan certifying groups who publicly disclose testing results, develop reliable voter verified paper trail systems, adopt robust auditing procedures, and update recount procedures.**

There are many benefits to absentee voting. Voters who are registered as permanent absentee can cast their ballots by mail, and are significantly more likely to vote. Importantly, absentee voters record their votes on paper, so they can be easily recounted if there is concern over the accuracy of election results.

California election code mandates a voter verified paper audit trail for all 2006 elections. However, this equipment has not been certified, and may or may not be ready for the primary. Further, these systems have not been battle tested and auditing procedures have not been properly updated.

We encourage Democratic Party organizations everywhere to adopt a similar strategy of using absentee balloting to build confidence in election outcomes. We also want to make sure Democratic Party activists get involved in all aspects of the voting process, in order to ensure complete election integrity.

The text of the resolution can be read at (<http://sccdpc.com/resolutions.php>).

The Santa Clara County Democratic Party strives to build, sustain, and use our collective power to enable good Democratic candidates to win elections at all levels and to fight for important Democratic values such as first class schools, affordable healthcare, quality jobs, safe communities, innovative energy policies, reliable Social Security, a clean environment, and honest and open government.