



**AN OPEN LETTER TO WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TO HALT THE RUSH TO PURCHASE ANOTHER VOTING SYSTEM WITHOUT STUDYING ALL OPTIONS**

January 30, 2023

Commissioners:

On Wednesday, February 1, it appears the Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) will approve their choice for the purchase of a voting machine system as well as more election equipment. Apparently, paying \$2.2 million over 40 months on two different election systems for the County isn't enough. They're going to say more is needed.

I'm glad they're not running my home budget.

Unfortunately, the WCEC has refused to consider any recommendations our group and other citizens have given to continue renting a system while doing a deep dive into other voting options that are safer, more secure, definitely more transparent and far less expensive. Despite our offers, they have taken no steps to sit down with us, with other citizens, as well as with regional/national technology experts to discuss options that might better protect Williamson County voters while achieving the need to have a safe, professional election system in place.

The WCEC does not have a corner on the market when it comes to knowledge about election systems.

I expect those of us who will attend their meeting in two days will see nothing of a full, five-to-ten-year cost/lifecycle/benefit analysis of a machine-based system versus a paper-based system without machines. Nor will we see any of their studies that supposedly support their machines-are-safe claims. For what it's worth, for two years we've listed the documented support studies, videos and whitepapers behind our research and recommendations [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Unfortunately, members of the Williamson County Election Commission have ignored the continued string of machine failures here and around the nation over the last five years that has caused citizens to [lose confidence in our voting systems](#), including:

- The recent 2023 Monmouth County, NJ election where [ES&S voting machines double counted votes](#) that gave a losing school board candidate the win. With others discovering the error two months later, ES&S had to admit their employee had mis-programmed the machines and one of the election's losers now leads the race.
- The 2022 Midterm election in Maricopa County, AZ where more than 40% of their voting machines which had passed set-up tests the night before suddenly [experienced unexplained day-long tabulation and printer problems on election day](#) that disenfranchised thousands.
- The October 2021 election in Franklin, TN where [Dominion machines miscounted vote totals because of a software conflict between the ballot marking device and tabulators](#). Bad

programming by Dominion employees was the cause despite proper set-up and testing procedures by the county. Dominion was kicked out of the county shortly thereafter.

The common denominator? Machines.

Unfortunately, the WCEC has ignored example after example of machine vulnerabilities ([here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#)), operator errors ([here](#)), foreign parts in these machines hidden from county customers ([here](#)), programming errors by vendors ([here](#) and [here](#)) and commissions that won't listen to facts presented to them about election vulnerabilities ([here](#)) to give us any comfort in these machines or processes.

Sadly, they are disregarding that... whether by accident... by hackers... or by mistakes in programming/set up... these vulnerabilities are happening more frequently, affecting election results and diminishing voters' trust. Along with vendors' refusal to allow independent experts unfettered, transparent inspection of these machines, issues like these are just some of the reasons more citizens are losing confidence in how our elections are run.

Regrettably, the WCEC has forgotten that machines are programmed by humans and as has been proven... one human error or hack at the vendor level is scalable and sometimes hidden for months or longer, potentially disenfranchising hundreds or thousands of citizens and/or counties. One human miscounting at a hand count table stays at the table because of procedures and other humans in place to correct it.

And this is not to mention the fact that the county is ignoring Tennessee's Constitution. Check out Article IV, Section 1 ([here](#)) where we should be voting in precincts, versus susceptible, internet-heavy voting centers. Or where we should be voting on ballots that have the highest standard in ballot and voter authentication and not be dependent upon opaque bar codes. Or Article II, Section 7 ([here](#)) where "elections shall terminate the same day" means we should be voting on election day instead of during election season.

Commissioners, if the WCEC won't listen to citizens, hopefully you will... and ask the WCEC to stop the rush to purchase existing and more machines and go back while renting the current system and do their due diligence on additional voting system options. When they do this, they should also talk with citizens and other experts who have knowledge of the weaknesses in the argument that machines are the perfect answer to running elections.

Offering up a questionable, single-choice, opaque machine vendor as their solution to ensuring safe elections is not a sound answer for what is needed at such a time as this. Because in doing so, they are forgetting the risk these systems place on the people of Williamson County and the preciousness of our right to vote.

I'm happy to answer any question you may have.

Regards,

Frank Limpus
[Tennessee Voters for Election Integrity](#)