

AS THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY (TENNESSEE) ELECTION COMMISSION IS ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN WHY AN ALL-MACHINE ES&S VOTING SYSTEM IS BEST, JONATHAN DUDA TELLS CITIZENS HE WILL NOT CONDUCT A DEEP COST ANALYSIS OF A PAPER-BASED VOTING SYSTEM VS. A MACHINE-BASED VOTING SYSTEM.

The exchange below was between Frank Limpus, Founder, <u>Tennessee Voters for Election Integrity</u>, and Williamson County Election Commission Chairman Jonathan Duda. It was part of a continuing quest for answers about the county's voting system, especially asking why the Commission refused to do a deep dive comparison to prove the system they wanted employing all machines was better than a paper-based system. The <u>red</u> is Limpus' explanation of the question. Duda's comments in green came after the <u>red</u>. Duda's refusal is self-explanatory. He could have done the study without including hand-counting ballots since there are laws against it, which we knew already, and that was not part of what citizens were seeking. While promising to prepare a multi-year budget including operational, personnel or logistical expenses, he did neither.

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**Subject:** We still have questions that weren't answered on Feb 15. Could you answer them please since they all concern our election system and have never been addressed?

Thank you, Jonathan, for your note and invitation to attend the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, we didn't see answers to all of our questions. So, since you guys are the only source for us to gain answers on these election-related questions, let me repeat them, please.

Did you conduct any business case study such as a five-ten-year cost/lifecycle/benefit analysis of a machine-based voting system vs. a paper-based system without machines that led you to your decision? If not, why not? If you did, can we see it, please? Unfortunately, what you presented on the 15<sup>th</sup> was an acquisition cost comparison of one vendor. It wasn't a five-ten-year cost/lifecycle/benefit analysis of a machines-based voting system vs. a paper-based system. There was no accompanying analysis that would help both citizens and county leaders understand the county requirements, or the decision and selection criteria or the full cost of your election solution. To get a true picture of these costs, the county should perform a life-cycle cost analysis that includes purchase, maintenance, licensing, training, personnel, operations, election consultation from ES&S and all vendors (IT/school IT techs who set up/manage/tear down school precinct systems), county administrative costs and any state-levied costs. Plus, we request true cybersecurity experts be involved in this process. Will that be possible before any decision is approved on the ES&S system? Yes, we have completed cost analysis of various equipment configurations that we are permitted under law to use. I do not intend to prepare a hypothetical cost analysis of systems we are not permitted by law to use (i.e., hand-tabulation). I am committed to preparing a multiyear budget, which incorporates operational expenses, so that the commission can fully understand and be prepared for the needs of operating elections, which has not previously been completed.

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