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TO: County Election Commissioners
FROM: Peter Kosinski and Stanley Zalen
DATE: 11-04-06
RE: Certification of voting machines

Attached is a report from our consultant NYSTEC on HAVA implementation regarding an anticipated delay in the certification of voting systems in New York. This document lays out the timelines which were originally proposed, the revised dates and the steps resulting in this anticipated delay.

New York is undertaking the most extensive testing of voting systems in the country and is the first state to base our tests upon the most recent federal guidelines for certifying voting systems. These important tests have not even been fully implemented at the federal level, as evidenced by the attached press release of October 26th of this year from the EAC, announcing they are in the process of implementing the program nationally. Since New York is the first state in the country to implement these important testing requirements, this is necessarily imposing burdens on both the machine vendors and the testing authorities. After consultations with CIBER, the primary testing authority for New York, and NYSTEC, the consultant hired by this agency to review the security testing by CIBER, we are now predicting full security testing will be completed in early February 2007. The extensive security tests are necessary to ensure the accuracy and fairness of our voting systems in New York. These testing authorities are exploring ways to improve the time period for completing these tests, but not at the expense of thorough and complete testing.

While we are continuing to work with the machine vendors and the testing authorities on this project we thought it important to update you on these important dates. The attached up to date report gives a more complete description of the project.

We know you are in the process of planning for next year and this is important for those planning needs. We are prepared to work with all parties involved to come up with new strategies relating to ordering and delivery of voting machines, remaining fully committed to implementing HAVA in time for the 2007 election. We also are committed to protecting the integrity and accuracy of the voting systems in New York. We know you share our commitment and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this most important project.