



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

TO: Edgardo Cortes, Commissioner
FROM: Matthew Davis, Chief Information Officer
DATE: March 30, 2015
SUBJECT: AVS WinVote Voting Equipment Security Concerns

One of the recommendations from the post-election voting equipment audit conducted by Pro V & V and the Department called for a vulnerability assessment of the AVS WinVote voting system. As such, the Department enlisted the assistance of VITA's Commonwealth Security and Risk Management (CSRM) directorate to scan the system for security vulnerabilities and risks.

On Wednesday, March 25th, I attended a portion of the CSRM vulnerability assessment. I was deeply disturbed by the vulnerabilities and risks that were identified with the AVS WinVote system. CSRM is working on providing the agency with a detailed analysis of their findings.

The vulnerabilities that I personally observed with the AVS WinVote voting system should be of grave concern to election administrators in the Commonwealth. Both physical and wireless weaknesses can easily be exploited. Additionally, these weaknesses do not appear to be easily mitigated.

As a result of my observations, I recommend that these machines be removed from use as quickly as possible. Any locality that is not able to replace this equipment prior to the upcoming June primaries should take whatever steps are necessary to immediately mitigate both the wireless and physical vulnerabilities. The State Board of Elections and the Department of Elections should then take steps to ensure that no locality ever uses this equipment in any election after the June primaries.