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**Subject:** Vote411 results; Voting technology; Redistricting; Save the Dates!  
**Date:** November 14, 2018 at 3:14 AM  
**To:** Christe [christemcl@msn.com](mailto:christemcl@msn.com)

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## VOTE411 WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

- 127,597 sessions by 94,000 individual visitors!
- A 7-10% "click-through rate" (compared to an expected 0.35% rate) to VOTE411 from the ads placed on SCIWAY!

Congratulations to all who have worked so hard to solidify [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) as a resource for voters seeking nonpartisan ballot and candidate information.

And congratulations for the extraordinary number and quality of all the voter services activities carried out by League volunteers across the state during this election cycle!



## THE VOTING MACHINES WE NEED

- SC's new voting machines should provide ballots that
- > **Are hand-marked paper ballots**
  - > **Can be read by the voter (not from bar codes)**
  - > **Are scanned at the precinct**

South Carolina will soon invest in new voting machines, and we need to be sure that they are the kind that will best protect the integrity of our votes. League members Duncan Buell, USC Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, and Eleanor Hare, retired Clemson Professor of Mathematics/Computer Science, have been working diligently to encourage a wise choice.

According to these experts (see a recent article by Duncan Buell [here](#)), we should not purchase more voting computers, such as the current iVotronics or the newer BMD (ballot-marking device) computers, but should change to new generation hand-marked paper ballots with optical scanners for the paper. (In addition, one BMD would be needed for each precinct to meet ADA accessibility requirements.)

Not only are these systems more secure and faster (shorter lines at polling places!), but also much less expensive to purchase (approximately \$25 million as opposed to over \$60 million).

On the new generation paper ballots, the voter can see what information the machine is reading and preserve a record. The voter's choices are not actually being tallied from a bar code that the voter can't understand and verify (as is the case with BMDs). These machines also cannot alter the votes later. Fast optical scanners record the votes, which speeds up the whole process. And if lines are long, it is very easy to set up additional stations.

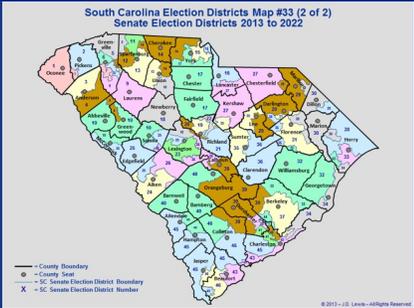
South Carolina is one of only three states still entirely dependent on DREs (Direct Recording Electronic computers). New York, the New England states, most of the Midwest, New Mexico, and almost all counties in Virginia use hand-marked paper ballots, and Pennsylvania is in the process of converting.

Rep. Kirkman Finlay and a bipartisan group of legislators have become increasingly supportive of using hand-marked paper ballots, scanned at the precinct. So tell your legislators, tell your neighbors, and stay tuned...

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## Gerrymandered District Lines Damage Democracy

Voters should choose  
representatives, not the other way  
around!



There is a big political divide in South Carolina. We're not talking about the split between Republicans and Democrats, nor the differences between the Senate and House. The big divide is between the people of South Carolina and the General Assembly on the issue of **redistricting**.

The State [recently reported](#) on a Winthrop poll showing that

- 65% of South Carolinians want an **independent panel** to draw the lines of legislative districts in the redistricting process following the 2020 census; these South Carolinians oppose the use of partisan criteria to draw lines.
- 80% want districts drawn to reflect **natural communities**.

Rep. Gary McClary will introduce a bill in the upcoming session to change the process that currently allows legislators to choose their own voters by drawing lines to include the maximum number of people who vote for their own party.

Please talk to your representatives and senators and tell them:

**we want an independent redistricting commission and we want criteria that exclude partisan and incumbent protection.**

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## Help Spread the Word!

A better system of redistricting is crucial to our democracy!

[Click here](#) to order your "Stop the Gerrymander" bumper sticker from LWVSC today!



Two big LWVSC events coming up!

**January 19, 2019: LEAD**, our Leadership, Education, and Advocacy Day, for all members, in Columbia.

**May 4-5, 2019: Convention!**



**May 4-5, 2019. CONVENTION:**  
Our biennial state convention will  
be held this year in Charleston.

**PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!**

Sign up [here](#) for LWVUS President Chris Carson's bi-weekly *League Update* to keep informed about LWVUS activities and programs.



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