
Georgians to File Lawsuit Asserting E-Voting Rights Violations

(June 23, 2006) - Contributed by VoterGA Press Release

A coalition of Georgia voters announced yesterday that it will file a lawsuit on behalf of all nine million current and future Georgia voters to seek relief from Georgia's existing implementation of electronic voting. Representatives of VoterGA, explained that current statewide voting cannot be verified, audited or recounted. They contend that because no direct physical evidence of voter intent is ever captured by the machines, fraud and errors are now virtually undetectable statewide. Prior to 2002, about 82% of Georgians used optical scan and punch card equipment to cast ballots that could be verified, audited and recounted. The 2002 statewide E-voting implementation reduced that percentage from 82% to zero. Two years later, Free Congress Foundation rated Georgia as having the worst voting systems and procedures in America. As rationale for the rating, VoterGA founder, Garland Favorito, posed the question: "If voters cannot see their own ballot selections, cannot physically verify that their ballot was ever cast and cannot participate in counting the ballots, how could they be further disenfranchised?" Mark Sawyer, who is also a member of Defenders of Democracy, explained why Georgia activists decided that a lawsuit was necessary: "We have been fighting to preserve basic audit capabilities since the voting machines were being evaluated and we've met every kind of resistance imaginable". VoterGA retained Walker Chandler to represent what they believe are the interests of all Georgians. Chandler is a former Libertarian Attorney General candidate who has already won a U.S. Supreme Court decision against the state for unreasonable search and seizure violations of the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.