

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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## FEC ISSUES GUIDE TO VOTING EQUIPMENT

WASHINGTON - October 25 - The Federal Election Commission today released a three-part study on voting equipment and elections systems to assist the 10,000 state, county and local jurisdictions which administer elections in their equipment selection process.

The report, produced by the FEC's Clearinghouse on Election Administration, is designed for state legislators, Secretaries of State, and county and local elections administrators. The study consists of: 1) Review of Voting Systems, Equipment and Laws, 2) Survey of State Voting Equipment Laws, and 3) Guide to Drafting of Election Laws.

Details of the study follow:

- (1) Review of Voting Systems, Equipment and Laws provides information to state and local administrators responsible for deciding what kind of voting equipment to use in their jurisdictions. This section of the report provides information about manufacturers of voting equipment, and details about each piece of voting equipment made by the manufacturer, including its physical specifications, accuracy controls, ballot security provisions, protections against vote fraud, and data on how each machine records votes. The Review of Voting Systems also describes methods by which to choose voting equipment best-suited to specific kinds of elections jurisdictions, ways to purchase voting equipment, and preparation of contract proposals.
- (2) Survey of State Voting Equipment Laws provides information for state legislators and their staffs. It provides information on each state's voting equipment code, including types of equipment permitted, who purchases and retains jurisdiction over voting equipment, standards for voting systems, and how present equipment used in elections can be modified to meet future needs.
- (3) Guide to Drafting of Election Laws provides guidance to state legislators interested in changing and improving state voting laws.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended in 1974 and 1976, states that "it shall be the duty of the Commission to serve as a national clearinghouse for information in respect to the administration of elections" including, but "not limited to...(studies of) voting and counting methods."