



April 16, 2018

Honorable Mark Norris
702 Cordell Hull Building

Honorable Jeff Yarbro
762 Cordell Hull Building

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to request your assistance as members of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in addressing an issue of immediate concern to the people of Tennessee.

In 2007, TACIR presented to the General Assembly a staff report entitled *Trust But Verify*. Included among the report's findings was a recommendation that Tennessee's election system adopt a voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) as a way of protecting the integrity of our voting process in the event electronic voting machines were intentionally or unintentionally compromised.

While the 2007 TACIR recommendation regarding VVPAT was never implemented, new threats to our voting system have emerged that make it timely to revisit and update the 2007 study. In particular, the federal Department of Homeland Security has warned that 21 states were the focus of efforts by foreign governments to penetrate their voter data bases with the goal of weakening public confidence in the election process. There is further evidence in recent months that hostile nations, including North Korea, have developed the ability to gain access to voting machines not connected to the internet.

Given the greatly increased security risks to our voting system, along with the need to address these risks in a thoughtful and fiscally responsible manner, I am requesting that TACIR update the section of the 2007 report that addresses two topics related to a voter-verified paper audit trail. Specifically, these topics should include:

- 1) The most cost-effective and efficient VVPAT options for Tennessee counties
- 2) Opportunities to offset VVPAT costs with the use of Secure Electronic Transfer, a system used by 35 states to ensure that data from all state agencies is available to verify the accuracy of voter roles

I am aware of the numerous tasks that TACIR will undertake this year, and do not feel we need a comprehensive study--only a staff report to update a narrow section of the 2007 study. I feel the



risk to public confidence in Tennessee's election process makes this request worthy of consideration.

I very much appreciate your consideration of this request. I appreciate all you do for Tennessee.

Sincerely,
Frank Niceley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Niceley".

C: Cliff Lippard, Executive Director, TACIR