



Assembly Member **PAUL KREKORIAN**

News Release

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KREKORIAN RESPONDS TO ELECTION SYSTEM REVIEW

Assemblymember Demands Disclosure of Details Of Electronic Voting Systems

Assemblymember Paul Krekorian (D-Burbank) said today that he was deeply troubled by the results of Secretary of State Debra Bowen's "Top-to-Bottom Review" of California's election systems. The review has exposed security flaws in the current system that reinforce the urgent need for Krekorian's Assembly Bill 852, known as the Secure, Accurate and Fair Elections (SAFE) Act of 2007, according to the Assemblymember.

"I applaud Secretary of State Bowen for her thorough and detailed review of election systems in California," said Assemblymember Krekorian. "The initial results prove what many of us have feared -- electronic voting leaves our elections vulnerable to security breaches and errors. If our Nation is to maintain its rightful role as the world's beacon of democracy, we cannot tolerate an atmosphere of doubt surrounding the sanctity of our elections."

The initial results of the report show that the electronic voting systems manufactured by Diebold, Sequoia and Hart Intercivic suffer flaws that can be exploited by lax observance at the polling place, flawed procedures at the county level, or a concerted effort to manipulate the elections process. To date, however, only partial results of the study have been made public, due to confidentiality restraints imposed by the manufacturers of the electronic voting systems.

"Because of the profit concerns of these major corporations, the public is still being denied access to critical information about one of the most vital functions government has -- ensuring that our elections are fair and secure," said Assemblymember Krekorian. "This shroud of secrecy imposed by corporate interests is precisely the reason we need to enact the SAFE Act, so that every part of the election process is open, accessible and above-board."

Krekorian's legislation would require public disclosure of the computer source code that runs the state's voting machines. If a manufacturer refuses to disclose a voting system's source code, that system could not be certified for use in California elections. This important reform will ensure that the public, including voting rights advocates, computer scientists and the media, could analyze the source code and identify any potential errors or security risks.

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Assemblymember Paul Krekorian (D-Burbank) represents the cities of Burbank and Glendale, and the Los Angeles communities of Atwater Village, Los Feliz, North Hollywood, Silver Lake, Toluca Lake, Valley Glen, Valley Village and Van Nuys.