MEDIA ADVISORY

National Voting Rights Task Force (NVRTF) to urge U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein to support increased funding, and demand specific guidelines to secure our elections.

WHAT: The National Voting Rights Task Force (NVRTF.org) will gather outside the San Francisco office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein to call on her to show leadership by advocating for $600 million for election-security funding with accountability language, and more importantly to vigorously push for guidelines proposed in the SAFE Act (S.2238), which would:

- Give all voters the option to mark their paper ballots by hand.
- Require a robust type of election audit called a Risk Limiting Audit (RLA) for all federal races.
- Ban the most dangerous types of Ballot-Marking Devices (BMDs) and the barcodes and QR codes they use to count votes.
- Ban Internet connectivity and remote access in voting systems.
- Provide election-security funding conditioned on the above requirements.

The need for such action is crucial and immediate. America's electronic voting system is dangerously centralized in the hands of two voting-machine vendors that account for more than 80 percent of U.S. election equipment: Election Systems & Software, LLC (ES&S) and Dominion Voting. Both vendors are owned by private (undisclosed) equity.

ES&S lied to the press about installing remote access software and connecting systems to the Internet. It also has contracts in Georgia and Tennessee where voting machines are reportedly losing votes from predominantly black neighborhoods, as reported in articles by the Root and Bloomberg, and during an election security panel hosted by SMART Elections.

Dominion does some of its programming in Serbia whose government is closely aligned with Russia. It will not disclose if it has installed remote-access software in election equipment.

ES&S and Dominion are currently selling a dangerous new type of BMD intended for use by all voters in lieu of hand-marked paper ballots. With all voters using BMDs, even a risk limiting audit cannot determine if reported electronic election outcomes are legitimate. Many jurisdictions throughout the US are considering (and choosing!) these risky new systems for use in 2020.

Lobbyists for Dominion and ES&S have made donations to the campaign of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell who recently approved $250 million in election security funding after removing all election security requirements from the bill. This is unconscionable.

WHO: National Voting Rights Task Force and SecureOurVote.us
WHEN: TIME 12:00 to 1:00pm. PST, Nov. 13, 2019