

Alabama Electronic Voting Committee

January 15, 2015

Chairman Jim Perdue called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Three members of the committee were present: Laura Howell, appointee of the attorney general; Ed Packard, appointee of the secretary of state; and Jim Perdue, appointee of the chief justice. The chair noted that the meeting had been properly announced in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Bryan Finney, president of Democracy Live, and Mark Carter, regional sales director of Democracy Live, presented various products from their company. The first product discussed was a touchscreen machine that printed the ballot after selections had been made by the voter, so that it could be counted by a tabulator. The second product discussed was a potential replacement for the traditional 'sip and puff' machines. The machine used the Microsoft Connect interface rather than the 'sip and puff' interface. This would allow a voter to vote by head movement.

Various questions were asked by committee members regarding compliance with Alabama law, especially regarding wireless connections and Bluetooth technology; turn-around time, especially regarding UOCAVA voters; the company's ability to work with other companies; and voter experience, especially accommodating various ballot styles and different types of optical scanners.

The vendor asked questions regarding standards used by the state and the response was given by Mr. Packard that Alabama allows systems that have been approved by an EAC approved independent lab to be used.

Mr. Finney with Democracy Live noted the potential cost savings by using their equipment since it was 'off the shelf' technology that could be eventually repurposed once it was obsolete; something that he noted could not be done with most other types of equipment.

The committee then asked questions regarding how the machine handled write-in votes and how the write-in votes were populated. They stated that the machine may not be compliant with current Alabama law on write-in votes.

No votes were taken to approve or disapprove any machines since it was noted that the vendor did not present any tabulation machine for review during the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.