

SECURE, ACCESSIBLE & FAIR ELECTIONS COMMISSION

STATE OF GEORGIA

The above-entitled SAFE Commission meeting was held before Patrick Stephens, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Georgia, commencing at 9:02 a.m. on this, the 13th day of June, 2018, in the Sewell Mill Library & Cultural Center, Marietta, Georgia 30068.

TRANSCRIPT LEGEND

- (Interjection of thought for clarification)
- (Interruption of thought)
- ... (Trailing off or did not complete thought)
- (ph) (Phonetically)
- [sic] (In its original form)

(P R O C E E D I N G S)

9:02 A.M.

1
2
3 SECRETARY KEMP: All right. Well, good morning,
4 everyone. Before we get going with the initial start of
5 the meeting, I do want to call on Commission Bob Ott from
6 Cobb County to welcome everyone this morning.

7 Commissioner, good to have you with us and we're glad
8 to be here.

9 COMMISSIONER OTT: Thank you. Do you have this one
10 on? Okay. I'm going to try to do this so I can -- I'm
11 talking to everybody. So my name is Bob Ott. I'm a
12 District 2 county commissioner and I represent this area.
13 I want to welcome all of the citizens and commission
14 members to Cobb County and District 2.

15 For those that have never been to this library, if you
16 haven't toured, when they all take a break or you take a
17 break, you can get a tour of the library. It's the most
18 technological-advanced library in the state and it's one of
19 our pride and joys.

20 I wanted to welcome everyone to the first meeting of
21 the SAFE Commission, which will examine the future voting
22 in -- in the State of Georgia. Voting is a fundamental
23 right that we are all given under the Constitution and I
24 look forward to hearing what recommendations come out of
25 the commission and what will be presented before the

1 General Assembly next session.

2 And it's critically important that we move forward.
3 Everyone knows the voting system that we have does need to
4 be replaced. And so, I -- I commend all of you for
5 agreeing to participate. And, with that, I wanted to
6 introduced the co-chairs of the commission: Secretary of
7 State, Brian Kemp -- welcome -- and State Representative,
8 Barry Fleming. Welcome to Cobb.

9 SECRETARY KEMP: Thank you so much, Bob, for being
10 here today, and I also want to just thank everyone else
11 that's here and certainly welcome you-all to the first
12 meeting of the Secure, Accessible and Fair Elections
13 Commission here in the Sewell Mill Library and Cultural
14 Center here in Marietta.

15 Let me also -- first, by thanking the staff that has
16 worked so hard to put this meeting together for us,
17 and Mr. James Mitchell who's done a fabulous job for
18 accommodating us for the meeting. I also want to thank all
19 of the fine law-enforcement personnel that has helped us
20 today as well so we can have a good, orderly, organized
21 meeting.

22 So we appreciate what all of you do every day to keep
23 our families safe and I'm just honored to be in such a
24 great facility to kick off our commission meeting that
25 we're starting today and we certainly look forward to a

1 very open and transparent process.

2 And, with that, I'm going to start the meeting and ask
3 if you'll -- we'll have a moment -- we'll have an
4 invocation, and then we'll stand for the pledge, and then
5 I'll have some opening remarks and we'll turn it over to my
6 co-chair, Representative Fleming.

7 So, if you would, just pray with me. Lord, thank you
8 for this day; thank you for the many blessings that we have
9 in this life, in this beautiful state and country that we
10 live in. Just bless our work, give us wisdom and
11 transparency as we move through this process. Be with us
12 in our travels to and from our meeting today, and in future
13 meetings and let us just have good work for the good people
14 of this state, to protect and make sure we have secure,
15 accessible, fair elections in Georgia. I ask this in your
16 holy, precious name. Amen.

17 (Collective Amen.)

18 SECRETARY KEMP: And, if you'll stand with me, we'll
19 say the pledge.

20 (Collective Pledge.)

21 SECRETARY KEMP: I pledge allegiance to the flag of
22 the United States of America, and to the Republic for which
23 it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty
24 and justice for all.

25 Okay. For our first order of business, I wanted to

1 just go ahead and introduce the members of the SAFE
2 Commission that are here with us today. Certainly, to my
3 right, my -- my good friend and co-chair, State
4 Representative, Barry Fleming, from Harlem, Georgia, down
5 in Augusta, Columbia County, part of the state.

6 Barry and I have worked together a lot over the years.
7 He has done a lot of election law as well and worked on a
8 lot of legislative issues dealing with elections, so
9 we appreciate Representative Fleming's willingness to co-
10 chair.

11 Representative Beverly -- Representative, good to see
12 you. I'm sorry I hadn't gotten to see you. Dr. James
13 Beverly, who's a state representative from Macon;
14 Dr. Lester Jackson, state senator from Savannah, Georgia;
15 we also have Senator Brian Strickland from McDonough that's
16 on the commission. I don't believe Senator Strickland
17 could be with us today.

18 Lynn Bailey, who's the executive director of the
19 Richmond County Board of Elections; Nancy Boren, who's the
20 director of elections and voter registration in Muscogee
21 County in Columbus; Maxine Daniels -- I don't know how we
22 talked Maxine into doing this because she is a retired
23 registration election's director in DeKalb County.

24 Deidre Holgrem (ph) -- Holden, who's the supervisor of
25 elections and registrations in Paulding County; Judge

1 Darin McCoy -- Darin is the probate judge and elections
2 superintendent in Evans County; Cynthia Welch is the
3 supervisor on the board of elections and voter registration
4 in Rockdale County. As many of you know, we did a pilot
5 project with Ms. Welch and her -- and her team in the
6 November election -- municipal elections using a new
7 ballot-marking technology with a voter-verifiable paper
8 trail. Her team did a great job as we did that pilot and I
9 know we're going to hear more about that in future
10 meetings.

11 Our cyber-security expert on the panel, which I think
12 is very important to all of us in the -- in this room, is
13 Dr. Wenke Lee. He is the executive director of Georgia
14 Tech's Institute for information of security and privacy;
15 Michael, Mike Jablonski, who's the General Counsel of the
16 Democratic Party of Georgia; John Monds, who's with the
17 Libertarian Party of Georgia -- he's on their executive
18 committee; Vincent Russo, who's the deputy counsel for the
19 Georgia Republican Party and then our voter-accessibility
20 expert, Amy Howell, who is the commissioner and general
21 counsel for the Department of Behavioral Health and
22 Developmental Disabilities.

23 Representing Georgia's voters at large is Mr. Jimmy
24 McDonald. Jimmy is a former legislative counsel, so he has
25 a lot of experience in writing the code here in Georgia and

1 he's a managing partner of the McDonald Firm, LLC. And
2 also representing Georgia voters at large, Sheila Ross.
3 She's the former deputy district attorney in Fulton County
4 and the current director of capital litigation for the
5 Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia.

6 And I know you-all can see that we have a very
7 impressive panel from all walks of life, and every region
8 of the state and from a lot of political -- different
9 political walks of life as well, which I think is -- is
10 very important. I want to thank Representative Ott,
11 certainly, for being here. I just wanted to mention -- I
12 know we had one other state representative here today
13 representing Brad Raffensperger.

14 I certainly want to welcome the members of the media.
15 We have worked very hard and will continue to do that to
16 make sure that they have accessibility to these meetings.
17 I think that's very important from a public-transparency
18 process and we look forward to working with them.

19 And I also want to thank you-all for being here this
20 morning. I know there's many elections officials and
21 registrars from all over the state here in the audience and
22 many members of the voting public, different advocacy
23 groups, and we welcome your presence. We also welcome your
24 input as we move through this process.

25 I did want to mention that we do have a -- a court

1 reporter here that will document not only today's meetings
2 but all of our meetings, so they will be available to the
3 public and we'll -- we'll make those transcripts available
4 on our website in approximately three weeks. This will
5 give the court reporter time to make sure that we have the
6 record straight from this meeting and -- and we'll do the
7 same in future meetings, and that will be available on our
8 website at GA -- or sos.ga.gov.

9 Real quick, I wanted to mention that the presenters
10 from the Secretary of State's office will be our elections
11 director, Chris Harvey, who I think many of you already
12 know; General counsel, Ryan Germany, and the assistant
13 elections director and deputy counsel, Kevin Rayburn.

14 I wanted to mention just a few guidelines as we get
15 started. The commission members, you are welcome to ask
16 questions and provide input as we move through the process
17 and during presentations or when we wrap up presentations,
18 so we certainly welcome that. I would just ask that when
19 you do do that, we need you to speak clearly into the
20 microphones, try not to speak over one another so we can
21 make sure that we have a -- a proper transcript of the
22 meetings and we can get everything for the public record.

23 Members of the public, you do need to sign up for our
24 public-comment portion of the meeting which would be after
25 we get through with the presentations. Today we have

1 allotted two minutes for each speaker, which is what we
2 normally do at our state elections board meetings, so we're
3 glad to hear from anyone who is here today.

4 I would just tell you that you don't need to get into
5 the details of -- of what your issue is. Just let us know
6 what that is so we can get that in the record. We will
7 make sure in future meetings that we allow individuals or
8 groups that want to present or advocate for certain issues,
9 or technologies or whatever it is, we -- I promise you we
10 will have a transparent process. And you can either submit
11 those documents that you would like for the commission to
12 review or also speak to that or -- or make presentations.
13 So we'll certainly be working on that as we move forward.

14 When we move to your public comments, I would just
15 urge you to stay to the two minutes, make sure that you're
16 speaking clearly and -- and not too fast. I -- I don't
17 have a problem with that, obviously, but I would ask others
18 just to make sure you speak clearly and don't go too fast
19 so we can get your testimony on the -- on the public
20 record.

21 Certainly -- I mentioned this earlier, that anyone's
22 welcome to send feedback or questions to our SAFE
23 Commission's website -- I mean E-mail address, which is
24 SAFE Commission at sos.ga.gov, and we'll certainly be
25 reviewing that after this meeting and prior to our other

1 meetings.

2 And, with that, I want to just welcome you-all again.

3 I'm looking forward to a great, transparent, hard-working
4 process. And, with that, I'm going to turn the microphone
5 over to Representative Fleming and my co-chair and thank
6 him again for being willing to lead this effort with myself
7 and the other commission members. Representative?

8 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Mr. Secretary, I appreciate
9 you for allowing me to be here today and serve on this
10 commission. I appreciate you, as our Secretary of State,
11 taking proactive steps to form this group and bring us
12 together so we can give good advice during the legislative
13 process, hopefully next year, pick our -- our state's next
14 all-important voting machines. Thank you for that
15 leadership.

16 The commission is tasked -- as the secretary said --
17 with reviewing options for Georgia's next voting system.
18 And, of course, members, that is no small feat. The
19 initiative will ultimately involve a complete rewrite of
20 Georgia's election code and state election board rules once
21 the General Assembly has made a decision on our next
22 voting system.

23 It will also, of course, involve the appropriations of
24 millions of state dollars so we want to make sure we do a
25 good job of coming up with the best options. Some

1 estimates put that -- those state dollars anywhere from a
2 low of 30 million to sometimes as high as 150 million,
3 depending on what kind of system that we would choose. And
4 also, of course, that includes training and the
5 decommission of the old machines that we currently use.

6 This commission, hopefully, will guide lawmakers in
7 the process with active participation from Georgia voters
8 and -- and multiple of the stakeholders, which will be
9 involved in this.

10 I'd -- would want to share with some of my commission
11 members, before we get started, it may be helpful to go
12 through some of the processes that went on with the
13 legislature the last session and bring us kind of up to how
14 we got to where we are now.

15 Last fall, the House of Representatives -- State House
16 of Representatives' Science and Technology Committee met to
17 discuss the future of Georgia's voting equipment. In that
18 first meeting, a discussion was held on our current
19 machines and the estimated shelf life of those almost now
20 20-year-old voting machines.

21 The second meeting of the house committee involved
22 product demonstrations to see what some of the market
23 options currently offered by election vendors were. In the
24 beginning of the legislative session, in House Bill 680 on
25 January the 11th, State Representative Scott Turner began

1 the process in proposing one of the first voting-system
2 bills that would overhaul our -- our process during the
3 legislative session.

4 As with many times with the legislative process, a
5 representative or senator will introduce a bill to begin
6 the discussion. It's usually not how the final product
7 looks, but it's just the beginning.

8 Representative Turner's bill did not -- would not
9 allow -- would not allow, going forward, the use of our
10 current touchscreen voting machines by January of 2019 and
11 called for what has been referred to as a risk-limiting
12 audit where local election officials would manually tally
13 the ballots. This was the beginning of the discussion of
14 that particular version of legislation. It didn't move
15 forward to a great extent.

16 In a separate house bill, House Bill 848, on February
17 the 8th of this year, House Science and Technology
18 Committee Chairman, Ed Setzler, who -- the chairman who had
19 held those prior committee meetings, proposed a second bill
20 to overhaul the voting system.

21 That particular bill required our Secretary of State
22 to issue a bid by August of 2018 of this year for the
23 state's purchase of something referred to as optical-
24 scanning voting-assistance equipment and supporting
25 services for use in the primaries and elections, in all 159

1 counties.

2 That legislation would have required optical-scanning
3 equipment for the elections after January of 2024 and it
4 would have also provided state appropriations to fund the
5 optical-scanning equipment to counties no later than the
6 2020 presidential-preference primary.

7 It passed by substitute and a committee wrote a few
8 changes which involved adding audit provisions. However,
9 the bill did not go ahead to the full house of
10 representatives for a vote.

11 On the other side of the aisle -- or sort of the other
12 side of the capitol, in Senate Bill 403, on February the
13 8th, State Senator Bruce Thompson proposed a very similar
14 version of Chairman Setzler's House Bill 848 to the Senate.

15 That bill went through many changes during the
16 legislative process and in committee and it eventually was
17 the bill that crossed over, as we would say, it passed from
18 one house to the other. It came over to the House of
19 Representatives for consideration where the House held
20 hearings, and Chairman Ed Rynders' committee on government
21 affairs on that legislation.

22 Senate Bill 403 ended up being the voting-system bill,
23 the overhaul bill, that traveled furthest during the
24 legislative session before it ended but, ultimately, that
25 bill did not pass both houses as well, which is fairly

1 typical of discussions at the capitol. Sometimes a
2 discussion, like I said, is begun with legislation and that
3 has led to our process of us being here today.

4 All of that history, I hope, is relevant to you
5 because -- to show you that we have to continue that
6 discussion now that began at a time of progression toward a
7 replacement of our current voting machines.

8 Although the system continues to work as it was
9 intended, we obviously have to plan for its replacement,
10 and a project of this size takes months of planning. And,
11 thus, I must again thank our Secretary of State for
12 convening this commission and allowing us to have this
13 discussion.

14 I anticipate our commission will engage in a robust,
15 open discussion about all of the viable options for
16 replacing our current system and pass along a good
17 recommendation to the state legislature for the next
18 session, which will begin in January of '19.

19 I want to thank all of you for taking the time to be
20 here today, for joining us in these proceedings. And, as
21 the secretary introduced you-all, you come from a wide
22 background, very well positioned to participate in these
23 discussions.

24 As we go through this process, as was mentioned, we'll
25 have several presenters today. I'm looking now and will

1 try to keep my eye on several of you. If you have a
2 question, I'm going to ask you to pass that microphone near
3 you to the person with the question.

4 We do have Patrick over here, who is our court
5 reporter. I had a chance to chat with Patrick earlier. If
6 you've never been in a proceeding with a court reporter --
7 and I suspect many of you have though -- you know that he's
8 trying to take down everything we say, and one of the worst
9 things you can do to a court reporter is talk over one
10 another. It happens to be that my wife is a court
11 reporter. And so, I am -- I am well-trained in that idea
12 and I intend to make her proud and pass that along to you
13 today.

14 In a natural conversation that we have with people, we
15 do talk over one another because we can hear, and listen
16 and talk at the same time. For the court reporter, it
17 makes it much more difficult. So if I do -- I admonish you
18 about that, please understand I'm doing it so that we have
19 a good record.

20 Now, that's just a brief overview but, before we
21 begin with our first presenter, I want to see if any of the
22 commission members have any questions about what we've
23 initially tried to go over today or about our process of
24 how it would work.

25 I think all of you came in a little bit earlier; you

1 know that there's water and coffee right back here for you
2 as well as restrooms. Please feel free to get up and move
3 around, if need be. Any questions?

4 SENATOR JACKSON: (Indicating.)

5 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Senator, did you have one?

6 SENATOR JACKSON: I have one.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I'm going to -- I'm going to
8 turn my mic to you. Now, I'm giving it to you just for a
9 second. Okay? You have to tell that to senators.

10 SENATOR JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.
11 Now, we've talked about the anticipated cost of these new
12 machines. Would you have any idea of what was the cost of
13 our old machines some 18 years ago?

14 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I know it didn't -- Lynn
15 Bailey down there served on that commission that many years
16 ago. Do you have any idea or does someone else want to
17 speak up?

18 SECRETARY KEMP: I -- I think, from the best of --

19 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Secretary?

20 SECRETARY KEMP: -- reputation (ph) -- recollection,
21 and what Ms. Boren is telling me as well, it was around 52
22 -- 54 million which was funded through the Help America
23 Vote Act funds, which was federal funds, so that was the
24 cost back in, you know, early 2000s.

25 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Absolutely. Good question,

1 Senator.

2 SECRETARY KEMP: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to let
3 Ms. Boren give you some additional information.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Please do.

5 MS. BOREN: That was the state's contribution to the
6 equipment. Each county had an option to purchase
7 additional equipment. I -- I think many of the counties
8 represented here did purchase the other equipment, though,
9 the 54 million was just the state portion.

10 SENATOR JACKSON: And our anticipated cost --

11 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: (Provides microphone.)

12 SENATOR JACKSON: And, Mr. Chairman, and our
13 anticipated cost is between 30 and 60 million?

14 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: That's just a rough estimate.

15 The -- the technology is, I suspect, even more variable
16 than what was available almost 20 years ago now. And, as
17 we have done some background and I've heard testimony
18 through hearings, those are some of the ranges that we've
19 heard.

20 And, of course, not only included in that is the
21 equipment which, by far and away, for 159 counties, will be
22 the largest part of our appropriation, but there's also a
23 lot of training, obviously, that the -- some of the people
24 at the state will have to implement and -- and classes and
25 whatnot for our elections officials to attend and -- and be

1 able to understand how to use it.

2 SENATOR JACKSON: Okay.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Good question. Any other
4 questions from any members of the commission before we get
5 started? Well, if I don't see any, what we will do next --
6 I believe we have, from our Secretary of State Elections
7 Division, Chris Harvey.

8 Chris, why don't you please come forward. Good to see
9 you again this morning. Please introduce --

10 MR. HARVEY: Good morning, sir.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Please introduce yourself to
12 all of the commission members, and we'd love to hear from
13 you today.

14 MR. HARVEY: Good morning, commissioners. Secretary
15 Kemp, Vice Chairman Fleming and members of the Georgia
16 State Election Commission, my name is Chris Harvey and I
17 have the honor of serving the people of Georgia as the
18 state election director for Secretary of State, Brian Kemp.

19 This morning I have the privilege of taking you on a
20 deeper dive into how elections are conducted in our state.

21 I know that some of you participated in elections as
22 candidates and some of you have participated in elections
23 as elections professionals but, most importantly, we have
24 all participated in the process of the most esteemed title,
25 that of voter or citizen.

1 By way of beginning, allow me to introduce and tell
2 you a little bit about myself and my background. I grew up
3 in DeKalb County before attending college and graduating
4 from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina,
5 with a BA in political science and a specialization in
6 criminal justice in 1989.

7 After studying theology in graduate school and
8 teaching high school for a few years in Charleston, South
9 Carolina, I returned to DeKalb County in 1994 where I
10 joined the DeKalb County Police Department. From 1994
11 through 2007, I worked primarily in homicide investigations
12 for the DeKalb County Police Department, DeKalb District
13 Attorney's office and the Fulton County District Attorney's
14 office.

15 In 2007, Secretary of State, Karen Handel, hired me to
16 be the chief investigator for the Secretary of State's
17 office where I spent considerable time in election
18 investigations and state election board proceedings. In
19 July of 2015, Secretary Kemp asked me to take the position
20 of election director and I have served in that role since
21 then.

22 I do not serve alone. The Secretary of State's
23 election division is composed of professionals in fields
24 that include law, data and systems -- systems management,
25 customer service, training, voter registration and military

1 voter outreach just to name a few.

2 We provide service and assistance to the 159 county
3 election offices throughout the State of Georgia and we
4 coordinate with a number of state agencies to facilitate
5 voting and election management. As you will see very
6 shortly, the work that the Secretary of State's office does
7 in an election compliments but primarily supports the true
8 hard work of elections that take place at the county level.

9 Georgia's current election system was born out of
10 issues arising from the November 2000 general election.
11 Although much of the national attention was focused on
12 Florida and topics like hanging chads, and punch cards and
13 butterfly ballots, Georgia realized we had problems of our
14 own.

15 In 2000, Georgia was operating four different systems
16 to cast and count ballots. Some Georgians used old lever
17 machines, whereby a mechanical device recorded votes, while
18 others bubbled in ovals next to names on coded papers that
19 were then read and calculated by a light scanner, while
20 others marked a check or an X next to a name on a piece of
21 plain paper that was read, interpreted and counted by a
22 person or team of people and some Georgians wielded a
23 pointed metal stylus to punch out small rectangular holes
24 in paper stock cards set in a plastic frame. These
25 multiple variations in voting did not serve the citizens of

1 Georgia well, as you shall see.

2 Let me mention these -- briefly explain two terms that
3 will be important throughout the presentation and
4 throughout the consideration you will give to these most
5 important matters: These terms are undervote and overvote.

6 Briefly, an undervote is a discrepancy in the total number
7 of ballots cast and the total number of votes counted.

8 For example, if 10 people were to vote in an election
9 for president -- three voted for Candidate X and four voted
10 for Candidate Y but the other three decided not to cast a
11 ballot for president because they found no acceptable
12 choice, but -- but then did cast votes in down-ballot
13 races, the results would be that there were only seven
14 votes cast for president, resulting in three undervotes.

15 An overvote, as odd as it may sound, will also result
16 in an undervote. An overvote is making more selections in
17 one race than one is eligible to make. For example, if an
18 election for governor -- 10 people voted for governor but
19 one person mistakenly thought that they could pick their
20 top two candidates instead of one and marked their ballot
21 with two choices, then no vote would be counted and there
22 would be -- the overvote would result in only nine votes
23 for governor even though 10 voters cast ballots, thus
24 leaving one undervote for governor.

25 These terms are important in order to, first,

1 understand the important reason, if not the primary reason,
2 that Georgia selected and implemented the kind of voting
3 system we currently use. And, secondly, to understand the
4 significant distinction in voting systems that are
5 currently available, and which are being used in the rest
6 of the country and as you and the legislature consider what
7 might be best for Georgia in the future.

8 The goals of this presentation are five, and you --
9 you can follow along in your PowerPoint. I believe it's in
10 Tab 2. It'll be up on the screen, but you won't be able to
11 see it. I'll do my best to announce sort of the titles so
12 you can follow along.

13 First is describe the election interaction between
14 state and counties conducting elections; secondly, to give
15 a historical context for the current voting system;
16 thirdly, to describe how votes may be cast in Georgia;
17 fourth, to explain key components of the current voting
18 system and, lastly, to explain security and election
19 systems. If you give me one second, I'm going to try to
20 raise this a little. (Adjusts microphone.) That's a
21 little bit better for me.

22 So those are the goals of the presentation. Now,
23 let's start by saying that elections are a complicated
24 process. If you go to the next slide, you'll see a
25 flowchart that looks more like, you know, the traffic on

1 the connector at 5 o'clock on a Friday afternoon.

2 If you look at the diagram -- and this does not
3 necessarily represent everything in the Georgia voting
4 system, but most of the components are represented here.
5 But this is a -- this is a slide I took from another
6 presentation.

7 But you notice, at the very center, you've got the
8 voting system and that's really what we're talking about
9 now. However, look at all of the other factors that lead
10 into it. You've got voter-registration systems; you've got
11 state agencies submitting information; you've got county
12 offices; you've got administrative reports; you've got
13 election-night reporting; you've got the E-poll books which
14 are used to give voters their proper ballots. You can tell
15 that if any part of this system were to have a hang up, it
16 could startle the entire process.

17 When I taught high school, the assistant principal,
18 who was sort of mentoring me, would tell me every morning,
19 he would say, Chris, teaching doesn't -- education or
20 teaching doesn't happen; it is caused, and that's an
21 analogy that I've taken with elections.

22 Elections don't just happen; they're caused. And
23 they're caused in combination, in conjunction, with the
24 Secretary of State's office, and with the county election
25 officials and with other support organizations.

1 So any time you talk about elections, you're talking
2 about a very complex system with many moving parts. You've
3 got federal law that covers requirements in some elections.

4 For example, we just completed the process for the -- a
5 runoff that's happening in Georgia. We had to get ballots
6 out to overseas voters for the federal runoffs that are
7 happening in -- in -- later in July. That's a federal
8 requirement. It's not necessarily part of state law.

9 You have state law that puts restrictions, and time
10 limits and deadlines on things happening. You've got state
11 election board rules that get more specific with this --
12 these regulations and these -- these rules and they govern
13 elections.

14 The elections calendar -- if you were to -- to go to
15 our website and look at the elections calendar, you can see
16 the entire year laid out for you. You know, it's -- it's
17 -- it's set by the legislature. The election will happen
18 at this date; the runoff will happen this many days later;
19 this is the deadline for qualifying; this is the deadline
20 for submitting this, that and the other.

21 It's like being on a treadmill. There are no snow
22 days; there are no rain delays; there are no timeouts; you
23 don't get a -- you know, you don't get a spike the ball and
24 -- and get a do over. The -- the calendar keeps rolling,
25 the treadmill keeps rolling and it's -- it's everything

1 that the county and the state does to make sure that we
2 meet all of our obligations and we work together to get
3 that done.

4 If you can, turn to the next page. Just some -- some
5 brief elections by the numbers so you have an idea of the
6 scope you're dealing with. Of course you know there are
7 159 counties in Georgia. Each office has their own
8 elections division, has their own elections office.

9 On election day in Georgia, there are approximately
10 2300-plus polling places in Georgia -- that's throughout
11 159 counties -- which required between 12, to 20, to 25,000
12 poll-workers. So, you know, every polling place will have
13 a minimum requirement of three workers and many polling
14 places require many, many more than that. In the large
15 counties, you could have 20 to 30 people at a polling
16 place.

17 So this is a -- essentially a one-day workforce that
18 gets activated several times a year, that these are the
19 folks that are going to be operating this equipment, these
20 -- whether it's a machine, whether it's paper, whether it's
21 pencils, these are the folks that are going to be operating
22 this equipment.

23 Approximately 10 percent of the voters who vote in
24 elections vote by mail. They vote an absentee ballot.
25 They -- they request it; it's sent to their home; it's a

1 paper ballot and they mark it in, there's a return envelope
2 and they send it back to the county and it gets counted
3 just like every other ballot.

4 About half of the voters now vote in what's called
5 advanced voting, which is a three-week period prior to the
6 election where every county is required to have at least
7 one location where any county voter can go to and they can
8 cast their ballot on a DRE just like it was election day.

9 They don't have to go to their polling place. As a
10 matter of fact, they cannot go to their individual polling
11 place to vote where they would on election day. Usually,
12 it's a county courthouse or a central county building.
13 Voters go there and, for three weeks, they can cast ballots
14 in elections.

15 That's become a growing trend. In the -- in 2006,
16 2007, 2008, absentee balloting by mail was very, very
17 popular and advanced voting seems to have overtaken that in
18 terms of popularity among people. People like the idea of
19 going to some place central and casting a ballot.

20 And -- and then about 50 percent of the voters who
21 vote, vote on election day. So election day is still a big
22 deal. Even with all of these other options for people
23 voting, election day is still a big deal in Georgia. And,
24 currently, there are approximately six-and-a-half million
25 voters in Georgia. So those are some of the rough numbers

1 with elections.

2 I've got a map here that you can see. This shows the
3 population breakdown by voters in Georgia -- and, again,
4 this should be in your -- in your notebook. The green are
5 obviously 100,000-plus voters and then the blue or purple
6 is down from that.

7 Obviously, you can see that most of the voters are
8 centered in the metro area but notice also, in Muscogee
9 County, in Richmond County and Chatham County, you have
10 major, major population centers. And then, as you look
11 through the central and -- and southern part of the state,
12 there's sort of that marbling effect that shows, you know,
13 you've got some -- some very, very small counties and
14 you've got -- still some pretty substantial counties.
15 Everybody operates with the same exact system.

16 All right. I want to talk a little bit about the
17 election environment in Georgia. Georgia is one of a very
18 few states that has a uniform voting system, which means
19 that every county uses the same equipment, the same
20 procedures, the same forms and the same recording
21 mechanisms.

22 If you vote in Chatham County and you -- or you vote
23 in Rabun County, or you vote in Fulton County or you vote
24 in Seminole County, with the exception maybe of some of the
25 accents you hear, your experience is going to be exactly

1 the same.

2 You're going to fill out the same form, you're going
3 to see the same posters on the wall, you're going to
4 encounter the same equipment, you're going to encounter the
5 same instructions and your voting experience is going to be
6 the same everywhere. There are only, I think, four or five
7 states that -- that provide that, so Georgia is not
8 completely unique but somewhat unique in that capacity.

9 With 159 counties, which is the second most counties
10 in the United States after Texas, means that whatever
11 system is chosen will have to be recreated and executed 159
12 times.

13 Therefore, whatever system is chosen will be used by
14 election directors in large counties -- like Rick Barron
15 in Fulton County -- with his over 600,000 voters in a
16 large election office with full and part-time workers --
17 but the same system will be used by Probate Judge Denise
18 Dallas in small Glascock County with 1800 voters and its
19 correspondingly small election-office staff of one, Judge
20 Dallas, herself, who is also the probate judge, the chief
21 magistrate, the vital-records clerk and the traffic-court
22 judge. So Judge Dallas is going to have her work cut out
23 for her regardless of -- of what you-all decide.

24 To talk about -- I had mentioned that each county has
25 its own election office. There are basically two forms of

1 administering elections -- administering elections in
2 Georgia: You've got probate judges and you've got combined
3 boards of election registration. Judge McCoy is a -- is a
4 representative -- as a probate judge, he is the election
5 superintendent.

6 The majority of Georgia uses a combined board of
7 elections and registration. Matter of fact, 120 counties
8 have combined boards of election and registration. The
9 other election directors that are on the commission operate
10 in that environment. And, in that sense, they have the --
11 the board sometimes has as few as three, sometimes as many
12 as seven people -- we'll talk about that a little bit more,
13 but they are the election superintendent.

14 They are the ones that decide what happens in that
15 county if there's a judgment call to be made. That's the
16 body that certifies the election; that's the body that
17 would hold the challenge here; that's the body that would
18 essentially administer the election.

19 And Judge McCoy and his -- his other 35 probate judges
20 that serve as election superintendents have that authority
21 similarly. And it's a -- it's -- the election boards are
22 designated by the state legislature. Usually, the
23 delegation from whatever county it would happen to be would
24 pass a -- pass a law, and it would be signed and that would
25 create a state board of elections.

1 So there are 120 county boards of elections and
2 registration, there are 36 counties with probate judges as
3 their election superintendent and there are 3 counties in
4 Georgia that have a separate board of elections and a
5 separate board of registration. It's kind of unusual.

6 One of those counties is actually going to a combined
7 board at the beginning of 2019. So, in 2019, there will
8 only be two counties that have separate boards. It doesn't
9 affect operations that much, but I know that the -- the
10 directors that are here from combined boards, I believe,
11 probably enjoy the fact that they -- they deal with one
12 board instead of two boards.

13 But, as I mentioned, boards of election in counties
14 are created by the legislature and their composition varies
15 depending on the legislation that creates them. Though
16 they're usually created to ensure representation from
17 various sources such as political parties, county
18 commissions or appointed by judges, the trend in Georgia
19 is decidedly towards the creation of boards of election and
20 registration.

21 Boards of election generally designate and hire a
22 director or a supervisor of elections to run the day-to-day
23 operations in their county. In some counties, these
24 supervisors will direct a staff of dozens of full and part-
25 time employees while, in other counties, the director will

1 do 90 to 100 percent of the work by him or herself. This
2 information is important so that the commission has a more
3 complete understanding of the diversity of elections
4 offices and capacities in different parts of the state.

5 I'm going to talk briefly about the division of
6 responsibilities and roles in elections and how the
7 Secretary of State's office works with counties.

8 Elections are primarily county-based events. You
9 know, we talk about having a federal election or having a
10 statewide election. To some extent, that's a misnomer.
11 There are -- every time you have a statewide election in
12 Georgia, you have 159 county elections, and what the
13 Secretary of State's office does in a statewide election,
14 we aggregate and report those -- those totals. But
15 they're largely county operations.

16 For example, voters are registered in their individual
17 county of residence, voters vote and have their votes
18 counted in their county of residence, voters are updated
19 and their voter-registration system is maintained in their
20 county of residence and the county elections officials --
21 whether it's the board or the probate judge -- determine
22 all of the validity of ballots and votes cast.

23 They also determine, as I mentioned before, whether a
24 voter stays on the voter list if there's a challenge to a
25 voter's registration or if there's a problem with

1 registration. That's decided primarily at the county
2 level.

3 You know, the former speaker of the house,
4 Tip O'Neill, has famously said that all politics is local
5 politics, and I kind of take that with voting. All voting
6 is really local voting. I mean, I don't count any ballots
7 as a state election director; I don't decide whether or not
8 an absentee ballot gets -- gets approved; I don't decide
9 whether someone's voter-registration application is
10 complete. Secretary Kemp doesn't -- does not do that.
11 Nobody in the state election office does that.

12 Ms. Welch does that every day; Ms. Bailey does that
13 every day; Ms. Holden, Ms. Boren, they do that every day.
14 Now, Ms. Daniels used to do it every day but she takes it
15 easy now in retirement. She -- she did it very well for a
16 very long time in DeKalb County.

17 And in the -- the next slide you'll see is a brief
18 illustration of the difference between the state and the
19 county responsibilities, and we'll go through them just
20 quickly, one by one. And, again, just so you can get a
21 feel for this.

22 The county maintains individual voter records while
23 the state maintains a state voter-registration ballot list.

24 So when Ms. Bailey approves a voter's registration
25 application, it comes into the system that we maintain.

1 Okay? When an absentee ballot is issued by Ms. Welch, it's
2 reported in the state system.

3 Secondly, the county maintains their individual pieces
4 of equipment. And, as Ms. Boren said before, you know, the
5 counties bought some extra equipment when this stuff was
6 done. So they maintain all of that equipment. Every
7 voting machine in Georgia that's used in elections is in
8 the custody of, in the care of, in the responsibility of
9 every county election office.

10 So they maintain individual pieces of equipment, the
11 Secretary of State's office provides the voting-assistance
12 environment and that's what we're talking about here.
13 We're talking about the environment for voting in the
14 future in Georgia.

15 The individual counties, they select, they train and
16 they staff the polling places. You know, it's not uncommon
17 that I'll get calls and E-mails from people after election
18 day and they'll say, I can't believe it. I left my polling
19 place and, you know, I had to do this, I had to do this,
20 and there were no signs, and there -- it was too hot and --
21 and there was somebody playing the radio.

22 And -- and I tell them, You know, that's unfortunate.

23 Let me give you the number of your county election
24 director, and call them or E-mail them and let them know
25 how -- how satisfied or unsatisfied you were with the

1 voting environment because they're the ones that do it.

2 You know, mercifully, I don't pick any of the 20 --
3 2300 -- 2600 polling places in Georgia. But the Secretary
4 of State's office provides training and guidance on
5 election-law practices and procedures. So, again, we -- we
6 push stuff down to the counties.

7 The counties issue and count individual ballots.
8 Again, I don't make a decision about whether somebody is --
9 it's up to Ms. Bailey and her staff. If somebody shows up
10 on election day and they say, I'm -- I'm here to vote,
11 and they look them up in the system, they say, you know,
12 Sir, we don't see you registered in the voter-registration
13 system, and it's then their responsibility to determine
14 what should be done next.

15 There's -- there's certainly rules and procedures that
16 would have to be followed, but it's -- they're the ones who
17 make that decision; they're the ones that decide to issue a
18 ballot. Do they give them a regular ballot and let them
19 vote on a DRE, on a machine, or do they give them a
20 provisional ballot or do they direct them to their proper
21 county, say, Sir, you never changed your voter
22 registration. You're still registered in the next county.

23 You need to go there and vote.

24 So the county does that. The state provides the
25 general ballot databases for the counties. So, when an

1 election comes up, the Secretary of State provides the
2 database that Ms. Bailey is going to use to -- to program
3 her machines and accept her ballots, and we're going to
4 give it to -- to Ms. Boren and her team so that they can
5 operate in this uniform system. Individuals work with
6 counties and counties work with the state.

7 Currently, as I mentioned before, the Secretary of
8 State's office creates and provides the databases used by
9 each county in county, state and federal elections. We do
10 it in some municipal elections. However, municipal
11 elections have a little bit more leeway to operate
12 independently. This means that voter lists for elections
13 as well as ballot creations for the DRE voting units are
14 produced in Atlanta and distributed to each of the 159
15 counties.

16 So, you know, these transactions are handled off-line
17 by hand-to-hand exchanges of media between officials from
18 the Secretary of State's office and county election
19 officials.

20 While possibly inefficient by modern standards, this
21 non-network exchange of information provides additional
22 security and prevents corruption of data or systems. This
23 process, however, places significant time pressures on the
24 Secretary of State's office and sometimes causes counties
25 to wait on these database creations. In addition, if

1 corrections or changes are needed to these databases,
2 additional delays can ensue.

3 Modern election systems have generally become easier
4 to use and might allow some decentralization of this
5 process so that some counties may start to create or assist
6 in their own election databases or ballot voting. Keep in
7 mind, however, that in some counties elections offices --
8 as I've pointed out -- are comprised of one or two people
9 with a limited IT staff that might make this process more
10 difficult.

11 So, again, because it can happen in a specific county
12 doesn't necessarily mean it can happen well in every
13 county. But it's just something to consider when you --
14 when you see some of the new systems arise.

15 As expert as professional election officials are with
16 the current voting technology, most of the people who use
17 this equipment are part-time poll-workers and even more
18 part-time voters who vote every 2 to 4 years sometimes.
19 Keep in mind that, when the current system was deployed in
20 2002, there was a pretty steep learning curve that required
21 extensive familiarization and training of poll-workers and
22 voters.

23 Keep in mind, in 2002, this was five years before the
24 first iPhone was released. There were no iPads, or tablets
25 or any smartphones. The idea of a touchscreen was new

1 technology and even people who were used to interacting
2 with computers did not necessarily have experience with
3 touchscreens and touching a screen in order to effect
4 actions.

5 Even though the general public is far more
6 experienced, and exposed and familiar with touchscreen
7 technology, any new system would require significant effort
8 and training and familiarization for both the election
9 officials and the citizens before being deployed.

10 All right. Now I'm going to talk a little bit about
11 some of the historical context about our voting system,
12 what we -- kind of how we got to where we are. In 2000,
13 most of the energy and the national attention was focused
14 on Florida, but when Georgia looked at the results of its
15 2000 general election, we found significant problems and
16 the Twenty-first Century Voting Commission was established
17 in December of 2001 by, then governor, Roy Barnes.

18 If you go back -- and I mentioned this briefly before,
19 but if you go back to see how voters voted in Georgia in
20 2000, you had two counties that used paper ballots -- and
21 that's what -- exactly what it means. That means you have
22 a piece of paper and it says Joe Smith and John Jones and
23 you put an X or a checkmark next to it -- kind of like what
24 you may do for student council at a high school. Two
25 counties did that.

1 You had 17 counties that used punch cards, and that's
2 the -- that's where most people think of the butterfly
3 ballot. It was in a -- a plastic frame and you turn the
4 ballot like a book, and you punch a stylus and it would
5 punch out the little punch cards that you would then feed
6 through the old IBM machines and it would count the votes
7 that way.

8 You had 73 counties that used the lever machines. A
9 lot of people referred to them as Shoup Machines -- I
10 believe the company that made them was called Shoup
11 Machines -- and that involved a complex system of setting
12 levers and setting all of your votes and then pulling a --
13 that's kind of what you see in a classic movie where
14 somebody cranks this -- this handle down and (descriptive
15 sound) it -- it marks the -- the machine and records votes
16 that way. Almost half of the people in Georgia are doing
17 that.

18 And then 67 counties are using optical scans, and an
19 optical scan is a paper ballot. That's the -- that's
20 what's used, actually today, still for absentee ballots or
21 provisional ballots. It's a paper ballot that you bubble
22 in like you would on a standardized test, an SAT or an MCAT
23 or something like that, and it's fed through an optical
24 scanner -- I'll show you some pictures of the machines.
25 And, again, 67 percent of the counties were using optical-

1 scan devices in 2000.

2 Well, they discovered several problems with the 2007
3 -- I'm sorry -- with the 2000 election. First of all, the
4 lack of uniformity in how Georgians voted was -- was pretty
5 stunning, and I think the -- the thought was if it is not
6 being cast the same way, and it's not being counted the
7 same way and there are different standards for determining
8 what's good, are people really voting equally in Georgia.
9 And if you're -- if you're in a county that doesn't have a
10 lot of resources and can't afford the most efficient or
11 maybe the most accurate error-proof way to vote, are you
12 somehow being treated as a lesser voter. So that was the
13 first thing. The lack of uniformity was a problem.

14 The second was there was -- you know, people -- many
15 weren't thinking about it quite as much in 2000, but there
16 was no accessibility and autonomy for handicapped voters.
17 One of the most strident causes that's taken place since
18 then is the -- is the effort to make sure that every voter
19 is able to vote as independently as possible, regardless of
20 their disability.

21 I'll talk about some of the ways people can do that
22 now, but if you had -- if you were blind, if you were
23 illiterate, if you couldn't operate the machine, it means
24 you had to have somebody to help you. And you can still do
25 that in Georgia. You can still have somebody assist you,

1 if you need to, for -- for whatever reason. But the idea
2 is that, as much as it is -- it is possible, you want a
3 system where every voter, regardless of their ability or
4 disability, has the opportunity to vote as independently as
5 possible, and that didn't exist in any of those four
6 systems we talked about.

7 And, lastly, it gets back to what I talked about
8 earlier: Undervotes were a serious problem. And I'll --
9 I'll get into a little bit of detail about that. Go back
10 to the 2000 election. Now, we just came through a -- an
11 election where you had some -- some controversy, some
12 people that maybe weren't completely satisfied with all of
13 their candidate choices.

14 But, in 2000, you had -- for president, you had, you
15 know, George Bush and Al Gore running against each other.
16 And, while there were certainly people that preferred one
17 or the other, there wasn't -- there -- as I recall, and I'm
18 old enough to remember, there wasn't a lot of vitriol that
19 people were going to sit out and protest this.

20 However, in Georgia, you had over 93,000 -- almost
21 94,000 ballots cast in Georgia that did not reflect a vote
22 for president. That's 3.5 percent of all ballots cast in
23 Georgia. I have a hard time believing that 3-and-a-half
24 percent of Georgians just chose not to vote for president.

25 Now, usually, people vote at the top of the ticket,

1 and then they may get bored and they don't vote for the
2 stuff down -- they don't vote for the dogcatcher and, you
3 know, that kind of stuff -- but they usually vote for the
4 top of the ticket.

5 Florida got all of the attention. Everybody was
6 talking about Florida. They only had an undervote rate of
7 2.9 percent, and they were the ones that were talking about
8 the -- the butterfly ballots where, I think, Pat Buchanan,
9 you know, beat the democrat in Broward County, which was a
10 -- which was a big democratic stronghold. Everybody was
11 talking about the problems in -- in Florida when Georgia
12 had it worst. The -- the Florida rate was 2.9 percent; the
13 national rate was 1.9 percent. So Georgia was way above
14 the average for undervotes.

15 And there were 38,000 undervotes that were cast by
16 voters in counties using optical-scan devices which, at
17 that time, would have generally been considered the most
18 technologically advanced form of voting. So you had 38,000
19 undervotes.

20 And then, in 13 counties that calculated overvotes as
21 a separate category -- remember overvotes is when you mark
22 more than one person in a single race -- you can see that
23 over, you know, 61-and-a-half percent of the overvotes were
24 duplicate selections, voting for more than one person in an
25 office. That's simple human error.

1 That's either people don't understand that you just
2 vote for one or they're trying to -- you know, they vote
3 for one -- you know, they want to vote for Candidate A and,
4 just so that the election director gets it, they're going
5 to cross out Candidate B.

6 You know, they -- they so dislike Candidate B, they're
7 going to draw a line through them or they're going to, you
8 know, draw a frowny face next to them or something like
9 that. Well, the optical scan can read that as a vote and
10 they say, Well, it looks like they voted for Candidate A
11 and Candidate B. Guess what? They don't get a vote for
12 either. And that was -- as -- using the -- using -- people
13 using paper and pencil and marking optical-scan ballots.
14 So it was clear that undervotes and overvotes were a
15 problem that had to be solved by a new system.

16 As a result of the -- the work of the Twenty-first
17 Century Voter Commission, they came to -- to basically
18 three resolutions: The first was that Georgia needed to go
19 to a statewide uniform voting system, and the legislature
20 did that. The second was the acquisition and deployment of
21 a DRE, which stands -- short for direct-record electronic
22 technology for in-person voting.

23 So they said we're getting rid of the -- the -- you
24 know, the student-council paper ballots, we're getting rid
25 of punch cards, we're getting rid of lever machines and

1 we're going to reserve the optical scans for -- for when
2 they're necessary.

3 But everybody in Georgia, for in-person voting, is
4 going to be voting on one of these touchscreen DRE devices
5 -- and I'll use that term DRE and that's what it stands for
6 -- and that's what most people refer to it [sic]. And,
7 lastly, as -- as Ms. Boren mentioned, about 54 million
8 dollars was required to implement the system.

9 All right. Currently, the ways to vote in Georgia.
10 Again, just to -- a -- a brief discussion. As I mentioned,
11 even by absentee mailing of a paper ballot, every person,
12 if they wanted to in Georgia, could vote with a paper
13 ballot by requesting the absentee ballot to be mailed to
14 their house.

15 You don't need a reason; you don't need an excuse; you
16 don't need a doctor's note. You just say, I want to vote
17 by mailing absentee. You can E-mail an application, you
18 can fax an application, you can mail it, you can deliver it
19 yourself and your county election director will send you a
20 big envelope that's got your ballot in it.

21 You mark it -- the paper ballot -- with a pencil or a
22 pen, you put it in an envelope, you seal it, sign an oath
23 and you send it back and you've voted in Georgia. And
24 that's -- that's open to everyone. Formerly, years ago,
25 you had to have a reason; you had to have an excuse; you

1 had to jump through a bunch of hoops. Now you just ask for
2 it and you've got it.

3 Secondly, as I mentioned before, is advanced in-person
4 voting. That's on a DRE and, as I mentioned, that's three
5 weeks before the election. Every county has to provide
6 advanced voting for three weeks prior to a -- to an
7 election. The third is on election day on a DRE which,
8 again, is how half of the people who voted in Georgia vote.

9 There are a few special circumstances I want to
10 mention. The first that I'll mention is UOCAVA voters, and
11 that's a term you may hear. UOCAVA is an acronym for
12 uniform overseas civilians and I -- I can't recall off the
13 top of my head exactly what it means, but it's basically
14 armed forces members that are in Iraq, they're in
15 Afghanistan, they're in Germany, or they're in Alabama, or
16 they're, you know, in Columbus and they live in DeKalb
17 County.

18 They have -- by federal law, they have a special
19 exception. They're actually allowed to be -- essentially
20 E-mail their absentee ballot. They have to have the ballot
21 45 days before the election and they're given extended time
22 to return it after the election day. So that's only
23 available for UOCAVA voters. They use -- so I think it's
24 called an EBD, which is a mailed -- E-mailed absentee
25 ballot, or they can get a traditional mail-in ballot if

1 they'd prefer.

2 Provisional voting is done either during advanced
3 voting or on election day if there's some discrepancy as to
4 whether or not the voter is eligible to vote. So if I show
5 up at the wrong polling place, or I show up in -- in the
6 wrong county or I've never updated my information and they
7 look me up in the system, they say, Mr. Harvey, we don't
8 see you registered here, and I'm -- I'm adamant that I'm
9 eligible to vote, they would have me vote a provisional
10 ballot, which is just like a paper ballot.

11 They'd take me off to the side, give me a paper ballot
12 and I fill out an envelope, fill out my vote and it will be
13 given to the county registrar or board of elections. They
14 would have three days then to determine whether or not my
15 vote should count, whether I was registered or if I was in
16 the right place.

17 Maybe I'm in the right county but I'm in the wrong
18 polling place. So, then, you have to count the part of the
19 ballot that I'm eligible to vote for. So maybe I could
20 vote for governor, or president or something like that, but
21 I get down into the, you know, school board -- wrong
22 district -- and those votes don't count. So provisional
23 ballot is another special circumstance for voting.

24 Third is voting on a DRE with audio assistance and a
25 touchpad. This is generally for people that have vision

1 issues. There's a headset you plug into a DRE and it gives
2 voice prompts, and you have a little keypad and it tells
3 you, you know, This is -- you know, Do this to vote for
4 this person. It records your vote the exact same way. It
5 can be done independently so the voter can do it completely
6 by themselves.

7 And, lastly, is by receiving assistance for a voter
8 who is physically disabled or illiterate. And that's if,
9 you know, somebody shows up and they -- they can't -- you
10 know, they -- they can't operate the equipment. They're
11 allowed to have somebody assist them; they sign an
12 affidavit saying they're eligible; they come in and they
13 can actually touch the screen for them and consult -- under
14 consultation with the voter. So those are sort of special
15 circumstances. Those are ways to vote in Georgia.

16 All right. I want to talk briefly -- and briefly as
17 possible -- about our current voting system. And, again,
18 this is not so much a defense of the current voting system.

19 I mean, I -- as -- as it's been said before, I think
20 probably everybody in here would agree the voting system is
21 due to be replaced.

22 Whatever the legislature replaces the system with is
23 going to have to have something like these components.
24 They may not necessarily have these same machines or these
25 same processes, but everything I'm going to talk about has

1 to be recreated somehow, whether you're using paper,
2 whether you're using electronic devices, whether you're
3 using a combination of both.

4 The first is the voter-registration system. I'm just
5 going to list them all quickly and then I'm going to go
6 talk about each one of the briefly. The second is some
7 type of electronic poll book for voter lists, and that's
8 what you check when somebody comes up to vote and you show
9 them your ID, they look you up.

10 Currently, as you'll see, we use an electronic poll
11 book, but obviously the -- the people at the polling place
12 have to know who's eligible to vote and what ballot they're
13 eligible to vote.

14 The third is the global election-management system,
15 which is called GEMS, which you'll hear more about. That's
16 essentially the brain of the operation. Everything kind of
17 runs off of that. Fourth is the actual DRE, the system
18 that -- where people record their votes. Next is some type
19 of recording media. The vote has to be recorded somewhere.

20 Is it recorded on a piece of paper, is it recorded on a
21 memory card, is it recorded on internal memory -- how was
22 it recorded.

23 Next are optical scanners, which is how you -- you
24 read the paper ballots. You're going to have paper ballots
25 regardless of what system you go to. We -- we have what

1 most people would say, a fully-electronic voting system.
2 However, you know, 10 percent of the people are voting with
3 paper ballots and provisional ballots. So you're going to
4 have to have some way to read these paper ballots.

5 And then, lastly, some type of election-night
6 recording. You know, 7:01 hits on election night and
7 people are checking the website; they're looking at the
8 news. They're saying, Okay. Who's up? Who's -- you know,
9 What's happening? Who won this? Who's up -- who's up with
10 this? We have to have a way to get that information out to
11 the public.

12 So let me go through each one of these briefly. The
13 voter-registration system is referred to, mostly by
14 election officials, as ENET. And this is an online system.

15 This is the only part -- this and the ENR, which obviously
16 is the very end of the system, the caboose -- is the only
17 part of the system that's networked online.

18 This is an online web-based database maintained by the
19 Secretary of State's office. Every time Diedre Holden gets
20 a voter-registration application from a voter in -- in
21 Paulding County and enters it into the system, (descriptive
22 sound), it goes up into the -- it goes up into ENET and
23 that person is now part of the Georgia voter-registration
24 database.

25 It's accessible by county election officials through

1 secure means; it's also actually accessible to the public
2 in limited ways. We have a site called MVP, My Voter Page,
3 where anybody in Georgia can go to that site, you put in
4 your first initial, your last name, your county and your
5 date of birth and it will put up your voter information.
6 It'll give you your precinct-card information; it'll tell
7 you where to go; it'll tell you how you registered; it'll
8 let you do sample ballots, do all of that kind of stuff.

9 As I mentioned, it's web-based and it's secured with
10 multiple layers of cyber security. ENET does not connect
11 to any ballot-counting, casting, recording system at all.
12 So it's a separate online database.

13 Next is the electronic poll books. These are
14 ExpressPoll. Georgia uses two: the ExpressPoll 4000 and
15 the ExpressPoll 5000, and the device you'll see next to it
16 is a -- is a scanner, a barcode scanner, which will scan
17 driver's licenses and pull up the voter.

18 This is what the election officials use. When you
19 show up at a polling place in Georgia and say, Here's my
20 driver's license, or, Here's my ID, if you have a driver's
21 license, they scan the back of it and it immediately finds
22 you in it and it says, Okay. Here's Chris Harvey; here's
23 his ballot; let me create a voter-access card, a yellow
24 card that you put into the DRE.

25 This is a very efficient way to do it. This doesn't

1 require, necessarily, a -- a poll-worker to look down a
2 list of paper, and then find Chris Harvey and then come
3 over to see, Okay. He's in Precinct 13-G. Let me check
4 off here. This does it automatically. Now, if somebody
5 doesn't have a driver's license, you can -- you can put in
6 their data and pull them up the same way. So you don't
7 need a driver's license to use this, but it's certainly
8 efficient.

9 If somebody shows up, you pop a barcode and you're
10 good to go. Here's Chris Harvey -- you can confirm that
11 this is the right voter and then you take the yellow voter-
12 access card, put it in the ExpressPoll and it will create
13 the -- it will create the ballot.

14 So you've done that and the poll-worker has given you
15 your yellow card and says, You can go vote on any of these
16 machines. You walk over there with that yeller (ph) --
17 yeller... yellow voter-access card and you find the
18 machine, you put it in there.

19 What is on that voter-access card? Is your voter-
20 information on there? Is your personal information?
21 What's on there? The only thing that's on that card is the
22 -- is the information about what ballot you're -- you're
23 going to get.

24 So if I go to vote and they -- they create a voter-
25 access card for me in ExpressPoll, that card says, Okay.

1 Chris Harvey lives in the Fifth Congressional District, he
2 lives in the State 41st Senate District and the -- this and
3 that and the third city district in -- in City of Decatur
4 and all of this stuff so that, when I put that card in the
5 machine, it pulls up the ballot for me.

6 If -- if somebody else -- if a neighbor from across
7 town was voting in the same polling place, say, during the
8 advanced voting. Let's say somebody from the southern end
9 of the county is there. They're going to go to that same
10 ExpressPoll; they're going to get the same voter-access
11 card; their ballot is going to be very different from mine.

12 It's -- they put it in there and it's going to pull up
13 their ballot. So we could be voting side by side in the
14 exact same building and we're looking at two completely
15 different ballots.

16 When you -- and so, there's -- but there's absolutely
17 no voter information. That yellow card cannot be traced
18 back and have any of my information there. Well, it's got
19 my name; it's got my address; it's got the last time I
20 voted -- none of that stuff's on the card. That's a
21 message for the DRE.

22 So you go and you put it in the DRE and, next, you see
23 the DREs which are the -- Georgia uses two systems now: the
24 R6 and TSX, and they operate the exact same voting-system
25 software so there's really no difference. They're a little

1 bit different in size but, again, you wouldn't -- you
2 wouldn't know the difference between the two except just by
3 outward appearance.

4 These are approved for -- and I use this term
5 guardedly, these are dumb machines. Okay? They're not
6 connected to any network; they have no wireless capability;
7 they're not plugged into the Internet; they don't connect
8 to anything. They have memory cards in them that record
9 votes.

10 When somebody casts a vote, you know, you see your
11 whole ballot and you make your choices. And, obviously,
12 you can -- you can change your choices and you can leave --
13 you can leave races blank if you want, but one thing you
14 can't do on these machines is overvote. You can't -- you
15 can't void your ballot or void a race by overvoting.

16 Now, if you choose not to vote for president or you
17 choose not to vote for superior-court judge, completely
18 your choice. That machine will let you do that. It'll
19 tell you that, Hey, you haven't recorded a vote for
20 dogcatcher or superior-court judge, or county commissioner
21 or whatever and, if that's the way you want it, that's fine
22 and you can cast that ballot.

23 It's going to tell you that, but it's not going to let
24 you spoil your own ballot by casting an overvote, and that
25 is how we got here from 2000. That was a significant

1 problem that this system fixed.

2 This can, at the end of every election -- and a lot of
3 people have seen this. At the end of the election, when
4 the machines are shut down, they print out a tape. It's
5 like -- almost like a cash-register receipt that shows all
6 of the votes that are cast on that machine for every -- for
7 every candidate. You know, This person got 20; this person
8 got 5; this person got 6. All of the questions: This --
9 this amendment got 3 yes votes; it's got 20 no votes. All
10 of that stuff is printed out.

11 Multiple copies are printed out and the memory card
12 that has recorded the vote is taken out and a copy of the
13 tape is given with the memory card. In addition to that,
14 the internal memory on the machine also records votes. So
15 if somebody were to take that memory card out and, you
16 know, accidentally, you know, drop it down in a bottomless
17 pit, we would be able to go to the internal memory and
18 access the votes that are on there.

19 These machines are tested before every election in
20 what's called logic and accuracy testing. It's required to
21 be advertised and open to the public. Anybody can come see
22 this where the sample ballots are put through and voting is
23 put through. Although publicly, the results are -- are
24 released. Anybody can see this.

25 These are kept under secure environments at all times.

1 Again, counties maintain these. State election board
2 rules and law set requirements that they be under lock and
3 key, that they be sealed, that seal to be checked before
4 they're brought out. So they're very tamper evident if
5 somebody were to mess with them.

6 And, if necessary, you could pull every ballot image
7 from these devices. It wouldn't be associated with any
8 particular voter, but if you wanted to go back and see,
9 Okay. This -- this DRE had 100 votes on it this night.
10 You could actually print the image of every vote that gets
11 cast, every ballot, so that, you know, this -- this -- so
12 here are 100 ballots. We won't -- we're going to -- the
13 local government won't have any way to tie them back (ph).

14 You can say, Okay. This ballot -- you know, This
15 person didn't vote for superior-court judge; the next
16 ballot, the person voted for everything; the next ballot,
17 somebody didn't vote for county commissioner and
18 dogcatcher. And you can actually see, print out a hundred
19 of those images and then tie it back to the -- the -- you
20 know, the cash-register tape, basically, that's printed out
21 by the machine.

22 Next, briefly, as I mentioned before, all of these
23 devices have memory cards in them that store the media; all
24 of these memory cards have to be accounted for and they
25 have to be uploaded into the GEMS system, which I'll talk

1 about in just a minute.

2 Next is -- what you see is an optical-scan device.
3 This is what's used to count paper ballots. As you know,
4 the paper ballots have a -- like a Scantron type thing.
5 You feed them in there, it has a memory card that records
6 the votes and they -- they go through the system. If
7 something is overvoted, it's going to kick the ballot back.
8 Okay? It's not going to count it.

9 This has no internal memory. The memory card is on
10 there because you still have the paper ballot. I mean, you
11 can run 20 -- 20 ballots through that and the card will
12 keep track. The card also prints a tape just like the DREs
13 do and they do it for us to retain the paper ballots.

14 These are -- there are about 820 or so of these in
15 Georgia currently. These are designed to precinct-level
16 standards. These are not designed to run a full statewide
17 countywide election. These are, you know, to be done, you
18 know, for absentee voting, for advanced voting.

19 Now, there are vendors -- and you'll see when the
20 vendors come in at a future meeting -- there are companies
21 that make, you know, large scanners that can do dozens, and
22 dozens and dozens of ballots per minute. These are not
23 those. These are one time -- you know, you feed one
24 through one at a time. And if you're talking about, you
25 know, thousands and thousands of ballots being counted,

1 you're talking about smoke coming out of these things by
2 the time you get through all of the ballots on election
3 night.

4 Next is GEMS, the Global Election Management System,
5 and GEMS is a system that we currently use, and this is why
6 I call it the brain of elections: Every county has a GEMS
7 server. The GEMS server is -- is basically a desktop
8 computer. This is the alpha and the omega of the election,
9 the beginning and the end.

10 When every county -- when Rockdale County is going to
11 have an election, they get their GEMS database from the
12 Secretary of State's office. We give it to Ms. Welch, she
13 uses that GEMS database, uploads it into her GEMS computer.

14 She uses that to create all of the memory cards for all of
15 the voting machines. It's -- it's the beginning and end,
16 and everything that's created by that card has to go back
17 to it.

18 So, if, for whatever reason -- let's say they --
19 they're uploading all of the memory cards and they forgot
20 one. GEMS is going to tell them, Hey, you're not done yet.

21 You're missing a card, and it's going to tell you which
22 card you're missing and they're going to have to go find
23 that card. They're just not going to be allowed to -- to
24 finish the election until every card is accounted for.

25 By the same token, if somebody were to try to

1 substitute a different card that wasn't created for that
2 election in that GEMS server with extra votes or some other
3 data, GEMS is going to reject that and say, No, no, This
4 isn't mine; you're not allowed to upload this into the
5 system.

6 This -- this is what provides the official results on
7 election night so, when -- when Diedre Holden has all of
8 her memory cards back from all of her machines and she's
9 uploaded however many dozens or hundreds of them there are,
10 it says, Okay. These are the results. And what's on that
11 machine are the official results.

12 They take that information on election night, put it
13 on a different media and upload it to the Secretary of
14 State's office, but those aren't the official results.
15 What's on that GEMS server are the official results of the
16 election. If there's ever any dispute, you go back to the
17 GEMS server. The GEMS server is non-networked. Okay?
18 Although it is a -- a laptop thing, by a state election
19 board rule, it is not allowed to be connected to any
20 network.

21 The GEMS has to be under lock and key. If they want
22 to move their GEMS server -- if a county wants to move
23 their GEMS server from one room to another, they have to
24 get written permission from the Secretary of State's
25 office; if they want to move it from one side of the room

1 to another, they get written permission from the Secretary
2 of State's office.

3 The GEMS is auditable. You can -- if there's a
4 question about something happening in GEMS, you can go
5 check an audit log and see, Hey, this memory card was put
6 in here, this was done, this data was created here; this
7 jump drive was inserted at this time. Every entry in GEMS
8 is audited and tracked.

9 The last component of the voting system -- which is
10 really not a part of the voting system, it's more of the
11 reporting system -- it is ENR, election-night reporting.
12 This is a web-based service, again, that is operated by the
13 Secretary of State's office. It's an online system we use
14 with a vendor.

15 Anything that goes onto that -- like I said, if you
16 look at it on election night, it says unofficial or
17 incomplete because these are copies of results that the
18 counties have sent to us electronically. Nothing is going
19 to ENR directly from any voting system, not from any GEMS
20 server, not from any voting machine -- what's on there is
21 the best stuff that's been reported to us by the county
22 offices.

23 If there's ever a discrepancy though, you go back to
24 -- you can go back to the tape, go back to the GEMS server
25 and say -- because every GEMS server prints out a report.

1 And it says, Okay. The GEMS server says that
2 Joe Smith got 50 votes. That's -- that's the official
3 result.

4 An issue that's come up recently -- and Tennessee
5 experienced this, I think, last month or the month before
6 -- is some cyber firms have launched what are called
7 denial-of-service hacks on E-mail, which is -- you know,
8 they basically crash the website so that people can't get
9 election results or they make the site unavailable for two
10 -- you know, a couple of hours. And think about the effect
11 that that would have on people if -- if, you know, you log
12 in to see the results on election night and the website is
13 down. It's going to cause -- it's going to cause problems.

14 We work with, again, our cyber-security vendors and
15 with our IT office to make sure that we've got every level
16 of protection against any kind of denial-of-service attack,
17 but that's something that people target.

18 All right. And I'm -- I'm nearing the end, but I have
19 a few more things to say. I'll be happy to take questions
20 at the end, if you want.

21 While it might seem to be easy to transition from one
22 form of voting, such as the DRE, to another form of voting,
23 such as a hand-marked paper ballot or a machine -- or a
24 machine-marked paper ballot, I believe it's important to
25 understand the changes that might seem simple on the

1 surface often don't consider the details that exist below
2 the bar line.

3 For example, many current election officials in
4 Georgia have never conducted an election using paper
5 ballots. Two of your commissioners have: Ms. Boren and
6 Ms. Bailey have been doing it long enough that they are --
7 they remember the old days. I wouldn't necessarily call
8 them the good ol' days. I wouldn't be able to decide
9 whether they were good -- good ol' or not, but they
10 remember that. But many, many election officials have
11 never operated any other system. It doesn't mean you
12 shouldn't change it, but that's something to consider.

13 There seems to be a strong consensus, and I -- I feel
14 comfortable saying this, that any system should have some
15 form of voter-verifiable paper-trail component to it. And,
16 given that there's no corresponding paper component with
17 our current voting system, that would necessarily leave
18 some transitional changes.

19 And here are a couple of things to keep in mind when
20 we're talking about this: First of all, laws. And we
21 have, you know, four legislators on this commission and
22 they'll be the ones who are responsible for this. But the
23 election code and the state election board rules which
24 govern elections and which are in place now have been
25 written and refined to work with the current DRE voting

1 system. We've been doing it since 2002.

2 There may be changes to existing laws and state
3 election board rules to allow differences and variations
4 from what we currently use and currently how we conduct
5 elections. Again, not saying that shouldn't be done, just
6 pointing out that needs to be done.

7 Second is equipment. Not all equipment is created for
8 all tasks. For example, while counties do have optical-
9 scan readers for counting paper ballots, as I mentioned,
10 these scanners are not designed to handle the volume of
11 ballots that a total paper election would generate.

12 And to mention a specific issue with advanced voting:

13 Advanced voting is a little bit different and, when you
14 have an advanced voting location, we need to have every
15 ballot available for every voter.

16 Now, let's take Fulton County as an example. Fulton
17 County has 100 -- in the May election, they had over 170
18 different ballots cast. When you combine the different
19 commission districts, and the house districts and the
20 federal stuff, they had over 170 different ballots.

21 So that sounds like 170 stacks of -- of ballots, but
22 that's not even the limit of it because, in advanced voting
23 with the paper ballots, you have to have a ballot for every
24 precinct, so the absentee ballots have to be sorted by
25 precinct. That would require over a thousand stacks of

1 paper ballots for a Fulton County advanced-voting location.

2 Now, there are ways to deal with this. There are
3 printers that can print ballots on demand, but that also
4 increases the costs and increases the complexity of what's
5 going on. Again, just something to consider.

6 Additionally, the current voting system has a
7 significant equipment footprint. It would -- as someone --
8 I believe Chairman -- Vice Chairman Fleming mentioned,
9 you'd have to decommission and do something with what we
10 now have. There's a lot of stuff. There -- there are
11 about 28,000 DREs in Georgia right now, you know, and a DRE
12 is about the size of a -- of a suitcase, the old Samsonite
13 suitcases is what a DRE looks like. So you've got to do
14 something with those.

15 Now, most of the vendors have -- that's part of their
16 -- their whole process is they'll go, Okay. We'll sell you
17 this new stuff and we'll do this withdrawal stuff, but
18 that's something that has to be taken into consideration,
19 too. And then, because our statewide uniform voting system
20 requires -- because our statewide uniform voting system --
21 being able to deploy a new system will be especially
22 important [sic].

23 As I mentioned before, the election calendar is like a
24 treadmill that keeps rolling on and states are fixed for
25 years and vendors need to be able to provide statewide

1 service like that. Some vendors in other states deal with
2 -- you know, other states, where every county decides what
3 they have to do.

4 They may be dealing with one county and they may be
5 replacing equipment for one county. We're not talking
6 about that here. We're talking about the whole -- the
7 whole shebang, 159 counties. That's a lot of stuff and
8 that is going to require a lot of -- a lot of support and a
9 lot of logistical expertise. Next is training and
10 education. Any new system will require substantial
11 familiarization with election officials and voters.

12 And, lastly, public perception. You know, there are
13 currently some people who believe that if they had to vote
14 a paper ballot -- say they'd have to vote a provisional
15 ballot, that that's an inferior way to vote and, somehow,
16 their vote won't really be counted, that they just take the
17 paper ballots and just throw them away. They don't, but
18 that's what some people think.

19 There are other people who don't believe that their
20 DRE properly captures their vote. It does, but -- but they
21 believe that. Simply changing a voting system even for a
22 good cause, even because it needs to be changed, can cause
23 voter confidence to suffer. Therefore, it's important that
24 these changes are made after careful consideration and
25 examination.

1 There's an MIT professor that has done a lot of
2 research and he's pointed out that even -- even in an
3 upgrade, any change in a voting system causes voter
4 confidence to wobble a little bit. So even if you say,
5 Hey, this is great news; this is a -- this is a new thing,
6 it's going to have an effect and we need to be aware of
7 that.

8 I want to talk -- lastly, I want to talk about
9 security in elections in Georgia, and this is not a -- this
10 is not an exhaustive explanation on security, but kind of a
11 list of different things that -- that makes elections in
12 Georgia as secure as they can be.

13 First of all, we have a non-network system. We have
14 state law and state election board rules that require the
15 proper handling, and storage and security of voting
16 equipment. We have tamper-evident seals on all of our
17 voter equipment; we have public testing of voter equipment;
18 we have decentralized operations where, you know, 159
19 counties are doing it -- nothing is networked.

20 So even if somebody were to get a hold of the voting
21 machine in Evans County or in Muscogee, they would have one
22 voting machine and it wouldn't affect other voting
23 machines. And one important -- and, make no mistake, one
24 would be way too many, and it hasn't happened but it's not
25 like if you get one and you get every one.

1 The auditability of GEMS, which show tampering or
2 other interference, the uniformity of Georgia election
3 procedures I believe is a strength and, while there is not
4 a voter -- voter-verifiable paper trail with the current
5 system, as a lot of people understand it, and as -- as most
6 people are considering moving to it, there are known --
7 there are paper components that tend to corroborate
8 election results.

9 And that -- you know, every DRE prints out a tape, so
10 you get a tape of the result. You get every voter that
11 fills out a voter certificate -- you've got that number;
12 you've got recap and reconciliation forms. So if Lynn
13 Bailey is at a polling place and the DRE vote is 1500 votes
14 and she's got 200 voter certificates, she knows she's got a
15 problem; if she has 1500 voter certificates and she has 200
16 votes, she knows she's got a problem. We haven't
17 encountered those problems, which is -- again, is a
18 testament to the election officials and their -- their
19 team or their staff.

20 As you know, there hasn't been any subject in
21 elections that has gotten more attention in the last two
22 years than that of security. When I attended the 2016
23 National Association of State Election Directors'
24 Conference in August of 2016, the subject was not a hot-
25 button topic. Nobody was really talking about it.

1 However, in 2017, at the same conference in February,
2 the issue of cyber security easily made up 75 to 85 percent
3 of the program and presentations. There is even an
4 unprecedented classified security briefing for the
5 Secretary of State and state election directors on issues
6 concerning election security.

7 Election systems, as many of you know, have been
8 declared to be part of the nation's critical infrastructure
9 and, therefore, are entitled to additional government
10 services and protection. There have been hearings in
11 congress and in state legislatures that have proposed to
12 aim state and federal money and other resources to be used
13 to protect election systems.

14 In all of this discussion and examination, I believe
15 it's critically important to remind commissioners and every
16 Georgian paying attention to these meetings that there has
17 not been any evidence that the votes cast by anyone in
18 Georgia have been changed or otherwise tampered with. It
19 simply hasn't happened.

20 There are some who believe that a non-electronic paper
21 ballot is unhackable. People think that if a system can be
22 hacked, we need unhackable paper ballots. I disagree.
23 There's a hacking device that can be found in every
24 classroom and office in this state that can be used to hack
25 a paper ballot.

1 This device, a pencil, can either use the eraser or
2 the graphite end to hack a paper ballot. You could erase
3 votes; you could intentionally spoil the ballot. That's
4 hacking a paper vote. Again, I'm not -- I'm not saying
5 that paper is bad, but to say that paper is a cure-all and
6 an end-all, be-all, as opposed to electronic, I think is --
7 is sort of shortsighted.

8 Paper ballots, in addition, can be lost, they can be
9 forgotten, they can be substituted, they can be spoiled,
10 they can be double counted, they can be misread or they can
11 be misunderstood. Again, this is not a condemnation of
12 paper ballots but a simple fact about them.

13 Last fall, I received a call from a mayor in a small
14 county in South Georgia. He sounded like a relatively
15 young man and he was concerned about something. He told me
16 that his grandmother had mailed in her absentee paper
17 ballot and, not surprisingly, had voted for her grandson.

18 He was calling me to ask me if her ballot would be
19 counted. He said that she had told him that she had marked
20 her ballot for him by way of crossing out the names of the
21 other two candidates who were running for mayor. I told
22 him I didn't know how the -- what the election
23 superintendent would decide about the ballot, but that it
24 sounded like she could have unintentionally overvoted or
25 spilled her ballot and, therefore, her vote for mayor and

1 her grandson may not be counted.

2 I thought that way of voting was very bizarre until a
3 couple of weeks later I learned that, in 1922, this is what
4 the law in Georgia read, quote: On the ballot shall be
5 printed such words as will enable the voter to express his
6 choice, such as vote for one, vote for two and the like.
7 And the voter or elector shall erase, mark out or cancel
8 the name of the candidate or candidates for whom he does
9 not wish to vote.

10 If it had been 1922, she would have voted her ballot
11 properly. Unfortunately, it was 2017, and I don't know
12 what happened because I'm -- I don't count ballots, but --
13 but that's a problem. I don't know what happened to the
14 mayor's or his grandmother's ballot, but it was a striking
15 example to me of one of the perils in assuming that people
16 will follow instructions or do what we expect them to do.

17 Obviously, the security of Georgia's voting system is
18 of highest priorities and we cannot flag at our effort to
19 continue to emphasize security in whatever voting system we
20 use. We need to continue to use physical security
21 measures, such as locks, alarms, seals, chains and cyber
22 defenses to secure and protect all election materials and
23 processes.

24 Lastly, having said that our system is secure, I can
25 assure you that our office -- Secretary of State's office

1 and each county election office works daily to monitor and
2 improve the security of our system. I believe it would be
3 naive to claim that any system is invulnerable to every
4 conceivable threat, but our voting system and the election
5 officials who've operated it for the last 16 years have
6 done so responsibly and with great care towards the
7 responsibility they have for the citizens they serve.

8 No question, our -- our system's due for replacement.

9 I believe that most people can agree on that idea. 16 to
10 18 years is a long time for any system to operate, but the
11 economy and care that county election officials have taken
12 to use and preserve this system has served all Georgians
13 well and I believe that they should be recognized for their
14 dedication to preserving this valuable state resource.

15 I believe that there are impressive voting systems and
16 options in the market place today. The challenge will be
17 in the effort to identify a voting system that provides
18 accessibility, convenience for the voter, minimization of
19 voter error, security, security results, voter confidence,
20 efficiency of result recording, vendor support,
21 adaptability and flexibility along with reasonable costs.

22 One of my goals in this presentation has been to make
23 -- has been to make sure that you understand that local
24 election officials, and part-time employees and part-time
25 voters will be the people using the new system.

1 The system will not operate in a vacuum. The most
2 sophisticated voter with advanced degrees will encounter
3 the same system as the person who never completed high
4 school and both of these voters, and every one in between
5 them, deserves a voting system that will allow and
6 encourage them all to make their election choices in a way
7 that ensures that their votes will be accurate, and
8 recorded and not easily spoiled.

9 I'm pleased and proud to be able to work with this
10 commission towards its goal of evaluating how new voting
11 systems might work best for all Georgians. And, with that,
12 I'll be happy to answer any questions that you have.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Well, Chris, we appreciate
14 you making a very thorough overview for us there of the
15 voting system in Georgia. As I mentioned, when we began,
16 to members of the commission -- this, of course, goes to
17 the audience as well; we're going to go ahead and move
18 through this -- if, at any time, you need to excuse
19 yourself, as I mentioned, there are facilities back in the
20 back for commission members or out front for anybody in the
21 audience. Please feel free to go and do that. But I do
22 want, at this time, to go to commission members and take
23 questions.

24 Chris, I have one for you that I'd like to ask. And
25 am I correct, that it's my understanding, that you talked

1 about the GEMS system, and that's where all of the DRE
2 machines will be counted -- the votes will be counted and
3 tabulated.

4 Now, am I correct that that information those various
5 counties send to you -- I guess electronically -- their
6 initial numbers, the official numbers, the ones that count,
7 are downloaded into some sort of disk. They do not travel
8 electronically to Atlanta to your -- your office.

9 However, I think our elections directors take those to
10 the nearest state-patrol post and these gentlemen over here
11 looking out for us actually transmit those, by hand, to
12 your office; is that right?

13 MR. HARVEY: Very close. You're -- you're correct.
14 The election-night -- the data is taken from the GEMS
15 server --

16 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Right.

17 MR. HARVEY: -- to a different device, not the GEMS
18 server because the GEMS is not connected, and that
19 information is transported to us electronically, then
20 populates election-night reporting.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: That lets you fill the
22 webpage with -- with results.

23 MR. HARVEY: Correct. And -- and lets people see --

24 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Right.

25 MR. HARVEY: -- see the unofficial result. And then,

1 after the election is certified -- you're correct -- the
2 county election officials coordinate with investigators
3 from the Secretary of State's office to receive the actual
4 physical copies of all of this stuff. They get taken to
5 the state-patrol office and then they're picked up by
6 investigators from the Secretary of State's office --

7 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Okay.

8 MR. HARVEY: -- and they're off to Atlanta.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I gotcha.

10 MR. HARVEY: So the GSP doesn't -- doesn't deliver
11 them here, but they hold them in place.

12 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Hold them in good keeping
13 until your people get there and pick them up --

14 MR. HARVEY: Correct. Yes, sir.

15 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: -- and take them to Atlanta
16 for the official count.

17 MR. HARVEY: Yes, sir.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Okay. Thank you. Questions
19 from members of our commission? And, if you want to, just
20 let me see your hand and we'll make sure that we have a
21 microphone for you.

22 DR. LEE: (Indicating.)

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Dr. Lee?

24 DR. LEE: Okay.

25 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Dr. Lee, just make sure your

1 microphone is on there. Try again. There you go.

2 DR. LEE: Okay. So thank you, Chris. I think that
3 was very informative. So I have a question regarding
4 whether the companies are responsible for maintaining their
5 systems. For example, for the GEMS server, are they
6 required to conduct regular software updates, computer
7 updates, security updates, analysis and so on?

8 MR. HARVEY: They are not -- they don't conduct
9 regular updates because it's -- it's an offline system.

10 DR. LEE: Right.

11 MR. HARVEY: So the system they use is -- should never
12 interact with any other system.

13 DR. LEE: Right.

14 MR. HARVEY: So it -- it is a static defense. So the
15 answer to your question is no. However, it's kept under
16 lock and key with very limited access.

17 DR. LEE: Okay. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Good question, Dr. Lee.
19 Other questions from members of the commission?

20 MR. MCDONALD: (Indicating.)

21 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Jimmy, if you would, grab
22 that microphone right there.

23 MR. MCDONALD: This is --

24 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Bring it a little closer to
25 you.

1 MR. MCDONALD: This is probably going to be more of a
2 general question but it seems like, since 2000, the big
3 thing is that uniformity has gone to great lengths in the
4 last 18 years. And I know there's probably great
5 challenges, with 159 counties, of trying to get complete
6 uniformity because there will be things that are unique to
7 the local governments (ph).

8 But from a general standpoint -- from the state's
9 perspective and your perspective and in a perfect world --
10 are there things that you'd like to see be considered from
11 an administrative standpoint that will take more steps
12 toward a uniform system and/or are we just at a place where
13 you feel comfortable, with respect to uniformity and an
14 efficient administration of our elections?

15 MR. HARVEY: I don't think we can get any more uniform
16 than we are. I think something that may be interesting to
17 consider -- and this -- this happens on some levels -- is
18 if there were some consideration of county size, for
19 example. I mean does Glascock County need to hold as much
20 advanced voting as Fulton County. Maybe the answer is yes.

21 But the -- the idea of at least considering different
22 standards based on voter population would be the kind of
23 thing that I could see at least discussing to see if that's
24 a reasonable thing to do, because you are talking about
25 significant differences. Of course, every -- every

1 distinction you make creates a possibility of breaking that
2 uniformity. But I don't think we can get any more uniform
3 than we already are.

4 SENATOR JACKSON: (Indicating.)

5 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Senator Jackson?

6 SENATOR JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chris,
7 thank you. That was a very good presentation. Just a
8 couple of questions. The first question: What's the two
9 counties with two separate boards? Do you happen to know
10 those two counties?

11 MR. HARVEY: Chatham County? Glynn County, I believe,
12 is changing to -- if everyone's -- it's changing, and I --
13 I can't recall the third. I'm sorry.

14 SENATOR JACKSON: Okay. And you mentioned the
15 percentage of errors on absentee ballots in 2000. What's
16 those -- do you know the percentage of errors in our
17 absentee-ballot process now in the past election?

18 MR. HARVEY: I don't. But they -- those weren't --
19 those weren't just absentee ballots. That was all -- that
20 was all ballots in 2000.

21 SENATOR JACKSON: From 2000, have you seen them go up
22 or down, the -- the errors?

23 MR. HARVEY: Those -- we don't track those on a
24 regular basis.

25 SENATOR JACKSON: Okay.

1 MR. HARVEY: And there are -- there are other ways
2 also to deal with that that weren't present in 2000 also.
3 You have voter-review commissions; you have other ways to
4 deal with a -- a potentially spoiled ballot.

5 SENATOR JACKSON: Okay. You mentioned that we have
6 6.5 million voters.

7 MR. HARVEY: Approximately.

8 SENATOR JACKSON: What's the percentage of those who
9 actually vote?

10 MR. HARVEY: It depends. I believe, at the last
11 primary, the number was around 1.2 -- 1.3 million, so I
12 don't -- I'd have to do quick math, which I'm not prepared
13 to do on the spot.

14 SENATOR JACKSON: About 20 percent.

15 MR. HARVEY: If -- if that's -- now, obviously, we had
16 much higher turnout last year in the -- in the presidential
17 election, but it really varies based on -- based on what
18 the issues are, what the candidates are. You know,
19 primaries don't generally get as much; you know, runoffs
20 tend to get a little bit less.

21 I believe our -- and I don't have the statistics in
22 front of me -- I can certainly provide them for you -- but
23 I believe in the last general election, in November of '16,
24 we had more voters than ever voting. So I -- I can't tell
25 you what percentage that is but, in terms of gross numbers,

1 I believe more Georgians voted in November of 2016 than had
2 ever voted before. So those numbers are trending upward,
3 but I don't have specific percentages.

4 SENATOR JACKSON: Thank you.

5 MR. RUSSO: (Indicating.)

6 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Mr. Russo?

7 MR. RUSSO: Thank you very much.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Grab it closer to you there.

9 MR. RUSSO: Chris, thank you for your presentation
10 today. Do you know how many municipalities do not contract
11 with the counties to administer their elections?

12 MR. HARVEY: That's a good question. I don't have a
13 number. I believe there are 600-and-something
14 municipalities in Georgia. And, just so you know,
15 municipalities are able to hold their own elections and
16 municipalities can use paper ballots.

17 I mean, you have got some very, very small cities in
18 Georgia that are not bound by the rest of these rules. I
19 believe -- and it's just speculation. I believe that less
20 than half of them contract with counties.

21 MR. RUSSO: Do the ones that don't contract with the
22 counties -- do they use separate equipment or do they use
23 the county's equipment?

24 MR. HARVEY: It depends. In some cases, they use the
25 county equipment. I think, more often than not, they use

1 paper ballots or they use their own tech solution. They
2 can use -- yeah, they can use the machines but then every
3 -- if you use the machines, you know, it generates
4 additional work and additional sophistication. But they're
5 -- the law certainly allows them to use the machines.

6 MR. MCDONALD: Do you think that that will --

7 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Sure.

8 MR. MCDONALD: So, theoretically, if half of them --
9 even under the same primaries, that they would have two
10 different polling places where people would have to go two
11 different places to vote for the municipal and the county?

12 MR. HARVEY: In some cases, yes.

13 MR. MCDONALD: All right.

14 MR. HARVEY: A lot of the times, they're combined but,
15 in some places, yeah, you have to go to two different
16 places to vote.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Okay.

18 MR. JABLONSKI: (Indicating.)

19 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Yes, absolutely, counsel.
20 Here, take my mic -- oh, you've got Dr. Lee's.

21 MR. JABLONSKI: Hey, Chris. Good to see you again.

22 MR. HARVEY: Yes, sir.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Speak right close to it
24 there.

25 MR. JABLONSKI: How's that? Oh, better. There are

1 several things that have always concerned me, but one of
2 the principal ones is the case with a spoiled ballot. And
3 it's absolutely true that the law says that -- you know, if
4 you spoil the ballot, it is not counted, if you even mark
5 it up. But some of these -- as you've pointed out, some of
6 these markups are done in a way where the intent of the
7 voter is clear. Is anything done to review -- review
8 spoiled ballots to see if the intent of the voter can be
9 ascertained?

10 MR. HARVEY: There is an allowance for that, where
11 counties have voter-review commissions where it's a -- it's
12 a bipartisan commission and, if they can tell the -- you
13 know, if they can determine the intent of the voter, they
14 will recreate -- they will duplicate that ballot and it
15 will be counted, so that can happen.

16 MR. JABLONSKI: Okay.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Other questions from any
18 members of the commission? Anybody else? I don't see
19 anybody to my right and I don't see any questions to my
20 left. Okay. Well, Chris, you did an excellent job. And,
21 once again, thank you for all of that good information.

22 MR. HARVEY: Thank you, sir.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I do think the secretary has
24 informed us it'll take a second to set up for our next
25 presenter so I'll tell you what we will do: We will take a

1 five-minute break. It is now, according to my iPhone,
2 about 10:39. So, at 10:45, we will reconvene. So we will
3 break for just about five minutes. Thank you.

4 (A recess was taken from 10:39 a.m. to 10:49 a.m.)

5 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: All right. If you would,
6 everyone, I'm going to ask you to take your seats. And our
7 next presentation will be by Ryan Germany, who is general
8 counsel for the Secretary of State's office. Ryan, good to
9 have you with us this morning. We appreciate you being
10 here and I'm going to turn it over to you.

11 MR. GERMANY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
12 Secretary Kemp.

13 My name is Ryan Germany. I am the general counsel of
14 the Secretary of State's office. First, I just want to say
15 thank you to all of the commissioners for serving on this
16 commission. I know that each of you are very busy and what
17 you are doing is truly the definition of public service.
18 The work you're doing helps inform the next general
19 assembly and the next secretary. Hearing the voices of
20 everyone around Georgia is crucial and we're all grateful
21 for your service, so thank you.

22 But, first, I will be significantly briefer than
23 Chris. I think it's very important that -- that he went
24 through that. My -- my job is a lot less complex. My job
25 today is to give you guys a brief overview of Georgia

1 procurement law and how it will affect -- we think -- your
2 work and also the work of the state as it moves to procure
3 a new system based on your recommendations and -- and as it
4 will the next general assembly and the next secretary.

5 First, and most important, I'm going to discuss the
6 process that our office is putting in place to inform the
7 work that you are doing so that you can get accurate
8 information that you need to adequately weigh the options
9 -- all of the options that are out there and that will
10 allow you to ask good questions when the vendors come and
11 give you a presentation of their systems. We want you guys
12 to be very well-informed so you can ask the questions, if
13 you want to.

14 Second -- and, at this point, it'll be more for
15 informational purposes -- I'm going to explain the process
16 that the state will likely use as it moves to procure the
17 next system. That process will take place after your work
18 is done, but I think it'll be helpful for you to know a
19 little bit about it.

20 Before I dive in, I want to add one pretty major
21 caveat: I have done a lot of work with the Secretary of
22 State's office and state procurements. I am, by no means,
23 the expert on Georgia procurement law, but I do know those
24 people and I have found them to be very helpful as we've
25 gone through stuff in the past.

1 So I -- I'm happy to take questions at the end or
2 throughout as you guys have questions. I might have to
3 take them under advisement and get back to you with an
4 answer. So, other than that, I'll get into just a couple
5 of things.

6 First, every state purchase that's over \$25,000 has to
7 go through a competitive bidding process. As you know, and
8 -- and Chris especially hammered home, the election system
9 is complicated and responsibly moving to a new system will
10 require the purchase of a lot of different parts, whether
11 it's ExpressPolls, voting machines, ballot on-demand
12 printers, optical scanners -- whatever it is.

13 It's not just a situation where you -- you roll it in,
14 unpack it and you're good to go. It will require a lot of
15 planning, decommissioning of old machines and education of
16 both election officials and voters.

17 To that end, what we're doing right now is we are
18 working on an RFI, a request for information. So we should
19 have that draft finalized next week and we will start to
20 relate it to each of you, and we certainly welcome your
21 input on that.

22 So what an RFI is, it's not a competitive
23 solicitation. It's -- it's kind of a pre-solicitation
24 event where we'll put together technical questions that
25 will ask each vendor the information about their solutions,

1 about how it works, about the security of their system,
2 ability to provide ongoing maintenance and decommissioning
3 of existing machines, the -- the implementation of the new
4 system and other pertinent questions.

5 We will also ask about costs. And, while the cost
6 information in an RFI is not binding on the vendor, it --
7 it is -- it's going to be used for -- I think for budgetary
8 purposes. You know, there -- as Chairman Fleming talked
9 about at the beginning, the numbers we've heard throughout
10 this process have -- there's a wide range, so I think it'll
11 be very helpful for you guys to hopefully get some
12 information from the horse's mouth on that.

13 The RFI is not scored, so it's really informational,
14 and what will happen is our office will receive the stuff
15 from the participating vendors -- and we hope that many of
16 them will participate -- and we will provide that
17 information to you. We will also provide summaries for you
18 guys as well.

19 We envision the next meeting of this commission being
20 vendor demonstrations. So we want to have that all -- we
21 want to have the RFI responded to and summarized for each
22 of you prior to that. I think that's -- we're looking at
23 that being an early-August timeframe.

24 So we want to get the RFI posted in the next couple of
25 weeks so we can give the vendors enough time to prepare

1 responses prior to the next commission meeting and then, as
2 I said, we will -- we will give you all of those materials
3 as well as summaries.

4 I'm going to next -- if there are not any questions on
5 the RFI process, which I'm happy to pause for, I'll move
6 into the -- I mean what'll happen after y'all's work.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Any questions from members of
8 the commission on the process that Ryan has described to us
9 this morning? Any questions?

10 MR. RUSSO: (Indicating.)

11 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Vincent?

12 MR. RUSSO: Ryan, if any -- if any members do not
13 respond to the RFI, are they excluded from responding to an
14 RFP?

15 MR. GERMANY: I don't think so. I think, in working
16 with the vendors, I believe they will want to -- to do
17 this. I think it will be helpful for them to get more
18 information out on their solutions but, no, it wouldn't --
19 it's not -- I don't think it would be exclusionary.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Other questions from members
21 of the commission?

22 DR. LEE: (Indicating.)

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: All right. Very good, Ryan.

24 Oh, we do have one. Dr. Lee, please. Uh-huh.

25 DR. LEE: So, Ryan, is it in the RFI that we can

1 request a vendor to agree to the process of a -- say, if we
2 want to do a take-down analysis of the system, is this the
3 time to request -- where they would agree to that
4 assistance or later -- later in the process?

5 MR. GERMANY: So the RFI is more for getting
6 information from the vendors. So we'll ask kind of for
7 their technical specifications and -- and sort of their --
8 yeah, I guess that's the best word, technical
9 specifications. In terms of, I think, getting -- it's not
10 the time to sort of get them to agree --

11 DR. LEE: Okay.

12 MR. GERMANY: -- to anything. It's the time -- Okay.
13 We want you to tell us -- you know, answer our questions,
14 let's get the information out there, and then I do hope
15 that what this process will do would then lead someone like
16 you to really know what you would want to look at --

17 DR. LEE: Okay.

18 MR. GERMANY: -- when that time comes to do a
19 technical evaluation. Great question. Thank you.

20 DR. LEE: All right. Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Dr. Lee. Other
22 questions from any members of the commission on that issue?

23 Okay. Ryan?

24 MR. GERMANY: So, in the next part of this -- and this
25 is really for informational purposes, and I know I'm

1 talking to people -- some people that at least already know
2 about this. But the next part after the commission
3 finishes its work, generates a report to the General
4 Assembly that the General Assembly can then take under
5 advisement, the state would have to do a competitive
6 solicitation to actually procure the new system. This will
7 likely be in the form of a request for proposals, an RFP.

8 According to the Georgia Procurement Manual, an RFP is
9 a formal solicitation method that seeks to leverage the
10 creativity and knowledge of business organizations in order
11 to provide a solution to a unique procurement. The RFP
12 process allows vendors to propose their own comprehensive,
13 individual solutions to the state's needs as described in
14 the RFP. The RFP then seeks to identify the best value for
15 the state by using a combination of technical and cost
16 factors to evaluate supplier proposals.

17 So, in this instance, we would use the RFI we're
18 putting together -- and I should have said earlier that
19 there are multiple states that are going through this
20 process now that have either just finished putting out an
21 RFP or that have one out now. And so, we have gathered all
22 of that information and we're using it to put together our
23 -- our RFI. We want to make sure that we're asking all of
24 the right questions.

25 And then we'll use that process to then -- what we'll

1 put in our RFP. You know, what type of -- what type of --
2 what type of proposals are we looking for and then see what
3 type of solutions can be offered. The main difference
4 between the RFI and RFP is the RFP will be evaluated. The
5 RFI is not evaluated. It's just informational.

6 The RFP, when that process comes, it's -- it's
7 evaluated by an evaluation committee. All of the different
8 questions have different weights and -- and then the
9 suppliers are scored that way. They are also scored on
10 costs with the lowest costs receiving the highest score and
11 it's kind of a step down from there.

12 So we -- we envision -- you know, based on the work
13 that this commission is going to do, we envision having an
14 RFP ready to go when the next secretary is sworn in so that
15 he can work directly with the General Assembly during the
16 2019 legislative session. I think that will work well with
17 the calendar for this commission.

18 So then we'll complete this commission's work, take
19 that under advisement, have an RFP ready to go -- you know,
20 a lot of the work is in putting it together, so that'll be
21 done before the next secretary is sworn in but then it
22 won't be released, I think, until after he's -- he's sworn
23 in.

24 I'm happy to answer any questions, and I just want to
25 say thank you for your time and your service on this. I

1 look forward to working with you on this project.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Other questions for
3 Mr. Germany from any members of the commission?

4 SECRETARY KEMP: (Indicating.)

5 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Secretary Kemp?

6 SECRETARY KEMP: So, Mr. Germany, I -- I don't know if
7 you answered this question earlier and, if not, it would
8 certainly brief the committee and -- and everyone in the
9 public, too, but will you speak just briefly to that RFP
10 evaluation committee and how that's made up? I think that
11 would give some transparency to the procurement process.

12 MR. GERMANY: Yes. So the evaluation committee can be
13 made up of different people. When we do ones at the
14 Secretary of State's office, we generally choose different
15 Secretary of State employees. We want someone who has kind
16 of a subject-matter expertise on whatever's being procured,
17 some legal expertise -- to the extent we have it -- and
18 then cost, budget people; that sort of thing.

19 Now, with this committee, we are able -- I believe --
20 to have people on this evaluation committee that are not --
21 you don't have to be an employee of the Secretary of
22 State's office.

23 So, again, with one of this size, we work with a state
24 agency called the Department of Administrative Services,
25 and they oversee all of the big procurements for the state.

1 So they are really the procurement experts, they will run
2 the procurement and we will -- we will look -- we kind of
3 -- we'll put together the subject matter for them but, in
4 terms of actually doing the procurement process, they run
5 that, they oversee it and make sure that everything is done
6 correctly.

7 And so, I think the evaluation committee would consist
8 of Secretary of State people but, also, it could be people
9 who are outside of the Secretary of State's office.

10 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Any other questions from
11 members of the commission?

12 Ryan, something that I would think I understand -- and
13 you can elaborate on it if need be: Obviously, the
14 Secretary of State's office plays a role in this, and we're
15 in the process of doing that now and will going forward
16 because of all of the aspects that y'all are involved in in
17 elections. However, in January, the actual appropriations
18 of funds will have to come through the legislative process
19 with the new governor's budget and the House and Senate
20 having to agree upon numbers.

21 For us to have reasonable numbers to plug in -- and of
22 millions, that is -- that's where this process will help
23 significantly. But also, typically, for the -- attorneys
24 on the panel will understand this; I know Secretary Kemp
25 will as well -- our current voting machines, the DRE

1 systems, are actually described in Georgia law.

2 If you open the codebooks or you go look online, you
3 can read the words, DRE, in the code. And the legislature
4 actually has to pass a bill that changes those words and
5 the governor has to sign it.

6 So this process of deciding what exact -- the kind of
7 machine we have is currently in the state law and, if we
8 follow that pattern that the legislature and governor did
9 some 17 -- 18 years ago, we would -- we would actually put
10 words in the code that would describe this machine that
11 would be selected. Is -- do I have that understanding
12 correct?

13 MR. GERMANY: Yes. I -- I think that would -- that
14 would be the best way to go forward, to -- as the
15 commission does its work. Also, within the code, we can
16 see as we -- as we move to a new voter system, we also need
17 to look at the law surrounding that system.

18 As the elections directors on the panel can tell you,
19 they -- I bet they have their election codebooks all year
20 and they are going in that book every day, as well as the
21 election board rules.

22 So, as we move to new processes, we should certainly
23 look at the legal environment surrounding it, which I --
24 which I think will both include a code rewrite and also a
25 look at state election board rules.

1 I would also add, from a procurement standpoint, the
2 legislature -- we -- we can't fund -- we can't run a
3 procurement that's not funded. So the legislators will
4 have to fund it or do something that says, Secretary of
5 State, go ahead and do this and then --

6 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: It needs a source of revenue
7 to pay for it.

8 MR. GERMANY: Yes, sir.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: And -- and, you know, with
10 just going through this process, we know that we went from
11 a multi -- multiple type of voting systems all across the
12 state, as Chris described to us, in 2000 to one system.
13 But the actual reason of why a county somewhere doesn't use
14 one of those old mechanized machines where you pull levers
15 is because our law describes a new machine that they had to
16 use, which was supplied by the state. So that's a --
17 actually where the rubber meets the road in the -- the
18 changes that we have to make.

19 Okay. Any other questions from any members of the
20 commission?

21 Ryan, we appreciate you doing that, good job and your
22 timing was better than Chris'. We'll have to give him a
23 hard time even though he did a great job.

24 Okay. Next on our list is Deputy General Counsel
25 Kevin Rayburn. Kevin, we welcome you. We appreciate you

1 being here. Please introduce yourself and we'll be happy
2 to hear from you.

3 MR. RAYBURN: Can everyone hear me okay? All right.
4 Thank you.

5 My name is Kevin Rayburn. I'm the assistant elections
6 director and deputy general counsel for the office of the
7 Secretary of State. I'll start by saying, once again,
8 thank you-all for being a part of this commission. You are
9 all truly stepping up to serve and I very much look forward
10 to your work product that comes out of this commission.
11 It's going to be valuable going forward.

12 What I want to talk about today is an overview of the
13 various legal considerations that have to be made when we
14 move to a new voting system and then I'll also briefly talk
15 about some of the procurement operations being done in
16 other states in this country.

17 On the legal-consideration front, I think there are
18 four main sources of legal requirements on the next voting
19 system in Georgia based on the current laws: That would be
20 federal statutes, Georgia's Constitution, Georgia's state
21 statute and Georgia's rules.

22 I'll start with federal laws. The main law that
23 defines federally what a voting system has to have is the
24 Help America Vote Act of 2002. This was a law that was
25 passed after all of the things that Chris talked about

1 earlier with the 2000 election. Congress wrestled with,
2 How do we fix the problems, because, in all states, there
3 were issues. And they passed, eventually, the Help America
4 Vote Act of 2002. It's often called HAVA, and I will refer
5 to it as HAVA.

6 So what HAVA did was it said, when there are federal
7 elections going forward, these basic requirements have to
8 be in voting systems. Now, because most of us don't want
9 to have separate election dates for federal offices than
10 state offices, that means -- because we have combined
11 ballots most of the time -- all voting systems have to
12 follow these rules.

13 The first rule laid out in HAVA and arguably the most
14 important has had the most impact on how voting systems
15 look and how they're implemented, and that deals with
16 accessibility. This is what HAVA says -- the requirement
17 on accessibility:

18 Voting systems must be accessible for individuals with
19 disabilities including nonvisual accessibility for the
20 blind and visually impaired in a manner that provides the
21 same opportunity for access and participation including
22 privacy and independence as for other voters.

23 Now, what that means in practice is that it would be
24 unlawful to have a 100 percent pen-and-paper election.
25 That would violate federal law, and there is no state

1 currently that has that.

2 And I'll give you an example of three states that we
3 often kind of think in our minds as paper states, and that
4 would be Colorado, Washington and Oregon. Those three
5 states are the three states that have vote-by-mail systems.

6 So every registered voter in those states is sent a piece
7 of paper, a ballot, for each election.

8 Even in those states, they have to use computers and
9 technology as a part of their voting system to meet the
10 accessibility requirement. What Colorado and Washington do
11 is they have still polling places. Even though everyone is
12 sent these ballots by mail, they still have polling
13 locations where people can go and, if they need accessible,
14 they have DREs in some counties; they have ballot-marking
15 devices in some counties, but they have some sort of
16 accessible computer-based equipment to help a voter mark
17 their ballot and cast it.

18 Oregon goes even further, and is probably the most
19 progressive as far as accessibility. What they do is not
20 only have physical locations for those people to cast
21 ballots in voting machines, they also will bring you
22 machines to your home. They will bring you a tablet and a
23 printer and allow you to vote from home if you need that.

24 They will also send people electronic ballots --
25 similar to what Chris described earlier -- except these

1 electronic ballots can be used by these people with
2 disabilities, if they have the right equipment, with
3 E-reader technology. They can actually mark their ballot
4 electronically, print it out and mail it in.

5 So, even in these states that we consider the main
6 paper states in this country, they clearly still are using
7 technology as part of the solution. And what this
8 commission and the next General Assembly are going to have
9 to wrestle with and decide is what role in Georgia will
10 technology have, how extensive will that role be.

11 There's a wide range but the federal law sets the
12 minimum, and the law actually says you can meet this
13 requirement by having one DRE -- that's actually in the law
14 -- or one accessible voting piece of equipment in each
15 polling place. So that's -- that's the baseline. What we
16 do from there will come from y'all's recommendation and the
17 General Assembly.

18 And, as you've heard the description of Oregon, I hope
19 you started to also think about security. That's --
20 there's a lot of computers; there's a lot of Internet
21 involved in that description.

22 Accessibility and security are often at odds,
23 especially with voting systems, and there are people in
24 both of those communities, advocates, that feel very
25 strongly about their side. And it is important that both

1 sides are represented, are heard and a solution can be made
2 that addresses both of their needs. But it's going to be
3 balanced and there has to be compromise.

4 You can't have a hundred-percent secure system that's
5 inaccessible and you can't have, at least with current
6 technology, a -- really, a system where you vote on your
7 cellphone. That would be -- probably be the most
8 accessible, but I think there are serious security risks
9 with doing that. And so, we have to strike the right
10 balance with the new system.

11 The next requirement I'm going to talk about federally
12 is audits. There is currently not a federal requirement to
13 have postelection audits. However, there is a current
14 draft of legislation called the Secure Elections Act that
15 would require that.

16 That legislation was -- I think last week actually --
17 being proposed as an amendment to the Defense Authorization
18 Bill being discussed right now which usually means, if you
19 get it out of the Defense Authorization Bill, it's got a
20 good chance of passing. So we'll see what happens there.

21 But what that legislation says -- one of the pieces --
22 is that, starting in November of 2020, you have to have
23 postelection audits in every state for federal elections.
24 So we'll see if that passes, but current law does not
25 require that.

1 The current law does say that the system has to
2 produce and be able to produce a permanent paper record for
3 each vote cast. Now, that's been interpreted by the EAC
4 and the Secretary of the State to not be the same thing as
5 a voter-verified paper trail, but it does mean a system
6 after election day, before certification and especially if
7 there's a recount.

8 It still has to be able to print out every single vote
9 that was cast from the electronic system, and our DRES
10 actually can do that. So that would be the current audit
11 requirement but, like I said, we might have a more strict
12 one but we'll find out very soon if that passes.

13 The next requirement in federal law deals with voter
14 review and correction. The federal law says that voters
15 have to have an opportunity, before they finally cast their
16 ballot, to review their choices and to be able to go back
17 and make a correction or change their mind.

18 Our current DRE system does allow that. There's a
19 review page and voters can -- if they see something that
20 they didn't feel like reflects their intent, they can go
21 back and make a change. And if you have a paper system, if
22 you're voting a paper ballot at a polling place, you need
23 to have the ability to go to a poll-worker, spoil it and
24 start over before you cast your ballot.

25 The next requirement deals with alternative-language

1 accessibility. The federal law says that voting systems
2 have to have the capability of being run in multiple
3 languages. Now, that's not the same as saying that
4 elections have to be in multiple languages, but the
5 equipment has to have the capability.

6 There is a separate law that actually does deal with
7 multiple-languages elections, and that's Section 203 of the
8 Voting Rights Act. And, in 2016, one of Georgia's
9 counties, which is the first county in Georgia to now fall
10 within those requirements -- and that would be Gwinnett
11 County.

12 In the primary that Gwinnett County held a few weeks
13 ago, it was both -- in both Spanish and English. And,
14 because our voting machines meet this requirement, they
15 were able to accommodate that, and the next system will
16 have to be able to -- be able to be run in multiple
17 languages.

18 The final federal requirement in HAVA I'm going to
19 discuss deals with error rates. There is actually a
20 minimal acceptable error rate with voting equipment, and
21 the current standard is 1 error out of 500,000. So, when
22 they do testing federally, that's -- that's the baseline
23 minimum. The target is 1 error out of 10 million but, to
24 pass federal certification, it would be 1 error out of
25 500,000. So those are the requirements of HAVA.

1 Now, there is a separate federal aspect of this that's
2 not technically a requirement of the federal law. HAVA
3 created the Election Assistance Commission, EAC, and one of
4 their tasks was to develop voluntary voting-system
5 guidelines. The key word is voluntary.

6 These are requirements that are much more in depth,
7 much more technical; they go through the various aspects
8 both from a material -- from a use standpoint, the
9 technology of the various voting systems and what's the
10 bare minimum that systems have to do, how well they have to
11 operate in order to pass these voluntary guidelines.

12 While it is voluntary, at least 47 states have some
13 sort of law or rule requiring that a voting system used in
14 that state meet those guidelines. Georgia Secretary of
15 State rule says that the next voting system has to meet
16 those guidelines.

17 The current version of those guidelines is 1.1 and it
18 was adopted in 2015. Just to give you an example of the
19 kind of things that are in there: There's a provision that
20 says if your voting equipment does have an ability to
21 transfer information over a network -- ours doesn't, but
22 some states do have network-connected devices [sic].

23 It sets a basic level of encryption that have to be
24 found, and the current level -- the current-level standard
25 is it has to meet a NIST-approved algorithm with a security

1 strength of 112 bits. Now, the security experts in the
2 room might have cringed a little bit there because I think
3 the gold standard is probably 256.

4 So this is clearly at a minimal level; it is now eight
5 years old, but they are working on a new version, 2.0,
6 that's recently been approved by a standards board and it's
7 being -- it'll ultimately eventually be decided whether the
8 EAC will adopt that, and that would improve the standards
9 further.

10 I think right now there is an issue -- there might be
11 a forum issue at the EAC for their members, so it's not
12 clear when we will have an opportunity to review and adopt
13 the new standards. So that's an open question. When we
14 move to adopt a new system, we might be under 1.1; we might
15 be under 2.0 So that covers the federal requirements.

16 On the state side, we start with the Georgia
17 Constitution, and it has a provision that guarantees a
18 right to a secret ballot. And so, any voting system that
19 we move to has to ensure that individual votes cast cannot
20 be tied to an individual voter. We can't know how they
21 vote. You have a right to a secret ballot under the
22 Constitution of Georgia.

23 On the state-election code front, state statutes,
24 there are two main statutes that come into play now. We
25 actually still have skeletons in the election code. We

1 actually have a whole series on lever machines, which
2 cannot be used for state and county elections, but it's in
3 the code. It has, This is how you run an election on a
4 lever machine, but we have other laws and rules that say
5 you can't use lever machines.

6 So there is commonality between the code section for
7 optical-scan machines, which we use for absentee voting,
8 and DREs. And it's actually pretty much in the language,
9 and this language was largely used in the legislation that
10 we saw earlier in this year, so there's a good chance that
11 this is a starting point for state requirements. That's
12 very high level, very basic, pretty much common sense but
13 it's in the law and I'll go through those very quickly.

14 The current law says the voting system must allow for
15 write-in voting. For general elections, you have to have
16 the option to write in a person's name who is not listed on
17 the ballot. You must not allow someone to vote for a
18 candidate more than once unless you have multi-candidate
19 voting but, either way, you -- actually, ranked-choice
20 voting might change that as well under our new systems
21 being developed that would allow that, but the current law
22 says you can't. You can only vote once for a particular
23 candidate.

24 You must allow people to vote for candidates and
25 questions they're entitled to vote for and not allow them

1 to vote for candidates and questions they're not entitled
2 to vote for.

3 The equipment has to be constructed of material of
4 good quality. When properly operated, it must record
5 correctly and accurately every vote cast. It has to be
6 constructed in a way that is easy for a voter to learn how
7 to use and it must be safely transportable. So those are
8 the state-law requirements, generally, for voting systems.

9 Our law says that we have a uniform system in Georgia,
10 as have been discussed, where everyone has to use the same
11 equipment. This law does not apply to municipalities, and
12 that's why we were able to do a pilot in 2017, during the
13 primaries, using newer equipment. So the cities are not
14 bound by the uniform requirements. That's state, federal
15 and county election law.

16 We'll move now to the rules of Georgia. As I said
17 before, we have a Secretary of State rule that says the
18 next voting system has to be federally certified. The
19 system also has to be state certified. And so, part of the
20 process will be reviewing systems to determine, do they
21 comply with Georgia law. And so, therefore, we need to
22 have a Georgia law that a system can comply to, and that's
23 where changing the law can be really important.

24 It needs to be changed broad enough so that you're not
25 picking a vendor -- obviously, you want a competitive

1 process -- but it needs to be specific enough so that there
2 are -- there's trust in the system; there's trust in the
3 process and people have confidence -- legal confidence that
4 the next system will follow certain standards that you-all
5 and the General Assembly decide.

6 And there's also a rule that says that federal, state
7 and county elections have to be performed using the DRE
8 equipment in voting booths. And so, that would obviously
9 also need to be changed if the next system is not a DRE
10 system. So that wraps up the legal front and the legal
11 considerations that are out there.

12 I'm now going to talk about some of the procurement
13 operations that we're seeing in other states and what that
14 means. Having reviewed some of the RFPs that have already
15 been produced and currently pending, I personally see three
16 basic models of voting that states are moving to.

17 The first model is a model that's primarily paper-
18 based. When people vote in person, they will be presented
19 with a paper ballot they mark with a pen and pencil. It'll
20 be run -- when they're satisfied with their selections,
21 they can review it, they run it through a scanner and then
22 it drops into a secure ballot box.

23 And that -- those polling locations would also have at
24 least one ballot-marking device so that people with an
25 accessibility concern were to use it -- can use it to help

1 them mark their paper ballot. It would print their
2 selections, they would review that paper, and they would
3 scan that and it would drop into a ballot box. So that's
4 the first model that I'm speaking of.

5 The second model is close to what we have today, and
6 it's one where everyone would be expected to vote in person
7 on a ballot-marking device. They would use that machine to
8 mark their ballot, they would print out and review it, they
9 scan it and it's securely placed in the ballot box.

10 And then the third model is a hybrid of the two, and
11 that is where, for early voting, people would be expected
12 to use ballot-marking devices. And the reasoning there
13 would be because you have certain advantages with
14 computers.

15 As we talked about, Fulton County, more than a
16 thousand, basically, types of ballot styles that would be
17 needed for early voting in Fulton County. Whereas, on
18 election day, there might be one, two, three styles --
19 hopefully tops -- it depends on whether there's a split
20 precinct or not. But there's far, far fewer styles on
21 election day than in early voting.

22 So, in this hybrid model, ballot-marking devices could
23 be leveraged for that advantage for early voting and then,
24 on election day, people would be presented with a paper
25 ballot and you would still have those accessible machines

1 available to use.

2 The current lay of the land is that 41 states have at
3 least one jurisdiction using ballot-marking devices. 30
4 states have at least one jurisdiction using DREs still and
5 then 20 states have moved solely to having paper ballots,
6 and ballot-marking devices and scanners.

7 Recent procurement that has occurred: Michigan
8 released an RFP in 2016. Thankfully, they put that bid to
9 the public and that included cost estimates. And so, you
10 can start to get a feel for costs by reviewing their RFP.

11 They had three vendors selected to the RFP process.
12 Michigan is not a uniform-system state, so the counties can
13 individually choose between those three vendors -- and
14 there's a contract already negotiated, so they're getting
15 the cost benefit of the state negotiation, but they have to
16 choose one of those three. When you look at a map of
17 voting systems in Michigan, it's marbled. There's
18 different selections based on the county.

19 Other procurement: Also, there was an RFP in Arkansas
20 in 2015, there was one in Rhone Island and then, in 2014,
21 there was a state RFP in Maryland, and they opted for a
22 paper and ballot-marking device system.

23 There are some current pending procurement operations.

24 In Louisiana, they have an RFP outstanding right now and
25 they will actually make their selection, I believe, by next

1 Wednesday. That's going to be an important one to watch
2 and we will definitely summarize and review all on that.

3 Louisiana has a similar system as ours. It's uniform
4 voting; everyone votes on DREs. Sound familiar. So what
5 they're planning -- according to news reports and
6 statements from their Secretary of State's office, what
7 they're thinking about doing is moving to that second
8 model. They are going to exchange their DREs for ballot-
9 marking devices.

10 That gives them what advantages exist for using a
11 computer to mark your ballot, but they do have voter-
12 verified paper trail, they can review it, they can hold it,
13 they can redo if they need to and, if they were satisfied,
14 they scan it and its secured in the ballot box.

15 So they're planning to move towards that system, the
16 second model I described. We'll see if that's what ends up
17 in the procurement. They're estimating that it will cost
18 40 to 60 million. We'll see what the final cost is. Keep
19 in mind, they have a population of 4.6 million.

20 Pennsylvania issued an invitation earlier this year in
21 April. They're not a uniform-model state; they are working
22 to certify new systems, but they have a mandate out there
23 that all of their counties have to adopt the new voting
24 equipment. They believe -- and, of course, I've read --
25 that it will cost 125 million to do so. They have a

1 population of 12.8 million. Georgia has a population of
2 just over 10 million.

3 Ohio is probably closer to where we are in the
4 process. They have not secured funding yet. Their house
5 just passed legislation to do so. They appropriated 100
6 million dollars that would go to the counties to procure a
7 new system. It still has to get through their Senate, and
8 has to be signed by their governor and then they would have
9 to go through their own procurement process. Ohio is not a
10 uniform-voting state so they would have -- the counties
11 would have the flexibility to choose from certified
12 systems.

13 So that's all have I have to say in my presentation.
14 Thank you for your attention and, if y'all have questions,
15 I'll be happy to try to answer them.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Kevin. Good job.

17 We appreciate your information on all of the legal fronts
18 that our next voting machines will have to consider and
19 comply with. Now, questions?

20 MS. BAILEY: (Indicating.)

21 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Lynn Bailey, do you have a
22 question for Kevin?

23 MS. BAILEY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Kevin, you
24 mentioned earlier federal legislation that would require
25 postelection auditing that's pending now. Do you know if

1 that legislation specifies any particular type of audit or
2 just an idea that some type of an audit needs to be
3 performed?

4 MR. RAYBURN: The language says that the audit has to
5 be done using a sample of ballots cast and it has to have
6 statistically significant -- basically, an outcome from the
7 audit so that people are confident in the results.

8 So, if that passes, we're going to have to figure out
9 what that means. What -- does that mean just risk-limiting
10 audits? Does that mean you can have fixed-percentage
11 audits or tiered-percentage audits like they have in
12 Arizona?

13 A lot of states basically say 5 percent of all
14 precincts have to be audited. Well, is that statistically
15 significant? Is that such a high level of confidence, if
16 it passes that, that meets the federal requirement? At
17 this point, I don't think we know, and we'll have to have
18 experts advise us on that.

19 MS. BAILEY: Just another follow up, if I may.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Absolutely. Please.

21 MS. BAILEY: Do you happen to know if that legislation
22 has been assigned a number or if there's some way we can
23 read it back or have access to it? Or, if you don't know
24 off the top of your head, would you get that to us?

25 MR. RAYBURN: Yes. I will be happy to get that

1 information.

2 MS. BAILEY: Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Lynn. Other
4 questions from any members of the commission for Kevin?
5 I don't see any.

6 SENATOR JACKSON: (Indicating.)

7 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Senator, please.

8 SENATOR JACKSON: You mentioned a number of items that
9 need to be corrected in our existing law.

10 MR. RAYBURN: Yes, sir.

11 SENATOR JACKSON: Are you going to list those items
12 out, what needs to be corrected? And is this in election
13 law or our voting law?

14 MR. RAYBURN: Basically, we need a legal mechanism for
15 this new system. The technology that exists now isn't
16 described in the code. So we can either take one of our
17 existing statutes, like the DRE statutes and modify them to
18 fit the new system.

19 Or -- and this might be the better route to go -- we
20 can just pass a whole new section of code saying, All
21 right. Start from scratch. This is what the system -- the
22 guidelines, the rules and regulations are, and either
23 repeal the other statutes or basically say they -- they're
24 null and void; they no longer apply, which is kind of
25 what we do with lever machines. We still have that

1 lever-machine statute in the code even though you can't use
2 those machines in federal, state and county elections.

3 SENATOR JACKSON: But did we repeal the lever machine?

4 Did we repeal it or --

5 MR. RAYBURN: It's still there.

6 SENATOR JACKSON: Okay.

7 MR. RAYBURN: It's still in the code.

8 SENATOR JACKSON: All right. Thank you.

9 MR. MCDONALD: (Indicating.)

10 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Yeah. Absolutely. Jimmy?

11 MR. MCDONALD: Just to follow up --

12 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Grab your mic there.

13 MR. MCDONALD: Just to follow up on that. Senator,
14 first, that'll probably be something for the code
15 commission to look at. I mean, that's all it is. It's an
16 obsolete statute.

17 But to follow up on the point you made also,
18 Mr. Chairman, while the previous act was very specific,
19 that doesn't necessarily tie you, as the General Assembly,
20 to that type of specificity.

21 So, as we go through this process and, toward the end
22 of it, if we have an idea of the technical parameters or
23 general descriptions that we know that are minimum
24 requirements, so to speak, for what we want to guide the
25 Secretary of State's office with, y'all have the freedom to

1 draft legislation that goes, The following things must be
2 considered, and it may be -- even be very technical in
3 nature. You have the freedom to draft it the way you
4 wish despite the fact that, in 2002, it was done very
5 specifically.

6 So we don't necessarily have to come up with a
7 specific system and say, This is what it is. As a -- as a
8 drafter, as -- in your role -- through your committee
9 process and et cetera, et cetera, we'll have enough
10 information hopefully by the end of this commission and
11 we'll -- we have a very general idea of what -- where we
12 want this to go and this is what it must look like.

13 So that -- that counsel, of course, would -- would
14 draft that up but they'll take specific recommendations
15 from a technical standpoint and then convert that into some
16 type of statute.

17 MR. RAYBURN: There's certainly concerns when you
18 go to a new system. The current systems are based on those
19 2015 guidelines. We're about to have new guidelines from
20 the federal government.

21 They are all -- vendors are always coming up with new
22 concepts and tweaks. And so, if you draft it too narrow,
23 basically based on what we see in the market now, that
24 means we're going to have to go back later and change the
25 state statutes if there's a new system that we want.

1 And another thing to keep in mind -- I should have
2 mentioned this: Maryland, with their procurement, they
3 decided to lease instead of purchase. And so, that's an
4 option. And, if you lease, now you have the flexibility of
5 -- when something new does come out and that's what we want
6 to move for, the sum of costs are not as severe.

7 SENATOR JACKSON: Jimmy.

8 MR. MCDONALD: (No response.)

9 SENATOR JACKSON: Jimmy?

10 MR. MCDONALD: Yes, sir. I'm sorry.

11 SENATOR JACKSON: And -- and -- now, just to follow
12 up, and what you're saying is this commission will be
13 tasked with coming up with those recommendations.

14 MR. MCDONALD: My understanding is that part of our
15 mission is to determine and give recommendations to the
16 legislature as well as Secretary of State. I mean this is
17 -- at a bare minimum, these are the technical aspects that
18 this system should have.

19 We can convert that very easily into a statute that
20 says, you know, any system that is procured or established
21 by the Secretary of State's office must have a minimum --
22 have the following, and then give guidance there. And
23 then, even if y'all so wish, you can give further
24 discretion to the Secretary of State's office.

25 So regardless of what the -- regardless of what the

1 statute says right now, I mean, that doesn't inhibit your
2 ability to kind of go in there, wipe it clean and just
3 write new -- I mean, it's 18 -- it's 16 years old. We've
4 learned a lot obviously and -- and have the mechanisms to
5 give the right roadmap, so to speak.

6 MS. HOWELL: (Indicating.)

7 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Yes, ma'am?

8 MS. HOWELL: Thanks for your presentation. I'm sorry.

9 (Adjusts microphone.) Thanks for your -- I'm sorry.

10 Thanks for your presentation. In your review of other
11 states' RFPs, did they -- you mentioned that access and
12 technology may sometimes be at odds. Did they address or
13 have requirements around permission or access to their
14 systems?

15 MR. RAYBURN: They do. They definitely have
16 requirements that the system has to meet these basic
17 accessibility and security requirements. And so, future
18 procurement documents that we issue will definitely need to
19 have those in there.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Ms. Howell. Other
21 questions?

22 JUDGE MCCOY: (Indicating.)

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Okay. Judge?

24 JUDGE MCCOY: Just a comment.

25 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Pass this mic down, please.

1 JUDGE MCCOY: Just a comment in the obsolete statutes
2 on lever machines. You did specify that cities were not
3 bound, and there are some cities that use the lever
4 machines and that's why those statutes were left in place
5 for the cities that do choose to use those machines.

6 MR. RAYBURN: That's right. One of the consonances of
7 review and/or repealing those old statutes is we take that
8 flexibility away from the cities. You may want to do that
9 if you feel like those elections -- if there is an issue
10 with lever machines. But that's -- you're right. There's
11 a few cities that hold lever-machine elections in the
12 state.

13 MR. MONDS: (Indicating.)

14 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Yes?

15 MR. MONDS: I have a question about -- in our packet,
16 we received some information somebody had concern on.
17 Could you explain, currently, is the voting system in
18 Georgia meeting all federal-compliance requirements with
19 HAVA concerning the ability to manually audit an election
20 and not just have a paper-vote total?

21 MR. RAYBURN: Yes. That's -- I've reviewed those
22 materials and I do believe that our current system does
23 meet federal requirements.

24 That issue in particular dealt with the permanent
25 paper record, and what the EAC has done -- and the memo is

1 actually in your packet -- it referenced two pieces of the
2 VVSG, for the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines, and it
3 said you can meet the permanent paper-record requirement by
4 looking to those VVSG exceptions. And, when you do that,
5 it says it can be done after the election, but it has to be
6 at the individual-vote level.

7 So you couldn't just have, for example, the tickertape
8 we talked about that has vote totals. That doesn't meet
9 the federal requirement, but having the capability to print
10 each and every single vote, one for each voter on paper
11 with their selections, that would meet it. And so, I do
12 believe we meet that requirement.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Mr. Monds.
14 Anybody else on the commission have any questions for
15 Kevin? Okay. If not, Kevin, thank you so much for your
16 presentation.

17 Now we are going to move to the part of our agenda
18 that deals with public comments. We had previously
19 circulated some sign-up sheets and we have about 24 people
20 that I can see here that are signed up.

21 As mentioned earlier, the way we'll handle this is
22 I'll call you and ask you to come forward. I think I will
23 have your name right, but I want you to tell me your name
24 when you get up there so we can make sure we have that
25 right.

1 I will ask you to remember that we do have a court
2 reporter taking down everything that is said. So, if I do
3 ask you to slow down or something like that, it's not
4 because I'm trying to break your chain of thought. I just
5 want to make sure it's well recorded.

6 We will allot, as I mentioned, two minutes for each of
7 you. I'll have a little timer up here. I will try to let
8 you finish and summarize. This will not be the last
9 meeting. There will be more, and more than one more. And
10 so, there will be other opportunities.

11 So far, I do want to say thank you to the Secretary of
12 State's staff for a good presentation. I think the intent
13 was to give us, as commission members, an overview of where
14 we've been, what the law is, the kind of things we may have
15 to anticipate and how the process may work going forward,
16 and I think it's been very educational.

17 So I'm going to ask each person that comes forward to
18 be respectful in your comments. It's okay to disagree, but
19 I would like for you not to try to be disagreeable. And is
20 there any questions about this process, as we're going to
21 move forward now, because I'm going to ask you to abide by
22 the guidelines that I've just given to you. Any questions
23 by anybody that's signed up? If I don't see any questions,
24 I'm going to assume that you agree with that and that's how
25 we'll operate.

1 Okay. All right. We will start with my first list
2 here. As I call your name, if you would, please come up.
3 And, once again, state your name again for us and then also
4 tell us, just like in a public-hearing format, where you're
5 from -- your county and city -- that would be great.

6 I'm going to begin with Becky Arrington. Becky, are
7 you here?

8 MS. ARRINGTON: I am.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Lovely. Good to see you.
10 Pull that mic down so we can hear you well. Go ahead and
11 please tell us your name and where you're from, Becky.

12 MS. ARRINGTON: Good morning. My name is Becky
13 Arrington and I am from Cobb County, so welcome. I am a
14 citizen; I am a voter activist. And, after recent
15 elections, I became very involved with understanding the
16 process.

17 I regularly attend the Cobb County -- and my board of
18 elections is over here and I also just took training. And
19 so, I'm working the polls in the last election. So I
20 really have a good idea of what you-all, in terms of
21 election professionals, are dealing with and the
22 magnanimous issues that we have before us.

23 I became very involved in the recent legislation and
24 looked at -- and thank you, Representative Fletcher [sic]
25 for -- or chairman, for giving us a background of all of

1 the different bills that came forward last year. And I --
2 anybody who was on that legislation board or any of you who
3 served in the legislature, I know you-all received a lot of
4 public outcry and a lot of public opinion in terms of the
5 bills.

6 And, in particular, the SB 403, one of the biggest
7 issues with that -- and the Senate had tried to avoid the
8 -- the use of barcodes, and I'm asking you-all -- we have
9 petitions available with hundreds and hundreds of
10 signatures and that was one of the main things that came
11 about, to be able to have a voting ballot that was hand-
12 marked and was verifiable.

13 And so, I urge all of you -- Mr. Rayburn, I -- I
14 thought your presentation was fabulous. We've got all
15 sorts of data from different states, so thank you all. One
16 of the things that we had asked about with the SB 403 was
17 to have this commission, and thank chairman -- Mr. Kemp to
18 -- thank you for putting this together.

19 I know that you guys have lots to do; it's very
20 confusing, but I urge you all to remember and keep in mind
21 the public outcry against barcode and unverifiable voting.

22 Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Becky. We
24 appreciate you being here today. Okay. The next person --
25 and, as I go through this list, some of you have good

1 handwriting and some of you don't. And if I -- and if I
2 mispronounce your name, I'm going to blame it on you. It's
3 not your fault. But, nonetheless, I'll do my best.

4 Garland Favorito? Garland? I've got the first name down.

5 Tell me if I've got the second one, your last name down
6 right.

7 MR. FAVORITO: Yes, you did, Chairman Fleming. Thank
8 you very much.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Yes, sir.

10 MR. FAVORITO: And I had a --

11 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: And tell us where you're
12 from, Garland.

13 MR. FAVORITO: I'm from Roswell, and --

14 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Okay. Thank you. Good to
15 have you here today.

16 MR. FAVORITO: Thank you, commission members, for
17 volunteering your time. I had a -- before I begin, I had a
18 handout that I gave to Candice.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: We've passed it out.

20 MR. FAVORITO: And so, I'll just introduce myself. My
21 name is Garland Favorito. I'm the cofounder of Voter GA.
22 I have 40 years plus of IT experience including about 12
23 years in transaction security, which is different from
24 cyber security, and about 16 years of part-time research
25 into the existing Georgia voting machines.

1 I advocated for verifiable voting in 2002 before these
2 machines were put into Georgia. I think that the most
3 important subject for the commission to be able to address
4 is why does the public distrust these machines and how can
5 you regain their trust.

6 In that regard, Voter GA has collected a lot of
7 information over the last 16 years. I would like to share
8 that information with you at a future point in time. We
9 have a PowerPoint presentation of only about an hour: 40
10 minutes and 20 minutes for questions and answers.

11 In the presentation, it will cover some of the issues
12 you see there: historical problems, testing,
13 vulnerabilities and so on and so on. But, most
14 importantly, we have identified seven objectives that I
15 believe the commission can achieve to restore that public
16 trust that's -- that's obviously gone (ph).

17 So, with that in mind, I think it's particularly
18 important information to share with board of elections
19 directors because you're the -- you're the folks that are
20 on the ground. And so, with that in mind, I'm requesting
21 that that the commission would vote today on whether that
22 presentation will be beneficial to them at a future
23 meeting.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Garland. We
25 appreciate you being here today. Okay. Susan Cannell.

1 Susan, good to have you hear today. Thanks for coming.

2 Please introduce yourself and tell us where you're from.

3 MS. CANNELL: My name is Susan Cannell. I am a
4 citizen and I vote in Cobb County, Georgia.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you.

6 MS. CANNELL: So welcome to my county. I am speaking
7 here as a citizen without any organizational connection.
8 Obviously, the 2000 election was my first wake-up call to
9 the issues around strange things happening in an election,
10 and the 2016 election became a much greater wake-up call
11 for me about problems with elections and voting systems.

12 The -- the idea that my vote is not secure or
13 potentially not secure became far more important to me.
14 And, since that election, my choice has been to vote
15 absentee. I'm old enough that I get to do that with one
16 application. Once a year, I can vote and it's like, Yes,
17 please, send me all of my ballots for the year, which I
18 think any citizen should be able to do. That allows me to
19 vote on paper; I know that my ballot can be sent back and
20 counted. Ms. Eveler does a great job on -- in Cobb County,
21 counting our votes.

22 And the only issue I have with absentee voting is that
23 the envelope is -- the outer oath-of-electror envelope is
24 insecure and allows my signature and other personal
25 information visible to anyone who happens to see it out in

1 the transit from my house to the voting office where a
2 longer flap on that envelope would solve that problem.
3 So, for someone who's had identity theft, like myself,
4 that's a simple reset-per-envelope solution. I've priced
5 that one out with a -- a person who's in the industry.

6 The system demonstrated with paper ballots in Virginia
7 -- they moved to paper ballots and they showed a system
8 where there was an optical scanner in each precinct, and it
9 meant that the voter took their paper ballot that they
10 filled out and they walked over to the optical scanner
11 themselves.

12 So any problem with an undervote or an overvote was
13 immediately -- the voter, themselves, was alerted and it
14 said, Would you like me to give you back -- slip back, you
15 know, your ballot to finish that race you forgot? Or, if
16 you want to fix the one where you've got an overvote,
17 you'll need to go see the election official, spoil that
18 ballot and get a new ballot and correct it. But it left
19 that solution of undervotes and overvotes directly with the
20 voters so that they knew that their -- if they had a
21 problem, they could fix it. But --

22 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Susan, I'm going to let you
23 wrap up.

24 MS. CANNELL: Okay. Sorry. But the systems that we
25 have do not allow a voter to verify their own votes.

1 Electronic systems are consistent; they have the same
2 product (ph), they're speedy, they're fast, but they don't
3 have the kind of voter-verifiable issues.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: We appreciate you coming
5 today, Susan. Thank you very much. Okay. Next on our
6 list is Laura -- and I think it's Digges. Laura? Is Laura
7 here?

8 MS. DIGGES: Yes.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Laura, please come forward.
10 Did I -- did I pronounce that right?

11 MS. DIGGES: You're the first person ever that got my
12 name right.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Well, my goodness. I finally
14 won something. Will you tell me what lottery ticket to buy
15 now? Laura, good to have you here today.

16 MS. DIGGES: Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Please introduce yourself.

18 MS. DIGGES: Thank you. My name is Laura Digges, and
19 I've been a Cobb County voter for 22 years, and I wanted to
20 thank all of you for participating in this. It's greatly
21 appreciated.

22 Only with robust and a comprehensive response to
23 invest in our serious security flaws in our voting system
24 will we (ph) -- we be able to protect the democratic
25 process.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Laura, pull that mic down
2 just a little bit to make sure that --

3 MS. DIGGES: I know. I'm short.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: That's okay.

5 MS. DIGGES: Okay. Is that better?

6 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Will it turn towards you
7 more?

8 MS. DIGGES: (Adjusts microphone.)

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: There you go. Okay.

10 MS. DIGGES: Is that better?

11 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Yeah. Go ahead.

12 MS. DIGGES: Georgia, as we all know, was woefully
13 ill-prepared for this. Updating Georgia's -- updating
14 paperless DRE machines with hand-marked paper ballots and
15 adequate cyber-security measures are crucial to our
16 democratic process.

17 We need a new voting system that we can have faith in.

18 We are asking for the highest level of protection for our
19 voter data. As you review the options, I ask if you'll
20 complete the following: Can the voters be confident that
21 the commission will seek for us the best available for
22 election security? We need hand-marked paper ballots,
23 software independent for every vote cast.

24 This system should not have any of the IT (ph) or
25 ballot-marking devices that generate non-human readable

1 barcodes like the barcode system that the counties piloted.

2 We need a human-readable ballot that can be reviewed.

3 The voting system that Georgia needs should be in the
4 best interest of the voters. Can voters be assured --
5 ensured that the process of choosing Georgia's new voting
6 system not be dictated by voting-machine vendors and their
7 lobbyists?

8 We also need to ensure that the vendor chosen follows
9 basic cyber-security best practices. Can we be assured
10 that robust postelection audits will be conducted? That
11 voter-registration systems and E-poll books are updated and
12 secure? That cyber-security standards for voter-
13 registration systems and other pieces of voting
14 infrastructure are met? Those are my questions, and I
15 thank you for your consideration.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Laura, thank you for coming
17 today.

18 MS. DIGGES: Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: We appreciate you being with
20 us. Next on my list is Elizabeth McNamara. Elizabeth, if
21 you would, please come forward.

22 MS. MCNAMARA: (Complies with request.)

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Elizabeth, good to have you
24 with us today. Thanks for coming. Please introduce
25 yourself and tell us where you're from.

1 MS. MCNAMARA: I'm Elizabeth McNamara. I'm with the
2 League of Women Voters of Georgia. I do live in DeKalb
3 County and I was the president -- the president of the
4 League of Women Voters in Georgia back in the early 2000s
5 when we went through this process with the Twenty-first
6 Century Voting Commission. And I really do appreciate the
7 presentation that was made -- been made here by Chris
8 Harvey this morning, reviewing that history and reviewing
9 all of the reasons that we currently -- that we use the
10 current system.

11 Because it is a system that, for all of the reasons
12 stated in that presentation, the League of Women Voters of
13 Georgia supported and we've had confidence in that system
14 for, again, all of the reasons stated during this period of
15 time.

16 I will tell you I've taken a lot of -- we've taken a
17 lot of heat in our -- in our own organization for that
18 support, and we obviously recognize right now that the
19 current machines need to be replaced and that this is an
20 important process and an important undertaking that you all
21 are taking on here.

22 Fortunately, the current technology now almost
23 invariably includes a voter-verified paper trail and the
24 League supports that. We also support making the paper
25 ballot the official record.

1 But our focus, largely, is on the systems surrounding
2 that device. It's been pointed out any device can be --
3 any device can be hacked, any device can be tampered with
4 -- it is the system that counts, and making sure that that
5 system is accessible to all involved, both those who are
6 running the election and voters who are coming to the polls
7 in all counties under all circumstances, is what is most
8 important to the League of Women Voters.

9 So we welcome the opportunity to continue to interact
10 with this -- with this commission and continue to have
11 input. And I will tell you, based on the presentation,
12 that one of my -- one of our chief concerns, looking at
13 facts surrounding our voting system, is early voting and
14 making sure that early voting remains a viable option here
15 in Georgia, especially with a 50-percent turnout rate or a
16 50 percent of Georgia voters in an election taking
17 advantage of that.

18 So thank you for this opportunity, good luck and I'm
19 sure we'll be seeing you again.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Elizabeth. We
21 appreciate you being here today. The next name on my list,
22 I believe, is Smythe DuVal. Smith (ph) or Smythe?

23 MR. DUVAL: Smythe.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Smythe. Okay. Smythe,
25 thanks for being here with us today, and please introduce

1 yourself, tell us where you're from. We're happy to have
2 you.

3 MR. DUVAL: All right. My name is Smythe DuVal. I'm
4 here in Cobb County. I'm also a citizen candidate for the
5 Georgia Secretary of State under the libertarian party. I
6 did decide to run this year because I couldn't stand on the
7 sidelines any longer.

8 I am also coming to you as a recovering IT director.
9 I was at a big medical practice here in town and they said,
10 Hey, we need a security officer. What do you say? And I
11 said, Sure. I had no idea what I was getting into and,
12 I've got to tell you: I was a little jealous of you guys
13 being on this panel, but I kind of know what you're getting
14 into and my remarks are going to try to help Mr. Lee so
15 that he doesn't have to explain most of the -- most of
16 the things that you actually are going out and researching.

17 One of the things you're going to hear about over and
18 over again is confidentiality, integrity and -- and
19 testability (ph). Those are the foundations for any IT
20 security system. It's foundation 101; I would never
21 recommend that you actually take a foundations-security
22 course in grad school. I took it two semesters ago and the
23 logic and math is awful.

24 However, I would suggest that you start to learn all
25 about information security, listen to podcasts and learn

1 about the threat landscape. And what threat landscape --
2 is what you guys are going to be looking at in security.
3 It's not just a hacker in a bedroom but is an entire
4 criminal organization that is way bigger than you can ever,
5 ever imagine.

6 The reason that you have these hand-marked ballot
7 folks really talking to you is that they have some really
8 grave concerns about garbage in, garbage out, and knowing
9 that you can actually twist anything once it gets inside of
10 a computer system and that you have to have a good source.

11 I would like to close my remarks by saying go to
12 Malicious Life. It is a podcast. It gives you the entire
13 history of malware. You'll learn a lot about it. You'll
14 learn about Fancy Bear and Cozy Bear types of infections
15 that -- it infiltrated the Democratic and Republican --
16 Democratic National Committee servers.

17 You'll learn about that they were in there at the same
18 time and they didn't even know each other were in there.
19 You'll also learn that John McCain and Barack Obama had
20 their entire laptop and their organizations infiltrated
21 during their elections. There is a lot going on and there
22 is a huge amount. I'm standing up --

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you so much. We
24 appreciate you coming here today.

25 MR. DUVAL: -- and helping Mr. Lee so that he can --

1 he can do his job. Thank you very much for setting up this
2 commission.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Smythe. We
4 appreciate you being with us today. Okay. Next on my list
5 is -- I think it's Janine Eveler. Janine, did I pronounce
6 that right?

7 MS. EVELER: Yes.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Janine Eveler. Please come
9 forward. Good to have you here today. Please introduce
10 yourself and we'll be happy to hear from you.

11 MS. EVELER: Thank you very much. My name is
12 Janine Eveler and I'm the director of elections here in
13 Cobb County, so I want to welcome the SAFE Commission and
14 Secretary Kemp to our beautiful county and our -- our
15 library facility that's brand new.

16 I would like to, before I continue these remarks, just
17 say that -- and I hope I speak for all of the election
18 officials in the state -- that whatever voting system
19 is eventually determined, we, as election officials,
20 wholeheartedly will do our best to make it a success.

21 I know that the dedicated officials who administer
22 elections throughout the state will continue to operate
23 with the same integrity and faithfulness as they do today,
24 no matter what system is selected. I appreciate this
25 commission and the work that they're doing to give the

1 voters the best possible voting system.

2 But I would like to focus my comments on the one
3 possibility that I would be against, and that is the
4 preprinting of paper ballots that are then delivered to
5 the polling places. That -- and some -- some supporters of
6 that option say that that's the cheapest and easiest
7 solution to implement but, in fact, it shifts large,
8 ongoing expenses to the county budgets.

9 And I'm asking the commission, instead, to consider
10 the many printing-on-demand options that are available.
11 Although I'm very much in favor of having a paper record so
12 that voters can verify their ballot and election officials
13 can conduct recounts and audits, preprinting the ballots is
14 not the most efficient way to go.

15 We have some experience in that in Cobb County. We
16 were one of the counties that has the optical-scan unit in
17 each of the polling places and I have records from the 2002
18 primary that indicates we bought 700,000 ballots to send
19 out -- and as a large county -- and that was when we had
20 36-percent fewer voters than we do today.

21 So my estimate for what the May -- the May 22nd
22 primary that we just conducted, it would have cost our
23 county \$272,000 in ballots at our current printing price
24 and that's almost half of what a primary should cost in
25 totality.

1 So I would ask that you also consider, you know, the
2 transport of those ballots to the polling place, as it's
3 also an issue. And many of our polls have over 5,000
4 voters in them and the poll manager would have to load and
5 unload 5 to 12,000 ballots out of their car and would have
6 to account for those ballots that were used and unused for
7 security purposes.

8 And, just to sum it up -- and I know we -- I have a
9 time constraint here, I would like to urge the commission
10 to reject an option that is a preprinting ballot option and
11 look at some of the new technology that's either a blank
12 ballot on demand at the polling place or a ballot-marking
13 device type of option.

14 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Janine.

15 MS. EVELER: Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: We appreciate you being here
17 today. Okay. Let's see. Senator, have you been playing
18 with my microphone?

19 SENATOR JACKSON: I have not.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Okay. All right. (Adjusts
21 microphone.) There we go. All right. The next name I
22 have is Michael O'Pitts (ph). Opitz, Michael Opitz.

23 MR. OPTIZ: It's Optiz.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Michael, good to have you
25 today. Please introduce yourself. Happy to have you.

1 MR. OPITZ: Good afternoon now. My name is Michael
2 Opitz. I am from Cobb County, Marietta. I am president of
3 Madison Forum, an organization focused on good government
4 based on the constitution.

5 A brief bio: I'm a technologist. I'm not -- I'm not
6 afraid of technology. I was with AT&T and I serviced
7 national accounts, International Paper, Federal Express and
8 Holiday Inns (ph) for computer systems and computer
9 networking. I understand that very well.

10 In AT&T manufacturing systems, I took technology out
11 of Bell Laboratories for commercialization, internal with
12 AT&T as well as externally, leading edge technology. And I
13 created the data-engineering department in Sandy Springs
14 that serviced accounts -- new telephone-company accounts
15 nationwide.

16 The purpose of voting machines is to do basically one
17 thing: It's to record a vote accurately where we can then
18 have a verifiable recount. The current system that we have
19 in place fails miserably on that, and that was selected by
20 a group of folks who ignored the basic requirement of
21 voting systems, and we spent millions of dollars. So I
22 would implore you to keep it simple.

23 I find it interesting that we would spend millions of
24 dollars on computerized systems to do one thing, and that's
25 to add a single-digit number. I think computer systems are

1 much more suitable for manipulation of data in complex
2 situations. Often times, when you look -- the voters will
3 look at this and say, This is another government boondoggle
4 where you're spending millions of dollars to do something
5 very, very simple, a simple function.

6 Having applied technology and also implementing an ISO
7 9000 processes -- before you throw data, before you throw
8 technology at a problem, you engineer that problem, you
9 engineer the process to make sure that it is simplified.

10 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I'm going to let you wrap up,
11 Michael.

12 MR. OPITZ: Okay. So I would ask that you look at it
13 as a business problem and apply a business solution, not
14 another government boondoggle that the taxpayers and voters
15 don't have confidence in.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Michael. We
17 appreciate you being here today. The next name on my list
18 is -- I think it's Dana Bowers. Dana, are you here?

19 MS. BOWERS: I am.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Good to have you with us
21 today, Dana. Thanks for coming. Please introduce
22 yourself. We're happy to have you.

23 MS. BOWERS: Yes.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Tell us where you're from,
25 Dana.

1 MS. BOWERS: Hi, my name is Dana Bowers. I'm the
2 operations director for Democracy Spring Georgia and I'm a
3 Gwinnett County voter and activist that's committed to the
4 cause of verifiable and secure elections.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you -- thank you, Dana.

6 MS. BOWERS: I've communicated with many of you as --
7 as I opposed SB 403, the bill that would've permitted
8 barcodes as ballots. Thank you for your rejection of that
9 misguided concept and your willingness to devote -- devote
10 your time, energy and knowledge to finding the right
11 solutions with generous input from other experts and
12 voters.

13 I believe that you-all have received a proposal from
14 the Coalition For Good Governance as well as my summarized
15 bullet points for the immediate conversion to paper ballots
16 using the paper-ballot system that Georgia currently owns
17 and -- excuse me. I'm sorry. I lost my place -- currently
18 owns and uses for counting paper ballots. Georgia owns
19 over a thousand of these scanners and more are readily
20 available for loan or donation.

21 The counties that have them now, they also have the
22 software licenses and capability to use these scanners to
23 count hand-marked paper ballots for all voters and get them
24 right away. Immediately employing the current paper-ballot
25 system for November's election as well is definitely

1 feasible and gives the state and -- gives the statewide --
2 over, you know, a period of time to actually do what this
3 commission is meant to do, which is decide on a proper
4 system but also guarantee protection for our vote [sic].

5 I know a concern has been raised today that the
6 AccuVote scanners are unable to handle the volume of paper
7 ballots to be an efficient method for tallying our votes.
8 I'll happily provide the commission with years of data from
9 many other states that use these scanners during high-
10 volume elections and that will demonstrate the adequacy of
11 the AccuVote scanners. Georgia already possesses and uses
12 these scanners and I urge the commission just to keep an
13 open mind and -- and I will follow up accordingly. I ask
14 that, in your near -- during deliberations --

15 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I'm going to let you
16 summarize, Dana, please.

17 MS. BOWERS: Oh, sure, sure. No, I -- basically, all
18 I will say is I'll be happy to provide information and I've
19 already been in touch with a lot of people. So I just
20 really want to thank the commission for, you know, doing
21 their job and thank you, Mr. Kemp, for putting this
22 commission together for us.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Dana, thank you for coming
24 today. We appreciate your input.

25 MS. BOWERS: Thank you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Okay. Next on my list is
2 Caroline Stover. Caroline, if you would, please come
3 forward. We appreciate you being here today. Thanks for
4 coming out, and introduce yourself and tell us where you're
5 from.

6 MS. STOVER: Thank you. My name is Caroline Stover.
7 I'm a DeKalb County resident and voter.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you.

9 MS. STOVER: Secretary Kemp, I certainly appreciate
10 you convening this committee here today, but my fear is
11 that it's too little too late. I am not as technically
12 involved, I think, as a lot of people here -- a lot of the
13 citizens here today. What I heard was a tremendous amount
14 of information about financing, legal and logistical
15 guidelines and hurdles that the committee needs to -- needs
16 to do its job [sic].

17 Time is really of the essence. That's my main
18 concern. Time is of the essence because, in just over two
19 years, we have an important election coming up. In just a
20 few months, we have another important election and, of
21 course, it's really -- whatever happens here, you know,
22 with this committee, it's really too late for that
23 election. That's understood.

24 So, Secretary Kemp, my question is why now? How can
25 -- how can you personally, in your position, justify

1 waiting so long? I am referring specifically to 2016 --
2 two years ago -- when, across the nation, there was
3 increased concern about voter security to the degree that
4 the Department of Homeland Security offered the states some
5 oversight.

6 They offered to scan networks and, unfortunately,
7 apparently on your watch, sir, the -- Georgia was only 1 of
8 2 states that refused that help from the Department of
9 Homeland Security. Why was that? That was two years ago.

10 Last year, in the midst of the controversy at Kennesaw
11 State's voting center, why wasn't --

12 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I'm going to let you wrap up.

13 MS. STOVER: -- any committee convened at that time,
14 sir? My question is -- and I hope that there is time for
15 an answer -- how can you gain back the trust of Georgia
16 voters that -- that this committee is, in fact, going to be
17 able to do this by the 2020 election? That is my question.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Caroline, we appreciate
19 you --

20 MS. STOVER: Can you guarantee the 2020 election will
21 have safe and secure voting in Georgia?

22 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Caroline, we appreciate you
23 being here today.

24 MS. STOVER: Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: You can have a seat.

1 Mr. Secretary, do you want to make any comments?

2 SECRETARY KEMP: (Nonverbal response.)

3 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Okay. Next on our list will
4 be Fred -- and I want to say Brandez (ph). Fred Brandez.
5 Fred, did I get the last name right?

6 MR. BRANDES: It was close.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Close. I'm going to let
8 you correct me when you get up here today. And your
9 handwriting was pretty good. I just can't pronounce it.
10 So welcome, Fred. Good to have you. Tell us who you are
11 and where you're from.

12 MR. BRANDES: Yes. My name is Fred Brandes. I'm from
13 Roswell. And I feel a little bit like Mr. Smith in his
14 maiden speech before congress. I know some of the younger
15 folks probably don't know the reference, but I'm sure all
16 of you have seen the movie.

17 I relocated to this great state in 1986 from New
18 Jersey, what many native Georgians would consider foreign
19 land. One of the first things that struck me about Georgia
20 besides from the hospitality of the people and the
21 hospitable climate -- if you've ever spent a day in
22 February in New Jersey, you'll understand what I mean --
23 what struck me was how elections were conducted.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Fred, you're doing fine but I
25 want you to pull that mic down just a little bit so that I

1 can hear you.

2 MR. BRANDES: (Adjusts microphone.) That good?

3 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you.

4 MR. BRANDES: My bad.

5 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Go ahead.

6 MR. BRANDES: The difference in elections between
7 New Jersey and Georgia is the difference between night and
8 day. When I voted in New Jersey, I would step into a
9 voting booth, pull the lever and close the curtain behind
10 me, set levers to indicate my ballot choices and then
11 reverse the lever to register my vote and draw back the
12 curtain. I knew -- or I thought I knew that I had voted
13 and that my vote would be counted. My confidence rested
14 solely and entirely on some mechanical counters inside of
15 that voting machine.

16 When I first moved over here to Georgia, I was
17 delighted that paper ballots were used. When I slipped my
18 ballot into the ballot box, I had a sense that, yes, I
19 really have voted and that my vote would actually be
20 counted and that maybe my vote could be reexamined. The
21 confidence I had when I voted in New Jersey paled in
22 comparison to the confidence I had in Georgia's paper-
23 ballot system.

24 A lot has changed here in Georgia in the 30-odd years
25 I've lived here. Most, for the good and, some, for the

1 worst. I believe --

2 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I want to give you --

3 MR. BRANDES: -- the current voting system --

4 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I want to give you a chance
5 to wrap up, Fred. Okay?

6 MR. BRANDES: Okay. I believe the current voting
7 system has been changed for the worst, not only for the
8 possibilities of unintentional human error in the software
9 designed to tabulate the vote and possibilities of
10 malicious manipulation of that software, but also -- and I
11 believe most importantly -- the erosion of public
12 confidence that one's vote will count.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Fred, we appreciate you for
14 coming in today.

15 MR. BRANDES: Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you so much. The next
17 person I have on the list is Steven Griffin. Steven, if
18 you would, please come forward all the way up from the
19 back. You're not a Baptist, are you, Steven? They usually
20 sit in the back. Good to have you, Steven. Thanks for
21 coming today. I do appreciate it. Please introduce
22 yourself and we'd love to hear from you.

23 MR. GRIFFIN: Absolutely. Good afternoon and thank
24 you to the committee for allowing the time for public
25 comment. My name is Steven Griffin, and I was a candidate

1 for public office in the most recent election. During my
2 run, I had several people -- well, not several -- a number
3 of people approach me with various concerns about the
4 election system in Georgia, so I'm here today in my
5 capacity as a private citizen but also to represent their
6 concerns.

7 The issues before us today are not new. I wrote about
8 them back in -- when I was in high school. I was a senior,
9 specifically, back in 2006. I am pleased that we're taking
10 the time to discuss these issues before us today, but I
11 encourage the commission to take a different path than the
12 one that we play so far.

13 To be clear, this isn't a democratic, republican or
14 libertarian issue. It's a foundational one. Regardless of
15 where one stands on the political continuum or what issues
16 one advocates for, all of that is for none if we cannot
17 reasonably believe that our vote counts and that we can
18 verify that our vote counts.

19 As hundreds of years of democratic tradition have
20 taught us, secure, verifiable voting needn't to be complex
21 and it needn't be expensive. It simply requires that we
22 acknowledge what works and discard what doesn't. Paper
23 balloting has served us well and there is no reason to
24 believe that it couldn't continue to do so. On-demand
25 printing would allow us to improve this process even

1 further. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Steven. We
3 appreciate you coming in today. Thank you for your being
4 here. Next is Marilyn -- and is it Maxx (ph)? Marilyn, is
5 it Marks?

6 MS. MARKS: Marks.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Marks. Okay, Marilyn.

8 MS. MARKS: I'm one of your ones with bad handwriting.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: What? It's not that bad --

10 MS. MARKS: I apologize.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I couldn't -- it's just a C
12 or an R. Marilyn, good to have you. Thanks for coming.
13 Please introduce yourself and tell us where you're from.

14 MS. MARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. I'm
15 Marilyn Marks and I'm here from Charlotte, North Carolina.
16 I'm the executive director of the Coalition for Good
17 Governance, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, focused
18 on election quality, transparency and voter privacy.

19 Thank you for your dedication to this panel and the
20 most fundamental rights that you are protecting for us. I
21 have four foundational issues that I would like for you --
22 as to consider to be placed on your next agenda.

23 One, whether the state should continue to have the
24 uniform system that you heard about today, the one-size-
25 fits-all system, and you might see it as placing all of the

1 eggs in one basket, one vendor, one type of system. And
2 then whether the state should continue to have centralized
3 programming and management -- excuse me -- of that system.

4 Now you've taken all of your eggs, put them in one
5 basket. I think you're taking all of your eggs and putting
6 them all into -- combining them in one egg. It ends up
7 with a very high-risk, highly-exploitable system and there
8 is a reason that most states reject that as a very bad
9 practice.

10 You've heard today very few states do it; there's a
11 good reason why. Please revisit that in your next meeting.

12 I urge you to bring in other states' officials to
13 understand exactly why they reject those -- the single
14 point-of-failure strategy.

15 Also, I would like for you to address the realistic
16 timeframe for the implementation of the new system. I
17 think, if you talked to other state officials who've
18 actually done this, what you will learn is from where
19 Georgia is today, it's probably a three-plus-year
20 transition to actually do it well.

21 And so, we've got a long time yet to deal with how are
22 we going to transition to get there, to have a secure
23 system, and I urge you not to be unrealistic about what
24 it's going to take to make the move.

25 You-all have from me a memo that is a proposal for a

1 low-risk, low-cost transition, a stop-gov method (ph), to
2 use your current scanners that would work perfectly fine
3 for the next several years as you can phase in a more
4 modern system.

5 You'll be getting another memo from me today to rebut
6 some of the things you've heard in the presentation where
7 I think you may have picked up some misinformation. But
8 thank you for the opportunity to have such a public
9 dialogue and to have the openness that you have on the
10 panel so that you can hear from us. And I know there's a
11 lot to deliberate over the next several months.

12 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Marilyn.

13 MS. MARKS: And thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: We do appreciate you coming
15 in today. Thank you very much.

16 MS. MARKS: Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Next on our list is
18 Todd Edwards. Todd, please come forward. Happy to have
19 you with us today. Thanks for coming. Please introduce
20 yourself, tell us where you're from and we'll be happy to
21 hear from you.

22 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is
23 Todd -- Todd Edwards. I'm with the Association of County
24 Commissioners. I'll waive my opportunity for comments
25 other than to thank you, Mr. Secretary, for setting up this

1 commission. It's a great group of folks. And, in
2 particular, we sincerely appreciate the inclusion of county
3 election officials who, no doubt, will provide invaluable
4 input on both county suggestions and concerns throughout
5 the process. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Todd. We
7 appreciate you coming today. Thank you for your
8 organization and all of the work you do on behalf of the
9 counties.

10 Next on the list is Elizabeth Shackelford. Elizabeth,
11 good to have you with us today. Thanks for coming. Come
12 on up front and please introduce yourself and tell us where
13 you're from.

14 MS. SHACKELFORD: Certainly. Thank you. My name is
15 Elizabeth Shackelford. I've been a Georgia resident for
16 about 39 years, and the last 20 of those in DeKalb County.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you.

18 MS. SHACKELFORD: Thank you. I'm glad to have this
19 opportunity to speak with you and I'm grateful for your
20 service. I'm very concerned, like many of the folks who
21 have spoken about this issue. I merely want to know that
22 every person's vote counts.

23 Your work will probably inform legislative decisions
24 that will -- we will live with for at least 10 years.
25 Voting cyber-security experts, such as Jeremy Epstein of

1 the National Science Foundation, state that hand-marked --
2 and typically pen, not pencil -- ballots -- paper ballots
3 are the most secure system available today. The state of
4 the art for voting cyber security.

5 I am alarmed by the number of people, including voting
6 officials I've talked to, who believe an all-electronic
7 ballot-marking device system is automatically superior.
8 Some of this tech bias is due to most people getting their
9 information about voting systems from vendors rather than
10 from independent experts.

11 One quick reference: The incorrect assertion that
12 voting machines or voting systems can't be hacked by remote
13 attackers because they are quote, Not connected to the
14 Internet, is not just wrong; it's damaging, says -- says
15 Susan Greenhalgh, a spokesperson for the National Election
16 Defense Coalition and Elections Integrity Group.

17 This oft-repeated myth installs a false sense of
18 security that is inhibiting officials and lawmakers from
19 urgently requiring that all voting systems use paper
20 ballots and that all elections be robustly audited.

21 So my question to you is will there be independent
22 analysis of all of the possible touch points of the system
23 and how will you ensure that your process is not unduly
24 influenced by voting-system vendors and their lobbyists?

25 Also, like some others who have spoken --

1 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: I'm going to give you a
2 second to wrap up, please.

3 MS. SHACKELFORD: Okay. I worked in IT for many
4 years. Processes always started with developing detailed
5 requirements before any thought about vendor selection, so
6 I'm wondering why RFIs are being elicited now without a
7 detailed set of requirements and who preselected these
8 vendors and on what basis? Thank you very much.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Elizabeth. We
10 appreciate you coming here today.

11 Next on my list is Sara Henderson. Sara, are you here
12 with us? There you are in the back. Come on up. Good to
13 have you. I think we've -- we've outlived the life of some
14 of the batteries in these mics.

15 MS. HENDERSON: Oh, wow. That's impressive.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Sara, but it's good to have
17 you. Please introduce yourself. Tell us where you're
18 from.

19 MS. HENDERSON: Yes. Hi, everybody. I'm Sara
20 Henderson. I'm the executive director of Common Cause
21 Georgia. We are a good-government watchdog group. We've
22 been around since 1970, here in the State of Georgia for
23 about 20 years.

24 I'd just like to thank Mr. Harvey for his
25 presentation, but talk a little bit about paper

1 ballots, the cost associated with going to an all-
2 electronic system.

3 The Brennan Center along with Common Cause, Verified
4 Voting and also the National Election Defense Coalition all
5 have come up with estimates on cost of an all-electronic
6 system. At the end of the day, with service contracts
7 included, we're looking at over 400 million dollars as
8 opposed to about 60 million dollars for an all-paper
9 system.

10 Now, I hear the counties. I -- we've tried to work
11 with you guys on this past legislative session on SB 403.
12 We extended the certification deadline in the Senate for
13 the elections in order to give you more time to do the
14 audits.

15 We thought we had a paper-ballot bill -- that's what
16 we were sold and that's what we talked about we were being
17 sold. It wasn't a paper-ballot bill. That bill,
18 SB 403, gave paper no authority -- none -- not in the audit
19 process, not in the recount process.

20 So we are asking -- we highly recommend that not only
21 are you looking at paper but you're considering the cost
22 associated with it. There's a lot of flexibility in being
23 able to correct ballots at the precincts and it also
24 reduces the amount of provisional ballots that have to be
25 cast as well, which is very problematic in our state.

1 Finally, I would like to say that we are disappointed
2 that there are no election-integrity groups on --
3 represented on this commission and that's very
4 disappointing for Common Cause, but we will be here at
5 every commission meeting making sure that our questions are
6 asked and -- and, hopefully, answered.

7 So, again, we would like to encourage you to look at
8 paper systems and, also, we would like to encourage you to
9 look at ways and suggest ways that vendors are not
10 railroading this process and writing legislation as they
11 did this past legislative session.

12 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Sara.

13 MS. HENDERSON: Thank you for your time. I appreciate
14 it.

15 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Sara. I'll need
16 my -- (adjusts microphone) there we go. Okay. Next is
17 Pamela Reardon. Pamela, good to have you here today.
18 Thanks for coming. Please come forward, and introduce
19 yourself and tell us where you're from.

20 MS. REARDON: Hello, and thank you for being here and
21 working on this. My name is Pamela Reardon. I am a
22 citizen in Cobb County.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you.

24 MS. REARDON: I wear a lot of hats, but I won't
25 complain about those. I -- just listening to all of this,

1 it's very good information and I came because I'm very
2 interested in this whole voting-machine decision or non-
3 decision. But I have three different things that I want to
4 bring before you.

5 Yeah, the machines are important; paper ballots are
6 important, whichever way we go. But what -- what about the
7 absentee ballots? I have a growing concern on the security
8 and integrity of these especially after last year's
9 primary.

10 So I -- I just wish we could have a better way of
11 knowing that that person is actually that person that is
12 signing and filling in the ballot and mailing in the
13 ballot. That's number one.

14 Number two, Ohio -- or the Supreme Court, about two
15 days -- three days ago, ruled that Ohio can purge their
16 dead people off of their list -- because I don't even know
17 why there was any objection to that, but we have a lot of
18 dead people on our list.

19 I have somebody I know who passed away three years ago
20 that was still voting and it took a lot of effort by the
21 person who was close to that person to get him off the
22 ballot list, off the voting list.

23 So I think it's a really easy solution if, when you
24 have a death certificate and you send it to the health
25 department, why can't it go to the Secretary of States and

1 purge the voting -- the list? I mean, I -- I just think
2 that's just a no-brainer.

3 The third thing is I didn't know -- because it's
4 federal, you said -- that you have to have dual languages
5 or you have to have multiple languages in Spanish and in
6 English. The last time I took my citizenship test, I had
7 to know English. I am not born -- I was not born here; I
8 was born in Canada, but I am a citizen in 1994 and I know
9 that that was a requirement then, so why are -- if citizens
10 can only vote, why are we letting noncitizens who can't
11 speak English or read English vote? That's my question.

12 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Pamela. We
13 appreciate you for being with us. Thank you very much.
14 Okay. Next on our list is Mike -- I think it's Lowry.
15 Mike? Is Mike Lowry here today? Mike?

16 Okay. All right. Nancy Larson? Is it Nancy -- is it
17 Larson? Nancy?

18 MS. LARSON: Hi.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Good to see you, Nancy.
20 Thanks for coming today. We appreciate you being here, and
21 please come forward and introduce yourself and we'll be
22 happy to hear from you.

23 MS. LARSON: Thank you. I appreciate your time today.

24 My name is Nancy Larson. I live in DeKalb County and I am
25 here today as a concerned Georgia voter. And I think, like

1 a lot of other concerned Georgia voters, I had to miss the
2 bulk of the conversation earlier due to work obligations.

3 So my first concern is that there is a -- an open
4 communication between voters and this commission to be able
5 to voice our concerns and get some feedback and --

6 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Did you say, Nancy, you
7 missed the first part of the meeting? I'm sorry to --

8 MS. LARSON: Yes, I missed the previous discussion.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Yeah. I believe we said that
10 there is a E-mail that anybody can sit through and we'll
11 get that --

12 MS. LARSON: Okay. So --

13 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: -- and we'll repeat it before
14 the end of the meeting.

15 MS. LARSON: I'll have to watch the -- I'll have to
16 watch the replay then.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Absolutely. Thank you.

18 MS. LARSON: So thanks. And so -- and I'm here really
19 because it's so important for our voters to have confidence
20 in the system and know that our votes are counted as cast.

21 So, back in 2002, when the Diebold system was first
22 implemented, I was a little concerned about it back then in
23 2004 with groups like Verified Voting. Oh, my gosh. We
24 don't have an audit trail or a paper trail. We don't
25 really know if our votes are counted as cast.

1 And now, fast forward to 2016, with concerns about
2 hacking and also knowing that our central server was
3 vulnerable to hacking here in Georgia, that's a scariest
4 concern about the integrity of our elections and making
5 sure that voters do have that confidence in that.

6 You know, here in Atlanta, of course, we have a lot of
7 election-integrity experts; we have a lot of cyber-security
8 experts that seemed to have been left out in the previous
9 conversations during the state-legislature session this
10 year around this issue.

11 So I want to make sure that those voices are included
12 and the solutions that they recommend are the hand-marked
13 paper ballots with a voter-readable receipt that can be
14 audited and verified.

15 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: And I'm going to give you
16 time to wrap up, please, ma'am.

17 MS. LARSON: Absolutely. So I really just want to
18 make sure that there's transparency, that the voters'
19 voices are heard, IT, cyber-security voices are heard,
20 election-security voices are heard and that, yeah, voters
21 are going to -- or votes are count as cast. I mean, this
22 (indicating) -- is this who I voted -- is this my
23 candidate? I don't know. So --

24 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Nancy.

25 MS. LARSON: -- no barcodes, please. Let's make -- be

1 good stewards of taxpayers' money because this is going to
2 affect us all for many years to come. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FLEMING: Thank you, Nancy. We
4 appreciate you being here today. Because Nancy brought up
5 a good question about the E-mail that I was mentioning to
6 her, where anyone could sit in. It's SAFE Commission at
7 sos.ga.gov. That's S-A-F-E C-O-M-M-I-S-S-I-O-N at
8 sos.ga.gov.

9 All right. Well, once again, that is every name
10 checked off on our sign-up list. I want to go ahead and
11 wrap up. And thank you so much. We appreciate all of you
12 being here today. I am going to turn to our Secretary of
13 State and ask him to close the meeting for us.

14 SECRETARY KEMP: Thank you, Representative. And,
15 first, let me just thank you-all for being here today and
16 for being a part of this. We certainly appreciate the
17 strong turnout and -- and comments that we got today.

18 I wanted to thank those that presented to us for
19 taking the time to give us some history and lay out some
20 things for the commission to certainly think about.

21 And I do want to thank the commission members, again,
22 as well for their service, not only today but in the
23 future, and I thank those county election officials that
24 were said earlier for being here today and for what you do
25 every day, and for working with us in the Secretary of

1 State's office to make sure we have secure, accessible and
2 fair elections.

3 I know several of you were asking about presentations.
4 Obviously, two minutes is not very long and we understand
5 that. We're -- we're going to give time for presentations
6 in the future. So, as Representative Fleming said, if
7 you're interested in something like that, if you could,
8 just send us the E-mail to the SAFE Commission at
9 sos.ga.gov E-mail address.

10 And we'll -- we'll look at those and just let us know
11 what you're wanting to present on. And the timeframe,
12 we'll have to look and see how many we've got, and where we
13 are, and when we're going to do that and try to figure out
14 a good, orderly way to do that. So we'll be glad to work
15 with you on that.

16 I will say, too, that for the advocacy groups, and
17 election-integrity groups, stakeholder groups, I know many
18 of you-all are here today. We certainly appreciate your
19 attendance and your input and we will -- and -- and have
20 said this from day one, that we will -- you will be
21 included in this process, that it will be transparent.
22 We'll give you opportunities. We're glad for you to submit
23 information like papers, presentations -- whatever, and we
24 look forward to working with you on that.

25 I know Candice Broce has been in communication with

1 many groups as we rolled this out and, if there's others
2 that we have missed or people that are interested, just let
3 us know and we'll be glad to stay in communication with
4 you.

5 You can also E-mail that SAFE Commission E-mail
6 address if you -- if you were not on our list and you want
7 to be notified about different meetings that we're having.

8 So spread that word out there as well and we will look
9 forward to keeping you-all posted on when we're going to
10 have our next meeting and -- and start planning out the
11 rest of the process that we want to go through.

12 But, with that, I'll adjourn our meeting. I wish
13 everybody safe travels today and thanks again for coming.
14 Thank you very much.

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25 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at 12:31 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF GWINNETT

I, Patrick Stephens, hereby certify that the foregoing record taken down by me, as a certified court reporter, is a true, correct and complete record of the above-entitled Secure, Accessible and Fair Elections Commission meeting.

This certification is expressly withdrawn and denied upon the disassembly or photocopying of the foregoing proceedings, unless said disassembly is done by the undersigning certified court reporter and original signature and raised seal is attached thereto.

This the 10th day of _ _ July___ __, 2018.

Patrick Stephens

PATRICK A. STEPHENS, CCR, CVR

CERTIFICATE NO. 4672-1141-4562-4064

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abide 116:21	98:15	124:8 132:20	ago 16:13,16 17:16	amount 129:22
ability 40:3 83:2	3:18	140:2 150:16	43:24 90:9 98:13	137:13 149:24
97:23 99:20 113:2	account 132:6	administer 29:18	128:22 138:2,9	Amy 6:20
114:19	accounted 54:24	77:11 130:21	151:15,19	analogy 23:21
able 18:1 22:10	56:24	administering 29:1	agree 46:20 69:9	analysis 73:7 85:2
39:19 53:17 60:8	accounts 133:7,14	29:1	85:1,3,10 89:20	147:22
62:21,25 70:9	133:14	administration	116:24	and/or 74:12 114:7
77:15 88:19 97:2	accuracy 53:20	74:14	agreeing 3:5	announce 22:11
97:8,16 98:15,16	accurate 39:11	23:12 74:11 88:24	ahead 5:1 13:9	answer 70:12 73:15
98:16 102:12	70:7 81:7	admonish 15:17	70:17 91:5 117:10	74:20 82:4 85:13
118:11 120:3	accurately 102:5	adopt 100:8,12,14	124:11 140:5	87:24 107:15
121:18 123:24	133:17	106:23	155:10	138:15
138:17 149:23	AccuVote 136:6,11	adopted 99:18	aim 66:12	answered 88:7
153:4	120:15	advanced 26:5,17	aisle 13:11	150:6
above-entitled 1:7	achieve 120:15	41:18 44:3,6 45:2	Al 40:15	answers 120:10
158:7	acknowledge	51:8 55:18 61:12	Alabama 44:15	anticipate 14:14
absentee 25:24	142:22	61:13,14,22 70:2	alarmed 147:5	116:15
26:16 32:8 33:1	acquisition 42:20	74:20	alarms 68:21	anticipated 16:11
38:20 43:11,13,17	acronym 44:11	advanced-voting	alerted 122:13	17:10,13
44:20,24 55:18	act 16:23 92:24	62:1	algorithm 99:25	anybody 49:3
61:24 67:16 75:15	93:4 96:14 98:8	104:23	allegiance 4:21	53:21,24 70:20
75:19 101:7	110:18	127:17	allot 116:6	79:18,19 115:14
121:15,22 151:7	actions 37:4	advantages 104:13	allotted 9:1	116:23 118:2
absentee-ballot	activated 25:18	106:10	allow 9:7 12:9,9	153:10
75:17	active 11:7	advertised 53:21	19:1 36:4 61:3	anyone's 9:21
absolutely 16:25	activist 117:14	10:12	70:5 81:10 94:23	apologize 143:10
51:16 78:19 79:3	135:3	advise 108:18	97:18 101:14,17	apparently 138:7
108:20 110:10	actual 47:17 72:3	advisement 82:3	101:21,24,25	appearance 52:3
141:23 153:17	89:17 91:13	86:5 87:19	122:25 142:25	application 32:9,25
154:17	adamant 45:8	advocacy 7:22	allowance 79:10	43:17,18 48:20
accents 27:25	adaptability 69:21	156:16	allowed 44:19	121:16
accept 35:3	add 81:20 91:1	advocate 9:8	46:11 56:23 57:4	applied 134:6
acceptable 21:11	133:25	advocated 120:1	57:19	apply 102:11
98:20	adding 13:8	advocates 95:24	allowing 10:9	109:24 134:13
access 50:12,25	addition 35:25	142:16	14:12 141:24	appointed 30:18
53:18 73:16 93:21	53:13 67:8	affairs 13:21	allows 78:5 86:12	appreciate 3:22 5:9
108:23 113:11,13	additional 17:3,7	affect 30:9 64:22	121:18,24	10:8,10 70:13
accessibility 7:16	35:21 36:2 66:9	81:1 155:2	all-electronic 147:6	80:9 91:21,25
39:16 69:18 93:16	78:4,4	affidavit 46:12	149:5	107:17 118:24
93:17,19 94:10,19	Additionally 62:6	afford 39:10	all-important	120:25 123:4
95:22 98:1 103:25	address 9:23 51:19	Afghanistan 44:15	10:14	125:19 126:6
113:17	113:12 120:3	afraid 133:6	all-paper 149:8	127:21 129:24
accessible 1:1 3:12	144:15 156:9	afternoon 23:1	alpha 56:8	130:4,24 132:16
4:15 48:25 49:1	157:6	133:1 141:23	alternative-langu...	134:17 136:24
93:18 94:13,16	addresses 96:2	agencies 20:4 23:11	97:25	137:3,9 138:18,22
95:14 96:8 104:25	adequacy 136:10	agency 88:24	Amen 4:16,17	141:13,21 143:3
127:5 156:1 158:8	adequate 124:15	agenda 115:17	96:17	145:14 146:2,7
accidentally 53:16	adequately 81:8	143:22	amendment 53:9	148:10 150:13
accommodate	adjourn 157:12	aggregate 31:14	America 4:22	152:13,20,23
	adjusts 22:20 113:9		16:22 92:24 93:3	155:4,11,16

12:7,13 19:1 30:7 56:9,15 83:9 begun 14:2 behalf 146:8 Behavioral 6:21 believe 5:16 18:6 22:9 30:10 33:18 38:10 59:24 62:8 63:13,19,21 65:3 66:14,20 69:2,9 69:13,15 75:11 76:10,21,23 77:1 77:13,19,19 84:16 88:19 105:25 106:24 114:22 115:12 120:15 127:22 135:13 141:1,6,11 142:17 142:24 147:6 153:9 believing 40:23 Bell 133:11 beneficial 120:22 benefit 105:15 best 10:25 16:18 22:7,11 58:21 70:11 85:8 86:14 90:14 119:3 124:21 125:4,9 130:20 131:1 bet 90:19 better 22:21 78:25 91:22 109:19 124:5,10 151:10 Beverly 5:11,13 be-all 67:6 bias 147:8 bid 12:22 105:8 bidding 82:7 big 26:21,23 41:10 43:20 74:2 88:25 128:9 bigger 129:4 biggest 118:6 bill 11:24 12:5,8,16 12:16,19,21 13:9 13:12,14,15,17,22 13:22,23,25 90:4 96:18,19 135:7 149:15,17,17	bills 12:2 118:1,5 binding 83:6 bio 133:5 bipartisan 79:12 birth 49:5 bit 15:25 19:2 22:21 27:16 29:12 35:11 37:10 40:9 52:1 61:13 64:4 76:20 81:19 100:2 124:2 139:13,25 148:25 bits 100:1 bizarre 68:2 blame 119:2 blank 52:13 132:11 bless 4:10 blessings 4:8 blind 39:22 93:20 blue 27:5 board 5:19 6:3 9:2 10:20 19:18 24:11 29:6,11,25 30:4,5 30:7,12 31:21 45:13,21 54:1 57:19 60:23 61:3 64:14 90:21,25 100:6 117:17 118:2 120:18 boards 29:3,8,21 30:1,8,10,12,13 30:19,21 75:9 Bob 2:5,11 3:9 body 29:16,16,17 book 38:4 47:7,11 90:20 books 23:13 49:13 125:11 boondoggle 134:3 134:14 booths 103:8 bored 41:1 Boren 5:19 16:21 17:3,5 32:13 33:4 35:4 43:7 60:5 born 20:9 152:7,7,8 bottomless 53:16 bought 33:5 131:18 bound 77:18 102:14 114:3	Bowers 134:18,19 134:23 135:1,1,6 136:17,25 box 103:22 104:3,9 106:14 140:18 Brad 7:13 brain 47:16 56:6 brand 130:15 Brandes 139:6,12 139:12 140:2,4,6 141:3,6,15 Brandez 139:4,4 break 2:16,17 80:1 80:3 116:4 breakdown 27:3 breaking 75:1 Brennan 149:3 Brian 3:7 5:15 18:18 brief 15:20 25:5 32:17 43:10 80:25 88:8 133:5 briefe 80:22 briefing 66:4 briefly 21:2,6 31:5 37:18 46:16,16 47:6 48:12 54:22 88:9 92:14 bring 10:11 11:13 73:24 94:21,22 144:12 151:4 broad 102:24 Broce 156:25 brought 54:4 155:4 Broward 41:9 Bruce 13:13 bubble 38:21 bubbled 20:18 Buchanan 41:8 budget 88:18 89:19 budgetary 83:7 budgets 131:8 building 26:12 51:14 bulk 153:2 bullet 135:15 bunch 44:1 Bush 40:15 business 4:25 86:10 134:13,13	busy 80:16 butterfly 20:13 38:2 41:8 button 65:25 buy 123:14 <hr/> C <hr/> C 2:1 143:11 158:1 158:1 caboose 48:16 calculated 20:19 41:20 calendar 24:14,15 24:24 62:23 87:17 call 2:5 29:15 33:24 56:6 60:7 67:13 115:22 117:2 121:8,10 called 12:11 26:4 38:10 44:24 47:15 49:2 53:20 59:6 88:24 93:4 96:14 calling 67:18 calls 33:17 Canada 152:8 cancel 68:7 Candice 119:18 156:25 candidate 21:9,10 40:13 42:3,5,6,10 42:11 53:7 68:8 101:18,23 128:4 141:25 154:23 candidates 18:22 21:20 67:21 68:8 76:18 101:24 102:1 Cannell 120:25 121:3,3,6 122:24 can't 33:18 39:10 46:10 52:14,15 59:8 75:13 76:24 91:2,2 100:20 101:5 110:1 139:9 capability 52:6 98:2,5 115:9 135:22 capacities 31:4 capacity 28:8 142:5 capital 7:4	capitol 13:12 14:1 captures 63:20 car 132:5 card 47:21 49:23 49:24 50:12,15,17 50:19,21,25,25 51:4,11,17,20 53:11,13,15 55:5 55:9,11,12 56:16 56:21,22,23,24 57:1 58:5 cards 20:12,24 38:1 38:5 42:25 52:8 54:23,24 56:14,19 57:8 care 33:8 69:6,11 careful 63:24 Carolina 19:4,9 143:15 Caroline 137:2,2,6 138:18,22 case 79:2 cases 77:24 78:12 cash-register 53:5 54:20 cast 20:16 21:7,10 21:12,14,23 22:16 26:8,13 31:22 39:6 40:21,22 41:15 52:22 53:6 54:11 61:18 66:17 94:17,20 97:3,9 97:15,24 100:19 102:5 108:5 124:23 149:25 153:20,25 154:21 casting 26:19 49:11 52:24 casts 52:10 category 41:21 cause 59:13,13 63:22,22 135:4 148:20 149:3 150:4 caused 23:20,22,23 causes 35:24 39:17 64:3 caveat 81:21 CCR 158:18 cellphone 96:7
---	---	---	---	--

center 1:11 3:14 23:7 138:11 149:3	change 52:12 60:12 64:3 97:17,21 101:20 111:24	45:23	coded 20:18	114:1 141:25
centered 27:8	changed 34:21 63:22 66:18	circumstances 44:9 46:15 127:7	coffee 16:1	comments 9:14 115:18 116:18 131:2 139:1 145:24 155:17
centers 27:10	changes 13:8,15 36:1 59:25 60:18	Citadel 19:4	cofounder 119:21	
central 26:12,19 27:11 154:2	chat 15:5	cities 77:17 102:13 114:2,3,5,8,11	collected 120:6	
centralized 144:2	Chatham 27:9,22 75:11	citizen 18:25 117:14 121:4,7,18 128:4 142:5 150:22 152:8	Collective 4:17,20	
Century 37:16 42:17 126:6	cheapest 131:6	citizens 2:13 20:25 37:9 69:7 137:13 152:9	college 19:3,4	
certain 9:8 103:4 104:13	check 20:20 47:8 50:3 58:5	citizenship 152:6	Colorado 94:4,10	commercialization 133:11
certainly 3:11,25 5:2 7:11,14 8:18 9:13,21,24 34:15 40:16 50:7 76:22 78:5 82:20 88:8 90:22 111:17 137:9 146:14 155:16,20 156:18	checked 54:3 155:10	city 51:3,3 117:5	Columbia 5:5	commission 1:1,7 2:5,13,21,25 3:6 3:13,24 5:2,16 8:15 9:11,24 10:7 10:10,16 11:6,10 14:12,14 15:22 16:15 18:4,12,16 29:9 31:2 37:16 42:17 60:21 61:19 70:10,16,20,22 72:19 73:19 79:12 79:18 80:16 83:19 84:1,8,21 85:22 86:2 87:13,17 88:3 89:11 90:15 91:20 92:8,10 95:8 99:3 109:4 110:15 111:10 112:12 115:14 116:13 118:17 119:16 120:3,15 120:21 124:21 126:6 127:10 130:2,13,25 131:9 132:9 136:3,8,12 136:20,22 142:11 146:1 150:3,5 153:4 155:6,20,21 156:8 157:5 158:8
certificate 65:11 151:24 158:19	checking 48:7	claim 69:3	Columbus 5:21 44:16	
certificates 65:14 65:15	chief 19:16 28:20 127:12	clarification 1:17	combination 23:23 47:3 86:15	
certification 97:6 98:24 149:12 158:9	choice 21:12 52:18 68:6 121:14	classes 17:24	combine 61:18	
certified 1:8 72:1 102:18,19 107:11 158:6,12	choices 21:21 40:13 52:11,12 70:6 97:16 140:10	classic 38:13	combined 29:2,6,8 30:6,10 78:14 93:10	
certifies 29:16	choose 11:3 52:16 52:17 88:14 105:13,16 107:11 114:5	classified 66:4	combining 144:6	
certify 106:22 158:5	choosing 125:5	classroom 66:24	come 2:24 14:21 18:8 46:12 50:2 53:21 55:20 59:4 81:10 89:18 95:16 100:24 111:6 112:5 115:22 117:2 123:9 125:21 130:8 137:2 141:18 145:18 146:11 148:12 149:5 150:18 152:21 155:2	
cetera 111:9,9	chose 40:24	clean 113:2	comes 32:25 35:1 47:8 85:18 87:6 92:10 116:17	
chads 20:12	chosen 28:11,13 125:8	clear 42:14 79:7 100:12 142:13	comfortable 60:14 74:13	
chain 116:4	Chris 8:11 18:7,8 18:16 23:19 49:22 50:2,10 51:1 70:13,24 73:2 75:6 77:9 78:21 79:20 80:23 82:8 91:12,22 92:25 94:25 126:7	clearly 8:19 9:16 9:18 95:6 100:4	coming 10:25 56:1 111:21 112:13 121:1 123:4 125:16,24 127:6 128:8 129:24 134:21 136:23 137:4,19 141:14 141:21 143:3,12 145:14,19 146:7 146:11 148:10 150:18 152:20 157:13	
chains 68:21	circulated 115:19	clerk 28:21	commencing 1:9	
chair 5:10 107:23	circumstance	climate 139:21	commend 3:4	
chairman 12:18,18 13:14,20 16:10 17:2,12 18:15 62:8,8 75:6 80:11 83:8 110:18 117:25 118:17 119:7 143:14 145:22		close 71:13 78:23 104:5 129:11 139:6,7 140:9 151:21 155:13	comment 113:24	
challenge 29:17 31:24 69:16		closer 73:24 77:8 107:3		
challenges 74:5		Coalition 135:14 143:16 147:16 149:4		
chance 15:5 96:20 101:10 141:4		Cobb 2:6,14 3:8 117:13,17 121:4 121:20 123:19 128:4 130:13 131:15 133:2 150:22		

88:8,10,12,19,20 89:7 111:8 129:16 137:10,15,22 138:13,16 141:24 common 101:12 148:20 149:3 150:4 commonality 101:6 communicated 135:6 communication 153:4 156:25 157:3 communities 95:24 companies 55:20 73:4 company 38:10 comparison 140:22 competitive 82:7 82:22 86:5 102:25 complain 150:25 complete 1:18 10:19 31:3 32:10 74:5 87:18 124:20 158:7 completed 24:4 70:3 completely 28:8 40:12 46:5 51:14 52:17 complex 24:2 38:11 80:24 134:1 142:20 complexity 62:4 complicated 22:23 82:9 Complies 125:22 compliments 20:7 comply 102:21,22 107:19 component 58:9 60:15,16 components 22:17 23:4 46:23 65:7 composed 19:23 composition 30:14 comprehensive 86:12 123:22 comprised 36:8 compromise 96:3	computer 56:8,13 73:6 106:11 129:10 133:8,8,25 computerized 133:24 computers 37:2 94:8 95:20 104:14 computer-based 94:16 conceivable 69:4 concept 135:9 concepts 111:22 concern 103:25 114:16 136:5 137:18 138:3 151:7 153:3 154:4 concerned 67:15 79:1 146:20 152:25 153:1,22 concerning 66:6 114:19 concerns 111:17 127:12 129:8 142:3,6 146:4 153:5 154:1 concluded 157:25 condemnation 67:11 conduct 61:4 73:6 73:8 131:13 conducted 18:20 60:4 125:10 131:22 139:23 conducting 22:14 conference 65:24 66:1 confidence 63:23 64:4 69:19 103:3 103:3 108:15 126:13 134:15 140:13,21,22 141:12 153:19 154:5 confident 108:7 124:20 confidentiality 128:18 confirm 50:10 confusing 118:20 congress 66:11	93:1 139:14 Congressional 51:1 conjunction 23:23 connect 49:10 52:7 connected 52:6 57:19 71:18 147:13 connection 121:7 connector 23:1 consensus 60:13 consider 22:6 36:13 60:1,12 62:5 74:17 95:5 107:18 131:9 132:1 139:18 143:22 considerable 19:17 consideration 13:19 21:4 62:18 63:24 74:18 125:15 considerations 92:13 103:11 considered 41:17 74:10 111:2 considering 65:6 74:21 149:21 consist 89:7 consistent 123:1 consonances 114:6 constitution 2:23 92:20 100:17,22 133:4 constraint 132:9 constructed 102:3 102:6 consult 46:13 consultation 46:14 context 22:15 37:11 continue 7:15 14:5 68:19,20 127:9,10 130:16,22 142:24 143:23 144:2 continues 14:8 continuum 142:15 contract 77:10,20 77:21 105:14 contracts 149:6 contribution 17:5	controversy 40:11 138:10 convened 138:13 convenience 69:18 convening 14:12 137:10 conversation 15:14 153:2 conversations 154:9 conversion 135:15 convert 111:15 112:19 coordinate 20:4 72:2 copies 53:11 58:17 72:4 copy 53:12 correct 70:25 71:4 71:13,23 72:1,14 90:12 122:18 139:8 149:23 158:7 corrected 109:9,12 correction 97:14 97:17 corrections 36:1 correctly 89:6 102:5 corresponding 60:16 correspondingly 28:19 corroborate 65:7 corruption 35:22 cost 16:11,12,24 17:10,13 83:5 86:15 88:18 105:9 105:15 106:17,18 106:25 131:22,24 149:1,5,21 costs 62:4 69:21 83:5 87:10,10 105:10 112:6 couldn't 115:7 128:6 143:11 council 7:5 37:24 counsel 6:15,18,21 6:24 8:12,13 78:19 80:8,13	91:24 92:6 111:13 count 20:16 32:6 34:7 38:6 45:15 45:18,22 55:3,8 68:12 71:6 72:16 135:23 141:12 154:21 counted 20:21 21:7 21:21 26:2 31:18 39:6 55:25 63:16 67:10,19 68:1 71:2,2 79:4,15 121:20 140:13,20 153:20,25 counters 140:14 counties 13:1,5 17:7,21 22:14 25:7,11,15 27:13 27:14 28:9,9,14 29:7 30:2,3,6,8,13 30:23,25 31:7 33:5,15 34:6,7,25 35:6,6,15,24 36:5 36:7 37:20,25 38:1,8,18,25 41:16,20 54:1 58:18 61:8 63:7 64:19 71:5 74:5 75:9,10 77:11,20 77:22 79:11 94:14 94:15 98:9 105:12 106:23 107:6,10 125:1 127:7 131:16 135:21 146:9 149:10 counting 61:9 121:21 135:18 country 4:9 22:6 92:16 95:6 counts 127:4 142:17,18 146:22 county 2:6,12,14 5:5,19,21,23,25 6:2,4 7:3 17:6 19:3,9,10,12,13 20:2,8 23:11,24 25:1 26:2,6,7,12 26:12 27:9,9,9,19 27:22,23,23,24 28:15,18,24 29:15
--	---	---	--	---

29:23 30:1,17,23 31:12,15,17,18,20 31:20 32:1,16,19 32:22 33:3,9,23 34:21,22,24 35:9 35:9,18 36:11,13 39:9 41:9 43:19 44:5,17 45:6,13 45:17 48:21,25 49:4 51:9 52:20 54:17 56:6,10,10 57:22 58:21 61:16 61:17 62:1 63:2,4 63:5 64:21 67:14 69:1,11 72:2 74:18,19,20 75:11 75:11 77:25 78:11 91:13 98:9,11,12 101:2 102:15 103:7 104:15,17 105:18 110:2 117:5,13,17 121:4 121:6,20 123:19 126:3 128:4 130:13,14 131:8 131:15,19,23 133:2 135:3 137:7 145:23 146:2,4,16 150:22 152:24 155:23 158:3 countywide 55:17 county's 77:23 county-based 31:8 couple 59:10 60:19 68:3 75:8 82:4 83:24 course 10:18,23 11:4 17:20 25:6 70:16 74:25 106:24 111:13 128:22 137:21 154:6 court 1:8 7:25 8:5 15:4,6,9,10,16 116:1 151:14 158:6,12 courthouse 26:12 cover 120:11 covers 24:3 100:15 Cozy 129:14	co-chair 4:6 5:3 10:5 co-chairs 3:6 cranks 38:14 crash 59:8 create 29:25 36:5 49:23 50:12,13,24 56:14 created 30:14,16 56:16 57:1 58:6 61:7 99:3 133:13 creates 30:15 35:8 75:1 creation 30:19 creations 35:13,25 creativity 86:10 criminal 19:6 129:4 cringed 100:2 critical 66:8 critically 3:2 66:15 cross 42:5 crossed 13:17 crossing 67:20 crucial 80:20 124:15 Cultural 1:11 3:13 cure-all 67:5 current 7:4 11:18 12:10 14:7,16 20:9 22:15,17 36:16,19 46:17,18 60:3,17,25 62:6 65:4 89:25 92:19 96:5,13,24 97:1 97:10,18 98:21 99:17,24 101:14 101:21 105:2,23 111:18 114:22 126:10,19,22 131:23 133:18 135:24 141:3,6 145:2 currently 11:5,23 22:3,5 26:24 35:7 43:9 47:10 55:15 56:5 61:4,4 63:13 90:7 94:1 96:12 103:15 114:17 126:9 135:16,17	current-level 99:24 curtain 140:9,12 curve 36:20 custody 33:8 customer 19:25 cut 28:22 CVR 158:18 cyber 49:10 59:6 66:2 68:21 119:24 147:4 cyber-security 6:11 59:14 124:15 125:9,12 146:25 154:7,19 Cynthia 6:2 C-O-M-M-I-S-S-... 155:7 <hr/> D <hr/> D 2:1 daily 69:1 Dallas 28:18,20,22 damaging 147:14 Dana 134:18,18,21 134:25 135:1,5 136:16,23 Daniels 5:21 32:14 Darin 6:1,1 data 19:24 35:22 50:6 57:3 58:6 71:14 118:15 124:19 134:1,7 136:8 database 35:2,25 48:18,24 49:12 56:11,13 databases 34:25 35:8 36:1,6 data-engineering 133:13 date 24:18 49:5 dates 93:9 day 1:10 3:22 4:8 25:9 26:8,11,21 26:21,23 32:12,13 32:13,14 33:18 34:10 44:7,22 45:3 90:20 97:6 104:18,21,24 139:21 140:8	149:6 155:25 156:20 158:15 days 24:18,22 44:21 45:14 60:7 60:8 151:15,15 day-to-day 30:22 dead 151:16,18 deadline 24:19,19 149:12 deadlines 24:10 deal 26:22,23 30:11 62:2 63:1 76:2,4 98:6 144:21 dealing 5:8 25:6 63:4 117:21 deals 93:15 97:13 97:25 98:19 115:18 dealt 114:24 death 151:24 Decatur 51:3 December 37:17 decentralization 36:4 decentralized 64:18 decide 28:23 29:14 32:7,8 34:17 60:8 67:23 95:9 103:5 128:6 136:3 decided 21:10 32:1 100:7 112:3 decidedly 30:19 decides 63:2 deciding 90:6 decision 10:21 34:8 34:17 151:2,3 decisions 146:23 declared 66:8 decommission 11:5 62:9 decommissioning 82:15 83:2 dedicated 130:21 dedication 69:14 143:19 deeper 18:20 defense 46:18 73:14 96:17,19 147:16 149:4	defenses 68:22 defines 92:23 definitely 106:2 113:15,18 135:25 definition 80:17 degree 138:3 degrees 70:2 Deidre 5:24 DeKalb 5:23 19:3,9 19:10,12,12 32:16 44:16 126:2 137:7 146:16 152:24 delays 24:22 36:2 delegation 29:23 deliberate 145:11 deliberations 136:14 delighted 140:17 deliver 43:18 72:10 delivered 131:4 demand 62:3 132:12 Democracy 135:2 democrat 41:9 democratic 6:16 41:10 123:24 124:16 129:15,16 142:13,19 demonstrate 136:10 demonstrated 122:6 demonstrations 11:22 83:20 denial-of-service 59:7,16 denied 158:9 Denise 28:17 department 6:21 19:10,12 88:24 133:13 138:4,8 151:25 depending 11:3 30:15 depends 76:10 77:24 104:19 deploy 62:21 deployed 36:19 37:9 deployment 42:20
--	---	--	--	--

depth 99:6	dictated 125:6	disagree 66:22	81:7 82:17 89:4	106:8
deputy 6:18 7:3	didn't 12:14 16:14	116:18	89:15 91:21 96:9	drive 58:7
8:13 91:24 92:6	54:15 97:20	disagreeable	106:7 130:25	driver's 49:17,20
describe 22:13,16	129:18	116:19	136:20 139:24	49:20 50:7
90:10	Diebold 153:21	disappointed 150:1	dollars 10:24 11:1	driver's 50:5
described 84:8	Diedre 48:19 57:7	disappointing	43:8 107:6 133:21	drop 53:16 104:3
86:13 90:1 91:12	difference 32:18	150:4	133:24 134:4	drops 103:22
94:25 106:16	51:25 52:2 87:3	disassembly 158:10	149:7,8	dual 152:4
109:16	140:6,7	158:11	donation 135:20	due 46:21 69:8
describes 91:15	differences 61:3	discard 142:22	don't 5:16 9:18	147:8 153:2
description 95:18	74:25	discovered 39:2	23:22 24:23 32:6	dumb 52:5
95:21	different 7:8,22	discrepancy 21:6	32:7,8 34:2,8,12	duplicate 41:24
descriptions	20:15 31:4 39:7	45:3 58:23	41:1,2 42:11	79:14
110:23	51:11,15 52:1	discretion 112:24	43:16 45:7,22	DuVal 127:22,23
descriptive 38:14	57:1,13 61:13,18	discuss 11:17 81:5	50:6 60:1 63:17	128:3,3 129:25
48:21	61:18,20 64:11	98:19 142:10	63:19 68:11,12,13	
deserves 70:5	71:17 74:21 78:10	discussed 96:18	75:2 76:12,19	E
designate 30:21	78:11,15 82:10	102:10	77:3,21 79:18,19	E 2:1,1 158:1,1
designated 29:22	87:7,8 88:13,14	discussing 74:23	93:8 108:17	EAC 97:3 99:3
designed 55:15,16	105:18 118:1,15	discussion 11:18	116:23 119:1	100:8,11 114:25
61:10 141:9	119:23 142:11	12:6,13 14:2,6,13	151:16	earlier 9:21 15:5,25
desktop 56:7	151:3 157:7	14:15 43:10 66:14	double 67:10	40:8 86:18 88:7
despite 111:4	difficult 15:17	153:8	doubt 146:3	93:1 94:25 101:10
detail 40:9	36:10	discussions 14:1,23	downloaded 71:7	106:20 107:24
detailed 148:4,7	Digges 123:6,8,11	disk 71:7	down-ballot 21:12	115:21 153:2
details 9:5 60:1	123:16,18,18	dislike 42:6	dozens 30:24 55:21	155:24
determine 31:21,23	124:3,5,8,10,12	dispute 57:16	55:22,22 57:9	early 16:24 104:11
34:13 45:14 79:13	125:18	distinction 22:4	Dr 5:12,14 6:13	104:17,21,23
102:20 112:15	direct 30:24 34:20	75:1	72:22,23,24,25	126:4 127:13,14
determined 130:19	directly 58:19	distributed 35:14	73:2,10,13,17,18	early-August 83:23
determining 39:7	87:15 122:19	district 2:12,14 7:3	78:20 84:22,24,25	easier 36:3
develop 99:4	director 5:18,20,23	19:12,13 45:22	85:11,17,20,21	easiest 131:6
developed 101:21	6:13 7:4 8:11,13	51:1,2,3	draft 82:19 96:14	easily 66:2 70:8
developing 148:4	18:18 19:20 30:22	districts 61:19,19	111:1,3,14,22	112:19
Developmental	30:25 32:7 33:24	distrust 120:4	drafter 111:8	easy 32:15 59:21
6:22	42:4 43:19 92:6	dive 18:20 81:20	draw 42:7,8 140:11	102:6 151:23
device 20:17 49:15	128:8 130:12	diversity 31:3	DRE 26:8 34:19	EBD 44:24
55:2 66:23 67:1	135:2 143:16	division 18:7 19:23	35:13 42:21 43:4	economy 69:11
71:17 103:24	148:20	25:8 31:5	43:5 44:4,7 45:24	Ed 12:18 13:20
104:7 105:22	directors 28:14	doctor's 43:16	46:1 47:17 49:24	edge 133:12
127:2,2,3,3	29:9 30:10 65:23	document 8:1	51:21,22 54:9	education 23:19
132:13 147:7	66:5 71:9 90:18	documents 9:11	59:22 60:25 62:11	63:10 82:15
devices 39:1 41:16	120:19	113:18	62:13 63:20 65:9	educational 116:16
43:4 47:2 54:7,23	direct-record	doesn't 23:20 50:5	65:13 71:1 89:25	Edwards 145:18,22
94:15 99:22	42:21	72:10,10 110:19	90:3 95:13 97:18	145:23
104:12,22 105:3,6	disabilities 6:22	dogcatcher 41:2	103:7,9 109:17	effect 27:12 37:3
106:9 124:25	93:19 95:2	52:20 54:18	124:14	59:10 64:6
devote 135:9,9	disability 39:20	doing 5:22 15:18	DREs 51:23 55:12	efficiency 69:20
diagram 23:2	40:4	38:16 60:6 61:1	62:11 94:14 97:9	efficient 39:10
dialogue 145:9	disabled 46:8	64:19 80:17,18	101:8 105:4 106:4	49:25 50:8 74:14

131:14 136:7	104:24 109:12	election-office	ensured 125:5	131:21
effort 10:6 37:7	114:19 115:5	28:19	ensures 70:7	estimated 11:19
39:18 68:18 69:17	117:19,21 121:8,9	election-security	enters 48:21	estimates 11:1
151:20	121:10,14 122:17	154:20	entire 23:16 24:16	105:9 149:5
egg 144:6	124:22 127:6,16	elector 68:7	129:3,12,20	estimating 106:17
eggs 144:1,4,5	130:17,19 131:12	electronic 42:21	entirely 140:14	et 111:9,9
eight 100:4	135:25 137:19,20	47:2,7,10 49:13	entitled 66:9	evaluate 86:16
either 9:10 42:1,12	137:23 138:17,20	67:6 94:24 95:1	101:25 102:1	evaluated 87:4,5,7
45:2 67:1 86:20	142:1,4 143:18	97:9 123:1 149:2	entry 58:7	evaluating 70:10
101:19 109:16,22	146:3 147:15	electronically	envelope 26:1	evaluation 85:19
132:11	149:4 155:23	58:18 71:5,8,19	43:20,22 45:12	87:7 88:10,12,20
elaborate 89:13	elections 1:1 3:12	95:4	121:23,23 122:2	89:7
election 5:7 6:6	4:15 5:8,19,20,25	elicited 148:6	environment 27:17	Evans 6:2 64:21
10:20,20 11:23	6:1,3,6 7:20 8:10	eligible 21:17 45:4	29:10 33:12,13	Eveler 121:20
12:12 18:16,18	8:13 9:2 12:25	45:9,19 46:12	34:1 90:23	130:5,7,8,11,12
19:17,18,20,23	13:3 17:25 18:6	47:12,13	environmets	132:15
20:3,5,7,9,10 21:8	18:20,21,22,23	Elizabeth 125:20	53:25	event 82:24
21:18 22:13,18	20:8 22:14,23	125:20,23 126:1	envision 83:19	events 31:8
23:24 24:11,17	23:21,22 24:1,3	127:20 146:10,10	87:12,13	eventually 13:16
25:9 26:6,8,11,21	24:13,14,15 25:5	146:15 148:9	Epstein 146:25	93:3 100:7 130:19
26:21,23 27:17	25:8,8,24 26:14	emphasize 68:19	equally 39:8	everybody 2:11
28:14,16,25 29:3	27:1 29:1,1,7,25	employee 88:21	equipment 11:17	27:15 41:5,10
29:4,8,9,13,16,18	30:1,4,22 31:3,6,8	employees 30:25	12:24 13:3,5 17:6	43:3 46:20 148:19
29:20,21 30:3,13	31:12,20 33:7	69:24 88:15	17:7,8,21 25:19	157:13
30:19,21 31:9,10	35:9,10,11,12	employing 135:24	25:22 27:19 28:4	everyone's 75:12
31:11,13 32:7,11	36:7 45:13 56:6	enable 68:5	33:4,5,6,10 36:17	evidence 66:17
33:9,17,23 34:10	60:24 61:5 64:9	encounter 28:4,4	46:10 61:7,7 62:7	evident 54:4
35:1,18 36:3,6,15	64:11 65:21 71:9	70:2	63:5 64:16,17,17	exact 27:15 46:4
37:8,15 39:3	74:14 77:11,15	encountered 65:17	77:22,23,25 94:16	51:14,24 90:6
40:10,11 42:4	89:17 90:18 92:5	encourage 70:6	95:2,14 98:5,20	exactly 27:25 37:21
43:19 44:5,7,7,21	93:7 96:14,23	142:11 150:7,8	99:20 102:3,11,13	44:13 144:13
44:22 45:3 48:6	98:4,7 101:2,15	encryption 99:23	103:8 106:24	examination 63:25
48:14,25 49:18	103:7 110:2 114:9	ended 13:22,24	erase 67:2 68:7	66:14
53:2,3,19 54:1	114:11 117:15,18	ends 106:16 144:6	eraser 67:1	examine 2:21
55:17 56:2,4,8,11	120:18 121:11	end-all 67:6	erosion 141:11	example 21:8,17
56:24 57:2,7,12	129:21 130:12,22	energy 37:13	error 41:25 69:19	24:4 31:16 60:3
57:16,18 58:16	135:4 136:10	135:10	98:19,20,21,23,24	61:8,16 68:15
59:9,12 60:3,4,10	139:23 140:6	ENET 48:14,22	141:8	73:5 74:19 94:2
60:23,23 61:3,11	147:16,20 149:13	49:10	errors 75:15,16,22	99:18 115:7
61:17 62:23 63:11	154:4 156:2 158:8	engage 14:14	error-proof 39:11	excellent 79:20
64:14 65:2,8,18	election's 5:23	engineer 134:8,9	especially 62:21	exception 27:24
65:23 66:5,6,7,13	election-integrity	English 98:13	82:8 95:23 97:6	44:19
67:22 68:22 69:1	150:2 154:7	152:6,7,11,11	127:15 151:8	exceptions 115:4
69:4,11,24 70:6	156:17	enjoy 30:11	essence 137:17,18	exchange 35:21
72:1,2 75:17	election-law 34:5	ENR 48:15 58:11	essentially 25:17	106:8
76:17,23 82:8,16	election-manage...	58:19	29:18 44:19 47:16	exchanges 35:17
90:19,21,25 93:1	47:14	ensue 36:2	established 37:16	excluded 84:13
93:9,24 94:7 97:6	election-night	ensure 30:16	112:20	exclusionary 84:19
99:3 100:25 101:3	23:13 48:5 58:11	100:19 125:8	esteemed 18:24	excuse 43:15,25
102:15 104:18,21	71:14,20	147:23	estimate 17:14	70:18 135:17

144:3	153:10 155:5	feat 10:18	139:24 145:2	114:14 115:13
executed 28:11	156:8,9 157:5,5	February 12:16	finish 56:24 116:8	117:9 118:23
executive 5:18 6:13	E-mailed 44:24	13:12 66:1 139:22	122:15	119:7,9,11,14,19
6:17 143:16	E-mails 33:17	fed 38:23	finished 86:20	120:24 121:5
148:20	E-poll 23:13	federal 16:23 24:3	finishes 86:3	122:22 123:4,9,13
exhaustive 64:10	125:11	24:6,7 31:9 35:9	Firm 7:1	123:17 124:1,4,6
exist 40:5 60:1	E-reader 95:3	44:18 61:20 66:12	firms 59:6	124:9,11 125:16
106:10		92:20,22 93:6,9	first 2:20 3:11,15	125:19,23 127:20
existing 61:2 83:3	F	93:25 95:11 96:12	4:25 11:18 12:1	127:24 129:23
109:9,17 119:25	F 158:1	96:23 97:13,14	15:21 21:25 22:13	130:3,8 132:14,16
exists 109:15	fabulous 3:17	98:1,18,24 99:1,2	36:24 39:3,13	132:20,24 134:10
expect 68:16	118:14	100:15 102:14	42:18 44:10 47:4	134:16,20,24
expected 104:6,11	face 42:8	103:6 107:24	49:4 60:20 64:13	135:5 136:15,23
expenses 131:8	facilitate 20:4	108:16 110:2	75:8 80:14,22	137:1,8 138:12,18
expensive 142:21	facilities 70:19	111:20 114:23	81:5 82:6 93:13	138:22,25 139:3,7
experience 6:25	facility 3:24 130:15	115:9 133:7 152:4	98:9 103:17 104:4	139:24 140:3,5
27:25 28:5 37:2	fact 26:10 29:7	federally 92:23	110:14 117:1	141:2,4,13,16
119:22 131:15	30:11 67:12 111:4	96:11 98:22	119:4 121:8	143:2,7,9,11
experienced 37:6	131:7 138:16	102:18	123:11 139:19	145:12,14,17
59:5	factors 23:9 86:16	federal-complian...	140:16 153:3,7,21	146:6,17 148:1,9
expert 6:11,20	facts 127:13	114:18	155:15	148:16 150:12,15
36:15 81:23	fails 133:19	feed 38:5 55:5,23	fit 109:18	150:23 152:12,19
expertise 63:9	fair 1:1 3:12 4:15	feedback 9:22	fits-all 143:25	153:6,9,13,17
88:16,17	156:2 158:8	153:5	five 22:8 28:6 36:23	154:15,24 155:3
experts 89:1 100:1	fairly 13:25	feel 16:2 32:21	80:3	156:6
108:18 135:11	faith 124:17	60:13 70:21 74:13	five-minute 80:1	Fleming's 5:9
146:25 147:10	faithfulness 130:23	95:24 97:20	fix 93:2 122:16,21	Fletcher 117:24
154:7,8	fall 11:15 67:13	105:10 114:9	fixed 53:1 62:24	flexibility 69:21
explain 21:2 22:17	98:9	139:13	fixed-percentage	107:11 112:4
22:18 81:15	false 147:17	fewer 104:20	108:10	114:8 149:22
114:17 128:15	familiar 37:6 106:4	131:20	flag 4:21 68:18	Florida 20:12
explanation 64:10	familiarization	fields 19:23	flap 122:2	37:14 41:5,6,11
exposed 37:6	36:21 37:8 63:11	Fifth 51:1	flaws 123:23	41:12
express 68:5 133:7	families 3:23	figure 108:8 156:13	Fleming 3:8 4:6 5:4	flowchart 22:25
expressly 158:9	famously 32:4	fill 28:2 45:12,12	10:5,8 16:5,7,14	focus 127:1 131:2
ExpressPoll 49:14	Fancy 129:14	71:21	16:19,25 17:4,11	focused 20:11
49:14,15 50:12,25	far 17:21 37:5	filled 122:10	17:14 18:3,11,15	37:13 133:3
51:10	94:19 104:20,20	filling 151:12	62:8 70:13 71:16	143:17
ExpressPolls 82:11	116:11 121:13	fills 65:11	71:21,24 72:7,9	folks 25:19,21
extended 44:21	142:12	final 12:6 98:18	72:12,15,18,23,25	120:19 129:7
149:12	fast 9:16,18 123:2	106:18	73:18,21,24 75:5	133:20 139:15
extensive 36:21	154:1	finalized 82:19	77:6,8 78:7,17,19	146:1,20
95:10	fault 119:3	finally 97:15	78:23 79:17,23	follow 22:9,12
extent 12:15 31:10	favor 131:11	123:13 150:1	80:5 83:8 84:7,11	68:16 90:8 93:12
88:17	Favorito 119:4,7	financing 137:14	84:20,23 85:21	103:4 108:19
externally 133:12	119:10,13,16,20	find 50:2,17 56:22	88:2,5 89:10 91:6	110:11,13,17
extra 33:5 57:2	119:21	97:12 133:23	91:9 107:16,21	112:11 136:13
eye 15:1	fax 43:18	finding 135:10	108:20 109:3,7	followed 34:16
E-mail 9:23 33:24	fear 137:10	finds 49:21	110:10,12 113:7	following 111:1
43:17 44:20 59:7	feasible 136:1	fine 3:19 52:21	113:20,23,25	112:22 124:20

follows 125:8	141:13	57:23 58:3,4,7,19	107:1 114:18	129:12 136:1,1
footprint 62:7	free 16:2 70:21	58:24,25 59:1	119:25 120:2	giving 16:8 117:25
forces 44:14	freedom 110:25	65:1 71:1,14,17	121:4 124:12	glad 2:7 9:3 146:18
foregoing 158:5,10	111:3	71:18 73:5	125:3 126:2,4,13	156:14,22 157:3
foreign 139:18	Friday 23:1	general 3:1 6:15,20	127:15,16 128:5	Glascock 28:18
forgot 56:19	friend 5:3	8:12 10:21 20:10	135:2,16,18	74:19
122:15	front 70:20 76:22	34:25 37:5,15	136:11 138:7,15	global 47:14 56:4
forgotten 67:9	92:17 100:23	74:2,8 76:23 80:7	138:21 139:19	Glynn 75:11
form 1:19 10:11	103:10 146:12	80:13,18 81:4	140:7,16,24 142:4	go 5:1 9:18 11:11
28:2 41:18 59:22	fronts 107:17	86:3,4 87:15	144:19 146:15	13:9 14:24 15:23
59:22 60:15 86:7	frowny 42:8	91:24 92:6 95:8	148:21,22 152:25	22:24 24:14 26:7
formal 86:9	full 13:9 28:16	95:17 101:15	153:1 154:3 158:2	26:9,10,13 32:19
format 117:4	30:24 55:16	103:5 110:19,23	Georgian 66:16	34:23 37:18,19
former 6:24 7:3	fully-electronic	111:11	Georgians 20:16	40:9 42:18 47:5
32:3	48:1	generally 30:21	20:22 39:4 40:24	47:25 48:12 49:3
Formerly 43:24	Fulton 7:3 19:13	36:3 41:17 45:25	69:12 70:11 77:1	49:7 50:10,15,24
forms 27:20 28:25	27:23 28:15 61:16	76:19 88:14 102:8	139:18	51:9,22 53:17
65:12	61:16 62:1 74:20	generate 61:11	Georgia's 10:17	54:8 55:6 56:16
Fortunately 126:22	104:15,17	124:25	92:21 98:8 140:22	56:22 57:16 58:4
forum 100:11	function 134:5	generates 78:3 86:3	Georgia's 6:23	58:23,24,24 62:16
133:3	fund 13:4 91:2,4	generous 135:11	10:20 11:17 20:9	70:17,21,22 73:1
forward 2:24 3:2	fundamental 2:22	gentlemen 71:10	68:17 92:20,20	75:21 78:10,15
3:25 7:18 9:13	143:20	George 40:15	124:13 125:5	82:7,14 87:14,19
10:3 12:9,15 18:8	funded 16:22 91:3	Georgia 1:2,9,11	Germany 8:12	90:2,14 91:5
88:1 89:15 90:14	funding 107:4	2:22 4:15 5:4,14	44:15 80:7,11,13	94:13 97:16,20,23
92:9,11 93:7	funds 16:23,23	6:13,16,17,19,25	84:15 85:5,12,18	99:7 101:13 107:6
115:22 116:15,17	89:18	7:2,5 11:7 18:15	85:24 88:3,6,12	107:9 109:19
116:21 118:1	further 94:18	18:17 20:3,13,15	90:13 91:8	110:21 111:12,18
123:9 125:21	100:9 112:23	21:1 22:2,7,16	getting 42:23,24,25	111:24 113:2
130:9 137:3	143:1	23:3 24:5 25:7,9	85:5,9 105:14	117:10 118:25
141:18 145:18	furthest 13:23	25:10 26:23,25	128:11,13 145:5	122:17 124:9,11
150:18 152:21	future 2:21 4:12	27:3,17,17 28:7	147:8	129:11 131:14
154:1 156:24	6:9 8:7 9:7 11:17	29:2,6 30:4,18	give 4:10 8:5 10:12	132:21 140:5
157:9	22:7 33:14 55:20	31:12 33:7,14	17:3 21:4 22:14	150:16 151:6,25
found 21:11 37:15	113:17 120:8,22	34:3 37:14,19	22:19 23:14 33:23	155:10 157:11
66:23 81:24 99:24	155:23 156:6	38:16 39:8,25	34:18,19 35:4	goal 70:10
foundation 128:20		40:20,21,23 41:11	45:11 49:6 56:12	goals 22:8,22 69:22
147:1	G	41:13 42:18 43:3	80:25 81:11 83:25	God 4:23
foundational	G 2:1	43:9,12,23 44:8	84:2 88:11 91:22	goes 48:22,22 58:15
142:14 143:21	GA 8:8 119:21	46:15 48:23 49:3	94:2 99:18 112:15	70:16 94:18 111:1
foundations 128:19	120:6	49:14,19 51:23	112:22,23 113:5	going 2:4,10 4:2
foundations-secu...	gain 138:15	55:15 60:4 62:11	116:13 122:14	6:9 10:4 12:9
128:21	garbage 129:8,8	64:9,12 65:2	130:25 141:2,4	15:2 16:7,7 17:2
four 20:15 21:9	Garland 119:4,4,12	66:18 67:14 68:4	148:1 149:13	22:19 25:19,21
28:6 40:5 60:21	119:21 120:24	70:15 77:14,18	154:15 155:19	26:19 27:25 28:2
92:18 143:21	gathered 86:21	80:20,25 81:23	156:5,22	28:2,3,4,5,22 30:6
fourth 22:17 47:17	GEMS 47:15 54:25	86:8 90:1 92:19	given 2:23 44:21	31:5 35:2,3 37:10
frame 20:24 38:3	56:4,5,6,7,11,13	95:9 98:9 99:14	45:13 50:14 53:13	40:19 42:4,7,7
Fred 139:4,4,5,10	56:13,20 57:2,3	100:16,22 102:9	60:16 116:22	43:1,4 46:23,25
139:12,24 141:5	57:15,17,17,21,22	102:16,21,22	gives 46:1 106:10	47:5,5,24 48:3

50:23 51:9,10,11 51:12 52:23,23 54:12 55:7,8 56:10,20,21,22,23 57:3 58:18 59:13 59:13 62:5 63:8 64:6 70:17 74:1 80:6,10 81:5,15 83:7 84:4 86:19 87:13 89:15 90:20 91:10 92:11,11 93:7 95:8 96:2,11 98:18 103:12 106:1,8 108:8 109:11 111:24 115:17 116:15,17 116:20,21,24 117:6 119:2 122:22 128:14,16 128:17 129:2,21 134:10 136:15 138:12,16 139:7 144:22,24 148:1 149:1 154:15,21 155:1,12 156:5,13 157:9	148:12,16 150:17 151:1 152:19 155:1,5 156:14 goodness 123:13 good-government 148:21 Gore 40:15 gosh 153:23 gotcha 72:9 gotten 5:12 65:21 govern 24:12 60:24 Governance 135:14 143:17 government 13:20 54:13 66:9 111:20 133:3 134:3,14 governments 74:7 governor 21:18,18 21:23,24 37:17 45:20 90:5,8 107:8 governor's 89:19 grab 73:21 77:8 110:12 grad 128:22 graduate 19:7 graduating 19:3 grandmother 67:16 grandmother's 68:14 grandson 67:17 68:1 graphite 67:2 grateful 80:20 146:19 grave 129:8 great 3:24 6:8 10:3 12:15 64:5 69:6 74:3,4 85:19 91:23 117:5 121:20 139:17 146:1 greater 121:10 greatly 123:20 green 27:4 Greenhalgh 147:15 grew 19:2 Griffin 141:17,23 141:25	gross 76:25 ground 120:20 group 10:11 133:20 146:1 147:16 148:21 groups 7:23 9:8 150:2 153:23 156:16,17,17 157:1 growing 26:15 151:7 GSP 72:10 guarantee 136:4 138:20 guarantees 100:17 guardedly 52:5 guess 42:11 71:5 85:8 guidance 34:4 112:22 guide 11:6 110:24 guidelines 8:14 99:5,11,14,16,17 109:22 111:19,19 115:2 116:22 137:15 guys 80:25 81:11 82:2 83:11,18 118:19 128:12 129:2 149:11 Gwinnett 98:10,12 135:3 158:3	handle 38:14 61:10 115:21 136:6 handled 35:16 handling 64:15 handout 119:18 handwriting 119:1 139:9 143:8 hand-marked 59:23 124:14,22 129:6 135:23 147:1 154:12 hand-to-hand 35:17 hang 23:15 hanging 20:12 happen 23:20,22 24:17,18 29:23 36:11,12 75:9 79:15 83:14 84:6 108:21 happened 64:24 66:19 68:12,13 happening 24:5,7 24:10 48:9 58:4 121:9 happens 15:10 29:14 74:17 96:20 121:25 137:21 happily 136:8 happy 59:19 70:12 82:1 84:5 87:24 92:1 107:15 108:25 128:1 130:10 132:25 134:22 136:18 145:18,20 152:22 hard 3:16 7:15 20:8 40:23 91:23 hard-working 10:3 Harlem 5:4 Harvey 8:11 18:7 18:10,14,16 45:7 49:22 50:2,10 51:1 71:13,17,23 71:25 72:8,10,14 72:17 73:8,11,14 74:15 75:11,18,23 76:1,7,10,15 77:12,24 78:12,14 78:22 79:10,22	126:8 148:24 hasn't 66:19 hats 150:24 HAVA 93:4,5,6,13 93:16 98:18,25 99:2 114:19 haven't 2:16 52:19 head 44:13 108:24 headset 46:1 health 6:21 151:24 hear 6:9 9:3 15:15 18:12 27:25 44:11 47:15 92:2,3 117:10 121:1 128:17 130:10 140:1 141:22 145:10,21 149:10 152:22 heard 17:17,19 83:9 95:18 96:1 137:13 143:24 144:10 145:6 154:19,19,20 hearing 2:24 80:19 hearings 13:20 17:18 66:10 heat 126:17 held 1:7 11:18 12:19 13:19 98:12 Hello 150:20 help 16:22 39:24 89:22 92:24 93:3 94:16 103:25 128:14 138:8 helped 3:19 helpful 11:11 81:18 81:24 83:11 84:17 helping 129:25 helps 80:18 Henderson 148:11 148:15,19,20 150:13 here's 49:19,20,22 49:22 50:10 Hey 52:19 56:20 58:5 64:5 78:21 128:10 he's 6:17 7:1 15:7 50:3 64:2 87:22 Hi 135:1 148:19
gold 100:3 good 2:3,7 3:20 4:13,13 5:3,11 10:12,25 14:16 15:19 16:25 18:3 18:8,10,14 39:8 50:10 60:8,9,9 63:22 72:12 73:18 75:7 77:12 78:21 79:21 80:8 81:10 82:14 84:23 91:21 96:20 101:10 102:4 107:16 116:12 117:9,12 117:20 118:25 119:14 121:1 123:15 125:23 127:18 129:10 130:9 132:24 133:1,3 134:20 135:14 139:9,10 140:2,25 141:20 141:23 143:12,16 144:11 146:11	H hack 66:24 67:2 hacked 66:22 127:3 147:12 hacker 129:3 hacking 66:23 67:4 154:2,3 hacks 59:7 hadn't 5:12 half 26:4 38:16 44:8 77:20 78:8 131:24 hammered 82:8 hand 71:11 72:20 118:11 Handel 19:15 handicapped 39:16			

152:18	13:9,14,18,18,19	93:15 153:22	113:22 114:13	input 7:24 8:16
high 11:2 19:8	32:3 43:14 61:19	implementing	154:22	82:21 127:11
23:17 37:24 70:3	89:19 107:4 122:1	134:6	individual 26:10	135:11 136:24
101:12 108:15	houses 13:25	implore 133:22	31:16 32:22 33:3	146:4 156:19
136:9 142:8	Howell 6:20 113:6	important 3:2 6:12	33:10,15 34:7	insecure 121:24
higher 76:16	113:8,20	7:10,17 21:3,5,25	86:13 100:19,20	inserted 58:7
highest 68:18 87:10	How's 78:25	22:1 31:2 59:24	individually 105:13	inside 129:9 140:14
124:18	huge 129:22	62:22 63:23 64:23	individuals 9:7	installs 147:17
highly 149:20	human 41:25 141:8	66:15 80:23 81:5	35:5 93:18	instance 86:17
highly-exploitable	human-readable	93:14 95:25	individual-vote	Institute 6:14
144:7	125:2	102:23 106:1	115:6	instructions 28:5
high-risk 144:7	hundred 54:18	120:3,18 121:13	indivisible 4:23	68:16
hire 30:21	hundreds 57:9	126:20,20 127:8	industry 122:5	integrity 128:18
hired 19:15	118:9,9 142:19	137:19,20 151:5,6	inefficient 35:20	130:23 147:16
historical 22:15	hundred-percent	153:19	infections 129:14	151:8 154:4
37:11 120:12	96:4	importantly 18:23	inferior 63:15	intend 15:12
history 14:4 126:8	hurdles 137:15	120:14 141:11	infiltrated 129:15	intended 14:9
129:13 155:19	hybrid 104:10,22	impressive 7:7	129:20	intent 79:6,8,13
hits 48:6		69:15 148:15	influenced 147:24	97:20 116:12
hold 29:17 64:20	I	improve 69:2 100:8	inform 80:18 81:6	intentionally 67:3
72:11,12 74:19	IBM 38:6	142:25	146:23	interact 73:12
77:15 106:12	ID 47:9 49:20	inaccessible 96:5	information 6:14	127:9
114:11	idea 15:11 16:12,16	include 19:24	17:3 23:11 31:2	interacting 37:1
Holden 5:24 32:13	25:5 26:18 36:25	90:24	35:21 45:6 48:10	interaction 22:13
48:19 57:7	40:1 69:9 74:21	included 17:20	49:5,6 50:20,20	interest 125:4
holes 20:23	108:2 110:22	105:9 149:7	50:22 51:17,18	interested 151:2
Holgrem 5:24	111:11 117:20	154:11 156:21	57:12 71:4,19	156:7 157:2
Holiday 133:8	121:12 128:11	includes 11:4	79:21 81:8 82:18	interesting 74:16
holy 4:16	identified 120:14	126:23	82:25 83:6,12,17	133:23
home 25:25 82:8	identify 69:17	including 93:19,21	84:18 85:6,14	interference 65:2
94:22,23	86:14	119:22 147:5	86:22 99:21	Interjection 1:17
Homeland 138:4,9	identity 122:3	inclusion 146:2	107:17 109:1	internal 47:21
homicide 19:11	ignored 133:20	incomplete 58:17	111:10 114:16	53:14,17 55:9
honor 18:17	illiterate 39:23	incorrect 147:11	120:7,8,18 121:25	133:11
honored 3:23	46:8	increased 138:3	128:25 136:18	International
hoops 44:1	illustration 32:18	increases 62:4,4	137:14 147:9	133:7
hope 14:4 83:15	ill-prepared 124:13	independence	151:1 156:23	Internet 52:7 95:20
85:14 95:18	image 54:6,10	93:22	informational	147:14
130:17 138:14	images 54:19	independent	81:15 83:13 85:25	interpreted 20:21
hopefully 10:13	imagine 129:5	124:23 147:10,21	87:5	97:3
11:6 83:11 104:19	immediate 135:15	independently	informative 73:3	Interruption 1:17
111:10 150:6	immediately 49:21	35:12 39:19 40:4	informed 79:24	introduce 5:1 12:5
horse's 83:12	122:13 135:24	46:5	infrastructure 66:8	18:9,11 19:1 92:1
hospitable 139:21	impact 93:14	indicate 140:10	125:14	119:20 121:2
hospitality 139:20	impaired 93:20	indicates 131:18	inhibit 113:1	123:17 125:24
hot 33:20 65:24	implement 17:24	indicating 16:4	inhibiting 147:18	127:25 130:9
hour 120:9	43:8 131:7	72:22 73:20 75:4	initial 2:4 49:4 71:6	132:25 134:21
hours 59:10	implementation	77:5 78:18 84:10	initially 15:23	137:4 141:21
house 11:15,15,21	83:3 144:16	84:22 88:4 107:20	initiative 10:19	143:13 145:19
11:24 12:16,16,17	implemented 22:2	109:6 110:9 113:6	Inns 133:8	146:12 148:17

150:18 152:21
introduced 3:6
 14:21
invaluable 146:3
invariably 126:23
invest 123:23
investigations
 19:11,18
investigator 19:16
investigators 72:2
 72:6
invitation 106:20
invocation 4:4
involve 10:19,23
involved 11:9,21
 13:8 38:11 89:16
 95:21 117:15,23
 127:5 137:12
invulnerable 69:3
in-person 42:22
 43:3 44:3
iPads 36:24
iPhone 36:24 80:1
Iraq 44:14
Island 105:20
isn't 57:4 109:15
ISO 134:6
issue 9:5 12:22 34:7
 34:17 59:4 61:12
 66:2 85:22 100:10
 100:11 113:18
 114:9,24 121:22
 132:3 142:14
 146:21 154:10
issued 33:1 106:20
issues 5:8 9:8 20:10
 46:1 66:5 76:18
 93:3 117:22 118:7
 120:11 121:9
 123:3 142:7,10,15
 143:21
items 109:8,11
it'll 22:10 49:6,7
 49:7 52:18 79:24
 81:14,18 83:10
 100:7 103:19
it's 2:17,18 3:2
 12:7 22:9 24:8,16
 24:16,17,25,25
 25:20,20,20,25,25

26:12 29:21,21
 30:5 31:21 33:1
 33:16 34:9,13,16
 36:13 38:21,23
 39:6 44:13,23
 46:19 48:25 49:1
 49:9,9,12 50:7
 51:12,12,18,19,19
 52:23,23 53:4,9
 53:20 55:7,8
 56:15,15,21 58:10
 59:13,13,24 63:23
 64:6,24 70:25
 73:9,9,15 75:12
 77:19 79:3,11,11
 80:23 82:11,13,22
 82:23 83:7 84:19
 85:9,12 87:5,6,11
 92:11 93:4 96:2
 96:19 100:6,11
 101:8 104:6,9
 105:17 106:3
 110:5,7,15 113:3
 113:3 116:3,16
 119:2 120:17
 121:16 123:6
 127:2 129:3 130:5
 132:2,23 133:17
 134:18 137:22
 142:14 143:9,11
 144:19,24 146:1
 147:14 148:16
 151:23 152:3,14
 153:19 155:6
I'd 11:10 70:24
 148:24
I'll 4:5 22:11 33:17
 38:24 39:21 40:8
 43:5 44:10 70:12
 79:25 82:4 84:5
 92:7,14,22 107:15
 115:22 116:7
 119:20 136:8,18
 145:24 150:15
 153:15,15 157:12
I'm 2:10,10,11 4:2
 5:12 10:3,4 14:25
 15:2 16:7,7,8 17:2
 31:5 34:10,10
 37:10 39:3 40:17

45:8,8,8,17,17,19
 46:25 47:4,5
 59:18 67:4,4
 68:12 80:6,10
 82:1 84:4,5 85:25
 92:5 96:11 98:18
 103:12 104:4
 112:10 113:8,9
 116:17,21,24
 117:19 118:8
 119:2,13,21
 120:20 121:15
 124:3 126:1 128:3
 128:4 129:22
 130:12 131:9,11
 133:5,5,5 135:1,2
 135:17 136:15
 137:7 139:7,12
 142:4 143:8,14,15
 143:16 145:23
 146:19,20 148:1,6
 148:19,20 151:1
 153:7 154:15
I've 17:17 23:21
 27:2 36:8 45:6
 106:24 114:21
 119:4,5 122:4
 123:19 126:16
 128:12 135:6
 136:18 140:25
 146:15 147:6

J

Jablonski 6:15
 78:18,21,25 79:16
Jackson 5:14 16:4
 16:6,10 17:10,12
 18:2 75:4,5,6,14
 75:21,25 76:5,8
 76:14 77:4 109:6
 109:8,11 110:3,6
 110:8 112:7,9,11
 132:19
James 3:17 5:12
Janine 130:5,5,8,12
 132:14
January 11:25
 12:10 13:3 14:18
 89:17
jealous 128:12

Jeremy 146:25
Jersey 139:18,22
 140:7,8,21
Jimmy 6:23,24
 73:21 110:10
 112:7,9
job 3:17 6:8 10:25
 79:20 80:24,24
 91:21,23 107:16
 121:20 130:1
 136:21 137:16
Joe 37:22 59:2
John 6:16 37:22
 129:19
joined 19:10
joining 14:20
Jones 37:22
joys 2:19
judge 5:25 6:1
 28:17,19,20,22,22
 29:3,4,19 31:21
 52:17,20 54:15
 113:22,23,24
 114:1
judges 29:2,19 30:2
 30:18
judgment 29:15
July 19:19 24:7
 158:15
jump 44:1 58:7
June 1:10
jurisdiction 105:3
 105:4
justice 4:24 19:6
justify 137:25

K

Karen 19:15
keep 3:22 15:1 36:6
 36:19,23 55:12
 60:19 106:18
 112:1 118:20
 133:22 136:12
keeping 72:12
 157:9
keeps 24:24,25
 62:24
Kemp 2:3 3:7,9
 4:18,21 16:18,20
 17:2 18:15,18

19:19 32:10 80:12
 88:4,5,6 89:24
 118:17 130:14
 136:21 137:9,24
 139:2 155:14
Kennesaw 138:10
kept 53:25 73:15
Kevin 8:13 91:25
 91:25 92:5 107:16
 107:22,23 109:4
 115:15,15
key 22:17 54:3
 57:21 73:16 99:5
keypad 46:2
kick 3:24 55:7
kind 11:3,13 22:2
 30:5 32:5 37:12
 37:23 38:13 41:3
 47:16 49:8 59:16
 64:10 74:22 82:23
 85:6 87:11 88:15
 89:2 90:6 94:3
 99:19 109:24
 113:2 116:14
 123:3 128:13
knew 122:20
 140:12,12
know 5:21 6:4,9
 7:6,12,20 8:12 9:5
 15:7 16:1,14,24
 18:21 22:25 24:16
 24:23 25:6,12
 27:12 30:9 31:9
 32:3 33:4,16,19
 33:22,24 34:2,11
 35:16 39:14 40:15
 41:3,9,23 42:2,3,6
 42:8,24 44:16
 45:21 46:3,3,9,10
 47:12 48:2,6,8
 52:2,10 53:7,16
 53:16 54:11,14,20
 55:3,17,18,21,23
 55:25 59:7,10,11
 60:21 62:11 63:2
 63:12 64:18 65:9
 65:20 66:7 67:22
 68:11,13 74:4
 75:9,16 76:18,19
 77:10,14 78:3

79:3,13 80:16	lastly 22:18 40:7	129:25	109:25 110:3	73:24 76:20 81:19
81:18,23 82:7	43:7 46:7 48:5	leeway 35:11	114:2,3,10 140:9	100:2 116:7 124:2
83:8 85:13,16,25	63:12 64:8 68:24	Lee's 78:20	140:11	128:12 137:11
86:1 87:1,12,19	late 137:11,22	left 33:18 79:20	leverage 86:9	139:13,25 148:25
88:6 89:24 91:9	launched 59:6	114:4 122:18	leveraged 104:23	153:22
91:10 100:20	Laura 123:6,6,6,9	154:8	levers 38:12 91:14	live 4:10 44:16
107:25 108:17,21	123:15,18 124:1	legal 88:17 90:23	140:10	126:2 146:24
108:23 110:23	125:16	92:13,18 103:3,10	lever-machine	152:24
112:20 118:3,19	law 5:7 19:24 24:3	103:10 107:17	110:1 114:11	lived 140:25
121:19 122:15	24:8,9 29:24	109:14 137:14	libertarian 6:17	lives 51:1,2
124:3,12 128:13	44:18 54:2 64:14	legal-considerati...	128:5 142:14	LLC 7:1
129:18 130:21	68:4 78:5 79:3	92:17	liberty 4:23	load 132:4
132:1,8 136:2,5	81:1,23 90:1,7,17	LEGEND 1:16	library 1:11 2:15	loan 135:20
136:20 137:21	91:15 92:22,24	legislation 12:14	2:17,18 3:13	lobbyists 125:7
139:14,15 145:10	93:25 95:11,12,13	13:2,21 14:2	130:15	147:24
146:21 151:16,19	96:24 97:1,13,14	30:15 96:14,16,21	license 49:20,21	local 12:12 32:4,6
152:3,7,8 153:20	98:1,6 99:2,13	101:9 107:5,24	50:5,7	54:13 69:23 74:7
153:25 154:6,23	101:13,14,21	108:1,21 111:1	licenses 49:17	location 26:7 61:14
156:3,10,17,25	102:9,11,15,21,22	117:23 118:2	135:22	62:1
157:3	102:23 109:9,13	150:10	life 4:9 7:7,9 11:19	locations 94:13,20
knowing 129:8	109:13 116:14	legislative 5:8 6:24	129:12 148:13	103:23
151:11 154:2	lawmakers 11:6	10:12 11:24 12:3	light 20:19	lock 54:2 57:21
knowledge 86:10	147:18	12:4 13:16,24	limit 61:22	73:16
135:10	laws 60:20 61:2	87:16 89:18	limited 36:9 49:2	locks 68:21
known 65:6	92:19,22 101:4	146:23 149:11	73:16	log 58:5 59:11
knows 3:3 65:14,16	law-enforcement	150:11	limits 24:10	logic 53:20 128:23
	3:19	legislators 60:21	line 42:7 60:2	logistical 63:9
L	lay 105:2 155:19	91:3	list 31:24 32:23	137:14
Laboratories	layers 49:10	legislature 11:13	47:5 50:2 64:11	long 32:16 60:6
133:11	lead 10:6 23:9	14:17 22:6 24:17	91:24 109:11	69:10 138:1
lack 39:4,13	85:15	29:22 30:14 42:19	117:1 118:25	144:21 156:4
laid 24:16 93:13	leadership 10:15	46:22 90:3,8 91:2	123:6 125:20	longer 109:24
land 105:2 139:19	leading 133:12	112:16 118:3	127:21 130:4	122:2 128:7
landscape 129:1,1	League 126:2,4,12	legislatures 66:11	134:17 137:1	look 2:24 3:25 7:18
language 101:8,9	126:24 127:8	lengths 74:3	139:3 141:17	23:2,9 24:15
108:4	learn 102:6 128:24	lesser 39:12	145:17 146:10	27:10 34:11 45:7
languages 98:3,4	128:25 129:13,14	Lester 5:14	148:11 151:16,18	47:9 50:1 58:16
98:17 152:4,5	129:17,19 144:18	letting 152:10	151:22,22 152:1	85:16 88:1 89:2
laptop 57:18	learned 68:3 113:4	let's 22:23 51:8	152:14 155:10	90:2,17,23,25
129:20	learning 36:20	56:18 61:16 85:14	157:6	92:9 93:15 105:16
large 6:23 7:2	lease 112:3,4	154:25	listed 101:16	110:15 111:12
25:14 28:14,16	leave 52:12,13	Let's 132:17	listen 15:15 128:25	132:11 134:2,3,12
55:21 131:7,19	60:17	level 20:8 32:2	listening 150:25	150:7,9 156:10,12
largely 31:15 101:9	leaving 21:24	59:15 99:23,24	lists 35:12 47:7	156:24 157:8
127:1	led 14:3	100:4 101:12	litigation 7:4	looked 37:14
largest 17:22	Lee 6:13 72:22,23	108:15 115:6	little 15:25 19:2	117:24
Larson 152:16,17	72:24,25 73:2,10	124:18	22:20,21 27:16	looking 10:3 14:25
152:18,23,24	73:13,17,18 84:22	levels 74:17	29:12 35:11 37:10	48:7 51:14 71:11
153:8,12,15,18	84:24,25 85:11,17	lever 20:16 38:8	38:5 40:9 46:2	83:22 87:2 115:4
154:17,25	85:20,21 128:14	42:25 101:1,4,5	51:25 61:13 64:4	127:12 129:2

149:7,21
looks 12:7 22:25
 42:10 62:13
Lord 4:7
lost 67:8 135:17
lot 5:6,7,8 6:25 7:8
 17:23 38:9 39:10
 40:18 53:2 62:10
 63:7,8,8,9 64:1
 65:5 78:14 80:24
 81:21 82:10,14
 87:20 95:20,20
 108:13 113:4
 118:3,4 120:6
 126:16,17 129:13
 129:21 136:19
 137:12,12 140:24
 145:11 149:22
 150:24 151:17,20
 153:1 154:6,7
lots 118:19
lottery 123:14
Louisiana 105:24
 106:3
love 18:12 141:22
Lovely 117:9
low 11:2
lowest 87:10
Lowry 152:14,15
low-cost 145:1
low-risk 145:1
luck 127:18
Lynn 5:18 16:14
 65:12 107:21
 109:3

M

machine 25:20
 33:7 34:19 38:15
 39:23 50:18 51:5
 52:18 53:6,14
 54:21 57:11 58:20
 59:23 64:21,22
 90:7,10 91:15
 101:4 104:7 110:3
 140:15
machines 10:14
 11:5,19,20 12:10
 14:7 16:12,13
 20:17 35:3 38:6,8

38:9,11,24 42:25
 46:24 50:16 52:5
 52:14 53:4,19
 56:15 57:8 64:23
 71:2 78:2,3,5
 82:11,15 83:3
 89:25 91:14 94:21
 94:22 98:14 101:1
 101:5,7 104:25
 107:18 109:25
 110:2 114:2,4,5
 114:10 119:25
 120:2,4 124:14
 126:19 133:16
 147:12 151:5
machine-marked
 59:24
Macon 5:13
Madison 133:3
magistrate 28:21
magnanimous
 117:22
maiden 139:14
mail 25:24 26:16
 43:18 94:12 95:4
mailed 43:13 44:24
 67:16
mailing 43:11,17
 151:12
mail-in 44:25
main 87:3 92:18,22
 95:5 100:24
 118:10 137:17
maintain 32:25
 33:6,10 54:1
maintained 31:19
 48:18
maintaining 73:4
maintains 32:22,23
 33:3
maintenance 83:2
major 27:10,10
 81:20
majority 29:6
making 21:16
 70:14 126:24
 127:4,14 150:5
 154:4
malicious 129:12
 141:10

malware 129:13
man 67:15
management 19:24
 20:5 56:4 144:3
manager 132:4
managing 7:1
mandate 106:22
manipulation
 134:1 141:10
manner 93:20
Manual 86:8
manually 12:12
 114:19
manufacturing
 133:10
map 27:2 105:16
marbled 105:17
marbling 27:12
Marietta 1:11 3:14
 133:2
Marilyn 143:4,4,7
 143:12,15 145:12
mark 26:1 41:21
 43:21 68:7 79:4
 94:16 95:3 103:19
 104:1,8 106:11
marked 20:20
 21:20 67:19
 118:12
market 11:22
 69:16 111:23
marking 42:13
 106:9
marks 38:15 143:5
 143:6,6,7,8,10,14
 143:15 145:13,16
markups 79:6
Maryland 105:21
 112:2
material 99:8
 102:3
materials 68:22
 84:2 114:22
math 76:12 128:23
matter 26:10 29:7
 89:3 130:24
matters 21:5
Maxine 5:21,22
Maxx 143:4
mayor 67:13,21,25

mayor's 68:14
ma'am 154:16
ma'am 113:7
MCAT 38:22
McCain 129:19
McCoy 6:1 29:3,19
 113:22,24 114:1
McDonald 6:24 7:1
 73:20,23 74:1
 78:6,8,13 110:9
 110:11,13 112:8
 112:10,14
McDonough 5:15
McNamara 125:20
 125:22 126:1,1
mean 9:23 32:6
 36:12 46:19 55:10
 60:11 74:19 77:17
 84:6 97:5 108:9
 108:10 110:15
 112:16 113:1,3
 139:22 152:1
 154:21
means 27:18 28:10
 35:12 37:21,21
 39:23 44:13 49:1
 81:22 93:10,23
 96:18 103:14
 108:9 111:24
meant 122:9 136:3
measures 68:21
 124:15
mechanical 20:17
 140:14
mechanism 109:14
mechanisms 27:21
 113:4
mechanized 91:14
media 7:14 35:17
 47:19 54:23 57:13
medical 128:9
meet 25:2 94:9
 95:12 98:14 99:14
 99:15,25 113:16
 114:23 115:3,8,11
 115:12
meeting 1:7 2:5,20
 3:12,16,18,21,24
 4:2,12 8:6,24 9:25
 11:18,21 55:20

83:19 84:1 114:18
 116:9 120:23
 144:11 150:5
 153:7,14 155:13
 157:10,12 158:8
meetings 4:13 6:10
 7:16 8:1,2,7,22
 9:2,7 10:1 12:19
 66:16 157:7
meets 91:17 108:16
members 2:14 5:1
 7:14,22 8:15,23
 10:7,18 11:11
 15:22 18:4,12,15
 44:14 70:16,20,22
 72:19 73:19 79:18
 84:7,12,20 85:22
 88:3 89:11 91:19
 100:11 109:4
 116:13 119:16
 155:21
memo 114:25
 144:25 145:5
memory 47:21,21
 52:8 53:11,13,14
 53:15,17 54:23,24
 55:5,9,9 56:14,19
 57:8 58:5
mention 7:11,25
 8:9,14 21:2 44:10
 44:10 61:12
mentioned 9:21
 14:24 28:24 30:13
 31:23 35:7 37:18
 43:7,10 44:3,4
 49:9 54:22 61:9
 62:8,23 70:15,19
 75:14 76:5 107:24
 109:8 112:2
 113:11 115:21
 116:6
mentioning 155:5
mentoring 23:18
mercifully 34:2
merely 146:21
mess 54:5
message 51:21
met 11:16 125:14
metal 20:23
method 86:9 136:7

145:1	120:10 156:4	moves 81:2,16	129:16 133:7	never 2:15 15:6
metro 27:8	miserably 133:19	movie 38:13 139:16	147:1,15 149:4	34:21 45:6 60:4
mic 16:8 78:20	misguided 135:9	moving 24:2 65:6	nationwide 133:15	60:11 70:3 73:11
110:12 113:25	misinformation	82:9 103:16 106:7	nation's 66:8	128:20
117:10 124:1	145:7	multi 91:11	native 139:18	new 6:6 16:11
139:25	misnomer 31:10	multiple 11:8 20:25	natural 15:14	36:14,25 37:7
Michael 6:15	mispronounce	49:10 53:11 86:19	nature 111:3	42:15 62:17,21
132:22,22,24	119:2	91:11 98:2,4,16	near 15:2 136:14	63:10 64:5 69:25
133:1 134:11,16	misread 67:10	152:5	nearest 71:10	70:10 81:3 82:9
Michigan 105:7,12	missed 153:7,8	multiple-languag...	nearing 59:18	83:3 86:6 89:19
105:17	157:2	98:7	necessarily 23:3	90:16,22 91:15
microphone 10:4	missing 56:21,22	multi-candidate	24:8 36:12 37:2	92:14 96:10 100:5
15:2 17:11 22:20	mission 112:15	101:18	46:24 50:1 60:7	100:13,14 101:20
72:21 73:1,22	mistake 64:23	municipal 6:6	60:17 110:19	106:22,23 107:7
113:9 124:8	mistakenly 21:19	35:10,10 78:11	111:6	109:15,18,20
132:18,21 140:2	misunderstood	municipalities	necessary 43:2	111:18,19,21,25
150:16	67:11	77:10,14,15,16	54:6	112:5 113:3
microphones 8:20	MIT 64:1	102:11	need 3:3 8:19,23	122:18 124:17
mics 148:14	Mitchell 3:17	Muscogee 5:20	9:4 16:3 34:23	125:5 130:15
midst 138:10	model 103:17,17	27:8 64:21	40:1 43:15,15,16	132:11 133:14
Mike 6:15 152:14	104:4,5,10,22	MVP 49:2	50:7 61:14 62:25	139:17,22 140:7,8
152:15,15,15	106:8,16	myth 147:17	64:6 66:22 68:20	140:21 142:7
military 19:4,25	models 103:16		70:18 74:19 81:8	144:16
Mill 1:10 3:13	modern 35:20 36:3	N	89:13 90:16 94:13	newer 102:13
million 11:2,2	145:4	N 2:1	94:23 97:22	news 48:8 64:5
16:22 17:9,13	modify 109:17	naive 69:3	102:21 103:9	106:5
26:24 43:7 76:6	moment 4:3	name 2:11 4:16	106:13 109:9,14	night 48:6 54:9
76:11 98:23	Monds 6:16 114:13	18:16 20:1,20	113:18 122:17	56:3 57:7,12
106:18,19,25	114:15 115:13	49:4 51:19 68:8	124:17,22 125:2,8	58:16 59:12 140:7
107:1,2,6 149:7,8	money 66:12 155:1	80:13 92:5 101:16	126:19 128:10	nine 21:22
millions 10:24	monitor 69:1	115:23,23 117:2,3	150:15	NIST-approved
89:22 133:21,23	month 59:5,5	117:11,12 119:2,4	needed 36:1 42:18	99:25
134:4	months 14:10	119:5,21 121:3	104:17	non 151:2
mind 36:7,19,23	137:20 145:11	123:12,18 127:21	needn't 142:20,21	noncitizens 152:10
60:19 97:17	morning 2:3,6 7:20	128:3 130:11	needs 61:6 63:22	nonpartisan
106:19 112:1	18:9,10,14,19	132:21 133:1	86:13 91:6 96:2	143:17
118:20 120:17,20	23:18 80:9 84:9	134:17 135:1	102:24 103:1	nonprofit 143:17
136:13	117:12 126:8	137:6 139:5,12	108:2 109:12	Nonverbal 139:2
minds 94:3	mouth 83:12	141:25 145:22	125:3 137:15,15	nonvisual 93:19
mine 51:11 57:4	move 3:2 4:11 7:24	146:14 150:21	negotiated 105:14	non-electronic
minimal 98:20	8:16 9:13,14	152:24 155:9	negotiation 105:15	66:20
100:4	12:14 16:2 57:22	names 20:18 67:20	neighbor 51:6	non-human 124:25
minimization	57:22,25 70:17	Nancy 5:19 152:16	network 52:6 57:20	non-network 35:21
69:18	84:5 90:16,22	152:16,17,19,24	99:21	64:13
minimum 25:13	92:14 100:14,19	153:6 154:24	networked 48:17	non-networked
95:12 98:23 99:10	102:16 106:15	155:3,4	64:19	57:17
110:23 112:17,21	112:6 115:17	narrow 111:22	networking 133:9	normally 9:2
minute 55:1,22	116:21 144:24	nation 4:23 138:2	networks 138:6	North 143:15
minutes 9:1,15	moved 105:5 122:7	national 20:11	network-connect...	note 43:16
80:3 116:6 120:10	140:16	37:13 41:13 65:23	99:22	notebook 27:4

notice 23:7 27:8
notified 157:7
November 6:6
 20:10 76:23 77:1
 96:22
November's
 135:25
no-brainer 152:2
null 109:24
number 20:4 21:6
 21:7 33:23 65:11
 76:11 77:13
 108:22 109:8
 133:25 142:2
 147:5 151:13,14
numbers 25:5
 26:25 71:6,6
 76:25 77:2 83:9
 89:20,21

O

O 2:1
oath 43:22
oath-of-elector
 121:23
Obama 129:19
objection 151:17
objectives 120:14
obligations 25:2
 153:2
obsolete 110:16
 114:1
obviously 9:17 14:9
 17:23 27:5,7
 47:11 48:15 52:11
 68:17 76:15 89:13
 102:25 103:8
 113:4 120:16
 121:8 126:18
 156:4
occurred 105:7
odd 21:15
odds 95:22 113:12
offered 11:23 87:3
 138:4,6
office 8:10 19:13,14
 19:17 20:6 23:24
 25:7,8 28:16,25
 31:7,13 32:11
 33:9,11 34:4 35:8

35:18,24 41:25
 48:19 56:12 57:14
 57:25 58:2,13
 59:15 66:24 68:25
 68:25 69:1 71:8
 71:12 72:3,5,6
 80:8,14 81:6,22
 83:14 88:14,22
 89:9,14 92:6
 106:6 110:25
 112:21,24 122:1
 142:1 156:1
officer 128:10
offices 20:3 23:12
 31:4 36:7 58:22
 93:9,10
official 57:6,11,14
 57:15 59:2 71:6
 72:16 122:17
 126:25
officials 7:20 12:12
 17:25 23:25 31:20
 35:17,19 36:15
 37:9 48:14,25
 49:18 60:3,10
 63:11 65:18 69:5
 69:11,24 72:2
 82:16 130:18,19
 130:21 131:12
 144:12,17 146:3
 147:6,18 155:23
offline 73:9
off-line 35:16
oft-repeated
 147:17
oh 78:20,25 84:24
 136:17 148:15
 153:23
Ohio 107:3,9
 151:14,15
okay 2:10 4:25 16:9
 18:2 33:1 48:8
 49:22 50:3,25
 52:5 54:9,14 55:8
 57:10,17 59:1
 62:16 72:7,18,24
 73:2,17 75:14,25
 76:5 78:17 79:16
 79:20 85:11,12,17
 85:23 91:19,24

92:3 110:6 113:23
 115:15 116:18
 117:1 118:24
 119:14 120:25
 122:24 123:5
 124:4,5,9 127:24
 130:4 132:17,20
 134:12 137:1
 139:3 141:5,6
 143:7 148:3
 150:16 152:14,16
 153:12
ol 60:8,9
old 11:5 16:13
 20:16 38:6 40:18
 60:7 62:12 82:15
 91:14 100:5 113:3
 114:7 121:15
omega 56:8
once 10:20 79:21
 92:7 101:18,22
 117:3 121:16
 129:9 155:9
ones 29:14 34:1,16
 34:17 41:7 60:22
 71:6 77:21 79:2
 88:13 143:8
one's 141:12
one-day 25:17
one-size 143:24
ongoing 83:2 131:8
online 48:14,17,18
 49:12 58:13 90:2
on-demand 82:11
 142:24
open 4:1 14:15
 43:24 53:21 90:2
 100:13 136:13
 153:3
opening 4:5
openness 145:9
operate 29:9 35:5
 35:11 39:23 46:10
 51:24 69:10 70:1
 99:11 116:25
 130:22
operated 58:12
 60:11 69:5 102:4
operates 27:15
operating 20:15

25:19,21
operation 47:16
operations 30:9,23
 31:15 64:18 92:15
 103:13 105:23
 135:2
opinion 118:4
Opitz 132:22,22
 133:1,2 134:12
opportunities
 116:10 156:22
opportunity 40:4
 93:21 97:15
 100:12 127:9,18
 145:8,24 146:19
opposed 67:6 135:7
 149:8
opted 105:21
optical 12:23 38:18
 38:19,23,25 42:9
 43:1 47:23 61:8
 82:12 122:8,10
optical-scan 41:16
 42:13 55:2 101:7
 131:16
optical-scanning
 13:2,5
option 17:6 101:16
 112:4 127:14
 131:6 132:10,10
 132:13
options 10:17,25
 11:23 14:15 26:22
 69:16 81:8,9
 124:19 131:10
Optiz 132:23,23
order 4:25 21:25
 37:3 86:10 99:11
 149:13
orderly 3:20
 156:14
Oregon 94:4,18
 95:18
organization
 126:17 129:4
 133:3 143:17
 146:8
organizational
 121:7
organizations

23:25 86:10
 129:20
organized 3:20
original 1:19
 158:12
Ott 2:5,9,11 7:10
outcome 108:6
outcry 118:4,21
outer 121:23
outlived 148:13
outreach 20:1
outside 89:9
outstanding 105:24
outward 52:3
ovals 20:18
overhaul 12:2,20
 13:23
overseas 24:6
 44:12
oversee 88:25 89:5
oversight 138:5
overtaken 26:17
overview 15:20
 70:14 80:25 92:12
 116:13
overvote 21:5,15
 21:16,22 52:14,24
 122:12,16
overvoted 55:7
 67:24
overvotes 41:20,21
 41:23 42:14
 122:19
overvoting 52:15
owns 135:16,18,18
o'clock 23:1
O'Neill 32:4
O'Pitts 132:22

P

P 2:1
packet 114:15
 115:1
page 25:4 49:2
 97:19
paled 140:21
Pamela 150:17,17
 150:21 152:12
panel 6:11 7:7
 89:24 90:18

128:13 143:19 145:10 paper 6:7 20:21,24 25:20 26:1 37:20 37:22 38:19,21 42:13,24 43:11,12 43:21 45:10,11 47:1,20,24,24 48:3,4 50:2 55:3,4 55:10,13 59:23,24 60:4,16 61:9,11 61:23 62:1 63:14 63:17 65:4,7 66:20,22,25 67:2 67:4,5,5,8,12,16 77:16 78:1 94:3,7 95:6 97:2,5,21,22 103:17,19 104:1,2 104:24 105:5,22 106:12 114:25 115:10 121:19 122:6,7,9 124:14 124:22 126:23,24 131:4,11 133:7 135:15,18,23 136:6 140:17,22 142:22 147:2,19 148:25 149:18,21 150:8 151:5 153:24 154:13 paperless 124:14 papers 20:18 156:23 paper-ballot 135:16,24 149:15 149:17 paper-record 115:3 paper-trail 60:15 paper-vote 114:20 parameters 110:22 part 5:5 17:22 23:15 24:8 27:11 30:24 45:18 48:15 48:17,23 58:10 62:15 66:8 85:24 86:2 92:8 94:9 95:7 102:19 112:14 115:17 153:7 155:16	participate 3:5 14:22 83:16 participated 18:21 18:22,24 participating 83:15 123:20 participation 11:7 93:21 particular 12:14,21 54:8 101:22 108:1 114:24 118:6 146:2 particularly 120:17 parties 30:17 partner 7:1 parts 24:2 31:4 82:10 party 6:16,17,19 128:5 part-time 28:16 36:17,18 69:24,24 119:24 pass 13:25 14:16 15:2,12 29:24,24 90:4 98:24 99:11 109:20 113:25 passed 13:7,17 92:25 93:3 107:5 119:19 151:19 passes 96:24 97:12 108:8,16 passing 96:20 Pat 41:8 path 142:11 Patrick 1:8 15:4,5 158:5,18,18 pattern 90:8 Paulding 48:21 Pauling 5:25 pause 84:5 pay 91:7 paying 66:16 pen 43:22 103:19 147:2 pencil 42:13 43:21 67:1 103:19 147:2 pencils 25:21 pending 103:15 105:23 107:25 Pennsylvania	106:20 pen-and-paper 93:24 people 4:13 15:14 17:23 18:17 20:22 21:8,18 25:15 26:18,18,22 29:12 33:17 36:8,16 37:1 38:2,9,16 39:8,14,21 40:12 40:16,19,25 42:1 42:12 43:6 44:8 45:25 47:11,18 48:1,2,7 53:3 59:8 59:11,17 63:13,18 63:19 65:5,6 66:21 68:15 69:9 69:25 71:23 72:13 78:10 81:24 86:1 86:1 88:13,18,20 89:8,8 94:13,20 94:24 95:1,23 101:24 103:3,18 103:24 104:11,24 108:7 115:19 136:19 137:12 139:20 142:2,3 147:5,8 151:16,18 157:2 percent 25:23 26:20 31:1 38:25 40:22,24 41:7,12 41:13,23 48:2 66:2 76:14 93:24 108:13 127:16 percentage 75:15 75:16 76:8,25 percentages 77:3 perception 63:12 perfect 74:9 perfectly 145:2 performed 103:7 108:3 perils 68:15 period 26:5 126:14 136:2 permanent 97:2 114:24 115:3 permission 57:24 58:1 113:13	permitted 135:7 person 15:3 20:22 21:19 41:22,24 43:11 46:4 48:23 53:7,7,8 54:15,16 70:3 103:18 104:6 116:17 118:24 122:5 123:11 141:17 151:11,11 151:21,21 personal 50:20 121:24 personally 103:15 137:25 personnel 3:19 person's 101:16 146:22 perspective 74:9,9 pertinent 83:4 petitions 118:9 ph 1:18 5:24 16:20 50:16 54:13 74:7 120:16 123:2,24 124:24 127:22 128:19 132:22 133:8 139:4 143:4 145:1 phase 145:3 Phonetically 1:18 photocopying 158:10 physical 68:20 72:4 94:20 physically 46:8 pick 10:13 21:19 34:2 72:13 picked 72:5 145:7 picking 102:25 pictures 38:24 piece 20:20 37:22 47:20 94:6 95:14 pieces 33:3,10 96:21 115:1 125:13 pilot 6:4,8 102:12 piloted 125:1 pit 53:17 place 20:8 25:12,16 26:9,11,19 33:19 39:17 45:5,16,18	47:11 49:19 51:7 60:24 65:13 69:16 72:11 74:12 81:6 81:17 95:15 97:22 114:4 132:2,12 133:19 135:17 placed 104:9 143:22 places 25:10,14 33:16 34:3 35:23 78:10,11,15,16 94:11 131:5,17 placing 143:25 plain 20:21 plan 14:9 planning 14:10 82:15 106:5,15 157:10 plastic 20:24 38:3 play 100:24 142:12 playing 33:21 132:17 plays 89:14 please 15:18 16:2 17:4 18:8,9,11 70:21 84:24 92:1 108:20 109:7 113:25 117:2,11 121:2,17 123:9,17 125:21,24 127:25 130:8,9 132:25 134:21 136:16 137:2 141:18,21 143:13 144:11 145:18,19 146:12 148:2,17 150:18 152:21 154:16,25 pleased 70:9 142:9 pledge 4:4,19,20,21 plug 46:1 89:21 plugged 52:7 plus 119:22 podcast 129:12 podcasts 128:25 point 81:14 101:11 108:17 110:17 120:8 pointed 20:23 36:8 64:2 79:5 127:2 pointing 61:6
---	---	--	--	--

points 135:15 147:22	posters 28:3	president 21:9,11 21:14 40:14,22,24 45:20 52:16 126:3 126:3 133:2	private 142:5	142:25 146:5
point-of-failure 144:14	potentially 76:4 121:13	presidential 76:16	privilege 18:19	147:23 149:19,19
Police 19:10,12	PowerPoint 22:9 120:9	presidential-pref... 13:6	proactive 10:11	150:10 156:21
political 7:8,9 19:5 30:17 142:15	practice 93:23 128:9 144:9	pressures 35:23	probably 30:11 46:20 74:1,4	157:11
politics 32:4,5	practices 34:5 125:9	pretty 27:14 36:20 39:4 81:20 101:8 101:12 139:9	probate 6:1 28:17 28:20 29:2,4,19 30:2 31:21	processes 11:12 46:25 68:23 90:22 134:7 148:4
poll 47:7,10 49:13 132:4	pray 4:7	prevents 35:22	problem 9:17 31:25 39:13 40:8 42:15 53:1 65:15 65:16 68:13 122:2 122:12,21 134:8,8 134:13	procure 81:2,16 86:6 107:6
polling 25:10,12,13 25:15 26:9,10 33:16,18 34:3 45:5,18 47:11 49:19 51:7 65:13 78:10 94:11,12 95:15 97:22 103:23 131:5,17 132:2,12	precinct 50:3 61:24 61:25 104:20 122:8	previous 110:18 153:8 154:8	problematic 149:25	procured 88:16 112:20
polls 117:19 127:6 132:3	precincts 108:14 149:23	pre-solicitation 82:23	problems 20:13 37:15 39:2 41:11 59:13 65:17 93:2 120:12 121:11	procurement 81:1 81:23 86:8,11 88:11 89:1,2,4 91:1,3 92:15 103:12 105:7,19 105:23 106:17 107:9 112:2 113:18
poll-worker 50:1 50:14 97:23	precinct-card 49:6	price 131:23	proceeding 15:6	procurements 81:22 88:25
poll-workers 25:12 36:17,21	precinct-level 55:15	priced 122:4	proceedings 14:20 19:18 157:25 158:11	produce 97:2,2 produced 35:14 103:15
pop 50:9	precious 4:16	pride 2:19	procedures 27:20 34:5,15 65:3	product 11:22 12:6 92:10 123:2
popular 26:17	prefer 45:1	pride 2:19	proceeding 15:6	professional 36:15
popularity 26:18	preferred 40:16	primaries 12:25 76:19 78:9 102:13	proceedings 14:20 19:18 157:25 158:11	professionals 18:23 19:23 117:21
populates 71:20	prepare 83:25	primarily 19:11 20:7 31:8 32:1 103:17	process 4:1,11 7:18 7:24 8:16 9:10 10:4,13 11:7 12:1 12:2,4 13:16 14:3 14:24 15:23 18:24 22:24 23:16 24:4 35:23 36:5,9 62:16 75:17 81:6 81:15,17 82:7 83:10 84:5,8 85:1 85:4,15 86:12,20 86:25 87:6 88:11 89:4,15,18,22 90:6 91:10 102:20 103:1,3 105:11 107:4,9 110:21 111:9 116:15,20 117:16 123:25 124:16 125:5 126:5,20 134:9	professor 64:1
population 27:3,10 74:22 106:19 107:1,1	prepared 76:12	primary 13:6 22:1 76:11 98:12 131:18,22,24 151:9		program 35:2 66:3
portion 8:24 17:9	preprinting 131:4 131:13 132:10	principal 23:17 79:2		programming 144:3
position 19:19 137:25	preselected 148:7	print 53:4 54:10,18 62:3 95:4 97:8 104:1,8 115:9		progression 14:6
positioned 14:22	presence 7:23	printed 53:10,11 54:20 68:5		progressive 94:19
possesses 136:11	present 9:8 76:2 156:11	printer 94:23		project 6:5 14:10 88:1
possibilities 141:8 141:9	presentation 21:3 22:8,22 23:6 69:22 75:7 77:9 80:7 81:11 107:13 113:8,10 115:16 116:12 118:14 120:9,11,22 126:7 126:12 127:11 145:6 148:25	printers 62:3 82:12		promise 9:9
possibility 75:1 131:3	presentations 8:17 8:17,25 9:12 66:3 156:3,5,23	printing 131:23 142:25		prompts 46:2
possible 39:19 40:2 40:5 46:17 131:1 147:22	presented 2:25 103:18 104:24 155:18	printing-on-dem... 131:10		pronounce 123:10 130:5 139:9
possibly 35:20	presenter 15:21 79:25	prints 55:12 58:25 65:9		proper 8:21 23:14 34:20 64:15 136:3
post 71:10	presenters 8:9 14:25	prior 9:25 12:19 26:5 44:6 83:22 84:1		properly 63:20 68:11 102:4
posted 83:24 157:9	preserve 69:12	priorities 68:18		proposal 135:13 144:25
postelection 96:13 96:23 107:25 125:10	preserving 69:14	privacy 6:14 93:22 143:18		proposals 86:7,16 87:2
				propose 86:12

proposed 12:19 13:13 66:11 96:17	38:1,4,5,5 42:25	113:21 115:14	63:16 65:25 76:17	158:6,7
proposing 12:1	purchase 12:23	116:20,22,23	83:13 85:16,25	recorded 20:17
Prosecuting 7:5	17:6,8 82:6,10	120:10 125:14	89:1 96:6 102:23	47:19,20,20,21,22
protect 4:14 66:13	112:3	150:5	117:20 126:6	52:19 53:12 70:8
68:22 123:24	purge 151:15 152:1	quick 8:9 76:12	129:7,7 136:20	116:5
protecting 143:20	purple 27:5	147:11	137:17,21,22	recording 27:20
protection 59:16	purpose 133:16	quickly 32:20 47:5	140:19 151:23	47:19 48:6 49:11
66:10 124:18	purposes 81:15	101:13	153:18,25 154:17	69:20
136:4	push 34:6	quite 39:15	Reardon 150:17,20	records 32:22
protest 40:19	put 3:16 11:1 37:23	quote 68:4 147:13	150:21,24	38:15 46:4 53:14
proud 15:12 70:9	43:22 49:3,5,24		reason 22:1,1 40:1	55:5 131:17
provide 8:16 20:2	50:5,12,18 51:4	R	43:15,25 56:18	recount 97:7
28:7 44:5 62:25	51:12,22 53:22,23	R 2:1 143:12 158:1	91:13 129:6	133:18 149:19
76:22 83:2,16,17	57:12 58:5 82:24	Rabun 27:23	142:23 144:8,11	recounts 131:13
86:11 136:8,18	86:22 87:1 89:3	race 21:17 41:22	reasonable 69:21	recovering 128:8
146:3	90:9 105:8 120:2	52:15 122:15	74:24 89:21	recreate 79:14
provided 13:4	144:4	races 21:13 52:13	reasonably 142:17	recreated 28:11
provides 17:11	puts 24:9	radio 33:21	reasoning 104:12	47:1
33:11 34:4,24	putting 81:6 86:18	Raffensperger 7:13	reasons 126:9,11	rectangular 20:23
35:1,8,21 57:6	86:20 87:20	railroading 150:10	126:14	redo 106:13
69:17 93:20	118:18 136:21	rain 24:22	rebut 145:5	reduces 149:24
provision 99:19	144:5	raise 22:20	recall 40:17 44:12	reexamined 140:20
100:17	p.m 157:25	raised 136:5	75:13	refer 43:6 93:4
provisional 34:20		158:13	recap 65:12	reference 139:15
38:21 45:2,9,22	Q	range 83:10 95:11	receipt 53:5 154:13	147:11
48:3 63:14 149:24	qualifying 24:19	ranges 17:18	receive 72:3 83:14	referenced 115:1
provisions 13:8	quality 102:4	ranked-choice	received 67:13	referred 12:11,23
public 7:22 8:3,22	143:18	101:19	114:16 118:3	38:9 48:13
8:23 9:14,19 37:5	question 15:2,3	rate 41:6,12,13	135:13	referring 138:1
48:11 49:1 53:21	16:25 18:3 58:4	98:20 127:15	receiving 46:7	refined 60:25
63:12 64:17 80:17	69:8 73:3,15,18	rates 98:19	87:10	reflect 40:21
88:9 105:9 115:18	74:2 75:8 77:12	Rayburn 8:13	recess 80:4	reflects 97:20
118:4,4,21 120:4	85:19 88:7 100:13	91:25 92:3,5	recognize 126:18	refused 138:8
120:15 141:11,24	107:22 114:15	108:4,25 109:10	recognized 69:13	regain 120:5
142:1 145:8	137:24 138:14,17	109:14 110:5,7	recollection 16:20	regard 120:6
publicly 53:23	147:21 152:11	111:17 113:15	recommend 128:21	regarding 73:3
public-comment	155:5	114:6,21 118:13	149:20 154:12	regardless 28:23
8:24	questions 8:16 9:22	read 20:19,21 42:9	recommendation	39:19 40:3 47:25
public-hearing	15:22 16:3 18:4	47:24 48:4 68:4	14:17 95:16	112:25,25 142:14
117:4	53:8 59:19 70:12	90:3 106:24	recommendations	region 7:7
public-transpare...	70:23 72:18 73:19	108:23 152:11	2:24 81:3 111:14	register 140:11
7:17	75:8 79:17,19	readable 124:25	112:13,15	registered 31:16
pull 49:17 50:6	81:10,12 82:1,2	readers 61:9	reconciliation	34:12,22 45:8,15
51:12 54:6 91:14	82:24 83:4 84:4,7	readily 135:19	65:12	49:7 94:6
117:10 124:1	84:9,20 85:13,22	ready 87:14,19	reconvene 80:2	registrar 45:13
139:25 140:9	86:24 87:8,24	Real 8:9	record 8:6,22 9:6	registrars 7:21
pulling 38:12	88:2 89:10 91:19	realistic 144:15	9:20 15:19 47:18	registration 5:20
pulls 51:5	101:25 102:1	realized 20:13	52:8 97:2 102:4	5:23 6:3 19:25
punch 20:12,23	107:14,19 109:4	really 23:8 32:6	114:25 126:25	29:3,7,8 30:2,5,20
		39:8 51:25 58:10	131:11 133:17	31:25 32:1,24

<p>34:22 125:13 registrations 5:25 regular 34:18 73:6 73:9 75:24 regularly 117:17 regulations 24:12 109:22 reject 57:3 132:10 144:8,13 rejection 135:8 relate 82:20 relatively 67:14 released 36:24 53:24 87:22 105:8 relevant 14:4 relocated 139:17 remains 127:14 remarks 4:5 128:14 129:11 130:16 remember 40:18 41:21 60:7,10 116:1 118:20 remind 66:15 remote 147:12 repeal 109:23 110:3,4 repealing 114:7 repeat 153:13 replaced 3:4 46:21 126:19 replacement 14:7,9 69:8 replaces 46:22 replacing 14:16 63:5 replay 153:16 report 31:14 58:25 86:3 reported 33:2 58:21 reporter 1:8 8:1,5 15:5,6,9,11,16 116:2 158:6,12 reporting 23:13 58:11,11 71:20 reports 23:12 106:5 represent 2:12 23:3 142:5</p>	<p>representation 30:16 representative 3:7 4:6 5:4,9,11,11,13 7:10,12 10:5,7,8 11:25 12:5,8 16:5 16:7,14,19,25 17:4,11,14 18:3 18:11 29:4 70:13 71:16,21,24 72:7 72:9,12,15,18,23 72:25 73:18,21,24 75:5 77:6,8 78:7 78:17,19,23 79:17 79:23 80:5 84:7 84:11,20,23 85:21 88:2,5 89:10 91:6 91:9 107:16,21 108:20 109:3,7 110:10,12 113:7 113:20,23,25 114:14 115:13 117:9,24 118:23 119:9,11,14,19 120:24 121:5 122:22 123:4,9,13 123:17 124:1,4,6 124:9,11 125:16 125:19,23 127:20 127:24 129:23 130:3,8 132:14,16 132:20,24 134:10 134:16,20,24 135:5 136:15,23 137:1,8 138:12,18 138:22,25 139:3,7 139:24 140:3,5 141:2,4,13,16 143:2,7,9,11 145:12,14,17 146:6,17 148:1,9 148:16 150:12,15 150:23 152:12,19 153:6,9,13,17 154:15,24 155:3 155:14 156:6 representatives 11:15,16 13:10,19 represented 17:8 23:4 96:1 150:3</p>	<p>representing 6:23 7:2,13 Republic 4:22 republican 6:19 129:15 142:13 reputation 16:20 request 25:25 82:18 85:1,3 86:7 125:22 requesting 43:13 120:20 require 25:14 37:7 50:1 61:25 63:8 63:10 64:14 82:10 82:14 96:15,25 107:24 required 12:21 13:2 25:11 26:6 36:20 43:8 53:20 73:6 requirement 24:8 25:13 93:16 94:10 95:13 96:11,12 97:11,13,25 98:14 98:18 99:2 108:16 115:3,9,12 133:20 152:9 requirements 24:3 54:2 92:18 93:7 98:10,25 99:6 100:15 101:11 102:8,14 110:24 113:13,16,17 114:18,23 148:5,7 requires 62:20 142:21 requiring 99:13 147:19 research 64:2 119:24 researching 128:16 reserve 43:1 reset-per-envelope 122:4 residence 31:17,18 31:20 resident 137:7 146:15 resolutions 42:18 resource 69:14</p>	<p>resources 39:10 66:12 respect 74:13 respectful 116:18 respond 84:13 responded 83:21 responding 84:13 response 112:8 123:22 139:2 responses 84:1 responsibilities 31:6 32:19 responsibility 33:8 34:13 69:6,7 responsible 60:22 73:4 responsibly 82:9 rest 22:5 77:18 157:11 rested 140:13 restore 120:15 restrictions 24:9 restrooms 16:2 result 21:15,22 42:16 59:3 65:10 69:20 71:25 resulting 21:14 results 21:13 37:14 53:23 57:6,10,11 57:14,15 58:17 59:9,12 65:8 69:19 71:22 108:7 retain 55:13 retired 5:22 retirement 32:15 return 26:1 44:22 returned 19:9 revenue 91:6 reverse 140:11 review 9:12 79:7,7 97:14,16,19 100:12 103:21 104:2,8 106:2,12 113:10 114:7 124:19 reviewed 103:14 114:21 125:2 reviewing 9:25 10:17 102:20 105:10 126:8,8</p>	<p>revisit 144:11 rewrite 10:19 90:24 RFI 82:18,22 83:6 83:13,21,24 84:5 84:13,25 85:5 86:17,23 87:4,5 RFIs 148:6 RFP 84:14 86:7,8 86:11,14,14,21 87:1,4,4,6,14,19 88:9 105:8,10,11 105:19,21,24 RFPs 103:14 113:11 Rhone 105:20 Richmond 5:19 27:9 Rick 28:14 rid 42:23,24,25 right 2:3,23 5:3 16:1 27:16 37:10 43:9 45:16,17 46:16 50:11 59:18 62:11 71:12,16,24 73:10,13,22 78:13 78:23 79:19 80:5 82:17 84:23 85:20 86:24 92:3 95:2 96:9,18 100:10,18 100:21 105:24 109:21 110:8 113:1,5 114:6,10 115:23,25 117:1 119:6 123:10,12 126:18 128:3 130:6 132:20,21 135:10,24 139:5 152:16 155:9 rights 98:8 143:20 risks 96:8 risk-limiting 12:11 108:9 road 91:17 roadmap 113:5 robust 14:14 123:22 125:10 robustly 147:20 Rockdale 6:4 56:10 role 19:20 89:14</p>
--	--	--	--	--

95:9,10 111:8 roles 31:6 roll 82:13 rolled 157:1 rolling 24:24,25 62:24 room 6:12 57:23,25 100:2 Ross 7:2 Roswell 119:13 139:13 rough 17:14 26:25 route 109:19 Roy 37:17 rubber 91:17 rule 57:19 93:13 99:13,15 102:17 103:6 ruled 151:15 rules 10:20 24:11 24:12 34:15 54:2 60:23 61:3 64:14 77:18 90:21,25 92:21 93:12 101:4 102:16 109:22 run 30:22 55:11,16 89:1,4 91:2 98:2 98:16 101:3 103:20,21 128:6 142:2 running 40:15 67:21 127:6 runoff 24:5,18 runoffs 24:6 76:19 runs 47:17 Russo 6:18 77:5,6,7 77:9,21 84:10,12 Ryan 8:12 80:7,8 80:13 84:8,12,23 84:25 85:23 89:12 91:21 Rynders 13:20 R6 51:24	157:13 safely 102:7 sample 49:8 53:22 108:5 Samsonite 62:12 Sandy 133:13 Sara 148:11,11,16 148:19 150:12,15 SAT 38:22 satisfied 33:25 40:12 103:20 106:13 Savannah 5:14 saw 101:10 saying 22:23 46:12 48:8 60:14 61:5 67:4 92:7 98:3 109:20 112:12 129:11 says 37:22 49:22 50:15,25 57:10 58:16 59:1,1 79:3 91:4 93:16 95:12 96:21 97:14 98:1 99:15,20 101:14 101:22 102:9,17 103:6 108:4 112:20 113:1 115:5 147:14,14 SB 118:6,16 135:7 149:11,18 scan 38:19 39:1 42:9 49:16,21 61:9 104:3,9 106:14 138:6 scanner 20:19 38:24 49:16,16 103:21 122:8,10 scanners 47:23 55:21 61:10 82:12 105:6 135:19,22 136:6,9,11,12 145:2 scanning 12:24 scans 38:18 43:1 Scantron 55:4 scariest 154:3 school 19:7,8 23:17 37:24 45:21 70:4 128:22 142:8	science 11:16 12:17 19:5 147:1 scope 25:6 score 87:10 scored 83:13 87:9,9 Scott 11:25 scratch 109:21 screen 22:10 37:3 46:13 seal 43:22 54:3 158:13 sealed 54:3 seals 64:16 68:21 seat 138:25 seats 80:6 second 11:21 12:19 16:9 22:19 28:9 39:14 42:20 47:6 61:7 79:24 81:14 104:5 106:7,16 119:5 148:2 secondly 22:3,14 33:3 44:3 secret 100:18,21 secretary 2:3 3:6,9 4:18,21 8:10 10:8 10:10,16 12:21 14:11,21 16:18,19 16:20 17:2 18:6 18:14,18 19:15,16 19:19,22 20:6 23:24 31:7,13 32:10 33:11 34:3 35:1,7,18,24 48:19 56:12 57:13 57:24 58:1,13 66:5 68:25 72:3,6 79:23 80:8,12,14 80:19 81:4,21 87:14,21 88:4,5,6 88:14,15,21 89:8 89:9,14,24 91:4 92:7 97:4 99:14 102:17 106:6 110:25 112:16,21 112:24 116:11 128:5 130:14 137:9,24 139:1,2 145:25 151:25 155:12,14,25	section 98:7 101:6 109:20 secure 1:1 3:12 4:14 49:1 53:25 64:12 68:22,24 96:4,14 103:22 121:12,13 125:12 135:4 138:21 142:20 144:22 147:3 156:1 158:8 secured 49:9 106:14 107:4 securely 104:9 security 6:14 22:18 35:22 49:10 64:9 64:10,15 65:22 66:2,4,6 68:17,19 68:20 69:2,19,19 73:7 83:1 95:19 95:22 96:8 99:25 100:1 113:17 119:23,24 123:23 124:22 128:10,20 128:25 129:2 132:7 138:3,4,9 147:4,18 151:7 see 5:11,12 7:6 11:22 15:21 18:5 18:8 20:5 21:1 22:11,24 24:15 27:2,7 28:3 32:17 34:12 36:14 37:19 38:13 41:22 45:8 47:10 49:15 50:3 51:22 52:10 53:21 53:24 54:8,18 55:2,19 58:5 59:12 71:23,25 72:20 74:10,23,23 78:21 79:8,18,19 87:2 90:16 96:20 96:24 97:19 103:15 106:16,18 109:5 111:23 115:20 116:23 117:9 120:12 121:25 122:17 132:17 143:25 152:19 156:12 seeing 103:13	127:19 seek 124:21 seeks 86:9,14 seen 53:3 75:21 139:16 select 33:15 selected 22:2 90:11 105:11 130:24 133:19 selection 105:25 148:5 selections 21:16 41:24 103:20 104:2 105:18 115:11 sell 62:16 semesters 128:22 Seminole 27:24 Senate 13:12,14,22 51:2 89:19 107:7 118:7 149:12 senator 5:14,15,16 12:5 13:13 16:4,5 16:6,10 17:1,10 17:12 18:2 75:4,5 75:6,14,21,25 76:5,8,14 77:4 109:6,7,8,11 110:3,6,8,13 112:7,9,11 132:17 132:19 senators 16:9 send 9:22 26:2 43:19,23 71:5 94:24 121:17 131:18 151:24 156:8 senior 142:8 sense 29:10 101:12 140:18 147:17 sent 25:25 58:18 94:6,12 121:19 separate 12:16 30:4,5,8 41:21 49:12 75:9 77:22 93:9 98:6 99:1 series 101:1 serious 40:8 96:8 123:23 serve 10:9 19:22
S				
S 2:1 safe 1:7 2:21 3:23 5:1 9:22,24 130:13 138:21 155:6 156:8 157:5				

20:25 29:20 69:7 92:9	shortly 20:6	sir 18:10 34:12,21 72:14,17 78:22 79:22 91:8 109:10 112:10 119:9 138:7,14	47:8 50:4,9 51:6,8 52:10 53:15 54:5 54:17 56:25 64:20 114:16 151:19	specifications 85:7 85:9
served 16:15 19:20 69:12 118:3 142:23	shortsighted 67:7	sit 40:19 141:20 153:10 155:6	someone's 32:9	specificity 110:20
server 56:7,7 57:2 57:15,17,17,22,23 58:20,24,25 59:1 71:15,18 73:5 154:2	shouldn't 60:12 61:5	site 49:2,3 59:9	somewhat 28:8	specifies 108:1
servers 129:16	Shoup 38:9,10	situation 82:13	soon 97:12	specify 114:2
service 19:25 20:2 58:12 63:1 80:17 80:21 87:25 146:20 149:6 155:22	show 14:5 38:24 45:4,5 47:8 49:19 65:1	situations 134:2	sophisticated 70:2	speculation 77:19
serviced 133:6,14	shows 27:2,12 34:9 46:9 50:9 53:5	six-and-a-half 26:24	sophistication 78:4	speech 139:14
services 12:25 66:10 88:24	shut 53:4	size 14:10 52:1 62:12 74:18 88:23	sorry 5:12 39:3 75:13 112:10 113:8,9 122:24 135:17 153:7	speedy 123:2
servicing 18:17 80:15	sic 1:19 43:6 62:22 99:22 117:24 136:4 137:16	skeletons 100:25	sort 13:11 22:11 23:18 27:12 46:14 67:7 71:7 85:7,10 88:18 94:15 99:13	spend 133:23
session 3:1 11:13 11:24 12:3 13:24 14:18 87:16 149:11 150:11 154:9	side 13:11,12 45:11 51:13,13 57:25 95:25 100:16	slide 22:24 23:5 32:17	sorted 61:24	spending 134:4
set 20:24 24:17 54:2 79:24 140:10 148:7	sidelines 128:7	slip 122:14	sorts 118:15	spent 19:17 133:21 139:21
sets 95:11 99:23	sides 96:1	slipped 140:17	sos.ga.gov 8:8 9:24 155:7,8 156:9	spike 24:23
setting 38:11,12 130:1 145:25	signed 8:23 43:22 46:11 90:5	slow 116:3	sound 21:15 38:15 48:22 106:4	split 104:19
Setzler 12:18	signature 121:24 158:13	small 10:18 20:23 27:13 28:18,19 67:13 77:17	sounded 67:14,24	spoil 52:24 67:3 79:4 97:23 122:17
Setzler's 13:14	signatures 118:10	smartphones 36:25	sounds 61:21	spoiled 67:9,25 70:8 76:4 79:2,8
seven 21:13 29:12 120:14	signed 29:24 107:8 115:20 116:23	Smith 37:22 59:2 127:22 139:13	source 91:6 129:10	spoken 146:21 147:25
severe 112:6	significant 22:4 35:23 37:7,15 52:25 62:7 74:25 108:6,15	smoke 56:1	sources 30:17 92:18	spokesperson 147:15
Sewell 1:10 3:13	significantly 80:22 89:23	Smythe 127:22,22 127:23,24,24 128:3 130:3	South 19:4,8 67:14	spot 76:13
Shackelford 146:10,14,15,18 148:3	signing 151:12	snow 24:21	southern 27:11 51:8	spread 157:8
share 11:10 120:7 120:18	signs 33:20	software 51:25 73:6 124:23 135:22 141:8,10	Spanish 98:13 152:5	Spring 135:2
shebang 63:7	sign-up 115:19 155:10	solely 105:5 140:14	sounded 67:14,24	Springs 133:13
sheets 115:19	similar 13:13 94:25 106:3	solicitation 82:23 86:6,9	source 91:6 129:10 92:18	stacks 61:21,25
Sheila 7:2	similarly 29:21	solution 78:1 86:11 95:7 96:1 122:4 122:19 131:7 134:13 151:23	south 19:4,8 67:14 51:8	staff 3:15 28:19 30:24 33:16 34:9 36:9 65:19 116:12
shelf 11:19	simple 41:25 59:25 67:12 122:4 133:22 134:5,5	solved 42:15	southern 27:11 51:8	stakeholder 156:17
she's 65:14,14	simplified 134:9	somebody 33:21 34:8,9 38:14 39:24,25 46:9,11	Spanish 98:13 152:5	stakeholders 11:8
shifts 131:7	simply 63:21 66:19 142:21		speak 8:19,20 9:12 9:18 16:17 78:23 88:9 110:24 113:5 130:17 146:19 152:11	stand 4:4,18 128:6
short 42:21 124:3	sincerely 146:2		speaker 9:1 32:3	standard 98:21 99:24 100:3
	single 41:22 97:8 115:10 144:13		speaking 9:16 104:4 121:6	standardized 38:22
	single-digit 133:25		special 44:9,18 45:23 46:14	standards 35:20 39:7 55:16 74:22 100:6,8,13 103:4 125:12
			specialization 19:5	standing 129:22
			specific 24:11 36:11 61:12 77:3 103:1 110:18 111:7,14	standpoint 74:8,11 91:1 99:8 111:15
			specifically 111:5 138:1 142:9	stands 4:23 42:21 43:5 142:15
				start 2:4 4:2 22:23 36:5 82:19 92:7 92:22 97:24 100:16 105:10 109:21 117:1

128:24 157:10	92:16 93:2 94:2,3	stepping 92:9	substituted 67:9	surprisingly 67:17
started 8:15 11:11	94:5,5,6,8 95:5,6	steps 10:11 74:11	success 130:20	surrounding 90:17
18:5 95:19 148:4	99:12,22 103:13	Steven 141:17,17	suffer 63:23	90:23 127:1,13
starting 3:25 96:22	103:16 105:2,4,5	141:19,20,25	suggest 128:24	Susan 120:25 121:1
101:11	108:13 113:11	143:2	150:9	121:3 122:22
startle 23:16	118:15 136:9	stewards 155:1	suggestions 146:4	123:5 147:15
state 1:2,9 2:18,22	138:4,8 144:8,10	stock 20:24	suitable 134:1	suspect 15:7 17:15
3:7,7 4:9,14 5:3,5	144:12 151:25	stop-gov 145:1	suitcase 62:12	sworn 87:14,21,22
5:13,14 7:8,12,21	statewide 31:10,11	storage 64:15	suitcases 62:13	system 3:3 10:17
9:2 10:10,20,24	31:13 42:19 55:16	store 54:23	sum 112:6 132:8	10:22 11:3 12:20
11:1,15,25 12:21	62:19,20,25 136:1	Stover 137:2,6,6,9	summaries 83:17	14:8,16 20:9 22:3
13:4,13 14:11,17	state's 10:13 19:22	138:13,20,24	84:3	22:15,18 23:4,8
17:9,24 18:6,16	23:24 31:13 35:18	straight 8:6	summarize 106:2	23:15 24:2 27:15
18:18,18,20 19:15	35:24 58:2,13	strange 121:9	116:8 136:16	27:18 28:11,13,17
19:18 20:3,4	68:25 74:8 80:8	strategy 144:14	summarized 83:21	31:19 32:25 33:2
22:14 23:11 24:8	86:13 89:14	strength 65:3 100:1	135:14	34:11,13 35:5
24:9,10 25:1	116:12 138:11	Strickland 5:15,16	superintendent 6:2	36:19 37:7,11
27:11 29:22,25	state's 8:10 12:23	strict 97:11	29:5,13 30:3	38:11 40:3 42:15
31:4 32:7,11,18	17:5 19:16 20:6	strident 39:17	67:23	42:19 43:8 45:7
32:23,23 33:2	31:7 33:11 34:4	strike 96:9	superintendents	46:17,18,20,22
34:24 35:1,6,9	35:8 48:19 56:12	striking 68:14	29:20	47:4,14,17,25
51:2 54:1 57:18	57:14,24 72:3,6	strong 60:13	superior 147:7	48:1,13,14,16,17
60:23 61:2 64:14	80:14 81:22 88:14	155:17	superior-court	48:21 49:11 53:1
64:14 65:23 66:5	88:22 89:9 106:6	stronghold 41:10	52:17,20 54:15	54:25 55:6 56:4,5
66:5,11,12,24	110:25 112:21,24	strongly 95:25	supervisor 5:24 6:3	57:5 58:9,10,11
69:14 81:2,16,22	156:1	struck 139:19,23	30:22	58:13,19 60:11,14
82:6 86:5,15	state-election	student 37:24	supervisors 30:24	60:17 61:1 62:6
88:15,23,25 89:8	100:23	student-council	supplied 91:16	62:19,20,21 63:10
90:7,25 91:5,12	state-law 102:8	42:24	supplier 86:16	63:21 64:3,13
91:16 92:7,20	state-legislature	studying 19:7	suppliers 87:9	65:5 66:21 68:17
93:10,25 96:23	154:9	stuff 33:5 34:6 41:2	support 23:25 63:8	68:19,24 69:2,3,4
97:4 99:14,15	state-patrol 71:10	41:3 49:8 51:4	69:20 126:18,24	69:10,12,17,25
100:16,23 101:2	72:5	53:10 58:21 61:20	supported 126:13	70:1,3,5,15 71:1
101:11 102:14,17	static 73:14	62:10,17,17 63:7	supporters 131:5	73:9,11,12 74:12
102:19 103:6	statistically 108:6	72:4 81:25 83:14	supporting 12:24	81:3,17 82:8,9
105:12,15,21	108:14	stuff's 51:20	supports 20:7	83:1,4 85:2 86:6
106:21 107:10	statistics 76:21	stunning 39:5	126:24	90:16,17 91:12
110:2 111:25	statute 92:21 110:1	styles 104:16,18,20	Supreme 151:14	92:14,19,23 94:9
112:16 114:12	110:16 111:16	stylus 20:23 38:4	sure 4:14 7:16 8:5	96:4,6,10 97:1,5,9
117:3 128:5	112:19 113:1	subject 65:20,24	8:21 9:7,15,18	97:18,21 98:15
130:18,22 136:1	statutes 92:20	89:3 120:3	10:24 25:1 39:18	99:13,15 100:14
139:17 143:23	100:23,24 109:17	subject-matter	59:15 69:23 72:20	100:18 101:14
144:2,17 147:1,3	109:17,23 111:25	88:16	72:25 78:7 86:23	102:9,18,19,22
148:22 149:25	114:1,4,7	submit 9:10 156:22	89:5 115:24 116:5	103:2,4,9,10
155:13 158:2	stay 9:15 157:3	submitting 23:11	124:2 127:4,14,19	105:22 106:3,15
stated 126:12,14	stays 31:24	24:20	128:11 134:9	107:7 109:15,18
statements 106:6	steep 36:20	substantial 27:14	136:17,17 139:15	109:21 111:7,18
states 4:22 27:18	step 87:11 140:8	63:10	150:5 154:5,11,18	111:25 112:18,20
28:7,10 62:24	Stephens 1:8 158:5	substitute 13:7	156:1	113:16 114:17,22
63:1,2 86:19	158:18,18	57:1	surface 60:1	115:2 122:6,7

123:23 124:17,24
 125:1,3,6 126:10
 126:11,13 127:4,5
 127:13 128:20
 129:10 130:18,24
 131:1 133:18
 135:16,25 136:4
 140:23 141:3,7
 142:4 143:24,25
 144:1,3,7,16,23
 145:4 147:3,7,22
 149:2,6,9 153:20
 153:21
systems 19:24,24
 20:15 22:4,19
 23:10 35:22 36:3
 36:14 40:6 51:23
 66:7,13 69:15
 70:11 73:5 81:11
 90:1 91:11 93:8
 93:11,14,18 94:5
 95:23 98:1 99:9
 99:10 101:20
 102:8,20 105:17
 106:22 107:12
 111:18 113:14
 121:11 122:24
 123:1 125:11,13
 127:1 133:8,10,21
 133:24,25 147:9
 147:12,19 150:8
system's 69:8
S-A-F-E 155:7

T

T 158:1,1
Tab 22:10
tablet 94:22
tablets 36:24
tabulate 141:9
tabulated 71:3
take 2:16,16 15:8
 19:19 20:8 32:5
 45:11 50:11 53:15
 57:12 59:19 61:16
 63:16 70:22 71:9
 72:15 74:11 78:20
 79:24,25 80:6
 81:17 82:1,3 86:4
 87:18 109:16

111:14 114:7
 128:21 142:11
 144:24
taken 23:21 39:17
 53:12 62:18 69:11
 71:14 72:4 80:4
 126:16,16 144:4
 158:6
takes 14:10 32:14
take-down 85:2
talk 15:9,15,16
 24:1 27:16 28:24
 29:12 31:5,9
 37:10 39:21 46:16
 46:25 47:6 54:25
 64:8,8 92:12,14
 96:11 103:12
 148:25
talked 5:22 16:11
 40:6,7 70:25 83:8
 92:25 104:15
 115:8 144:17
 147:6 149:16
talking 2:11 23:8
 24:1 33:12,13
 41:6,7,11 55:24
 56:1 60:20 63:5,6
 65:25 74:24 86:1
 129:7
tally 12:12
tallying 136:7
tamper 54:4
tampered 66:18
 127:3
tampering 65:1
tamper-evident
 64:16
tape 53:4,13 54:20
 55:12 58:24 65:9
 65:10
target 59:17 98:23
tasked 10:16
 112:13
tasks 61:8 99:4
taught 23:17
 142:20
taxpayers 134:14
 155:1
teaching 19:8
 23:19,20

team 6:5,8 20:22
 35:4 65:19
tech 78:1 147:8
technical 82:24
 85:7,8,19 86:15
 99:7 110:22 111:2
 111:15 112:17
technically 99:2
 137:11
technologically
 41:18
technological-ad...
 2:18
technologies 9:9
technologist 133:5
technology 6:7
 11:16 12:17 17:15
 36:16 37:1,7
 42:22 94:9 95:3,7
 95:10 96:6 99:9
 109:15 113:12
 126:22 132:11
 133:6,10,12 134:6
 134:8
Tech's 6:14
telephone-compa...
 133:14
tell 9:4 16:9 19:1
 23:14,18 33:22
 49:6,7 52:19,23
 56:20,21 76:24
 79:12,25 85:13
 90:18 115:23
 117:4,11 119:5,11
 121:2 123:14
 125:25 126:16
 127:11 128:1,12
 134:24 137:4
 139:10 143:13
 145:20 146:12
 148:17 150:19
telling 16:21
tells 46:2
tend 65:7 76:20
Tennessee 59:4
term 43:5 44:11
 52:4
terms 21:2,5,25
 26:18 76:25 85:9
 89:4 117:20 118:4

test 38:22 152:6
testability 128:19
testament 65:18
tested 53:19
testimony 9:19
 17:17
testing 53:20 64:17
 98:22 120:12
Texas 28:10
thank 2:9 3:9,10,18
 4:7,8 7:10,19 10:5
 10:14 14:11,19
 16:10 72:18 73:2
 73:17 75:6,7 77:4
 77:7,9 79:21,22
 80:3,11,11,15,21
 85:19,20,21 87:25
 92:4,8 107:14,16
 107:23 109:2,3
 110:8 113:20
 115:13,15 116:11
 117:24 118:15,17
 118:18,22,23
 119:7,14,16
 120:24 121:5
 123:5,16,18,20
 125:15,16,18
 127:18,20 129:23
 130:1,3,11 132:14
 132:15 134:16
 135:5,5,8 136:20
 136:21,23,25
 137:6,8 138:24
 140:3 141:15,16
 141:23 143:1,2,3
 143:14,19 145:8
 145:12,13,15,16
 145:22,25 146:5,6
 146:7,14,17,18
 148:8,9,24 150:12
 150:13,15,20,23
 152:12,13,23
 153:17 154:24
 155:2,3,11,14,15
 155:18,21,23
 157:14
Thankfully 105:8
thanking 3:15
thanks 113:8,9,10
 121:1 125:24

127:25 134:21
 137:3 141:20
 143:12 145:19
 146:11 150:18
 152:20 153:18
 157:13
that'll 87:20
 110:14
that's 3:11 23:8,20
 24:5,7 25:10
 29:15,16,17 32:1
 33:12,22 38:1,2
 38:13,19,19 39:17
 41:25 42:1 43:5,6
 43:20,24,24 44:4
 44:4,11 47:7
 48:17 51:20 52:21
 52:21 54:20 58:21
 59:2,4,17 60:12
 61:22 62:15,18
 63:7,15,18 68:13
 71:1 74:23 76:15
 77:12 82:6 83:22
 85:8 89:22 91:3
 95:13,15,15,19
 96:4 97:3 98:3,7
 98:22 99:1 100:6
 101:11 102:12,14
 102:22 104:3
 106:1,16 107:25
 110:15 112:3,5
 114:10,21 116:23
 116:24 120:16,16
 122:4 124:4
 130:15 131:6
 135:3 137:17
 148:15 149:16
 152:2,11 154:3
 155:7
theft 122:3
theology 19:7
theoretically 78:8
thereto 158:13
there's 7:20 16:1
 26:1 27:12 29:15
 34:15,15 46:1
 51:16 60:16 74:4
 83:10 95:11,20
 97:7 99:19 103:2
 103:2 104:20

105:17 108:22	108:17 115:22	41:17 44:21 48:19	155:24 156:18	transitional 60:18
111:17 114:10	116:12,16 120:2	51:19 55:23,24	157:13	transmit 71:11
154:18 157:1	120:17 121:18	56:2 58:7 69:10	today's 8:1	transparency 4:11
they'd 45:1,11	123:6 130:5	70:18,22 83:25	Todd 145:18,18,23	88:11 143:18
63:14	133:25 134:18	85:3,10,12,18	145:23 146:6	154:18
they'll 33:18 60:22	137:12 144:5,17	87:25 91:23 93:11	token 56:25	transparent 4:1
62:16 111:14	145:7 148:13	119:17 120:8	told 67:15,19,21	9:10 10:3 156:21
they're 23:22,23	151:23 152:1,14	126:15 129:18	top 21:20 40:25	transport 132:2
30:16 31:15 34:16	152:25 155:20	132:9 135:10	41:4 44:13 108:24	transportable
42:4 43:2 44:14	thinking 39:15	136:2 137:17,18	topic 65:25	102:7
44:15,15,16,21	106:7	138:13,14 141:24	topics 20:12	transported 71:19
46:10,12 47:12	third 44:7 45:24	142:10 144:21	tops 104:19	travel 71:7
48:7,8 51:9,10,25	47:14 51:3 75:13	149:13 150:13	total 21:6,7 61:11	traveled 13:23
52:5 54:4 56:19	104:10 152:3	152:6,23 154:16	114:20	travels 4:12 157:13
56:22,23 72:5,8	thirdly 22:16	155:19 156:5	totality 131:25	treadmill 24:21,25
78:4,14 93:15	Thompson 13:13	timeframe 83:23	totals 31:14 115:8	62:24
101:25 102:1	thorough 70:14	144:16 156:11	touch 46:13 136:19	treated 39:12
103:20 105:14	thought 1:17,17,18	timeouts 24:22	147:22	tremendous 137:13
106:5,7,21 109:23	21:19 39:5 68:2	timer 116:7	touching 37:3	trend 26:15 30:18
123:2,2	116:4 118:14	times 12:4 25:18	touchpad 45:25	trending 77:2
thing 39:13 50:21	140:12 148:5	28:12 53:25 78:14	touchscreen 12:10	tried 15:23 118:7
52:13 55:4 57:18	149:15	134:2	36:25 37:6 43:4	149:10
64:5 74:3,23,24	thousand 61:25	timing 91:22	touchscreens 37:3	true 20:7 79:3
88:18 97:4 112:1	104:16 135:19	144:16 156:11	tour 2:17	158:7
133:17,24 152:3	thousands 55:25,25	Tip 32:4	toured 2:16	truly 80:17 92:9
things 15:9 24:10	threat 69:4 129:1,1	title 18:24	town 51:7 128:9	trust 103:2,2 120:5
56:1 59:19 60:19	three 8:4 21:9,10	titles 22:11	traced 51:17	120:16 138:15
64:11 74:6,10	21:14 25:13 26:13	today 3:10,20,25	track 55:12 75:23	try 2:10 8:20 15:1
79:1 82:5 92:25	29:11 42:18 44:4	4:12 5:2,17 7:12	tracked 58:8	22:19 56:25 73:1
99:19 111:1	44:6 45:14 94:2,4	8:25 9:3 10:9	tradition 142:19	107:15 116:7,19
116:14 118:10,16	94:5 103:15	14:3,20,25 15:13	traditional 44:25	128:14 156:13
121:9 128:16,17	104:18 105:11,13	15:23 18:13 38:20	traffic 22:25	trying 15:8 42:2
139:19 145:6	105:16 151:3,15	69:16 77:10 80:25	traffic-court 28:21	74:5 116:4
151:3 155:20	151:19	92:12 104:5	trail 6:8 65:4 97:5	TSX 51:24
think 6:11 7:9,17	three-plus-year	118:24 119:15	106:12 126:23	turn 4:5 10:4 16:8
8:11 15:25 16:18	144:19	120:21,25 121:1	153:24,24	25:4 38:3 80:10
17:7 28:6 38:2	three-week 26:5	123:5,15 125:17	Trailing 1:18	124:6 155:12
39:5 41:8 44:23	throw 63:17 134:7	125:24 127:21,25	train 33:15	Turner 11:25
46:19 59:5,10	134:7	129:24 130:4,9,23	training 11:4 17:23	Turner's 12:8
63:18 66:21 67:6	tickertape 115:7	131:20 132:17,25	19:25 34:4 36:21	turnout 76:16
71:9 73:2 74:15	ticket 40:25 41:4	134:17,21 136:5	37:8 63:9 117:18	127:15 155:17
74:16 75:2 77:25	123:14	136:24 137:3,10	transaction 119:23	tweaks 111:22
78:6 79:23 80:23	tie 54:13,19 110:19	137:13 138:23	transactions 35:16	Twenty-first 37:16
81:1,18 83:7,10	tied 100:20	139:8 141:14,21	transcript 1:16	42:16 126:5
83:22 84:15,15,17	tiered-percentage	142:4,7,10 143:3	8:21	twist 129:9
84:19 85:9 87:16	108:11	143:24 144:10,19	transcripts 8:3	two 9:1,15 21:2,20
87:22 88:10 89:7	time 8:5 14:6,19	145:5,15,19 146:7	transfer 99:21	21:21 28:25 30:8
89:12 90:13,24	15:16 19:17 24:1	146:11 147:3	transit 122:1	30:12 36:8 37:20
92:17 94:3 95:19	24:9 30:25 31:11	148:10 150:17	transition 59:21	37:24 49:14 51:14
96:8,16 100:2,10	32:16 35:23 40:23	152:15,20,23,25	144:20,22 145:1	51:23 52:2 59:9
		155:4,12,15,17,22		

60:5 65:21 67:21
 68:6 75:8,9,10
 78:9,10,15 100:24
 104:10,18 115:1
 116:6 128:22
 137:18 138:2,9
 151:14,14 156:4
type 47:7,18 48:5
 55:4 87:1,1,2,3
 91:11 108:1,2
 110:20 111:16
 132:13 144:1
types 104:16
 129:14
typical 14:1
typically 89:23
 147:2

U

Uh-huh 84:24
ultimately 10:19
 13:24 100:7
unable 136:6
unavailable 59:9
uncommon 33:16
undersigning
 158:12
understand 15:18
 18:1 22:1,3 42:1
 59:25 65:5 69:23
 89:12,24 133:9
 139:22 144:13
 156:4
understanding
 31:3 70:25 90:11
 112:14 117:15
understood 137:23
undertaking
 126:20
undervote 21:5,6
 21:16,24 41:6
 122:12
undervotes 21:14
 40:8 41:14,15,19
 42:14 122:19
unduly 147:23
unfortunate 33:22
unfortunately
 68:11 138:6
unhackable 66:21

66:22
uniform 27:18 35:5
 42:19 44:12 62:19
 62:20 74:12,15
 75:2 102:9,14
 106:3 143:24
uniformity 39:4,13
 65:2 74:3,6,13
 75:2
uniform-model
 106:21
uniform-system
 105:12
uniform-voting
 107:10
unintentional
 141:8
unintentionally
 67:24
unique 28:8,8 74:6
 86:11
unit 131:16
United 4:22 28:10
units 35:13
unlawful 93:24
unload 132:5
unofficial 58:16
 71:25
unpack 82:14
unprecedented
 66:4
unrealistic 144:23
unsatisfied 33:25
unused 132:6
unusual 30:5
unverifiable
 118:21
UOCAVA 44:10,11
 44:23
updated 31:18 45:6
 125:11
updates 73:6,7,7,9
updating 124:13,13
upgrade 64:3
upload 57:4,13
uploaded 54:25
 57:9
uploading 56:19
uploads 56:13
upward 77:2

urge 9:15 118:13
 118:20 132:9
 136:12 144:12,23
urgently 147:19
use 11:5 12:9,25
 18:1 22:3 35:2
 36:4,16 43:5
 44:23 47:10 49:18
 50:7 52:4 56:5
 58:13 61:4 67:1
 68:20,20 69:12
 73:11 77:16,22,22
 77:24,25 78:1,2,2
 78:3,5 81:16
 86:17,25 91:13,16
 94:8 99:8 101:5,7
 102:7,10 103:25
 103:25 104:7,12
 105:1 110:1 114:3
 114:5 118:8 126:9
 135:22 136:9
 145:2 147:19
uses 27:19 29:6
 49:14 51:23 56:13
 56:14 135:18
 136:11
usually 12:6 26:11
 29:22 30:16 40:25
 41:3 96:18 141:19

V

vacuum 70:1
validity 31:22
valuable 69:14
 92:11
value 86:14
variable 17:15
variations 20:25
 61:3
varies 30:14 76:17
various 30:17 71:4
 92:13 99:7,9
 142:3
vendor 58:14 69:20
 82:25 83:6,20
 85:1 102:25 125:8
 144:1 148:5
vendors 11:23
 55:19,20 59:14
 62:15,25 63:1

81:10 83:15,25
 84:16 85:6 86:12
 105:11,13 111:21
 125:6 147:9,24
 148:8 150:9
verifiable 118:12
 120:1 133:18
 135:4 142:20
verified 106:12
 149:3 153:23
 154:14
verify 122:25
 131:12 142:18
version 12:14
 13:14 99:17 100:5
viable 14:15 127:14
Vice 18:15 62:8
Vincent 6:18 84:11
violate 93:25
Virginia 122:6
visible 121:25
vision 45:25
visually 93:20
vital-records 28:21
vitriol 40:18
voice 46:2 153:5
voices 80:19 154:11
 154:19,19,20
void 52:15,15
 109:24
volume 61:10
 136:6,10
voluntary 99:4,5
 99:11,12 115:2
volunteering
 119:17
vote 13:10 16:23
 21:8,21 25:23,24
 25:24 26:4,11,21
 26:21 27:22,22,23
 27:23 31:17 34:10
 34:19,23 36:18
 39:11,19 40:4,21
 40:24,25 41:1,2,3
 42:2,2,3,9,11 43:9
 43:12,16 44:8
 45:4,9,9,12,15,19
 45:20 46:3,4,15
 47:8,12,13,19
 50:15,24 52:10,16

52:17,19 53:12
 54:10,15,17 63:13
 63:14,15,16,20
 65:13 67:4,25
 68:6,6,9 76:9
 78:11,16 92:24
 93:4 94:23 96:6
 97:3,8 100:21
 101:17,22,24,25
 102:1,2,5 103:18
 104:6 115:8,10
 120:21 121:4,12
 121:14,16,19
 124:23 133:17
 136:4 140:11,13
 140:19,20 141:9
 141:12 142:17,18
 146:22 152:10,11
voted 21:9,9,18
 37:19 39:4 42:10
 43:23 44:8 51:20
 54:16 67:17 68:10
 77:1,2 140:8,12
 140:19,21 154:22
voter 5:20 6:3
 18:25 19:25 20:1
 26:7 31:24,24
 32:22 34:21 35:12
 39:12,18 40:3
 42:17 45:4 46:5,7
 46:14 47:7 48:20
 49:2,5,17 50:11
 50:11,19,24 51:17
 54:8 61:15 63:23
 64:3,17,17 65:4
 65:10,11,14,15
 68:5,7 69:18,19
 69:19 70:2 74:22
 79:7,8,13 90:16
 94:6,16 97:13
 100:20 102:6
 106:11 115:10
 117:14 119:21
 120:6 122:9,13,25
 123:19 124:19
 125:12 135:3
 137:7 138:3
 143:18 152:25
voters 6:23 7:2
 11:7 21:23 23:14

24:6 25:23 26:4 26:13,20,25 27:3 27:5,7 28:15,18 31:16,17,18 36:18 36:22 37:19 39:16 41:16 44:10,23 63:11 69:25 70:4 76:6,24 82:16 93:22 97:14,19 122:20 124:20 125:4,4 126:2,4 126:12 127:6,8,16 131:1,12,20 132:4 134:2,14 135:12 135:23 138:16 153:1,4,19 154:5 154:18,20 voter's 31:25 32:24 voter-access 49:23 50:17,19 51:10 voter-accessibility 6:19 voter-readable 154:13 voter-registration 23:10 31:19 32:9 32:23 34:12 47:4 48:13,20,23 125:11 voter-review 76:3 79:11 voter-verifiable 6:7 60:15 65:4 123:3 voter-verified 97:5 126:23 votes 20:17 21:7,12 21:14,22 22:16 31:17,22 38:6,12 38:15 45:22 47:18 52:9 53:6,9,9,14 53:18 54:9 55:6 57:2 59:2 65:13 65:16 66:17 67:3 70:7 71:2 100:19 106:4 121:21 122:25 136:7 153:20,25 154:21 vote-by-mail 94:5 voting 2:21,22 3:3 7:22 10:14,17,22	11:17,20 12:10,20 14:7 20:5,25 22:2 22:4,15,17 23:3,8 26:5,17,23 27:18 28:5 32:5,5,6 33:7 33:13 34:1 35:13 36:6,16 37:11,16 39:8 41:18,24 42:19,22 43:3,4 44:4,6 45:2,3,23 45:24 46:17,18,20 48:1,2 51:7,8,13 53:22 55:18,18 56:15 58:9,10,19 58:20 59:22,22 60:17,25 61:12,13 61:14,22 62:6,19 62:20 63:21 64:3 64:15,20,22,22 68:2,17,19 69:4 69:15,17 70:5,10 70:15 74:20 76:24 82:11 89:25 91:11 92:14,18,23 93:8 93:11,14,18 94:9 94:21 95:14,23 97:22 98:1,8,14 98:20 99:9,13,15 99:20 100:18 101:7,14,15,19,20 102:8,18 103:8,16 104:11,17,21,23 105:17 106:4,23 107:18 109:13 114:17 115:2 118:11,21 119:25 120:1 121:11,22 122:1 123:23 124:17 125:3,5,13 126:6 127:13,13 127:14 130:18 131:1 133:16,21 138:11,21 140:9 140:15 141:3,6 142:20 146:25 147:4,5,9,12,12 147:19 149:4 151:20,22 152:1 153:23 voting-assistance	12:24 33:11 voting-machine 125:6 151:2 voting-system 12:1 13:22 51:24 99:4 147:24 vulnerabilities 120:13 vulnerable 154:3 VVSG 115:2,4 <hr/> W <hr/> wait 35:25 waiting 138:1 waive 145:24 wake-up 121:8,10 walk 50:16 walked 122:10 walks 7:7,9 wall 28:3 want 2:5,13 3:10,18 7:10,14,19,25 9:8 10:2,24 11:10 14:19 15:21 16:16 27:16 40:2 42:3 43:16 44:9 46:16 52:13,21 57:21,25 59:20 64:8,8 70:22 72:19 80:14 81:11,13,20 83:20 83:21,24 84:16 85:2,13,16 86:23 87:24 88:15 92:12 93:8 102:25 110:24 111:12,25 112:5 114:8 115:23 116:5,11 122:16 130:13 136:20 139:1,4,25 141:2,4 146:21 151:3 154:11,17 155:10,21 157:6 157:11 wanted 2:20 3:5 4:25 7:11 8:9,14 43:12 54:8 123:19 155:18 wanting 156:11 wants 57:22 Washington 94:4	94:10 wasn't 40:18 57:1 138:11 wasn't 40:17 149:17 watch 106:1 138:7 153:15,16 watchdog 148:21 water 16:1 way 19:1 38:7,16 39:6,7,11 41:13 46:4 48:4,10 49:25 50:6 52:21 54:13 63:15 64:24 67:20 68:2 70:6 79:6 87:9 90:14 101:19 102:6 108:22 111:3 115:21 129:4 131:14 141:18 151:6,10 156:14 ways 39:21 43:9 46:15 49:2 62:2 76:1,3 150:9,9 wear 150:24 webpage 71:22 website 8:4,8 9:23 24:15 48:7 59:8 59:12 web-based 48:18 49:9 58:12 Wednesday 106:1 week 82:19 96:16 weeks 8:4 26:13 44:5,6 68:3 83:25 98:12 weigh 81:8 weights 87:8 Welch 6:2,5 32:12 33:1 56:12 welcome 2:6,13,20 3:7,8,11 7:14,23 7:23 8:15,18 9:22 10:2 82:20 91:25 117:13 121:6 127:9 130:13 139:10 well-informed 81:12 well-trained 15:11	Wenke 6:13 went 11:12 13:15 80:23 91:10 126:5 weren't 39:15 40:12 75:18,19 weren't 76:2 we'd 18:12 141:22 we'll 4:3,3,4,5,18 8:3,3,6 9:13,24 14:24 29:12 32:19 62:16,17 72:20 85:6 86:25,25 87:18 89:3 91:22 92:1 97:12 102:16 106:16,18 108:17 111:9,11 115:21 116:25 130:10 145:20 152:21 153:10,13 156:10 156:10,12,14,22 157:3 we're 2:7 3:25 6:9 9:2 23:8 33:12,13 42:23,24,25 43:1 51:14 54:12 60:20 63:5,6 70:17 80:20 82:17 86:17 86:22,23 89:14 103:13 108:8 111:19 116:20 128:1 134:22 142:9 149:7 156:5 156:5,13,22 157:7 157:9 we've 15:22 16:11 17:18 59:15 81:24 83:9 113:3 119:19 126:13,16 148:13 148:13,21 149:10 156:12 we'll 82:24 96:20 96:24 127:19 we're 35:3 83:22 111:24 we've 61:1 116:14 118:14 144:21 whatever's 88:16 whatnot 17:25 what'll 84:6 what's 26:4 38:20
--	---	--	---	--

39:8 48:9 50:21
 53:20 57:10,15
 62:4 75:8,15 76:8
 99:9
whichever 151:6
wholeheartedly
 130:20
who's 3:17 5:13,19
 5:24 6:15,16,18
 47:12 48:8,8,9,9
 122:3,5
who've 69:5
who've 144:17
wide 14:21 83:10
 95:11
wielded 20:22
wife 15:10
willing 10:6
willingness 5:9
 135:9
wipe 113:2
wireless 52:6
wisdom 4:10
wish 68:9 111:4
 112:23 151:10
 157:12
withdrawal 62:17
withdrawn 158:9
wobble 64:4
woefully 124:12
Women 126:2,4,12
 127:8
won 48:9 123:14
wondering 148:6
won't 22:10 54:12
 54:13 63:16 87:22
 150:24
word 85:8 99:5
 157:8
words 68:5 90:3,4
 90:10
work 4:10,13 14:8
 15:24 20:6,8 25:2
 28:22 31:1 35:5,6
 42:16 59:14 60:25
 70:9,11 78:4
 80:18 81:2,2,7,17
 81:21 84:6 86:3
 87:12,15,16,18,20
 88:23 90:15 92:10

116:15 130:25
 145:2 146:8,23
 149:10 153:2
 156:14
worked 3:16 5:6,7
 7:15 19:11 148:3
workers 25:13
 28:16
workforce 25:17
working 7:18 9:13
 82:18 84:15 88:1
 100:5 106:21
 117:19 150:21
 155:25 156:24
works 31:7 69:1
 83:1 142:22
world 74:9
worst 15:8 41:12
 141:1,7
wouldn't 52:1 54:7
 60:7,8
wouldn't 52:2
 64:22 84:18
would've 135:7
wow 148:15
wrap 8:17 122:23
 134:10 138:12
 141:5 148:2
 154:16 155:11
wraps 103:10
wrestle 95:9
wrestled 93:1
write-in 101:15
writing 6:25
 150:10
written 57:24 58:1
 60:25
wrong 45:5,6,17,21
 147:14
wrote 13:7 142:7

X

X 20:20 21:9 37:23

Y

Y 21:10
yeah 78:2,15 85:8
 110:10 124:11
 151:5 153:9

154:20
year 10:13 12:17
 12:22 24:16 25:18
 76:16 90:19
 101:10 106:20
 118:1 121:16,17
 128:6 138:10
 154:10
years 5:6 16:13,15
 17:16 19:8 36:18
 36:23 43:24 62:25
 65:22 69:5,10
 74:4 90:9 100:5
 113:3 119:22,23
 119:24 120:7
 123:19 136:8
 137:19 138:2,9
 140:24 142:19
 145:3 146:16,24
 148:4,23 151:19
 155:2
year's 151:8
yeller 50:16,17
yellow 49:23 50:11
 50:15,17 51:17
young 67:15
younger 139:14
you'd 62:9 74:10
you'll 4:3,18 32:17
 47:10,15 49:15
 55:19 122:17
 124:19 129:13,19
 139:22
you're 9:15 24:1
 25:6 28:2,2,3,4
 34:22 39:9,9 47:1
 47:2,2,24 48:3
 50:9,22 56:20,21
 56:22 71:13,13
 72:1 97:22 112:12
 114:10 117:4,11
 120:19,19 121:2
 125:25 128:1,13
 128:17 134:24
 137:4 139:24
 141:19 143:13
 144:5 148:17
 150:19 156:11
you've 15:6 23:7,10
 23:10,11,12,12,13

24:2,10 27:13,14
 29:2,2 43:23 44:2
 62:13 65:11,12
 78:20 79:5 95:18
 122:16 144:4,10
 145:6
you-all 3:11 7:6,19
 10:2 14:21 28:23
 92:8 103:4 117:20
 118:3,8 135:13
 144:25 155:15
 156:18 157:9
y'all 107:14 110:25
 112:23
y'all's 84:6 95:16
y'all 89:16

\$

\$25,000 82:6
\$272,000 131:23

1

1 98:21,23,24 138:7
1.1 99:17 100:14
1.2 76:11
1.3 76:11
1.9 41:13
10 21:8,18,23 25:23
 48:2 98:23 107:2
 146:24
10th 158:15
10:39 80:2,4
10:45 80:2
10:49 80:4
100 31:1 54:9,12
 61:17 93:24 107:5
100,000-plus 27:5
101 128:20
11th 11:25
112 100:1
12 25:11 119:22
12,000 132:5
12.8 107:1
12:31 157:25
120 29:7 30:1
125 106:25
13 41:20
13th 1:10
13-G 50:3
150 11:2

1500 65:13,15
159 12:25 17:21
 20:2 25:7,11 28:9
 28:11 31:12 35:14
 63:7 64:18 74:5
16 69:5,9 76:23
 113:3 119:24
 120:7
17 38:1 90:9
170 61:17,20,21
18 16:13 69:10 74:4
 90:9 113:3
1800 28:18
19 14:18
1922 68:3,10
1970 148:22
1986 139:17
1989 19:6
1994 19:9,10 152:8

2

2 2:12,14 22:10
 36:18 138:8
2.0 100:5,15
2.9 41:7,12
20 17:16 25:11,15
 34:2 53:7,9 55:11
 55:11 76:14 105:5
 120:10 146:16
 148:23
20-year-old 11:20
200 65:14,15
2000 20:10,15
 37:12,15,20 39:1
 39:3,15 40:10,14
 52:25 74:2 75:15
 75:20,21 76:2
 91:12 93:1 121:8
2000s 16:24 126:4
2001 37:17
2002 36:20,23 61:1
 92:24 93:4 111:4
 120:1 131:17
 153:21
2004 153:23
2006 26:15 142:9
2007 19:11,15
 26:16 39:2
2008 26:16
2014 105:20

2015 19:19 99:18 105:20 111:19	41st 51:2 45 44:21
2016 65:22,24 77:1 98:8 105:8 121:10 138:1 154:1	4672-1141-4562-... 158:19 47 99:12
2017 66:1 68:11 102:12	<hr/> 5 <hr/>
2018 1:10 12:22 158:15	5 23:1 53:8 108:13 132:5
2019 12:10 30:7,7 87:16	5,000 132:3 50 26:20 59:2 127:16
2020 13:6 96:22 138:17,20	50-percent 127:15 500,000 98:21,25
2024 13:3	5000 49:15
203 98:7	52 16:21
22 123:19	54 16:22 17:9 43:7
22nd 131:21	<hr/> 6 <hr/>
2300 34:3	6 53:8
2300-plus 25:10	6.5 76:6
24 115:19	60 17:13 106:18 149:8
25,000 25:11	600,000 28:15
256 100:3	600-and-somethi... 77:13
2600 34:3	61-and-a-half 41:23
28,000 62:11	67 38:18,25 680 11:24
<hr/> 3 <hr/>	<hr/> 7 <hr/>
3 30:3 53:9	7:01 48:6
3-and-a-half 40:23	700,000 131:18
3.5 40:22	73 38:8
30 11:2 17:13 25:15 105:3	75 66:2
30-odd 140:24	<hr/> 8 <hr/>
30068 1:11	8th 12:17 13:13
35 29:19	820 55:14
36 30:2	848 12:16 13:14 85 66:2
36-percent 131:20	<hr/> 9 <hr/>
38,000 41:15,18	9:02 1:9 2:1
39 146:16	90 31:1
<hr/> 4 <hr/>	9000 134:7
4 36:18	93,000 40:20
4.6 106:19	94,000 40:21
40 106:18 119:22 120:9	
400 149:7	
4000 49:14	
403 13:12,22 118:6 118:16 135:7 149:11,18	
41 105:2	