

Dated Friday, Feb. 14, 2020

Dear Ms. Shannon and Georgia State Elections Board,

I am a registered voter in the State of Georgia and I am writing to urge the State Elections Board to reject this proposed rule 183-1-15-.03, that would use optical scanners of barcodes for election recounts.

I believe this is contrary to both the spirit and letter of Georgia law, as well as common sense. This proposal would negate the main purpose of having paper ballots in the first place, if election officials are not going to rely on written text on the ballots. It would do nothing to help discover a problem in bar coding, which is already a major concern among voters.

In short, this rule and proposed procedure does nothing to increase voters' confidence in the integrity of Georgia's election system. Instead, it does quite the opposite.

Recounts should be done by hand, relying on the text printed on ballots, especially since this is what voters can check and are being urged repeatedly to check. While hand recounting may be a meticulous process, there's nothing wrong with that.

That this rule is even being proposed suggests a measure of contempt, perhaps unwitting, for election security concerns.

Surely we can do better.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Grant